

The Bailu





Ashwin 26, 1428 BS

Your Right to Know

Rabiul Awal 3, 1443 Hijri



"Indigenous people are those who lost their ethnic identity, got deprived of their land right in the process of building a modern state. ANJEEB 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 Talibani-drug haul at Adani port." VISHAL DADLANI REACTS TO ARYAN KHAN'S ARREST

CHILD MARRIAGE IN PANDEMIC

A SCOURGE returns on tiptoe

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF

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

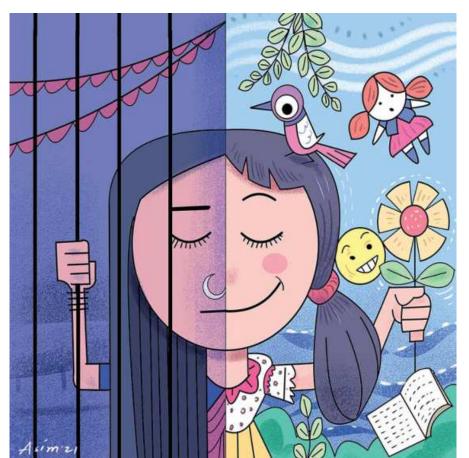
noticed many of their students did not return to their classrooms. In March, Unicef

THE GIRL CHILD 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

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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 FEROZ, DIRECTOR OF GIRLS RIGHTS, PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Country to get another nuclear power plant

PM opens installation of reactor pressure vessels at Rooppur

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 staterun 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.

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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 vesterdav.

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

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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.

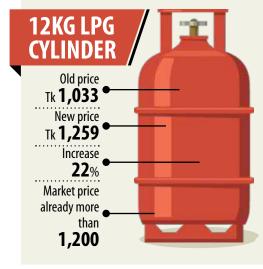
From yesterday, a 12 kg cylinder, the most common form for marketing the fuel, would sell for Tk 1,259 from the 27 private operators, said the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC). The private operators accounted for 98 percent

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 The price of LFG used in cars.

Tk 58.68 a litre from Tk 50.56 a litre.

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ELECTION COMMISSION FORMATION

It's akin to law **Enacting law**

Law minister on search committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Hug 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.

ording to the country's constitution, the appointment of the chief election commissioner and not more than four rights, empowerment of the 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

is a must Says EC Mahbub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The need for a law to appoint the chief and other election commissioners is "undeniable" in order to establish universal voti people and democracy, said

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

Election Commissioner

"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," Mahbub said in a press briefing at the EC

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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

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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'

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

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City





15,23,833



48,64,454

238,426,520 Total cases

Sinha Murder

Army camp CO testifies before court

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

After killing Major (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan, police took away his body quickly from the spot and kept Sinha's associate Shahedul Islam Sifat confined in a nearby police camp, said a witness of the incident.

Lt Muntasir Arefin said this while testifying before the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday, said a court source.

Arefin, a witness of the murder, was the then commanding officer of the army camp in Teknaf's Shamlapur where the murder took place.

"On that night, I got the information through my walkie-talkie that a former army person was killed in Shamlapur area. I discussed the issue with my higher authorities and rushed to the spot. But I found none there," he said.
"I came to know that Sinha was

shot dead there and his body was taken away. Later, I went to Shamlapur Police Investigation Centre. Despite identifying myself, I was not allowed to enter inside the centre," he said.

"After waiting for a long time, I was allowed to go inside where I saw some ID cards, CDs, camera, camera stand and

other equipment for recording video and photoshoots were lying in a scattered manner on the floor," he added.

"A few moments later, I saw Sifat was kept confined in a room. I wanted to talk with him but the former officer-incharge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das barred," said Arefin.

Judge Mohammad Ismail of Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday recorded the statement, said the court's Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam.

The court began recording statements of witnesses in the fifth phase yesterday and it will continue till tomorrow. A total of seven witnesses, six of them army men, yesterday placed their

Earlier, a total of 18 witnesses have so far placed their testimonies in four phases from August 23 to September 29.

Sinha, 36, was killed in a police firing at a checkpoint of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) in Teknaf's Shamlapur area on July 31 last year.

Later on August 5, Sinha's elder sister Sharmin filed the murder case with Cox's Bazar Senior Judicial Magistrate's

Durga arrives to fight evil

touches to the idols, and organisers are completing last-minute decorations on

According to Hindu mythology, the demon Mahishasura had received a boon of invincibility from Lord Brahma, which meant that no man or god could kill him.

The demon attacked gods and chased them out of heaven. All the gods then came together to worship Adi Shakti and the divine light emanating from them during the puja created Goddess

The fight between Goddess Durga and Mahishasura lasted for 10 days. Goddess Durga slayed the demon king on the 10th day, and the day is celebrated as Vijaya Dashami, symbolising the victory of good over evil.

Hindus believe that Durga descended to earth following prayers by King Kangsa. Marking the occasion, the first Durga worship was held at Taherpur of Rajshahi by Raja Kangshanarayan in the month of Aswin (autumn) around

Rama, elder son of king Dasharatha, had earlier offered the puja in autumn invocation and supplication of the

people from the repression and misrule of Lanka Raj Ravana. With her blessings,

Rama destroyed the Ravana's kingdom. This year, Goddess Durga will arrive riding on a horse and depart by palanquin.

Durga Puja will be celebrated at 32,118 puja mandaps across the country, and in the capital it will be arranged at 238 mandaps, according to a statement of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad.

President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated the Hindu community in separate messages on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad leaders urged all devotees to properly maintain health guidelines and directives issued by the government during the Durga Puja celebrations to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The Mahashashthi puja begins at 5:00pm across the country, following Bodhon preparations.

The goddess descends on earth today -- the sixth day of the full moon phase -- accompanied by her children Ganesh, Kartik, Lakshmi and Saraswati, at the to seek the deity's blessings to save devotees and stays for the next four days.

Children aged 12-17 to get

supply for this, the minister said. Till Thursday, around 1.79 crore December-January," people received both doses of the vaccines, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The minister, however, did not mention when the child vaccination will start.

"We have asked the ICT ministry to arrange this [registration process]," the minister said. "A protocol is being

prepared in this regard. Earlier in his speech, before the question-answer session, the minister said he had discussed the child vaccination issue with Dr Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Tedros director general of the World health Organization, during his visit to Geneva last week.

"He [WHO DG] has agreed saying that we can vaccinate children, especially those with comorbidity, with Pfizer or Moderna vaccine to prevent transmission," Maleque said.

He added that the WHO DG has assured him of supplying more vaccine shots free of cost in future upon

availability. Under the Covax facility, Bangladesh has received an allocation of 6.8 crore vaccine jabs, equivalent to 20 percent of

the target population for vaccination. "The WHO DG has assured that they will increase the allocation by 35-40 percent based on availability,

Maleque said. The WHO director has also assured necessary support to produce Covid-19 vaccines in the country.

"We hope we will vaccinate eight crore people with double-dose by minister said.

Bangladesh will get over 16 crore vaccine jabs by January from different sources, including Covax, Sinopharm and the Serum Institute of India, the minister mentioned.

So far, the government has received 7.22 crore jabs of Covid vaccines, while 5.20 crore people have registered so far, said the minister.

Currently, the government has 1.88 crore jabs of different Covid-19 vaccines in stock, which will increase to more than three crore by this month, the minister added. The government will receive a total

of 3.75 crore jabs in November, five crore in December and 3.75 crore in

Currently, around four-five lakh people are being vaccinated daily on

"We will vaccinate 10-15 lakh people daily. If necessary, we will arrange

special campaign," Maleque said. The DGHS reported 14 more deaths from Covid-19 and 481 new cases in

24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. After the record-breaking daily deaths and new cases of Covid in July, the virus transmission has come down below three percent in the last one

The minister, however, urged people to maintain health safety guideline to prevent any fresh wave of virus transmission.

Taiwan won't bow to China

Kong, but all major Taiwanese parties have rejected that, especially after China's security crackdown in the former British colony

Tsai repeated an offer to talk to China on the basis of parity, but Beijing, responding some nine hours after she spoke, offered condemnation, saying the country must be "reunified" and that seeking independence closes the door to talks

"This speech advocated Taiwan independence, incited confrontation, cut apart history and distorted facts," China's Taiwan Affairs Office said.

The independence provocation by the Democratic Progressive Party authorities is the source of tension and turbulence in cross-strait relations and the greatest threat to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," it added, referring to Tsai's ruling party.

'COMPLEX' SITUATION

Beijing has refused to deal with Tsai, calling her a separatist who refuses to

acknowledge Taiwan is part of "one China", and does not recognise Taiwan's

government. She says Taiwan is an independent country called the Republic of China, its formal name, and that she will not compromise on defending its sovereignty or freedom.

Still Taiwan's goodwill will not change, and it will do all it can to prevent the status quo with China from eing unilaterally altered, she said.

Tsai warned that Taiwan's situation is "more complex and fluid than at any other point in the past 72 years", and that China's routine military presence in Taiwan's air defence zone has seriously affected national security and aviation

is overseeing a military modernisation programme to bolster its defences and deterrence, including building its own submarines and longrange missiles that can strike deep into



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

RASHED SHUMON

A Scourge returns on tiptoe

They think the government now needs to take aggressive measures to ensure children who were married off during the pandemic could come back to

SHOCKING NUMBERS

The Daily Star collated information from 41 upazilas of 13 districts and found around 10,741 girls and at least two boys were illegally married off during school closures. The exact number, however, could be much higher if a proper survey is done.

Khulna is one of the districts where a huge number of underage girls were made child brides.

Authorities of Belphulia Islamia High School in the district's Rupsha upazila said that at least 70 students -all aged between 14 and 17 -- have been married off during the lockdown.

Md Moniruzzaman, headmaster of the school, told The Daily Star that when they contacted the students' families, they said the girls were now married and would not continue with their education.

"In fact, these marriages were arranged by stealth. I am still learning about new child marriages. I am trying my best to bring these students back to school," he added.

According to Khulna District Education Office (DEO), around 3,000 students from 420 secondary schools and 125 madrasas became victims of child marriage during the pandemic. Speaking to The Daily Star, one victim's father said, "I could no longer

bear the expense of my daughter's education as I lost my job during the pandemic." In Bagerhat, the number of victims

exceeds that of Khulna. As per the report prepared by District Education Officer Md Kamruzzaman,

3,178 child marriages took place in the district during school closures. Satkhira's DEO said they have so far come to know about 500 child marriages that took place during this

the number could be as high as 5,000. Almost all 177 schools of Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira have students who are now victims of child marriage.

period. However, unofficial sources said

"At least 25 girls of grade 10 at my school were married off," said Shampa Goswami, a teacher from Mozaher Memorial High School. She had conducted a survey across

35 schools on behalf of Prerona Nari Unnyan Sangathan, a non-government organisation working to prevent child marriage, and found that at least 20 to 30 girls from each school were married off. At least 50 girls of Alipur Girls' High School in Satkhira Sadar upazila were

such victims. Shakibur Rahman Babla, administrative officer of Satkhira's Child Marriage Resistance Committee, said that according to their list, over

3,000 children were illegally wedded. Sharmeen Nilormi, a researcher on climate-vulnerable women and girls, said many of the victims were from southern climate-vulnerable districts as there are many destitute people in those areas and there is a deep-rooted link

between poverty and child marriage. "But the case is not the same in all regions. So, we need more research to understand the factors behind this sudden surge in child marriage ... Over the last few years, the government has invested so much in girls' education. So, it is necessary to find the root causes to take up a proper policy to curb child marriage.

Besides the southern districts, Tangail saw a spike in child marriages. As per data from the district's secondary education office, 1,242 students, including two boys, of 12 upazilas became victims of child marriage during the pandemic.

"We did not know about it due to the school closure and there was no guideline for any monitoring in this regard," said Firoz Al Mamun, assistant headmaster of the Geramara Gohailbari Sabuj Sena High School in Mirzapur, who confirmed that at least 41 of his students were married off.

In Chapainawabganj, 439 students were married off, and the number is 417 in Dinajpur's Nawabganj upazila.

At least 29 students from a single school in Pabna and 31 from one school in Narayanganj were married off.

Also, 35 in Munshiganj, 178 in Barishal, some 700 in Rajshahi, 45 in Mymensingh, 500 in Kurigram and 500 in Natore fell prey to child marriage, respective DEOs said, adding that the numbers could be way higher.

In two schools, one in Kurigram and one in Pabna, all the girls except one of a single class, were married off.

"Before closure, there were 30 students in grade 10, who were going to sit for SSC exams this year. Unfortunately, 29 of them were married off," said Moslem Uddin, Pabna's district education officer.

Shamim Al Mamum, headmaster of a Tangail school, said, "Sometimes teachers could help stop such marriages, but due to a long break in communication between teachers and students during the school closures, we could not do much.

LAW GLOSSED OVER

Salma Ali, president of the National Woman Lawyers' Association, said, "We have a certain law [the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017] to curb child marriages, but there is no strict enforcement. The government also does not have any proper monitoring mechanisms to prevent child marriage.

Section 9 of the child marriage prevention law also states that if any person solemnises or conducts a child marriage, it shall be an offence for which they shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of two

years, and a minimum of six months, or with a fine of maximum Tk 50,000 or with both. And in default of payment of

fine, they will be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three months, it mentions. More often than not, these marriages take place in kazi offices. Legally

speaking, kazis are the "nikah registrar" ppointed by the government. Kazi Selim Reza from Moghbazar kazi office told The Daily Star that the government has formulated a law, but

many kazis tend to ignore the law as there is a lack of enforcement. "And in most cases, parents come up with fake birth certificates from notary publics to marry off their children. The government needs to take action against

them in this regard."

HEALTH IMPACT According to the International Council of Research on Women (ICRW), children who are married off with low levels of education are at higher risk of domestic and/or sexual violence, which can have lasting psychological implications.

As most of the girl children are married off to older men and there is an imbalance of power, they may describe their first sexual experience as forced.

Unicef's report stated that child marriage increases the risk of early and unplanned pregnancy, in turn increasing the risk of maternal complications and mortality. Dr Andrew Rozario, a psychologist based in Dhaka, said, "Through the

and physically. Their minds and bodies are not prepared for the kinds of responsibilities that come with "What happens when a child gets married is that, first and foremost, their minds and bodies face confusion. They have to face pressure and carry out tasks

ages of 14 to 18, children go through

many changes -- both psychologically

that they are not prepared for in any way, which results in long term psychological and physiological traumas. According to a 2020 survey by Manusher Jonno Foundation, in collaboration with UNFPA, Unicef and Plan International, 13,886 girls were

married off in 84 upazilas in 21 districts. But things look even bleaker now. Kashfia Feroz, director of Girls Rights, Plan International, said, "Nobody could predict this Covid-19 pandemic situation. So, there was no preparation

for this [child marriages during the pandemic] by the government. "We now have to envision more ways to resist child marriages. We have to

bring the victims back to school." (Our correspondents Khulna, Tangail, Lalmonirhat Chapainawabganj, Bagerhat, Dinajpur, Pabna, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Barishal, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Natore contributed to this report.)

Biggest hike in LPG price to date said BERC Chairman Md Abdul Jalil unscrupulous entities and protecting "This is a curse on us," said Md Islam,

a fixed income earner from the capital's

soared, he said.

Mohammadpur area. On one hand, peoples' income has fallen for the pandemic, and on the other, the prices of all essentials have

In August, inflation stood at 5.54 percent, up 18 basis points from the previous month, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. This is the fourth hike in the price

of LPG cylinders since April, when the

BERC for the first time had fixed the retail price of the fuel. Then, the BERC stipulated that a 12 kg cylinder would sell for Tk 975, with the prices to be adjusted based on the contract prices (CP) with Saudi Arabia

for propane and butane, the main

ingredients for LPG. Saudi Aramco has set its October propane CP rate at \$800 per MT, up \$135 per metric tonne (MT) from the September CP. The butane CP has been set at \$795 per MT, up \$130 per MT from September.

MT. For butane CP, this is the highest since August 2014, when it was set at \$800 per MT. "We have adjusted the price appropriately for the local market and the operators should implement it,"

This is the highest propane CP since

July 2014, when it was set at \$820 per

at the press conference yesterday to announce the new LPG tariff.

But experts say the price hike, which is the biggest since April 12, was the energy regulator giving in to the demands of the industry stakeholders, which include the LPG cylinder manufacturers, bottling plant owners, importers and traders.

The industry stakeholders were unhappy with the BERC move to fix the price of LPG back in April.

They went on to call for a public hearing to press home their demand for an extra Tk 224 for a 12 kg LPG cylinder as the BERC's pricing formula did not incorporate all aspects of the cost components. Until now, the BERC fixed the LPG

price for the running month with the CPs of the previous month, according to Shamsul Alam, energy adviser of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB). But this time, it fixed it in line with

the current month, facilitating the

private operators to sell their stock at a

higher price, he said. The price of 12.5 kg cylinder from the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation would remain unchanged

"The BERC has abandoned its responsibilities, which are creating a competitive market, controlling the

the consumers' rights. Now they have paved the way for businesses to build an oligopoly in the market." The private operators' bid to reform

the pricing did not have legitimacy as the LPG operators did not apply within the month of the BERC's fixing the price as specified, according to Alam. Despite the BERC setting the price

since April, consumers have been paying higher because of non-compliance by the sellers, he added. "We have never been able to buy any cylinder at a price that was set by the authority," said Sharif Mia, manager

Rajendrapur. In September, he bought a 30 kg cylinder at Tk 3,300. The BERC had set Tk 2,841 for a cylinder of that size.

of Radhuni Restora in Gazipur's

Another consumer, Md Akram of the capital's Malibag area, said he bought a 12 kg cylinder for Tk 1,150 last month. "When I asked them why they are charging more than Tk 1,033, the seller

said the dealer charged extra for the cylinder," he added. However, the BERC chief refused to take any responsibility for the failure in the implementation of the BERC's

pricing at the retail level. "It is the government agencies" responsibility. The people should raise their voices against extra prices as they are the source of all power," he said.

Physicist Prof Harun no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr AM Harun-areminent physicist and "Bose Professor" of physics at Dhaka University, died at a hospital in



Dhaka on Saturday. He was 88, said a press release. Dr Rashid had been suffering from

various old-age complications. Dr Rashid served as the director of Computer Center (now the Institute of Information Technology) at DU. He was a visiting professor at the Institute für Theoretische Kernphysik, International Center for Theoretical

University of California, Los Angeles. He received Ekushey Padak in education in 1991 and Independence

Physics, Imperial College London, University of Texas, Austin, and

Award in 1999. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock at his death.

Cinematographer Samir Kushari passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

cinematographer Kushari, Samir who was involved hundreds of

memorable television projects since BTV's golden era, passed away yesterday at a hospital in the capital due to post-Covid complications.

He was 71 years old.

His wife, Jaya Kushari, confirmed the news to The Daily Star. She said that the cinematographer was diagnosed with Covid-19 at the beginning of September.

Born in 1951 in Dhaka's Armanitola,

Samir Kushari's father, Ronen Kushari,

was an Ekushey Padak awardee and an esteemed radio personality. Samir was the brilliant hand responsible for the cinematography of legendary productions like "Bahubrihi", "Sangsaptak", "Ayomoy", "Eishob Din Ratri", "Sat Samuddur" and "Pathor

Shomoy", among many others. He started his career in 1969 with the film "Jolchobi", as Sadhon Roy's assistant cinematographer. He also

played the same role in Ritwik Ghatak's Titash Ekti Nodir Nam". He joined Bangladesh Betar during

the 1971 liberation war. However, he is most remembered for nis stint in BTV after he joined in the late 70's, having spent more than three

He was involved in BTV's first ever 15-minute-long drama, which he finished in just one shot. He had also captured the fearsome Ramna Batamul

bombings in 2001 with his camera. In 2009, he retired as director of hotography for BTV. "He was always smiling and

radiant", said eminent actress Ferdousi Majumdar, who had worked with him in the "Sangsaptak". "I had never seen him lose his cool, he loved taking photographs. I will always

remember him as a great human being. Samir Kushari's last rites took place last night at Rajarbag's Kali Mandir, after an official guard of honour. He is survived by his wife, a son and a

daughter. Country to get

decades there.

If electricity reaches every household and industry, then the country's overall socio-economic development will be possible, she said.

The latest and modern technologies have been used in the Rooppur plant to ensure safety and stop environmental pollution there, she added.

It's akin to law

to the Election Commission be made according to provisions of a specific law, no government has taken such an initiative in the last 50 years, the statement said.

"We urge the government to take

urgent steps in this regard to enable the Election Commission to take the necessary lawful steps for conducting elections independently and without any external influence," the statement added. Anisul said there is no scope to create

controversy about forming a caretaker government during elections as there has been a Supreme Court verdict declaring it illegal. Asked about BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia's permanent release, ĥe said the matter is not under the jurisdiction of the government; the case against her s under trial. The law minister also said the government has decided to form a probe commission to identify the

masterminds behind the murder of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

and most of his family members on August 15, 1975. About the Digital Security Act, the minister said the DSA was formulated to combat cybercrimes and that it is not the objective of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government to curb freedom

of speech and press freedom. The programme was organised by the Dhaka Reporters Unity and its President Mursalin Nomani and Secretary Moshiur Rahman Khan also

spoke during the event.

The never-ending road to justice

"It makes me so angry when I see the man who raped my 13-year-old daughter with disabilities proudly roaming around the neighborhood, saying, 'What's so wrong with raping a retard? She's a reject any way!" lamented a frustrated Mujtoba Ali*, a construction worker in Bogura.

"We used to hope for justice, but all hope has disappeared now," he

Samia*, a girl with intellectual and physical disabilities, was raped in November 2016 by one of her neighbours. On that very day,

79 girls with disabilities subjected to rape in first 8 months of this year

Conviction rate close to zero, say activists

Lack of gender sensitive, disability friendly lawyers, judges, police, first responders

Survivors with speech and hearing impairment cannot give testimony to court directly

Only **10** court interpreters in country; most based in Dhaka

Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act does not specify how a girl child or woman will get remedies for rape cases



the family filed a case against the perpetrator.

Five years later, the case has seen little progress, although trial proceedings of cases under the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain are supposed to be finished within 180 days after the lower court concerned accepts the case for trial, as per a High Court directive.

Meanwhile, the accused is out on bail after only three months of

childhood, is completely paralysed now, after an accident four months ago. On the other hand, the father's physical condition has deteriorated such that he cannot work on a regular basis, let alone afford the prolonged legal battle.

"Seeing our desperate condition, the accused is trying to get us to withdraw the case in exchange for Tk 1 lakh," he said. "I have no

According to advocate Naresh Samia, who had a weakness in Mukharjee, the public prosecutor her right hand and leg since her for Bogra Nari O Shishu Tribunal 1,

the case is moving at a snail's pace, and it is uncertain how long it will take to resolve.

However, this case can be dealt with session trial and the court can complete the hearings within seven days, if the judge is willing to do that, he said.

The experience of seeking justice for Lamiya*, a 14-year-old with intellectual disability from Khulna, was even more frustrating. She was raped and impregnated by one of her neighbours she used to call "grandfather" in 2016.

"It was a curse to seek justice for my daughter -- the accused was almost 70 years old and died all of a sudden in 2019. But his family filed a murder case against my labourer husband and 13-year-old son," said

"My husband was jailed for three months and my SSC candidate son is now a fugitive. Everyone is mocking me for being so ambitious with justice for my 'reject' of a girl," she said. Lamiya's family is unable to afford the cost of the anticipatory bail for her brother's exam, as they spent almost everything in Lamiya's

A latest media monitoring report by the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum Bangladesh found that a total of 79 girls with disabilities have been subjected to rape in the first eight months of this year.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Pandemic reversed work done to counter child marriage

Say speakers at webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the rate of child marriage in Bangladesh has dropped by 40 percent since independence, 13 million girls in the country are still married off before they are 15, mostly at the compulsion of family or society.

The Covid-19 pandemic has put another 10 million girls at risk of child marriage, as society still considers girl children burden, according to various research.

In addition, the continual use of fake age certificates and misuse of "special provision" of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 is also contributing to the alarming rate of child marriages in the pandemic.

Afsana Alim, programme officer, Young People, ActionAid Bangladesh, presented the information yesterday at a webinar titled "Celebrating International Day of the Girl Child: Progress and way forward for Bangladesh", jointly organised by The Daily Star and Action Aid Bangladesh.

Due to child marriage, adolescent girls are being subjected to physical and mental health risks, which is aggravated by the fact that they have limited access to healthcare services, said Afsana

Besides, although almost two-thirds (72.6 percent) of ever-married women experienced one or more forms of violence by their husband at least once in their

○ 13 million girls' childhood cut short by early marriage; another 10 million at risk

O Due to child marriage, adolescent girls are being subjected to physical and mental health risks

REASONS FOR RISE IN CHILD MARRIAGE

> Use of fake age certificates

Misuse of 'special provision' in Child Marriage Restraint Act

School closure

> Family's financial instability

lifetime, very few report their experience to a formal authority, due to the limited access to legal procedures, she added.

Aziza Parvin, a class ten student from Naogaon, who works with Bardoash Shapla Jubo Foundation, highlighted how their

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Need another mass BNP, a party with uprising like 90's

Says Fakhrul

Unb, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday called upon students and people in general to unite for "another mass uprising", like that of 1990, to oust the current government.

"Students and people overthrew the then dictatorial government through a mass

uprising in 1990. Our leader Khaleda Zia led the movement. We need such a mass uprising again," said

He was addressing an event at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, marking the death anniversary of Chhatra Dal leader Naziruddin Jihad, who was killed during the movement against the Ershad regime.

BNP's acting chairperson Tarique Rahman virtually joined the programme as chief guest.

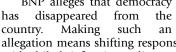
Urging the students to unite, Fakhrul said, "People will be able to elect a government and parliament of their choice through freely exercising their voting rights, if the election is held under a neutral caretaker government."

no democracy

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Öbaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is now looking for democracy in the country, despite having no democracy within the party. "BNP alleges that democracy



allegation means shifting responsibility to others," he said while briefing journalists at his official residence yesterday morning.

BNP is creating impediment on the way of taking democracy ahead, said Quader, also ruling party general secretary. "BNP has no respect for people's mandate, and that's why they are remaining far away from the elections. But they are saying democracy is in exile..."

BNP has destroyed democratic values and ethics, he said, adding that the party is autocratic in nature whether it is in power or in opposition.

He said BNP knows that there is no alternative to election for a change of power. "BNP must join the elections for its existence in politics...," Quader said.



Dhaka Shishu Hospital was jam-packed with vaccine-seekers yesterday. While most were wearing masks, social distancing was nowhere in sight, creating an ironical situation, where people were putting themselves at risk of contracting Covid-19 by trying to acquire a safeguard against the disease. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



at Enayetpur narrower, making movement difficult for other vehicles and commuters going through the area. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN 1-year of Rayhan's Custodial Death

Family still awaits justice

Dwoha Chowdhury, Sylhet

One year after the custodial killing of Rayhan Ahmed, the family still awaits justice, as the case's trial just began on September 30.

Rayhan Ahmed (33) of Sylhet city's Neharipara area was tortured at Sylhet's Bandarbazar Police Outpost on early October 11 and died an hour after he was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical Hospital by police personnel.

After Rayhan's wife Tahmina Akther Tanni filed a case on October 11, Police Bureau of Investigation pressed chargesheet against five police personnel and a local journalist on May 5.

The accused are Bandarbazar outpost's suspended in-charge Sub-inspector Akbar Hossain, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Form separate ministry, commission: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Right activists yesterday urged the government to form a separate ministry and commission to safeguard the rights of indigenous people across the country in the wake of constant attack on their ancestral land.

They made the call in a national seminar titled "Minority Group's Right to Land: Realities and Challenges in North-West Bangladesh" organised by NETZ Bangladesh at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka.

Fazle Hossain Badsha, lawmaker from Rajshahi-2 who was the chief guest at the seminar, said, "Now I don't see any indigenous people in

my locality. They either got evicted or left the country. Indigenous people from the northern part of Bangladesh left the country most," he said. Referring to the disparity facing

the indigenous people, Badsha said though the constitution articulated equal rights irrespective of cast, religion and ethnic origin, indigenous people still experience disparity.

He said India has formed the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and allocated 7,500 crore rupees last year for the indigenous people.

"We urge the government to form a separate ministry,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Journalist Rafigul Hague 'Dadubhai' passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Ekushey Padak winning renowned journalist, dramatist and poet Rafiqul Haque, popularly known as "Dadubhai", passed away

yesterday. He was 85. Rafiqul, who had been suffering from old-age complications, breathed his last at his own residence in Mugda area in the capital at

11am, said his family. He was the feature editor of daily Jugantor, and

'Gono' rooms, health safety major concerns Say students as JU dorms reopen

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN, JU

After one and a half years, authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) are going to reopen the institute's dormitories today, ending the students' long wait.

Although authorities underscored decisions centring on health safety and have planned to get rid of "gono" rooms, where many students cram into one room for accommodation, implementation of such decisions will be difficult, said the university's students.

According to JU syndicate, the institute's highest governing body, students who have received the first shot of the Covid-19 vaccine will be allowed into dormitories from today, while in-person classes and examinations will begin from October 21.

Students will have to strictly follow health guidelines, which includes wearing masks on campus, stated a circular signed by JU acting registrar Rahima Kaneez.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shovon Rahman, convener of JU Chhatra Front, said, "How will authorities get rid of all SEE PAGE 4 COL 3 gono rooms when they fear student leaders



who are set to come back to the

of the ruling party? They [authorities] earlier held a discussion session about the university's reopening with students, but mostly the ruling party's men were there. It'll be difficult to do away with gono rooms if the ruling party interferes in the procedure.

"University authorities don't have a clear roadmap to abolish gono rooms. Currently, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Staffers prepare the campus for students, university dorms today. PHOTO: COLLECTED

DU dorms reopen for all students

Dhaka University authorities have finally reopened all the dormitories for all of its residential students yesterday, five days after allowing only fourth year honours and master's

Students of first, second and third years are now allowed in their respective halls after showing their student IDs and Covid vaccination certificate. As the clock struck 8am, the gates were opened, and

students started entering their respective halls. As part of a welcoming gesture, employees of many halls were seen greeting them with masks, flowers and

chocolates, after checking their temperatures. Banners containing Covid safety rules were seen hanging in front of the halls. Sinks have also been installed for students to wash their hands before entering the hall

The halls at Dhaka University were first reopened on October 5 after eighteen months, for masters' and senior year students.

- >> Dorms opened to students of first to third years yesterday
- >> Halls remained closed for almost 18 months
- >> First reopened for masters' and senior year students Oct 5
- >> Vaccination started for students, teachers and staff Oct 4 > In-person academic activities to resume from Oct 17

Welcome to Brave Journalism WITH THE COMMITMENT OF BRAVE JOURNALISM IN THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDEPENDENCE, THE DAINIK BANGLA IS RETURNING TO THE READERS. The Dainik Bangla RANGS RL SQUARE ari Sharani, Bir Uttam Rafiqul Islam Ase Plockha 201/1, 203, 205/3 Dhaka-1212

The historical Bangla daily which accompanied the Liberation War and played an important role in modern journalism will now be back under the leadership of eminent journalist Toab Khan who was the Editor of the daily in the early 70s and 90s.

You can also be a part of this historical resumption. Hardworking, experienced, and capable postgraduate candidates are welcome. You can apply for the departments of reporting, desk, online, advertisement, circulation and all other general sections for the newspaper. Salary and other benefits will be set under the Eighth Wage

Board and by negotiation. Please mention the desired post (name of area for correspondents who are from district and upazila levels) at the top of your CV. Only applications sent via email will be considered. Send your application to

hr@dainikbangla.com.bd

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION

CITY DESK

Saifur Rahman, a graduate of Buet and now professor of Virginia Tech in the US, has been elected as the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) president-elect 2022.



He will be the IEEE president in 2023, the first South Asian to achieve this prestigious global recognition.

IEEE is a professional society of over 400,000 electrical engineers, computer scientists, IT professionals, etc from over 160 countries, said a press release.

'Gono' rooms

former students occupy the seats, as far as we know, so actual students are being deprived of accommodation.'

Rakibul Rony, general secretary of JU Chhatra Union, underscored the need for proper medical facilities.

Provost Committee President Prof Muzibur Rahman acknowledged that abolishing gono rooms at once will not be possible, but authorities will take steps

Meanwhile, JU will launch a vaccination drive for students on campus from today at the institute's Wazed Miah Science Research Center. The vaccination drive will run from 10am to 1:30pm every day.

The never-ending road

2nd Edition

However, justice is a far cry for these victims, especially those who have intellectual, speech, hearing and psychosocial disabilities, even though they endure abuse and sexual violence, at rates much higher than other girls and women, said rights activists.

Although there is no data available on conviction rates in rape cases concerning girls with disabilities, activists said such convictions are rare, if not completely unheard of.

BARRIERS IN ACCESSING **JUSTICE**

In the country's legal system, since the burden of proof entirely falls on the victims, it becomes difficult for the girls and women with disabilities to prove the incident beyond any reasonable doubt due to their circumstances, argued experts.

There is a severe lack of sensitivity and understanding in dealing with survivors with disabilities, they added.

"For example, a survivor with speech and hearing impairment cannot give her testimony to the court directly because there are no lawyers or judges in Bangladesh who know sign language. Courts

require interpreters in such cases, but there are only around 10 of them in the country and most are based in Dhaka," said Supreme Court lawyer Rezaul Karim Siddiqui, also former

research fellow at BLAST. Besides, if an interpreter agrees to take on a case, s/he becomes witnesses and are required to travel whenever needed for hearings, many consider a hassle.

Ariful Islam, a sign language news presenter of BTV, who has served as an interpreter in more than 20 rape cases, said many judges outside Dhaka are not aware of interpreters and usually ask the disability focal person of Department of Social Welfare, or teachers of local deaf schools, who may lack the skills or the sensitivity to engage properly with survivors.

'In addition, although the court order mentioned providing transport allowance to interpreters, in reality they do not get any, which discourages many from assisting in cases outside Dhaka. But if the government creates a database of interpreters, assigns them a specific number of cases in a selected area, and provide a minimal transport allowance, the situation could

be improved," he opined.

Even when interpreters are available, testimonies of people with disabilities are often considered not credible, especially of those intellectual disabilities.

Moreover, in case of survivors with psychosocial disability, the police are not even willing to document such cases because the survivors cannot prove the incident, while those who have multi-sensory impairment are completely unable to give testimony, he added.

Ashrafun Nahar Misti, executive director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, an organisation providing non-legal support to women with disabilities, highlighted that Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013 does not specify how a girl child or woman will get remedies if they're raped.

"Rather, they too are dealt under the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Act 2020, but it would have been better if there was a separate chapter on how these particular cases could be tried and remedies provided."

"Now. totally we are

dependent on the discretion of judges and lawyers, but if they are not sensitive, there is no hope," she said.

Another important factor is that since most survivors with disabilities mostly come poor families, they cannot afford the protracted legal battle without the assistance from NGOs. Although the public persecutors are appointed by the state, they do not give enough attention to these victims as such cases do not benefit them financially."

Advocate Siddiqui however suggested that if the burden of proof could be shifted to the perpetrator from the victim in such cases, justice could be easier to mete out.

Besides, law enforcement and implementing agencies must ensure that laws related to rape and disability rights must be disseminated to the victims in accessible formats (through braille, sign language).

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told correspondent yesterday that he will surely look into the issue and try to address it.

*The real name of the rape identifying survivors and information has been withheld.

20th convocation of AIUB held



PHOTO: COURTESY

The 20th convocation of American International University-Bangladesh was held yesterday on a virtual platform on the AIUB permanent campus.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees on the students. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhoury, deputy minister for education, was special guest at the event. The programme was also attended by British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson as the convocation speaker, said a press release.

AIUB Board of Trustees Chairman Dr Hasanul A Hasan and VC Dr Carmen Z Lamagna also gave speeches.

A total of 2,878 graduates were conferred upon degrees Nuder Nowar Nizam was the valedictorian.

Among others, trustee board members Ishtiaque Abedin, Nadia Anwar, Dr Abdus Samad Alim, Sabrina Abedin and Dulce Lamagna Majumdar were present at the event.

Form separate ministry

a commission and allocate fund so that socio-economic development of indigenous people can be ensured," he said.

Afsana Binte Amin from NETZ Bangladesh presented the concept paper in the seminar.

Shahidul Islam, director of NETZ Bangladesh.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)



International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization for "Introducing 'Labour Migration Academy' for the Foreign Service Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs". The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO Dhaka website under **Procurement Notices** at

https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/Informationresources/WCMS_821029/lang

The deadline for submission of proposal RFP/ILO/MIG/2021/005 is Tuesday, October 19, 2021, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any of the following tender, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions

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- 2. Supply, installation & commissioning of Air cooler at "Dhaka Bar Association" under CSR Program of our Bank through Bar Library Branch, Dhaka.

Please visit our web site, https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp for details. Interested Parties may purchase the Tender document by 17 October, 2021 duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer by 18 October, 2021 (before 11.00 AM). Tender will be opened on same day at 11.30 A.M.

Dilip Kumar Paul



Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 07/10/2021

Rental Vehicle Services (Trucks) including driver and fuel at Cox's Bazar on Long-Term Agreement Basis IFB No.: IFB-BD21-023

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an UN affiliated migration related organization established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

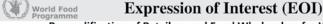
In the framework of IOM Emergency and Refugee Humanitarian Assistance Program, the IOM Bids Evaluation and Awards Committee ("BEAC") now invites interested transport service companies to submit "Bid" for the long-term provision of the transport services (light and heavy trucks, lorry, open and covered Van, high and low trailers, crane etc.). Agreement duration: 1 year with possibility of extension for 2 (two) more years on "1+1+1" subject to satisfactory performance, unchanged prices and both Parties' confirmation.

A complete set of Bidding Document is available for download from IOM Bangladesh website https://bangladesh.iom.int/opportunities/work-as-service-provider Bids shall be valid for a period of 12 Months after the submission of the bids. The proposals

must be delivered by hand or through courier service to IOM with office address at-International Organization for Migration - IOM, Procurement Division, Muktijoddha Building Complex, Baharchara, Motel Road, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on or before 3:30 p.m. on 17th Oct. 2021. No late proposal shall be accepted.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the procurement process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of Agreement, without obligation to inform the affected Bidder/s of the ground for IOM action.

Very truly yours, BEAC Chairman



Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Cox's Bazar

Ref. CXB21NF01EOI

In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, WFP provides assistance to displaced Rohingvas through national retail. The payment modality is via WFP Food Assistance Cards. With these cards, beneficiaries receive an entitlement that they canuse to purchase a variety of perishable and non-perishable food and non-food items (bathing and laundry soap etc.) from the WFP- established Electronic-Voucher outlets. Retail partners will be responsible for:

• Procurement of food (and some non-food items). WFP contracted retailers will be encouraged to procure

- fresh and perishable items from local producers in the Cox's Bazar district to support the local econom
- Implementation of a full logistics plan to transport the commodities to the Cox's Bazar district (Ukhiya & Teknaf) Running the distribution points (Electronic-Voucher shops) in line with the humanitarian principles/code of conduct. Strict food quality and safety standards must be implemented and maintained at all stages of the

Interested and reputable organizations working in the food retail/wholesale business sector, who have the supply chain capacity to provide the services as mentioned above are kindly requested to submit their Expression of Interest to the email address coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org by the mentioned deadline

- 1. Meets all legal requirements for a retailer contract with WFP (Legal registration, Trade License, VAT etc.) or has the ability to acquire all required legal licenses needed for companies to trade in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Company with a minimum of three years' experience as an established business; (retail business experience is preferred) with good understanding of supply chain of food commodity market in Bangladesh.
 Company accepts WFP's payment terms and conditions.
 Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and / or store maintenance.
- Ability to meet food quality standards and WFP's monitoring and inspection requirements. Readiness to allocate staff to outlet locations as per the demand of operation. Willingness to improve service quality by learning and applying data analytics for running the retail business

Ability to provide store operations manuals (including back office, logistics, etc.) in the required language

- efficiently; maintain uninterrupted food supply, delivering high quality service whilst maintaining cleanliness and hygiene levels.
- Ability and willingness to procure locally produced fresh food (vegetables, eggs, chicken, live fish etc.) from
- 10. Ability to adhere to WFP's humanitarian principles and standards, including no discrimination against beneficiaries, data protection requirements

Deadline for registration: 25 October 2021 at 16:00 hrs Dhaka time

Family still awaits

Ashek-e-Elahi, ASI Hasan Uddin, Constable Harunur Rashid, Constable Titu Chandra Das, and Abdullah Al Noman. All except Noman are in iail.

On September 30, Sylhet's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate accepted the charge-sheet, framed charges and issued an arrest warrant against the fugitive.

Marking one year of the murder, family members and well-wishers of Rayhan organised a human chain in front of Sylhet Central Saheed Minar yesterday afternoon.

took a whole year to frame charges, so we we refused their proposal, she said.

don't know how long it'll take to conclude

PRIME ACCUSED TRIES TO MEDIATE After charge framing, prime accused Subinspector Akbar tried to mediate the matter by convincing Rayhan's family.

Salma Begum said, "While we went to the jail gate for witness deposition, Rayhan's uncle was taken to a room with Akbar, where Akbar and Ashek-e-Elahi begged for forgiveness. They said they tortured Rayhan to death on wrong information.

A few weeks earlier, Akbar's parents came Rayhan's mother Salma Begum said, "It to Sylhet and proposed for mediation, but

He also criticised the declaration of indigenous people as ethnic minorities.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said a state cannot change the name of any ethnic group. "Indigenous people lost their ethnic identity and got deprived of their land rights in the process of building a modern state. When the world is talking about the conservation of biodiversity, it is the indigenous people who conserve 80 percent of the world's biodiversity," he said.

Rokeya Kabir, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha; Shamim Ara Begum, executive director of Pallisri, and Jakir Hossen, chief executive of Nagorik Uddog, spoke at the seminar which was moderated by

Pandemic reversed work

FROM PAGE 3

achievement in creating a child marriage free village has been reversed in the pandemic, as more and more parents were marrying off their underage daughters due to school closure and financial instability.

"Due to Covid-19, we could not work properly as there was restriction of movement, and now, the number of child marriages has increased again in our village, which is very disappointing for us," she said.

Nasima Akter Jolly, secretary, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum Bangladesh, highlighted that during the first eight months of 2021, a total of 813 girl children were subjected to rape, while 193 girl children were killed in this period, due to rape, sexual harassment and family feud, and 157 girl children died by suicide.

"We have to address the mental health issues of the girls, and families should take necessary steps in this regard,

Besides, in order to stop sexual harassment and torture of girl children, a separate and comprehensive law regarding e sexual harassment prevention and remedy should be enacted, she added.

Rawnak Jahan, representative of Girls Not Brides Bangladesh, the Bangladesh alliance to end child marriage, said they were unable to visit the community during the pandemic, and could not continue their social mobilisation activities and advocacy for legal reforms.

However, the Girls Not Brides, a network of 29 organisations, will continue its work on the pressing issue, by sharing learnings and challenges with each other, she

assured. ActionAid Bangladesh country director Farah Kabir; Solika Akter of Activista Dhaka-YFF Network; Syeda Samara Mortada, regional movement, supporter, SheDecides; Priodarshine Auvi, programme analyst, climate change programme, UN Women; Halima Akter, manager, policy and advocacy, Educo Bangladesh, among others, spoke at

It was moderated by Morium Nesa, manager- Women Rights and Gender Equity, ActionAid Bangladesh.

Journalist Rafiqul

FROM PAGE 3

returned to his workplace after surviving Covid-19 last year. However, he was completely bedridden for the past six months. He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter and many well-wishers to mourn his death

He was the initiator of a children's page called "Chander Hat", published in the daily Purbodesh, from where he got the title of "Dadubhai".

He served as the executive editor of Dainik Rupali, Dainik Janata, and worked in several important positions in Dainik Azad, Dainik Lal Sabuj, The Bangladesh Observer and his last workplace, the daily Jugantor during his distinguished career.

From 1976 until 1983, he was the acting editor of Kishore Bangla, the Indian subcontinent's only weekly newspaper dedicated to children.

He received the Bangla Academy Award and the Bangladesh Children's Academy Award in 2019 for his contributions to Bangla children's literature.

He received numerous prizes throughout his lifetime. In a condolence message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Dadubai. She prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family

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Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from reputed Manufacturers/Local Agents/Companies/Dealers/Distributors/Resellers for supplying & commissioning of 700 units Laser Printer for Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited under the following terms and conditions:

The intending Bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing tender document for supplying & commissioning of 700 units Laser Printer for IBBL. The tender document will be sold upon payment of Tk.3,000/- only in cash (non refundable) from 12.10.2021 to 03.11.2021 during office hours. Tender will be received at the office of the undersigned during office hours up to 3:00 PM on 04.11.2021 and Technical offer(s) will be opened at 03:15 PM on the same date at the same place in presence of the Bidders or their representatives (who may like to attend). A pre bid meeting in this regard will be held on 24.10.2021 Computer Hardware and Department (PCHAD), OW at 9th floor of Yousuf Chamber, 20 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka. Details information relating to the Tender are available at Bank's website www.islamibankbd.com or in the form of hard copy at the office of the undersigned.

FAVP & Head of Department



বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৭০/২০২১

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১ প্রধান কার্যালয়



২২ আশ্বিন, ১৪২৮

erecruitment.bb.org.bd

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এ 'সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (এক্সামিনেশন)' পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনুষ্ঠেয় লিখিত পরীক্ষার আসন বিন্যাস ও সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এ ৯ম গ্রেডের ১১ ক্যাটাগরির পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৬১/২০১৯, তারিখঃ ২২/১২/২০১৯ এর সূত্রে 'সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক (এক্সামিনেশন)' পদে অনলাইনে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের মধ্য হতে ইতোপূর্বে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট হতে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকারী এবং বিভাগীয় ম্যানুয়াল আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৩/১০/২০২১ তারিখ শনিবার বিকাল ০৩ঃ০০টা হতে ০৫ঃ০০টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নোক্ত কেন্দ্রসমূহে অনুষ্ঠিত হবেঃ

मानवार विकास के विकास के विकास के निर्माण कर देन हैं कि विकास के किया है कि विकास के किया है कि विकास के किया के किया है कि विकास के कि विकास के किया है कि विकास के कि विकास						
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٥.	লালমাটিয়া উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়,	২৩০০০১ থেকে	7200			
	৯/১৫, ব্লক-ডি, লালমাটিয়া,	২৩২৯১৫				
	মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।					
٧.	সেন্টাল উইমেন্স কলেজ, ১৩/২, অভয়	২৩২৯১৬ থেকে	೨ ೦೦೦			
	দাস লেন, টিকাটুলি, ঢাকা-১২০৩।	২৩৭৮৪১				
٥.	খিলগাঁও মডেল কলেজ, ব্লক-সি, ৭২১/১,	২৩৭৮৪৩ থেকে	৩৫১৫			
	খিলগাঁও চৌরাস্তা, ঢাকা-১২১৯।	২৪৩৬৬২				
8.	যাত্রাবাড়ী আইডিয়াল স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ,	২৪৩৬৬৩ থেকে	২৮০০			
	যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা-১২০৪।	২৪৮২৯৬				
œ.	আহমেদ বাওয়ানী একাডেমী স্কুল এন্ড	২৪৮২৯৭ থেকে	২৮০০			
	কলেজ, ৩-৫, কে.পি ঘোষ স্ট্রিট,	২৫২৮২২				
	আরমানিটোলা, বাবুবাজার, ঢাকা-১১০০।					
		সর্বমোট	১৩,৯৯৫			

উক্ত পদের বিভাগীয় ম্যানুয়াল আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র এসপিসিবিএলের প্রশাসন বিভাগ হতে

১৩/১০/২০২১ তারিখ থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশের পূর্বে প্রয়োজনীয় চেকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরীক্ষা শুরুর কমপক্ষে ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকৈ পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশপত্রের একটি কপি ব্যতীত কোন ধরণের কাগজ, বই, মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্টওয়াচ ও অন্যান্য ই*লে*ক্ট্রনিক ডিভাইস নিয়ে প্রবেশ করা যাবে না।

পরীক্ষার জন্য আগত প্রার্থীদেরকে স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক নির্দেশিত কোভিড-১৯ সংক্রান্ত স্বাস্থ্য বিধি মেনে চলতে হবে।

পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে কোনরূপ টিএ/ডিএ দেয়া হবেনা

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৩১৮৬ তারিখঃ ১০-১০-২০২১

> ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন

স্বাক্ষরিত/-মোঃ গোলাম মোস্তফা মহাব্যবস্থাপক

জিডি-১৮১৪



Risky bailey bridges in Bagerhat need urgent renovation

All the 14 temporary bridges on two important roads become severely damaged, accident-prone

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY

Fourteen bailey bridges over different canals on two important roads in the district have become very risky and severely dilapidated, causing frequent accidents and disrupting vehicular movements.

Locals said almost all the 14 temporary bridges, on Khulna-Mawa old highway and a regional highway connecting three upazilas with the district headquarters, have become unfit for use due to lack of renovation for long and are at risk of collapse that could cause accidents and loss of lives.

Demanding urgent renovation or reconstruction of the dilapidated bridges, they said sometimes pedestrians and light vehicles ply the bridges risking their lives. Moreover, the cost of carrying goods has also increased for the traders and local

Roads and Highways Department (RHD), there are 14 bailey bridges on Khulna-Mawa old highway and signboard-bogie regional highway that connect Mollahat, Morrelgonj and Sharankhola upazilas with the district headquarters.

Condition of most of the bridges have become awfully risky as those were built over half a century ago, sources said.

Nashukhali Bazar and Paglar Bazar, Charkulia Bridge and Haridah Bridge in Mollahat upazila, Teligati Bailey Bridge in Morrelgonj upazila and Nalbunia Bridge in Sharankhola upazila are in worst conditions and may collapse anytime.

concerned have put warning signboards on either side of the risky

farmers. According to Bagerhat bridges, heavy and light vehicles are constantly using the bridges risking

> Mizanur Rahman Trader of Charkulia Bridge area said Charkulia is one of the biggest markets in Mollahat and thousands of people go there every day to buy and sell their products.

But, they are facing serious trouble in carrying their goods as the bridge lies in dilapidated Of those, the bridges near condition for long, he said.

Tariqul Islam, who lives near the Haridah Bridge, said "Every day, from dawn to dusk, we witness many small accidents on the vulnerable bridge.

For the benefits of pedestrians and motorcyclists, they also renovated the bridge once, by Although, the authorities collecting donations from the local people, he said, adding, but that

Requesting urgent repair of the unfit bridge, van-puller Maruf of Teligati area in Morelganj said the bridge itself is a problem now as neither can they pull a van or rickshaw, nor local people can walk Rezaul Karim, chairman of

Gaola union Parishad (UP) under Mollahat Upazila, said there are four bailey bridges under his union and all of those are posing risk of accidents.

Thousands of people from nearby areas use the bridge, taking risk of accidents, he added. He also urged the authorities

concerned to reconstruct or repair the bridge in soonest possible time. Contacted, Bagerhat Executive Engineer Mohammad Farid Uddin said they have already

visited the sites and issued work

orders for the 14 bailey bridges.

300-foot-long Kumar river land grabbed in Jhenidah

An influential youth has alleedly grabbed around a 300-foot-long area of Kumar river land for cultivation in Hatfadilpur bazar area under Shailakupa upazila of Jhenidah.

Sohel Rana, 25, son of Nekbar Ali of Hatfadilpur village, is a farmer by profession.

Visiting the spot on Wednesday (October 6), this correspondent found that Sohel had already excavated the river bank covering an area of 300 feet in length and 80 feet in width. The spot is half a kilometer away from the bazar.

Kumar river's course is 124-kilometrelong ranging from Mathabhanga area in Chuadanga district to the Madhumati river in Magura. Most of the markets, bazars and establishments have been built on the bank of the Kumar river occupying the river land illegally, locals said.

Alamgir Hossain, a shopkeeper of Hatfadilpur Bazar, said that it seems that there is nobody to take care of the river. Consequently, the local influential are building brick-built shops and establishments occupying the river bank.

He added that for some days Sohel has been excavating the river bank by hiring an

Kumar river's course is 124-kilometre-long ranging from Mathabhanga area in Chuadanga district to the Madhumati river in Magura.

Another villager seeking anonymity said that Sohel has been occupying the river land illegally. As nobody visits this area, such dishonest men take the opportunity.

He added that most of the portion of the Kumar river has been occupied by the local influential in the area.

Asked about the matter, Sohel Rana said that he has just prepared this land for making a seedbed.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Shailakupa Kanij Fatema Liza said that she was not aware of the matter. She will look into the matter and take the necessary steps



Kumar river's bank covering an area of 300 feet in length and 80 feet in width has been excavated by a local influential youth in Hatfadilpur bazar area under Shailakupa upazila of Jhenidah. PHOTO: STAR

Yahya accepts US proposal

an East Pakistan majority, Yahya opined. Yahya urged the consulate general to problems". take the "strongest" position with the It was reported that a leading PPP official, cross-border operations by Mukti Bahini.

is convicted, the court would sentence him political opponents. to punishment which would conceivably ON THE WAR FRONT task of dealing with Bangabandhu's future, three Pakistani soldiers.

reported the consulate general. PPP DELEGATION IN DHAKA

upcoming by-elections in the province. The injuries. party Vice-president Mahmud Ali Kasuri, Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist who was heading the delegation, told and researcher. He can be contacted at newsmen in Dhaka that people of both sajen1986@gmail.com

East and West Pakistan should "cooperate in solving their economic and political

Government of India that it should restrict Meraj Muhammad Khan, dropped out of the delegation hours before it left for East As to the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Pakistan, alleging that power in the eastern Mujibur Rahman, Yahya noted that wing had been handed to "reactionary and Bangabandhu's trial was still going on. If he anti-people parties" who had massacred

be death. The matter would then come In the Mymensingh-Sylhet-Moulvibazar before Yahya who had presidential power sector, Mukti Bahini today raided to modify the court's judgement. Yahya did Debalchara area. In this operation, they not intend to permit any death sentence killed two enemy soldiers. They also to be carried out. With early formation ambushed enemy troops in Muriachara of civilian government, that government and inflicted three casualties on them. (which would presumably have East In another ambush in the same area on Pakistan majority) would then have the occupying troops freedom fighters killed

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini encountered the occupation A delegation of the Pakistan People's troops at Hatibanda and killed five enemy Party today arrived in Dhaka to assess the soldiers. During this action three of the prospects of the party's chances in the valiant freedom fighters received minor

Forest dept bends rules

said, adding that dealers of Nissan, Toyota and Mitsubishi were unable to compete.

This violated the Public Procurement Act

AG Automobiles won the contract with a

quoted price of about Tk 2.4 crore.

"If it were an open competition, the government could have saved money," the IMED report said.

In case of submission of lone tenders, the tender evaluation committee will reasonably consider the single tender and submit their tender evaluation report to the approving authority as per Rule 36 of the act.

However, no explanation has been found in the evaluation report, the IMED report said.

The four vehicles were purchased under

a Tk 1,502.6 crore-project of the Ministry tender opened on June 10, 2019, the report of Environment, Forest and Climate Change funded by the World Bank and the government. Of the total project cost, Tk 2.4 crore has been earmarked for pickups in the project proposal.

Contacted, project director Gobinda Roy said, "The purchase has been done following the procurement rules. The internal audit has been conducted. The World Bank has conducted an audit. Everything is okay. Why and how does the question arise?" he asked.

The government has prepared the specification and AG Automobiles participated in the e-tender accordingly, said an official of the company

"It is completely unreasonable if anyone says that the specification was made only for us," he added.

Mother, daughter gang-raped

the Osman's house, where they violated the mother and daughter repeatedly, the

The victims were left curbside in

the village and threatened with dire consequences if the matter was disclosed. The mother, aged 40, called 999 and sought the help of the police, who rushed

to the spot to rescue them. She lodged a case with the police station

So far, the police arrested Abdus Sattar and Sadek Mia, both of whom were named in the first information report, for their alleged involvement in the rape incident. The arrestees were being interrogated at the police station at the time of filing the

The victims were sent to the Sherpur General Hospital yesterday for the medical

One of five

Rohingyas. investigating Mohib Ullah murder case, told The Daily Star that the four other accused, who are on remand, gave important

information to the police. "But they are yet to give any confessional statements," he said. Armed Police Battalion

arrested Elias on last Sunday. Mohib Ullah, who led the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, was shot dead at Kutupalong camp around 8:30pm on

September 29. His brother Habib Ullah filed the case with Ukhiya Police Station on September 30. The complainant gave details of the murder but did not accuse any individual.

Permanent

FROM PAGE 12 Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka on August 31 granted her bail till submission of the police report.

On August 4, members of Rapid Action Battalion detained Pori Moni and Dipu. They seized alcohol and narcotics from Pori Moni's residence.

RMG export

FROM PAGE 12 The BGMEA leaders yesterday met Mokammel Hossain, secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, and requested that EDSs are kept operational at all

Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul Aĥsan, executive director at the HSIA, said the EDSs were being fixed.

He also called for increasing the number of scanners to speed up the process of scanning export cargoes, according to a statement from the **BGMEA**

The BGMEA leaders yesterday requested the authorities to ensure enough space at the scanning area so that cargoes could be scanned in an orderly manner and shipped timely.

The current arrangement lacks order and is timeconsuming, they added.

Enacting law is a must

"Although the formation of a law was a number of complex issues now plagues mandatory, all the successive governments the elections. "As a side effect, the state of | theoretically possible to

for Bangladesh consisting of [the chief election commissioner and not more than four election commissioners] and commissioners [if any] shall, subject to the provisions of any law made on that behalf,

be made by the president." current commissioners is set to end its tenure in mid-February 2022.

"But only framing the law is not enough, it must be accepted by all parties. If there is no consensus on the formation of the election commission, the election process and management, I fear there will be anarchy...," Mahbub added.

He said that democracy was a prerequisite for the country's independence. It is among the four principles of the constitution.

"Five decades after independence, democracy is still like a black cat in a dark room. How much more tragic could it be? safely after casting their vote -- can't the obtain at least one-eighth of the total state make this much possible?" votes cast.

About recent elections, Mahbub said that democracy is in crisis... It is essential to Article 118 (1) of the constitution says, bring democracy back to normal. We have There shall be an Election Commission to decide whether we want a [democratic or non-democratic election.

Mahbub said that while he was visiting the ward councillor by-election for wardthe appointment of the chief election 73 under Dhaka South City Corporation commissioner and other election on October 7, he found a 20 percent voter turnout. He was frustrated with people's disinterest in voting.

Meanwhile, there was a 70 percent voter The EC's tenure is five years and the turnout for ward-9 under the Rajshahi City Corporation that same day.

> "It is necessary to analyse the reasons behind this inequality. Every effort should be made to increase the number of voters. However, if the obstacles [for voters] are not removed, we will never get the desired

He said it was unprecedented that the security deposit of all candidates, including who won the October 7 byelection for ward-16 under Chattogram City Corporation, were lost.

Under the election law, candidates have to deposit a certain amount of money A voter going safely to the polling station to the government exchequer to contest. without any problem and returning home To get the money back, candidates must

'Father' of Pak atomic bomb

Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted. "For the people of Pakistan he was a national

But AQ Khan, no relation to the prime minister, also confessed to being at the core of an operation that sold nuclear secrets to North Korea, Iran and Libya. Analysts and United Nations officials

have said his illicit network, which specialised in helping countries skirt international sanctions, created the greatest nuclear proliferation crisis of the atomic age. After a confession on national television to his involvement in selling nuclear secrets,

Khan was pardoned by then-president Pervez Musharraf. He remained under house arrest for overlooking the foothills to the Himalayas, surrounded by armed guards and wildlife such as monkeys who spill over into the

In his confession, Khan said he acted alone without the knowledge of the state officials. Later he said he had been scapegoated.

upmarket area from the nearby forested

Musharraf once described Khan's admission of guilt, following a tip-off from the CIA, as the most embarrassing moment

Pakistan never let foreign investigators question Khan, saying it had passed on all relevant information about his nuclear proliferation, despite repeated calls for access by Western officials and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Domestically, Khan is celebrated for helping the country catch up to archrival India in the nuclear sweepstakes.

Nine years ago Khan, who had a brief foray into politics, fondly recalled to Reuters working on Pakistan's nuclear programme in the 1980s and how then military ruler General Zia ul-Haq kissed him on his forehead when significant progress was made.

"I want to bring change and help the years in his palatial Islamabad home, people of Pakistan, like I did back in 1974, when India test fired its nukes," he said.

> Pakistani President Arif Alvi tweeted vesterday that Khan "helped us develop nation-saving nuclear deterrence, and a grateful nation will never forget his services in this regard."

> Prime Minister Imran Khan said the scientist would be buried at Islamabad's Faisal mosque, according to his wishes. Armed forces chiefs and political leaders would attend his funeral, the country's interior minister said.

Scientists

don't move, and is the coldest temperature it is

reach. To get as close to this point as possible, the team manipulated a cloud of atoms to a point where it was at a "virtual standstill".

For a few seconds these particles were so still the temperature lowered to 38 picokelvins (pK), which is 38 trillionth of a degree above absolute zero.

The team says this have significant ramifications for our understanding of quantum mechanics, as the colder the temperature, the more peculiar matter acts.

To achieve the remarkably low temperature, the German team developed a process that lowered a system's temperature by slowing particles to the point they came to a near total standstill.

This is such a low temperature there are no thermometers that can detect it, so they base the measurement on the lack of kinetic movement of the observed particles.

The mechanism used to detect the temperature is known as a "time-domain matter-wave lens system", and can see matter behaving like a wave.

To study these waves the team used a magnetic lens that allowed them to shape a quantum gas and used it to make a focused matter wave they could control and ensure behaved in a specific way.

Unlike regular gas, made of a loose arrangement of particles, quantum gas is much less predictable, also known as a Bose-Einstein condensate.

combining an excitation of a Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC) with a magnetic lens, we form a time-domain matter-wave lens system," the researchers

"The focus is tuned by the strength of the lensing potential. By placing the focus at infinity, we lower the total internal kinetic energy of a BEC to 38 pK."





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 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.

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.

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,"

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 Mav 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.

> 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

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

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.

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 Salem 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

SOURCE: AFP, 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 antigovernment protest movement but seen as unlikely to deliver major change to the war-scarred country.

PHOTO: AFP



NO TIME TO DIE

QUIZ CONTEST

The Daily Star | STAR 10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM

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

What watch does James

Bond wear?

NNERS LIST OF OUIZ - 02 Sonya Akther Sweety, Kalabagan

- 2. Md. Mazadul Haque, Uttara. 3. Mahmudul Hasan, Motijheel. . Mohammad Omar Faruk, Green Road. Kamrul Hasan Siddique, South Banasree.
 Meheraj Alam Bhuiya, Mohammadpur.
- Nowshin Nur, Uttara. 8. Enamul Hasan Tanvir, Mirpur Dohs. Sumaiya Azad, Aga Masi Lane.
 Md. Misbahul Islam, Motijheel.

government led by Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong's Communist Party. SOURCE: REUTERS

Upazila Health and Family planning Office Rajapur, Jhalakathi www.health.rajapur.jalakathi.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

Goods,(Chemicals)

06 | 616986 | Goods, (Furniture and kitchen utensils)

Memo No: 45.01.4284.000.07.001.21.728

05 617150

GD-1808

Date: 10/10/2021 e-Tender is invited in e-GP System portal(http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) Upazila Health And Family planning

28.10.2021 13.00

28.10.2021 13.00

Office, Rajapur, Jhalakathi for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below. Tender Name of Goods Tender Documents last Tender Closing ID No Selling date& time 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 26.10.2021 14.00 28.10.2021 13.00 Goods, (Gauze, Bandage, Cotton) Goods,(Linen materials) 26.10.2021 14.00 28.10.2021 13.00 04 617152

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

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

guasson Dr.Md.Abul Khair Mahamood UH&FPO Rajapur, Jhalakathi

Code:127192 e-mail: rajapur@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

14.00

26.10.2021

26.10.2021 14.00



Memo No.: 22.01.2200.790.29.13.2021.3505

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)

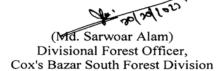
Date: 10/10/2021.

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-	Supply of Bariala Bamboo,	12 October 2021	03 November 2021	
	22/GD-4	Bamboo Chatai & Sungrass for nursery Raising	10.00	14.00	
615628	COX(S)FD/SUFAL/2021-	Supply of Temporary shed	12 October 2021	03 November 2021	
	22/GD-5	Materials for nursery	10.00	15.00	
	Raising				
615726	COX(S)FD/SUFAL/2021-	Supply of nursery	12 October 2021	03 November 2021	
	22/GD-6	equipment's, M.S Wire and	10.00	16.00	
		Water supply materials for			
		nursery Raising			

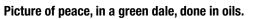
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.



Phone: 02333346670.

Star infocus@thedailystar.net







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

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.

These are the facts of Sultan's life that

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.

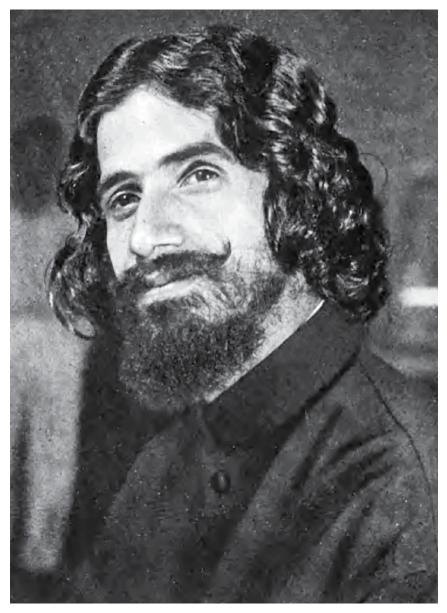
THE DIFFERENT STYLES
Let us consider his works more closely

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)

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.

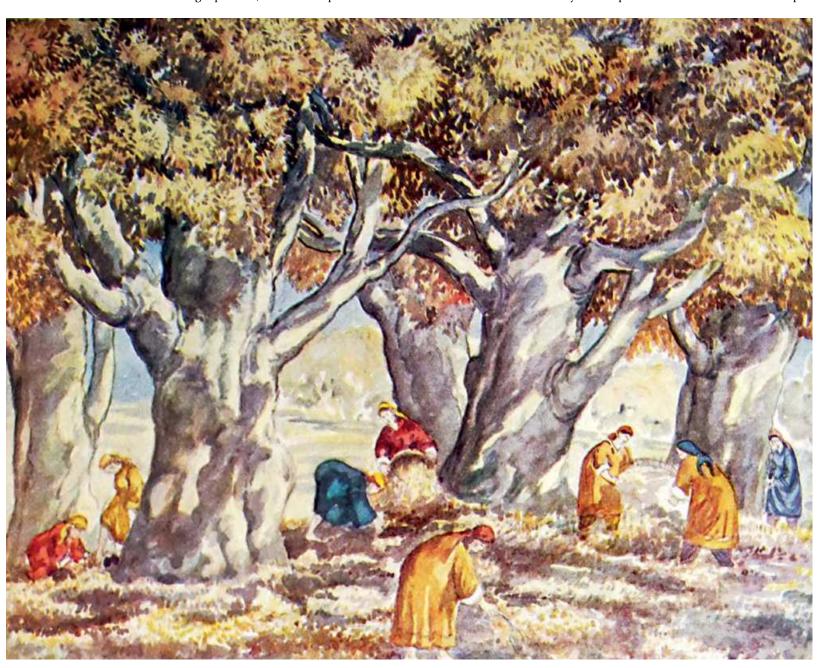
While in the above Sultan throws planes, direction, and form overboard in a mad love of colour and harmony of tones, this is far less true of the remarkable little landscapes he has done in oils, specially those done with the knife. There is better understanding of the plastic significance of the subject, 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



Kashmiri women picking twigs under walnut trees

8 | The Paily Star

The Paily Star

LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 11, 2021, ASHWIN 26, 1428 BS

A welcome move by UNHCR

Bhashan Char comes under the purview of UN assistance

TE 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

THAT 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 heavyhanded 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

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 actionsespecially 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

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



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.

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

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 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



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

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

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

A case for green transition in our apparel sector



world, business L 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

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

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

> Despite its negligible GHG emission, Bangladesh has to play its part and make efforts towards the green transition of its economy, including the readymade 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 mediumand 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 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 LEEDcertified 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.

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.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

Girls Deserve a Better Normal



¬HE 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

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



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

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

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

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

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 eighthgrader 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

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

Björn Andersson and George Laryea-Adjei

HEN 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

So she rolled up her sleeves and cofounded 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,

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.

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

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 egional 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

Lam 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 jab 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

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DOWN 1 Walked back and forth

42 Hold up

43 Longings

2 Had its premiere 3 Begin to burn 4 Tolkien tree herder 5 Shopping spot 6 Termite's kin

30 Mariners 33 Garb 35 Tiny 38"— pig's eye!" 39 Attempt

7 In agreement

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14 Recharging

19 Usher's place

20"What a pity"

26 Salad green

27 Tooth layer

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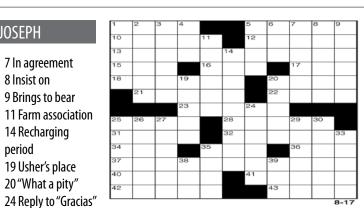
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WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.



VESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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BEETLE BAILEY WHY ARE





BABY BLUES

of them marrying early.

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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

Construction of an Iconic Commercial Complex of approximately 60,000 sqm acilities

L	Procuring Entity Name	IsDB-BISEW			Lead Firm of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) shall b
2	Invitation for	Procurement of Building Construction Works and Related Services			3.00 (three) million or equivalent BDT.
\neg	Invitation Ref. No.	IsDB-BISEW/Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-01			ii) The minimum amount of Free Fund (Liquid Ass Working Capital or Credit Facilities net of t
T	Publication Date	11 October 2021			Partner of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) shall be 2.00 (two) million or equivalent BDT.
1	NFORMATION		21	Other Berningments	<u> </u>
	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).	21	Other Requirements	The Tenderer must submit the following attested Document Information along with the Tender: i) Up-to-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate.
NE	DING INFORMATION	IcDR RISEW and Covernment of Rangladech			ii) Valid VAT Registration Certificate for National Tendere similar certificate if applicable for International Tender
RT	Source of Funds TICULAR INFORMATION	IsDB-BISEW and Government of Bangladesh			iii) Up-to-date Trade License for National Tenderers and certificate if applicable for International Tenderers.
	Project Name	Construction of IDB Bhaban-2 comprising of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business Center with common			iv) Up-to-date ABC Category Contractory and Supe License from Electricity Licensing Board, Governm
		3-Level Basement at Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.			Bangladesh for National Tenderers and similar docun applicable for International Tenderers. v) Tender Documents Purchasing Money Receipt (Original)
+	Tender Package No. Tender Package Name	Tender-IDB Bhaban-2/TP-01 Construction of Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose			vi) Other required eligibility criteria & conditions as mer in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of Tender Documents.
	Tender Fuellage Hume	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.	22	Brief Description of Works	Construction of approximately 60,000 sqm on 2 acres of la Multi-Storied Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Bu Center comprising Shore Piling, Earthwork, Lateral Steel E Work, RCC Work for Foundation and Substructur Retaining Wall, Basements, Water Proofing Work and RCC
)	Last Date of Receiving Application from Tenderers for Issuing Tender Documents	14 November 2021 up to 5:00 PM			Superstructure, Brick Work, Marble & Granite Works, Flo Wall Tiles, Façade Work (including Curtain Walls and
L.	Last Date of Issuing Tender Documents	01 December 2021			Glazing Works), Railing Works, Sanitary, Plumbing and Supply Works, Internal and External Electrification
:	Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	21 December 2021; Time 11:00 AM			Ground Facility Works including Landscape, Internal Deep Tube Well, Drainage System, and Boundary Wall, etc.
	Place of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4 th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.	23	Price of Tender Documents	USD 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) or equi
-	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	20 January 2022 up to 12:00 Noon 20 January 2022 at 12:30 PM in the office of the Chief Executive			Non-refundable Pay Order/Bank Draft in BDT equiva
•	Opening of Technical Offer of Tender (Date, Time & Place)	Officer, IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			USD 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) in favour of BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2) for lone local Tenderer/lo Partner.
	Name and Address of the Office	Intending Tenderers or their Authorized Representatives may remain present during opening of Technical Offer. Office of the Chief Executive Officer ISDR RISEW IDBR Rhaban			Transfer of Non-refundable USD 2,500 (two thousar hundred) through proper banking channel from the cof the lone foreign Tenderer.
	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.	24	Tender Security Amount	Lump Sum USD 0.70 (zero point seven-zero) mill equivalent amount of BDT in the form of Irrevocable
	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.			Guarantee from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in of IsDB-BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2) for lone local Tenderer. For foreign Tenderer, Tender Security in the form of Irrev Bank Guarantee for Lump Sum amount of USD 0.70
	RMATION FOR TENDERER	All contains and a contain for a significant and a the December			point seven-zero) million furnished by foreign Bank country of the lone foreign Tenderer/foreign Lead Fir
	Eligible Countries	All countries, except countries/organizations under the Boycott Regulations of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, the		Name Basingsting Address 0	Counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Banglades
	Eligibility of Tenderers for	League of Arab States and the African Union. Sale of Tender Documents	25	Name, Designation, Address & Contact details of Official	Neaz Khan Chief Executive Officer
	Purchasing 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		Inviting Tender	IsDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4 th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sha 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
		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	26	Submission of Application for Purchasing Tender Documents	Preferably hardcopy to the address as mentioned in No. 25 above or email at tender@isdb-bisew.org att scanned copy of all supporting documents.
		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	27	Any further changes /update / modifications regarding this Tender	Addendum.
		Venture Tenderer (if applicable) must have valid TIN/BIN, VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License, Up-to-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Incorporation Certificate	28	Special Instructions and Condition	Link for Tender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tend
		of the Company. (Attested Copies of Certificates and Documents to be submitted)		This Invitation for Tender can be other media.	seen in the Website of IsDB-BISEW, reputed National Daili
		 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 SI. 		Officer (with name & designa submitted along with the App	tested copies of all necessary documents by 1st Class Ga tion) which are to be notarized by Notary Public and Dication in case of the National Tenderers. For Interna
		No. 19 & 20. d) Procuring Entity will verify the above-mentioned criteria at		or equivalent authority which ar	be submitted shall be duly attested by the Chamber of Come to be notarized by Notary Public from those Countries.
		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		representative, preferably the of the senior management official	' is a local Firm, the foreign Lead Firm can duly authous owner/partner/managing partner/director/managing director of the local Firm, to collect Tender Documents on paym
		Prescribed Tender Documents on payment of non-refundable USD 2,500 (two thousand five hundred) or equivalent			rer, authorizing any individual below then the rank of
		amount in BDT. f) False statement found during verification will disqualify the Applicant from purchasing Tender Documents.			rm is not acceptable. Authorizing any local Firm/Bangla i individual is strictly prohibited. Any authorization not m squalify the Tenderer.
		g) Tenderers without having the above-mentioned Primary Eligibility need not apply to purchase the Tender Documents.		5. Tenderer has to collect hard of Tenderer may also collect the h	opy of Tender Documents from the office of the understand copy of Tender Documents, which is mandatory for
	Experience Criteria of Tenderer	a) General Experience of the Tenderer: Tenderer/Lead Firm of JV Tenderer (if applicable) must have		Tenderer, which is also manda	roject site by duly authorized personnel from the country atory. Meanwhile, Tenderer will be sent soft copy of Tot of price of the Tender Documents.
		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		6. All supporting documents must	is of price of the fender Documents. Is be in English or translated in English by a certified translanguages shall not be considered. Supporting document
		Procuring Entity will consider best of 3 (three) Projects. b) Specific Experience in the Last 10 (ten) Years:		duly certified and notarized shal	
		 i) The Tenderer/Lead Firm of a JV Tenderer (if applicable) must have successfully completed at least 1 (one) 12-Storied 		Technical Offer will be opened a 8. The Tender Validity period shall	t the same time on the next working day. be 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of submis:
		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		the Tender. 9. The Procuring Entity reserves the Tender proceedings without assistance.	e right to accept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or any
		Internal Electrification Works USD 13.0 (thirteen) million or equivalent BDT in a single contract.		10. Tenderer may form Joint Ventu	gning any reason(s) whatsoever. Ire (JV) to enhance their qualification. In case of applyi under a Joint Venture, a JV Agreement must be submitted
		 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) 		with application in strict adherer i. The Partners of the Joint V	nce to the following conditions: Venture must be limited to a maximum number of 2
		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.		bonafide civil construction Tender and to the compositi during execution and comple	Firms. Change of JV partners as originally proposed with ion or constitution shall not be allowed by the Procuring
		 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. 		Partner must possess signific JV Technical and Financial qu Representative of the Joint V	cant Shares. Experience of the Lead Firm shall be conside ualifications and the Lead Firm shall legally be recognized enture by the Procuring Entity.
7	Financial Criteria of Tenderer	a) Minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover: i) The Tenderer/Lead Firm of a JV Tenderer (if applicable)		criteria of the JV partner mu	in support of the Qualifications, Experience, Financial and st be submitted along with the Application.
		shall have a minimum Average Annual Civil Construction Turnover of USD 10.00 (ten) million or Equivalent BDT during the last 5 (five) years.		Tender Documents as mentioned	by the Applicant that the Eligibility of the Tenderer to purchated SI. No. 18, 19 & 20 above is only the criteria for sale of the for being responsive in the Technical Evaluation of the Tender.
- 1		ii) The JV Partner of a JV Tenderer (if Applicable) shall have a		Neaz Khan	

The minimum amount of Free Fund (Liquid Asset) or

Working Capital or Credit Facilities net of the Tenderer/

b) Liquid Asset:

- erer must submit the following attested Documents, ion along with the Tender:
 - -to-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate.
 - lid VAT Registration Certificate for National Tenderers and nilar certificate if applicable for International Tenderers.
 - -to-date Trade License for National Tenderers and similar rtificate if applicable for International Tenderers.
 - -to-date ABC Category Contractory and Supervisory cense from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of ngladesh for National Tenderers and similar documents if plicable for International Tenderers.
 - nder Documents Purchasing Money Receipt (Original).
 - her required eligibility criteria & conditions as mentioned the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of Tender Documents.
 - tion of approximately 60,000 sgm on 2 acres of land for ried Twin Tower and 4-Storied Multi-Purpose Business omprising Shore Piling, Earthwork, Lateral Steel Bracing CC Work for Foundation and Substructure-RCC Wall, Basements, Water Proofing Work and RCC Frame acture, Brick Work, Marble & Granite Works, Floor and s, Façade Work (including Curtain Walls and other Vorks), Railing Works, Sanitary, Plumbing and Water Works, Internal and External Electrification Works, Facility Works including Landscape, Internal Roads, e Well, Drainage System, and Boundary Wall, etc.
 - 600 (two thousand five hundred) or equivalent of BDT ndable Pay Order/Bank Draft in BDT equivalent to
 - 00 (two thousand five hundred) in favour of IsDB-IDB Bhaban-2) for lone local Tenderer/local JV of Non-refundable USD 2,500 (two thousand five
 - through proper banking channel from the country ne foreign Tenderer. ım USD 0.70 (zero point seven-zero) million or nt amount of BDT in the form of Irrevocable Bank
 - BISEW (IDB Bhaban-2) for lone local Tenderer. gn Tenderer, Tender Security in the form of Irrevocable arantee for Lump Sum amount of USD 0.70 (zero ven-zero) million furnished by foreign Bank of the of the lone foreign Tenderer/foreign Lead Firm and guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
- ecutive Officer EW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani angla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. ne No. +880 2 9183006; +880 2 9183001-2,
- www.isdb-bisew.org y hardcopy to the address as mentioned in Item bove or email at tender@isdb-bisew.org attaching copy of all supporting documents.
- available in the official Website of IsDB-BISEW lb-bisew.org) in the form of Corrigendum and ender information: www.isdb-bisew.org/tender
 - Website of IsDB-BISEW, reputed National Dailies and
 - es of all necessary documents by 1st Class Gazetted are to be notarized by Notary Public and to be case of the National Tenderers. For International shall be duly attested by the Chamber of Commerce rized by Notary Public from those Countries.
 - Firm, the foreign Lead Firm can duly authorize a er/managing partner/director/managing director or Firm, to collect Tender Documents on payment of
 - ing any individual below then the rank of senior cceptable. Authorizing any local Firm/Bangladeshi/ strictly prohibited. Any authorization not meeting
 - er Documents from the office of the undersigned. Tender Documents, which is mandatory for tender duly authorized personnel from the country of the while, Tenderer will be sent soft copy of Tender the Tender Documents.
 - sh or translated in English by a certified translator. hall not be considered. Supporting document(s) not
 - opening day of Tender, Tender will be received and me on the next working day.
 - hundred eighty) days from the date of submission of
 - cept or reject all Tenders or any Tender or annul the
 - ason(s) whatsoever. enhance their qualification. In case of applying for Venture, a JV Agreement must be submitted along
 - llowing conditions: st be limited to a maximum number of 2 (two) ge of JV partners as originally proposed with the tution shall not be allowed by the Procuring Entity
 - the major Shares in the Joint Venture and other Experience of the Lead Firm shall be considered as and the Lead Firm shall legally be recognized as the
 - ne Procuring Entity. the Qualifications, Experience, Financial and other ted along with the Application.
 - ant that the Eligibility of the Tenderer to purchase the 9 & 20 above is only the criteria for sale of the Tender onsive in the Technical Evaluation of the Tender.



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

Bengaluru vs Kolkata

World Cup Qualifiers Estonia vs Wales Live from 12:45 am (Tuesday)

SONY TEN 2 World Cup Qualifiers North Macedonia vs Germany Live from 12:45 am (Tuesday)

SONY SIX World Cup Qualifiers Netherlands vs Gibraltar Live from 12:45 am (Tuesday)



Italy midfielder Nicolo 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 Kerelaere scored a consolation goal for the Red Devils

Big bucks on offer in World T20

AGENCIES



late in the match.

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 Cricket 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

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 DRS to make debut T20 World Cup campaigns end at The Decision Review System (DRS) maximum of two reviews per that stage will automatically receive will make its debut in the men's innings.

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.

\$40,000 available to those who win tournament. each of the 12 games, amounting to

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

T20 World Cup to be held in Oman The same structure is in place and UAE starting this month, after for the first-round victories - with the ICC approved its usage in the

> introduction of DRS at the events," Allardice told a virtual upcoming showpiece in the playing news conference conditions for the event released by it earlier this week.

report, each team will get a

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 biosafety 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 ICC announced the taking decisions around future

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

'Bangladesh can reach the semifinals'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh captain Former 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

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 Mushfigur 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 Rivad 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 didn'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 200, 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.

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

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.

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 Hiyfaseyha 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

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 footballobsessed 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 three days in a week with only academies, whereas it was five to a 30-minute session per day. It

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 is like Heathrow Airport," said technically strong and performing Shareef, who is well known in Maldives football fraternity as

technical 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.

school "We've strong 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.

national team's players being game in each footballer.

well in Asia. We know the players' strength, technical abilities and mental conditions and always director act in line with suggestions of a informed that, ever since the 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.

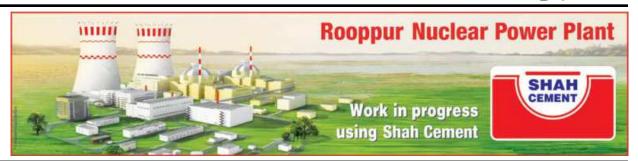
Replying to a query, Shareef said: "We may not produce good results at age-group competitions but those players become technically equipped before entering the national team. When players move up the ranks of U-21 or U-23 level, they have already worked on their limitations."

Shareef concluded informing that their coaches do not interfere with a player's position at grassroots and instead they only focus on instilling the "We're delighted to see our core principles of the beautiful

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Bangabandhu Tunnel is being built with BSRM



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.



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.

HABIBUR RAHMAN



'Father' of Pak atomic bomb Qadeer Khan dies

REUTERS, Karachi

Qadeer Abdul 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

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

"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

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 SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Mohib Ullah Murder

One of five arrestees 'confesses'

Our Correspondent, Cox's Bazar

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

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 SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



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

Mother, daughter gang-raped in Sherpur hailing from Polashikura village as them,

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

A 40-year-old man named Omar Ali,

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

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1







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)





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.

> РНОТО **RAJIB RAIHAN**