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Your Right to Know

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"The very people who put the Holy Quran in the temple are the ones who vandalise temples."
LGRD MINISTER TAZUL ISLAM



"It is important that all voices and all political parties are able to participate in the elections and are able to have confidence in the electoral process."
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH ROBERT CHATTERTON DICKSON



"The Taliban are eager to have dialogue with the world... China will host the third Neighbours of Afghanistan meeting at the appropriate time."
CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI

RAILWAY PROJECTS' FEASIBILITY STUDY

Starting point of cascading delay

Experts find it a common trend which extends project time, raises cost; BR officials blame lengthy process to hire consultants, changes in track alignments

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

More than two and a half years ago, Bangladesh Railway had launched a project to carry out a feasibility study and prepare a detailed design to set up tracks for connecting Sunamganj district headquarters with the railway network. The feasibility study project, worth Tk 9.88 crore, was supposed to be completed by October last year. As the work could not be done within that time, the deadline was extended till June this year. Despite the extension, only one fourth of the work ended as of August, forcing the authorities to revise the project once again. This time, the deadline was stretched till June next year.



guidelines on such matters. The BR has, in fact, revised five of its nine such ongoing projects more than once. Of the nine projects, one has been revised once while another was cancelled after the end of its deadline. Only two are progressing on schedule, show project documents. Talking on the matter, experts said the delay in completing the feasibility study projects is the reflection of BR's poor performance in implementing infrastructure and procurement projects. BR officials blamed the lengthy process of appointing consultants and frequent changes in alignment of the proposed tracks for the delay. Experts said such practices are way too common and those eat up time, causing escalation of project costs.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Rescue workers on a speedboat near a ferry that tipped over on its side and lies half submerged in the Padma. The accident happened yesterday morning at Paturia ferry terminal in Manikganj. No casualties were reported.



PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Ferry flips in Padma with 17 vehicles

At least 7 vehicles were still under water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ferry tipped onto its side in Manikganj yesterday and was lying half submerged in the Padma river more than 10 hours later, with at least seven vehicles still under water. No casualties were reported in the accident that occurred at the Paturia Ferry Terminal around 9:35am, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) Chairman Tajul Islam told The Daily Star in the evening.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN

Over 66 lakh to get second jab today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 66 lakh people, aged 25 and above, will receive their second dose of Covid-19 vaccines in a special countrywide campaign today, officials said yesterday. Those people received their first dose on September 28 in a special campaign marking the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "Only second dose vaccines will be given. And no one will be allowed to get the vaccine by changing the centre [from where the first dose was received]," Dr Shamsul Haque, a director of the DGHS said in an online briefing yesterday. There will be vaccinations centres up to union-level in rural areas while up to the ward-level in municipality areas. On the first day of this special campaign last month, a total of 6,625,123 people received their first jabs, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) data.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Short syllabus, fewer subjects

Number of candidates rises by 1.8 lakh; SSC exams begin Nov 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of examinees for this year's Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams has increased from last year. The government is all set to hold the exams from November 14, over nine months after the scheduled time due to the Covid-19 situation. Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said it would not be possible to hold next year's SSC exams in February. She said this year's HSC and SSC tests will be completed by December and students will need to attend classes and take preparation. "We will let students know when the exams will take place and what their syllabuses will be," she said while addressing a press conference on this year's SSC exams at her secretariat office.

NUMBER OF CANDIDATE RISES

Dipu Moni said a total of 22,27,113 students are expected to take part in this SSC exams. This year, the number of examinees has gone up by 1,79,334 from last year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

SSC, EQUIVALENT EXAMS

- 22,27,113 candidates
- Exams only on 3 optional subjects
- Results within 30 days
- All coaching centres to be closed from Nov 8 to 25

CLASH WITH POLICE

1,600 BNP men sued

Top leaders of JCD, Jubo Dal named

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have filed a case against some 1,600 BNP leaders and activists over Tuesday's clash between the party men and law enforcers in the capital's Nayapalton. Of the accused, 97 were named in the case, including 50 arrestees, said Salahuddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station. Sub-Inspector Asaduzzaman Masum of the police station filed the case yesterday. Among the accused are top leaders of Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, Swachhasebak Dal, and BNP Dhaka city and thana units. They include Jubo Dal President Saiful Islam Nirob, General Secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Chhatra Dal President Fazlur Rahman Khokon and General Secretary Iqbal Hosen Shyamol. The case was lodged on charges of assaulting police, obstructing cops from carrying out duties and holding a rally illegally, said the OC.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Myanmar doing little to stop drugs smuggling

Dhaka seeks Delhi's support, proposes tripartite summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yaba and crystal meth, popularly known as "ice", have still been pouring into the country from Myanmar, despite several bilateral talks and assurances. Narcotics officials in Bangladesh think that the Myanmar government was not checking the drug influx into Bangladesh from their country. If it was helpful and taking actions, such a menace would not have been raging in Bangladesh. Amid such a situation, Bangladesh made a proposal to India to hold a tripartite meeting with Myanmar to put diplomatic pressure on its government to curb drug trade in the region. "India's Narcotics Control Bureau agreed to proceed with our request. They told us to send a proposal," Abdus Sabur Mandol, director general of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), told a press briefing yesterday after the seventh DG-level talks between the two agencies on narcotics control between Bangladesh and India, on a virtual platform. At the sixth DG-level meeting in October 2019, they had a similar discussion. "If the Myanmar government was helpful and taking actions, such a huge quantity of yaba would not come into Bangladesh," the DG said, adding that he does not know whether Myanmar is patronising it. He said that waterways are being increasingly used for smuggling drugs into the country and in many cases, Myanmar's yaba consignments are being smuggled through Indian routes. "It's not a problem only for Bangladesh, rather it's a regional one," Mandol said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

World set for 2.7C rise in temperature

UN warns ahead of COP26 conference as climate commitments fall far short

REUTERS, London

Current commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions put the planet on track for an average 2.7 degrees Celsius temperature rise this century, a United Nations report said on Tuesday, in another stark warning ahead of crunch climate talks. Governments will be in the spotlight at the COP26 conference next week to meet a deadline of this year to commit to more ambitious cut pledges, in what could be the last chance to put the world on track to limiting warming to below 2C above pre-industrial levels and ideally to 1.5C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). As extreme weather events from wildfires to floods have hit countries around the world, a UN report in August warned that global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions could breach 1.5C in the next two decades.



England opener Jason Roy shapes up to play a switch-hit during his 61-run knock against Bangladesh in their T20 World Cup fixture at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Roy's knock helped England to an eight-wicket victory.

PHOTO: AFP

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Tigers surrender meekly to England

NAMIBIA BEAT SCOTLAND BY FOUR WICKETS

The African side chase down 110 with five balls to spare

FOR MORE SEE PAGE 10

MAZHAR UDDIN from Abu Dhabi

Bangladesh's six-run defeat against Scotland in the opening game of the qualifying stage came as a shock while the defeat to Sri Lanka in first the Super 12 game was perhaps a result of lack of execution and poor fielding. But the defeat against England in their second Super 12 game yesterday revealed the real picture of Bangladesh cricket, with the Tigers' limitation in skill and preparation in the shortest format of the game brutally exposed by a top-quality opponent. The stark difference between the top-ranked side and a rather weak and demoralised one was evident as England thrashed Bangladesh by nine wickets at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The enthusiasm and excitement among the huge number of Bangladeshi fans, who had travelled from various parts of the UAE ignoring the hot and humid weather in hope of a better show from the Tigers, had to return again empty-handed. Bangladesh never looked like putting up a fight since skipper Mahmudullah Riyad elected to bat first and all that they managed in the end was 124 for nine in 20 overs. The strong English batting line-up had no problem whatsoever in chasing down the target as it seemed they were practising for their next big game against Australia in a couple of days. Opener Jason Roy smacked the Bangladesh bowlers all

BANGLADESH UPDATE

306
New cases in 24hrs

15,68,563
Total cases

27,841
Deaths

15,32,468
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

4,983,862
Deaths

245,563,601
Total cases

PROTECTING INTERESTS OF THE NATION

Remain ready for highest sacrifice

PM calls upon members of army

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the members of the Bangladesh Army to remain always ready to make the highest sacrifice to protect the interests of the nation.

"I believe the Bangladesh Army will remain ever ready for the highest sacrifice in any national need alongside protecting the country's sovereignty," she said.

The prime minister was addressing a function of the Bangladesh Army virtually from her official residence the Gono Bhavan.

The function was arranged to give the national standard (national flag) to 10 units and hand over the new flag to Mujib Regiment and Rowshan Ara Regiment of the Bangladesh Army at the Artillery Centre and School at Halishahar Cantonment in Chattogram.

Hasina said the Bangladesh Army has been playing a significant role in building the nation with their works in facing natural and manmade disasters as well as socio-economic and infrastructural development alongside protecting the country's sovereignty.

She mentioned their important role in the development of the country's communication system and facing the Covid-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the prime minister, Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiqul Islam handed over the national standards to the respective commanders of 4, 12 and 20 field regiments artillery, 5 Air Defence Artillery, Riverine Engineering Battalion, 1 and 2 Signal Battalions, Army Aviation group and NCO Academy as well as reintroduced the flag to the commanders of the Mujib Regiment and Rowshan Ara Regiment Artillery.



A fire fighter inspects the damage caused by a fire that broke out at this residence in the capital's Gulshan yesterday. Four people, including a couple and their two-year-old son, suffered burn injuries. The fire broke out around 11:30am and eight firefighting units doused it around 1:15pm.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Myanmar doing little

FROM PAGE 1

He expressed alarm over the country's recent exposure to the relatively "new" drug crystal meth.

Like yaba, crystal meth, a highly addictive drug, is mostly smuggled into the country from Myanmar through the border in Teknaf and Ukhia upazilas of Cox's Bazar, and Naikongchhari upazila of Bandarban, officials said.

Rohingya refugees are often the ones carrying the rather expensive drug across the border, while transport workers also bring them to the city, they said, adding that the volumes being smuggled appears to have increased.

At the fourth bilateral meeting between the DNC of Bangladesh and Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) of Myanmar on December 15 last year, Myanmar's officials claimed that they had seized around 16.8 tonnes of ice from January 1 to November 30, 2020.

The DNC also handed over a list of 49 clandestine labs in Myanmar to CCDAC, hoping that they would take stern actions to stop yaba smuggling into Bangladesh.

However, yaba menace was not stopped. This year till August, law enforcers and DNC officials seized 2,34,02,115 yaba pills so far. In 2020, the quantity was 3,63,81,017, according to DNC's annual report.

The CCDAC earlier also claimed that ice and other forms of amphetamines were mainly smuggled in from China

and Thailand to Myanmar.

This year alone, officers recovered more than 15kg of ice in several raids in Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar.

The smuggling of codeine-based syrup Phensedyl, through various border points with India, is another headache for Bangladesh.

The DNC DG said they have already taken necessary steps to combat the menace. In the previous DG-level meeting, they had given a list of Phensedyl factories and warehouses along the Indian border to its Indian counterpart. Yesterday, the NCB officials told them that they have demolished those.

Despite that, 3,50,241 bottles of Phensedyl were seized in 2021 till August. In 2020, it was 10,07,977 bottles.

"Phensedyl trafficking has decreased this year. May be these are now being smuggled from other factories and warehouses apart from those on the list we had given," he said.

In the DG-level talks yesterday, the DNC chief said that they emphasised on the smuggling routes into Bangladesh and shared details with Indian counterparts.

India assured the DNC of taking actions based on the information, he added.

"We have also informed that hemp and heroin are being smuggled into Bangladesh from India, who assured us of taking actions."

Ferry flips in Padma

FROM PAGE 1

People on the ferry were able to get off, he said.

Three vehicles out of 17 trucks and covered vans were also able to disembark the ferry as it slowly tipped over, Zillar Rahman, deputy general manager of BIWTC, said. Seven of the vehicles were recovered later, leaving seven still submerged, he added.

"Rescue operations are still going on with a salvage vessel," he told The Daily Star around 8:00pm.

Replying to a question, he said, "Rescuing vehicles from under water is a very tough job and it is not possible to say when we will be able to complete the rescue operation."

He also said there were some motorcycles on the ferry which sank when the accident happened.

While anchoring at Pontoon 5 of the terminal, the ferry named Shah Amanat tipped over at 9:35am with at least 14 vehicles still on it.

BIWTC chairman Tajul Islam, who visited the spot, said they could not ascertain the reason behind the incident.

A high-powered committee has been formed to unearth the reason. They will start work today and upon completion of the probe, they will know the cause of the accident, he added.

"However, the master of the ferry told us that he could sense the ferry was tilting towards one side while in mid river. Then he sped up and took the ferry to the bank," the chairman told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We thank him for his quick

thinking," the chairman said.

However, some passengers claimed the vessel sank as water entered it due to a leak in the hull.

The ferry was built in 1980 and its lifetime expired a year ago. It has since been running on temporary permission of 45 days, said the chairman.

The ferry had started for Paturia from Daulatdia terminal of Rajbari district around 9:00 am with 17 trucks, a covered van and four motorcycles on board.

PROBE COMMITTEE FORMED
The shipping ministry yesterday formed a seven-member committee to investigate the incident.

Led by Sultan Abdul Hamid, additional secretary (development) of the ministry, the committee was asked to submit its report within seven days, reads a shipping ministry circular.

The committee was also asked to look into the other recent ferry accidents and make recommendations to improve ferry services.

The other members of the committee are: Rafiqul Islam Talukder, director (ICT) of BIWIA, Captain Sayeed Ahmed, nautical surveyor and examiner of shipping department; deputy director of local government, Manikganj; Zobiair Ibn Awal, associate professor of naval architecture and marine engineering department of Buet; Jasim Uddin, superintendent of River Police of Faridpur region and Rashedul Islam, director (technical) of BIWTC.

[Our Manikganj correspondent contributed to this report]

Over 66 lakh to get second jab

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, around 13 additional people also received jabs on the next day. The DGHS official, however, said nothing about them in yesterday's briefing.

Meanwhile, the DGHS said seven people died from Covid-19 in the 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

With this, the total number of deaths from the disease reached 27,841.

At least 306 new infections were recorded during the period, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 1,568,563.

The new cases were detected after testing 19,951 individuals' regimens. Yesterday's positivity rate was 1.53 percent and the overall positivity rate was 15.31 percent.

In those 24 hours, at least 288 Covid-19 patients recovered taking the total number of recoveries to 1,532,468.

Of the seven reported dead, three were men and four women.

One of them aged between 21 and 30 years old, two between 41 and 50, one between 51 and 60 years, one between 61 and 70 and two between 71 and 80,

added the release.

Meanwhile, the United States will supply more 35 lakh jabs of Pfizer vaccines to Bangladesh, read a press release issued by the US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

With this, the total number of vaccines supply to Bangladesh as a gift from the USA will reach 1.5 crore.

"The United States is pleased to donate another 3.5 million Pfizer vaccines to Bangladesh. We have also provided specialized training to hundreds of Bangladeshi health workers to help them safely administer these Pfizer vaccines among children ages 12 and up," said Ambassador Earl Miller.

This delivery of Pfizer vaccines is part of the broader commitment by the United States to lead the global Covid-19 response by providing one billion doses of Pfizer vaccine around the world -- free of charge -- through 2022, according to the press release.

With this vaccine delivery, the total US government Covid-19 assistance to Bangladesh exceeds \$121 million.

Starting point of cascading delay

FROM PAGE 1

The project implementing agency has to carry out the feasibility study for assessing the practicality of any proposed project worth above Tk 25 crore. Any delay in completing the feasibility study leads to delay in starting the main project, the officials and experts pointed out.

At present, the BR is implementing 37 projects worth Tk 1,41,941.59 crore, most of which is loan money from various countries, including India, China, Japan, and South Korea, as well as from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Of the 37 projects, 26 have been revised at least once. Four of those projects were taken at least a decade ago, but those are yet to be completed.

Eminent transport expert Prof Shamul Hoque said additional time can be given for a study project but there should be "logical grounds" for it. It is because poor feasibility study hampers project implementation, leading to time extensions and cost escalations.

"Sadly, time extensions and cost escalations are too frequent despite the feasibility studies, which is not acceptable at all," said the teacher of Buet's civil engineering department.

"The consultants who conduct the studies must be held accountable for the delays so that such delays can be prevented."

THE NINE PROJECTS

The nine projects were taken to do feasibility studies for different potential projects. Six of them are funded by the government. The three others are technical assistant projects and funded by the ADB.

One of them is the Sunamganj project. Although its feasibility study project was launched in January 2019, the project announcement had come long before that.

In 2012, the then railways minister Suranjit Sengupta announced that rail tracks would be expanded from Chhatak to Sunamganj Sadar upazila. Then, BR carried out a preliminary study.

The move, however, did not see any progress till January 2019, when the planning ministry approved the study project and October 2020 was fixed as its deadline.

However, it was July last year when the BR was able to sign a contract with a China-Bangladesh joint venture firm to do the work. And, the project witnessed only 25 percent progress till August this year.

In the meantime, Planning Minister MA Mannan and other lawmakers from Sunamganj locked into a feud over the alignment of the proposed rail lines.

Recently, the project deadline has been extended till June next year.

Project Director Mohiuddin Arif blamed complexities over fixing the alignment and the Covid-19 pandemic for the delay.

In September 2018, the BR took up a project for conducting a feasibility study and preparing a detailed design for building tracks between Chuadanga's Darshana via the district's Damurhuda and Mujibnagar in Meherpur at a cost of Tk 12.48 crore. The deadline was August 2020.

In March last year, BR signed a contract with an Australia-Bangladesh joint venture company for the job and the project witnessed only 54.42 percent progress till August this year.

Project Director Ariful Islam said they were done with the feasibility study and were now busy with the detailed design. "We are hopeful about completing the work within December this year as per the revised deadline," he told The Daily Star on October 2.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic caused some delays.

In 2018, the BR took up another project, titled "Study for Important Projects of West Zone" for carrying out feasibility studies and fixing alignments of three rail tracks and a rail bridge.

The deadline of the Tk 9.92-crore project was June 2019. The work witnessed 52.5 percent progress till August this year and the deadline was extended till June next year, meaning the project would take four and a half years, instead of one and a half, to end.

Again, in March 2018, a project was taken for carrying out feasibility studies for building a rail line connecting the under-construction Bay Terminal in Chattogram's Patenga with the railway network.

The deadline of the Tk 4.53-crore project was March 2019. It saw 25.5 percent progress till August this year. So, the deadline was revised till June 2022.

Technical Assistance for Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Rail Project Preparatory Facility, a project involving Tk 121.64 crore and funded by the ADB, was supposed to be implemented between July 2015 and June 2019.

After several revisions, a new deadline was set for June 2022.

Also, the deadline for "Technical Assistance for Rolling Stock Operations Improvement of BR" was extended by one year and the new deadline is June 2022.

Besides, a feasibility study project for construction of a new rail line from Gobra of Gopalganj to Pirojpur and Bagerhat was cancelled midway after the deadline -- January this year -- expired.

The two other feasibility projects are

progressing on schedule. One of them is for the construction of a carriage maintenance workshop in Rajbari while the other is for "Technical Assistance for Railway Connectivity Improvement Preparatory Facility", according to project documents and officials.

PROJECT GUIDELINE VIOLATION
Initiation of a development project, its approval and revision are done as per a 2016 government guideline.

As per Section 4(1) of the guideline, feasibility study is a must for any investment project with an estimated cost of more than Tk 25 crore. According to Section 4(3), a feasibility study project, if necessary, can be revised only once.

Section 4(4) says the deadline of a feasibility project can be extended for six months if the revision is required on a "logical ground".

The minister or state minister concerned can approve a revision proposal if the cost involving the revision is below 15 percent of the total project costs. If it is more than 15 percent of the total cost, the permission has to be taken from the planning minister.

Regarding technical assistance projects, Section 7(1) of the guideline says such projects cannot be revised more than twice.

But deadlines of four BR feasibility projects were extended by more than six months. The deadline of a technical assistance project was extended by three years while another by one year, shows documents.

WHAT BR OFFICIALS SAY

Asked, BR officials said the lengthy process of appointing consultants for feasibility studies was a major reason behind the delays. In at least two cases, it took up to one and a half years to appoint consultants after projects were approved.

Changes in alignment of proposed rail lines following "pressure or persuasion" from local influential people is another major reason, they said.

BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder said reasons behind the delays vary from project to project, but changes in the alignment and the Covid-19 situation are the main reasons.

Asked about the violation of the project guidelines, he said, "How can we go against the guidelines? I think you are wrong."

A BR official, however, said they take "special permission" from the Planning Commission in some cases as the planning ministry guidelines does not mention what should be done when any project is revised more than once.

GULSHAN FLAT FIRE

Two-year-old, parents among four burnt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four, including a couple and their two-year-old son, sustained burn injuries of varying severity after a fire broke out at their flat in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

The injured were undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

The injured are: DM Rafiqul Islam Razib, 35, manager of the corporate branch of a private bank, his wife Maliha Anha Urmi, 32, their son Masrur Md Rafin, and house help Moni, 35.

Urmi sustained 70 percent burns, Rafin and Moni 30 percent burns while Razib sustained two percent burns.

The condition of all except Razib were critical, said Aiyub Hossain, resident surgeon of the institute.

The fire originated around 11:30am on the first floor, where the family lives. Eight firefighting units doused it around 1:15pm, said Lima Khanam, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters.

The cause of the fire could not be determined immediately, she said.

Razib sustained only minor injuries as he was in another room when the fire broke out. He was getting ready to go to office, Imdadul Haque, Razib's uncle, told reporters at the hospital.

1,600 BNP men sued

FROM PAGE 1

At least a dozen people were injured in the clash in front of the BNP's Nayapalton headquarters on Tuesday following a rally protesting communal violence in the country.

The BNP and the police blamed each other for the clash.

Meanwhile, the BNP yesterday alleged that the government was implicating its leaders and activists in cases filed over recent communal violence with a view to clear the field ahead of the next parliamentary election.

Speaking at a press conference at the party headquarters, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir claimed that at least 60 cases have so far been filed against 15,096 people over the recent communal violence and police have arrested 146 BNP men.

"After any incident, the government always files cases against BNP leaders and activists with a view to repress and eliminate its opponents. In the same way, BNP leaders and activists are now being framed in cases filed over the attacks on Puja mandaps."

Fakhrul said the main purpose of the government is to harass BNP leaders and activists and keep them away from the coming polls. "We think Awami League has been doing this all the time to survive in politics."

The BNP leader said the media, however, have exposed that ruling party men were involved in those incidents. "They [AL] are dividing the nation and destroying communal harmony only to achieve their political objectives."

Fakhrul said none of his party leaders and activists, including Barkatullah Bulu, was involved in communal violence.

He alleged that a false case was filed against Bulu over the communal violence in Noakhali by taking the deposition of a Jubo Dal activist under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure forcefully through torture.

"We think it is an attempt to harass BNP leaders and activists, including Barkatullah Bulu and Kamakhya Chandra Das."

Fakhrul demanded immediate withdrawal of all cases filed against BNP men and fair and impartial investigations into those incidents.

He claimed that the government is now filing cases against BNP men as it wants to dispose those of as soon as possible.

"The home ministry has already enlisted the cases that need to be settled quickly so that our leaders cannot join elections."

Tigers surrender

FROM PAGE 1

over the park and top-scored with 61 off 38 balls while David Malan remained unbeaten on 28 as England reached the target with eight wickets in hand and 35 balls to spare.

Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed picked up the wicket of Roy before Shoriful Islam got rid of Jos Buttler for a run-a ball 18 as Bangladesh couldn't put up a fight against a high-flying English side.

It was yet another sorry batting display from the Tigers earlier, with Liton Das failing to utilise another opportunity scoring just nine runs and in-form Naim Sheikh departing for five.

Bangladesh were dealt a further blow when Shakib Al Hasan was dismissed by Chris Woakes, thanks to a magnificent catch by Adil Rashid at short fine-leg as the Tigers managed to score 27 for three in the Powerplay.

Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim's 37 runs in the fourth-wicket stand could only avert the humiliation of being bundled out for a small total as there was no significant performance with the bat from the Tigers.

Mushfiqur was trapped leg-before while trying a reverse-sweep off the bowling of part-time leg-spinner Liam Livingstone after a team-high of 29.

Mahmudullah, after trying too hard with the bat, saw his confused calling result in the run-out of Afif Hossain at a crucial time.

Interestingly Nasum struck the first six of the innings and made it a couple against Rashid in the 19th over, eventually remaining unbeaten on 19 off nine balls.

If it continues in the same manner, things may not change much for Bangladesh in the next three Super 12 matches as Russell Domingo and his charges need serious work to change their fortune in the mega event.

Short syllabus, fewer subjects

FROM PAGE 1

Of the candidates, 11.98 lakh are girls and 10.28 lakh are boys.

Students from 29,035 schools, madrasas and technical institutions will take the tests at 3,679 centres across the country.

Around 18,00,998 students will participate in SSC exams under nine general education boards and the number has risen by 1.65 lakh from last year.

Of them, 9.20 lakh are girls and 8.80 lakh are boys, according to the education ministry data.

Asked about the reasons behind the increase in the number of candidate, Prof Nehal Ahmed, Dhaka Education Board chairman and chief of Inter-education Board Coordination Sub-committee, said as the schools did not need to hold any test exams for this year's candidates, their number has gone up.

This year's SSC exams will start on November 14 and end on November 23. Usually, the tests take place in February.

SHORT SYLLABUS

This year, the examinees will have to take the tests only in three optional subjects with a shortened syllabus and the exams will carry fewer marks.

They will not have to sit for tests in compulsory subjects like Bangla, English and Mathematics.

The results of the three optional subjects and the Grade Point Average

(GPA) of the students' previous public examinations, including Junior School Certificate (JSC) tests, will be taken into consideration while preparing the final results.

The exam duration for each paper will be one and a half hours and there will be no break between MCQ and written tests. Covid-19 health guidelines will be strictly followed during the exams, the authorities said.

Dipu Moni said the results will be published within 30 days after the exams. All coaching centres will remain closed from November 8-25 and exams for science, humanities and business groups will be held on separate days.

MARKS DISTRIBUTION

Science group students will need to take 32 marks exams in each paper, while applicants from humanities and business groups will need to take 45 marks test, said officials of education boards.

"We have uploaded the marks distribution of SSC exams in websites of boards and all educational institutions have already been notified of it," said Prof Nehal.

Students will get one hour and 15 minutes to answer written questions and 15 minutes to answer multiple choice questions (MCQ).

This time, the examinees would get more options to answer the questions, shows the marks distribution.

According to the directive of

boards on marks distribution, science students will need to write down answers to two out of eight questions and the total marks will be 20. They will need to answer 12 out of 25 MCQ questions and total marks will be 12.

Humanities and business students will need to write down answers to three out of 11 questions and marks will be 30. While they will need to answer 15 out of 30 MCQ questions and marks will be 15.

"Although the exams will be held with fewer marks, we would convert the results to 100 marks," said Prof Nehal.

At the press conference, Dipu Moni said there will be an initiative so that SSC candidates might get preference to Covid vaccination when the campaign for children aged 12-17 begins.

She also said if anyone is infected with Covid-19 and hospitalised and they want to take part in the exams, the education board concerned can make the decision in this regard.

Dengue claims another life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one more dengue patient died while 184 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 4,857 were diagnosed during the current month out of a total 22,870 infected. Of the total infected, 3,290 are from outside Dhaka.

According to the DGHS, 89 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year.

Twelve people died in July while 34 have died in August, 23 in September and 15 in October so far, DGHS data shows.

Among the deaths, 82 have died in Dhaka division.

Though most of the patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 864 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 153 outside the capital, DGHS data shows.



This city can make you pay for the most minute of choices. On its way from Square Hospital at Panthapath to Adabar, this CNG auto-rickshaw -- carrying a child and his parent -- took a detour through the Bijay Sarani yesterday noon. But as luck would have it, they ended up spending an hour and 20 minutes on this avenue alone. Stuck under the grueling mid-day sun amid a concoction of smog, sound, and smell, time suddenly ground to a tedious halt for this young boy.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'They want to cash in on religion'

Says LGRD minister about those behind communal attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pointing out that a quarter is trying to create anarchy in the country by abusing religion, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD) Minister Tazul Islam yesterday said people who had put the Quran at the temple were also involved in vandalism.

"They want to do politics by cashing in on religion," he said, calling upon people of all religions to unite and prevent fanaticism.

The LGRD minister said this at a workshop on "Implementation of Delta Plan-2100 and Involving Local Government Organisations in Developing Climate Tolerant City", organised by DeltaCAP and the Netherlands' IHE Delft at the capital's Spectra Convention Center, reads a press release.

"Be it for short or long term, all projects must be sustainable and productive. They should be completed within the timeline," he said. "We take many projects, but deadlines are extended regularly, which is very unfortunate."

To avail modern facilities, people move to cities. It is not possible to prevent rural people from going to towns, unless the facilities are ensured in villages, he observed.

The Delta Plan-2100 is a long-term strategy adopted for management of flood, river erosion and waste among other reasons, he said.

Among others, Head of Mission of Netherlands Anne van Leeuwen and LGRD Senior Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed were present at the event.

Create more opportunities for migrant workers

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad urges UAE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad has called upon his counterpart in the United Arab Emirates to create more employment opportunities for Bangladeshi migrant workers in the gulf country.

Ahmad made the call during a bilateral meeting with the UAE's Human Resources and Emiratization Minister Dr Abdulrahman Abdulmannan Al Awar in Dubai on Tuesday, says a press release of the expatriates' welfare ministry issued yesterday.

Ahmad is on a visit to the UAE to attend the ongoing minister-level Abu Dhabi Dialogue, says the release.

During the meeting with Al Awar, Ahmad also urged the gulf country to set a wage structure for Bangladeshi migrant workers currently working there.

He also thanked the UAE for opening up its labour market for Bangladeshi workers.

In his response, the UAE human resources minister assured that his country will consider the gradual launching of employment visas in all the emirates of the gulf country.

At the meeting, both ministers also discussed various issues of mutual interest.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Mohammed Abu Zafar, among others, attended the meeting, added the press release.

'Climate change a child rights issue'

Children urge policymakers to raise their demand at COP26 conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Bring our appeal with you when you travel to Glasgow. Climate change is a child rights issue."

This was the message from a group of children and teenagers who yesterday called on the country's leaders to address climate change as a child rights issue ahead of the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, UK, on October 31.

The group handed the "Children's Climate Declaration" over to the Minister of Environment, Forest



PHOTO: COURTESY

DEMANDS

- Protect children from impacts of climate change
- Reduce greenhouse emissions
- Increase investment in education
- Involve children in policies that impact their future

and Climate Change Shahab Uddin, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and other parliamentarians during an event organised by Unicef Bangladesh at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The declaration was prepared in November 2020 at the first-ever children's climate summit, where over one million children participated through Unicef-supported Generation Parliament initiative by Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF).

It urges the government to protect children against the impacts of climate change, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, increase investments in education, training and a green economy, and consult children on policies that impact their future.

"Climate change threatens our

survival, well-being and future. We are asking you to stand up for the children of this country and do more to fight it," said 13-year-old Kaba Kaushin Arisha, while handing over the declaration on behalf of the children who participated in the 2020 Summit.

"Unless we act now and act together, we will reach a point of no return. This is our call to you, and to COP26."

"It is important to include children's views on climate change in the global agenda of COP26, and Bangladesh can lead the global platform in this matter," said Shirin

Sharmin Chaudhury.

"We will continue working with and for children -- for a better, safer, greener Bangladesh," said Shahab Uddin, who is part of official delegation from Bangladesh to COP26.

Sheldon Yet, Unicef representative to Bangladesh, said, "Children in Bangladesh are not responsible for the climate crisis, yet they face its most severe impacts, paying the highest price."

"Unicef stands with children in Bangladesh in their appeal for intergenerational solidarity."

Unicef's first-ever Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI 2021) found that children in Bangladesh are among the world's most vulnerable to climate change, ranking Bangladesh as the 15th country in terms of its risks and impacts on children.

The index estimates that one in three children in Bangladesh, nearly 20 million children, bear the brunt of climate change every day.

Awami League MP Shamsul Haque Tuku, also president of parliamentary caucus on child rights, presided over the event, while AL MPs Aroma Dutta and Tanvir Shakil Joy spoke, among others.

JS session to begin Nov 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 15th session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad is set to begin from November 14, a press release of the parliament secretariat said yesterday.

"The session will be held from 4pm at the Parliament Complex at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar," it said.

Exercising the power bestowed upon him as per the Clause (1) of Article 72 (1) of the constitution, President Abdul Hamid convened the session.

Before commencing house proceedings on the day, the Parliamentary Business Advisory Committee is likely to hold a meeting, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, to fix the duration and agendas of the session.

The 14th session of the parliament was prorogued on September 16, starting on September 1 with a total of seven sittings following all necessary health guidelines amid the pandemic.

Trees fall victim to SCC development work



In the alleys of Shahjalal Upashahar area, logs were seen lying on the ground, amid the ongoing development work. But chopping down so many trees was not enough, as the city corporation marked many more trees to fell, left. These photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Despite widespread criticism of cutting trees in the name of development, at least 200 trees were chopped down in the last couple of weeks at Sylhet city's Shahjalal Upashahar area.

The trees were cut down in different alleys, with no clearance from the Forest Department, and the local councillor sold them without holding an auction, which is against the law.

On top of that, Sylhet City Corporation asked for clearance from the Forest Department to cut more than a hundred trees standing tall by the area's main road for development work.

On October 20, environmentalists saved a decade-old tree from being chopped down by the corporation in Chowhatta area. Last month, authorities cut down at least five old trees on the city's Electric Supply Road.

On May 18, The Daily Star published a story titled "The green cost of development", which delved into tree felling by the corporation.

- At least 200 trees felled in last few weeks
- City corporation wants to cut 100 more
- SCC says they cut 332 trees for dev work in last 5yrs; data shows 873 were felled

In the report, SCC said it felled 332 trees in the last five years, while data showed that at least 873 trees were cut down. Even now, the corporation keeps on felling trees.

Visiting Shahjalal Upashahar recently, this correspondent found remains of the felled trees lying on the ground, while most of the timber had been carried away.

Development work, which includes expanding streets and constructing proper drainage, is ongoing there.

Aftab Chowdhury, a member of the district committee for forest, environment and climate change, said, "Many locals and I planted these trees back in the 90s. Each of them is worth around Tk 1 lakh."

"This is a clear violation of all existing laws," said Aftab, who had received a "Prime Minister

Award" for planting trees. "I have filed a written complaint regarding this unlawful act to the ministry concerned and Forest Department."

In conversation, Saleh Ahmed Shalim, the local councillor, admitted to felling the trees without clearance and selling them without holding an auction.

"The actual number of felled trees will be between 20 and 25, and their price is not as much as the locals are claiming. If I waited for permission, the development project would have gotten delayed," he said, adding that he donated the money he got from selling the trees to local mosques.

He, however, could not say how much money was donated.

According to forest rules, any authority or individual must apply to the Divisional Forest Office for clearance to fell trees, and the office only gives permission if it is absolutely necessary.

The city corporation on October 17 lodged an application to the forest office, seeking permission to cut down trees on the main road,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Bring culprits to book

Demands Swachip on recent communal attacks

DU CORRESPONDENT

Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip), a pro-Awami League doctors' organisation, at a rally yesterday urged citizens to be united against communal forces and defeat them.

They alleged BNP instigated the recent communal attacks in the country.

The rally was organised by Swachip, under the banner of "Sampriti Somabesh", against communal violence in front of the capital's National Museum.

Swachip Secretary General Prof Mohammad Abdul Aziz; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice Chancellor Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed; the university's proctor Habibur Rahman; Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Director Prof Md Khalilur Rahman; AL Organising Secretary Ahmed Hossain; and Sirajganj-2 lawmaker Habibe Millat also spoke at the rally.

Protests called off at Rabindra univ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Agitating students of Rabindra University have withdrawn their protests following assurance from the administration.

According to Md Rawshan Alam, proctor in charge of the university, students withdrew their protest on Tuesday night after a fruitful meeting with the vice-chancellor and other members of the administration.

Nazmul Hasan Papan, spokesperson for the students, said the VC assured them of fulfilling their logical demands.

"Legal action will be taken against the accused teacher, the VC promised during the meeting," said Papan.

The protest was withdrawn based on the authority's assurance that the issue will be solved within

20 working days (November 28), he added.

Papan also mentioned that as the academic future of the students has been at risk due to the closure of classes and exams during the agitation, most of them now want to return to classes.

"We have requested the administration to resume academic procedures," he said.

"Academic activities were suspended considering the situation, but classes and exams will resume at the soonest following decision from the syndicate," said the proctor in charge.

The students had been continuing protests, demanding removal of Farhana Yeasmin, former chairperson of cultural heritage and Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Before the humdrum of the day begins, some have always preferred to read their newspaper from neighbourhood walls on their way to work. Whether it is an issue of affordability or the comfort of familiarity it brings, this age-old practice is yet to fade from many areas in the capital, even in the times of near-unbridled digital access. This photo was taken from Purana Paltan area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

IUB holds 21st, 22nd convocation



CITY DESK

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) held its 21st and 22nd convocation virtually on October 26, said a press release.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni presided over the convocation ceremony and conferred the degrees on behalf of the president and the chancellor of the university.

In her speech, the education minister stressed the importance of developing soft skills for our future graduates. She stated, "Our graduates need to enhance problem-solving skills, leadership skills and most importantly, communication skills so they can truly express themselves."

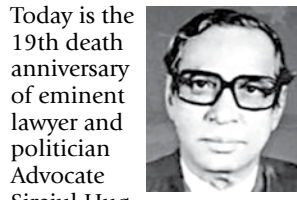
Syed Manzur Elahi, founding chairman of Apex Footwear Ltd and former adviser to a caretaker government, delivered the speech as convocation speaker.

Prof Kazi Shahidullah, chairman, University Grants Commission, was present as special guest.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Sirajul Huq's death anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 19th death anniversary of eminent lawyer and politician Advocate Sirajul Huq.

Sirajul Huq, father of Law Minister Anisul Huq, was one of the close aides of Bangabandhu. Sirajul Huq, who was known as Bachchu Miah Saheb, was one of the organisers of the Liberation War, former presidium member of Awami League, two-time lawmaker and the principal prosecutor of the Bangabandhu killing case and four national leaders killing case.

Local Awami League and its front organisations of Kasba and Akhaura in Brahmanbaria have organised milad and doa mahfil and discussions today on the occasion.



Many trees beside Dhaka-Aricha highway are withering, because workers of Dhamrai municipality have been dumping waste beside them for a long time. Despite such a degree of environmental pollution, authorities are yet to stop this practice. The photos were taken recently from Cosmos area.



TORTURE OVER DOWRY Arrest warrant against police sergeant in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against a police sergeant in a case filed over torturing his pregnant wife for dowry.

Chattogram Women and Child Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 Judge Begum Ferdous Ara passed the order after receiving the probe report against the sergeant submitted by Mirsharai Upazila Women Affairs officer, said the complainant's lawyer Sheikh Md Al Jaded.

"The women affair's officer found the proof of torture after probing the case," said Jaded.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Protests called off

FROM PAGE 3 studies department, who was accused of incident in the university yesterday. UGC probe body will submit their report after talking to the students, teachers and officials," Md Rawshan Alam added.

incident in the university yesterday. UGC probe body will submit their report after talking to the students, teachers and officials," Md Rawshan Alam added.

Doa Mahfil for Rubaiyat Hossain

CITY DESK

A Doa Mahfil will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at Taqwa Jame Mosque in Dhanmondi for late Rubaiyat Hossain, advocate of Supreme Court and daughter of late Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and Soheli Sabiha Begum.

She passed away on October 21 at United Hospital from post Covid complications. She was buried at Banani Graveyard. She is survived by her mother, husband Rahman Murshed, sons Dr Rahman Daiyan and Rahman Ayman, brothers Ehsan Khan and Ershad Hossain and sister Rahnuma Chowdhury.

Squash training camp in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A week-long training camp on squash started at Chittagong Club on Tuesday. Primarily around six students of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (BKSP) are participating in the training, sponsored by SA Group of Industries.

Around 24 players have already registered, said organisers at a press conference. Chattogram-based SA Group Managing Director Sazzad Arefin Alam, Squash Rackets Federation General Secretary Brig Gen (ret'd) GM Quamrul Islam, and Chittagong Club Ltd Member in Charge (Squash) Imteaz Habib Rony were present. Muskan Drinking Water, a concern of SA Group, is partner of the programme.

Trees fall

FROM PAGE 3 and the Forest Department started inspecting prior to giving permission.

Toufiqul Islam, divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said, "When our team reached the area to inspect, we found that many trees were chopped down in the alleys, and no clearance was even sought for that."

However, he said the department will not be able to take legal action, as there is no relevant law in place.

Nur Azizur Rahman, chief engineer of SCC, said, "It is disappointing to see that trees are being felled without permission. We support environmental laws, but some people in the corporation are violating them, so we will take action."

Ashraf Kabir, coordinator of environmental organisation Bhoomishontan Bangladesh, said, "No one will take action against anyone, as this whole practice is run by a syndicate, which financially benefits from development projects. We strongly condemn such acts."

বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকায় পুট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় পুরাতন আই-ব্লকে ৪ কাঠা, এম-ব্লকে ১৩ কাঠা +, এন-ব্লকে ১০ কাঠা, পি-ব্লকে ৮ কাঠার পুট বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগ: মোবাইল: ০১৭১ ৫৪৬৬৮৭, ই-মেইল: mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com

KEPCO Plant Service and Engineering Co. Ltd.
(Operator of 335MW Meghnath Dual Fuel Combined Cycle Power Plant)
Char-Ramzan Sunaulah, Meghnath, Sonargaon, Narayanganj

Invitation for International Tender

1	Name of Procuring Entity	KEPCO Plant Service and Engineering Co. Limited
2	Invitation for Tender	Major Overhauling/ Major Inspection of Steam Turbine and its Generator (156.25MVA) with the Supply of All Necessary Spare Parts & Consumable Items on Turnkey Basis.
3	Tender Ref No. & Date:	KEPCO/T-02/RFQ/ST-STG/Tender, Date: 27-October-2021
4	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (two envelope tendering procedure)
5	Tender Closing Date & Time	18-November-2021 at 12:00PM
6	Name and Address where to submit the Tender	Plant Manager, KEPCO Plant Service and Engineering Co. Ltd. Summit Centre, Level-5, 18 Karwan Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka
7	Details of Items/ RFQ	Please download RFQ/ Work Scope from the URL: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X5fSRuDKDF78dvxmt2wXAxN6uLVE5_t2usp-sharing
8	Special Instruction /T&C:	If you are interested please contact at below E-mail or Phone Number: E-mail: etender.pqn@gmail.com, Phone: +88 01672-427741

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তারিখ: ২৭/১০/২০২১

পাথর বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষ এর বঙ্গবন্ধু সেতু পশ্চিম স্ট্যাকহাউজ ও সার্ভিস সড়ক পার্শ্ব রক্ষিত বিভিন্ন শ্রেণী ও আকারের অপ্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্য মিশ্রিত পাথর "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক, অগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে মুখ বন্ধ খাম (Sealed Quotation) এর মাধ্যমে সিডিউলে বর্ণিত মালামালের বিপরীতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অগ্রহী ক্রেতাপণ উল্লিখিত পাথর "স্বাস্থ্য বিধি মেনে" অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সকাল ১০.০০ হইতে বেলা ০২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বাসেক, বঙ্গবন্ধু সেতু সাইট অফিস, ভূয়াপুর, টাঙ্গাইল এর সহায়তায় পরিদর্শন করা যাবে। দরপত্রের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্যাদি নিম্নরূপঃ

ক্রঃ নং	পাথরের বিবরণ	বর্তমানে যে স্থানে রক্ষিত আছে
১	বিভিন্ন শ্রেণী ও আকারের অপ্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্য মিশ্রিত পাথর	বাসেক, বঙ্গবন্ধু সেতু পশ্চিম স্ট্যাকহাউজ ও সার্ভিস সড়ক, সিরাজগঞ্জ
১	বিজ্ঞপ্তির শিরোনাম	পাথর বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি
২	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির কার্যালয়	(১) অর্থ ও হিসাব শাখা, ৭ম তলা, বাসেক, সেতু ভবন, বনানী, ঢাকা। (২) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বাসেক, বঙ্গবন্ধু সেতু সাইট অফিস, ভূয়াপুর, টাঙ্গাইল।
৩	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর কার্যালয়	(১) অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষ, সেতু ভবন, (৩য় তলা), বনানী, ঢাকা।
৪	দরপত্রের সিডিউল মূল্য	৩০০০.০০ (তিন হাজার) টাকা, যা অক্ষরতযোগ্য।
৫	জামানতের হার	দরপত্রের সাথে উক্ত দরের ১৫% পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (MICR) এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষ, সেতু ভবন, বনানী, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে প্রদান করতে হবে (ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি গ্রহণযোগ্য নহে)।
৬	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকিবে।
৭	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	প্রথম রাউন্ড আগামী ১৪/১১/২০২১ দ্বিতীয় রাউন্ড আগামী ২৫/১১/২০২১ তৃতীয় রাউন্ড আগামী ০৮/১২/২০২১
৮	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	প্রথম রাউন্ড ১৫/১১/২০২১ দ্বিতীয় রাউন্ড আগামী ২৮/১১/২০২১ তৃতীয় রাউন্ড আগামী ০৯/১২/২০২১
৯	দরপত্র বাজ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রথম রাউন্ড ১৫/১১/২০২১ দ্বিতীয় রাউন্ড ২৮/১১/২০২১ তৃতীয় রাউন্ড ০৯/১২/২০২১

এম.এ. মামুন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (ভবন)
৫৫০৪০৩০

জিডি-১৯৩৩

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০৬.০২.৬৭৫৮.১৬৫.১১.১৬৫.২১.১৩৭৩
২৭ অক্টোবর ২০২১

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এ নিম্নলিখিত পদে চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনবল (প্রজেক্টের অধীনে) নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স (২৬/১০/২০২১ পর্যন্ত)	বেতন
১।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল)	০১ (এক)	১। স্বানামধ্যম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (সিভিল)। ২। কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের প্রকৌশল কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন। ৩। এমএস ওয়ার্ড, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট, এক্সেল ও অটোক্যাড সহ কম্পিউটার চালানায় দক্ষ হতে হবে।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
২।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)	০১ (এক)	১। স্বানামধ্যম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)। ২। কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের প্রকৌশল কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন। ৩। এমএস ওয়ার্ড, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট, এক্সেল ও অটোক্যাড সহ কম্পিউটার চালানায় দক্ষ হতে হবে।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৩।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০২ (দুই)	১। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন মেকানিক্যাল/ নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল। ২। জাহাজ ডিজাইন ও এন্টিমেট সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যে কমপক্ষে ০২ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৪।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০১ (এক)	১। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন মেকানিক্যাল/ নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল। ২। প্র্যানিং ও প্রজেক্ট সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যে কমপক্ষে ০২ বছর বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৫।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০২ (দুই)	১। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন মেকানিক্যাল/ নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার। ২। ট্রেডিং/ সোলিসিং সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যে কমপক্ষে ০২ বছর বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৬।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০১ (এক)	১। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন মেকানিক্যাল/ নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার। ২। কোয়ালিটি কন্ট্রোল সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যে কমপক্ষে ০২ বছর বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৭।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০১ (এক)	১। ডিপ্লোমা ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পাশ (মেকানিক্যাল/ নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল/ সমমানের ন্যূনতম ০৪ বছরের কোর্স)। ২। প্র্যানিং ও প্রজেক্ট সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যে কমপক্ষে ০৩ বছর বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৮।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০২ (দুই)	১। ডিপ্লোমা ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পাশ (মেকানিক্যাল/ নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এ ন্যূনতম ০৪ বছরের কোর্স)। ২। কোয়ালিটি কন্ট্রোল সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যে কমপক্ষে ০৩ বছর বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৯।	সহকারী প্রজেক্ট অফিসার (মেকানিক্যাল/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল/ টেক্সটাইল)	০১ (এক)	১। সরকারি অনুমোদিত পলিটেকনিক ইন্সটিটিউট হতে মেকানিক্যাল/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল/ টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এ ডিপ্লোমা ডিগ্রীপাঠী। ২। কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের প্রকৌশল কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন। ৩। এমএস ওয়ার্ড, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট, এক্সেল ও অটোক্যাড সহ কম্পিউটার চালানায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। ৪। সরকারি অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
১০।	নিম্নমান করণিক কম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (এলডিভিসি)	০১ (এক)	১। কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় কমপক্ষে ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। এমএস ওয়ার্ড, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট, এক্সেল সহ কম্পিউটার চালানায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। ৩। Typing Speed বাংলায় প্রতি মিনিটে কমপক্ষে ৩০টি শব্দ ও ইংরেজিতে কমপক্ষে ৩৫টি শব্দ হতে হবে। ৪। E-GP, উন্মুক্ত টেন্ডার সংক্রান্ত কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।	অনূর্ব ৩০ বছর। বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিথিলযোগ্য।	সরকারি বেতন স্কেলের সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী

২। মূল বেতনের সাথে অন্যান্য ভাতাদি প্রতিষ্ঠানের বেতন কাঠামো, নিয়োগ নীতিমালা ও প্রচলিত নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদান করা হবে।
৩। অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের মেডিক্যাল সেকশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মেডিক্যাল ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট সংগ্ৰহজনক প্রতিপাদিত হলে চাকরিতে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে।
৪। অগ্রহী প্রার্থীদেরকে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, সদ্য তোলা ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌরসভা/ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/ কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব/ জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র, জন্মনিবন্ধন (যদি থাকে), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত সকল সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক বরাবর আবেদনপত্র "ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, সোনাকান্দা, বঙ্গবন্ধু নারায়ণগঞ্জ" এর ঠিকানায় আগামী ১৪ নভেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
৫। প্রার্থীদেরকে বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।
৬। লিখিত/ মৌখিক/ ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ ডিএ দেওয়া হবে না।
৭। পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/ বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে।
৮। অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
৯। উল্লিখিত পদসমূহে সকল জেলায় প্রার্থীপণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
১০। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

GD- 1930

পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক



Part of a bridge on Korail-Hilora-Adabari road in Mohera Union Parishad under Mirzapur upazila of Tangail has recently collapsed, snapping road communication in the area and causing suffering to the commuters. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Villagers suffer as part of bridge collapse snaps road link

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Part of a bridge on Korail-Hilora-Adabari road in Mohera Union Parishad under Mirzapur upazila of Tangail has collapsed, snapping road communication in the area and causing suffering to the villagers.

A part of the guide wall and approach road of the bridge collapsed on October 14, locals said.

As a result, the movement of vehicles has remained suspended on the bridge. People, however, were moving on the damaged bridge on foot taking risks.

Several villagers said that the bridge was constructed on Korail-Hilora-Adabari road about two decades ago for draining out floodwater from the crop fields in the area during the monsoon.

However, floodwater washed away the soil beneath the bridge during the last year's prolonged flood, they said.

The villagers also said that several thousand people of 10 to 12 local villages and several hundred vehicles ply on the bridge every day.

They alleged that although the bridge turned risky a year ago, the authorities concerned did not take any step to protect the bridge. Finally, it collapsed and the commuters have been suffering to go to their destinations, they said.

Jahangir Hossain of Adabari village said the authorities should have taken steps

to protect the bridge after it turned risky during the last year's flood. Now, people are suffering due to their negligence, he said.

Badsa Miah, chairman of Mohera Union Parishad, said he had raised the issue at the meeting of the Upazila Parishad stating that the bridge would collapse if necessary steps were not taken immediately.

"However, it was not repaired despite assurance from the authorities to do so," he said. "Now we demand that a new bridge be constructed in place of the damaged bridge as soon as possible," he added.

Meanwhile, the engineers of the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) have already visited the damaged bridge couple of days ago and set up cautionary signboards at the two ends to avoid accidents.

Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan, a sub-assistant engineer of LGED in Mirzapur, said they had sent a proposal to the higher authorities to reform the bridge after it turned risky during the last year's flood. "After the collapse of a part of the bridge several days ago, we have sent another proposal in this regard," he said.

Mir Enayet Hossain Montu, chairman of Mirzapur Upazila Parishad, said that a new bridge would be constructed in place of the damaged bridge as early as possible.

BWDB starts work to curb erosion of Tentulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) on October 24 launched a Tk 712-crore project, undertaken by the water resources ministry, to protect houses and agricultural land from erosion of the Tentulia River in Patuakhali's Baufal upazila and Barisal's Bakerganj upazila.

Under the project, concrete blocks and sand-filled geotextile bags will be dumped along 7.5 kilometres of the river's banks to protect areas between Dhulia Launch Ghat in Patuakhali's Baufal upazila and Durgapasha in Barisal's Bakerganj upazila, according to BWDB in Patuakhali.



As part of a project launched recently to contain erosion of the Tentulia river, workers of BWDB dump geotextile bags in Dhulia area under Patuakhali's Baufal upazila. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Executive Engineer Ariful Islam of Patuakhali BWDB said funded entirely by the government, the work of the project is scheduled to be completed by June 2023.

The project also includes 2.83 kilometres of excavation work in the Tentulia river, from where 3.69 lakh cubic metres of silt will be removed, he added.

In Baufal upazila alone, more than 2,000 houses, mosques, educational institutions and over ten thousand acres of croplands were eroded away by the Tentulia river over the last five years.

Near about 300 families who turned destitute after losing their property to the river have been living in inhumane conditions in shanties alongside rural roads.

Several hundred important establishments and houses including the residence of language hero and former lawmaker Syed Ashraf Hossain and the building of NK Government Primary School are now threatened by the river's erosion.

Affected locals had long been urging the authorities to take effective measures for protection from the erosion and they had formed a three-kilometre-long human chain in the area to press home their demand. They also formed a human chain front of the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

The project includes 2.83 kilometres of excavation work in the Tentulia river.



Bandura Fish Landing Station, one of the largest wholesale fish market in Pirojpur, started to buzz with buyers and sellers, after the 22-day ban on Hilsa fishing ended on Monday midnight. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Bullet hit body found near border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered the bullet-hit body of a Bangladeshi national from near the Indian border in Paba upazila yesterday.

The victim, Mohammad Mithun Ali, 25, a day labourer, was son of Manjur Hossain of Char Majhardiar area, said Lt Col Sabbir Ahmed, director at Rajshahi BGB Battalion.

Being informed by locals, a BGB team went to the spot and found the body lying around 200 to 400 metres away from the border fences around 6:00am, he said, adding, the body was handed over to the local police station.

Arrest warrant

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According to the case statement, Iqbal Hossain who is attached to the Khulna District Police had physically tortured his wife Dr Sonia Samad to hand over her residential building and private car to him.

Sonia, on July 25, filed the case with Joraganj Police Station in Chattogram city. Earlier in the day, following a phone call to 999, a team of Joraganj police rescued her from her house.

IUB holds

FROM PAGE 4

A Matin Chowdhury, chairman of Board of Trustees (BoT); Nilufer Zafarullah, chairman of Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT); Tanweer Hasan, PhD, vice chancellor, also delivered their speeches.

Pro-VC Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan presented a vote of thanks. A total of 2,143 students of Bachelor and Master's degree programmes and disciplines received degrees under five different schools. In the 21st convocation, out of 1,279 graduates, 899 were from the undergraduate programmes while 380 received degrees in Master's programmes. In the 22nd convocation, out of 864 graduates, 670 were from undergraduate programmes, while 194 students received degrees in Master's programmes.

Scientists

FROM PAGE 12

computer to construct coherent signals."

It is the first time intelligence has been "taught" to a robot. The signals passed on environmental information as it moved through the maze.

If the AI (artificial intelligence) vehicle veered in the wrong direction or faced the wrong way, neurons in the cell culture were disturbed by an electric impulse. In a series of trials it was continually fed the signals until it accomplished the task.

India red flags West Bengal's

FROM PAGE 12

health facilities. Despite the warning by doctors, the Bengal government relaxed Covid-19 curbs during the Durga Puja celebrations and there were major violations of Covid protocols as lakhs of people, many of them without masks, had swarmed thousands of puja pandals without maintaining social distancing.

The spurt in Covid cases in West Bengal comes at a time when the number of Delta AY.4.2 variant of coronavirus, which is spreading rapidly in some countries, has gone up to seven in the southern state of Karnataka.

The new mutant, which has already caused concerns in the UK and Russia, was earlier detected in seven persons in the central Indian city of Indore and around 26 cases in the western state of Maharashtra. Bhushan asked the West Bengal authorities to expedite the administering of the second dose of the Covid-19 vaccines and ensure strict adherence to safety protocols.

PANDEMIC 'FAR FROM FINISHED': WHO The Covid-19 crisis is far from over, said the World Health Organisation's emergency committee on Tuesday as it called for research into the next generation of vaccines for the long-term control of the pandemic, reports AFP.

The 19-member committee meets every three months to discuss the pandemic and make recommendations.

"While progress has been made through increased uptake of Covid-19 vaccines and therapeutics, analysis of the present situation and forecasting models indicate that the pandemic is far from finished," the WHO said in a statement on Friday's four-hour virtual meeting.

The committee called for further research into reusable masks and respirators, and next-generation vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics "for long-term control of the pandemic".

UK envoy for

FROM PAGE 12

matter for the Bangladeshi people to decide."

There is plenty of expertise and talent in Bangladesh to make the election a Bangladesh-driven process reflecting the values of the country's constitution, he said.

The UK would continue to support plural and democratic practice in Bangladesh and support as far as possible, as external friends, a fair electoral process with protections for voters and participants in the next general election.

The British government would watch with interest as preparations were made for institutions like the Election Commission and looked forward to that sending a strong commitment to a free and fair process for the elections when they were next held.

Dickson also expressed concern over the recent violence against minority communities in Bangladesh. "The UK stood with those who supported tolerance

The use of masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and improving the ventilation of indoor spaces remain key to reducing transmission of SARS CoV-2, the statement said.

The committee said the protracted pandemic was making humanitarian emergencies, mass migration and other crises more complex. States should therefore revise their preparedness and response plans.

It raised concerns about Africa's challenges in tackling the pandemic, including access to vaccines, tests and treatments as well as collecting and analysing data to monitor the pandemic's evolution.

The committee first declared on January 30 last year that the virus was a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) -- the highest alarm the WHO can sound.

Urgent UN

FROM PAGE 12

90,000 REFUGEE CHILDREN MAY DIE IN 3 WEEKS

About 90,000 Bangladeshi children who suffered from acute malnutrition in refugee camps might die in the next three weeks unless a crash programme to treat them was taken up immediately, said the Director General of Indian Health Service JB Srivastav. He further informed that of the four million children in the refugee camps, about 200,000 suffered from malnutrition.

ON THE WAR FRONT In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini today engaged Pakistani troops in Goalhat and killed two soldiers.

Freedom fighters today captured two razzakars with rifles in Araihaazar area of Dhaka district.

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

and religious freedom."

When asked what steps were taken after Labour MP Tulip Siddiq's car was vandalised, Dickson said he cannot comment on the investigation process but said it has been taken very seriously.

Regarding the allegations of propaganda and conspiracy against Bangladesh from the UK, Dickson said the court has jurisdiction over returning a criminal. However, in the UK, if someone spreads hatred, the UK government takes action.

He called for the implementation of the cross-border higher education rule of Bangladesh that was enacted in 2016 but is yet to be deployed.

As many as nine British universities are keen to come to Bangladesh to cooperate in the areas of higher education, he said, adding that the UK also wants to get highly qualified people from Bangladesh through a point-based migration system.

DCAB President Pantho Rahaman and its General Secretary AKM Moinuddin also spoke at the event.

Confusion

FROM PAGE 12

implemented the flyover project while private company Max Infrastructure constructed it.

The report also recommended imposing a ban on operation of heavy vehicles through the ramp, installed at Bahaddarhat point after the inauguration of the flyover.

Contacted, CDA Executive Engineer Md Mahfuzur Rahman said, "We will open the flyover within two days."

He added, "We will set up height barriers within two days to control operation of heavy vehicles through its ramp," he added.

Earlier on Monday night, authorities concerned suspended vehicular movement over and under the flyover after what looked like cracks appeared on two pillars of the flyover.

It created confusion and panic among people and different media outlets ran reports on this issue.

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) mayor along with top officials and engineers of CCC and CDA have visited the spot since Tuesday morning.

The CCC is the authority responsible for maintenance of the flyover.

On Tuesday evening, the CDA ruled out the report of cracks and said it was a rumour.

The construction of a one-kilometre flyover connecting Shulakbahar and Bahaddarhat began in 2010.

Thirteen people were killed when a girder of the under-construction flyover collapsed in Chandgaon in November 2012.

On October 12, 2013, the prime minister inaugurated the flyover.

In 2017, the 326m long and 6.7m wide ramp was attached to the flyover to facilitate traffic movement.

On Tuesday, CCC's Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam, while visiting the spot with the mayor, told journalists that the ramp was not included in the main design.

Md Mahfuzur Rahman, executive engineer (project) of CDA, said, "The ramp was constructed to eliminate traffic jam in Bahaddarhat area which was not in the main design of the project."

Lawyer Baset Majumder

FROM PAGE 12

League, according to a notification issued by the SC administration.

All trial proceedings of the lower courts in Dhaka were also suspended, Advocate Abdul Baten, president of Dhaka Bar Association, told The Daily Star.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim and Attorney General AM Amin Uddin in separate condolence messages expressed profound shock at the death of Majumder.

They prayed for the eternal peace of his departed soul and expressed deep sympathy for his bereaved family.

With love, respect and grief, people from all walks of life bade farewell to senior counsel Abdul Baset Majumder yesterday evening.

Earlier in the day, his coffin was kept at the National Eidgah Maidan near the Supreme Court premises where SC judges, lawyers, law officers, government high

officials, political leaders, professionals and Majumder's family members paid their last respects.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held there.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim, Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, State Minister for Civil Aviation Mahub Ali, judges of the Appellate and High Court Divisions, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Attorney General and SCBA president AM Amin Uddin and its Secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, among others, joined the janaza and paid tribute by placing wreaths.

Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder was born on January 1, 1938, at Laksham, Cumilla, and was enlisted as a lawyer on September 28, 1966 and was enlisted to begin practice at the High Court on February 8, 1967.

A lawyer for 56 years, he was admitted to the hospital on September 30 and then put on life support on October 24, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin told this correspondent.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH Nilphamari Govt. College Nilphamari Nilphamari

Memo No. NGC/CEDP/01/ 2021-22

Date: 27/10/2021

e-Tender Notice 01/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Package	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	622852	Procurement of Exam Chair for Hall room of Nilphamari Govt. College, Nilphamari	15 November 2021 2.00PM	15 November 2021 2.30PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches upto 14 November 2021 4:00PM.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Signature)
27.10.2021
Professor Md. Didarul Islam
Principal & IDGM
Nilphamari Govt. College, Nilphamari.
Mobile: 01733390703
e-Mail: principalnlgc@yahoo.com

GD-1928

Quote of the day



It is of course correct that COP26 is both unbelievably important for our planet but also very difficult, and it's in the balance. And every day as I talk to international leaders, we hear further commitments. ... Whether it is enough, I'm afraid it is too early to say.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON

African Union suspends Sudan

World Bank freezes aid; security forces launch sweeping arrests of anti-coup protesters

AFP, Khartoum

Sudanese security forces launched sweeping arrests of anti-coup protesters yesterday, tightening the regime's grip while the international community ramped up punitive measures.

The World Bank froze aid and the African Union suspended the East African country over this week's military takeover.

Armed forces deployed in large numbers after overnight protests saw clashes in the capital Khartoum, when officers fired tear gas and arrested several leading pro-democracy activists, including from Sudan's largest political party, the Umma Party.

"Police forces have removed all the barricades since Wednesday [yesterday] morning and arrested all the people who stood near them," said Hady Bashir, a protester, after AFP correspondents saw security forces clear rocks and tyres blocking major streets in Khartoum.

Beyond the capital, protesters have stood their ground to decry the country's latest military coup, setting up blockades in Port Sudan in the east, Wad Madani to the south, and Atbara to the north.

"Sporadic protests erupt every now



and then demanding the government's return," said Osama Ahmed, a witness from Wad Madani, about 186 kilometres (115 miles) south of Khartoum.

Since top General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan on Monday announced the dissolution of the government and declared a state of emergency, thousands of citizens have maintained protests, chanting "No to military rule".

Shops have remained closed following calls for a campaign of civil disobedience, and pro-democracy movements ratcheted up calls for

"million-strong protests" on Saturday. Yesterday, the AU called the military takeover in Sudan "unconstitutional" and suspended its membership within the continent wide bloc.

The World Bank later suspended aid to the East African country over the coup.

Analysts had warned that the putsch could put at risk much-needed international assistance unlocked under Hamdok's government to rescue Sudan's economy, battered by decades of US sanctions and by mismanagement.

MORE NEWS

Brazil senators back criminal charges against Bolsonaro

A Brazilian Senate commission approved a damning report on Tuesday that recommends criminal charges be brought against President Jair Bolsonaro, including crimes against humanity, for his Covid policies. Seven of the panel's 11 senators voted to endorse the text -- presented last week after a six-month investigation into Brazil's pandemic response -- which also calls for the indictment of 77 other people, including several ministers and three of Bolsonaro's children. The nearly 1,200-page report also urges Brazil's Supreme Court to suspend the far-right leader's access to his accounts on social media platforms YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for falsely alleging that Covid-19 vaccines were linked to AIDS.

US criticizes Israel on settlements

The United States on Tuesday voiced concern about Israel's decision to build settlements in the West Bank, saying it will "strongly oppose" such expansion on occupied Palestinian land. The criticism by President Joe Biden's administration was some of the strongest in years on Israel. The housing and construction ministry under Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday announced tenders for 1,355 homes in the West Bank, which has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Asean announces new strategic pact with Australia

Australia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) agreed at a summit yesterday to establish a "comprehensive strategic partnership", a sign of Canberra's ambition to play a bigger role in the region. The has become a strategic battleground between the United States and China. While concrete strategic objectives of the partnership were not immediately announced, Prime Minister Scott Morrison promised Australia would "back it with substance". After the announcement, Australia said it would invest \$154 million in projects in Southeast Asia on health and energy security, counter-terrorism, fighting and transnational crime, plus hundreds of scholarships.

Less than 1pc fund assets Paris climate goal compliant

Only 158 investment funds with just 0.5 percent of assets under management are currently in line with Paris accord goals of limiting the increase in global temperatures, according to a study released yesterday. The non-profit Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) analysed over 16,500 investment funds with \$27 trillion in assets, but found that over 60 percent of assets are aligned with global warming of 2.75 degrees Celsius.

India's SC orders probe

AFP, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court yesterday ordered an independent investigation into the alleged government use of Pegasus spyware on journalists, opposition politicians and activists with the chief justice calling the implications "Orwellian".

India was one of 45 countries where tens of thousands of numbers were targeted by the spyware made by Israeli firm NSO, according to leaked documents released this year.

More than 1,000 of the numbers were Indian and the Supreme Court order followed petitions from individuals that the chief justice NV Ramana said "raise an Orwellian concern".

He added that the court had accepted the petitions because "there has been no

specific denial" by the government. The state cannot be given a "free pass every time the spectre of national security is raised," the court said as it named cyber and computer science experts to look into the allegations.

Phones infected with Pegasus software, which is normally only sold to governments or security agencies, give the user access to the target's messages and photos, and track their location.

Critics say that in India it is part of a growing assault on dissent and civil liberties under the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Indian phone numbers put under surveillance reportedly included senior opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, journalists, activists, government critics and former judges.

PEGASUS SNOOPING



Supporters of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange protest outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Britain, yesterday. The United States sought to assure a British court yesterday that Assange would not be held at a federal supermax prison, as it appealed a decision to block his extradition on the grounds he is a serious suicide threat.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Public Works Department Office of the Executive Engineer PWD E/M Division-6, Dhaka Memo No. 5-16/961 Date: 27/10/2021 e-Tender Notice (OTM) This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal: Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Brief description of work, Tender ID, Publishing date & time, Closing date & time. Includes details for BPATC training capacity and HP Submersible Pump Motor.

Taiwan has no right to join UN: China

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday insisted that Taiwan had no right to join the United Nations, after the United States ratcheted up tensions with a call for the democratic island to have greater involvement in the world body.

In a statement marking 50 years since the UN General Assembly voted to seat Beijing and boot out Taipei, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday he regretted that Taiwan had been increasingly excluded on the world stage.

"As the international community faces an unprecedented number of complex and global issues, it is critical for all stakeholders to help address these problems. This includes the 24 million people who live in Taiwan," Blinken said.

"Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UN system is not a political issue, but a pragmatic one," he said.

China considers Taiwan -- where nationalist forces fled in 1949 after losing a civil war to the communists -- to be a province awaiting reunification, by force if necessary.

It responded to Blinken's statement with strident, albeit familiar, statements emphasising its position that Taiwan's government had no place on the global diplomatic stage.

"Taiwan has no right to join the United Nations," Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office in Beijing, told reporters.

"The United Nations is an international governmental organisation composed of sovereign states... Taiwan is a part of China."

The United States has long called for Taiwan's inclusion in UN activities.

CLASHES WITH ISLAMISTS IN PAKISTAN

Several cops killed

REUTERS, Lahore

Thousands of demonstrators from a banned Pakistani Islamist group clashed with police yesterday, killing and wounding several people from both sides, police and the group said.

The clash broke out at a rally of the banned Tehrik-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) on a highway in Sheikhpura district just outside the eastern city of Lahore, a spokesman for the Punjab police said yesterday.

"TLP activists used SMG, AK 47 and pistols to target police officials as the result of which several officials were martyred," the spokesman said.

The group said several of their activists had also been killed or wounded.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said the government will use force to block the Islamists from entering the capital Islamabad.

He told reporters that three police officers had been killed and 70 wounded, adding that the government had deployed paramilitary troops in the Pakistani province of Punjab to help manage the situation.

Thousands of TLP activists have blocked Pakistan's busiest highway since Friday, demanding the release of their leader and the expulsion of France's ambassador over the publication by a satirical magazine of cartoons considered deeply insulting by Muslims.

This is the group's third countrywide protest campaign since 2017 over the controversial cartoons.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer Harirampur, Manikganj Web: www.lged.gov.bd Memo No. 46.02.5628.14.157.19-612 Date: 27/10/2021 e-Tender Notice Number 01/2021-22 (Corrigendum) e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following tender ID & Schemes (OSTEM). Table with 3 columns: Tender ID No., Name of Scheme & Package No., Description of tender/proposal documents.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Barishal Tel: 0431-64185, Fax: 0431-61844 E-mail: eebar@rhd.gov.bd Memo No. 35.01.0651.403.07.19.19.3009 Date: 24/10/2021

Invitation for e-Tender

Table with 2 columns: Invitation Reference No., Tender ID, Name of works, Qualification criteria, Tender document price, Tender security amount, Tender document last selling, Last date and time for tender security submission, Tender closing date and time, Tender opening date and time.

01. This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted.

02. To submit e-Tender, visit to the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Masud Mahmud Sumon ID No. 602165 Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Barishal

GD-1924

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জেল সুপারের কার্যালয় কুড়িগ্রাম জেলা কারাগার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্র নং-৫৮.০৪.৪৯০০.১৬৭.০৪.০০২.২১-৩২৮৬ তারিখ: ১০ কার্তিক ১৪২৮ ২৬ অক্টোবর ২০২১ Table with 2 columns: Sl. No., Description of work, Tender ID, Publishing date & time, Closing date & time. Includes details for BPATC training capacity and HP Submersible Pump Motor.

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Tanveer Anoy explores gender roles and identities in his second novel, 'Duradhay'

MAISHA SYEDA

Tanveer Anoy's second novel, *Duradhay* (Anandam, 2021), felt like a punch to my stomach; a wake up call, to be more precise. It seemed to offer wiper-blade clarity to all those subtle and stark nuances of uncertainty that a privileged, millennial, cisgender person like me could have a derivative idea of but would never truly fathom of their gravity. Am I qualified to write this review? I don't know if that is for me to decide, but I feel the need to mention that I could only have written this article from the perspective of an ally, as someone who wants to know, learn, and expand their understanding of people and society as a whole, without accommodating or unknowingly adhering to the lines that determine or discriminate.

The meaning of 'duradhay', the narrator-protagonist mentions, is something one cannot study or assess—it's the only word they have truly ever resonated with. Sixteen-year-old Tonim struggles with the reality of being born as a boy, in a family that struggles to understand why "he" dresses up like a girl and calls himself Tonima. The story opens with Tonim having attempted to take their own life, being rushed to the hospital, and being blushed by their financially struggling family for wasting money on hospital bills. Eventually, as school friends mock and abuse Tonim, and as parents demand an explanation for this "drama", Tonim reveals, through stream-of-consciousness monologues, that they feel more like a girl.

For us Bangla speakers, pronouns are figures of speech that we learn fleetingly in school; their application seldom goes beyond ticking a box on official documents and emails. Ironically, it is because Bangla has no distinctive gendered pronouns that I found it so overwhelming to explore, in limited words, the massive significance of Tonim having dual identities.

But Tonim's struggles throughout the book go beyond issues of gendered pronouns, and they are two-fold: the young protagonist deals with the characteristic troubles of adolescence, like being misunderstood by family, being bullied at school, and confronting innocent, often conflicting teenage emotions; on the other hand, their predicaments are more complex



COVER ILLUSTRATION: ANKUR SINHA, DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

and up against formidable foes: centuries of antiquated, unforgiving and conformist social norms. Tonim is sent to a militantly religious "rehab" to get "fixed", from which they are rescued only to be sexually abused by their saviour. Running away from these very visceral dangers, Tonim vacillates between remaining the "effeminate" boy that everyone demands they are, and embracing their alter, Tonima, in whose persona they feel more at home.

Truth be told, the beautiful cover art was what first drew me to this book. Artist Ankur Sinha does an excellent job in portraying the rich and complex world of a discovering teenager—a person perched, ornamented with flowers and birds—seemingly all awaiting to be explored.

The story, too, works as an extension of this elaborate microcosm in representing the

protagonist's internal world. The author paces the succession of events leading up to their culmination in a way that makes sense in a short novel; the brevity allows the reader to internalise its full effect. And although the contents of the story are distressing, the quietude of their tone ascertains a softer blow to those watching.

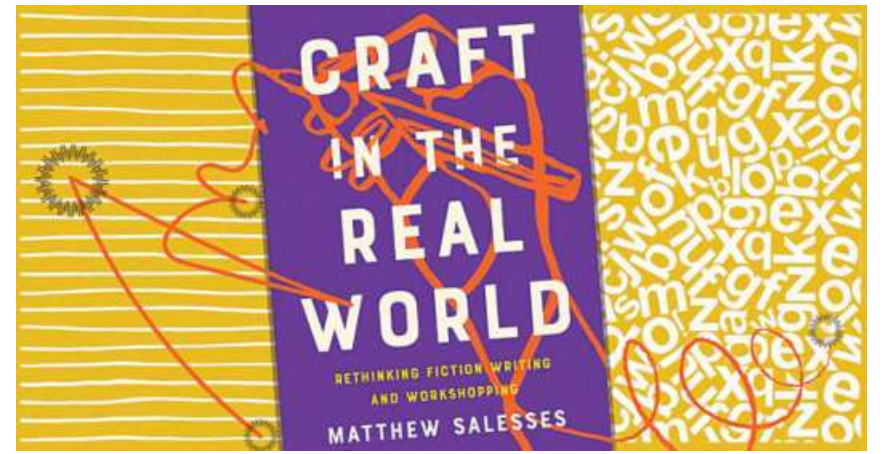
Fair warning for the reader, though: this novel deals with graphic details of suicide, rape, and physical and psychological abuse; on various occasions, I needed to put the book down and grapple with the impact of what I had just read. But the purpose of these details transcends their need to flesh out a character. They will pull you down from the cloud of blissful ignorance and shake you into seeing the reality of an insular society.

The one thing that hindered the story from reaching its full potential, in my opinion, was the

language. Tonim's vocabulary is quite complex, enough to be unconvincing as coming from a 10th grader, especially when you compare it with the simple, almost pedestrian language of his parents and peers. There is no clear reason given as to what would constitute this almost academic diction apart from a few fleeting references that the protagonist likes to read. Perhaps the writer tried to use language as a foil, to make Tonim's character seem more complex and thoughtful compared to others. But while the author uses stream-of-consciousness to great effect in reflecting Tonim's mind, their choice of words in Tonim's speech feels jarring. This becomes especially complicated in context of the seriousness of the themes explored in the book—we want this narrator to feel real and reliable, and the language seems to take away from this achievement. Some events in the plot, similarly, needed more expounding. The shift from Tonim's narration in the past to the present feels quite abrupt and leaves the reader asking for more context. These minor factors notwithstanding, Tonim's world as portrayed in the novel is powerful, vibrant, and telling.

Reading *Duradhay*, I realised that Tanveer Anoy's activism, and the vocalisation of issues including identity crises, assigned gender roles, sexual abuse, and trauma, has given floor to some potentially defining discourse for our community. This can lead to some difficult but necessary conversations in homes that are as indifferent and as severe as Tonim's. We see similar narratives play out in countless Western YA novels, but how often do we see them in conservative, sweep-things-under-the-rug South Asian cultures? I get asked a lot why I decided to come back to Bangladesh after I spent all that time abroad. The only answer that I have is that I see this country on the brink of a revolution. It has been buzzing with the noise of an ushering change, and I didn't want to miss it when it happened. For me, *Duradhay* is a testament to that burgeoning change.

Maisha Syeda is a writer, painter, and a graduate of English Literature and Writing. She is an intern at Daily Star Books.



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Demystifying the craft of writing

ISHRAT JAHAN

Storytelling is a space in which, as writers and readers, we experience the ways of how we know the world and interact with it. Korean-born American writer, Mathew Salesses, offers a thoughtful insight into the backstage of this space. He moves beyond the place where we perform or experience writing as an artform and offers us a look at the mechanics of writing as a craft. His analysis is in-depth and the questions he poses are not surprising, yet it feels as though one hasn't thought about them as deeply before.

Craft in the Real World (Catapult Books, 2021) questions the ways in the institutions and systems that generate and uphold current models of writing as a craft, mirror the power dynamics of a world that is centered around the white, cis-hetero male. As a whole, the book is a reflective guide for writers who are trying to navigate institutional spaces that have not been built with them in mind. The central themes it engages with are the relationship of culture (and a writer's positionality within culture/s) with craft, its audience, and the ways in which power dynamics manifest in creative writing and their workshop models.

Salesses emphasizes throughout the book that craft is not just an individual act or experience of writing, but it is 'the history of which kind of stories have typically held power—and for whom—so it is also the history of which stories have typically been omitted.' He highlights that 'craft is a set of expectations' that are shaped by institutional models of workshop, readings, awards, etc., and shape the threshold through which we define which stories matter and which don't.

The book is divided in two parts; the first looks into questioning and bringing out the need to redefine craft terms of plot, conflict, vulnerability, character and setting, among others. Salesses highlights that in institutional or workshop spaces, these devices are not recognized as being rooted in the writer's sociocultural context, lived experiences, and realities. For instance, the famous axioms created

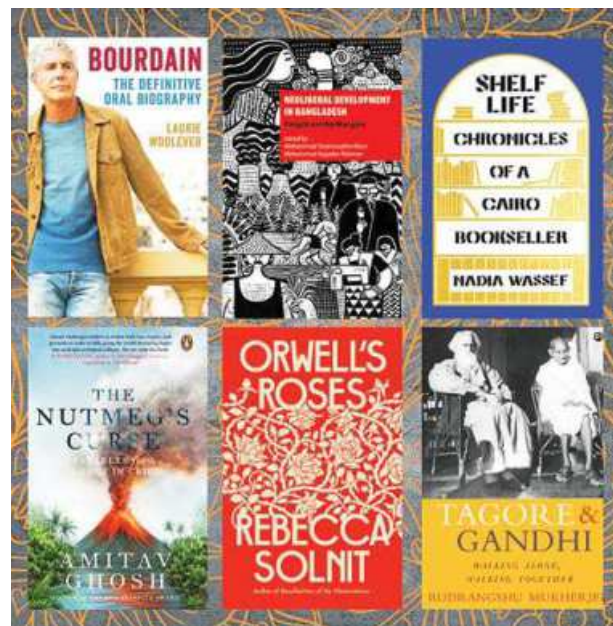
in workshops of "show don't tell", "kill your darlings", and "write what you know" have become universal and add to further marginalising the ways in other cultures of storytelling where these may not apply. Salesses reminds us that it's not enough to push back against the myopia of these axioms, but also to understand the context in which they are rooted.

The second half of the book critically reflects on the traditional workshop models used in American MFA programs. These writing models and workshops frequently build the idea for minority writers or students of creative writing that their writing only matters if they favour what is striking (about their work, by extension their experiences) to the dominant point of view of their workshops, which, Salesses points out, are white and cisgender. "It is effectively a kind of colonization, to assume that we all write for the same audience or that we should do so if we want our fiction to sell," he says.

While the book talks about the ways in which stories are judged or criticised based on cultural biases/expectations of what a "good" story should be, a more nuanced deep-dive into how Western forms of storytelling became dominant and the ways in which other forms of storytelling continue to be marginalised, despite the progress in recognising diverse voices in other spheres, would have been more helpful in identifying where the power manifests and needs to be dismantled.

Whether one is a writer in the middle of navigating the institutions Salesses critically looks at or is an avid reader and lover of the craft, this book has much to offer. It is not simply a reminder that writing is not an artform isolated from the influences of the disparities and inequalities of our daily lives, but it also demystifies the creative writing processes and points to the ways in which gatekeeping continues to occur.

Ishrat Jahan is an early stage researcher who writes in her free time. You can follow her on Twitter @jahan1620.



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

THE SHELF

New in nonfiction this month

STAR BOOKS DESK

Amitav Ghosh traces back to the lineage of nutmegs originating in the Banda Islands to argue how colonisation deeply influences the geopolitics even in the contemporary world, a violent phenomenon that has led to natural disasters linked to climate change.

Rudrangshu Mukherjee explores the friendship that formed between Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi during a tumultuous time, the disparity in their writing, and the ideologies that united them.

Rebecca Solnit takes a closer look at the exploitative rose industry in Columbia and through George Orwell's great fascination with gardening, presents a vivid portrayal of Stalinism, the Spanish Civil War, colonialism, and imperialism.

Read about these and more in this article online—on The Daily Star's website and on Daily Star Books' Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

REVIEW: SHORT STORY OF THE MONTH

Numair Atif Chowdhury takes us, once more, through the cartography of a homeland

In this monthly series, we review short stories that deserve to be rediscovered and appreciated.

SARAH ANJUM BARI

The version of Bangladesh we received in *Babu Bangladesh* (2019) was astonishing. Not because we didn't recognise the violence, the resilience and the political cross wiring making up the story of this country recounted in the novel, but because watching these seemingly banal details of our existence elevated to the ranks of magic realism had not been offered through literature in a long time. Not in the presence of a global audience, at least. As mind bending as Numair Atif Chowdhury's way with language was, winding and soaring and crawling through the page to bring to life a nation miraged onto a man, the more precious treat was to realise that the images, the textures, and the anecdotes of our own childhoods can rival those of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's Colombia or Roberto Bolaño's Chile as ingredients in the process of myth-making.

The novel, Chowdhury's portrait of his country, felt like tasting alchemy, and from that bubbling cauldron the author offers us a small dose of its capital city in his Short Story, "Taxi Wallah". It spearheads *Taxi Wallah and Other Stories* (2021). HarperCollins' recently released collection of older, critically acclaimed short fiction by Numair Atif Chowdhury, including "Rabia", "Chokra", and others.

In "Taxi Wallah", as in his novel, Chowdhury is interested in the anthropological filtered through the lens of the spatial—in how spaces and lives draw energy from each other and how their exchange shapes demarcations in class, in experiences and temperaments. But while *Babu Bangladesh* so cleverly wrought a mirage of Bangladesh, using fragment upon fragment tied loosely together by a distanced and overbearing narrator, "Taxi Wallah" takes a more direct approach. We hop into a taxi at the front gates of Dhaka's international airport and we sit in the backseat of its driver's mind as he takes a just-arrived foreigner across the city to Purbani Hotel.

Dhaka as we know it, and as some of us—foreigners especially—would never know it, comes alive. Shadows and voices of other spectators muffling the pirated films shown in theatres. Not men and women but "expressionless skin and bone" sitting outside the Masjid. *Bostis* with bloated bellies, drunken labourers, abused third and fourth wives. In Gulshan the air stiffens with traffic and new wealth. In Banani it throws a newly arrived villager into panic. Mohakhali, where our taxi driver lives, carries the stench of fryers from *mishiti* stalls, cassette tape music wafting in the air. Balloon *wallahs*, *paan wallahs*,

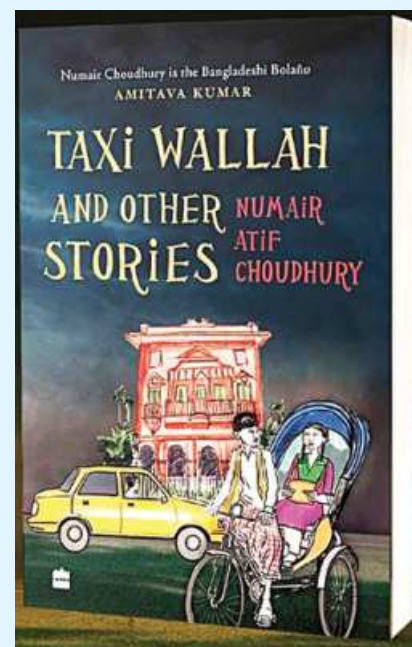


PHOTO: HARPERCOLLINS INDIA

amra wallahs all go unnoticed by his passenger who has flown in this time to "spare" Dhaka some time.

There is nothing new in discovering a city through its less glamorous underbelly. What Numair Atif Chowdhury does here, in the way that only he can, is map the cross currents

and undercurrents buzzing through the city onto a compact, visual whole that we can absorb an inch at a time and all at once. It is Dhaka collaged onto a mood board.

He evokes, also, the texture and flavour of moving through life in the city, which feels so often like sludging through a lake bogged and sprinkled with the detritus of overcrowded, discriminate inequality. As our taxi wallah's mother says of his eyes, life in Dhaka can often be like "dirty water: hiding the insides, not letting light through".

What redeems it? The same precociousness that supported the heft of a novel like *Babu Bangladesh*, that inspired its author to work on a single novel for 15 long years. The precociousness of a street child who shoots a *rajanigandha* against the glass panes of the speeding taxi, in rage, afraid but fragrant with resilience. "Like anyone who has held a newborn and let its weight sink into their arms," the taxi wallah reminds us, "[we] know there must be a way out of what we are doing".

Sarah Anjum Bari is editor of Daily Star Books. Reach her at sarah.anjum.bari@gmail.com and @wordsintea on Twitter and Instagram.

Enough with project irregularities

Without accountability, time and cost overruns in development projects will continue unabated

WE are tired of writing in these columns about cases of time and cost overruns, which seem to have become the norm when it comes to the development projects in Bangladesh. We can only imagine how exhausting it is for the relevant authorities to constantly issue warnings to ministries, departments and officials responsible for these irregularities—only for that to fall on deaf ears.

Despite repeated requests and warnings from the prime minister herself—who, in February this year, directed the authorities to take legal action against those responsible for flawed project designs that ultimately push up costs—not much seems to have changed. On Tuesday, a parliamentary watchdog came down heavily on the Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) over the irregularities reported in different development projects, including slow implementation, repeated extensions of deadlines, and consequent increase in project costs.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Estimates sought explanations as to why RTHD projects in the Dhaka, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Gopalganj zones were not implemented on time, and why their durations were increased repeatedly. It is astounding to learn that, in most cases, the officials did not even respond properly to the concerns raised. According to a report published by this daily, they tried to deflect by explaining that deadline extensions did not lead to increased expenditures. But why do such extensions continue to be asked for? Data suggests that in the last fiscal year alone, more than 300 projects sought time extensions. This state of affairs is not acceptable.

We are equally disappointed to hear that the only action that the committee took was to request the RTHD to submit a report explaining the reasons for extending the duration of nine incomplete projects in the Dhaka zone. How many more such reports will be submitted while these projects drag on, wasting crucial taxpayers' resources and depriving citizens of their expected benefits?

The need of the hour is accountability, and that will not come out of writing endless reports. It is high time that the legal action mentioned by the prime minister earlier this year is actually taken against officials who are responsible for project delays and cost overruns. If strong actions are not taken to enforce accountability, there will be no changes in the culture of delay in publicly funded projects that has currently become the norm in Bangladesh.

High time to diversify our export basket

Govt and private sector should work together to formulate long-term strategies

WE second the prime minister's call to private entrepreneurs on Tuesday to try and diversify Bangladesh's export items. For far too long, we have been overly reliant on our RMG export—accounting for more than 80 percent of our total exports—which puts our balance of payment (BOP) situation at risk, as any significant decline in RMG export could lead to huge BOP deficits. Thus, experts have been calling on the private sector for some time to take initiatives to diversify export items, and for the government to formulate policies that encourage export diversification.

Broadening the export product base, destination and quality can stabilise and expand export revenues and boost economic growth. That, in turn, can lead to the much-needed creation of more jobs. As Bangladesh graduates from the UN's list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the need for it to diversify its export basket becomes even more pressing. Many of the benefits it used to receive as an LDC will become redundant or unavailable after graduation. In order to make up for some of the potential losses, Bangladesh needs to formulate long-term plans on how to enhance its export basket.

Some of the measures, as previously highlighted by experts, could be for the government to provide low cost and easy access to finance, adequate policy support along with fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for non-garment export sectors, while ensuring equal treatment and sufficient skills development. When it comes to the RMG sector, Bangladesh, over the years, has enforced domestic regulations that are WTO-compliant and internationally acceptable. The same has to happen for other sectors if their products are to succeed in the international market. In line with that, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) needs to be strengthened to ensure that local products face international standard testing to secure accreditation where necessary.

The private sector also has a big role to play here. Our businesses need to conduct proper market research to find out which products they can successfully export, as well as how they can diversify their export markets. They can also work with the government to try and find out which countries or group of countries Bangladesh should sign free trade agreements with, to increase trade and overall exports.

Returnee female migrants need help to bounce back in life



NAZNIN TITHI

THERE is hardly any positive news about our female migrant workers employed in the Middle East or those who have returned home from there. Horrifying facts of their lives

abroad often make headlines when they are physically and sexually assaulted by their employers, left unfed for days, and deprived of decent salaries. Between 2016 and 2019, the dead bodies of approximately 500 female migrants were returned to Bangladesh. The innocent faces of 14-year-old Kulsum and 13-year-old Nodi—who were sent to Saudi Arabia as domestic workers and returned in coffins after a year or so—are still etched in our minds. Many of the women who

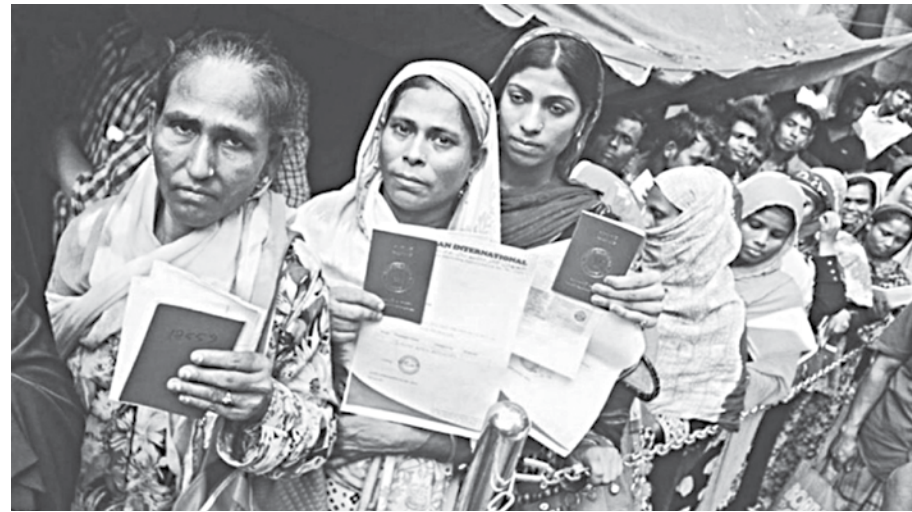
returnee female migrants' socio-economic conditions at present. According to the study, 60.4 percent of them are now unemployed, while 65 percent don't have a regular monthly income. Moreover, 61 percent of them are plagued with huge debts, which have made them even more vulnerable in their families.

These women went abroad borrowing money from lenders, while many had to sell their properties. When they started their journey to the foreign lands, they did not have the slightest idea that they would have to endure such abuse there and would have to return home so soon. Being forced to come back prematurely, their economic condition deteriorated further. A majority of them now can't find any jobs here as employment opportunities have declined in their communities as well, as reported by some 30 percent of the returnees interviewed for the study. Those who have found work are doing different jobs from what they did abroad. Moreover,

of the stigma of being sexually abused abroad. People often make slanderous comments referring to their "immoral character." Due to this vicious social attitude, many of the returnees have been forced to confine themselves at home, further compounding their feelings of humiliation and rejection.

Another shocking revelation is that female returnee migrants are also having trouble in their married life. According to the study, 14.7 percent of the returnee

These women went abroad borrowing money from lenders, while many had to sell their properties.



Since the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, about 49,924 Bangladeshi female migrant workers returned home from 21 countries till March 7, 2021.

FILE PHOTO:
AFP

came back alive had scars of torture on their bodies and were in vulnerable mental states. Only a few of them managed to make it back in good physical and mental conditions.

After the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, about 49,924 female migrant workers returned home from 21 countries till March 7 this year, according to Brac Migration Programme. How are they doing in their own country now?

A recent study titled "Social and Economic Reintegration of the Returnee Female Migrant Workers: Success and Sorrows," conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), has found some shocking facts about our

there is a wage discrepancy—54.2 percent of the female returnees surveyed reported unequal pay between returnee and non-returnee workers.

Upon returning home, they have also been experiencing a change of social attitude towards them. While they were abroad, sending their hard-earned money back home, they were respected and considered "empowered" by their communities. They also had the decision-making power in their families. However, after their return, they have lost that power and their opinions no longer matter to their families, according to the study. They are also looked down upon by their communities because

female migrants got divorced, while 10.5 percent were simply left by their husbands.

This is more or less the situation of most of our female returnee migrants, but there are also those who have significantly improved their socio-economic conditions, even though they are a small minority.

Now, the pertinent questions are: How can we help these women to reintegrate into society again? What can we do to improve their socio-economic status so that they can live a respectable life? How can we sensitise the communities towards the returnees, especially those who have suffered physical, psychological, and sexual abuse abroad?

Experts say that we still do not have any specific policy to reintegrate female migrants into society. Manirul Islam, deputy director of research at BILS, said, "In order to provide our female returnees any kind of support, the authorities concerned should register their names first. Without a proper database, it is difficult to keep track of the returnees and provide them with any financial or social support or the treatment they need."

So, first and foremost, female returnee migrants need to be registered and brought under the government's social safety net programmes. The returnees should also get the necessary treatment without hassle. Most of our female returnees were physically and mentally unwell when they returned—55 percent of them were physically unwell while 29 percent had some kind of a mental illness, as the BILS study has found. But most of them were not provided with any treatment for their conditions.

Providing them with skills development training to prepare them for income-generating activities comes next. It should not be very difficult for the relevant government agencies to arrange such training in line with the demand of the job market. The money from the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund, formed with the contributions of the migrant workers, can be utilised in this regard. After all, what is it for if not to help migrant workers, current or former, in distress? The returnees who would prefer to start their own business should be able to get loans at low interest rates. We know that the Probashi Kalyan Bank offers loan facilities to migrant workers, but the process is too complicated for the female returnee migrants, given their social and educational backgrounds. They also need support in this regard. Those who are already engaged in various jobs must be paid as much as their non-migrant co-workers. For this, the authorities should maintain the minimum wage structure.

Understandably, when these women are reemployed or engaged in other income-generating activities, their communities' attitudes towards them will also change. But there still needs to be a protection cell for them, where they can go and file complaints when and if they are socially harassed by people. Sensitising the communities about their struggles and raising awareness about the contributions they made to our society are also crucial.

Since migration is the second largest source of women's employment and empowerment after the RMG sector, the government should do everything in its power to ensure the safety of our women migrant workers. It should sign better agreements with the countries where our female workers are employed, with a focus on their physical and mental well-being. There are many problems related to female migration that need to be identified and fixed with urgency.

However, since our women migrants usually serve a couple of years abroad and then return, the government should also focus on their social, economic, and psychosocial reintegration into society once they come back home. Other labour-sending countries are already much advanced in this regard. It's time we took this issue seriously to ensure a better life for our female returnee migrants. With proper support from the government and the relevant agencies, they can overcome all the social barriers and get back on their feet.

Naznin Tithi is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

For development, democratisation of governance is a must



SHAZZAD KHAN

FOR development workers, especially those working for the rights and entitlements of the poor and vulnerable, a common question we face is how we should go about

improving governance in Bangladesh. The term "governance" comes up in every step of our work when we engage our project participants in demanding their rights from service-providing public institutions. We call them the "supply side" and our beneficiaries the "demand side."

Under the rights umbrella in a state mechanism, this is a core and common relationship: the demand side, or citizens, pays money to the state through taxes, and in return, the state, as the supply side, is obligated to render services to the citizens. Simply put, this give-and-take relationship is called governance. Now, if you pay money, but the state does not provide its services to you properly, it is bad governance on the state's part. And if the state renders its services to you, but you do not pay your dues, it is bad governance on your part.

This article is not aimed at raising a discourse on governance, per se—which has been the subject of so many definitions and discussions, and frankly, which has become a bit trite. But for the rights workers, they plainly take it as the decision-making process by the state's government functionaries for the judicious use of public money to provide optimum, effective, and efficient services to its citizens. If there is any deviation in this format, they say the governance is bad. It is enough for our understanding beyond academic discourse.

Now, how is our governance? As rights workers, we try to find out, during our work, what level of corruption we are dealing with, because governance and corruption have a correlation—if governance is bad, corruption is high, and if corruption is high, governance will certainly be bad. Unfortunately, we are in a state of endemic corruption, which means we are badly devoid of good governance.

As rights workers, we have to take bad governance seriously, because without

good governance, the rightful entitlement of the poor and vulnerable cannot be met. And if it is so, then all our development funds and efforts will go in vain, and the poor and vulnerable will remain where they are. So there is no alternative to improving our governance.

In an attempt to find out how we can improve our governance, we do a simple correlation among some well-defined indexes of two countries: Bangladesh as a country of endemic corruption, and Denmark as a country with the least corruption in the world. We have drawn upon some facts and figures based on the recent global indexes (2019-20), which show both positive and negative correlations among these two countries

enjoys full democracy, while Bangladesh has scored 5.88, meaning it is in a hybrid regime status. Denmark is the 10th best country on the Human Development Index (HDI), while Bangladesh is 133rd out of 189 countries. Denmark's tax-GDP ratio is 46, while Bangladesh's ratio is only 12.

From all this information, one can easily conclude that if you have a strong democracy, you will have the lowest level of corruption and high-performing governance. At the same time, you will enjoy super human development status supported by strong tax justice. In Denmark, their tax justice is based upon progressive imposition of taxes on all citizens based on their income. As a



Good governance ensures sustainable development with low levels of corruption.

ILLUSTRATION:
COLLECTED

and can lead us to a credible solution.

We also choose Denmark because it is one of the leading trendsetters in all global indexes of development. For example, its global governance score is 95, while Bangladesh's score is 21 only. Denmark's score on the corruption index is 88—the highest—denoting that the country is the least corrupt, while Bangladesh's score is 26, putting it at the 146th position among 180 countries. In the inequality index, Denmark's Gini Coefficient is 0.25 (least) while Bangladesh's is 0.52—the less the score between 0-1, the less the inequality. In the global democracy index, Denmark has scored 9.22 out of 10, meaning it

result, Denmark has the lowest inequality in the world.

For Denmark, this has been possible because they have shaped up their governance based on a strong democracy. If we are able to democratise our governance system like Denmark, then we can have better governance and less corruption in the delivery of services. This will lead to formulating a pro-people fiscal policy with higher allocation for healthcare, education, and social security; the existing allocation is far too less compared to the leading democratic countries.

In a fully democratic system, public representatives have to remain

accountable and transparent to people; hence, they exert their full responsibility on the service-providing institutions under their authority to render services to people. Unless they do so, people remove them through the process of free and fair elections and bring in new persons of choice. This accountability mechanism is very strong in most democratic countries, such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, Canada, etc. The countries that fall under flawed democracy as per the democracy index show anomalies in voting and the provision of services to people. Some typical examples of these countries are India, the US, Brazil, Malaysia, France, etc. In terms of the democracy index, as Bangladesh falls under the hybrid regime, one can realise the quality of accountability and transparency of the public representatives and service-providing institutions to people. We face the crude reflections of this in our everyday lives through the instances of failure in our governance system. Therefore, it is imperative that we take the democratisation of governance in Bangladesh as our key agenda.

If we really believe in the motto of "leaving no one behind," embracing the poor and vulnerable people in the development arena, then there is no alternative for the donors, partners, CSOs, NGOs and the United Nations organisations to set their agenda and mandate towards drastic political reform and a strong local government system in Bangladesh. The means of doing so may be robust civic engagement and vigilance, political education, aggressive advocacy, public disclosure, capacity building of CSOs and NGOs, higher fiscal budget, and strong IT infrastructure. This will also require strong political consensus and commitment, and those in power must lead the way.

A country with a democratic spirit must not live with the stigma of a hybrid regime—which is an unbearable shame for its citizens—and with the global indexes that say we are extremely corrupt with utterly poor governance. All actors of development must take on the key overarching agenda of democratising governance in Bangladesh, and formulate all relevant policies and programmes in line with that goal.

Shazzad Khan is senior programme coordinator at Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

What can we learn from London's radical move to curb air pollution?



KAMAL AHMED

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan has done something daring to tackle air pollution in his city. First, he experimented with an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), with an area designated as a congestion charging area about 25 years ago. This experiment was launched in April 2019, and the rules were aimed at discouraging high-polluting motor vehicles from entering the area, with the imposition of penalties for violations. From October 25 this year, after two years of experimentation, the mayor extended the ULEZ to an 18 times larger area; the scheme is now known as Extended Low Emission Zone (ELEZ).

There's little doubt that Londoners are now adopting one of the most radical anti-pollution policies in the world. The government estimates the number of people killed by long-term exposure to air pollution in the UK to be as high as 30,000 a year. Reports suggest that many other cities in the UK are now planning similar low emission zones.

Under the new scheme, motor vehicles, except larger buses, lorries and specialised heavy vehicles, run by petrol and diesel and older than 15 years, are effectively banned from entering the ELEZ. Entering this restricted zone will warrant a fee of GBP 12.50 a day, and failure to pay will attract a GBP 160 penalty. Transport for London, the body entrusted to regulate and oversee transport in London, estimates that about 138,000 vehicles are likely to be affected. Official estimates suggest that four out of every five cars in these areas are already compliant with emission limits. Besides introducing penalties for non-compliant vehicles, the city authority has announced

grants for small businesses and the disabled to encourage scrapping non-compliant cars and motorcycles. These grants are separate from Britain's national initiative to subsidise people switching over to electric cars.

To clean up London's air, Mayor Sadiq Khan's transport strategy is to try to achieve 80 percent of trips across London through walking, cycling, and mass transport by 2040—the ULEZ experiment and ELEZ are parts of his long-term vision of the city by 2040. It's a hugely controversial move, as the Conservatives, who are in charge of the country, oppose it saying the move will adversely affect small- and medium-sized businesses and harm post-pandemic economic recovery. On the other hand, the Green Party alleges that it falls short of the needs as, according to them, one in 10 roads in London will remain toxic after the expansion.

The original Congestion Charging Zone was introduced to curb traffic congestion in the city, while the low emission zones are more focussed on cutting air pollution.



A vehicle passes a sign for the new low emissions zone in Coulsdon, London, UK.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

The government estimates the number of people killed by long-term exposure to air pollution in the UK to be as high as 30,000 a year. Reports suggest that many other cities in the UK are now planning similar low emission zones.

As a result, the ULEZ experiment did not cut traffic in a significant way—rather residents of the inner city switched over to low-polluting vehicles. Official figures show that ahead of the introduction of ULEZ, the number of cleaner vehicles in central London jumped from 39 percent in 2017 to 80 percent in 2020. Roadside levels of nitrogen oxide (NO2) fell by 44 percent. Drivers are still liable to pay a congestion charge of GBP 15 a day for driving through central London. Therefore, driving costs in central London have become too exorbitant, making it three times costlier than travelling by underground and overground trains and five times costlier than the day-long unlimited bus journeys. About 700 cameras, capable of reading

the registration numbers and detecting non-compliant, older polluting vehicles, have been strategically placed in the city, and payments are taken online. Introducing the scheme, the city authority has spent about GBP 100 million, and it is expected to make GBP 1.9 million per day. The funds generated through the scheme are expected to be put back into transport schemes.

A few weeks ago, we heard Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam calling for imposing additional tax on vehicles that ply the roads in "elite areas" like Gulshan and Baridhara. In a 24-hour news cycle, this story did not last long in the fast-paced media, despite some angry reactions among netizens. His proposal seemed to

be an attempt to imitate some successful schemes put in place in some Western cities, including London. Unfortunately, his language was divisive and offensive to millions of his constituents who reside outside his so-called elite neighbourhoods. When getting into such offices no longer requires credible and proper elections, such ill-judged comments coming from those occupying the offices are perhaps not that shocking.

The mayor's comments suggest that he was more concerned about controlling traffic numbers in the neighbourhoods of the rich and famous than curbing Dhaka's notorious air pollution. Even if his objective was to ease traffic congestion in the city, he should have focused more on helping businesses than on providing relief to the rich and famous who live in his elite bubble. Restricting public transports in Gulshan and Banani, except a few special ones authorised by the DNCC—a scheme introduced by his predecessor Annisul Huq—may have discouraged some people from entering those areas, but whether it has succeeded in cutting the number of cars or the rate of air pollution is debatable. When London introduced its Congestion Charging Zone, the aim was to ease traffic in business districts and not the poshest suburb of Hampstead.

When Bangladesh's much-awaited mass transit systems—the metro rail and rapid bus transportation routes—become operational, we will have a great opportunity to opt for tougher measures to phase out high-emitting vehicles and cut traffic numbers. Such measures should not be discriminatory, a privilege for some and a disadvantage to the rest. Learning from other megacities are always welcome, but applying those lessons should benefit all.

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

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Our Common Agenda and the Road to 2023

MADELINE ALBRIGHT and IBRAHIM GAMBARI

NOT since World War II has the international community confronted as monumental a test as the intertwined crises of Covid-19 and climate change, and the profound social and economic inequalities they have exposed. Yet, precisely when global, collective action is most needed to address these crises, exclusionary nationalism and rising great-power tensions, including a new Cold War-like

by a new Emergency Platform to respond to complex global crises; the appointment of a Special Envoy for Future Generations; and innovations involving digital transformation, data analytics, and strategic foresight.

We also applaud Guterres's call for an "investment boost" for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for a green and just recovery for all countries (complementing the upcoming UN climate conference in Glasgow). His proposal to hold a biennial summit of world leaders representing

to one empowered to coordinate international responses and mobilise resources for conflict situations that are not on the Security Council's agenda. This Peacebuilding Council could also monitor early warning indicators to avert the outbreak or recurrence of deadly violence.

Implementing Guterres's ambitious proposals will necessitate government buy-in, which in turn will require a dedicated intergovernmental reform process to rejuvenate the global governance system. Time is of the essence; before

related series of UN ambassador-expert roundtables should be created to channel additional ideas into the PrepComs about how to strengthen the global governance system's capacity to address major current and future threats.

Lastly, the 2023 summit must be preceded by broad agreement that its outcome document will emphasise select, concrete, time-bound, and measurable reform commitments to aid near-term and longer-run

results that are, at the very least, as ambitious as the 2005 (LIN60) outcome document.

These ideas and related proposals for global governance innovation are elaborated in the recent Stimson Center report titled "Beyond UN75: A Roadmap for Inclusive, Networked, & Effective Global Governance." Combined with "Our Common Agenda" and countless good ideas advanced by past commissions, scholars, and advocacy organisations,

they can help rebuild the trust and regenerate the solidarity needed to restore and strengthen people's confidence in their multilateral institutions. Now it's time to get to work.

Madeleine Albright is a former US secretary of state and ambassador to the United Nations. Ibrahim Gambari, a former Nigerian foreign minister and ambassador to the United Nations. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2021 www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)



The world today needs a more inclusive and networked multilateralism in order to successfully respond to complex global crises.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

standoff between democracies and autocracies, are eroding essential multilateral cooperation.

In his path-breaking new report titled "Our Common Agenda," UN Secretary-General António Guterres argues that "humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: a breakdown or a breakthrough." Guterres underscores the fundamental values of trust and solidarity—and the need for a new social contract between citizens and their institutions at all levels of governance—in seeking a just and sustainable global recovery from the current pandemic. These values must inform a politically savvy yet ambitious strategy for long-overdue institutional and legal changes to the post-1945 multilateral system.

The United Nations member states gathered under the leadership of Abdulla Shahid, president of the General Assembly, on October 25 in New York, where they were urged to come up with a coordinated response to initiate follow-up action on many of Guterres's proposals. Among his most timely ideas for building more inclusive and networked multilateralism are an updated Agenda for Peace, supported

the G20 and the UN Economic and Social Council, alongside the heads of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the right way to shepherd this process. The report of the 2015 Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance, which we co-chaired, made a similar recommendation: a "G20+" that would convene the group's leaders and all UN member states every two years in September during the General Assembly's High-Level Week, with a lightly staffed G20 secretariat to sustain and manage the relationship.

Given the urgent need to improve governance of the global commons, including the high seas, Antarctica, the atmosphere, and outer space, we support Guterres's suggestion to repurpose the UN Trusteeship Council. But effectively delivering global public goods and managing global public risks will require authorities that go beyond the reconfigured body's proposed "advice and guidance" role. In our 2015 report, for example, we proposed upgrading the UN Peacebuilding Commission from an advisory body

the year concludes, UN member states should endorse a follow-on "modalities resolution" supporting Guterres's call for a Summit of the Future in September 2023.

Several steps should be taken to maximise the summit's impact. For starters, preparatory committees (PrepComs) should be convened around the world to consider and advance global governance innovations in peace, security, and humanitarian action; sustainable development and Covid-19 recovery; human rights, inclusive governance, and the rule of law; and climate governance. They should also consider how to promote integrated, system-wide reforms based on the ideas that emerge.

Second, building on the far-reaching UN75 Global Conversation dialogues and surveys, global and regional peoples' forums and e-dialogues should be established to increase global public awareness and channel civil-society perspectives into the PrepComs and summit.

Third, a High-Level Advisory Board, comprising public intellectuals and former heads of state, and a



Janata Bank Limited

Divisional Office, Chattogram

27 SK Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chattogram- 4100
Tel: 2520169, 715391, 715392 Fax: 880-31-715390,
E-mail: chittagong@janatabank-bd.com Website: www.jb.com.bd

INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited under the provisions of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 for the Goods and related Services and under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Tender Document:

- Tender Ref. : DO-CHATTO/IT/COMP-KROY/RE-TENDER-01/OTM-01/2021
- Tender Name : TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER HARDWARE & ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR DIFFERENT COMPUTERIZED BRANCH UNDER CONTROL OF JANATA BANK LIMITED, DIVISIONAL OFFICE, CHATTOGRAM.

3. Brief description of Goods/services: The items shall be internationally renowned brand item while the UPS must be at least BSTI/ISO certified. No clone/Assembled items will be accepted:

Lot	Item	Quantity
Lot-1	Computer Workstation	85 units
Lot-2	Laser Printer	48 units
Lot-3	MICR Cheque Scanner	03 units
Lot-4	Off-Line UPS 650VA	110 units
Lot-5	Scanner	40 units

4. Time for completion of delivery : 4(four) weeks for all lot, the date of contract signed.

- Eligibility of Tenderers : 5.1 The Tenderer shall be the manufacturer/authorized dealer/distributor/reseller/bonafide supplier having minimum 2 (two) years of overall business experience and at least 1 (one) year specific experience of supplying, installing, commissioning, operating of similar goods and providing support service to different organization/banks in Bangladesh in multi-user environment.
5.2 Must have strong presence and support offices in Chattogram (should mentioned full address) with well equipped service cell manned by adequately qualified technical personnel for maintenance and support for the proposed Goods and Services. Floating or home address shall not be considered as established offices.
5.3 The participating company may offer proposals for the items in any or all lots and must quote all the items in that/those lot(s). Evaluation will be done Lot by Lot basis and contract will also be awarded Lot by Lot basis. Partial offer for any lot will not be accepted.
5.4 The offers should have validity for at least 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening the tender.

6. Name and address of the Office(s) Selling Tender Document : Janata Bank Limited, Divisional Office, Chattogram, Janata Bank Bhaban (3rd Floor), 27 SK Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chattogram-4100 between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on all working days. Interested Tenderers may view the document at the website of the Bank. (Website: www.jb.com.bd)

7. Price of Tender Document : TK. 1000/= (One Thousand) only (non refundable) in the form of pay order favoring "Janata Bank Limited" from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh for a single lot. Interested tenderers have to purchase different tender document for different lots.

8. Amount of Tender Security : A tender security favoring Janata Bank Limited shall be required for :
Lot-1:- BDT 1, 53,000/- (One Lac Fifty Three Thousand) Only.
Lot-2:- BDT 29,000/- (Twenty Nine Thousand) Only.
Lot-3:- BDT 7,000/- (Seven Thousand) Only.
Lot-4:- BDT 9,000/- (Nine Thousand) Only.
Lot-5:- BDT 6,500/- (Six Thousand Five Hundred) Only.
The Tender Security must be valid till: 14-02-2022.

9. Last Date and Time for Selling Tender Document : 14-11-2021 within 3:00 P.M.

10. Last Date and Time for Submission of Tenders : 15-11-2021 within 3:00 P.M.

11. Name and address of the Office(s) Receiving and Opening Tenders : Assistant General Manager, Janata Bank Ltd., Divisional Office, Chattogram, 27 SK Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chattogram-4100

12. Date and Time for Opening of Tenders : 15-11-2021 at 03:30 P.M.

- Special Instructions : a. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings without showing any reason.
b. The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.
c. If any force Major situation arises in the specified date mentioned in the tender data or/and invitation for tender, the event will take on the next working date.

(Md. Siddique Akbor)
Assistant General Manager



Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah Riyad down on his knees, which perhaps reflects the state of his team, after his misunderstanding with Afif Hossain had resulted in the latter's run-out.

PHOTO: AFP



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'We are trying our best but nothing is going our way'

SPORTS REPORTER FROM ABU DHABI

On a day when Bangladesh were totally outplayed and had their limitations in terms of skill and execution completely exposed by a quality England side, the captain or coach of the losing party would have been expected to face the media. But surprisingly, the rather media-shy Nasum Ahmed was sent out to face the heat yesterday.

Although Nasum was the top performer for the Tigers with 19 runs off nine balls with the bat and a wicket to his name, the 26-year-old was certainly not the appropriate person to explain the shortcomings that led to the thrashing eight-wicket defeat.

Normally soft-spoken, Nasum's body language and approach was defensive while facing a barrage of bouncers from the journalists during the post-match press conference and he seemed to surrender to almost every question that was asked.

When asked why the team had failed to execute and were totally outplayed, Nasum



কনকা ফ্রিজ-এ
চলছে
১০০% পর্যন্ত
মূল্য ছাড়!
KONKA Fridge

said: "We tried to win the game. If a batsman or a bowler could perform well, there is a chance to win a game. We are trying but it's not happening. We were unable to execute our plans."

Bangladesh's batting has remained one of the biggest areas of concern throughout the tournament, especially in the Powerplay overs, where the Tigers once again failed to get going,

adding only 27 runs and losing three wickets.

When asked whether the team discuss problems and look for solutions, Nasum repeated the same words that fans have become accustomed to: "We discuss everything among ourselves. We are unable to utilise the first six overs with the bat, which is the reason we are lagging behind. We are unable to score frequently but at the same time, we lose wickets at regular intervals. We do discuss such things and everyone is trying their best but nothing is going our way."

A tense Nasum, who even started to sweat at one point, informed that the Tigers were optimistic about getting a win and flipping the script.

"We still have three more matches to come and if we are able to win one game, I think we have the chance to do better in the next two as well. If we can win a game, it will definitely boost our confidence. We played good cricket in Oman despite losing the first game and we managed to reach the Super 12 by winning the next two matches. We all want to do well but nothing is going our way, it's bad luck," he said.

Tigers' tale of tantalising talent

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM ABU DHABI



Two consecutive boundaries from Liton Das to Moeen Ali in the first over of the Bangladesh innings provided hope to fans in the Tigers' second Super 12 game against England at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The highly-rated right-hander once again showed his class with a gorgeous straight drive, coming down the track and meeting the pitch of the ball against the off-spinner and smacking it perfectly over the bowler's head.

The second boundary was even better as Liton adjusted nicely to a slightly wider delivery from Moeen and again used his feet to perfection to manufacture another magnificent inside-out shot over cover.

Those were glimpses of the talent that Liton possesses but he wasted yet another opportunity against the background noise calling for him to be dropped from the team ahead of the game against England following a string of poor performances with the bat.

Just when Liton needed to utilise his brilliant start, he was dismissed while attempting a rather loose shot. The right-hander top-edged Ali in his next over while going for a sweep and returned to the pavilion after scoring nine off eight balls.

The last time Liton scored a fifty in T20s

for the Tigers was 13 innings ago. Scores of 9, 16, 29, 6, 5, 10, 6, and 15 in his last eight innings may not justify his talent, but that is how things have gone for the 27-year-old, who made his international debut six years ago.

That inability to convert those beautiful starts into big knocks and a penchant for consistently being inconsistent reminds one of a few other talents that Bangladesh cricket has seen in the past.

From Mohammad Ashraful and Nasir Hossain to Sabbir Rahman, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Soumya Sarkar, there is a similar trend of talented cricketers who have been unable to repay the faith that they have been shown.

Now the question is how long Bangladesh cricket will continue to give opportunities to such cricketers who show glimpses of their ability but are unable to perform consistently.

The team management will obviously back players as it is their job to instil confidence during tough times, but it is also important for a player like Liton to realise that being talented is not enough. It is imperative to showcase what you have when it matters most.

India's star batsman Rohit Sharma hates when he is termed a talented batsman because he believes talent is nothing without hard work and that must be reflected through performances, or else there is no point being talented.



"We've been lacking a good start; on these wickets it gets difficult later on. We are more skilled hitters than power hitters, we don't want to change that because we believe we can post good totals. We need to reassess and come up with a good plan."

MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD
BANGLADESH T20I CAPTAIN



'A lot of credit to our bowlers'

AGENCIES

England raced to a second successive victory at the Twenty20 World Cup with an eight-wicket drubbing of Bangladesh yesterday in the two nations' first ever meeting in the format.

Opening batsman Jason Roy smashed 61 off 38 balls as England romped to their victory target of 125 in 14.1 overs. Player-of-the-match Roy reached his seventh T20 half-century with a straight six in his 50th match and put on a key partnership of 73 with Dawid Malan, who made an unbeaten 28. "Very special match for us, we had to back up our last performance and came out firing with the ball. A lot of credit to our bowlers again," said Roy after the match.

England skipper Eoin Morgan also praised his bowlers. "The bowlers have started the tournament exceptionally well, they've adapted really well again today, very disciplined and backed up with good catching and ground fielding."

"It's a huge compliment to how far out white-ball cricket in general has come along, a lot of players involved in the 2019 World Cup success and that's lent itself to T20 cricket as well. [Roy] It's nice for him and Dawid to get some time at the wicket. The way Jason plays is so imposing, makes it difficult to set fields, so great to see him in good touch," Morgan added.

Namibia's fairytale continues

REUTERS

A stunning opening burst from seamer Ruben Trimpelmann and an unbeaten 32 by JJ Smit down the order helped Namibia secure a nervy four-wicket win over Scotland in their Group I encounter in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Set a modest 110 for victory, Namibia made heavy weather of the chase, losing wickets at key moments on a tricky pitch before Smit and David Wiese (16) did just enough to get them over the line with five balls to spare.

It was Scotland's second

SCORES IN BRIEF

Scotland: 109 for 8 in 20 overs
(Leask 44, Greaves 25;
Trimpelmann 3-17, Frylinck 2-10)
Namibia: 115 for 6 in 19.1 overs
(Smit 32 not out, Williams 23;
Leask 2-12)
Result: Namibia won by 4 wickets
Player-of-the-match:
Ruben Trimpelmann

Pakistan still to come.

Scotland could never really recover after left-arm quick Trimpelmann (3-17) ripped their top-order with three wickets in the first over of the innings. Wiese (1-22) later removed Craig Wallace (4) as Scotland ended the powerplay on 22-4.

Michael Leask (44) briefly threatened to salvage the innings but had his stumps rattled by Smit (1-20) just as he was preparing to mount a late assault before Chris Greaves (25) made sure that Scotland crossed the 100-run mark, finishing on 109-8.



India anxiously 'enjoying' a week-long break

SPORTS REPORTER

As both India and New Zealand were comprehensively beaten by Pakistan in their T20 World Cup openers on October 24 and October 26, respectively, the upcoming encounter between the two sides thus becomes a potential do-or-die affair in order to stay in contention for a place in the semifinals.

Assuming the other three sides in the group -- Afghanistan, Scotland and Namibia -- are not likely to cause any upset against the three big guns -- Pakistan, India and New Zealand -- the fate of the encounter between India and New Zealand is of paramount importance for the two sides at such an early stage of the tournament.

The Men in Blue will take on the Black Caps on October 31, which means India will get two more extra days to prepare with respect to New Zealand, which could play a part in deciding the outcome in favour of the T20 champions of 2007.

The Kiwis have an edge over their upcoming rival in terms of overall T20I head-to-head results, having won 8 against India's 6 with the other two matches tied.



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SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH
124 for 9 in 20 overs
(Mushfiquer 29, Mahmudullah 19; Mills 3-27, Moeen 2-18, Liam 2-15)
ENGLAND
126 for 2 in 14.1 overs (Roy 61, Malan 28; Shoriful 1-26, Nasum 1-26)
RESULT
England won by 8 wickets.
PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH
Jason Roy.



What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV
ICC Men's T20 World Cup
Australia vs Sri Lanka
Live from 08:00 pm

T SPORTS
La Liga
Levante vs Atletico Madrid
Live from 1:30 am (Friday)

Uncertain Aussie batters face wily Lankan spinners

AGENCIES



Former champions Sri Lanka will look to exploit Australia's top-order woes when they clash in a group 1 Super 12 match of the ICC T20 World Cup on Thursday.

Sri Lanka, who had won the title in 2014, topped group A with three successive wins before outwitting Bangladesh by five wickets in their first Super 12 match.

On the other hand, the Aussies, who are yet to win the T20 World Cup, scampered home in the last over against South Africa after being reduced to 38 for 3 while chasing a modest 118 in their opening match.

Skipper Aaron Finch made a duck, while David Warner, who is going through a tough time, too was out cheaply once again and Mitchell Marsh also found the going tough.

Warner, however, laughed off concerns about his form on his 35th birthday on Wednesday but said he had reverted to practising on synthetic wickets and polished concrete to sharpen his batting.

Warner scored 14 in the opening win over South Africa after managing scores of 1 and 0 in practice matches against India and New Zealand.

"I actually think people talking about my form is quite funny," he told reporters. "I laugh at the matter because at the end of the



day I've played hardly any cricket."

Meanwhile, the tricky and slow UAE wickets not supporting the power-hitters in the T20 World Cup, Australia batter Steve Smith is willing to change his batting order in the "scrappy" tournament to suit the requirement of his side.

Almost all teams have struggled to go past 150-run mark so far in the ongoing World Cup as the pitches are not conducive for stroke-making.

Smith, who usually bats at number three, said he is aware of the different requirement and won't mind if he needs to drop down a bit, if situation demands.

However, the presence of quality spinners in the Lankan ranks could prove to be a tricky proposition for the struggling Australian batters.

The availability of Maheesh Theekshana, who missed the win over Bangladesh owing to an injury, could boost the team's morale as he has the wares to trouble the Aussie batters, who are not so comfortable against slow stuff.

Leg-spinning all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga could be more than a handful for the opposition batting unit and how he goes could well determine how the encounter pans out.

On the other hand, flamboyant opener Kusal Perera can be dangerous but would be tested by Hazlewood & Co.

Shanto scores unbeaten ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi Division skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto struck an unbeaten ton against Dhaka Metro while Sylhet Division registered a four-wicket victory against Khulna Division on the final day of the second round of the ongoing 23rd National Cricket League (NCL) yesterday.

Shanto, who scored a fifty in the first innings, resumed the day on eight. The national team Test cricketer carried on his good form with the bat as he scored an unbeaten 199-ball 103, laced with eight fours and a maximum, in Cox's Bazar.

Shanto also starred in a 124-run third-wicket stand with Junaid Siddique, who scored a steady 125-ball 50, featuring three boundaries, before being castled by pacer Abu Hider.

However, Shanto's century and Siddique's fifty did not amount to much as the game between Rajshahi and Dhaka Metro expectedly ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, at the Sylhet Academy Ground, Sylhet began their final day requiring only 91 runs to win with seven wickets in hand against Khulna. Sylhet lost three wickets on the day but were able to chase down the target with ease.

Sylhet skipper Zakir Hasan played a knock of 37 runs while



wicketkeeper-batter Jaker Ali's patient 137-ball 41 helped them emerge victorious.

However, the other game in Sylhet between Dhaka and Rangpur, did not see a winner. Dhaka, who resumed the day at 38 for no loss, declared the innings at 203 for nine, setting a 277-run target for Rangpur.

Rangpur scored 75 runs losing three wickets in 30 overs as the match ended in draw.



(L) Margarita Mamun, the goodwill ambassador of the Bangabandhu 5th Central South Asian Artistic Gymnastics event and a gold medallist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, delivers her speech as participating teams stand in line (R) during the opening ceremony at the Shahid Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The six-nation competition, starting today, will feature gymnasts from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. Sixty-seven gymnasts will vie for medals in 22 events in three categories – men's senior, men's junior and women.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Giroud strike sends Milan top of Serie A

French striker Olivier Giroud's early strike earned AC Milan a narrow 1-0 win over Torino on Tuesday to send Stefano Pioli's side top of the Serie A standings. In an otherwise uneventful first half, Giroud, starting in place of another veteran Milan forward -- Zlatan Ibrahimovic -- tapped home his fourth Serie A goal of the season for what proved to be the winner in the 14th minute. Before the match, coach Pioli had warned his side that they needed to start winning ugly if they were to make the next step and win the Scudetto this season. And win ugly they did as, after Giroud's goal from Rade Krunic's flick, they did not create another meaningful chance. That mattered little, however, as Milan have now won nine of the first 10 Serie A matches of a season for the first time since the 1954-55 campaign.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Clinical' Pakistan: An unstoppable force of intimidation

STAR SPORT DESK

Pakistan's skilful all-round display against New Zealand on Tuesday, their 14th consecutive win at UAE, was no coincidence for the cricketing fraternity who are aware of what Pakistan historically brings to the game.

Kiwi skipper Kane Williamson had described Pakistan's latest performance as being 'clinical' -- a performance which was preceded by a devastating sandstorm that blew hot-favourites India away in the sides' first match of the Super 12 stage of the Men's ICC T20 World Cup.

"They played in the right spirit, I believe, and a great spirit," Williamson said post-match. "They're a

very competitive, proud cricketing nation, and they showed that tonight." Even though the majority of critics were reluctant to count Pakistan as favourites leading into the tournament, at the same time very few could have placed a heavy bet against them.

With New Zealand having hampered Pakistan's preparation -- by backing off from the series in Pakistan prior to world cup -- and considering Pakistan's tough initial fixtures -- against India and New Zealand -- to kick-start their world cup campaign were among many reasons why Pakistan was neither in or out as a serious contender for the tournament they had won in the 2009 edition.

So far in the marquee tournament, a menacing fast-bowling display of their three frontline pacers

-- the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Hasan Ali -- have continued Pakistan's defining legacy in the game. And combining the performances of their openers -- Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan -- against India, that broke the men in green's world cup jinx against their archrivals since 1992, has re-installed their reputation as a deadly force to be reckoned with.

And further considering their composed batting display at the death against the Kiwis from their middle-order batters -- the likes of Asif Ali and experienced Shoaib Malik -- any side now up against Pakistan in the upcoming games, starting from Afghanistan on Friday, will suffer from serious intimidation, no doubt.



TODAY'S MATCHES

Australia Vs Sri Lanka
8pm (BST)



BD U-23s lose to Kuwait

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-23 team's bid to qualify for the finals of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers got off to a disappointing start as the Men in Red and Green suffered a 1-0 defeat to Kuwait in Group D encounter at the JAR Stadium in Tashkent yesterday.

Youssef Alrasheedi separated both sides in 19th minute from a counter-attack in which goalkeeper Pappu Hossain failed to intervene a long ball as Alrasheedi managed to calmly send the ball over the onrushing goalkeeper to take Kuwait on top of the four-team group after hosts Uzbekistan played out a 2-2 draw against Saudi Arabia.

Before departing for Uzbekistan, head coach Maruful Haque had hoped to make up for the difference in individual skills of the opponents by executing a collective effort but yesterday, his charges were far from implementing his desired game plan and instead, were busy throughout the match to prevent Kuwaiti onslaughts.

Except for some brief moments on either side of the interval, the game was largely played in and around Bangladesh's area with Maruful having deployed five midfielders ahead of the four-man backline.

Eventually the margin of defeat was narrowed, courtesy of Pappu who rescued Bangladesh by spoiling several close-range attempts from Kuwait, including denying Rashidi's spot-kick attempt two minutes before conceding the decisive goal.

Bangladesh will play their second match against Uzbekistan on Saturday.



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COVID PANDEMIC

India red flags West Bengal's rising cases

STAR REPORT

Amidst mounting concerns over the detection of the new and faster-spreading variant of the Delta-plus coronavirus in certain parts of India, the country's health authorities have asked the West Bengal government to check the rising number of fresh Covid-19 cases in the state, particularly in Kolkata, following the Durga Puja festival.

The state government has prompted the Sonarpur-Rajpur Municipality authorities in south 24 Parganas district to shut down all markets and shops in all its 35 wards barring those dealing in essential commodities for three days from October 28 because of a surge in Covid cases in the last one week.

The step has been taken to break the chain of infections, said a state health ministry official.

Some micro-containment zones with restrictions on the movement of people and transport have been set up in parts of Purba Medinipur district.

West Bengal has been reporting about 800 new Covid-19 cases for the last one week after registering nearly 1,000 infections for a couple of days, according to the state health department data.

The state's cumulative tally of cases rose to 15,88,066, while the 15 fresh fatalities took the death toll to 19,081.

In a letter to West Bengal Health Secretary, Indian Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan expressed concern over the rising Covid cases and said if the trend is allowed to continue unchecked, it may severely strain West Bengal's

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



People, mostly students who just sat for the admission exams at Chattogram university, jostling to catch their train back home. While the Covid-19 pandemic is still prevailing around the world, health safety guidelines are hardly being maintained here. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

UK envoy for transparent, participatory next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next general election in Bangladesh should be held in a transparent and competitive atmosphere with participation from all political parties, said Robert Chatterton Dickson, the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, yesterday.

"It is important that all the voices and all political parties are able to participate in the elections and are able to have confidence in the electoral process -- it would be good to have an election that is transparent and openly contested."

Dickson's comments came at the "DCAB Talk" organised by the Diplomatic Correspondent Association of Bangladesh (DCAB) at the Jatiya Press Club.

However, anything related to the election should be Bangladesh-driven and a Bangladesh-led process, he said.

"It is not the foreigners to say how the election should be held here. It is a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

CTG FLYOVER

Confusion ends as no crack found

STAR REPORT

The MA Manna Flyover in Chattogram will be opened for vehicular movement within two days as an expert team yesterday found no evidence of the cracks suspected to have formed in two pillars of its ramp.

"We examined the pillars and found no cracks," said Shahajahan Alam, a member of the expert team.

Shahajahan is the director of Design Planning & Management (DMP) Consultants Ltd, a private engineering firm that designed the flyover. He talked to The Daily Star around 4:40pm yesterday and the team inspected the spot in the morning.

"From a far distance, it looks like a crack. But in reality, this is not a crack," said the primary investigation report prepared by the team.

"This is a construction joint where foam was used but it has not been cleaned yet," it mentioned.

The five-member expert team was comprised of representatives from Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), DPM Consultants and Max Infrastructure Ltd.

The government body CDA

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Urgent UN intervention needed'

OCTOBER 28, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

THE NEW YORK TIMES CALLS FOR URGENT UN INTERVENTION

The New York Times, in an editorial published today, stated, "The growing threat of war between India and Pakistan creates an urgent need for United Nations intervention -- but not on the terms proposed by Islamabad."

It added, "Any mediation effort by [UN Secretary General] U Thant or his representative should be in the first instance between the Pakistan government and leaders of the outlawed Awami League, the elected representatives of the people of East Pakistan -- not between Islamabad and New Delhi. Any call for a mutual withdrawal of forces must be accompanied by vigorous efforts to repatriate the refugees under conditions of justice and security."

PAKISTAN DENOUNCES TITO'S STATEMENT

Pakistan denounced the joint statement on Bangladesh issued by Yugoslavia President Josip Broz Tito and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as a "direct interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan". The joint statement called for political solution to the Bangladesh problem, acceptable to its elected members.

500 GIRLS LANGUISHING IN CAMPS

A top-ranking Awami League leader disclosed that about 500 Bangalee young girls were still in captivity in three concentration camps in East Pakistan under the control of the Pakistani military authorities. He further said the acting president and the prime minister of Bangladesh had already appealed to the leaders of the world to rescue these girls.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



Schoolgirl murdered brutally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered the slit-throat body of a schoolgirl in Tangail's Kalihati upazila yesterday.

The law enforcers also rescued a critically injured boy from the same location and sent him to a hospital.

The deceased is Sumaiya Akter, 15, daughter of Ferdous Rahman of Palima village in the upazila. She was a class-IX student at Elega High School.

The injured boy is Monir, 17, a transport worker and son of Meher Ali of Moshajan village in the same upazila.

Sumaiya's father said his daughter went outside the house around 6:00am yesterday to attend her coaching classes near her school in Elega municipality.

Monir's aunt Rozina Akter said her nephew left his house on Tuesday night, but did not return.

Barkat Ali, a councillor of Elega municipality, said locals informed police after seeing Sumaiya's body and injured Monir under the staircase of a house near Shamsul Haque College. Later, Monir was hospitalised, he added.

Razib Paul, a doctor of Tangail General Hospital, said Monir was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after giving primary treatment.

Hossain Mohammad Tareque, a doctor of DMCH's emergency department, said marks of injuries by a sharp object were found on the boy's neck, throat and head. "His condition is critical."

Molla Azizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kalihati Police Station, said the schoolgirl's body was sent to Tangail General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

The reasons behind the killing could not be known immediately, he said.




PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:32 7:15
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Scientists create world's first 'thinking' robot

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Japanese scientists have created the world's first 'thinking' robot that is able to steer its way around walls and obstacles.

The robot has brain-like neurons grown in the lab and when the cells were electrically stimulated, the machine successfully navigated a small maze.

A technique called 'physical reservoir computing' enabled it to make sense of the brain waves and dodge the barriers, researchers said.

Co-author Professor Hirokazu Takahashi said: "These nerve cells, or neurons, were grown from living cells."

"They acted as the physical reservoir for the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Lawyer Baset Majumder passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Baset Majumder, former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association and former vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, passed away at 8:18am yesterday in the capital's United Hospital.

He was 83. Majumder, known as a lawyer for the poor, left his wife, two sons and two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain announced the suspension of all functions of the Appellate Division and High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday in honour of the veteran jurist, who was also a member of the advisory council of the ruling Bangladesh Awami

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



A man sneaks through a gap created in the divider on a busy road to cross to the other side. These man-made gaps, made and used so mindlessly, pose a risk to human lives. The photo was taken in front Habibullah Bahar College in the capital's Shantinagar yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN