



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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"Indigenous people are those who lost their ethnic identity, got deprived of their land right in the process of building a modern state."
SANJEEB DRONG, LEADER OF BANGLADESH ADIBASI FORUM



"People will be able to elect a government of their choice through freely exercising their voting rights if the election is held under a neutral caretaker government."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR



"Shah Rukh Khan and his family are being used as a smokescreen, a soft target to distract from 3000kg Taliban-drug haul at Adani port."
VISHAL DADLANI REACTS TO ARYAN KHAN'S ARREST

CHILD MARRIAGE IN PANDEMIC A SCOURGE returns on tiptoe

PINAKI ROY with NAZIBA BASHER

She wanted to be a teacher one day and was studying hard to reach that goal. But that dream, she feels, has just slipped away.

At only 16, Sultana (not her real name) was married off by her parents a few months after the Covid-induced school shutdown came into effect.

"I used to enjoy school. I was a good student and liked studying. But I got married, and since I am young, I couldn't fight my parents and get out of it."

"I'm still getting used to being married. I just try to do everything I am told to do so that I don't get into trouble."

Sultana is just one of the thousands of children whose dream of an independent future was nipped in the bud over the past year and half.

According to international researches, almost 2.5 million child marriages took place across the world during the pandemic.

In Bangladesh, at least 11,000 school children were married off by their families between March 17, 2020, and September 12 this year, according to data The Daily Star gathered from different districts.

This means all these children are victims of what is now a crime as per the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, which

stipulates that girls must be aged at least 18 to be eligible for marriage and boys 21.

The grim picture unfurled when schools across the country reopened on September 12, after around a year and half, and teachers noticed many of their students did not return to their classrooms.

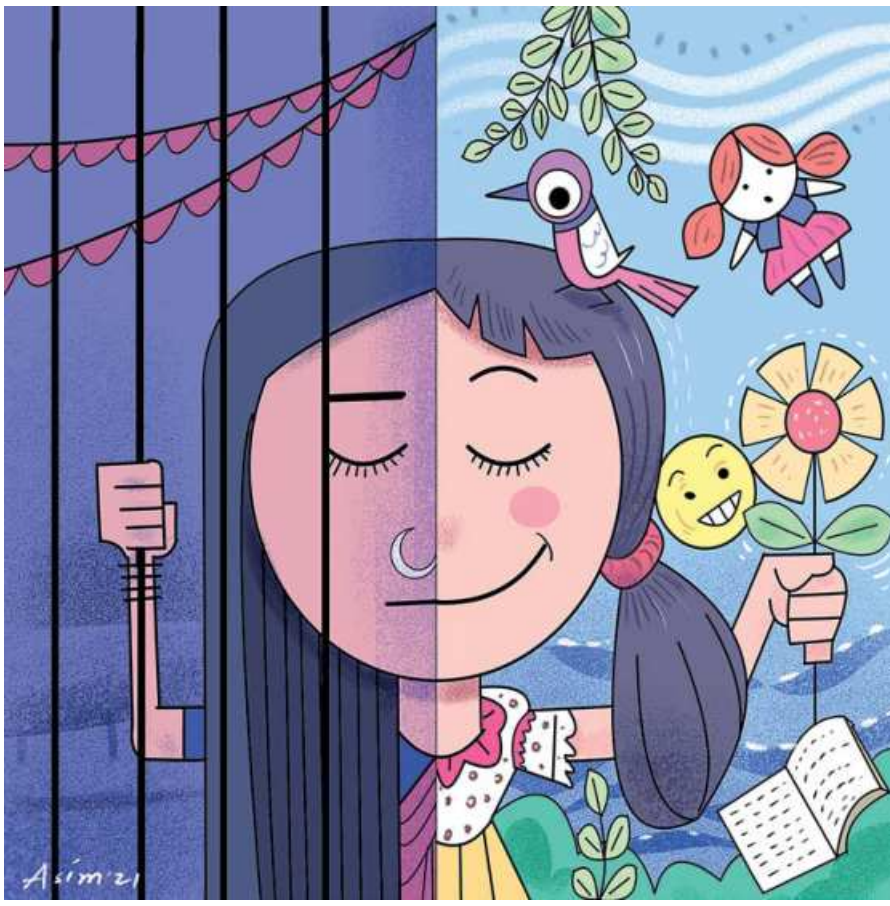
In March, Unicef published a report "COVID-19: A Threat to Progress against Child Marriage", which warned that school closures, economic stress, service disruptions, pregnancy, and parental deaths due to the pandemic are putting the most vulnerable girls at increased risk of child marriage.

"Despite significant progress in recent years, Bangladesh has the fourth highest prevalence of child marriage in the world. Covid-19 compounds the difficulties facing millions of girls. School closures, isolation from friends and support networks, and rising poverty place girls at heightened risk of child marriage," said Tomoo Hozumi, Unicef representative in Bangladesh.

Experts said though the country made substantial strides in curbing child marriage in recent years, policymakers were caught unawares by the sudden global pandemic and failed to grasp the adverse impact it could have on the fight against child marriage.

MORE ON PAGE 3

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"School closures, isolation from friends and support networks, and rising poverty place girls at heightened risk of child marriage."

TOMOO HOZUMI,
UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN
BANGLADESH.

"We now have to envision more ways to resist child marriages. We have to bring the victims back to school."

KASHFIA FERAZ,
DIRECTOR OF GIRLS RIGHTS,
PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Country to get another nuclear power plant

PM opens installation of reactor pressure vessels at Rooppur

Bss, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government might set up another nuclear power plant in the southern region to meet the increasing demand for electricity.

"If we are able to build another nuclear power plant, we will no longer face a power crisis," she said.

The government is looking for a suitable place in the country's southern region to build another nuclear power plant, she said while launching the installation of reactor pressure vessels inside the physical structure of unit-1 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

Joining the programme from her official Ganabhaban residence in the capital through video conferencing, she said the country has now turned into a developing nation due to the relentless efforts made by the incumbent government since 2009.

"We are committed to making Bangladesh a developed country by 2041."

The Rooppur plant is expected to add 2,400MW of electricity to the national grid by 2024.

The mega project is being implemented by the state-run Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission under the Science and Technology Ministry, with financial, technical and technological support given by Russia through its state nuclear agency, Rosatom.

The PM said her government is setting up 100 special economic zones across the country that will require power to operate.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Children aged 12-17 to get Pfizer shots Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will inoculate children aged 12-17 with Pfizer Covid vaccine soon, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

For this, the children have to register using their birth certificates.

The minister announced this at a time when schools and other educational institutions, except universities, were opened last month on a limited scale following a closure of more than one and a half years.

"Sixty lakh Pfizer vaccine doses are already in stock. We will vaccinate 30 lakh children initially. Another 70 lakh Pfizer vaccine shots will come soon," he said at a press conference on Covid-19 vaccines in the capital.

Including the children, the number of fully vaccinated people will reach eight crore by December-January and the government has ensured enough vaccine

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Biggest hike in LPG price to date

Energy regulator raises retail price by 22pc, cites rising prices on international market as key reason

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MAHMUDUL HASAN

Bad news comes in threes, it is often said.

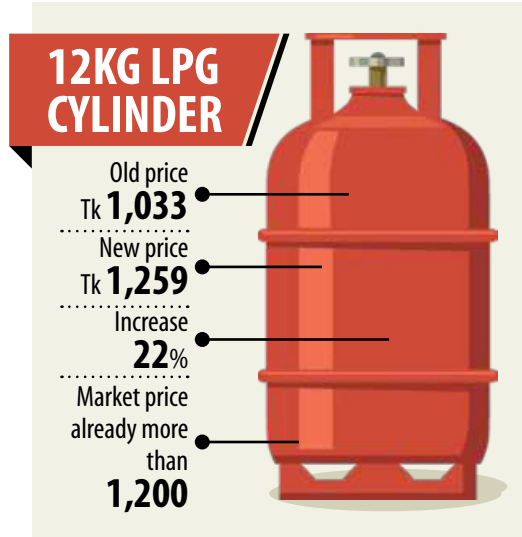
And for the average citizen, the third stroke of bad news, after the runaway prices of commodities and proteins, came yesterday: the liquefied petroleum gas, which has progressively become the fuel of choice for cooking and running vehicles, has become 22 percent dearer.

From yesterday, a 12 kg cylinder, the most common form for marketing the fuel, would sell for Tk 1,259 from the 27 private operators, said the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

The private operators accounted for 98 percent of the 12 lakh tonne of LPG that was sold last year. Previously, the official price of the cylinder was Tk 1,033, although purchase receipts obtained by The Daily Star showed consumers were paying between Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,300.

The price of LPG used in cars has been raised to Tk 58.68 a litre from Tk 50.56 a litre.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



ELECTION COMMISSION FORMATION

It's akin to law

Law minister on search committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday that the search committee which appoints the Election Commission is akin to a law, and it will form the next EC as there is not enough time to formulate a law in this regard.

According to the country's constitution, the appointment of the chief election commissioner and not more than four election commissioners "shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf, be made by the president".

Addressing a "Meet the Reporters" programme at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, the minister said enacting a law within February 15 (when the tenure of the current EC will expire) would not be possible and the law would be made later.

In 2012, when the search committee was formed, the president took opinions of all political parties and everyone agreed to it and later the committee came into being through the issuance of a gazette, he said.

Although the search committee is not a law, it is close to one, said the minister.

On September 25, 53 eminent citizens of the country called for an immediate reconstitution of the EC by enacting a law as per the constitution.

Although the constitution mandates that appointments

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Enacting law is a must

Says EC Mahub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The need for a law to appoint the chief and other election commissioners is "undeniable" in order to establish universal voting rights, empowerment of the people and democracy, said Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar.

He, however, said the formation of such a law is impossible without the consensus of all political parties.

"The debate over the formation of the next election commission is now at its peak. In the last 50 years, no law has been enacted to appoint the commission," Mahub said in a press briefing at the EC office.

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DURGA PUJA GREETINGS!

We wish our readers a joyous celebration of Durga Puja. Let the festivities end on a note of communal harmony and prosperity.

Durga arrives to fight evil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-day-long Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, begins today through the Mahashashthi puja amid much festivity and religious fervour.

Preparation of puja mandaps (pavilions) in the capital and across the country are almost complete. The artisans are busy putting the finishing

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Recent dips in nighttime temperature are causing many children to catch cold-related diseases. The photo of the mothers with their newborns suffering from cold was taken at Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Taiwan won't bow to China

Says president; Beijing denounces her for provoking 'confrontation'

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan will keep bolstering its defences to ensure nobody can force them to accept the path China has laid down that offers neither freedom nor democracy, President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday, in a riposte to Beijing that its government denounced.

Claimed by China as its own territory, Taiwan has come under growing military and political pressure to accept Beijing's rule, including repeated Chinese air force missions in Taiwan's air defence identification zone, to international concern.

Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed on Saturday to realise "peaceful reunification" with Taiwan and did not directly mention the use of force. Still, he got an angry reaction from Taipei, which said only Taiwan's people can decide its future.

Addressing a National Day rally, Tsai said she hoped for an easing of tensions across the Taiwan Strait, and reiterated Taiwan will not "act rashly".

"But there should be absolutely no illusions that the Taiwanese people will bow to pressure," she said in the speech outside the presidential office in central Taipei.

"We will continue to bolster our national defence and demonstrate our determination to defend ourselves in order to ensure that nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us," Tsai added.

"This is because the path that China has laid out offers neither a free and democratic way of life for Taiwan, nor sovereignty for our 23 million people."

China has offered a "one country, two systems" model of autonomy to Taiwan, much like it uses with Hong

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Quote of the day



“After the crimes against humanity of the Shoah (Holocaust), it has been possible to reset and to reestablish relations. ... I want to use this opportunity to emphasise that the topic of Israel's security will always be of central importance and a central topic for every German government.”

OUTGOING GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL DURING HER FAREWELL VISIT TO THE JEWISH STATE



A makeshift place of worship with a theme of Bangladesh's 50th independence anniversary is displayed on the occasion of Durga Puja festival in Kolkata, India. Photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

MORE NEWS

Iran reports it has 120 kg of 20pc enriched uranium

Iran has enriched more than 120 kilogrammes of 20-percent enriched uranium, the head of the country's atomic energy agency said on state television Saturday evening. "We have passed 120 kilogrammes," said Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Iran had boosted its stocks enriched above the percentage allowed in the 2015 deal with world powers. Under the deal, Iran was not meant to enrich uranium above 3.67 percent, well below the 90-percent threshold needed for use in a nuclear weapon.

Russian plane carrying parachutists crashes, 16 killed

A plane carrying a group of parachute jumpers crashed in the Russian region of Tatarstan yesterday, killing 16 people and injuring six, the Emergencies Ministry said. The aircraft, which came down near the city of Menzelinsky, had been carrying 20 parachutists and two crew members. Six people were in a serious condition, the Health Ministry said. A Let L-410 Turbolet twin-engine short-range transport aircraft, the plane was owned by an aeroclub in the city of Menzelinsk, the TASS news agency reported. The cause of the accident was not known but the RIA agency cited local authorities as saying one of the engines could have failed.

Malaysia lifts travel curbs for fully vaccinated people

Malaysia yesterday lifted interstate and international travel restrictions for residents fully vaccinated against Covid-19, as the country achieved its target of inoculating 90 percent of its adult population. Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the government has agreed to allow fully vaccinated Malaysians to travel overseas without applying for permission. The new rules take effect from today. The government is preparing to shift into an endemic Covid-19 phase where it will not impose wide lockdowns again if cases rise, Ismail Sabri told a news conference. "We have to train ourselves to live with Covid, because Covid may not be eliminated fully," he said.



Five killed in Yemen blast targeting Aden governor

Five people have been killed in a car-bomb attack targeting the governor of Aden, the seat of Yemen's internationally recognised government, security sources said yesterday. Aden, in southern Yemen, is home to a separatist movement that last year precariously integrated into the central government, and both have long been aligned against Huthi rebels in a grinding civil war. Aden governor Ahmed Lamlas and Saleem al-Socotri, a government minister, both survived the blast which went off as their convoy passed, the sources said. Five members of the entourage were killed and 11 others were wounded in the attack. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the blast.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

HIGH-LEVEL DOHA TALKS ON AFGHANISTAN

Taliban warns US not to 'destabilise' regime

AFP, Doha

The Taliban have warned the United States not to "destabilise" the regime during their first face-to-face talks since the US withdrawal, as a deadly sectarian bombing raised further questions about their grip on power.

As mourners in northern Afghanistan buried their dead from an attack on a Shia mosque that killed 62, a Taliban delegation told US officials in Doha that any weakening of their government could cause "problems for the people".

Scores more worshippers were wounded in Friday's blast in Kunduz, which was claimed by the Islamic State group -- who appear to be attempting to further shake Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover.

As the two-day talks began on Saturday in Doha, IS-K said the attack was carried out by a Uyghur suicide bomber who had "detonated an explosive vest amid a crowd" of Shia worshippers.

"We clearly told them that trying to destabilise the government in Afghanistan is good for no one," the Taliban's foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi told the Afghan state news agency Bakhtar after the talks in the Qatari capital.

"Good relations with Afghanistan are good for everyone. Nothing should be done to weaken the existing government in Afghanistan which can lead to problems for the people," he said, in a recorded statement translated by AFP.

The Taliban are seeking international recognition, as well as assistance to avoid a humanitarian disaster and ease Afghanistan's economic crisis.

A State Department official said the US delegation would press the Taliban to ensure terrorists do not create a base for attacks in the country. It would also pressure Afghanistan's new rulers to form an inclusive government and to respect the rights of women and girls, the official said, stressing the meeting did not indicate Washington recognised Taliban rule.

"We remain clear that any legitimacy must be earned through the Taliban's own actions," the official said.

The Taliban security chief in Kunduz accused the mosque attackers of trying to foment trouble between Shias and Sunnis.

"We assure our Shia brothers that in the future, we will provide security for them and that such problems will not happen to them," Mulawi Dost Muhammad said.

Michael Kugelman, a South Asia expert at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, told AFP the Taliban would find it difficult to consolidate power unless they tackle terrorism and the growing economic crisis.

"If the Taliban, as is likely, is unable to address these concerns, it will struggle to gain domestic legitimacy, and we could see the emergence of a new armed resistance," he said.

BIODIVERSITY TALKS UN urges states to do more to protect species

REUTERS, Kunming

The global community must invest much more and raise the scale and speed of its pledges to protect nature and prevent species loss, David Cooper, deputy executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, said yesterday on the eve of a new round of global biodiversity talks.

The first part of the twice-postponed "COP15" biodiversity negotiations set to begin in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming today, with the aim of generating momentum for an ambitious post-2020 agreement to reverse decades of habitat destruction caused by human encroachment and climate change.

The talks will pave way for negotiators to thrash out a final deal in Kunming in May next year. The UN wants countries to commit to protecting 30% of their land by 2030, a pledge already agreed to by the United States and others.

KILLING OF FARMERS AT PROTEST SITE IN INDIA Cops arrest minister's son after outrage

AFP, New Delhi

The son of an Indian minister has been arrested on preliminary charges of murder, police said yesterday, a week after the death of eight people during a farmers' protest sparked national outrage.

Ashish Mishra was detained in Uttar Pradesh late Saturday over the incident in the northern state's Lakhimpur Kheri district, where farmers were demonstrating as part of their year-long campaign against contentious agriculture laws.

Farmers claimed that a convoy belonging to Mishra and his father -- the junior home affairs minister Ajay Mishra -- slammed into protesters, killing four of them.

Angry demonstrators then set fire to several cars and four other people, including a driver and a journalist, were killed, according to authorities and local media reports.

Mishra was arrested on grounds of "non-cooperation" and "evasive replies" during an hours-long interrogation, Deputy Inspector General of Police Upendra Kumar Agrawal told reporters.

Mishra will face court today and formal charges have to be filed within 90 days. Mishra and his father have denied the allegations.

India's Supreme Court had said Friday that it was "not satisfied" with the police investigation of the case and questioned why the younger Mishra had not yet been arrested.

The incident was the deadliest since farmers started camping on the outskirts of the capital New Delhi in November demanding a repeal of the controversial laws.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government says the sector is massively inefficient and in need of reform. But farmers fear the changes will leave them at the mercy of big corporations.



NO TIME TO DIE

QUIZ CONTEST

The Daily Star | STAR

10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

QUIZ - 03 What watch does James Bond wear?

WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 02

1. Sonya Akther Sweete, Kalabagan.
2. Md. Mazdul Haque, Uttara.
3. Mahmudul Hasan, Motijheel.
4. Mohammad Omar Faruk, Green Road.
5. Kamrul Hasan Siddique, South Banasree.
6. Meheraj Alam Bhuiya, Mohammadpur.
7. Nowshin Nur, Uttara.
8. Enamul Hasan Tanvir, Mirpur Dohs.
9. Sumaiya Azad, Aga Masi Lane.
10. Md. Misbahul Islam, Motijheel.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

OCTOBER 11

1138 - Earthquake in Aleppo, Syria, kills an estimated 230,000.

1737 - Earthquake reported to have killed 300,000 and destroyed half of Kolkata in India.

1945 - Chinese civil war begins between Kuomintang government led by Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong's Communist Party.

SOURCE: REUTERS



An Iraqi voter is frisked by a member of the security forces before entering a polling station in Baghdad yesterday. Iraqis voted yesterday in a parliamentary election held early as a concession to an anti-government protest movement but seen as unlikely to deliver major change to the war-scarred country.

PHOTO: AFP

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Upazila Health and Family planning Office
Rajapur, Jhalakathi
www.health.rajapur.jhalakathi.gov.bd
Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

Memo No: 45.01.4284.000.07.001.21.728 Date: 10/10/2021

e-Tender is invited in e-GP System portal(<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) Upazila Health And Family planning Office, Rajapur, Jhalakathi for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below.

SL	Tender ID No	Name of Goods	Tender Documents last Selling date& time	Tender Closing date& time
01	617167	Goods,(Medicine (unable to Supplied by EDCL))	26.10.2021 14.00	28.10.2021 14.00
02	617160	Goods,(Surgical equipment's)	26.10.2021 14.00	28.10.2021 14.00
03	617155	Goods,(Gauze, Bandage, Cotton)	26.10.2021 14.00	28.10.2021 13.00
04	617152	Goods,(Linen materials)	26.10.2021 14.00	28.10.2021 13.00
05	617150	Goods,(Chemicals)	26.10.2021 14.00	28.10.2021 13.00
06	616986	Goods,(Furniture and kitchen utensils)	26.10.2021 14.00	28.10.2021 13.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

Dr.Md.Abul Khair Mahamood
UH&FPO
Rajapur,Jhalakathi
Code:127192
e-mail: rajapur@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

GD-1808

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of Divisional Forest Officer
Cox's Bazar South Forest Division
(Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project)

Memo No.: 22.01.2200.790.29.13.2021.3505 Date: 10/10/2021.

e-Tender Notice 02/2021-22

E-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of goods details in table.

Tender ID No.	Package No	Description	Online Notice Publication date& time	Online Tender Closing Date & Time
615601	COX(S)FD/SUFAL/2021-22/GD-4	Supply of Bariala Bamboo, Bamboo Chatai & Sungrass for nursery Raising	12 October 2021 10.00	03 November 2021 14.00
615628	COX(S)FD/SUFAL/2021-22/GD-5	Supply of Temporary shed Materials for nursery Raising	12 October 2021 10.00	03 November 2021 15.00
615726	COX(S)FD/SUFAL/2021-22/GD-6	Supply of nursery equipment's, M.S Wire and Water supply materials for nursery Raising.	12 October 2021 10.00	03 November 2021 16.00

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.

(Md. Sarwoar Alam)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Cox's Bazar South Forest Division
Phone: 02333346670.

GD-1810



Picture of peace, in a green dale, done in oils.



A water colour study of foliage and chiaroscuro



Macabre scene of the Bengal famine, 1944



Panorama of watery Bengal

SM SULTAN

An early portrait

To commemorate the 27th death anniversary of SM Sultan we are reprinting an insightful article on the early life and works of the master painter. The original title of the article was 'A young artist from East Bengal'. It was published in the Pakistan Quarterly (January 1952).

S. AMJAD ALI

These are the facts of Sultan's life that have significance for the study of his paintings. He spent his boyhood in the villages of Bengal. He got some academic training in art at the Calcutta School of Arts, as a precocious young lad but left without completing the discipline, and has ever since been wandering all over the sub-continent. He may be said to have no formal education of any kind but has gazed with wonder and admiration at the reproductions of modern masters without of course understanding the technical and aesthetic revolution that they represent. He has eked out a precarious living with pencil and brush and knows no other trade to support himself. He can never bring himself to doing commercial art work, besides the fact that he is too erratic for business dealings. The result is that he has lived a life of poverty broken by short spells of prosperity and improvidence. Since the years of his growth coincided with the war, it happened that he found his greatest clientele among the British army officers who wanted to take mementos from the country. Moving in these circles of foreign art-lovers and artists, he could not help being influenced by many of their ideas and tastes in art.

It is not to be thought that the above is like the premise of a logical syllogism from which only one conclusion will follow. In fact a person placed in such circumstances could paint in a variety of ways. It is quite likely that he should have started to paint spurious imitations of old Mughal paintings which had high market value as curios during the war. But Sultan had that in him which was seeking expression; mechanical "pic-

ture making" was not enough for him. Every artist paint both to please himself and his clients; now though the latter consideration was very urgent for Sultan, it does not mean that he did not choose the style which was most congenial to his temperament. Like every young artist he has thrown about for the nearest ready-made style that can express his personality. It is only after the dissatisfaction grows on him that these styles do not convey exactly what he means to say, that he forges a new path for himself. Sultan is slowly emerging into this stage.

Sultan has no collection of his old works for he sells out everything. I do not know therefore what he painted before Pakistan was established, except that he had painted a great deal and that from life; but ever since, he has been painting mostly landscapes of Bengal and Kashmir. Now he has been away from Kashmir for four years and from Bengal for about twelve. Almost all his landscapes therefore are done from memory. Inevitably they are somewhat idealised and somewhat sentimental, especially when the local folk figure in the scene. Both these qualities I guess were acquired when he was painting for foreign visitors. Again the choice of style must have been dictated by the need to paint quickly. Sultan has incredible facility and neither can nor does sweat over a painting for any length of time. His mercurial restless nature has much to do with this. The result however is that he never aims at finish and practises some sort of impressionism in his better works, while the rest are just quick sketches.

THE DIFFERENT STYLES

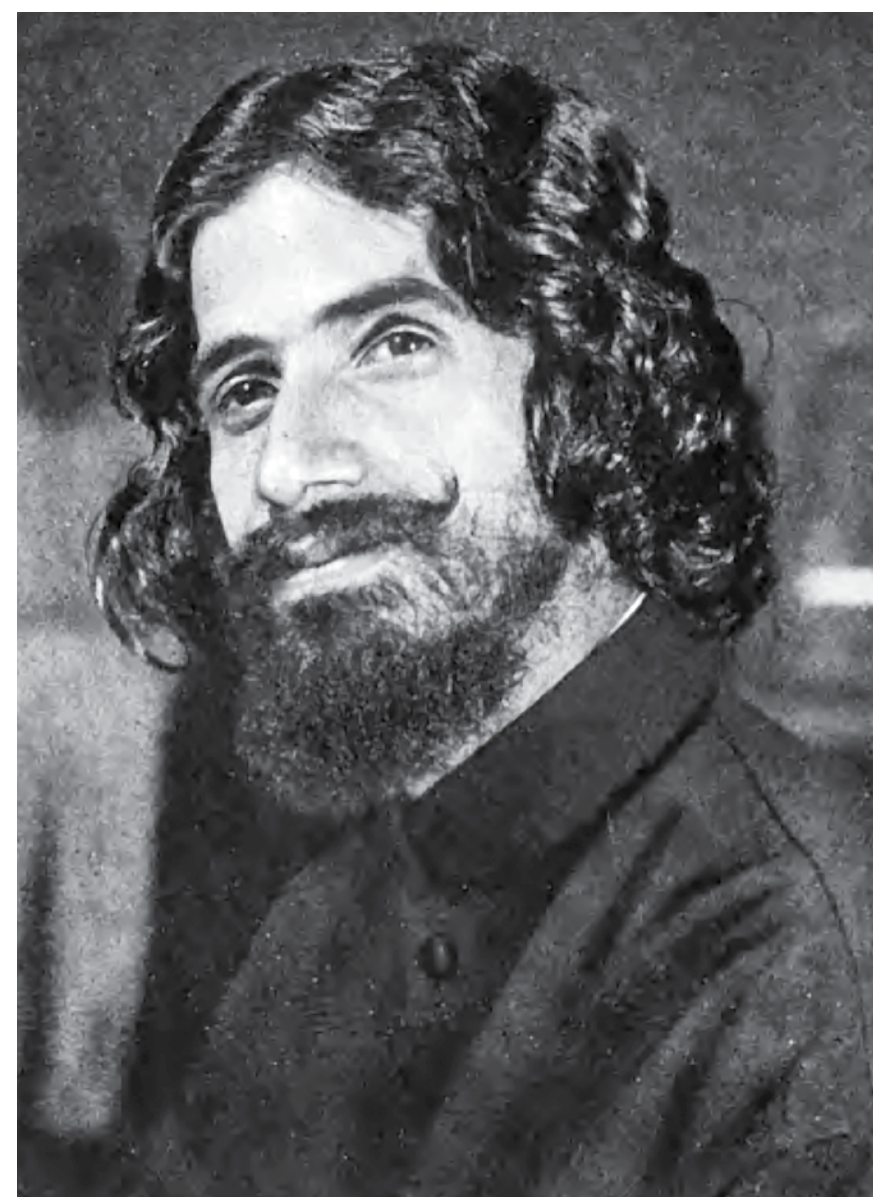
Let us consider his works more closely

to find their distinctive qualities. What I think impresses the spectator most is the bewildering variety of his styles. There are first the soft subdued tones of his panoramas of Bengal done in water-colour, depicting wide expanses of water and sky, the melting horizons, palm trees and boats, fisher-men and dainty huts, in a charmed atmosphere of rustic serenity. Thin, watery, flat!

Then there are panoramas of Kashmir, mostly in oils, all richly colourful, almost flamboyant—the deep purple mountains, the variegated shrubbery and trees, the lakes and rivers, which make up a scene very unlike the unrelieved monotony of Bengal.

Both the above group of pictures are heavy with literary interest—the non-artistic interest of describing notable objects and interesting landmarks in the scene, more to establish their identity than to exploit their artistic value for studies in form and colour, integrated into a purposeful design. The authenticity of a convincingly built up structure, in details and in the whole, is lacking, partly because it is not based on immediate observation and partly because panorama reduces form to its most tenuous, and makes the interplay of light on broad spaces the main subject of the painting.

There is more however to Sultan's work. There are close-ups, landscapes in water colour, showing a patch of vivid green, a copse, even a single tree with all its fascinating chiaroscuro. These are executed with an eye to the evanescent effects of changing colour on the foliage and on the shade. The execution is marked by verve, for such a subject requires not meticulous draftsmanship



SM Sultan (August 10, 1923- October 10, 1994)



Kashmiri women picking twigs under walnut trees

and careful graduated washes, but deft suggestive touches that help the mind to reconstruct reality in all its quivering intensity of life and movement. Not only is it a better interpretation of the personality of the tree but as a pattern of line and colour, light and shade, it is on a much higher plane.

While in the above Sultan throws planes, direction, and form overboard in a mad love of colour and harmony of tones, this is far less true of the remarkable little landscapes he has done in oils, specially those done with the knife. There is better understanding of the plastic significance of the subject, the relation of the depth and surface, the total build-up of the values. No smooth suave surfaces here, but telling daubs of fat thick colour, sonorous tones. The different shades of the same colour are sensitively juxtaposed to create a vibrant quality; different colours are placed together to build up a convincing structure as well as a flawless, singing harmony. For, as Cezanne, said "When colour has reached the maximum richness, form is at its zenith". There is no mere literary interest in these paintings. The hills and dales, the rocks and trees, are but pretexts for a study of form and colour and the expression of personality. Most of the above remarks apply to those of his water colour studies in which he has left the patchy sketchy style for the more finished though still impressionistic manner—as in his rich and mellow autumn scene, which I consider his masterpiece. It has excellent modelling, remarkable tonal harmony, and a satisfying design. It has verisimilitude also. On a lower plane in this style is another Kashmir Scene, which is mainly remarkable for design. Excellent again is the study of Kashmiri women under walnut trees. The foliage is somewhat stylized—it is never very realistic in Sultan—but the trunks are

architectonic in their solidity. Perhaps some day when he had more time on his hands, Sultan was carried away into a loving study of detail, away from fleeting impressions into the world of consecutive vision. The result is the marvellous painting of autumn in Kashmir with a house boat in the foreground. It is a wonderful pattern, and the turning, twisting branches are almost symbolic in their rich significance. As a composition in space too it is skillful and true. The execution strikes a happy balance between perfunctory sketch and laborious finish which can make even a non-impressionistic painting a pleasure for modern art lovers to see.

It only remains to point out that Sultan is not a mere landscape painter. He has made excellent study of the human figure and I have seen both drypoint sketches and large crayon studies by him which show a very high degree of merit. However, what came as a pleasant surprise was that he has recently done two large panels showing crowds of refugees and poverty-stricken multitudes. The delineation of the human forms is admirable and the composition is marvellous. The severe selectiveness of the lines of human figures, the largeness and boldness of the composition, and above all the human interest and tragic note in these panels are welcome signs of growth and maturity. I think Sultan has won his spurs in the field of technical skill and what he needs now is contact with great ideas and some rich experiences of life and art, to produce masterpieces of painting. His present visit to America under the International Education Exchange programme is a step in the right direction and likely to prove very fruitful.

S. Amjad Ali was the editor of Pakistan Quarterly.

Paintings: SM Sultan

A welcome move by UNHCR

Bhashan Char comes under the purview of UN assistance

WE welcome the signing of an MOU between the government of Bangladesh and the UNHCR that paves the way for the world body to provide all kinds of assistance to the Rohingyas relocated to Bhashan Char, in the same manner that it has been assisting the Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazar. The support covers key areas such as protection, education, skills training, livelihoods, and health, which will help the refugees lead a decent life and prepare better for their eventual return to Myanmar.

The signing of the agreement signals the removal of all reservations the UN might have had about the government's decision to relocate around 100,000 refugees to the island. Hopefully, this has also laid to rest any misgivings about Bhashan Char.

While we understand the reason for the resistance of some international organisations and aid agencies to the relocation—particularly because of the area's supposed vulnerability to storm and tidal surge—we, nonetheless, hope that the international community appreciates our position and, indeed, the compulsions that necessitated shifting a portion of the refugees from Cox's Bazar.

As of December 2020, there are nearly 900,000 Rohingya refugees living in 34 camps in the district of Cox's Bazar. The presence of such a large population of refugees has had the most devastating impact on the ecology of that area, apart from creating social unrest there. One should not also overlook the serious security implications that the addition of such a large number of people entails. Although only about 20 percent of the projected 100,000 Rohingyas have been transferred to Bhashan Char, the transfer of the rest, in phases, will hopefully be completed soon.

While the rearrangement is appreciated, we would hope that Bhashan Char does not send the wrong signal to the international community or the military junta in Myanmar. The relocation, we must emphasise, is a temporary expedient—to reduce the inordinate pressure on Cox's Bazar. The ultimate objective is the repatriation of the refugees to the land of their birth, their homeland, with full dignity and honour and their rights as citizens of Myanmar restored. The UN and the major nations must intensify their efforts to ensure that the Myanmar government takes back their citizens. We hope that this happens soon. But till such time as the refugees return home, there should be no let-up in the efforts of the international community to ensure that the refugees enjoy a humane existence in the camps.

Where is the justice for Kanchon Mia?

Police and factory authorities must be held accountable for the RMG worker's plight

WHAT are the consequences of workers' protests in Bangladesh? In any developed society, one would expect protests to be a tool to hold higher powers to account, rather than an excuse to punish the protesters. However, for RMG worker Kanchon Mia, who has been fighting for his life for the past five months, the cost of his protest has been his health and his income, as he potentially faces a lifetime of disability.

On May 10 this year, workers of an RMG factory owned by the conglomerate Ha-Meem Group took to the streets to demand Eid holidays. Instead of meeting their perfectly legitimate demands, law enforcement was called in, and it is now evident that the police used disproportionate force. Kanchon—one of 12 workers who were injured that day—was shot with pellet guns at point blank range. Later, some 101 pellets were removed from his intestines. A large part of his intestines and lower abdomen had to be removed. Now he needs gut reconstruction surgery, but doctors are hesitant to operate due to his severely malnourished condition. The only breadwinner of his seven-member family, Kanchon will not be able to do any strenuous work for the rest of his life.

The culpability of the police and Kanchon's employers cannot be swept under the rug here. The commissioner of Gazipur Metropolitan Police commented that they "never fire shots without provocation," adding that the provocation in question was "blocking the highway." In a just and democratic society, does it sound fair that the act of blocking a road should cost a worker his intestines, his lower abdomen, his ability to work, and the quality of his life? And why would one of the largest clothing manufacturers in the country deny their workers Eid holidays, and call in law enforcement to take such heavy-handed actions against them?

Kanchon and his family allege that the Ha-Meem Group only paid around half the costs of his initial surgery and treatment, and then began to ignore their calls. When contacted by *The Daily Star*, the business group blamed it on miscommunication, and promised to pay for his treatment and provide his salary until he was fit to return to work (or arrange compensation if he was not).

While this sounds good on paper, it does not explain why Kanchon's wife has had to sell their last belongings to support his treatment, and is now struggling to pay for their children's education. Labour rights activists have argued that Kanchon should receive at least Tk 50 lakh to Tk 1 crore as compensation, given that he has been incapacitated for the rest of his life. We call on the authorities concerned to not only ensure that Kanchon receives fair compensation for the irreparable losses he has suffered, but that he also receives justice for the crimes committed against him. If our law enforcement agencies are not held accountable for their actions—especially when using disproportionate force—it will only enhance their impunity and lead to further violations of set practices, and of the law itself.

A Nobel boost for fearless and independent journalism



KAMAL AHMED

MARIA Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia have won the Nobel Peace Prize for their relentless struggle to protect freedom of expression.

Announcing the award, Norwegian Nobel Committee Chair Berit Reiss-Andersen said the duo were receiving the prize for their courageous fight for freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia. "The committee considered Ressa and Muratov to be representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions," she added. The recognition of the struggle for freedom of expression and independent journalism in Andersen's speech is also a source of joy and inspiration for us, because we, too, are part of that long struggle.

The Nobel Committee, in its announcement, noted that "free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda." Justifying its awarding decision, it said, "The committee is convinced that freedom of expression and freedom of information help to ensure an informed public. These rights are crucial prerequisites for democracy and protect against war and conflict."

In addition to independent journalism, the issues that have inevitably surfaced with the awards of Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov are no less important. First, both the countries of the award-winning duo have been under authoritarian rule for quite some time, and there have been reports of serious violations of basic human rights—including violence, illegal detentions, enforced disappearances, and killings. In the case of the Philippines, the committee cited the unusually high death toll of President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug campaign as "the equivalent of a war against the country's own people," and called Maria Ressa a "fearless defender" of the freedom of expression. Ressa and the investigative online portal she co-founded, the Rappler, have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents, and manipulate public discourse.

Similarly, in Russia, Dmitry Muratov, in his newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, highlighted corruption, police violence, illegal arrests, electoral fraud, and the Russian military's troll factories for harassing and intimidating opponents via social media. Due to these works, the newspaper has been subjected to various forms of harassment, threats, and violence. Since the newspaper's inception, six of its journalists have been killed, including Anna Politkovskaya, who was killed for writing about the Chechen war. Despite all the violence and threats, Dmitry Muratov has allowed his journalists to practise independent and objective journalism.

A few hours after the winners were named, I heard Muratov's friend Mikhail

Zygar, editor of the only independent TV channel in Russia, TV Rain, telling BBC Radio 4 that his friend had told him that the Nobel Peace Prize had actually been won by six of his slain colleagues. On Saturday, journalist-novelist Mashiul Alam shared a picture of Muratov's quote printed in the *Novaya Gazeta*, which reads, "Igor Domnikov, Yuri Shchekochikhin, Anna Politkovskaya, Stanislav Markelov, Anastasia Baburova, Natasha Estemirova—are the people who won (the) Nobel prize."

In the history of the Nobel Peace Prize, the only other journalist who received this award was Carl von Ossietzky, and it was 86 years ago. That, too, was amid the

rise of Nazism. And the awarding speech given by the then Nobel Committee Chairman Frederik Stang showed greater emphasis on his pacifist role than on his journalism. The German journalist was a former soldier, and war transformed him into a pacifist who became the secretary of the German Peace Society. In that sense, Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov have won the award for the first time for fighting for press freedom, and through that strengthening democracy and building peace.

There is no doubt that there are transnational organisations working for the protection and promotion of journalism, and journalists are feeling enormous pride for this award

award came at a time when journalists are facing unprecedented attacks, digital surveillance, and a decline of public trust in journalism. CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon said Ressa and Muratov symbolised the freedom of the press and why it was needed. They have continued to defy censorship and harassment in the face of personal threats, and have led others to do the same. And their reactions following the awards certainly indicate that they will continue to lead the struggle for press freedom beyond borders by setting examples.

The Philippines and Russia are at the forefront of countries where journalists have been killed with impunity. Statistics compiled by the CPJ shows that since 1992, a total of 87 journalists have been killed in the Philippines, and 58 in Russia. During the same period, the number of journalists killed worldwide was 1,416. The same CPJ statistics named 23 journalists killed in Bangladesh during the same period. However, our ranking in the World Press Freedom Index, prepared by RSF in conjunction with Unesco, is lower than that of the Philippines and Russia: out of 180 countries, our position is 152, while Russia stands at 150 and the Philippines at 138. The global think tanks (including Freedom House) that survey the state of democracy and human rights regrettably portray us poorly, too.

In 2018, the Time Magazine named a few journalists in "The Guardians and the War on Truth" as part of its annual naming of the Person of the Year. Among them were the murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Maria Ressa of the Philippines, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe of Myanmar, and Shahidul Alam of Bangladesh. There are many more like Shahidul Alam who have been victims of harassment, intimidation, and torture. Enforced disappearances for some period, arbitrary detentions, and harassment of journalists under the Digital Security Act (DSA) are on the rise. There is an unending struggle to defy invisible and unofficial prohibitions and censors, ignoring the fear of threats and harassment.

Maria Ressa received the Nobel Peace Prize with Dmitry Muratov for persistent defiance of all forms of censorship as editors. It remains to be seen how much our editors and news rooms are inspired and enlivened by the recognition of the courage in journalism.

Kamal Ahmed is an independent journalist. His Twitter handle is @ahmedka1



Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov's Nobel Prize win is a vindication for all journalists who are pursuing objective journalism in the face of growing adversities.

PHOTO: REUTERS



due to professional fraternity. It also rejuvenates all of us who are working in the news media, as reflected in the statement issued by the International Press Institute (IPI), which said the award was a source of encouragement to journalism. Another organisation named Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said, "They represent all those who work with courage and determination for news and information that is reliable, and freely and independently reported, in a world in which democracy and press freedom are increasingly undermined by the spread of fake news and hate speech." The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a New York-based organisation, said the

amounts of waste—it requires volumes of clean freshwater for washing, dyeing, and finishing (WDF) of textiles. The textile sector is also energy-intensive. For WDF-related activities, hot water and steam have to be generated, which contributes to GHG emission. Besides, a number of harmful chemicals—including nitrous oxides, sulphur dioxides, carbon monoxide, and chlorine dioxide—are also released from factories through various activities. Therefore, the environmentally

A case for green transition in our apparel sector



FAHMIDA KHATUN

IN today's world, business is not only about profit, employment, income, and growth. Hence, it is not only about economic sustainability—it is also about social and environmental sustainability.

In the run-up to the 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the green transition of all economic activities has gained more momentum. Several global leaders have reiterated their commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and set ambitious targets to reach net-zero levels of emissions in an attempt to keep the global temperature rise within 1.5 degree Celsius. The private sector, including large businesses, has also made a commitment to reduce carbon emissions and set timelines to become carbon neutral.

One may refer to the findings of a McKinsey report in 2018, which indicated that the global fashion industry emitted about 2.1 billion metric tonnes of GHG—which is equivalent to about four percent of total global GHG emission. The fashion industry has to reduce its GHG emissions by 1.1 billion metric tonnes of carbon equivalent by 2030. Unfortunately, at the current trajectory of its GHG emission, the targets of 2030 will not be met.

Bangladesh is a small player in the global fashion industry. In fact, Bangladesh's national contribution to global GHG emission is 0.45 percent. However, despite its negligible GHG emission, Bangladesh has to play its part and make efforts towards the green transition of its economy, including the ready-made garment (RMG) sector. Producers, buyers and consumers worldwide are more aware of climate and environmental issues than ever before. Hence, sustainability has become a core agenda among brands. Many high-end brands have also started using recycled fabrics. Over 40 brands have committed to cut their GHG emission by 30 percent within 2030.

The RMG sector is not only human resource-intensive, but also natural resource-intensive, at every stage of the life cycle. The sector generates large

promote environmental sustainability. One of its pledges to be a part of the "Green Button Initiative" of the government of Germany is a state-owned seal on environmental sustainability. Bangladesh has 148 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green garment factories, certified by the US Green Building Council. Nine out of the world's top 10 green RMG factories are located in Bangladesh. Also, 40 out of the top 100 green industrial projects in the world are situated in Bangladesh. More than 500 factories are in the pipeline to achieve the green factory status. It must be noted that in a highly cost-competitive environment, it is a challenge to be LEED-certified companies that are designed and built in a way to use less energy and water, have good indoor air quality, and improve the quality of life. These standards are much above the national requirements and are also expensive. Also, RMG factories have entered the Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT) programme of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which aims to lower environmental impact and resource consumption in the sector. Factories under PaCT have adopted cleaner production practices, which have helped reduce their GHG emissions.

Despite its negligible GHG emission, Bangladesh has to play its part and make efforts towards the green transition of its economy, including the ready-made garment (RMG) sector.

sustainable production process in the RMG sector involves waste management, water conservation, and energy efficiency.

The government of Bangladesh is committed to achieving higher economic growth in an environment-friendly manner, and will work to reduce the impacts of climate change. Its medium- and long-term plans, such as the eighth five-year plan and the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, have spelt out strategies and action plans in that direction. Among others, monitoring and controlling pollution, higher investment in industrial effluent treatment plants, and the adoption of cleaner technologies for economic activities are among the few important promises of the government.

In the recent past, Bangladesh's RMG sector took a number of initiatives towards a green and sustainable industry. The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) signed the United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action in 2019 with the UNFCCC for reducing GHG emissions by 30 percent by 2030. It also entered into partnership with a number of international organisations to

amounts of waste—it requires volumes of clean freshwater for washing, dyeing, and finishing (WDF) of textiles. The textile sector is also energy-intensive. For WDF-related activities, hot water and steam have to be generated, which contributes to GHG emission. Besides, a number of harmful chemicals—including nitrous oxides, sulphur dioxides, carbon monoxide, and chlorine dioxide—are also released from factories through various activities. Therefore, the environmentally

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The RMG sector is one of the major driving forces of the Bangladesh economy. It is the source of employment and income for about four million workers, the majority of whom are women. It is a key source of foreign exchange income. Currently, about 81 percent of export income comes from this sector. Bangladesh is the second largest exporter of apparels in the world, following China. During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the sector faced challenges in terms of reduced exports due to the nationwide lockdown in an attempt to contain the spread of the coronavirus, and also cancellation and postponement of orders by a number of international buyers. However, as soon as the global markets started to open up, RMG exports started to pick up too. In recent months, the growth of RMG exports has been significant. In September 2021, RMG exports grew by 41.7 percent compared to the previous month.

During the last decade or so, the sector has worked towards improving various compliances in partnership with brands. As the country is going to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026, the compliance requirements on Bangladeshi exports will become more stringent. With higher commitments

of governments and private sectors and higher awareness of consumers around the world, social and environmental issues are taking the centre stage of production and consumption.

However, green economic transition also involves costs. To remain competitive in the global market, productivity enhancement and cost minimisation are needed. Some of the LEED factory owners are not happy, since they have not seen returns on their green investments in terms of higher revenues. There is a demand on buyers for higher prices of apparels for the supply chains to be climate neutral. Also, it will be difficult for many factories to be climate-positive through energy-efficient technologies because of the additional costs involved.

Therefore, technology transfer and finance are two major requirements for the green transition of the RMG sector in Bangladesh. Higher productivity and lesser wastage of resources through better technology can reduce cost. However, technological upgradation has to be associated with capacity development of workers as it may lead to displacement of unskilled workers—particularly female workers. Indeed, environmental compliance has to be coupled with social compliance. It has to ensure a decent living for its workers.

Catalysing green finance is crucial for green transformation of the RMG industry through environment-friendly technologies. Global sources such as the Green Climate Fund have been less effective as the disbursement process is slow. However, given the scale of requirements for a green path, green financing will have to be mobilised from multiple sources. Public resources can never fulfil the demand; private investment is more crucial. A blended finance package comprising grants, green loan guarantees, subsidised loans, and also support from buyers can de-risk environmental investment and catalyse private funds. Higher green investment in the RMG sector will not only make the RMG sector sustainable, but will also help achieve Bangladesh's commitments towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including two important SDGs: SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and SDG 13 on climate action. Hence, commitments for a green RMG sector are also commitments for intergenerational equity.

Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

Girls Deserve a Better Normal



SHUPROVA TASNEEM

THE Covid-19 pandemic has been hard for everyone, but it has been especially so on children. Millions of children across the world have been cooped up at home for weeks (or months) on end, away from their classrooms and their friends, many of them mourning the loss of someone they loved. It is probably difficult for adults to understand just how unsettling this “new normal” has been for young minds, but a recent report from Unicef, titled “The State of the World’s Children,” painted a grim picture of how the impacts of Covid-19 on the mental health of children and young people are likely to be felt for many years to come. The latest data suggests that at least one in seven children in the world has been directly affected by lockdowns, and some 1.6 billion children have suffered some loss of education.

This loss of education has been felt keenly in Bangladesh, which saw one of the most prolonged school closures in the world. During the 543 days that educational institutions remained shuttered here, the children did not only suffer from learning loss, but also from the twin threats of child labour and child marriage—to a degree far greater than usual.

Even before the pandemic, the world witnessed its first increase in child labour in the past two decades (8.4 million more during 2016-2020), and a Unicef report in June this year warned that another nine million children were globally at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of the pandemic. In Bangladesh, research from Manusher Jonno Foundation and its partner organisations found that, between August and October in 2020, 5,600 child labourers migrated in search of jobs and 2,400 were forced to join new work at minimum wage.

That Covid-19 forced many children from low-income families to join the workforce is now widely acknowledged. What is even

more frightening is that the government project to eradicate hazardous child labour from Bangladesh, which was taken up more than three years ago, saw only 1.33 percent progress by its original deadline in December last year, according to a June report from the planning ministry’s Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED). The repercussions of such a blasé attitude towards child labour became clear after the Hashem factory fire in Narayanganj, on July 8 this year, where at least 17 child labourers

schoolgirls, especially from low-income backgrounds, were faring during the period of school closures—despite Unicef warning that an additional 10 million girls worldwide are at the risk of child marriage due to Covid-19, and despite the fact that almost half of the estimated 650 million girls and women in the world who were married in childhood hail from Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, and Nigeria.

Media reports from across the country confirm that a good number of girls are failing

girl students, who were married off during the Covid-19 shutdown of schools, are able to return to education?

Today, as we observe the end of National Child Rights Week and celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child, we must ask ourselves some serious questions about the present state of children in Bangladesh, and what is being done on a national level to support them. And in these considerations, the topics of education loss, child labour, and child marriage must feature heavily. Child marriage, in particular, requires urgent attention. Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage in South Asia—and this was the case even before the pandemic. An astonishing 51 percent of young women in Bangladesh are married before their 18th birthday. Of these child brides, 50 percent give birth before the age of 18, and 80 percent before the age of 20. Nearly one in three child brides has a spouse who is at least 10 years older than her.

However, research in Bangladesh also suggests that child marriage begins to decline among those with at least 10 years of schooling, and prevalence falls below 50 percent among those with at least 12 years of schooling. In fact, Unicef strongly suggests that education levels make more of a difference in the prevalence of child marriage than wealth or place of residence. In this context, the education authorities should have organised re-enrolment campaigns targeting the most high-risk groups of children, long before they decided to reopen schools.

Beyond attempts to include girls in education, a lot more is left to be done. There has to be a radical shift in how we perceive child marriage as a nation. Families and communities must understand that it is not a tool to protect the “honour” of young girls, but rather a form of sexual violence. However, this kind of message—when it comes from a government that has willingly lowered the age bar of child marriage to 16 under “special circumstances” (with no clear guidelines on what those circumstances are)—sounds rather insincere. The fact that the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 does not actually criminalise the marital rape of a minor, and

does not include the option for marriage annulment, only further reflects a general apathy towards improving the lives of girl children in Bangladesh.

Looking at some of last month’s reports alone paints a powerful picture of the dualities facing girls in this country. In September, five Bangladeshi girls defeated teams from around the world with their idea for a green urbanisation project, winning USD 2,580 from a global charity. Soon after, another schoolgirl in Kushtia, named Nargis Nahar, was found to be the only one of the eight female students from her class to return to school; the rest of them had been forced into child marriages during the pandemic.

In September, Nubaysha Islam, an eighth-grader from Sylhet, competed against over 100,000 youths and won the first prize in the International Letter Writing Competition 2021. September also marked one year since the death of 14-year-old migrant worker Kulsum, who was sent to Saudi Arabia as a domestic worker with false documents in April 2018, and returned to her family in Bangladesh in a body bag on September 12, 2020, covered with marks of torture.

At the beginning of the month, nine people were held on the charge of abetting and raping a schoolgirl in Narayanganj. At the end of the month, a man was arrested on charge of raping and killing a schoolgirl in Satkhira, while another was sued for raping a mentally challenged girl in Habiganj.

Also in September, 10-year-old Nilava Chowdhury made her league debut in the National Women’s Chess League, and ended up beating Rani Hamid, the country’s first woman international master and 20-time national chess champion.

It is clear that our girls have all the potential to reach for the stars, but also have to live in fear of having their wings clipped. How many more will grow into adults without ever enjoying their rights as children? How long until we are able to allay the fears of our children, and provide them with the decent, secure, and enabling environment that they deserve?

Shuprova Tasneem is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @shuprovatasneem



Getting our girl children what they deserve—a chance at education—requires collective, conscious efforts on the part of our society and nation.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

were killed—11 of whom were girls. Most of these children were found to have taken up factory jobs because of school closures and their families’ financial struggles during Covid-19.

Too many Bangladeshi girls, while managing to avoid the trap of child labour, have instead fallen into the chokehold of child marriage during the pandemic. It is astonishing that the relevant authorities did not try to collect any data regarding how

to return to school. Last week, Brahmanbaria teacher Pankaj Kanti Madhu went viral on social media after he was photographed calming his student’s three-month-old baby at Chinair Anjuman Ara High School. He was applauded for taking the initiative to bring his student—a tenth-grader who was forced to become a child bride—back to school. But why should this be limited to the personal initiatives of sincere teachers? What is being done on a national level to ensure that the

Bridging the digital divide empowers girls, if we get it right

BJÖRN ANDERSSON and GEORGE LARYEA-ADJEI

WHEN Vithika Yadav returned to India in 2008 after living in the United States, she saw that many young people—especially girls—didn’t have a space to openly talk about the difficult issues they faced. Gender-based violence, child marriage, and other harmful social practices remain commonplace, and are hardly ever discussed.

So she rolled up her sleeves and co-founded Love Matters India, a digital community for young people to learn about their rights, seek services, share stories, and help their peers. Love Matters India meets young people where many of them already are opening conversations on tough subjects related to gender inequality and sexual and reproductive health and rights—online. The platform, with a significant audience, is helping address patriarchal behaviour within India’s younger generations.

Increasingly across Asia and the Pacific, innovative initiatives like these are opening up new opportunities to empower women and girls with knowledge, support and services and help them lead safe, productive, fulfilling lives.

This is timelier than ever, since the Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on services that help protect girls against child marriage and gender-based violence. This is alarming for regions like South Asia, where over half of the girls are married before the age of 18—robbing them of their childhood, curbing their education, and putting their health and safety at risk. Projections warning of a significant pandemic-related spike in these human rights violations are increasingly corroborated by anecdotal evidence and data from service

providers.

Technological innovations have been a source of hope and security for many girls and young women, enabling them to continue learning and seek help if they are at risk of child marriage or gender-based violence. But not all girls and young women have access to digital technology and the opportunities it offers to improve their lives. Making sure that no girl is left behind because she is poor, illiterate or too young requires deliberate planning and action on the part of governments and a range of partners, including the private sector.

Disparities in access to technology are actually rising, widening the chasms both between boys’ and girls’ ability to thrive, and between privileged and disadvantaged communities. As governments and the private sector ramp up investments in digital technology to better reach young people, we must make concerted efforts to bridge gender and socio-economic digital divides.

Vithika Yadav does just that. She reaches out to girls from some of the most disadvantaged communities through Love Matters India’s youth networks. Critical information on girls’ rights and services is disseminated through community radio and mobile phones preloaded with content to avoid internet access issues.

Inspiring examples of how this can be done abound. In Sri Lanka, Unicef and the government have set up a virtual and telephone-based support system for at-risk children amid Covid-19 lockdowns. Frontline social workers trained in psychosocial support use Zoom to report cases of girls and boys in need of protection. In Bangladesh, as part of the national Alapon helpline, the UNFPA and the Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFD) have



Girls represent half of our future generation. If they fall behind, we will fall behind.

FILE PHOTO: UNHCR

set up a Rohingya line to provide sexual and reproductive health information and psychosocial support at the refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar. Community healthcare workers and designated safe spaces across the camps are equipped with mobile phones so that girls can call the helpline. Facebook Live sessions are broadcast on local radio, and radios containing an SD card preloaded with past Alapon Live sessions are given to adolescents.

What more can we do to harness the potential of technology to protect the rights and well-being of all girls, everywhere?

Governments and partners, including the private sector, must strengthen digital literacy and infrastructure across the region, with a focus on adolescent girls and underserved communities. This means ensuring that all adolescent girls can learn even when physically attending schools is not possible—by making sure they have the devices, platforms, materials and support they need. This is especially important in places with high rates of child marriage, as keeping girls in school substantially reduces the likelihood of them marrying early.

In online school settings, authorities need to monitor attendance records and implement strategies to ensure that both boys and girls, including those from disadvantaged families, have equal access to education. And alternative safe modes of learning should be offered where online access is unavailable. Donors, the private sector, governments, UN agencies, and civil society should invest more in digital innovations to create online spaces for adolescents—especially girls—to share their experiences and concerns with peers and professionals, and receive information and support in a safe virtual space.

But as more evidence from the Asia Pacific region emerges on what has worked amid the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become clear that investing in technology alone is not enough. Approaches that combine in-person interactions, traditional media like radio, and diverse digital platforms are needed to fully engage girls and young people, especially in remote or disadvantaged communities. For example, virtual health and psychosocial support consultations, including support for adolescents facing abuse or child marriage, must be made available through helplines, radio and mobile phones.

On this International Day of the Girl Child, as we contemplate a post-pandemic world, we have the opportunity to build on what we have learned during the pandemic about the value of digital technology—while also addressing the gaps that divide us even further. We must not only commit, but also take concrete actions to bridge gender and socio-economic digital divides, so that technology advances rights, choices, and opportunities for all.

Björn Andersson is regional director for the Asia Pacific Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). George Laryea-Adjei is regional director for Unicef South Asia, based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

QUOTABLE Quote

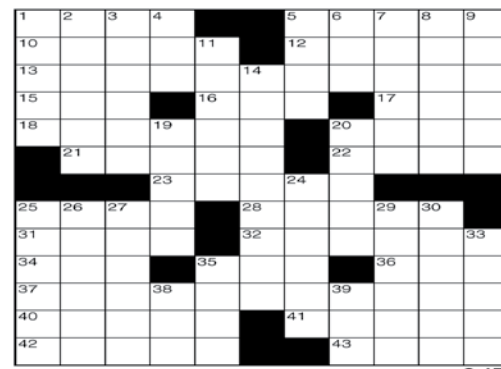


DESMOND TUTU (born October 7, 1931) South African cleric and anti-apartheid activist

I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Quick job
 - 5 Bea Arthur series
 - 10 Copying
 - 12 Building wing
 - 13 Clock setting in Illinois
 - 15 Finish
 - 16 Completely
 - 17 Road goo
 - 18 Roosevelt’s middle name
 - 20 Mailed
 - 21 Condescend
 - 22 Track figures
 - 23 Garden starters
 - 25 Sense
 - 28 Eye drops
 - 31 Writer Rice
 - 32 Certainly
 - 34 Lupino of film
 - 35 “— little teapot ...”
 - 36 Distant
 - 37 Duration of some offers
 - 40 News item
 - 41 City on the Rhone
 - 42 Hold up
 - 43 Longings
- DOWN**
- 1 Walked back and forth
 - 2 Had its premiere
 - 3 Begin to burn
 - 4 Tolkien tree herder
 - 5 Shopping spot
 - 6 Termite’s kin
 - 7 In agreement
 - 8 Insist on
 - 9 Brings to bear
 - 11 Farm association
 - 14 Recharging period
 - 19 Usher’s place
 - 20 “What a pity”
 - 24 Reply to “Gracias”
 - 25 Missed the mark
 - 26 Salad green
 - 27 Tooth layer
 - 29 Amend one’s return
 - 30 Mariners
 - 33 Garb
 - 35 Tiny
 - 38 “— pig’s eye!”
 - 39 Attempt



YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

Re-Invitation For International Tender (IFIT) From All Countries

Construction of an Iconic Commercial Complex of approximately 60,000 sqm on a 2 acres of Land with State-of-the-Art Amenities & Facilities

1	Procuring Entity Name	IsDB-BISEW			
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Building Construction Works and Related Services			
3	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-01			
4	Publication Date	11 October 2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
5	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
6	Source of Funds	IsDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
7	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.			
8	Tender Package No.	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-01			
9	Tender Package Name	Construction of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with common 3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Sub-Head: Civil & Architectural, Internal Sanitary, Plumbing & Water Supply, Internal Electrification Works and Ground Facilities & External Electrification Works.			
10	Last Date of Receiving Application from Tenderers for Issuing Tender Documents	14 November 2021 up to 5:00 PM			
11	Last Date of Issuing Tender Documents	01 December 2021			
12	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	21 December 2021; Time 11:00 AM			
13	Place of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
14	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	20 January 2022 up to 12:00 Noon			
15	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)	20 January 2022 at 12:30 PM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Intending Tenderers or their Authorized Representatives may remain present during opening of Technical Offer.			
16	Name and Address of the Office Selling Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
17	Name and Address of the Office for Receiving Tender	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
18	Eligible Countries	All countries, except countries/organizations under the Boycott Regulations of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States and the African Union.			
	Eligibility of Tenderers for Purchasing Tender Documents	Sale of Tender Documents Tenderers shall apply in their Letterhead to the undersigned latest by 14 November 2021 , during office hours up to 5:00 pm along with the documentary evidences to fulfill the following primary eligibility criteria to purchase Tender Documents: a) Tenderer/Lead Firm of Joint Venture (JV) Tenderer (if applicable) must be a Civil Construction Company/Firm having minimum 15 (fifteen) years of general experience in Building Construction Works. The Joint Venture Partner (Limited to 1 number only) of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) must be a Civil Construction Company/Firm having minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience in Building Construction Works. b) The Tenderer/Lead Firm and Joint Venture Partner of a Joint Venture Tenderer (if applicable) must have valid TIN/BIN, VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License, Up-to-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Incorporation Certificate of the Company. (Attested Copies of Certificates and Documents to be submitted) c) Documentary evidence (Attested copies of Work Completion Certificate and Financial Statement to be submitted) to fulfill the Experience Criteria and Financial Criteria as stated in Sl. No. 19 & 20. d) Procuring Entity will verify the above-mentioned criteria at serial numbers a), b) & c) within 17 days. e) After scrutiny and verification of the documents, the primarily eligible Applicants will be notified to collect the Prescribed Tender Documents on payment of non-refundable USD 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) or equivalent amount in BDT. f) False statement found during verification will disqualify the Applicant from purchasing Tender Documents. g) Tenderers without having the above-mentioned Primary Eligibility need not apply to purchase the Tender Documents.			
19	Experience Criteria of Tenderer	a) General Experience of the Tenderer: Tenderer/Lead Firm of JV Tenderer (if applicable) must have successfully completed Construction Works of value of USD 40 (forty) million or equivalent BDT in the last 5 (five) years prior to the date of Publication of IFIT in Newspapers/Website. The Procuring Entity will consider best of 3 (three) Projects. b) Specific Experience in the Last 10 (ten) Years: i) The Tenderer/Lead Firm of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) must have successfully completed at least 1 (one) 12-Storied Commercial Building (Residential Apartment Building is not acceptable) having 2-level basement floors of minimum value of Civil Works including Sanitary, Plumbing & Water Supply and Internal Electrification Works USD 13.0 (thirteen) million or equivalent BDT in a single contract. ii) The JV Partner of JV Tenderer (if applicable) must have successfully completed at least 1 (one) 10-Storied Commercial Building (Residential Apartment Building is not acceptable) having 1-level basement floor of minimum value of Civil Works including Sanitary, Plumbing & Water Supply and Internal Electrification Works USD 10.0 (ten) million or equivalent BDT in a single contract. iii) All buildings proposed as specific experience by the Tenderer must have Central Air-conditioning System, Fire Detection & Fire Fighting System etc. in order to be considered.			
20	Financial Criteria of Tenderer	a) Minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover: i) The Tenderer/Lead Firm of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) shall have a minimum Average Annual Civil Construction Turnover of USD 10.00 (ten) million or Equivalent BDT during the last 5 (five) years. ii) The JV Partner of a JV Tenderer (if Applicable) shall have a minimum Average Annual Civil Construction Turnover of USD 3.00 (three) million or Equivalent BDT during the last 5 (five) years. b) Liquid Asset: i) The minimum amount of Free Fund (Liquid Asset) or Working Capital or Credit Facilities net of the Tenderer/			
21	Other Requirements	The Tenderer must submit the following attested Documents, Information along with the Tender: i) Up-to-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate. ii) Valid VAT Registration Certificate for National Tenderers and similar certificate if applicable for International Tenderers. iii) Up-to-date Trade License for National Tenderers and similar certificate if applicable for International Tenderers. iv) Up-to-date ABC Category Contractory and Supervisory License from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of Bangladesh for National Tenderers and similar documents if applicable for International Tenderers. v) Tender Documents Purchasing Money Receipt (Original). vi) Other required eligibility criteria & conditions as mentioned in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of Tender Documents.			Lead Firm of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) shall be USD 3.00 (three) million or equivalent BDT. ii) The minimum amount of Free Fund (Liquid Asset) or Working Capital or Credit Facilities net of the JV Partner of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) shall be USD 2.00 (two) million or equivalent BDT.
22	Brief Description of Works	Construction of approximately 60,000 sqm on 2 acres of land for Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center comprising Shore Piling, Earthwork, Lateral Steel Bracing Work, RCC Work for Foundation and Substructure-RCC Retaining Wall, Basements, Water Proofing Work and RCC Frame Superstructure, Brick Work, Marble & Granite Works, Floor and Wall Tiles, Façade Work (including Curtain Walls and other Glazing Works), Railing Works, Sanitary, Plumbing and Water Supply Works, Internal and External Electrification Works, Ground Facility Works including Landscape, Internal Roads, Deep Tube Well, Drainage System, and Boundary Wall, etc.			
23	Price of Tender Documents	USD 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) or equivalent amount of BDT Non-refundable Pay Order/Bank Draft in BDT equivalent to USD 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2) for lone local Tenderer/local JV Partner. Transfer of Non-refundable USD 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) through proper banking channel from the country of the lone foreign Tenderer.			
24	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum USD 0.70 (zero point seven-zero) million or equivalent amount of BDT in the form of Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2) for lone local Tenderer. For foreign Tenderer, Tender Security in the form of Irrevocable Bank Guarantee for Lump Sum amount of USD 0.70 (zero point seven-zero) million furnished by foreign Bank of the country of the lone foreign Tenderer/foreign Lead Firm and Counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.			
25	Name, Designation, Address & Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Neaz Khan Chief Executive Officer IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Telephone No. +880 2 9183006; Fax No. +880 2 9183001-2, e-mail: tender@isdb-bisew.org Website: www.isdb-bisew.org			
26	Submission of Application for Purchasing Tender Documents	Preferably hardcopy to the address as mentioned in Item No. 25 above or email at tender@isdb-bisew.org attaching scanned copy of all supporting documents.			
27	Any further changes /update / modifications regarding this Tender	Will be available in the official Website of IsDB-BISEW (www.isdb-bisew.org) in the form of Corrigendum and Addendum. Link for Tender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tender			
28	Special Instructions and Conditions:	1. This Invitation for Tender can be seen in the Website of IsDB-BISEW, reputed National Dailies and other media. 2. To obtain Tender Documents attested copies of all necessary documents by 1st Class Gazetted Officer (with name & designation) which are to be notarized by Notary Public and to be submitted along with the Application in case of the National Tenderers. For International Tenderers all documents are to be submitted shall be duly attested by the Chamber of Commerce or equivalent authority which are to be notarized by Notary Public from those Countries. 3. If the other partner of the JV is a local Firm, the foreign Lead Firm can duly authorize a representative, preferably the owner/partner/managing partner/director/managing director or the senior management official of the local Firm, to collect Tender Documents on payment of required fee on behalf of the JV. 4. In case of lone foreign Tenderer, authorizing any individual below then the rank of senior management of the foreign Firm is not acceptable. Authorizing any local Firm/Bangladeshi/foreign (residing in Bangladesh) individual is strictly prohibited. Any authorization not meeting the above shall automatically disqualify the Tenderer. 5. Tenderer has to collect hard copy of Tender Documents from the office of the undersigned. Tenderer may also collect the hard copy of Tender Documents, which is mandatory for tender submission, while visiting the project site by duly authorized personnel from the country of the Tenderer, which is also mandatory. Meanwhile, Tenderer will be sent soft copy of Tender Documents by email upon receipt of price of the Tender Documents. 6. All supporting documents must be in English or translated in English by a certified translator. Supporting documents in other languages shall not be considered. Supporting document(s) not duly certified and notarized shall also not be considered. 7. If the Government declares holiday on the opening day of Tender, Tender will be received and Technical Offer will be opened at the same time on the next working day. 8. The Tender Validity period shall be 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of submission of the Tender. 9. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or annul the Tender proceedings without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever. 10. Tenderer may form Joint Venture (JV) to enhance their qualification. In case of applying for purchase of Tender Documents under a Joint Venture, a JV Agreement must be submitted along with application in strict adherence to the following conditions: i. The Partners of the Joint Venture must be limited to a maximum number of 2 (two) bonafide civil construction Firms. Change of JV partners as originally proposed with the Tender and to the composition or constitution shall not be allowed by the Procuring Entity during execution and completion of the work. ii. The Lead Firm of the JV must possess the major Shares in the Joint Venture and other Partner must possess significant Shares. Experience of the Lead Firm shall be considered as JV Technical and Financial qualifications and the Lead Firm shall legally be recognized as the Representative of the Joint Venture by the Procuring Entity. iii. All documents duly attested in support of the Qualifications, Experience, Financial and other criteria of the JV partner must be submitted along with the Application. 11. It should be clearly understood by the Applicant that the Eligibility of the Tenderer to purchase the Tender Documents as mentioned Sl. No. 18, 19 & 20 above is only the criteria for sale of the Tender Documents and not the criteria for being responsive in the Technical Evaluation of the Tender.			
			 <p>Neaz Khan Chief Executive Officer Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (IsDB-BISEW) IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka Phone: +880 2 9183006, Fax No.: +880 2 9183001-2 Website: www.isdb-bisew.org, Email: tender@isdb-bisew.org</p>		



Italy midfielder Nicolò Barella is the toast of his teammates as his goal early in the second half set the European champions on their way to a 2-1 win against Belgium in the third-place deciding fixture of the UEFA Nations League at the Juventus Stadium in Turin on Sunday night. Domenico Berardi added a second from the spot for the Azzurri before Charles de Kelelaere scored a consolation goal for the Red Devils late in the match.

PHOTO: AFP

'Bangladesh can reach the semifinals'

SPORTS REPORTER



Former Bangladesh captain and Bangladesh Cricket Board director Khaled Mahmud believes that Bangladesh can advance to the semifinals of the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, set to take place in

Oman and the UAE.

Bangladesh's performance in the previous editions of the World Cup has remained below par; however, Mahmud reckons that it will be difficult to stop the Tigers if the players can perform at their peak in the flagship event.

"My expectations are always high and I feel that Bangladesh will play their best cricket. I've said that Bangladesh can reach semi-final and I believe that. This [T20] is such a format where any team can be beaten on any given day. We've previously lost to India despite going so close to victory and we're not going to repeat the same mistakes again and again.

"We have senior players like Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mustafizur Rahman. And in our top order, we have the experienced Liton Das alongside Naim Sheikh. If they're able to perform, it'll be difficult to stop us," Mahmud told the media yesterday.

It was under Mahmud's supervision, in the game development committee, which saw the Bangladesh Under-19 team win the ICC Under-19 World Cup in 2020. And according to the 50-year-old, it will be important for the youngsters to make a mark and cement their place in the side for the coming days.

The Tigers reached Abu Dhabi yesterday from Oman and will play two official practice games on October 12 and 14 against Sri Lanka and Ireland, respectively.



Mahmudullah Riyad and his troop will then return to Oman on October 15, before facing Scotland in their first match of the qualifier stage on October 17 at the Al Amerat Cricket Stadium in Muscat.

Bangladesh will then face Oman and Papua New Guinea on October 19 and 21, respectively, in the remaining qualifier matches of the World T20 at the same venue.

"Maybe the likes of Shakib, Mustafiz and Riyad don't play against Oman A team but they all are proven players. I think the team management will be looking to shape the playing eleven keeping the first qualifier game on October 17 [against Scotland] in mind. I'd say, those who'll play the warm-up matches should look to cement their place," Mahmud added.

Meanwhile, pacer Rubel Hossain has been included as the additional player in the Tigers world cup squad. Rubel, however, will still be a reserve player and will only be called upon if any player from the 15-man team is ruled out of the tournament.

According to Mahmud, the team management has opted for Rubel for his experience.

Ismail suspended for a year

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's fastest sprinter Mohammad Ismail has been suspended from participating in any domestic and international meet for one year by the Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) over disciplinary ground.

The suspension has come into effect from October 2, according to BAF general secretary Abdur Rakib Montu.

The 29-year-old athlete, who represents Bangladesh Navy in domestic meets, had questioned BAF's decision of sending Zahir Rayhan instead of him to this year's Olympics in Tokyo. Zahir, a 200m specialist was provided the wildcard allocated to BAF by the IOC for Tokyo 2020, meaning that the reigning 100m champion was ignored.

The Navy athlete had written to BOA to reconsider the decision, pointing finger at the BAF high-ups. Ismail had also spoken to various media outlets, expressing his frustration over the issue.

The BAF, meanwhile, had sent a show-cause notice to the athlete while forming a committee to probe the incident. Upon directives from the committee, the BOA decided to impose the punishment on the athlete. BAF's GS Abdur Rakib Montu revealed the decision to media yesterday.

The sprinter, though, will have the opportunity to appeal against the decision. Although Ismail declined to comment on the matter, it has been learnt that his employers will take steps regarding the suspension.

Big bucks on offer in World T20

AGENCIES



The winners of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will take home a winners' cheque of \$1.6 million while the runners up will get half that amount, the International Cricket Council confirmed on Sunday.

All 16 competing teams will receive part of the US \$5.6m allocated as prize money for the tournament, which will be played in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from 17 October to 14 November.

The two losing semifinalists will receive \$400,000 each from the games taking place on 10 and 11 November.

As in 2016, there will be a bonus amount for every match that teams win in the Super 12 stage. The victors in each of the 30 games in that phase will this time win \$40,000, a total pot of \$1,200,000.

The eight teams whose ICC Men's T20 World Cup campaigns end at that stage will automatically receive

PRIZE MONEY

POSITION	NO OF TEAMS	PRIZE MONEY	TOTAL AMOUNT
Winners	1	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000
Runners-up	1	\$800,000	\$800,000
Losing semifinalists	2	\$400,000	\$800,000
Round 2 wins	30	\$40,000	\$1,200,000
Round 2 exit	8	\$70,000	\$560,000
Round 1 win	12	\$40,000	\$480,000
Round 1 exit	4	\$40,000	\$160,000
TOTAL			\$5,600,000

\$70,000 each, totally \$560,000.

The same structure is in place for the first-round victories - with \$40,000 available to those who win each of the 12 games, amounting to \$480,000.

The four teams knocked out in the first round will take \$40,000 each from an overall \$160,000.

DRS to make debut

The Decision Review System (DRS) will make its debut in the men's

T20 World Cup to be held in Oman and UAE starting this month, after the ICC approved its usage in the tournament.

The ICC announced the introduction of DRS at the upcoming showpiece in the playing conditions for the event released by it earlier this week.

According to an ESPNcricinfo report, each team will get a maximum of two reviews per innings.

DRS was not part of the earlier men's T20 World Cups as the review system was not applicable in T20s in 2016 when the marquee event was last held.

'Covid committee to decide on matches'

The fate of Twenty20 World Cup matches if players test Covid positive will be decided by a committee and not by the member boards, the global governing body said Sunday.

ICC's acting chief executive Geoff Allardice said any last-minute decisions will be taken by a bio-safety advisory group.

"We have a committee set up to look at any cases that arise during the event and they will look at identifying close contacts and taking decisions around future events," Allardice told a virtual news conference.

"Any decisions around matches will be taken by that committee and it's not going to be something that's going to be dealt with by the members as it may do in bilateral cricket."

Booters denied bus in Male

SPORTS REPORTER from Male



Bangladesh national football team had a bitter experience in Maldives following a practice session yesterday as the booters had to return to the hotel walking on foot after the Football Association of Maldives refused to provide team bus due to the team's extra training at Henveiru training ground in Male.

The booters waited for 40 minutes following the completion of training, which ended at 6:00pm after starting at 4:00pm and walked 15 minutes' distance on foot back to the hotel. Team's liaison officer informed the Bangladesh team management that the bus was deployed

to carry players of Sri Lanka and Maldives after yesterday's first match.

"After the training, we waited for 40 minutes for the bus at the ground before starting to walk towards the hotel as the hosts did not provide us with the bus, saying that we had trained more than the scheduled time," Bangladesh team's media manager Hasan Mahmud told the Daily Star, adding that FAM's technical director informed them that the bus was busy carrying the players of Sri Lanka and Maldives.

The booters had returned to training after two days' rest following a 2-0 defeat against the hosts in their previous match. They decided to have extra half-hour's training as there was no training schedule of other teams at the same ground.



Dhaka Mariner Young's Club's Indian recruit Harshdeep Kapoor (L) celebrates one of his two goals with a teammate during a 9-0 thrashing of Azad SC in their SIBL Club Cup Hockey Tournament fixture at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Two wins in two matches have ensured the Arambagh-based outfit a place in the semifinals.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Male's turf pitches 'like Heathrow Airport'

ANISUR RAHMAN from Male



A mini artificial turf ground located on the east of Male, adjacent to the Hiyafseyha Maidhaan, was seen buzzing with the presence of around 30 budding footballers, training under two coaches, of the Friends Football Family Academy. This has been a common sight in all of Male's artificial turfs, which remain occupied by aspiring players -- from different academies, the clubs' youth teams and the school teams -- till midnight since morning, as early as 6:00 am.

The lively presence of those kids clearly gives an impression of Maldives' passion regarding football, which is the number one game in the islands. Even though Maldives had once been on the receiving end of embarrassing results -- for instance, having suffered 0-8 and 0-5 defeats at the hands of Bangladesh in the mid-1980s -- but those days are now a distant memory for the football-obsessed Maldivians.

Maldives are now a force to be reckoned with in South Asia, who have won all four matches against Bangladesh, played over the last 18 years.

Ahmed Shareef, the technical director of Football Association of Maldives (FAM), expressed his pride and contentment regarding the current state of Maldives' football to The Daily Star on Saturday.

"We are pleased that Maldives currently has more than 30 active academies, whereas it was five to



six academies previously. Now the appointed coaches there possess coaching certificates to handle the academy properly, where one coach handles 10 kids at the grassroots level and works on the technical aspects of each individual," said Shareef.

Maldives have now more than 400 hundred AFC-certified coaches (30 A-licensed ones, 100 Bs and 300 Cs), of whom ninety percent are working relentlessly with the FAM, private academies and clubs. Each budding footballer has to pay in the range of 200-1000 Rufiyaa (Approx. Tk 1000-5000) monthly to learn the tricks of the trade from coaches, who are handsomely paid by the academies.

"But we can't provide quiet minutes to the youth footballers on the pitches (FAM turf grounds) because of our very limited resources. FAM only has two turf pitches. The boys get three days in a week with only a 30-minute session per day. It

is like Heathrow Airport," said Shareef, who is well known in Maldives football fraternity as Dunga.

The technical director informed that, ever since the humiliating 0-17 defeat at the hands of Iran in 1997, the government has been financially and directly assisting the FAM in developing the country's football ever since, by installing artificial turfs across the atolls, for example.

"We've strong school competitions, from which a lot of talented players emerged. The FAM has also introduced the leagues for U-12 and U-14, for those who belong to the academies," said Shareef, who has been involved with football for the last 20 years, while he further informed that the FAM has five age-group teams, from which the players move into the national team's pipeline.

"We're delighted to see our national team's players being

technically strong and performing well in Asia. We know the players' strength, technical abilities and mental conditions and always act in line with suggestions of a 20-member technical committee, which is also observing the SAFF Championship.

"You can say that the current national squad is the outcome of our system. We started the process long ago," said Shareef, who is also an AFC coaching instructor.

Replying to a query, Shareef said: "We may not produce good results at age-group competitions but those players become technically equipped before entering the national team. When players move up the ranks of U-21 or U-23 level, they have already worked on their limitations."

Shareef concluded by informing that their coaches do not interfere with a player's position at grassroots and instead they only focus on instilling the core principles of the beautiful game in each footballer.

Bangabandhu Tunnel
is being built with BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT **BSRM**
building a safer nation

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress
using Shah Cement

SHAH CEMENT

RMG export thru HSIA slackens

Explosive Detection Systems at the int'l airport out of order

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and RASHIDUL HASAN

Shipping of garment products through Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport has slowed down again as the Explosive Detection Systems (EDSs) at the airport remained mostly out of order for almost three weeks.

One EDS has been out of order since May. The other became partially operational last night after going out of order on September 24.

Faruque Hassan, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said cargo scanning was solely done by sniffer dogs when the two EDSs remain defunct.

The dogs can scan up to 110 tonnes of goods in a day while the two EDSs used to scan some 800 tonnes, he said.

The civil aviation ministry has promised exporters that two new EDSs would be added to the airport on October 14.

The BGMEA in a statement said export of garment products was being affected since the systems went down.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



A man named Moslem Uddin collecting discarded plastic bottles and other garbage from the bank of the Pashur river. The 60-year-old maintains his family with the money he gets from selling these. By collecting garbage, he also prevents the river from pollution. The photo was taken from Bagerhat's Mongla ghat recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



'Father' of Pak atomic bomb Qadeer Khan dies

REUTERS, Karachi

Abdul Qadeer Khan, lionised at home as the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb despite admitting he was at the centre of a nuclear proliferation ring, died yesterday at age 85.

The nuclear scientist was admitted to Khan Research Laboratories Hospital on August 26 after testing positive for Covid-19 and was later moved to a military hospital in Rawalpindi, said the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan.

"He was loved by our nation bec(ause) of his critical contribution in making us a nuclear weapon state," Pakistan's

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Forest dept bends rules

One company given undue advantage in vehicle purchase, finds govt report

SUKANTA HALDER and MD ABU TALHA SARKER

The Bangladesh Forest Department has given undue advantage to a particular company while purchasing four double-cabin pickups and related accessories worth about Tk 2.4 crore for a development project, said a government report.

"The weight of the vehicle, its height, wheel measurement, ground clearance, maximum speed, the capacity of the fuel tank have been specified in the tender in a way that no other company can take part in it," said a report of the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) published recently.

Given the specifications, only AG Automobiles, the local distributor of Ford vehicles, was able to participate in the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya accepts US proposal for mutual withdrawal

OCTOBER 11, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

DISCUSSION WITH YAHYA
The American consulate general in Karachi in a telegram sent to the US state department today informed that Pakistan President Yahya Khan accepted the US proposal for mutual withdrawal of troops and armour by both the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan to some distance from their respective borders.

Yahya reaffirmed his assurance that Pakistan would not be first to initiate hostilities and he suggested that Indian and Pakistani army chiefs of staff meet to work out the arrangements for withdrawal, added the consulate general. The consul general called on the Pakistan president today at the President's House in Karachi.

President Yahya Khan, according to the telegram, agreed that a political solution in East Pakistan was essential and reviewed his timetable for issuing a constitution and convening National Assembly before the end of the year, with provincial assemblies to meet shortly thereafter. The new national government should have

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

NARCOTICS CASE Permanent bail for Pori Moni

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted permanent bail to film actress Pori Moni in a narcotics case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Sikder issued the bail order after Pori Moni surrendered before the court, seeking bail in the case, court sources said.

The magistrate also accepted the charges brought against Pori Moni and two others of possessing narcotics.

The court expressed dissatisfaction as she appeared before the court one and a half hours after the scheduled time.

Earlier, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Metropolitan

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Scientists create coldest temp ever recorded in lab



MAIL ONLINE

Scientists have created the coldest conditions ever recorded, reaching just 38 trillionth of a degree warmer than absolute zero.

While researching the wave properties of atoms, experts from the University of Bremen produced one of the "coldest places in the universe" for a few seconds in the lab.

Absolute zero - zero Kelvin, or -459.67°F - is the point at which atoms have no energy and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

MOHIB ULLAH MURDER One of five arrestees 'confesses'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

One of the five arrestees in connection with Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah murder yesterday admitted before the court that he was directly involved in the operation, court sources said.

During the confessional statement under section 164, Mohammad Elias told the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Helal Uddin that after the killing of Mohib Ullah, he informed their mastermind about the success of the operation through mobile phone.

He described the court in detail who were involved in the killing operation, said the sources.

Elias, son of Rojok Ali, is the head majhi (block chief) of C block in number 6 Lombasia Rohingya camp in Kutupalong. Though illiterate, he is known as Master Elias among

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Without safety gear, workers cleaning and cutting iron plates collected from old ships in Chattogram city's Sagarika area for sale. A worker gets Tk 600 a day as wage for this job. Accidents may happen anytime for not using safety equipment and there is also health risk as the plates gather dust. This photo was captured recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Mother, daughter gang-raped in Sherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mother and her teenage daughter were allegedly raped by some miscreants in Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur yesterday.

On Saturday noon, the two got on a battery-run autorickshaw from Polashikura village to go to Sherpur town, where they live, said Bashir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Nalitabari Police Station, quoting the victims.

A 40-year-old man named Omar Ali,

hailing from Polashikura village as them, was a co-passenger in the autorickshaw. Omar offered to show the mother and daughter around the village and drop them off later to Sherpur town.

The two took up on the offer. Instead of dropping them off after showing them around, Omar took them to the house of one Osman Ali in the same village.

Omar called in six persons including Jahangir Alam, Tara Mia, Mofiz Uddin, to

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 11

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.
(A Joint Venture Company of BPDB and NTPC Ltd.)
Borak Unique Heights (Level-17), 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/FLY ASH/EOI/2021/809 (827) Date: 10/10/2021

CORRIGENDUM NO. 02 TO REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ENLISTMENT OF APPLICANTS FOR SALE OF DRY FLY ASH FROM

2x660 MW MAITREE SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT AT RAMPAL, DISTRICT - BAGERHAT, BANGLADESH

The contents of Memo No.: BIFPCL/MSTPP/FLY ASH/EOI/2021/809 Dated: 26/08/2021 published in various leading dailies for the subject EOI are hereby modified to the following extent:
The last date to free download and submit the Applications by interested parties for Enlistment have been further extended up to 01/11/2021.

For more details and other information, please visit our website at www.bifpcl.com. Interested parties may submit the Applications for Enlistment (Hard copy/through e-mail) on or before 01/11/2021 at BIFPCL-Dhaka/ Rampal address.

Md. Mofijul Islam, Chief Procurement Officer (CPO)