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Your Right to Know

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HEALTH EXPENSES

People dig deeper into their pockets

Ministry study finds the out-of-pocket cost in Bangladesh highest in South Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's out-of-pocket (OOP) healthcare expenditure has continued to rise, leaving a sizeable population with catastrophic medical bills, found a recent study by the health ministry.

Between 2015 to 2020, the OOP -- which is the expense for treatment borne directly by a patient where neither public nor private insurance covers the full cost of the health good or service -- has increased to 68.5 percent from 67 percent, according to the study.

This is the highest among Saarc nations, said the technical study conducted by

the Health Economics Unit (HEU) of the health ministry to bring down OOP in the country. The findings of the study were shared yesterday at an event styled "Pathways to Reduce Household OOP Expenditure".

Thanks to the rising OOP, 16.4 percent of the households avoid getting medical help even when needed, 24.4 percent of families (at 10 percent income level) are facing catastrophic health bills and 4.5 percent of the people are pushed into poverty every year.

About 64 percent of the OOP expenditure goes for medicine, whereas it

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



GIRLS WITH GUTS ... Students of Begum Badrunessa Government Girls College demonstrating yesterday at the capital's Bakshibazar for transport companies to reduce bus fares for students. The girls alleged that a bus conductor threatened to rape one of them on Saturday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Army should be people's

PM says on Armed Forces Day

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the members of the Armed Forces to uphold the glory of the country by contributing to its development activities alongside protecting the sovereignty.

"I believe you can earn admiration everywhere by your discipline and professions and can uphold the glory of the country by contributing to the development activities alongside protecting its sovereignty," she said while



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Show your plan for protecting rivers

HC gives govt six months' time to list all rivers too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to make a complete list of all the rivers in the country and to come up with an action plan on how the rivers will be protected from encroachers.

The list and the action plan must be submitted to the court in six months.

The finance ministry, National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, and the divisional commissioners were asked to comply with this directive.

The HC also ordered the authorities concerned to demarcate the boundaries of the Turag river as

per cadastral survey record from 1940.

At the same time, the HC issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why they should not be directed to evict the land grabbers and encroachers from the rivers across the country and why their failure in this regard should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah came up with the orders and rule while hearing a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), seeking necessary directives on the issue.

Bela's Chief Executive Officer Syeda Rizwana

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Let Khaleda go abroad

Family members, alliance partners make plea to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health condition of BNP Chairperson Khaleda

Zia, now admitted to Evercare Hospital in the capital, remained unchanged yesterday, said physicians.

Khaleda's personal physician AZM Zahid Hossain said, "Her physical



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MATARBARI POWER PLANT PROJECT Cost goes up 44pc with channel expansion

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The outlay for Matarbari coal-fired power plant, one of the mega-projects of the government, is set to increase by 44.1 percent to Tk 51,854.9 crore following the decision to expand the channel to bring in coal.

As per the original plan, the channel was supposed to be 3km-long, 250 metres wide and 15 metres deep.

Now, the project consulting agency -- a consortium of Japan's Nippon Koei and Tepsco, Germany's Fichtner and Australia's SMEC -- has advised the channel be usable for deep-sea vessels deep sea port.

As a result, the channel will now be 14.3 km long, 350 m wide and 18.5 m deep.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Bangladesh players celebrate the dismissal of a Pakistan batter during their Women's World Cup Qualifier match in Harare yesterday. Bangladesh restricted Pakistan to 201 for seven before chasing down the target with two balls to spare to seal a thrilling three-wicket victory.

PHOTO: BCB

Tigresses stun Pakistan

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh started their Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier campaign with a thrilling three-wicket victory over Pakistan in Harare yesterday.

The Nigar Sultana-led side restricted Pakistan to 201 after opting to field first before chasing down the target with three wickets in hand and two balls to spare.

An unbeaten 50 off 44 deliveries from Rumana Ahmed and a 13-ball 18 not out from former captain Salma Khatun led the victory charge after Bangladesh had stagnated hopelessly in the middle overs despite making a solid start to their chase.

Despite losing Murshidha Khatun (9) early, Bangladesh had looked comfortable when Sharmin Akter and Fargana Haque took the total to 80 in 25 overs. But the dismissal of Sharmin (31), Fargana (45) and Nigar (4) in space of 18 runs derailed the chase as the asking rate started to climb and scoring rate all but came to a halt.

Ritu Moni and Rumana then steadied the ship with a slow 61-run partnership before Ritu (33) was dismissed and was followed by two more wickets for the next one run. But Rumana and Salma made sure there was no more damage as they

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

CUSTODY BATTLE

Japan-born kids to stay with father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed that two Japan-born children of Japanese national Eriko Nakano and Bangladesh-born US citizen Imran Sharif will remain with their father

It also said their mother will be allowed to meet them three times a year.

"Eriko can meet her daughters, Nakano Jasmine Malika, 11, and Nakano Laila Lina, 9, exclusively for 10 days at a time and Imran will bear her travel and other relevant expenses during these periods," the court said.

Besides, she can also meet her children in Bangladesh at any other time at her own expenses because she lives in Japan and is a service holder there, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman said.

Delivering the verdict, the bench expressed hope that both parents will take constructive and positive steps for their welfare.

"Any party involved in this case [writ petition] may win, but it is the two children who will be the victims. We have heard statements from the children three times and we are delivering the judgement considering their welfare in our conscience," Justice Enayetur Rahim said.

In the observation, the bench directed the father to ensure that Jasmine and Laila can talk to their mother over video calls twice a month.

Imran, 58, has also been ordered to give Tk 10 lakh, within seven days, to Eriko for her expenses so far in Bangladesh.

The court asked the social welfare officer concerned in Dhaka to submit a report on the status of the children before it through the Supreme Court

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

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A UNITED ACHIEVEMENT

United Commercial Bank is proud to announce two great new achievements at the Mastercard Excellence Awards 2020-2021 in the categories of **Debit Business (Domestic)** and **Online Acquiring Business**.

BANGLADESH
UPDATE



199
New cases in 24hrs



15,74,088
Total cases



27,953
Deaths



15,38,198
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE



5,166,393
Deaths



257,606,280
Total cases

SALE OF ‘MINIKET’, ‘NAJIRSHAIL’

HC seeks lists of auto rice millers in seven dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to prepare lists of auto rice millers in seven districts who sell “miniket” and “najirshail” rice after polishing different varieties of rice in machines.



The deputy commissioners and superintendents of police of seven districts -- Rangpur, Kushtia, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Jashore, Gopalganj and Netrakona -- have been asked to prepare the lists and submit those to the HC within four months.

In response to a writ petition, the

court also wanted to know whether polishing of rice in mills poses any public health risk or damages nutrition standard.

Chairman of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and director generals of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute have been ordered to submit research reports on this issue before the HC by the same deadline.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain within three weeks why they should not be directed to stop production and sale of polished rice in the name of “miniket” and “najirshail”.

The bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by rights organisation -- Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh -- seeking necessary directives.

Lawyer Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioners, while Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hasan represented the state.

Show your plan

FROM PAGE 1

Hasan, who moved the writ petition, told The Daily Star that different government departments mention different numbers of rivers of the country. The numbers of grabbers also vary.

According to the Bangladesh Water Development Board, there are 405 rivers while NRCC says the number is over 770, and shipping ministry data says the number is 496. However, river researcher M Inamul Haque said he prepared a list of 1,182 rivers.

The NRCC in its 2019 report said the number of river grabbers is 57,390 in the country, but the state minister for shipping recently told parliament that the number is 65,127, Rizwan said.

In a verdict pronounced in 2016, the HC termed river grabbing a criminal offence. “Killing a river is virtually a collective suicide for all,” the court observed and added, “Killing a river is killing both the present and the future generations.”

HC DIRECTIVES

- Prepare lists of all rivers
- Make action plan to evict grabbers
- Demarcate the Turag as per CS record
- Submit report by June 5, 2022

Another HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman yesterday asked four officials to explain in four weeks why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them for failing to submit to the court a report on the steps taken to evict encroachers from the Bangshi river in Savar.

The officials are: the director general of the Department of Environment, deputy commissioner of Dhaka, and the upazila nirbahi officer and assistant commissioner (land) of Savar.

Let Khaleda go abroad

FROM PAGE 1

condition can improve or deteriorate anytime. Thus, any concrete comment on her health may be confusing.”

The medical board, formed to treat her, is meticulously observing her physical condition round the clock and examining the vital organs constantly.

The former prime minister needs to stay at the Critical Care Unit of the hospital for a few more days and the medical board is readjusting her medication, Zahid said.

She is suffering from chronic kidney conditions, decompensated liver diseases, unstable haemoglobin, uncontrolled blood sugar, arthritis and other old-aged complications.

Family members of Khaleda applied to the government to allow her to go abroad for better treatment but the government rejected the plea.

Meanwhile, five parties of the BNP-led 20-party alliance filed a separate application to the government via the Ministry of Home Affairs, on the same ground.

A five-member delegation, led by Kalyan Party Chairman major general (ret'd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, met the home minister at the secretariat.

“We have submitted an application to allow Khaleda Zia to go abroad for treatment. We explained verbally too. The home minister listened to us and assured us that the application will be sent to the prime minister,” Ibrahim told journalists after the meeting.

Later Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, “I will send her application to the prime minister.”

Meanwhile, BNP’s lawmakers formed a human chain in front of the south plaza of the National Parliament demanding to allow Khaleda to go abroad for treatment.

They demanded to the president to intervene on the issue of Khaleda’s treatment.

Khaleda has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and eye problems. In April this year, she contracted coronavirus.

She recovered while under treatment at home, but as other health complications cropped up, she was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 27.

Khaleda was admitted to the hospital on November 13 night and moved to the CCU on the next day, nearly a week after she was discharged

from the same healthcare facility.

When she developed health problems, she was placed in the CCU and remained there for almost two months. She returned home on June 19.

On October 12, she was admitted to the hospital as her temperature had started fluctuating. At that time, a lump was found on her body and she was in the hospital for around three weeks.

Khaleda was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, she was given a temporary release on certain conditions on March 25 last year. The term of her release has been extended four times so far.

Over 240,000 Lebanon expats register to vote in polls

AFP, Beirut

Nearly 245,000 Lebanese living abroad have signed up to vote in next year’s parliamentary polls, Lebanon’s foreign ministry said yesterday, after it closed the window for registration.

The vote scheduled for March 2022 is seen by many as a chance to challenge the ruling elite’s stranglehold on a country mired in its worse-ever financial crisis.

Lebanon’s diaspora -- estimated to number at least three times the country’s 6-million population -- will take part in the vote for the 128-seat parliament, making them a powerful electoral force.

The foreign ministry said the final expat voter count reached 244,442 -- more than double the almost 93,000 who registered for the last parliamentary polls in 2018, Lebanon’s first expat vote.

While the first was poorly publicised, this time around opposition activists at home and abroad organised social media campaigns to explain the registration process.

In some parts of Europe, volunteers set up registration centres to help compatriots sign up.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with high-ranking officials of the armed forces yesterday. Hasina virtually joined a reception at the Army Multipurpose Complex at Dhaka Cantonment from the Gono Bhaban on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day-2021.

PHOTO: PID

People dig deeper into their pockets

FROM PAGE 1

is 28 percent in India.

The excessive outlay on medicine is because of two reasons: irrational prescription and aggressive marketing, said Md Nurul Amin, director of research at HEU, in his keynote presentation at the event.

As much as 60 percent of the patients take medicines by self-medication and excessive prescription by informal providers like drug sellers and quacks, while 25 percent of the patients are victims of prescription of costly non-listed drugs.

About 58 percent of the employees of pharmaceutical companies are engaged in marketing and distribution, found the study. For instance, in 2010, 27 percent of the pharmaceutical companies’ revenue was spent on marketing.

To curtail the cost of medicine, the researchers recommended revising and expanding the list of emergency medicines and following the treatment protocol by the physicians.

Inpatient and outpatient services

account for 12 percent and 11 percent of OOP expenditure respectively.

There is a target to halve the OOP expenditure to 32 percent by 2032, according to the Health Financing Strategy 2012-2032.

But, it is on the rise, meaning Bangladesh’s target for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2032 is unlikely to be met.

Financial risk protection for the people is one of the three aspects for UHC and the country is worse day by day in this. It has done well in terms of population coverage, service coverage.

The excessive tests for diagnosis are one of the main causes for increased OOP, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque at the event.

Disease diagnosis accounts for 8 percent of OOP expenditure.

“We are working to reduce the diagnosis cost. I would urge the private healthcare service providers for help in this regard,” he added.

Patients are forced to seek services from private diagnostic centres and

hospitals due to inadequate primary healthcare systems in rural and urban areas.

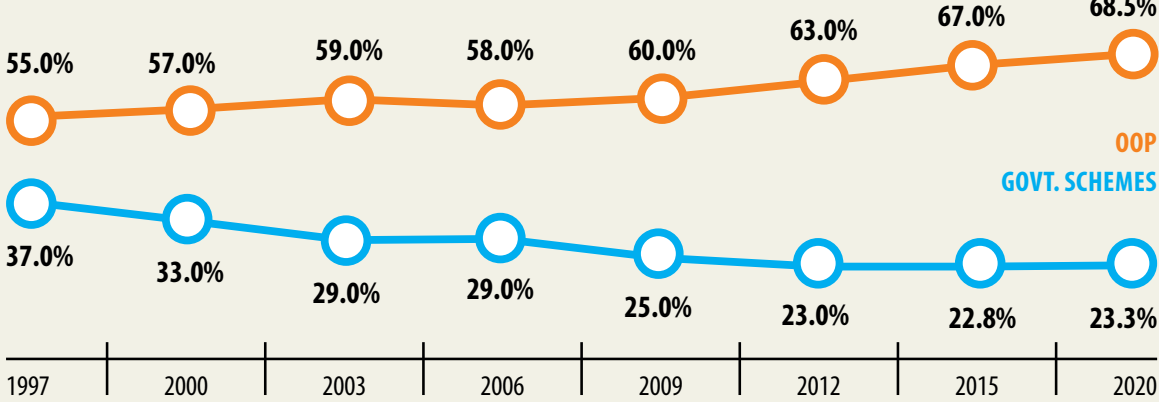
Statistics show that only 3 percent of the patients get medicine from the government hospitals while only 14.9 percent of the tests are done there, Amin said.

To eliminate poverty, there is no alternative to addressing the underlying factors of high OOP, he told The Daily Star.

To reduce the OOP expenditure, the researchers recommended coordination between community clinics and Upazila Health Complexes by introducing e-health services, ensuring efficiency of the public healthcare facilities and introducing social health insurance system.

They also recommended introducing an accreditation system for private healthcare facilities to control healthcare costs and standards and making use of generic names in prescriptions mandatory to discourage the drug-makers from aggressive marketing.

MAJOR SOURCES OF HEALTH FINANCING: 1997-2020



SOURCE: BANGLADESH NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS:1997-2020

Japan-born kids to stay with father

FROM PAGE 1

registrar general’s office every three months

The HC bench delivered the verdict following a writ petition filed by Eriko Nakano, 46, a doctor based in Tokyo, seeking custody of her children.

It kept the writ petition as a continuous mandamus so that any party of the case can approach it for necessary directives in the future.

The bench, however, rejected another petition filed by Imran seeking custody of his and Eriko’s third daughter Nakano Sania Hena, 6.

The grounds on which the HC delivered the verdict in this regard could not be known as its written text was not released yesterday.

After the court delivered the verdict, Imran’s lawyer Fawzia Karim Firoze told reporters that the children wanted to remain with their father.

“The children have won in the HC verdict... Child rights have been established through this verdict,” she

added.

Meanwhile, Eriko’s lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told reporters that they will take necessary steps after examining the written verdict.

Earlier on August 31, the HC bench directed the authorities concerned to shift Jasmine and Laila to a residence in the capital’s Gulshan from the victim support centre in order to ensure their welfare and give them a familiar environment.

“Both the father and mother will stay with the children till further orders so that they can lead a family life with the affection of their parents,” the court had said, adding that both Imran and Eriko will equally bear the expenses of the residence, their living and other relevant issues.

Eriko said in the petition that she and Imran got married on July 11, 2008, in Japan under Japanese law.

They have three daughters Nakano Jasmine Malika, Nakano Laila Lina, and Nakano Sania Hena.

Imran submitted an application to a Japanese court on January 18 this year to divorce Eriko, but did not appear before the court on the scheduled dates of hearing.

Imran picked his two daughters from their school in Tokyo on January 21 this year and came to Bangladesh with them on February 21, Eriko’s petition said.

Eriko then came to Bangladesh on July 18 this year and filed the writ petition with the HC seeking a directives on Imran to hand over the children to her custody.

She mentioned in the petition that she feared Imran may flee Bangladesh with the girls.

Speaking the The Daily Star recently, Imran said he communicated with the Japanese court regularly over their divorce case, but the divorce was not yet complete.

“My children are Bangladeshi nationals. Their names are now Jasmine Malika and Laila Lina.”

Death toll hits four from flooding in western Canada

AFP, Montreal

The death toll from record flooding in western Canada has risen to four, with a fifth person still missing, local authorities there said Saturday.

Torrential rains hit southwestern British Columbia last Sunday and Monday causing widespread flooding and landslides that damaged or destroyed roads and bridges.

The body of a woman was found on Monday, near a large section of highway that had been swept away by a landslide.

That highway, which links Vancouver to remote northern parts of the province,

was reopened Saturday for “essential travel only,” the authorities said.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police confirmed Saturday that the bodies of three men listed earlier as missing have now been found near Duffey Lake, northeast of Vancouver.

“We have been continuing the search for one more man, however search efforts have been hampered by weather and site conditions,” Sergeant Janelle Shoihet of the RCMP said in a statement.

The authorities have had to ration fuel as the area struggles with storm-related supply difficulties.

Individuals are being limited to

purchases of no more than 30 liters (eight gallons) of fuel at the pump -- a measure that might remain in place for 10 days, according to Mike Farnworth, the province’s minister of public security.

The Trans Mountain pipeline, a crucial link carrying oil from the huge petroleum industry in Alberta Province to the west coast, was temporarily closed by flood damage.

Farms have struggled to obtain needed supplies. In Abbotsford, where the army was deployed to deal with severe flooding, four tons of feed were delivered to a pig farm by helicopter on Saturday, the authorities said.

COLLEGE STUDENT’S DEATH

Court extends time for PBI to probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again extended the date for the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit the probe report of the case filed against Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir and seven others over the rape and murder of a college student in the capital’s Gulshan.

The new date fixed for the submission of the report is December 8.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yasmin Ara passed the order after Investigation Officer Golam Moktar Ashrafuddin, also a PBI inspector, failed to submit the probe report yesterday -- the previously scheduled date, court sources said.

This is the third time a date was scheduled for the submission of the report.

Earlier, the same court on November 2 asked the PBI to submit the report by yesterday.

Anvir was made the prime accused in the case, while chairman of the group Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and six others -- Shah Alam’s wife Afroza Begum, Anvir’s wife Sabrina Sayem, model Faria Mahbub Piyasha, Saifa Rahman Mim, the flat’s landlord Ibrahim Ahmed Ripon and his wife Sharmim -- were accused of assisting Anvir in committing the offence.

The High Court on September 29 refused to grant anticipatory bail to Anvir in the case.

After police recovered the body of the 21-year-old college student in a Gulshan flat on April 26, her elder sister had filed a case with Gulshan Police Station against Anvir on charges of suicide abetment.

On July 19, Abul Hasan, investigation officer of that case and also Gulshan Police Station’s office-in-charge, submitted the final report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate’s Court.

On August 18, a Dhaka court accepted the final report and relieved Anvir from the case.

However, the victim’s sister on September 6 filed another case with Dhaka’s Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-8 against Anvir over the rape and murder of the victim and seven others for assisting him.

Tigresses stun

FROM PAGE 1

smashed 42 runs in the next 25 balls to deliver a thrilling win.

Earlier, Bangladesh had made a terrific start with the ball, reducing Pakistan to 49 for five in 17.5 overs, thanks to two wickets apiece from Ritu and Nahida Akter.

Nida Dar (87) and Aliya Riaz (61 not out) then strung together a 137-run partnership for the sixth wicket before Salma got Dar out leg-before. Two more wickets fell in the dying overs but Pakistan made sure they crossed the 200-mark, which at that moment looked like a massive challenge for Bangladesh.

The win puts Bangladesh firmly on top of Group B, with three teams to eventually qualifying from among nine teams for next year’s World Cup to be held in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3.

Bangladesh will play their next match against USA tomorrow. The two other teams in the group are Thailand and Zimbabwe. Three teams from each group will qualify for the Super Six stage before the top three qualify for the World Cup.

Cost goes up 44pc

FROM PAGE 1

This will cost about Tk 14,327 crore and an additional three years, according to the revised proposal, which will be placed at tomorrow’s Executive Committee of National Economic Council meeting.

Japan International Cooperation Agency would largely be footing the additional cost of Tk 15,870.4 crore to take the donor agency’s total commitment to the project to Tk 43,921 crore, up 51.8 percent from the original plan.

The additional expenditure will be for beefed-up security for employees, consultants’ fee as the implementing period of the project has now been extended, and the increase in value-added tax for the imported products, among others.

The project, which started in July 2014, will now wrap up in December 2026 instead of June 2023, meaning there would be an additional consultancy fee of Tk 327.8 crore.

According to the new guidelines of the National Board of Revenue, the VAT has been increased, as a result of which the expenditure will rise to Tk 5,186 crore from Tk 3,020 crore, the proposal said.

At present, the project, a 1,200 megawatt power plant in Cox’s Bazar’s Maheshkhali using the ultra-super-critical technology, is 44.5 percent complete, according to the documents.

Another elephant found dead

Seven killed in 11 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elephant calf was found dead at Islampur Union of Cox's Bazar district yesterday. Forest officials recovered the calf from Gojalia area of Islampur Union at 10:00am. Anwar Hossen Sarkar, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar Forest Division (north), told The Daily Star that locals informed that an elephant calf, aged around two, was lying dead in Gojalia area of Fulchhari village.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Act now to save the gentle giants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

People from all strata of life formed a human chain on the premises of the deputy commissioner's office in Sherpur yesterday protesting the recent killing of elephants.

Jonouddyog, a citizens' platform, organised the event.

The human chain was joined by volunteers, cultural activists, journalists and professionals. It was presided over by Abul Kalam Azad, convener of the organisation.



PHOTO: STAR

Petition seeks HC directive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition seeking the High Court directives to stop the killing of elephants and human intrusion into elephant corridors.

Barrister Khan Khalid Adnan filed the petition requesting the HC to issue a rule asking the authorities, including the secretary of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry and Forest Department to issue a gazette for the twelve corridors identified by the department and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

"We requested the High Court to issue directives through a gazette to preserve twelve elephant corridors for their safe movement," he said.

Seven elephants in total were killed in just eleven days this month. Among them, two were in Sherpur and the rest in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram.

Workers by day, muggers by night

CID arrests 5 members of mugging gang in connection with college student's murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In daylight, they work as auto-rickshaw drivers, bus helpers or day labourers. But when the night gets dark, they get on auto-rickshaws, get out on the highways, and target people for robbery.

Recently, a college student in Gazipur -- Mehedi Hasan Tuhin (23) fell prey to the gang. When he refused to hand them his phone, they slit his throat and left him to die.

Over the last two days, Criminal Investigation Department of police conducted two raids in Keraniganj and the capital's Demra area and arrested five members of the gang.

This was revealed by CID Special Superintendent Mukta Dhar, who spoke at a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital's Malibagh yesterday.

The arrestees are -- bus helper Masud Rana (22), auto-rickshaw driver Fakhrul Islam (38), and day labourers Sumon Hossain (24), Hazrat (22), and Aliar Rahman Raju (38).

Mukta Dhar said deceased Tuhin, a final-year management student at a Gazipur college, worked as a sales staff at a mobile company's store at Runu Super Market in Konabari, Gazipur for the last six months.

On November 12, Tuhin was on his way home when the muggers stopped him on Gazipur-Tangail highway in Naojor area around 8:30pm. Following his death at their hands, his father filed a case against unidentified accused at Basan Police Station in Gazipur the next day.

"When the victim tried to stop their advances, the muggers hit him with an iron rod or stabbed them with a knife and fled," she said.

The official said they carry out two-three such operations every day and have 10-15 members in the gang.

CID seized five mobile phones, including the victim's one, and an auto-rickshaw from their possession.

BANIYARCHAR CHURCH BOMBING Fugitive accused held after 20 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty years after a bomb attack at Baniyarchar Catholic Church in Gopalganj, the Counter Terrorism Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested a fugitive accused in Dhaka yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Obaidur Rahman bin Abdullah (41).

A team of the CTU raided a house in New Town Residential area of Haji Badshah Mia Road in Demra around 7am and arrested Obaidur, said CID Special Superintendent Muhammad Nazmul Alam at a press conference at its headquarters in Malibagh.

The official said Obaidur was a charge-sheeted accused.

A warrant was issued against him by a court.

After receiving a petition from the OC of Jamalpur Sadar Police in this regard, CID started trying to identify the accused and arrest him, he added.

On June 3, 2001, a weekly prayer at Baniyarchar Catholic Church was going on around 8:00am.

Shortly after the prayer, a bomb exploded, spreading panic throughout the area.

The bombing killed 10 members of the Christian community and injured at least 50 others.

BHANGA-PAYRA PORT RAIL LINE

Railway in search for investors

Delegation led by minister to hold talks with UK-based company

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In a bid to manage funds for the Bhangra to Payra Port rail line, railways authorities have started talks with a UK-based company -- IM Power PLC -- over the 214km line.

During their UK tour slated to start from tomorrow, a delegation led by Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon will hold further discussions with the company.

"They have shown interest for both investing and providing technology [for the rail line]. They have already met with us in Bangladesh, now we will hold a meeting with them there," the minister told The Daily Star yesterday.

An eight-member delegation led by the minister will visit four European countries, including the UK, from tomorrow to December 5 to see developed railway systems there.

Besides, they will hold talks with different government agencies and businesses that showed interest in investing in BR. They were scheduled to leave the country last night.

PROJECT TIMELINE

The development comes months after Bangladesh Railway (BR) has completed feasibility studies and detailed designs for the rail line.

As part of the government's plans to bring the entire country under the rail

network and establish a direct link between the under-construction Payra Sea Port and the capital, BR intended to construct the rail line from Bhangra to Payra.

The line, which will have 19 stations, will cost around Tk 41,797.6 crores, or \$4.93 billion. The proposed deadline of the project is June 2029.

BR authorities expect the direct link between the sea port and the capital as a way to boost its income by operating freight trains on the line.

BR has already sent the Preliminary Development Project Proposal to the Railways Ministry to forward it to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to find financiers for the project, sources said.

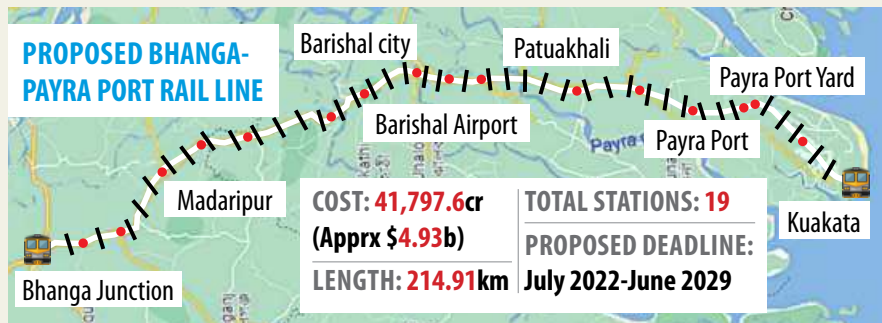
Bhangra has already been connected with the railway network from Faridpur and it will be linked directly with the capital once the ongoing Padma Bridge Rail Link Project -- under which a rail line from Dhaka to Jashore is being constructed -- is completed by June 2024.

TRANSPORT EXPERTS SHED DOUBT

However, transport experts have raised questions over the viability of the project, considering how much money is required for it.

Prominent transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said the government has decided to build a sea port in Payra

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



STATIONS (Red dots): Bhangra Junction, Boroitola, Tekerhat, Madaripur, Kalkini, Gour-nadi, Ujirpur, Barishal Airport, Barishal city, Dapdapia, Bakerganj, Badarpur, Patuakhali, Kukua, Amtali, Payra Port, Payra Port Yard, Lemupara and Kuakata.

Recognition ever-elusive for martyred Harijans



PHOTO: STAR



Inside the colony, Harijan Sevak Samity built a memorial, whose plaque reads the names of the 10 martyred.

DIPAN NANDY

Today is November 22. On this day in 1971, 10 members of the Harijan community were picked up and killed by the Pakistan forces.

Their crime? Aiding freedom fighters.

They all lived in the Mirin Jilla Harijan City Colony in the capital's Aga Sadek Lane. But despite their valiant efforts and eventual tragedy, they're yet to get recognised as freedom fighters 50 years on. Instead,

losing the prime bread-earners, their families have lived this half-a-century mired in misfortune.

During the Liberation War, locals of the Harijan colony helped out freedom fighters in whatever way they could, up to varying degrees of danger. From supplying food to even carrying arms inside brooms.

But as news of this got to the aggressors' camp, on November 21 midnight, the Pakistan forces picked up 10 Harijans. They could never be traced again.

They are: Mahabir Lal Samund, Nandu Lal, Anowar Lal, Ishwar Lal, Khalbal Das, Ghashita Das, Sankar Das Hela, Nanda Lal, Lalu Das, and Ramcharan.

As homage to them, Harijan Sevak Samity has built a memorial inside the colony. On November 22 every year, relatives of the martyrs, along with residents of the colony, gather there to lay down floral tributes and host remembrance programmes.

Visiting the area yesterday, this

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

She's asleep on a footpath, completely unbothered by the chaotic Dhaka morning, wrapped up in her scarlet blanket. But as winter approaches, life is set to get more difficult for homeless children like her across the capital. This photo was taken from Bailey Road area yesterday.

Four workers die in Dhaka, N'ganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four workers died in the capital and Narayanganj over the last two days.

In Dhaka, two persons died from electrocution and two others sustained minor injuries while working at an under-construction house in Badda yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Ariful Islam Sohel (28), owner of Ma Engineering Workshop at Satarkul area; and Jahangir Alam (32), his employee. Nine workers were welding metal frame of a shed of the house when four of them got electrocuted around 2:00pm.

Two of them were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead around 3:00pm," said one Md Hossain, who took them to DMCH.

Meanwhile, two of the four workers, who were injured in a fire at City Auto Rice Mill in Narayanganj on Saturday, have died at a Dhaka hospital.

Hazrat Ali (50) succumbed to his injuries around 10:00pm on Saturday while Belayet Hossain (60) died around 9:00am yesterday at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

"Hazrat had 99 percent burn injuries and Belayet 95 percent," said Dr Aiyub Hossain, resident surgeon of the institute. Another injured, Sirajul Islam (60), is in a critical state at the burn institute with 65 percent burns while Md Rana (45), a security guard of the mill, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

Flames engulfed the mill located at Rupganj upazila after a boiler pipe exploded due to excessive heat while the workers were packing rice husk around 2:30pm on Saturday.

Tk 1.58CR GRAFT Court frames charges against ex-MP Mizanur

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former Awami League lawmaker of Khulna-2 Mizanur Rahman in a case filed over amassing wealth worth Tk 1.58 crore illegally.

The former lawmaker, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Muhammed Ali Hussain of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka read out the charges to him.

Earlier in the day, the judge dismissed the petition submitted for discharging him from the charges. The judge fixed December 21 for starting trial.

On March 8 in 2018, ACC launched an investigation against Mizanur over allegations of acquiring wealth illegally.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Teenager held over Dhaka hit and run

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have detained a school student who was allegedly driving a private car recklessly and hit a rickshaw on Dhaka's Baily Road -- leaving a man and his six-month-old boy injured -- on Friday afternoon.

A team of Tejgaon police, in association with local police, detained the student around 3:45am from Chuadanga district yesterday, Biplob Kumar Sarker, deputy commissioner of Tejgaon Division Police, told The Daily Star.

The boy used to be a 10th grader at a school in the capital, said police, adding that he recently transferred to a school in Gangni upazila of Meherpur.

Police carried out a drive after video of the incident went viral on social media.

The video shows that the rickshaw-puller and the passengers falling on the road after the car hit the rickshaw.

The father, son and the rickshaw-puller were being treated at a hospital.

Police also seized the car from Hatirjheel area yesterday. They are trying to find out how the boy came into possession of the car, the official said.

Law enforcers brought the boy to Dhaka's Ramna Police Station last night.

Mesbahur Rahman passes away

CITY DESK

Mesbahur Rahman, who worked as the general manager at Transcom Limited from early 1980s for over 20 years, passed away on November 20 due to health complications.

He was 68, said a press release.

He left behind his wife and a daughter to mourn his death.

Mesbahur Rahman was buried at Banani graveyard. All of his relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Vaccination begins for DEPZ workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) authorities and Savar Upazila Health Complex jointly organised a mass vaccination programme at DEPZ for workers yesterday.

The vaccination drive was initiated by a Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) decision. Under this programme, around 85,000 workers from 97 factories in DEPZ are expected to be vaccinated.

On the first day, a total of 1,000 workers from several factories under DEPZ were vaccinated, said Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Hussain Md Moinul Ahsan.

Railway in search

FROM PAGE 3

switching from its previous plan to build a deep sea port. This means even if previous feasibility studies have brought up the need for such a rail line, it will might less important considering the change in plans.

"I have doubt over the viability of such a big project," he told this newspaper recently.

FUNDING PROPOSALS

Meanwhile, BR sources said different companies have expressed their interest to finance the project on several occasions. They mentioned Providus Investments, an Australian company, had expressed interest to fund and strike an EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) contract early this year.

BR has sent a letter to the rail ministry seeking ERD's opinion in this regard.

During a visit to Saudi Arabia in September this year, Prime Minister's investment adviser Salman F Rahman, also sought the country's investment in the project.

In November 2019, while meeting the then chief of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Sirazul Islam, UK-based IM Power Plc and TenBroeke Ltd had proposed an integrated initiative involving the development of Bangladesh's power and railway sectors.

Yesterday, the minister said they would talk with IM Power over their proposal to invest in the project. He said the Bangladesh High Commission in UK is also in touch with the company after they expressed interest in the project. "If necessary, we will provide partial funding along with the company's investment."

He said the company also expressed interest to get involved in a project for the electrification of Dhaka-Chattogram rail line, which will also be discussed during the meeting.

IM Power is an independent power producer (IPP), providing comprehensive solution for customers by combining its expertise in financing power generation, integrated power and industrial infrastructure projects together with EPC, operation and maintenance services, according to their website.

Mashuk Selim no more

CITY DESK

Mashuk Selim -- who held executive positions in the financial department of several national and multinational companies including Transcom, Brac, Ispahani and Nestle -- passed away on November 20 following heart complications.

He was 75, said a press release. The only son of Siddiqui and Hamida Rahman, Mashuk Selim is survived by his wife, three children and three grandchildren. His qulkhani will be held on November 26 at House-308, Road-8/A (Old Road 15), Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers.



Recognition ever-elusive

FROM PAGE 3

correspondent saw preparations were ongoing in full-swing ahead of today's programmes. The memorial plaque had been cleaned, while a banner was hung at the main gate of the Mirin Jilla Government Primary School. It reads "May the Martyr's Day Live Forever".

At the colony area, this correspondent spoke to Anowar Lal's wife Benodebi. Even after all this time, she gets all teared up thinking of that fateful night 50 years ago.

"I still get shivers. We had already gone to sleep with our two daughters and son. In the middle of the night, there were knocks on the door. It scared us stiff," said a grief-stricken Benodebi.

"As soon as he [Anowar Lal] opened the door, the Pakistan army picked him up in the face of firearms. We never saw him again."

Reminiscing her husband's role during the Liberation War, she said, "We used to see him come home with bread, banana, flattened rice, and molasses. But he'd then hide them. If I asked, he'd tell me not to think about it. We later got to know he used to bring the food home for the freedom fighters."

"Ever since his passing, I had been living a life befitting of a nightmare. I managed to get a job at Bangladesh Biman as his wife, but I'm retired now. It's been 50 years, but we're yet to get any recognition, other than 'The Daily Star Unsung Heroes of Bangladesh Liberation War 1971' award in July 2013. But there's been no formal acknowledgment from the government," she lamented.

Like Benodebi, members of the other nine martyrs' families are also spending their days in deep distress.

Talking to this newspaper, Harijan Sevak Samity senior vice-president Nirmal Chandra Das said, "To be honest, we couldn't even speak in the early days after the liberation. Some time later, we started contacting different quarters over the recognition of our martyrs."

"Recently, we brought over Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque as a guest at one of our programmes and told him of our demands. But recognition still remains ever-elusive. If we could get it, at least the family members could get some allowances or jobs. But nothing of the sort has happened."

This year, the community isn't planning to hold any elaborate events. "Renovation work is going on at roads around the colony, which is why we aren't inviting guests. We'll just hold a remembrance programme among ourselves. There'll be floral tributes, special prayers. We'll also be cooking food for residents of the colony," Nirmal said.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Franchise Ownership Rights

Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League T20 (BBPL T20)-2022

Ref No: BCB/Franchise Ownership Rights/BBPL T20/2022/1064 Date: 22nd November 2021

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the reputed business houses/companies/parties/agencies/consortiums for Franchise Ownership Rights of the 06 (Six) Franchise Teams of the 8th edition of BPL T20-2022 tentatively scheduled between 20th January 2022 and 20th February 2022.

The 8th edition of BPL T20 is a special edition to commemorate the Birth Centenary of founding father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This edition has been named as "BANGABANDHU BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE T20 (BBPL T20)-2022".

Non-Eligibility :

- Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, Online betting shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- Any person(s) or entities with an existing unresolved dispute with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI process.

EOI Submission Procedure :

A detailed document (General Guideline) related to EOI process will be available at the BCB Management Office and BCB's Official Website: www.tigercricket.com.bd

The EOI must be submitted to the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh by the close of business hours on **Sunday 5th December, 2021** in a sealed envelope addressed to the "Chief Executive Officer, BCB".

The following documents must be submitted along with the EOI :

- Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.
- Latest auditor's report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually)
- Bank Solvency Certificate along with bank Statement.
- Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.
- Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
- In case of Consortium, Notarized consortium Agreement

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. Further, BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board
Management Office: Sher-E-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216
Tel: +880 2 8031001-4, Fax: 8031199

Bangladesh Bank

Information Systems Development and Support Department
Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Website: www.bb.org.bd

Tender No. ISDSD-(Services)-12(31)/2021 Date: 21 November 2021

Invitation for Tenders

BANGLADESH BANK, HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA				
1	Ministry/Division	Not applicable.		
2	Agency	Not applicable.		
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank.		
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Invitation for	The Procurement of IT Equipment for Bangladesh Bank, Khulna Office.		
7	Invitation for	ISDSD-(Services)-12(31)/2021		
8	Date	21 November 2021		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	Own source.		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/program code (if applicable)			
13	Project/program name (if applicable)			
14	Tender Package No.	ISDSD-(Services)-12(31)/2021		
15	Tender package name	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Two (02) units of 10 KVA Online UPS for Bangladesh Bank, Khulna Office, Khulna.		
		Date		
16	Tender publication date	21 November 2021.		
17	Tender last selling date			
		Date	Time	
18	Tender closing date and time	12 December 2021	03:00pm	
19	Tender opening date and time	12 December 2021	03:15pm	
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address		
	-Receiving tender document	Bangladesh Bank e-Tender System (https://etender.bb.org.bd) and Hard Copy Document.		
	-Opening tender document	Information Systems Development and Support Department, 28th Floor, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.		
		12 December 2021	03:15pm	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Brief eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods of at least one (1) contract of similar nature successfully completed within the last three (3) years, with a value of at least Taka ten lac (BDT 10,00,000)= <i>Evidence of Work completion certificate and work order mentioning amount, item list, date etc. are required.</i>		
22	Brief description of goods or works	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Two (02) units of 10 KVA Online UPS for Bangladesh Bank, Khulna Office, Khulna.		
23	Brief description of related services	Three years warranty service including battery.		
24	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	1	10 KVA Online UPS	ISDSD	25,000/-
				Completion time in weeks/months from the date of contract signing
				12 weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
25	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Amir Hossain Pathan.		
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Systems Manager.		
27	Address of official inviting tender	Information Systems Development and Support Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 02 9530101	Fax: 02 9530481	E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders of annul the tender proceedings.			
sd/				
DCP: 48/2021-3768 Md. Amir Hossain Pathan Date: 21-11-2021 Systems Manager GD-2122 Phone: 9530101, E-mail: amir.pathan@bb.org.bd				
<div>"মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার দেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার"</div> <div>ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিভাবে কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।</div>				

A2i OFFICIAL MURDER

3 arrested in Dhaka, Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police on Saturday arrested three hijackers accused of killing an A2i (Access to Information) project official Abdul Berek Sheikh (44) in Munshiganj's Tongibari upazila.

"Members of the Tongibari Police Station and Detective Branch arrested them after conducting raids at different places in Munshiganj and Dhaka," said Munshiganj Superintendent of Police Abdul Momen at a press briefing yesterday.

The arrestees -- Mohammad Nazir Hossain (36), Mohammad Faisal (28) and Mohammad Milon (34) -- are from Mashadgaon village in Louhajang upazila, said police.

"The three accused had been monitoring the victim's movement for a long time as he had to visit a Bank Asia branch frequently.

On the day of the murder, they blocked Abdul Berek's way and snatched a bag he was carrying. After finding no money in it they stabbed him with sharp weapons and left the spot," said the SP.

"Abdul Berek's bag, two knives used in the killing, a pistol, and a motorcycle were recovered during the arrest," added the police official.

Police on November 7 recovered Abdul Berek's body from the side of a road at Tailkai village in Tongibari.

The victim was working as an entrepreneur assistant of the a2i project of Hasail Banari union in Tongibari.

Another

FROM PAGE 3

They rushed to the spot and recovered the body. A team of livestock department is conducting an autopsy to determine the cause of death, he said.

The mammal is categorised as critically endangered in the IUCN list due to its dwindling population.

Seven elephants were killed in just 11 days in this month across Sherpur, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar district.

ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Asian University for Women (AUW), an independent international institution of higher learning, is currently looking for suitable candidates for the following positions:

- English Language Instruction Coordinator, General Studies Program
- Dean of Humanities
- Dean of Sciences

Detailed information/job descriptions for the above positions are available at our website: <http://asian-university.org/career-opportunities/>

As an equal opportunity employer, the Asian University for Women strongly encourages qualified women to apply. The positions are based in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

www.asian-university.org

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প্রশাসন-১ অধিশাখা

বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

www.hsd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৪৫.০০.০০০০.১৪০.১১.০০১.২০-১৫১৫

তারিখঃ ০৬ অগ্রায়ন, ১৪২৮

২১ ভৈশ্বখর, ২০২১

বিষয়: **লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ফলাফল প্রকাশ প্রসঙ্গে।**

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ের বরাতে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অডিটর, হিসাবরক্ষক, ক্যান্সার, কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, স্টাফ-লিপিকার, কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, স্টাফ-মুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক ও অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (এমএমএইউ) এর শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে গত ১৯.১১.২০২১ তারিখ লিখিত পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রার্থীগণ উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন:

০১. অডিটর : 11000297, 11000405, 11000438, 11000661, 11000698 = ০৫ (পাঁচ) জন

০২. হিসাবরক্ষক: 12000083, 12000139, 12000312, 12000331, 12000350 = ০৫ (পাঁচ) জন

০৩. ক্যান্সার সারকার: 19000013, 19000077, 19000097, 19000140, 19000209 = ০৫ (পাঁচ) জন

০৪. কম্পিউটার অপারেটর: 13000073, 13000170, 13000221, 13000232, 13000253, 13000282, 13000332, 13000352, 13000368, 13000417, 13000439, 13000453, 13000514, 13000533, 13000553, 13000570, 13000574, 13000607, 13000614, 13000656, 13000683, 13000725, 13000740, 13000744, 13000760, 13000795, 13000806, 13000810, 13000831, 13000850, 13000858, 13000866, 13000876, 13000878, 13000883, 13000925, 13000937, 13000960, 13001001, 13001019, 13001027, 13001034, 13001052, 13001072, 13001075, 13001076, 13001082, 13001091, 13001105, 13001118, 13001127, 13001139, 13001282, 13001285, 13001296, 13001316, 13001320, 13001325, 13001329, 13001338, 13001363, 13001364, 13001366, 13001396, 13001400, 13001402, 13001416, 13001428, 13001451, 13001474, 13001486, 13001503, 13001508, 13001531, 13001561, 13001563, 13001581, 13001582, 13001585, 13001587, 13001588, 13001597, 13001648, 13001654, 13001667, 13001676, 13001682, 13001691 = ৮৯ (উননকুই) জন

০৫. স্টাফ-লিপিকার কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর: 15000020, 15000022, 15000023, 15000024, 15000025, 15000027, 15000029, 15000030, 15000036, 15000039, 15000041, 15000046, 15000056, 15000067, 15000079, 15000088, 15000094, 15000105, 15000108, 15000119 = ২০ (বিশ) জন

০৬. অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক: 16000070, 16000088, 16000165, 16000181, 16000209, 16000210, 16000235, 16000372, 16000407, 16000519, 16000629, 16000662, 16000663, 16000732, 16000739, 16000763, 16000795, 16001026, 16001080, 16001095, 16001165, 16001341, 16001347, 16001414, 16001429, 16001458, 16001496, 16001957, 16001992, 16002012, 16002131, 16002306, 16002403, 16002562, 16002631, 16002811, 16002970, 16002984 = ৩৮ (আত্রিশ) জন

০৭. অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (এমএমএইউ): 17000017, 17000127, 17000145, 17000149, 17000152, 17000178, 17000179, 17000189, 17000205, 17000212, 17000248, 17000254, 17000260, 17000275, 17000312, 17000354, 17000377, 17000399, 17000400, 17000450, 17000517, 17000557, 17000562, 17000574, 17000586, 17000621, 17000719, 17000934, 17000939, 17000971, 17000989 = ৩১ (একত্রিশ) জন

০৮. স্টাফ-মুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর: 14000036, 14000048, 14000049, 14000060, 14000066, 14000068, 14000069, 14000078, 14000079, 14000117, 14000125, 14000198, 14000216, 14000236, 14000254, 14000310, 14000324, 14000332, 14000365, 14000371, 14000391, 14000394, 14000407, 14000415, 14000455, 14000474, 14000534, 14000548, 14000550, 14000558, 14000560, 14000575, 14000578, 14000585, 14000603, 14000607, 14000625, 14000634, 14000642, 14000687, 14000730, 14000746, 14000749, 14000757, 14000761, 14000783, 14000798, 14000810, 14000846, 14000860, 14000864, 14000929, 14000967, 14001023, 14001026, 14001086, 14001099, 14001113, 14001118, 14001137, 14001146, 14001188 = ৬২ (ষাষটি) জন

নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)/মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৪.১১.২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল ০৯:০০ ঘটিকায় বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট (বিয়াম), ৬৩, নিউ ইন্সটান, ঢাকায় গ্রহণ করা হবে। প্রার্থীদেরকে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্তানুসারে সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদ ও অন্যান্য ডকুমেন্ট এর মূল কপি ও ১ (এক) সেট সত্যায়িত কপি সঙ্গে আনতে হবে।

২০/১১/২০২১

(আনজুম্যান আরা)

উপসচিব ও সদস্য-সচিব

বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি

স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

GD- 2119

Man kills wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A housewife was killed by her husband allegedly over a family feud in Ghatail upazila yesterday.

The victim, Minara Begum, 22, was wife of Aminul Islam of Bhabandatta Kachhora village.

Quoting neighbours, police said slain Minara and her mother-in-law often used to quarrel over trifling matter since the couple's marriage nearly one and a half years ago.

Annoyed by his wife's behaviour, angry Aminul strangled Minara to death at his house early yesterday and then informed the matter to local police over phone. Officer in Charge (OC) of Ghatail Police Station Azharul Islam said.

Later, police arrested Aminul, recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy.

The arrestee was produced before a Tangail court later in the day that sent him to jail, the OC added.

13 crude bombs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police in a drive recovered 13 crude bombs and five locally made sharp weapons from an abandoned place in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Sub Inspector (SI) of Sadar Police Station Mohammad Fariduzzaman said a police team raided Rajarchar village under Mollakandi union around 6:30am and recovered the crude bombs and other lethal weapons in an abandoned condition.

They conducted the drive after several incidents of crude bomb blast occurred at different villages in Mollakandi union on November 14, centring the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) elections scheduled for November 28, the SI said.



A section of contractors has occupied the land of the proposed Sheikh Russel Memorial Children's Park in Barishal's Bakerganj upazila keeping building materials. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

SHEIKH RUSSEL MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S PARK Yet to come into being in 4 years *Local BCL man occupying the land for running personal business*

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Although four years have passed since the inauguration of Sheikh Russel Memorial Children's Park in Bakerganj upazila of Barishal, the site development work is yet to begin.

Moreover, the proposed land of the children's amusement park has been being used for the personal business of a local Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist.

According to what could be known, local lawmaker Nasreen Jahan Ratna laid the foundation stone of the park in 2017.

It was supposed to be built on one acre of land in front of the upazila office. But the development of the park has remained elusive for the last four years.

Additionally, a local college BCL leader Asadul Islam Raju

has occupied a part of the land for running his sand and bricks business, locals said.

Raju is the son of Mafuza Begum Bhanu, the councillor of ward no 5 in the municipality area. He is the organising secretary of the government Bakerganj College unit BCL.

Visiting the spot, it was found that like Raju some other local influential have also been running their business occupying the land for the proposed children's park.

Taran Ganguly, a local teacher, said that the way the land is being grabbed, the Shaheed Minar will be engulfed soon.

Locals alleged that due to delay in the development works, a section of contractors has been using the field for their personal gains marring the beauty of the space where children could find

respite in their free time.

Shah Sajeda, the convener of Barisahl Sacheton Nagorik Committee, demanded that the illegal occupants be immediately evicted from the land immediately and the park be handed over to the children upon completion of the development work.

BCL leader Raju said he kept the building materials on the field as he found it empty and he was not aware that occupying the land would create any problem.

"I have not occupied any land; just kept some materials which I will remove in a few days," he said adding that the authority is turning a blind eye to those contractors who have also kept construction materials occupying the field.

Lawmaker of Barishal-6 (Bakerganj) constituency Nasreen Jahan Ratna said that she

forwarded the proposal for the implementation of the park to the Ministry of Youth and Sports four years ago.

"I don't know the development but will inquire about it soon," she said.

"I have already instructed the illegal occupants to remove the materials immediately from the field," she added.

Bakerganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Madhabi Roy said that they have received the complaint against illegal businesses occupying the land of the proposed Sheikh Russell Memorial Children's Park.

"The local MP has informed us the matter over phone and asked to us act," said the UNO.

"I have already sent surveyors and to investigate the incident," she added.

Man caught

FROM PAGE 12

During primary interrogation, Nazmul admitted to raping and killing the child. The child's body was sent to the Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile in Narayanganj's Rupganj, Abdus Salam, 50, was arrested on charges of raping an eight-year-old girl.

Salam, who is from Bauphal in Patuakhali, used to live in a rented house.

Police said the girl was playing near her home on Saturday evening when Salam took her to his house and raped her.

Salam then let the girl go, giving her Tk 30 to buy candies. After returning home, the girl started crying and told her parents what had happened.

Her father filed a case accusing Salam, who was arrested early yesterday, said AFM Sayed, OC of Rupganj Police Station.

A court sent Salam to jail, he added.

(Our correspondents in Benapole and Narayanganj contributed to the report.)

Fifth Covid

FROM PAGE 12

influx of Covid patients into hospitals, with the authorities attributing the limited number of intensive care patients to France's high rate of vaccinations which appear highly effective against the most dangerous forms of Covid.

'INCREASE IN INFECTIONS'

On Saturday, hospitals in France reported a total of 7,974 Covid patients in their care, with 1,333 of them in intensive treatment.

This compares to 6,500 and 1,000, respectively, a month earlier.

"There is a very strong increase in infections, but we also know that in France we have a very large vaccination cover," he said. "We seem to be ahead of our neighbours concerning booster shots."

Buet removes chairman

FROM PAGE 12

has been relieved from the chairman post of the department and exam-related duties. Besides, a body will also probe the allegation."

After getting the probe report, the university authorities would make decision on Prof Nikhil, the VC added.

The name of Prof Nikhil came up in the confessional statement of a man arrested over leaked question papers of a recruitment exam for bankers.

Delowar Hossain, who was arrested on Wednesday in a case filed over the leaking of question papers of recruitment tests at five state-run banks, confessed his involvement before a Dhaka court on Thursday.

He said the Buet teacher helped Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), where he is an adjunct faculty, get the job of preparing and printing the question papers.

When the questions got printed at a press, Prof Nikhil, who was the head of IPE department, used to take two copies of the question papers, added Delowar, a suspended office attendant of AUST.

Delowar said he sometimes put two sets of questions in Prof Nikhil's bag.

Kissinger's plan for isolating

FROM PAGE 12

was "happy" to find the soldiers in high spirits, the Radio said.

ON THE WAR FRONT

The occupation troops attacked the Mukti Bahini position at Ghughudanga of Dinaipur today. After a fierce battle the Pakistani troops withdrew and 30 enemy soldiers were killed. Two brave freedom fighters were killed in the action while two others sustained injuries.

Freedom fighters destroyed the Pakistani army post at Mandra and two strategically important road bridges between Satkhira town and Mahmudpur today. On the same day, one Pakistani army Jeep proceeding to

Denying his involvement on Friday, Prof Nikhil claimed to The Daily Star that he just gave technical support to the exam committee of AUST.

"AUST conducts the examinations through tender from Bangladesh Bank. I just give technical support to the exam committee. During visits to the printing press, the members of the exam committee, including the director, remain present there. While proofing, some questions papers get wasted. The waste and the printing plates are kept together. How would I bring out the questions?" he asked.

AUST VC Prof Muhammad Fazli Ilahi earlier said the professor was not part of any committee for the November 6 exams. But he was involved in several technical tasks like preparing the stickers used at exam halls.

"What the arrestee said in the statement might be of earlier incidents when the professor was involved in exam-related tasks during the tenure of a former treasurer," he said.

Following the question leak in recruitment tests of five banks on November 6, the Detective Branch of police has so far arrested 11 people, including five bankers and three AUST staffers, over the scam.

Satkhira from

Jashore was attacked by the Mukti Bahini on the Jashore-Satkhira road. In this action, three enemy soldiers, including one captain, were killed and the Jeep was destroyed. Satkhira town was now isolated from Khulna.

India and Pakistan both used air attacks on this day's battle at Boyra. Pakistan lost three Sabre fighter jets, 13 tanks and several troops. Radio Pakistan claimed that Pakistani planes destroyed two Indian Gnats.

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

ACC can do little with clipped

FROM PAGE 12

The rules assign particular organisations to investigate particular crimes under the Money Laundering Prevention Act-2012.

The rules have specified 27 types of money laundering-related offences. Of these, the Criminal Investigation Department of police has been given the task with investigating 24 offences alone or with the National Board of Revenue, Department of Narcotics Control and Department of Environment.

According to the rules, the ACC is given the sole responsibility to investigate the money laundering offences related to graft and bribery, while NBR and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission can probe the crime related to tax and capital markets respectively.

ACC Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah at the programme said it was a difficult task to prove corruption. "But there are things like hearsay. We'll know

who is corrupt, but it is difficult to prove before the court of law. We can boycott such people."

"I request you all to boycott the people who are known to be corrupt ...," he said.

Pointing out that it was not possible for the ACC alone to prevent corruption, he said, "We all need to work together to prevent corruption."

Replying to a question, the ACC chairman said they would not arrest people unnecessarily. "We'll arrest people only when it is required."

Later, the ACC chief handed over crests to the winners of RAC Best Reporting Award. This year, under three categories -- print, electronic and online -- three reporters got awards for the best reports on corruption.

Kawser Soheli of Maasranga Television, Muhammad Sirajul Islam of Daily Jugantor and Nuruzzaman Labu of Bangla Tribune won the awards.

Nasa seeks

FROM PAGE 12

Project lead at the lab, said in a statement.

If successful in supporting a sustained human presence on the moon, the next objective would be Mars. Nasa says fission surface power could provide sustained, abundant power no matter the environmental conditions on the moon or Mars.

"I expect fission surface power systems to greatly benefit our plans for power architectures for the moon and Mars and even drive innovation for uses here on Earth," Jim Reuter, associate administrator for Nasa's Space Technology Mission Directorate, said in a statement.

The reactor would be built on Earth and then sent to the moon. Submitted plans for the fission surface power system should include a uranium-fueled reactor core, a system to convert the nuclear power into usable energy, a thermal management system to keep the reactor cool, and a distribution system providing no less than 40 kilowatts of continuous electric power for 10 years in the lunar environment.

Some other requirements include that it be capable of turning itself off and on without human help, that it be able to operate from the deck of a lunar lander, and that it can be removed from the lander and run on a mobile system and be transported to a different lunar site for operation.

Additionally, when launched from Earth to the moon, it should fit inside a 12-foot (4-meter) diameter cylinder that's 18 feet (6 meters) long. It should not weigh more than 13,200 pounds (6,000 kilograms).

The proposal requests are for an initial system design and must be submitted by February 19.

EIGHT YRS OF BONOGRAM ATTACK

All seven key accused still on the loose

Trial proceedings of only one out of three cases began

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

It has been eight years since Hindus in Bonogram of Pabna's Santhia upazila came under attack, but all the seven individuals who were made key accused in three cases continue to elude capture while two of the cases still await trial.

On November 2, 2013, religious zealots vandalised, looted and set fire to houses, shops and Hindu temples in the predominantly Hindu village, claiming that a resident of the village defamed Islam by his post on Facebook.

Following the incident, three separate cases were filed against dozens of attackers, mentioning names of seven as key accused.

All the seven key accused including prime accused Khokon Mia, son of Motiar Mia, are still on the run.

Till date, the trials in the cases are yet to begin while police finished submitting charge sheets for all three cases.

Advocate Abdus Samad Khan Ratan, public prosecutor (PP) at Pabna court, said, "Total 97 people were accused in the charge sheets. Seven among them, including key accused Md Khokon Mia, went into hiding."

Of the three cases, the trial of attack on police has already begun and the trial of the other two cases are being delayed as the cases are being handled at a regular court, he said.

The process of issuing arrest warrants for the absconded is underway, but various other steps need to be followed before the trials can start, the PP said, adding that circulars would need to be published in newspapers declaring seizure of wealth of the absconded, in case they fail to appear before the court.

The primary target of attack on November 2 was the house of Rajib Saha, son of Bablu Saha, as Rajib supposedly made the defamatory post on his Facebook. Despite protesting repeatedly that his son was innocent, Babul was hit and kicked upon mercilessly and their house was torched.

Rajib's mother Shibani Saha said her son was lucky to have escaped the attack that day and he has not been able to come home ever since.

"Thinking of that day makes my eyes water. But it's more painful to watch the attackers roaming freely before us, evading punishment."

Rajib's father Bablu said he heard that Khokon Mia has been living in France.

School teacher Sukumar Bishwas was among the victims of the attack that day. He said, "Never before did we imagine of such attack. I want to forget the incident, but I'm still carrying the pain. It would be at least a consolation for us if the criminals were punished."

Contacted, Ataikula Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jalal Uddin said they arrested "most of the accused" and according to their information, Khokon left the country following the incident.

Army should be people's

FROM PAGE 1

addressing a civic and military gathering at a reception on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day 2021.

The prime minister attended the reception at Senakunja of Dhaka Cantonment, virtually from her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said the Bangladesh Army should be the people's army.

She hoped that the Armed Forces will take the nation forward imbued with the ideology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the spirit of the Liberation War.

"We'll be able to move, raising our heads high in the world arena. This is our main goal," said the prime minister.

An audio-visual documentary was screened on the occasion.

On this day in 1971, the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising Army, Navy and Air Force, came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces which sped up the victory in the Liberation War.

Since the independence of the country, this historic day is observed as Armed Forces Day every year.

The prime minister said the members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces are always ready to make supreme sacrifices at any critical time of the country alongside upholding the sovereignty of the motherland.

"In addition to dealing with the coronavirus as well as manmade and natural disasters, our Armed Forces have been working sincerely for the development of the country's socio-economic development," she said.

She said the Army has gained widespread acclaim for the construction of the Access Control Expressway, Marine Drive Road, eye-catching Hatirjheel, the flyover and the border roads.

Sudan military reinstates PM

FROM PAGE 12

But the civilian coalition that shared power with the military previously said it opposed any talks with the "putschists" and called for protests to continue yesterday.

Even as news of the deal spread, thousands of protesters marched towards the presidential palace in Khartoum in the early afternoon and called for the downfall of Burhan.

Hamdok was placed under house arrest when the military seized power on October 25, derailing a transition towards democracy agreed after the overthrow of Omar al-Bashir in 2019 that ended his three decades of autocratic rule.

The military dissolved Hamdok's cabinet and detained a number of civilians who held top positions under the power-sharing deal agreed with the military after

The PM said the Navy has also earned fame by building housing and infrastructures for displaced Myanmar nationals in Bhashanchar, while the Air force has recently conducted the seed-ball throwing activities in the country's coastal areas and the remote places of Chittagong Hill Tracts region under an afforestation programme.

She said Bangladesh has been ranked among the top five countries in the world in terms of economic progress and now Bangladesh is the 41st largest economy in the world.

"We've achieved unprecedented development in all socio-economic indicators," she said, adding that works on all the mega projects are progressing fast even during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hasina said her government, resuming in power in 2009, formulated the Forces Goal-2030 and has been implementing it. "We've been modernising, expanding and developing the Armed Forces as per our long-term plans," she said.

Spelling out her government's works for the development of three forces, she said, "We've made significant progress in modernising our Armed Forces in the last 13 years."

The prime minister said the members of the Armed Forces made the role of the United Nation acclaimed apart from brightening the image of Bangladesh in the world arena by performing their duties with competence and sincerity in facing the challenges of peace-keeping missions, peace-building and peace-enforcement.

She said Bangladesh has once again been able to retain the glory of the highest peacekeeper contributing country in the establishment of world peace.

The PM wished for the continued prosperity of all the members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Bashir was ousted.

The coup triggered mass demonstrations against the military and medics aligned with the protest movement say security forces have killed 40 civilians in increasingly violent crackdowns.

The constitutional declaration struck between the military and civilians in 2019 after Bashir was ousted would remain the foundation in further talks, the source close to Hamdok said.

Activist groups leading the protests since the coup have demanded the military gets out of politics altogether, however.

The Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) civilian coalition, which had been sharing power with the military, said it did not recognise any agreement with the armed forces.

MORE NEWS

China downgrades ties with Lithuania over Taiwan row

China has officially downgraded diplomatic ties with Lithuania in protest, the foreign ministry in Beijing said yesterday, after Taiwan established a de facto embassy in Vilnius. Lithuania allowing Taipei to open an office using the name Taiwan was a significant diplomatic departure that defied a pressure campaign by Beijing. China balks at any official use of the word "Taiwan", lest it lend a sense of international legitimacy to the island -- which it considers a part of its territory to be taken one day. Only 15 countries officially recognise Taipei over Beijing.

With a dig at China, India unveils new warship

India yesterday commissioned its navy's first indigenously-made missile destroyer as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, without naming China, that "some irresponsible nations for the sake of their narrow partisan interests, keep giving new and inappropriate interpretations" to international laws relating to sea to promote "hegemonic tendencies." The destroyer is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as surface-to-surface missile and surface-to-air missiles. The ship is also fitted with a modern surveillance radar which provides target data to the gunnery weapon systems of the ship and anti-submarine warfare capabilities are provided by the indigenously-developed rocket launchers, torpedo launchers and helicopters. The ship is equipped to fight under nuclear, biological and chemical warfare conditions, the Defence Ministry said.

Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai reappears at public event

Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai appeared at a Beijing tennis tournament yesterday, according to official event photos, after international pressure mounted for information about her wellbeing. Peng can be seen at the Fila Kids Junior Tennis Challenger Finals, according to photos published on the official Weibo account of the China Open. The two-time Grand Slam doubles champion had not been seen publicly since alleging earlier this month that former vice premier Zhang Gaoli, now in his 70s, "forced" her into sex during an on-off relationship spanning several years.

15 dead in Myanmar pagoda drowning

At least 15 people drowned on Sunday while crossing a flooded causeway in Myanmar to reach a Buddhist temple for a festival, rescue workers told AFP. The tragedy unfolded as thousands of worshippers tried to reach the Kyeik Hne pagoda, which lies on a rocky outcrop around three kilometres (two miles) off the coast near the town of Thanbyazayat in southern Mon state. Local officials said some died when they tried to cross the poorly marked causeway, which is only around four metres wide, while the tide was too high.


SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



Sudanese protesters walk past burning tyres during a demonstration calling for a return to civilian rule in 40th street in the capital's twin city of Omdurman, yesterday, after Sudan's military reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and announced the release of all political detainees. However, the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which spearheaded the anti-coup movement, yesterday rejected the deal and said agitations will continue.

PHOTO: AFP

Quote of the day



This hysteria is being whipped up artificially. Those who have brought their armed forces from overseas are accusing us of unusual military activity on our own territory. That is, the United States.

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN DMITRY PESKOV ON UKRAINE CRISIS AMID WEST'S ALLEGATION OF TROOPS BUILD-UP AT BORDER

Protests to go on till laws repealed

Say Indian farmers, demand price guarantees

AGENCIES

Farmers at the Delhi borders have said that say their protests will continue till the formal cancellation of the three contentious farm laws, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday.

They have also demanded a law on minimum support prices, and withdrawal of the police cases filed against many of them over the last year.

The official withdrawal of the laws will take place only when parliament's Winter Session that will begin at the end of this month. The cabinet approval for the withdrawal of the laws is expected on Wednesday. Winter Session begins on November 29, during which the bill for repealing the laws will be passed.

"We have discussed the repeal of farm laws. After this, some decisions were taken. The pre-decided programmes of the SKM (Sanyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of farmers) will continue as it is," said Balbir Singh Rajewal at the Delhi-Haryana border in Singhu.

The programmes include a farmers' meet in Lucknow on November 22, gatherings at all borders on November 26 and a march to parliament on November 29, he added.

The farmers also said they will write an open letter to the prime minister listing their demands.

JERUSALEM SHOOTING

Attacker shot dead after one killed

AFP, Jerusalem

A militant of the Palestinian Islamist Hamas movement yesterday opened fire in Jerusalem's Old City, killing one person and wounding three before he was shot dead, Israeli officials, police and medics said.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett ordered security to be boosted and called for people to be on "heightened alert" over the risk of further attacks.

The wounded, who included two civilians and two police officers, were rushed to Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. One of them, a man in his 30s, died of his injuries, medical sources said without giving further details.

Police said the attacker had fired a "Carlo-type weapon", a type of submachine gun.

The Old City is in the Israeli-annexed eastern part of Jerusalem, which Palestinians claim as the capital of their future state.

'Greatest attempt to destabilise Europe'

Poland says border crisis most serious challenge for the continent since Cold War

AFP, Bohoniki

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki yesterday called the migrant crisis on the Belarusian-Polish border, the EU's eastern frontier, the "greatest attempt to destabilise Europe" since the Cold War.

The premier issued his strong remarks as he prepared to meet with EU leaders at a time when Warsaw is facing not only a border crisis but heightened tensions with Brussels over allegations it is breaching its commitment to the bloc's democratic principles.

The West accuses Belarus of artificially creating the crisis by bringing in would-be migrants -- mostly from the Middle East -- and taking them to the border with promises of an easy crossing into the European Union.

Belarus has denied the claim, instead criticising the EU for not taking in the migrants.

Caught in the middle, migrants often report being forced to cross the border by Belarusian officials, then being pushed back into Belarusian territory by Polish authorities.

Belarusian President Alexander "Lukashenko launched a hybrid war against the EU. This is (the) greatest attempt to destabilise Europe in 30 years," Morawiecki said on Twitter.

"Poland will not yield to blackmail and will do everything to defend the EU's borders."

He also claimed that Lukashenko had the "back-room support of Vladimir Putin," the Russian president and an ally of the Belarusian regime.

Lukashenko told the BBC earlier that it was "absolutely possible" his forces had helped people cross into the EU but denied orchestrating the operation.

Brussels and Nato have previously also described the migrant crisis as a "hybrid tactic".

Some observers believe Poland is using its rhetoric on the border issue to try to distract from controversial reforms that the EU believes limit the independence of the judiciary.



Activists march through downtown protesting the verdict in Kyle Rittenhouse's trial in Chicago, Illinois, on Saturday. Rittenhouse, an Illinois teenager, was found not guilty of all charges in the fatal shootings of two people and for shooting and wounding another man during unrest in Kenosha, Wisconsin that followed the police shooting of Jacob Blake in August 2020.

PHOTO: AFP

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 22

1926 - Imperial Conference ends, giving autonomy inside British Commonwealth.

1963 - US President John F. Kennedy assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald while riding in an open-topped motorcade in Dallas, Texas.

2012 - Ceasefire between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers takes hold after eight days of fighting.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Indian man found alive after night in morgue freezer

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian man declared dead after a road accident shocked his relatives when they found him still breathing despite a night in the freezer of a hospital morgue.

Sriyesh Kumar was rushed to a clinic in a critical condition after he was hit by a motorbike in Moradabad, east of the capital New Delhi.

He was transported to a private medical facility where he was declared dead on arrival by the doctor, and then transported to a government hospital for post-mortem on Friday.

"The emergency medical officer examined him. He did not find any signs of life and hence declared him dead," Rajendra Kumar, the hospital's medical superintendent, told AFP yesterday.

The doctor said police were informed and the body was placed in the morgue freezer until his family arrived six hours later.

"When a police team and his family came over to initiate the paperwork for the autopsy, he was found alive," he added.

Rajendra Kumar said the 45-year-old was undergoing further treatment but was still in a coma.

"This is nothing short of a miracle," he added.

An investigation was under way to determine how the doctors mistakenly declared him dead.



NATIONAL DAY OF OMAN



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

November 22, 2021

Oman Celebrates 51st National Day of the Renaissance



The Sultanate of Oman celebrated its 51st National Day of the Renaissance on November 18, 2021. The event comes around at a time when Omanis ponder about the achievements made so far and brace for further accomplishments, with firm resolve, under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq who pledged to hold high the banner of Renewed Renaissance since he assumed power on January 11, 2020.

The Renewed Renaissance kicked off on a high note when His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq called upon the people of Oman to do their best to enrich domestic development and foster progress in all fields. This is considered one of the major principles of the Renewed Renaissance in its quest to attain the supreme national objective of “making Oman the central point in all that we strive to achieve” — an objective whose salient features have already materialized in terms of updated laws and refurbished programmes of action across all sectors.

In the beginning of this year, Royal Decree No. 6/2021 promulgated the (updated) Basic Law of the State to serve as a pillar of continuous efforts to shape a better future for Oman and its citizens, and to build a solid ground for their Renewed Renaissance.

The Basic Law of the State lays down a stable mechanism of transfer of rule, which reflects positively on political and economic aspects and affirms the principle of sovereignty and independence of the judiciary. It also serves as a basis of rule in the State. It makes education compulsory till the end of the Basic Education stage. It establishes a scholarly method for thought, development of talents and encouragement of innovation, which all conform to the Oman Vision 2040.

Article (7) provides for the appointment of a Crown Prince under a Royal order in accordance with stipulation of Article (5) of the Basic Law of the State. The Royal order defines the powers and prerogatives of the Crown Prince, as well as the tasks delegated to him. It states that the Crown Prince shall be sworn in before the Sultan, before undertaking the powers and tasks delegated to him. The oath shall be taken in accordance with Article (10) of the Basic Law of the State.

The Sultanate of Oman stands out for its exclusive practice of Shura-based democracy, set up on solid grounds emanating from Omani life realities. Shura practice evolved through various stages till it developed into present-day “Council of Oman”, with its bicameral chambers — the “State Council” and “Shura Council”. Each stage saw the addition of systems and laws that reinforce the tradition of Shura and respond to the expectations of citizens. To this effect, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq issued Royal Decree No. 7/2021 promulgating Council of Oman Law, which comprises 78 articles.

The designation of an “Omani Youth Day” on October 26 reflects the attention accorded to the young generation by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. It asserts the leadership’s deep conviction

of national service. Attention to women is one of the “national fundamentals” of the country.

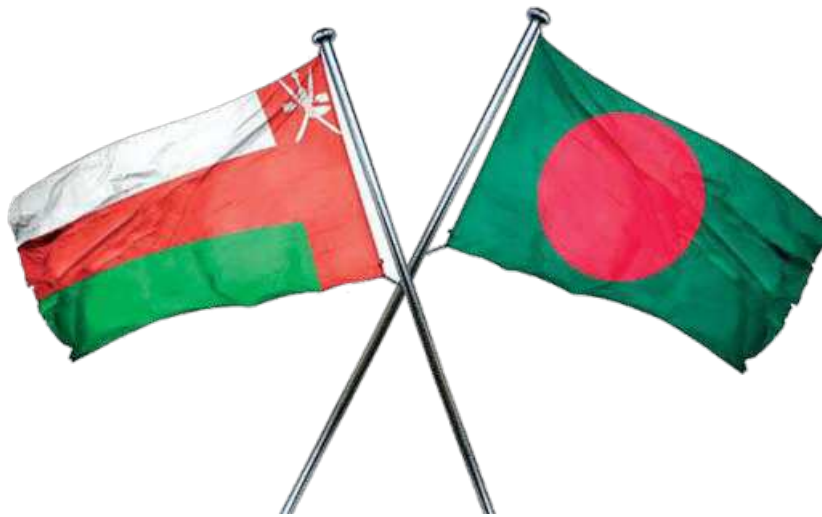
On the occasion of International Women’s Day celebrated last March, Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, spouse of the Sultan of Oman, commended the great efforts exerted by women in Oman and the rest of the world while building their nation, supporting their families and societies and contributing effectively to the management of human and global issues.

HH the Honourable Lady addressed women on the Omani Women’s Day this year. She said, “On the occasion of Omani Women’s Day, the 17th of October, we would like to express thanks and appreciation for every woman who advocates good deeds and elevates the values of tolerance, amity and benevolence. Our greetings go to every woman who contributes to building this dear country from her position as an active participant delivering her social, national and humanitarian duties in all fields.”

To mark the same occasion, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth issued a ministerial decision announcing the establishment of Omani Women’s Sports and Cultural Innovation Club. The move comes in implementation of the basic principles espoused by the Sultanate of Oman in the field of women’s empowerment. It is a symbolic gesture to promote women’s contribution to domestic development and to promote their role in sports and cultural fields.

Nations attain their prime only through education, and this has been a principle espoused by Omanis since the outset of their blessed renaissance 50 years ago. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq stressed on “attention to education figures high in the scale of national priorities”. Accordingly, a motivating environment has been furnished for supporting the march of research and innovation. This translates into the allocation of a ministry mandated with higher education, research and innovation and the establishment of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, with branches in governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The university’s articles of association



in contributing to the comprehensive nation-building march.

Meanwhile, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, who presided over the Omani Youth Day celebration last October, said that the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth launched a smart portal supplied with the latest techniques that make it a prime website for talented youth, artists and innovators.

The attention accorded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to the youth is also reflected in the Royal support to employment initiatives, a set of which came around in May 2021, when the coronavirus pandemic had its greatest toll on local and global economic conditions, leading to the shrinkage of the labor markets. The Royal attention resulted in the launch of an executive plan to provide more than 32,000 jobs.

His Majesty the Sultan also chaired a meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the National Employment Programme (NEP) on July 5, 2021. This placed employment in the realm of national priorities. His Majesty the Sultan reiterated the importance of the NEP when he presided over a Council of Ministers on June 15, 2021, during which he gave directives for “devising suitable solutions to provide jobs in all departments of the State (the public sector) and private sector firms, provide analysis of jobseekers’ data and follow them up until they join the labor market”.

Omani women’s affairs take center stage in the Renewed Renaissance thought of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, who has been keen that women enjoy their rights guaranteed by law and operate alongside men in different fields



measures to address the situation. These included the initiation of a medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2023). In April 2021, His Majesty the Sultan chaired a meeting of the main committee tasked with the National Programme for Fiscal Balance to follow up the progress of the programme in its second year. The programme was designed to bring down general debt and to secure financial sustainability.

His Majesty the Sultan endorsed the initiatives submitted by the departments concerned in a bid to develop the schema of social protection. This affirms His Majesty the Sultan’s follow-up of the conditions of citizens to ensure the sustenance of decent livelihood for them and to alleviate the fallout of this challenging stage.

The 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the first leg in the executive plan of the Oman Vision 2040, is based on four axes comprising 14 national priorities, 88 strategic goals and 68 performance indicators.

The 10th Five-Year Plan seeks to achieve a number of goals, such as activating the economy, upgrading the efficiency of management of public finance, realizing balance among measures for rationalization of public spending, espousing disciplined financial expansion policies, accelerating the rate of implementation of major strategic projects and government-private partnership projects, attracting more direct foreign investments, visualizing growth trends based on expected oil price rate of USD 48 per barrel during years of the plan, and enhancing governorates’ participation in achieving goals of the Oman Vision 2040.

The plan targets average annual growth of 3.2% in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through emphasis on promising economic sectors like converting industries of high technological content, agriculture, fisheries, fish farming, food and agriculture industrialization, transport, warehousing and logistics.

Total estimated revenues of the State Budget 2021 stood at RO 8.64 billion calculated on the basis of oil price rate of USD 45.

The Governorates Development Programme, which emerged in implementation of Royal directives, will allocate RO 10 million to each governorate during the period of the 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) — at a rate of RO 2 million a year. The programme envisages the execution of 28 strategic programmes and it will contribute to the goals of the Oman Vision 2040.

The Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP), endorsed by the Council of Ministers in March 2021 is based on five axes comprising incentives on taxes, fees and incentives for the improvement of the business and investment climate,

In the same context, the Duqm College was established in September 2021, in the Governorate of Al Wusta at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm. The university is governed by the laws regulating universities and colleges in the Sultanate of Oman and the hopes attached on the National Research and Development Strategy 2040 in line with the Oman Vision 2040. Royal directives to set up six schools to the tune of RO 8,850,000 will raise the number of scholarly institutions to 2,430 schools, 11 government and private universities and 18 private colleges.

Under its Renewed Renaissance, Oman continued to accord attention to environment protection, both at the local and global levels. To this effect, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq issued a Royal Decree in August 2021 to establish the Khor Kharfouh Nature Reserve in the Governorate of Dhofar, taking the number of such sanctuaries to 21. The Sultanate of Oman also ratified many international agreements related to the environment protection and legislations for the same purpose at the local level.

The decline and fluctuation in oil prices and precautionary measures to address the impacts of Covid-19 affected the economies of many countries of the world. Since Oman is not isolated from the global community, it had to take

incentives for small and medium enterprises, incentives for the labor market and recruitment, banking incentives aimed to rally efforts for the alleviation of Covid-19 impacts on the national economy and other incentives to promote economic recovery, back up economic activities and attract foreign investments.

These financial procedures, topped by the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan, showed positive results as Oman registered growth in total revenues by 22.6% and a 58% decline in deficit by the end of September 2021.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expected in a report issued in September 2021 that economic activities in the Sultanate of Oman will recover and that Oman will achieve 2.5% GDP growth in 2021 and 4.2% growth by 2023. The IMF also commended the measures undertaken by Oman while addressing the fallout of Covid-19, as well as the country’s fiscal discipline and enhancement of business environment and support for stricken economic sectors.

The measures undertaken by Oman improved its credit rating in various agencies, including Moody’s, which amended the Sultanate of Oman’s rating from “negative” to “stable” in October 2021. Moody’s expected that public debt in Oman vis-à-vis the GDP will decline from 80% in 2020 to 60% in 2024, as well as the decline of the annual government funding needs to GDP from 22% to 10%. Standard and Poor’s also amended its future outlook for Oman from “stable” to “positive”.

Meanwhile, Fitch pointed out last May that the Fiscal Plan contributed to the improvement of scenario for Oman’s financial position and expected a 6.1% decline of budget deficit to GDP this year (2021). It also expected a 3.3% economic growth for Oman by next year (2022).

The government of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq created an investment-encouraging environment through legislations, ports, free zones and logistics, coupled with a unique strategic location in the meeting point of global commercial markets, political stability and security.

The ports of Duqm, Salalah and Sohar boast a range of advanced facilities that enabled them to achieve quick finalization of tasks and cut the distance between world ports. This is in addition to the free zones in Duqm, Al Mazayouna, Salalah and Sohar and upcoming Khazaen hub in the Governorate of South Al Batinah. Investment incentives like tax exemptions extending to more than 30 years and foreigners’ 100% ownership of properties, among other incentives, add another fillip to Oman’s position.

The political and regional changes that happened during the Renewed Renaissance period proved that the Sultanate of Oman’s foreign policy stands on firm grounds. Oman advocates principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, positive contribution to safeguarding international security, promoting common public interest through dialogue and understanding among countries and nations.

These principles were affirmed by Oman before the 76th UN General Assembly in New York last September. “Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the Sultanate of Oman pursues its commitment to the basic fundamentals



of its foreign policy embodied in good neighbourliness, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for international law and international charters and support for cooperation among countries. Oman considers the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and through harmony and tolerance as a civilized conduct that leads to better and more lasting results than disputes can achieve.”

Oman’s persistent strive to serve global peace stems from its support for many initiatives and issues, like its backing to the positive developments emanating from Al Ula Summit in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Oman hailed the success of the efforts of reconciliation led by the State of Kuwait. In international podiums, Oman continued to reiterate the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and the demands of Palestinian people. It also supported the settlement of the Yemeni issue through comprehensive political settlement, working in line with initiatives of Saudi Arabia and the UN and UN envoys. This is beside Oman’s stand for peaceful handling of the Iranian nuclear file and Oman’s continuous condemnation of all types of terrorism.

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the Sultanate of Oman adhered to commitment to truthfulness and objectivity through its political stands enhanced by its original values of moderateness.

His Majesty the Sultan’s visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in July 2021 and his meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is a strong evidence of deep-rooted relations between the two countries. This first visit of its kind culminated in the establishment of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council and opened wide vistas of cooperation between the two countries in different fields, particularly economic areas.

National days of countries constitute symbols of pride and dignity. In Oman, they are moments of contemplation of the past and the future of the country, a time to remember the Founder of Modern Oman and its Blessed Renaissance, the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour. His memory pulsates in the heart of every Omani man and woman, who incessantly pray for him in gratitude for his good deeds for the nation and its loyal people. The achievements made by the late Sultan Qaboos are stark and manifest in every sphere of life. He sowed and cultivated true faith in the people.

From our past experiences, we have to derive new, strong will and firm resolve to work in full cooperation and collaboration — rallying our resources and energies and exhibiting self-denial in performing our duty in a manner that facilitates all difficulties and overcomes all challenges as we embark on accomplishing our national missions for the good of Oman and its noble people.



Pandemic-time tours go against govt’s own rules

Why fly halfway across the world when most meetings can be conducted online?

SINCE March last year, the government has saved Tk 2,500 crore in funds that would otherwise have been spent on foreign trips taken by government officials. While certain overseas meetings and training can be very useful, questions had been raised, prior to the pandemic, on the logic behind spending taxpayers’ money for frequent tours—especially since many such trips end up yielding no noteworthy results. In some cases, officials had gone on foreign tours with projects they did not even have any involvement with, and the prime minister herself had spoken out against such practices.

In this context, we are confused as to why officials of Bangladesh Railway and the railways ministry have now planned four different trips to Europe, the US and India over the next three months. This is despite the fact that the government withheld 50 percent of this fiscal year’s allocation for foreign trips, and asked officials to cancel routine tours. According to a finance ministry circular from July 1, the remaining funds can only be spent during emergencies and unavoidable circumstances.

So far, the reasons given for the scheduled trips are studies, training and visiting factories. None of these can hardly be considered an emergency, or an unavoidable circumstance. From Tuesday, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan will lead an eight-member delegation on a 13-day trip to four European countries. According to the railways minister, its purpose is to observe developed railway systems and hold talks with different stakeholders. We wonder why there is this sudden need to travel to hold such talks when, during the pandemic, all the biggest government agencies and businesses across the world shifted to videoconferencing for most discussions.

It has also not been made clear how much money will be spent on the planned tours. Why the mystery surrounding these visits? Given that Europe is the only place in the world where coronavirus cases are continuing to rise, and that many states in the US are also in precarious situations, the people of this country have every right to be concerned about our officials travelling there. We would also like to know: Will the officials going to these countries quarantine on their return?

Now that the Covid-19 situation has finally come under control in Bangladesh, it is careless of railway officials to plan trips to high-risk countries—that, too, at the public’s expense, and for reasons that the government’s own directives would not consider essential. It is high time that the authorities dealt with the issue of different ministries and departments failing to follow the rules that are set by their own administration. In Digital Bangladesh, there is really no reason to waste precious resources and contribute to the climate emergency by flying across the world, if the purpose of such tours could be served online just as easily instead.

Reforms are good only when they are fully enforced

Govt has to make sure its plans don't fall apart midway through

IT is good to see the government planning to merge the development and revenue budgets, amend income tax laws and establish a procurement authority in the next three years, as part of a set of reforms aimed at boosting revenue collection and ensuring transparency in expenditure. On the one hand, revenue generation in Bangladesh is one of the lowest in the world because of tax avoidance, a long list of exemptions, lower taxpayer base, and weak enforcement. On the other hand, public expenditures face leakages and are not efficient. Therefore, there is no doubt that the tax system and other revenue policies need significant reforms, and that government expenditure has to be more efficient. What we are concerned about, however, is how serious the government is when it comes to implementing such highly ambitious reforms.

The government has planned the aforementioned reforms in an attempt to satisfy its development partners, and the timeline set is also a part of that. But this is not the first time we have heard the government prepare such reformation plans. For example, we have been hearing the government talk about restructuring the tax laws since 2010. But we have yet to see the government get anything done in that regard. To some extent, the same applies when it comes to reorganising the VAT laws, where the government’s execution failed to match its promises.

The main objectives of its latest reform plans have to be to streamline expenditure—by reducing the huge leakages that usually occur—and increasing the government’s earnings—by ensuring that tax avoidance is cut out. And to that end, although such reformation plans are welcome, what is more necessary is their proper and timely execution. It is in the latter department that the government has failed time and again. And, because of that, we cannot help but remain somewhat cautious in regards to our expectations from the government’s recent proposal.

Just forming laws is not going to lead to reforms in and of themselves; the government has to execute them properly as well. And to figure out how to best implement them, we believe the government should involve experts in its planning process. To generate enough revenue for the various infrastructure projects that Bangladesh so badly needs for its development, there is no substitute to carrying out such reforms. What the government must do is ensure that these reforms are fully implemented, instead of falling midway through, as they have done previously.

Better alignment of trade and climate policies is crucial



MACRO MIRROR
FAHMIDA KHATUN

FOLLOWING the conclusion of the high-level 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the world is set to observe another international conference at the ministerial level. This is the 12th meeting of the trade ministers of the member countries (MC12) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to be held in Geneva from November 30 to December 3. As opposed to the much-hyped climate meeting held in Glasgow, MC12 apparently seems to be a quiet and low-profile meeting. But in effect, MC12 is no less important for the world as trade is crucial for economic prosperity and has a multiplier impact. Of course, there is evidence of the differential impact of trade on various economies, and trade justice has been an issue of debate in the whole discussion of multilateral trade regimes. However, trade has also impacted economies positively through higher export, import, investment, job creation, and so on. Benefits of trade depend on how the rules are designed and how cross-cutting issues are considered, and how challenges related to those issues are addressed.

One such issue is the impact of climate and environmental change. The links between trade and climate change are now clear and recognised. While trade can be a source of climate change-related challenges, it can also help reduce climate and environmental challenges and achieve climate ambitions. However, with growing awareness on climate change, countries are resorting to various climate measures, which have potential negative implications for trading nations. Poor countries will particularly be affected if such climate-related trade policies are pursued, since those will result in trade protectionism. Therefore, the WTO has an important role to play in helping countries reap benefits of trade while addressing their climate and environmental challenges.

Within the WTO, environmental issues are dealt with at the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). The CTE aims to promote the understanding of the nexus between trade and the environment. It also discusses how trade and environmental policies together can work for sustainability. The work on trade and environment received momentum with the new initiative with the WTO, namely

“Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD), which was launched on November 17, 2020. Currently, 57 WTO members are part of this initiative. The objective of the TESSD is to complement the existing work of the CTE and other relevant WTO committees and bodies on climate and environmental issues. All members can join TESSD. Another objective of the TESSD is to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to countries—particularly to least developed countries.

Environmental goods are needed for adapting to the impact of climate-induced extreme weather events, and transitioning to low-carbon production. Climate-friendly technologies are crucial for these countries. Reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to environmental goods is expected to reduce the cost of such goods and make them affordable to poor countries. These countries need technologies for wastewater management and potable water treatment, renewable energy

exported 88 percent of global exports of environmentally related goods.

There is also another challenge for the LDCs related to liberalisation of environmental goods. With liberalisation, imports of environmental goods are likely to be cheaper as tariffs will be eliminated from imports. Hence, developing countries may continue to remain net importers of environmental goods instead of building their own technologies. Such dependency will restrict their capacity development. There are also apprehensions that the choice for imported advanced technologies could undermine innovation of simple, local and cost-effective technologies. Being apprehensive about becoming a dumping ground for obsolete technology from advanced countries is also prevalent among developing countries.

The other concern is about preference erosion due to tariff reduction of these goods. Many environmental goods may fall under various preferential programmes offered to the LDCs. In that case, tariffs imposed on those goods will be reduced at a faster pace when liberalised. This will erode LDCs’ preferences in those markets and reduce their competitiveness. It has been estimated that 99 developing countries could lose USD 15 billion in tariff revenue annually if tariffs are removed on imports of environmental goods. Bangladesh’s tariff revenue loss will be about USD 187.2 million per year.

In the run-up to the MC12, discussions on liberalisation of environmental goods and other trade and climate change-related issues have drawn attention of developing countries as their concerns are often neglected in the multilateral negotiations. These issues could very well become trade prohibitive, rather than trade enhancing, for developing countries. Therefore, while setting global rules for a clean and green trade regime, it must be accompanied by technology transfer and adequate climate finance for developing countries. Technology should be modern, efficient and cost-effective, and should come along with capacity development for the users in developing countries. A new financial mechanism in the form of Trade and Environment Fund, as proposed by some countries back in April 2011, could help the developing countries in pursuing their green and sustainable growth. Green aid for trade should be another source of finance. These are the central issues if the development dimension is to be upheld in the trade and climate negotiations.

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



The upcoming MC12 meeting of World Trade Organization (WTO) is crucial for economic prosperity and pandemic recovery.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

While the objective of CTE and other environment-related WTO rules require countries to pursue their environmental objectives, a major task is also to monitor protectionism due to climate goals. However, a number of issues which are being discussed in the WTO may have negative implications for both developing and least developed countries (LDCs). Since the launch of the TESSD, discussions are taking place on issues such as liberalising trade in environmental goods and services (EGS), reforming environmentally harmful subsidies, carbon border adjustment mechanism and climate actions, and circular economy and biodiversity.

Each of these issues have implications for LDCs and developing countries. The focus of today’s discussion is liberalisation of environmental goods. Liberalisation of EGS through reduction or elimination of tariffs on EGS is a part of a single undertaking of the Doha Ministerial Declaration of the WTO in 2001. This is a critical trade and climate change agenda for these countries.

generation, and solid and hazardous waste management and recycling systems.

However, the current discussions on liberalisation of environmental goods in the WTO has become difficult, since many countries have submitted several proposals in line with their trade interests and specialisations. Developing countries are not interested in the negotiation either, since the list is dominated by goods produced by developed countries. The share of export of environmental goods from developing countries (including LDCs) is insignificant. They are net importers of environmental goods. The top exporters and importers of environmental goods are countries with higher gross domestic product and trade. According to the “Trade and Development Report 2021” of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the top 10 environmental goods exporting countries in 2019 were the EU, China, the US, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the UK, Hong Kong SAR, Singapore, Canada, and Switzerland. Together, these countries

WTO finished without TRIPS waiver

ANIS CHOWDHURY and JOMO KWAME SUNDARAM

QUICKLY enabling greater and more affordable production of and access to Covid-19 medical needs are urgently needed in the South. Such progress will also foster much needed goodwill for international cooperation, multilateralism and sustainable development.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) will soon decide on a conditional temporary waiver of Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The waiver was proposed by South Africa and India on October 2, 2020. Two-thirds of the 164 WTO members—mainly developing countries—support it.

But sustained European efforts—of Switzerland, the UK and the EU, led by Germany—have blocked progress ahead of the WTO ministerial meeting starting on November 30. Meanwhile, ongoing text-based discussions seem to be leading nowhere.

IP not needed for innovation

Affordable vaccines and drugs have been crucial for eliminating infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV-AIDS, polio and smallpox. But despite strong evidence to the contrary, advocates insist that intellectual property rights (IPRs) are needed to incentivise innovation.

The development of Covid-19 vaccines and other therapeutics have been accelerated by considerable government financing. Only six major vaccine developers received over USD 12 billion in public funding. Projected revenue from their IP monopolies will exceed tens of billions.

Supply shortages have disrupted vaccine supplies. IP monopolies block competition, making it hard to quickly increase supplies. Thanks to patent protection, for example, only four companies produce plastic bioreactor bags needed to make vaccines.

Cross-border IP enforcement was enhanced by TRIPS in 1995. The African walkout from the 1999 Seattle ministerial highlighted the WTO’s rich country bias. As part of the compromise to revive WTO talks, TRIPS has included a “public health exception” since 2001.

Subject to onerous conditions and paying fair compensation, “compulsory licensing” allows making patented products using processes without patent holder consent. Yet, European negotiators still insist that voluntary licensing provisions are enough.

All licensing requires case-by-case, patent-holder-by-patent-holder, country-by-country negotiations. But licensing is only limited to patents, without requiring sharing “industrial secrets” needed to make complex biochemical compounds.

Time-consuming, onerous and costly, such negotiations are beyond the means of poorest countries. Worse, some high-income country (HIC) governments have blocked such licensing, even when agreed to by companies.

IP deepens inequalities

The World Health Organization (WHO) director-general noted that four-fifths of vaccine doses went to HICs or upper middle-income countries (MICs). Rich countries—with a seventh of the world’s population—had bought over half of the first 7.5 billion vaccine doses by November 2020.

Meanwhile, only 1.5 percent in low-income countries (LICs) were vaccinated

most MICs are excluded. Worse, some high-income country (HIC) governments have blocked such licensing, even when agreed to by companies.

Some HICs have been embarrassed into sharing millions of their unused excess vaccine doses. But of the 1.8 billion doses promised so far, only 14 percent has gone to the LICs. Such donations of funds and other needs undoubtedly help.

But such unpredictable acts of charity—e.g. by HICs who bought far more than they needed—are hardly enough. Manufacturing capacity in the developing world must still be enhanced to meet overall needs. This requires the waiver.

Contrary to the claim that the South lacks manufacturing capacity, vaccines have long been made in over 80 developing countries. Although novel, mRNA vaccine manufacture involves fewer steps, ingredients, and physical capacity than traditional vaccines. MSF has

three years from the decision date, subject to annual review. It would cover products and technologies—including vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, devices, protective equipment, materials, components, and methods and means of manufacture.

The proposal also covers the application, implementation and enforcement of TRIPS provisions on patents, copyrights, designs and other protected information—e.g. undisclosed manufacturing blueprints and industrial secrets.

Thus, the waiver has long been urgently needed to contain the pandemic worldwide. But rich countries have successfully blocked progress thus far despite the heavy human and economic toll it has taken.

Game changer

Unlike the more flexible arrangements of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the WTO framework and negotiating priorities have undermined developmental aspirations.

The South has been undermined by rich countries’ betrayal of the 2001 Doha compromise. After “softly” killing the “Development Round” promised then, rich countries can now redeem themselves by supporting the waiver.

Almost two years after Covid-19 was first recognised, the pandemic continues to threaten the world, with poor countries and people now worse affected. The devastation could be partly mitigated if developing countries could meet their pandemic needs without fear of litigation for IP infringement.

Almost two years after Covid-19 was first recognised, the pandemic continues to threaten the world, with poor countries and people now worse affected. The devastation could be partly mitigated if developing countries could meet their pandemic needs without fear of litigation for IP infringement.

by August 2021. Much of the variation in infection and death rates is due to unequal access—not only to vaccines, but also diagnostic tests, medical therapies, protective equipment, devices, equipment and other needs.

The private-public COVAX facility had promised to deliver two billion vaccine doses by the end of 2021, and to reach a fifth of the people in 92 LICs. But less than half a billion doses have been delivered so far.

Australian academic Deborah Gleeson warns that even as promising new treatments become available, they will be too costly for most in LICs and many MICs. Diagnostic tests are unequally distributed, with HICs averaging over a hundred times more than LICs.

And even when governments and companies are willing to license others to supply small LICs with low-cost generics,

identified many capable producers in the South.

TRIPS waiver urgently needed

TRIPS provides 20-year monopolies for patents. These have often been “evergreened”—i.e. extended, sometimes indefinitely, ostensibly to reward additional innovation. Thus, most developing countries have been prevented from meeting their health needs more affordably.

The temporary waiver would allow companies everywhere to produce the required items and use patented technologies without infringing IP. Supplies would increase and prices fall. Currently, access to Covid-19 needs is very inequitable, deepening the yawning gap between HICs and LICs.

The revised May 21 text clarifies that the proposed waiver is for at least

A TRIPS Council meeting is scheduled for November 16, before the four-day WTO Ministerial Council meeting from November 30. The waiver would also encourage renewed international cooperation, long undermined by destructive rivalry and competition.

By refusing to make concessions, rich countries would not only jeopardise the WTO, but also the world’s ability to urgently contain the pandemic. With complementary financial resource transfers, they can restore the goodwill urgently needed for international cooperation and to revive multilateralism.

It's time to talk about sustainability and finance in RMG sector



RMG NOTES

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

One thing that our industry people appear to be the best at is explaining, often in great detail, the problems and challenges that we face. The existing purchase practices are unfair and harming suppliers and their workers, we are told. Yes, we know that already. Fast fashion is harming the environment and leading to a surplus of poor-quality clothes, they say. We are aware of that, too. There is a “funding gap” in terms of supply chain upgrades and

name here, suggests that decarbonising global fashion supply chains to achieve a net zero fashion industry by 2050 will cost more than USD 1 trillion.

The report says 61 percent of the fund will be required to implement the “existing solutions,” and the rest will be required to further develop, scale and implement new innovations. It says that investments should be focused on using renewable electricity and reducing coal dependence in supply chains, as well as using sustainable materials in fashion and finding options for extended use/recycling.

Most notably, as far as RMG suppliers are concerned, the report tells us that the current levels of financing are insufficient to succeed in decarbonising the industry before 2050. It is argued that the industry—that’s us, the suppliers—is unlikely to achieve necessary transformation without a significant change in financing flows.

The report tells us that the USD 1 trillion fund that our industry needs to raise will come via financiers (debt and equity), manufacturers, brands, philanthropy, and governments.

USD 1 trillion is a nice round number, at least. With so many variables involved, so many different actors in play, the figure could easily have been double, and few would be in a position to question it. This figure seems quite arbitrary, but it will undoubtedly grab headlines.

A few thoughts pop up in my mind when reading reports like this, a great many of which have come out over the years. The first is that they are simply framing and rehashing a problem that the industry leaders all recognise—be it suppliers, buyers or other fashion industry stakeholders. The second thought is that these reports sell investment in sustainable supply chains as an “opportunity” quite often. In this case, the authors state that



We know what problems exist in our RMG sector; now we need to come together and find sustainable solutions to those problems.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

while an investment in excess of USD 1 trillion over the next 30 years is a huge amount, the majority of it is for projects that offer an attractive financial return on investment.

Really? For whom? In Bangladesh and other garment sourcing hubs, we have seen factories spending money on water- and energy-saving initiatives over the years and, yes, these do have a return, but a small one. It is also a simple fact that many factory owners struggle to even make small, incremental investments such as this.

In any case, to my knowledge, the investment required in Bangladesh as well as in supply chains globally is much greater. And I haven’t seen investors queuing up to support RMG suppliers in Bangladesh to “green” their operations these past few years. Ask any garment manufacturer here about the challenges of getting access to finance

for green investment. Yes, the money might be there, but accessing such finance is an onerous task. Moreover, things have become much, much harder since the pandemic broke out—many suppliers are still paying debts incurred after the huge downturn in business in 2020.

In terms of external investment, there have been various pilot initiatives over the years which typically involve a tripartite structure of factory, buyer and a third-party environmental non-profit entity, which can leverage public money for “green” projects over a certain period of time. Such initiatives are supposed to encourage and foster green investment, but I hear that such initiatives nearly always fall by the wayside as soon as the public money dries up. No one—certainly not the buyer or factory owner—has any desire to cover the funding of such work

themselves.

We know there is a lack of capital to meet the needs of industrial upgrading required to future-proof our industry and make it more sustainable. With this in mind, it is time to move beyond framing the problem and onto actually developing clear, practical plans about how it will be tackled. We can’t afford to have continued talking shops, which produce plenty of soundbites and nice corporate speak but do not move us any closer to where we want to be. The danger is that these same conversations will happen again in another five years’ time, or even 10 years’ time. It will be too late then if this status quo stays.

Coming back to the issue of poor purchase practices, I must say they are the root of all problems in our industry. We have all known this for years, and don’t need another report to tell us so. Some mythical, outside investor is not going to come and save us all—that of that we can be certain. This is a problem which, by and large, needs to be solved from within. The only real question is this: Who pays for it? Who pays to upgrade the supply chains? Is it the suppliers or the buyers, or both? And where and how do the government and other third parties come in?

These are the only questions I see as relevant moving forward. If we are going to have more talking shops, let’s at least allow them to be about this issue where we can all have a frank, honest and transparent debate about how we are going to move our industry to where it needs to be.

We know the problems our industry faces. It’s now time to talk in great detail about the solutions and set out clear, actionable goals about how those solutions can be achieved.

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The identity crisis and challenges that women face in Bangladesh



Aside from the essentialist concepts of male and female, gender identities are most often socially constructed and driven by the ideology of a community. Ideologies are a set of beliefs, ideas, public discourses, and values used to make sense of the world over time. Many societal stereotypes collide with men’s or women’s identity, resulting in significant variations in almost every aspect of life. Inequalities like these don’t just affect how people are seen on a personal level; they also contribute to and maintain the existing status quo of gender imbalance in significant public sector operations. As a result, women confront difficulties in their everyday lives, which are exacerbated if they contest or fail to adhere to gender norms, resulting in various perceptible and imperceptible disparities. Given that Bangladesh is still a traditional society, surviving the prevalent gender norms can be very challenging—if not impossible—for women.

and in-laws forced her to leave her job after the birth of her first child. Though she had no intention of sacrificing her career, her position was not strong enough to oppose this pressure.

Given that Bangladesh has a patriarchal society, which places a low premium on women’s paid work, the man in the family is still considered the principal breadwinner. Even though women’s participation in the workforce has increased over time, family recognition of their monetary contribution is still a long way off. Samia was forced to give up her identity as a working mother to conform to the patriarchal cultural legitimacy by becoming a conventional housewife. Furthermore, the cultural construction of “proper womanhood” in the eyes of society often limits women’s power to oppose man-made rules and regulations.

Samia, soon after her marriage, realised how a woman’s identity crisis problematised her survival in Bangladesh. The so-called cultural legitimacy distinguishes men’s and women’s identities in such a way that women are almost entirely reliant on men throughout their lives. Her father is her guardian before her marriage, her husband takes custody after marriage, and at her old age, her eldest son becomes her guardian.

can depend on their self-identity to function as independent human beings. Their struggle for survival intersects with their having or not having male guardians, resulting in a form of servitude.

Samia’s second course of action was to find a job. She attended many interviews. Most of the interview board, led by men, were more interested in her personal life—e.g., why she got a divorce, whether she

woman in need of a job.

But what about her former husband? He got married six months after their divorce. He is now living a new life with his new wife, and continuing his job smoothly. He did not face an identity crisis to marry, rent a home, continue his career, and communicate with his family members and acquaintances. While Samia struggles in every aspect of her life today, her former husband appears to be content with his current situation. This is the case because society sets different boundaries for divorced men and

women in the country, resulting in gender discrimination.

The term “Equality before the law” in Article 27 of our constitution protects all citizens of the state, reflecting Articles 6 and 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 16 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Specifically, our constitution states that “the state shall not discriminate against any person solely on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.” The term “sex” is used interchangeably with “gender”

here. The Bangladesh government’s undertaking of this policy has advocated a statutory entitlement of equality between men and women. But the ubiquity of patriarchal cultural legitimacy overshadows a woman’s legal rights in society. It is because the policy rhetoric per se does not necessarily guarantee policy effectiveness. As a result, the practice of woman-friendly norms and culture must be envisioned for future Bangladesh.

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Men and women in Bangladesh are equal on paper, but not in practice.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Take, for example, this case study that elucidates how women’s identity crises push them to struggle in their daily lives. Samia (not real name), a 38-year-old woman, divorced her husband three years ago, after 11 years of marriage. She is a mother of two children, aged 10 and 8. She earned a master’s degree from a public university and began working for a private company after a year of her marriage. However, her husband

Although women’s reliance on men shifts with time, their independence remains precarious throughout their lives.

After her divorce, Samia’s first endeavour was to find a rented flat. When she was looking for a new place to live, she was told by multiple landlords that she would not be able to rent since she was divorced. She needed a male guardian to rent a flat. Women in Bangladesh seldom

would marry again, who was her guardian now, etc. Moreover, her age was also a topic of discussion during the job interviews.

Then came the social stigma. Samia tried to revive old friendships and restore regular communication with her relatives. But soon after her divorce, she realised many of her friends and relatives, including her own family members, had started to avoid her. She was also subjected to many suggestions from her relatives and acquaintances, who said she should “improve” her “acceptability” in society by practising a religious code of conduct. Samia found it difficult to reconcile that these were the same people who had shared many pleasant moments with her, before her divorce. After her divorce, their attitude towards her changed completely.

Samia lost her identity as a woman, a citizen of Bangladesh, and a human being in the eyes of society after getting a divorce. In her life, she donned multiple identities—a daughter, a wife, and a mother, to name a few. Men shape women’s identities, and women are burdened with a plethora of those identities, some of which may be imaginary. In Samia’s case, the landlords saw her only as a divorcee, her friends and relatives saw her as a woman with questionable reputation, and employers saw her as a destitute

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়

ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৩/২০২১-

স্মারক নং-৪১৬/ইন-সার্ভিস (টাঙ্গাইল)

তারিখঃ ০৫ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ
২০ নভেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এবং তৎপরবর্তীতে সংশোধিত ও প্রণীত আইন/বিধিমালা মোতাবেক ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালে ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল এর নিম্নবর্ণিত (বিজ্ঞপ্তির ২০নং ক্রমিকে উল্লিখিত) কাজের জন্য প্রকৃত টিকাদার/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিজস্ব প্যাডে লিখিত আবেদনসহ সীলমোহরকৃত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক ও উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ/অধিদপ্তর	ঃ	স্বপ্নলি মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ/পুলিশ অধিদপ্তর।
২।	সংস্থা	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	ঃ	ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল।
৪।	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার জেলা/ইউনিট	ঃ	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার), ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল।
৫।	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	ঃ	১। পুরহেজকোরস্মারক নং-কিন্যাপ/৪৪.০১.০০০০.০১৫.০১.০৩১.১৫(অংশ)/১০২৯ তাং-১২/০৯/২০২১খ্রিঃ। ২। পুরহেজকোরস্মারক নং-কিন্যাপ/৪৪.০১.০০০০.০৪৩.১৯১-২০১৪(অংশ/১৪৫৯১) তাং-২৬/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
৬।	দরপত্রের বিষয়	ঃ	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের জন্য ভাড়া চালিত গাড়ি সরবরাহ কাজ ও ২য় তলার অবশিষ্ট অংশ Retrofitting এর মাধ্যমে নির্মাণ কাজ।
৭।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।
৮।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	ঃ	রাজস্ব খাত।
৯।	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	ঃ	২২/১১/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ এর মধ্যে (যে কোন এক দিন)।
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	ঃ	১৩/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ অবধি চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১৪/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ সকাল ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১৪/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ সময় ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে।
১৩।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ	ডিআইজি, ঢাকা রেঞ্জ কার্যালয়, ঢাকা/পুলিশ সুপার কার্যালয়, টাঙ্গাইল ও ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল।
১৪।	দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার স্থান	ঃ	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়, ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল।
১৫।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১৫/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১৬।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	(ক) উপযুক্ত টিকাদার হিসেবে প্রমাণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্র। (খ) পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এবং তৎপরবর্তীতে সংশোধিত ও প্রণীত আইন/বিধিমালা এর সকল শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্য হবে।
১৭।	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে	ঃ	(ক) হালনাগাদ টিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র ও জিটার আইডি এবং ন্যায়িকত্ব সনদপত্র। (খ) নিজস্ব প্যাডে কোনো ভলিউম/নকল নর মর্মে অঙ্গীকারনামা (১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত), নমুনা স্বাক্ষর, মালিকানা সনদপত্র, সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র এবং হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরতা সনদপত্রসহ স্টেটমেন্ট এর মূলকপি, পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০১ (এক) কপি রঙিন ছবি, সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, দরপত্র জামানত ও দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত সকল কাগজপত্র সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলি ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে হতে জানা যাবে।
১৮।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	ঃ	মোহাম্মদ ইমামুর রশীদ, কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার), ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল।
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ঃ	ফোনঃ ০৯২১-৬২৫৩৭, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৯২১-৬২৬২৩ এবং মোবাইল নং-০১৩২০-২২০৪০০।
২০।	পন্যা/কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	ঃ	

লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অনেকেরতোযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	সরবরাহের সময়
(ক)	ভাড়া চালিত গাড়ি সরবরাহ কাজ।	১,০০০/-	৬৬,০০০/-	৩০ জুন/২০২২ পর্যন্ত
(খ)	২য় তলার অবশিষ্ট অংশ Retrofitting এর মাধ্যমে নির্মাণ কাজ।	১,৫০০/-	১,৫০,০০০/-	কার্যাদেশ মোতাবেক

২০। বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ ১) ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক বিজ্ঞপ্তির ১৭নং ক্রমিক এর (ক)-তে বর্ণিত সকল কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদানপূর্বক বর্ণিত স্থানে হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে, ২) টিকাদার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাপত্রসহ প্রেরিত প্রতিনিধি ছাড়া অন্য ব্যক্তিকে সিডিউল প্রদান করা হবে না, ৩) সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ ও দাখিলের এবং খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখে অনিবার্য কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও নিয়মে দরপত্র বিক্রয়, দাখিল ও খোলা হবে। এ সংক্রান্ত কোন বিজ্ঞপ্তি বা নোটিশ দেয়া হবে না, ৪) অভিজ্ঞ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে প্রাধান্য প্রদান করা হবে, ৫) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/ব্যতিরেকে ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন, ৬) কোন কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র কার্যক্রমের তারিখ পরিবর্তন হলে তা পরিকার প্রকাশ করা হবে, ৭) অকৃতবৎ দরপত্রের দরপত্র জামানত যথাসময়ে ফেরত দেয়া হবে।

জিডি-২১১৭

মোহাম্মদ ইমামুর রশীদ
বিপি-৬৯০১০৮২৭৭৬
কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার)
ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, টাঙ্গাইল
ফোনঃ ০৯২১-৬২৫৩৭, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৯২১-৬২৬২৩



‘ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO START WITH A WIN’

Bangladesh clinched a scintillating three-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Group B opener of the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Harare yesterday. The bowlers lay the foundation before a swashbuckling unbeaten half-century from Rumana Ahmed helped the Tigresses overcome a 202-run target with two balls remaining. “It’s always important to start with a good win and we got the momentum. It feels really good,” Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana said after the match. “Winning habit is very important [Bangladesh won three matches against Zimbabwe before the qualifiers]. I think we started well, the bowlers took 5 wickets early but after that Pakistan built their partnerships, so I think we need to work on that before the next game,” she added. “I am really happy. We won a very important match. We were so excited with this match. Hope we will be able to continue our good performance.”

PHOTO: TWITTER

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN

201 for 7 in 50 overs (Ali 22, Nida 87, Aliya 61 not out; Salma 1-32, Ritu 2-36, Nahida 2-25, Rumana 1-40)

BANGLADESH

202 for 7 in 49.4 overs (Sharmin 31, Fargana 45, Rumana 50 not out, Ritu 33, Salma 18 not out; Nashra 2-24, Sohail 2-44)

RESULT: Bangladesh won by 3 wickets.
PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH: Rumana Ahmed.

Mysukur’s ton lifts Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Tier-1 table toppers Rangpur Division staked their claim of returning to winning ways and as well as notching the title in the process, thanks to opener Mysukur Rahman’s unbeaten century on the opening day of the sixth and final round of the National Cricket League (NCL) against Tier-1 bottom dwellers Sylhet Division at BKSP ground 4 yesterday.

Sent in to bat, Mysukur weathered a few early loss of wickets to pick up his first NCL ton this season. The right-hander found an able partner in wicketkeeper-batter Dhiman Ghosh and put on 96 runs for the sixth-wicket stand. Mysukur went on remain unbeaten on 131, laced with 14 fours, as Rangpur posted 304 for seven at end of day’s play. First-class debutant Jaynul Islam was the pick of the bunch for Sylhet, scalping three wickets while Enamul Haque bagged two.

Dhaka Division kept themselves in the hunt for the title in the other Tier 1 match against reigning champions Khulna Division, starting with openers Abdul Mazid and Rony Talukdar 79-run opening stand. Mahidul Islam then took charge of the innings, hitting 92 off 190 deliveries before becoming pacer Al Amin’s third scalp of the day as Dhaka paused at 263 for 6 at close of play.

Meanwhile, Mahmudul Hasan Joy continued his excellent form with the bat for Chittagong Division in the Tier 2 match against Dhaka Metropolis in Sylhet Cricket International Stadium. Batting first, openers Pinak Ghosh and Jasimuddin provided a healthy start and Mahmudul joined at one-down to strike 83 off 116, laced with nine fours. However, Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid had other plans as he snared four wickets for 62 runs while Shahbaz Chouhan bagged three for 35 to restrict Chittagong to 223 runs. Dhaka Metro will resume at 52 for two on Day 2.

In another Tier 2 match at Sylhet Academy Ground, Barishal Division reached 225 for 7 against Rajshahi Division at day’s end as Fazle Rabbi struck an unbeaten 122 to help his side – currently at second – in battle for promotion from Tier 2.



‘I deserved more chances’

Not only is he the only cricketer to score over 11,000 first-class runs in Bangladesh, he was just 28 shy of 12,000 when veteran Tushar Imran announced his retirement from all forms of cricket during the National Cricket League in BKSP yesterday. Tushar, who also has the most first-class centuries in Bangladesh, spoke to The Daily Star’s Mazhar Uddin during an interview where he shared his experience over the last two decades, his regrets and the areas that Bangladesh cricket can work on to improve as a whole.

The excerpts are below:

The Daily Star (DS): How was your describe your two-decade long journey in first-class cricket?

Tushar Imran (TI): The end was not as I expected. I wanted to retire after scoring more runs but it hasn’t been a good season for me. I wanted to play for a few more seasons but since I wasn’t able to play well, it was not suiting my character. So I decided to call it a day to provide opportunities to youngsters. Overall, it’s been a great journey that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

DS: After scoring consistently in the past four-five seasons, do you feel you deserved a call-up to the national team at any point?

TI: To be honest, yes. I was hoping to get a call to the Bangladesh team during the 2017-18 season and since then I can say that my motivation was to make a comeback to the

national team. My dedication to score runs and hunger has helped me become better. I should also credit to my Khulna teammates because I tried to compete with them all the time.

DS: Do you regret not having as long an international career as your first-class career? What are the reasons behind that?

TI: Yes, I do regret that but the fact is that when I made my Test debut I was very young and hardly understood Test cricket. I played against top opponents and it is obvious a player will fail initially in his career. I am not as talented as Mohammad Ashraf, but I think deserved more chances after that.

DS: From your vast knowledge of first-class cricket in Bangladesh, what are the areas you think have

been the biggest obstacles to improving the standard of cricket over the years?

TI: I think it’s important for national players to play first-class cricket regularly. It will encourage youngsters and others to set a benchmark and competing with the best will help improve the standard of cricket. I think we don’t have enough sporting tracks all across the country, which is also why we fail abroad most of the time. We need good pitches that encourage both bowlers and batters.

DS: What are your plans after retirement?

TI: I want to be attached with cricket and I will probably take up coaching. It is very difficult to stay away from cricket even if you stop playing the game. Let’s see.

Parvez the latest entrant to opener merry-go-round

MAZHAR UDDIN



Bangladesh are all set to field a new opening pair as they tweak the team to eke out a consolation victory in the final game of the three-match T20I series against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

It will be no easy task for the Tigers given the manner in which they lost the first two games at the same venue. Bangladesh will need to dig deep if they are to restore some pride in the final match after a barren run in the game’s shortest format.

Unfortunately, it seems that the crisis with the Bangladesh team deepened after the two defeats to Pakistan. The think-tank, under the leadership of former national skipper Khaled Mahmud, drafted in some new faces to give them exposure after the T20 World Cup debacle, but after just two games they seem to have lost the plot.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Mahmud said: “You can think of it as an investment series for us.” That gave rise to questions about whether they had chosen a good investment, to which he stated: “I feel the need for patience is vital for us at every level.”

The last moment inclusion of young opener Parvez Hossain Emon in place of Saif Hasan for the third and final T20I hardly matches that line of thinking. Instead, it portrayed a lack of clarity within the Tigers think-tank and selection process.

Regardless of whether it is Parvez or another combination of openers today, it will be the Tigers’ tenth different opening pair in 27 games this year in T20Is, reflecting a lack of consistency and patience towards players in the shortest format.



The inclusion of Saif as a T20 opener had surprised many and the manner in which the right-hander struggled to deal with quality bowlers and got exposed did not exactly come as a big surprise for many. But the exclusion of the batsman after two games shows how abruptly things have been going for the players.

“Saif failed to perform in two games, which is why we included Parvez for the third game. Saif will join the Test team in Chattogram. It’s an opportunity for Parvez to showcase his talents. He has been in the set-up for some time now,” chief selector Minhajul Abedin told The Daily Star. Will this game of inclusion and exclusion ultimately help these two young players?

Unfortunately, history suggests this kind of quick-fix selection policy only deters players’ confidence. Players should take the responsibility for not delivering on the field, but it must be pondered whether this kind of practice actually hinders the development of a player.

The confusion over a stable opening pair started even before experienced Tamim Iqbal opted out if the ICC T20 World Cup, with the Tigers trying four different opening pairs ahead of the mega-event.

Despite being the only consistent scorer in the opening slots prior to the World Cup,

Naim was surprisingly dropped from the opening first-round game at the T20 World Cup, with Soumya Sarkar opening the innings with Liton Das as Bangladesh crashed to a shock six-run defeat against Scotland.

The team management then decided to tinker with the opening pair, returning Naim to his position alongside Liton. Following a dismal show in the mega-event, selectors then opted for a major overhaul for the three-match Pakistan series. Both Liton and Soumya lost their places for the Pakistan series but the experiment of including Saif did not work out, eventually forcing the selectors to make another change in the form of Parvez.

It may not be harsh to say that an unsettled team management cannot create a settled team at all.



Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne slammed an unbeaten hundred to give his team the upper hand in Sunday’s opening Test against the West Indies. Bad light forced an early end to the day’s play in Galle with two overs remaining and the hosts finishing on 267-3. This was Karunaratne’s 13th Test century and fourth this year. He has bagged more than 750 runs in 2021, including a career-best 244 against Bangladesh, despite only playing 10 innings.

PHOTO: AFP

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

T SPORTS & GTV

Bangladesh vs Pakistan 3rd T20I

Live from 02:00 pm

T SPORTS

Sri Lanka vs West Indies 1st Test (Day 2)

Live from 10:30 am

Abu Dhabi T10

Deccan Gladiators vs Delhi Bulls

Live from 08:00 pm

Chennai Bravers vs Team Abu Dhabi

Live from 10:00 pm

La Liga

Rayo Vallecano vs Mallorca

Live from 02:00 am (Tuesday)

NCL (Round 6, Day 2)

Dhaka vs Khulna, BKSP-3

Rangpur vs Sylhet, BKSP-4

Chattogram vs Dhaka Metro, Sylhet

Rajshahi vs Barishal, SICS Academy



Messi ‘really wanted’ THE FIRST GOAL

AGENCIES

Paris Saint-Germain boss Mauricio Pochettino has revealed he did not have any concerns about Lionel Messi's Ligue 1 goal drought prior to the forward opening his account in the competition against Nantes.

Messi had made five league appearances for the capital club without scoring before netting the third goal in the 3-1 victory at the Parc des Princes on Saturday with his 20th shot in Ligue 1.

The six-time Ballon d'Or winner has scored in the Champions League for PSG, however, netting three times in three games so far.

Pochettino explained that

neither he nor Messi had any doubt that the goals would start to flow domestically, too, and also made a point of praising the team as a whole.

"I don't think Messi was worried about not having scored in the championship, he's a great champion, the best player in the world," Pochettino said after the game.

"He knows how to go through the most difficult times, he has patience, and it's good that he scored.

"We showed our character, but also showed the quality of the team -- we played a very good first half.

"The progress of the MNM [Messi, Neymar, Kylian Mbappe]? I always said it was about making connections, spending time together, and also playing competitive matches.

"But it was the whole team that played a good game, as a whole, to allow these talented players to often find themselves in a position to create chances. Too bad we didn't score more goals in the first half."

Messi expressed his delight at opening his Ligue 1 account, finding the back of the net with a sweet strike from outside the box after receiving the ball from Mbappe.

"I am happy with this first goal, I really wanted it," Messi said to Amazon Prime. "I had several chances before in this match and in previous matches. "I am very happy with this first goal in the championship, I had already scored in the Champions League. There had been chances, but I had not converted, so I am very happy."

What next for Man Utd?

AFP, London



Manchester United once again have to press the reset button after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer became the fourth manager to be shown the door since Alex Ferguson stepped down in 2013.

United have fallen a long way in those eight years, watching from the sidelines as their fiercest rivals, Manchester City and Liverpool, have become the new dominant forces in the Premier League.

David Moyes, Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho all came and went before beloved former United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was appointed as caretaker boss in December 2018 with a brief to restore the club to former glories by tapping into its DNA.

United rediscovered their spark in a honeymoon period under the Norwegian, summed up in a breathless Champions League comeback against Paris Saint-Germain -- a result that helped persuade club bosses to hand him a permanent deal.

Despite persistent concerns over his lack of experience and technical nous, Solskjaer has come agonisingly close to delivering the club's first silverware since 2017, losing on penalties in last season's Europa League final and finishing second in the Premier League.

Club bosses were confident enough in the direction of travel to hand him a new three-year contract in July.

Former United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel said in his recent autobiography that his former team-mate had brought the "heart and soul back" to the club after the divisive Mourinho reign but in the end that did not prove enough.

Solskjaer, 48, said after his side's chastening 4-1 defeat to lowly Watford on Saturday that he felt for the fans and understood their pain after they vented their fury at Vicarage Road.

"We've had a hard time since Sir Alex (Ferguson) left the club and fans who have been with us the last few years since I came in, they've been unbelievable, they've

understood the situation," he said.

"The signings this summer with Rafa (Raphael Varane), Jadon (Sancho) and Cristiano (Ronaldo) of course raised everyone's expectations, rightly so, because we brought some top players."

The question is, who do United turn to now to take the club forward?

A club statement on Sunday stated the intention to hire an interim manager till the end of the season with former midfielder Michael Carrick in the hotseat for the forthcoming games.

By delaying Solskaer's departure, one prominent candidate is now off the market as Tottenham snatched up a former Premier League winner in Antonio Conte.

United have been consistently linked with Paris Saint-Germain boss Mauricio Pochettino and the Argentine may well be the motivation for waiting till the summer.

Former Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane, Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers and Ajax coach Erik ten Hag have also been linked with the role.



United, for so long a byword for stability under Ferguson, have been reluctant to sack their managers until they feel their hand is forced.

That tipping point has now been reached, with the club seventh in the Premier League, already six points off the top four and out of the title race after just 12 games.

Whoever does take over at Old Trafford will have a richly talented but bloated and unbalanced squad to work with.

Any new manager will also have to work under the American owners, the Glazer family, who remain intensely unpopular among a large section of the club's fanbase.

One thing is for certain -- whoever is next in through the door will face enormous expectations that will not be satisfied until United are top dogs again.

Victories for Mohammedan, Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Argentina international Joaquin Menini slotted a hatrick as Mohammedan began their Super Five campaign in Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with an 8-2 win over Bangladesh SC at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan, who beat the same opponents 6-0 in the first meeting of the league, broke the deadlock through Rajib Das before Menini doubled the lead with a reverse hit in the next minute.

However, Bangladesh SC brought some excitement back in the match by scoring twice through Krishna Kumar and Harshukhpreet Sing by the 22nd minute.

But Menini made it 3-2 in the 25th minute through a reverse hit as the Black and Whites went into the second break with a slender lead.

Mohammedan did not look back from there on as Menini completed his hatrick in the 53rd minute before his compatriot Gonzalo Peilat scored a brace while Ajit Kumar and Aminul Islam added one goal each.

With 11th win in 12 matches, Mohammedan are on 33 points, three behind leaders Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club while Abahani joined Mohammedan on 33 points from 13 matches with a 5-2 win over Sonali Bank, thanks to a hatrick from Khorshedur Rahman.

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37 Bangladeshi migrants rescued in Mexico

AGENCIES

Thirty-seven Bangladeshis were among 600 migrants rescued in Mexico after they were crammed into two tractor-trailers, AFP reported quoting Mexico's National Migration Institute.

The institute yesterday said that of the rescued individuals, 145 were women and 455 men.

They were found in the southeastern state of Veracruz, the institute said in a statement.

Reuters reported that 401 of the rescued people were from Guatemala, 53 from Honduras, 40 from the Dominican Republic, 37 from Bangladesh, 27 from Nicaragua, 18 from El Salvador and eight from Cuba.

There were also six men from Ghana, four people from Venezuela, four men from Ecuador, one man from India and one man from Cameroon.

The migrants were traveling "crammed" into the trailers of two trucks, Tonatiuh Hernandez, the local head of the Human Rights Commission, told AFP.

"There are children, minors, I saw pregnant women, sick people," said Hernandez, adding that he had never seen "so many" migrants traveling together in such conditions.

AFP reported that a video obtained by it showed several hundred migrants, looking sullen and tired, crowded in a courtyard of the National Migration Institute as police in riot gear stood guard nearby.

After their names were read out by officials, migrants boarded a bus to be transported for further processing.

Child protections services have also been notified regarding families with children or minors traveling alone, according to Hernandez.

As the corridor between central America and the United States, Mexico has seen vast numbers of migrants flow through its territory, AFP reports.



The roof of Banga Bazar market in the capital turns colourful as Indian saris and other clothes kept there for drying in the sun. Traders import the clothes from India and then wash and "polish" before putting them up for sale in the market.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

QUESTION PAPER LEAK Buet removes chairman of department

Forms probe body
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buet Prof Nikhil Ranjan Dhar, who is allegedly involved in question leak of a bank recruitment exam, has been relieved from his chairman post of the industrial and production engineering department and exam-related duties.

A five-member body, comprised of senior teachers, was also formed yesterday to investigate the incident and asked to submit its report in five-working days, Prof Satya Prasad Majumder, vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, told The Daily Star.

"Due to the seriousness of allegation against him [Prof Nikhil] in the mainstream media, he



SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

MONEY LAUNDERING ACC can do little with clipped wings

Says its commissioner Jahurul
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Because of legal bindings, the Anti-Corruption Commission could not play an effective role in preventing money laundering, ACC Commissioner Jahurul Haque said yesterday.

Saying that some people are involved in massive money laundering, he said, "Not thousands, crores of taka are being laundered. But what can we do? We've nothing to do."

"The government has taken away the jurisdiction of money laundering from us by formulating an act," said Jahurul, adding that the commission can now only probe laundering offences related to corruption and bribery.

"We cannot go beyond our jurisdiction. We don't want to take that blame."

Jahurul was addressing a view-exchange meeting at ACC's Segunbagicha Headquarters organised to observe the anti-graft body's 17th founding anniversary.


In 2019, the government formulated the Money Laundering Prevention Rules.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Kissinger's plan for isolating India

NOVEMBER 22, 197
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN



US RESPONSE TO INDIAN OFFENSIVE

Henry Kissinger, the US President's assistant for National Security Affairs, called the US President Nixon today at 12:45pm and said, "There is no doubt there is a large encroachment taking place and it is heavily backed by the Indians." In a memo later that day, Kissinger relayed Pakistani radio broadcasts of an Indian offensive and added, "We have no independent evidence but it seems apparent that there has been a major incident."

Kissinger still hoped that war could be averted, despite the "naked case of Indian aggression", but the threshold had been crossed. As an overall strategy, Kissinger endorsed the idea of coordinated action with China in the UN Security Council.

Kissinger suggested, "We ought to talk to the Chinese to find out what they'll do at the Security Council...We don't have to go as far as the Chinese, but I would lean..." Nixon interrupted, "I want to go damn near as far. Now, understand, I don't like the Indians." Nixon repeated his theme, "Let's remember the Pakistanis have been our friends...and the damn Indians have not been." Kissinger hoped to coordinate with the Chinese and other powers in order to diplomatically isolate India and its Soviet Bloc supporters.

YAHYA VISITS BORDER AREA

Pakistan President Yahya Khan today visited border areas in the Sialkot sector. He was accompanied by the Pakistan Army Chief General Abdul Hamid Khan, according to Pakistan Radio. Yahya

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Man caught while burying murdered rape victim

STAR REPORT

A man digging a hole in his backyard to bury a six-year-old girl he raped and killed was caught by villagers in Jashore on Saturday.

The villagers handed Nazmul Haque, 32, of Thakurkathi village in Bagherpara upazila, over to police.

The victim's family members said she went missing on Saturday morning and they looked for her until evening, when they saw Nazmul digging a hole near his house.

Seeing the victim's family members, Nazmul tried to flee the scene but locals caught him and he told them the child's body was in a sack under his bed.

Police recovered the body and arrested Nazmul around 9:30pm, said Firoz Uddin, officer-in-charge of Bagherpara Police Station.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Nasa seeks ideas for a nuclear reactor on moon



AP, Boise

If anyone has a good idea on how to put a nuclear fission power plant on the moon, the US government wants to hear about it.

Nasa and the nation's top federal nuclear research lab on Friday put out a request for proposals for a fission surface power system.

Nasa is collaborating with the US Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory to establish a sun-independent power source for missions to the moon by the end of the decade.


"Providing a reliable, high-power system on the moon is a vital next step in human space exploration, and achieving it is within our grasp," Sebastian Corbisiero, the Fission Surface Power

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

**RECOGNITION
EVER-ELUSIVE
FOR MARTYRED
HARIJANS**

During the Liberation War, a dedicated group of Harijan community members based in the capital's Aga Sadek Lane helped out freedom fighters in any way possible -- from providing them with food to carrying firearms. For the Pakistan occupation forces, this was a grave crime. On this day in 1971, at least 10 of them were picked up. They never returned.

STORY ON PAGE 3



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 22

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT 5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Sudan military reinstates PM after deal

Under the agreement, Hamdok will lead a civilian govt for a transitional period

REUTERS, Khartoum

Sudan's military reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok yesterday and announced the release of all political detainees after weeks of deadly unrest triggered by a coup.

Under an agreement signed with military leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Hamdok will lead a civilian government of technocrats for a transitional period.

Hamdok said he had agreed to the deal to stop the bloodshed.

"Sudanese blood is precious, let us stop the bloodshed and direct the youth's energy into building and development," he said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Some cones are all there is to warn pedestrians and motorists of the gaping hole in a street in the capital's Kamalapur. Locals claimed that the drain has been left like this for many days.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

Fifth Covid wave hitting at 'lightning' speed

Says France as infections rising at an alarming rate

AGENCIES

Fifth-wave coronavirus infections in France are rising at an alarming rate, the government reported yesterday, with new daily Covid cases close to doubling over the past week.

The seven-day average of new cases reached 17,153 on Saturday, up from 9,458 a week earlier, according to the health authorities, an increase of 81 percent. "The fifth wave is starting at lightning speed," government spokesman Gabriel Attal told media.

Europe is battling a fresh wave of infections and several countries including the Netherlands, Austria have tightened curbs.

Tens of thousands took to the streets in cities across Europe and Australia Saturday as anger mounted over fresh Covid restrictions imposed against the resurgent pandemic.

Dutch police said yesterday they have arrested 19 people over riots in The Hague after the country was rocked by a second night of violence over the government's coronavirus measures.

Around 10,000 marched in Sydney and there were also protests in other major cities against vaccine mandates applied to certain occupations by state authorities.

In France, the latest seven-day increase is three times the average rise of cases recorded over the previous three weeks, indicating an exponential acceleration of infections.

For now the spike in infections has not led to a massive

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