



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

RABIUS SANI 18, 1443 HJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

ANTIBIOTICS OVERUSE

Headed for a HEALTH CALAMITY

5yr resistant trends of critically important drugs in %



SOURCE: TEDCR

NAME	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ceftazidime	62	68	67	61	70
Cefixime	52	86	92	73	58
Cefepime	57	60	60	57	61
Ceftriaxone	52	63	67	60	65
Azithromycin	66	81	79	82	50
Ciprofloxacin	57	68	70	68	67

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Almost all clinically important and widely used antibiotics have lost their effectiveness by more than 50 percent, found a recent study -- a development that can leave the population defenceless against pandemics.

Most worryingly, five of the most critical medicines listed by the World Health Organisation are progressively becoming ineffective, according to the surveillance study by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research conducted between 2017 and 2021.

"The message of this study is that the situation is alarming," said Meerjady

Sabrina Flora, additional director general of the health directorate, at an event yesterday to unveil the performance of 21 antibiotics against 10 priority pathogens.

The drugs were tested against bacteria responsible for diseases such as urinary tract infection, septicemia, diarrhoea, pneumonia and wound infection, among others.

The study, which was conducted in nine medical college hospitals, found 9 percent of the examined bacteria was resistant to all available antibiotics.

The ineffectiveness of antibiotics to kill microorganisms like bacteria, viruses and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Armed with sticks and planks, a group of youths chases off college students, *not in picture*, demonstrating for half fare in buses at the capital's Science Laboratory intersection yesterday. The demonstration caused traffic disruption in the area. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Khaleda is not responding to medication well

Say doctor, party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health condition of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is still critical and her body is not responding to treatments as per expectations, said physicians and the party leaders.

Talking to The Daily Star, Khaleda's physician AZM Zahid Hossain, last night said, "Doctors are trying their best, but her body is not responding at an expected level. We are trying our best."

Mentioning that the former prime minister should go abroad for better treatment, he said, "Her physical condition can deteriorate any time."

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said Khaleda's physical condition was still critical.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Killers trained, target clear

Say law enforcers on Cumilla double murder; motive still a mystery

RAFIUL ISLAM and KHALID BIN NAZRUL

The killers' target was clear: shoot and confirm the death of Cumilla city Councillor Syed Mohammad Sohail on the spot.

The motive of the murder on Monday, however, is still shrouded in mystery.

The gunmen stayed around 20 minutes after opening fire on Sohail in his office in Cumilla city's Pathuriapara so that no one could dare take him to hospital immediately, said his associates and inhabitants of nearby buildings.

The attackers, some wearing masks and some helmets, shot others in the legs inside and outside the office, indicating that they were professional hit men, said law enforcers.

The death of Haripada Das, the close aide to the councillor, was possibly a "collateral damage", they said.

"We believe the murder had been planned long ago," said a police official dealing with the double-murder, wishing not to be named.

Five others who suffered bullet injuries in the attack are: Awal Hossain Rizvi, 23, Rasel, 29, Majedul Haque Badal, 39, Jewel, 40, and Sohail Chowdhury, 43. They were undergoing treatment at Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BAD BUSINESS

Bad loans surpass Tk 1 lakh crore, again

In an upsetting development, default loans in the banking sector have surpassed Tk 1 lakh crore after more than one and a half years despite a relaxed loan classification policy adopted by the central bank. Up until September, non-performing loans stood at Tk 101,150 crore, up 14 per cent from nine months earlier and 7.1 per cent year-on-year. The rise came despite the central bank's relaxed policy, introduced soon after the coronavirus pandemic hit the country in March last year.

STORY ON B1

DEMO FOR HALF FARE

Govt given ultimatum

Students press for meeting demand in 48 hours; state minister for info expresses solidarity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

College students yesterday issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to meet their demands for half bus fares and ensuring their security in public transport.

Students of different colleges staged demonstrations in the capital's Science Laboratory and Bakshibazar areas for about two hours.

Some Dhaka College students chased the protesters in Science Laboratory area over vandalising a motorcycle, said witnesses.

In Savar, Jahangirnagar University students formed a human chain to press home the same demand. Issuing a 24-hour ultimatum to the authorities concerned, they threatened to wage a tougher movement if their demands were not met.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murad Hassan yesterday said the students' demands were logical.

"I will talk to the people concerned regarding the matter," he said while expressing solidarity with the demonstrators in Bakshibazar.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Gazipur mayor sued in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A case was filed with a Rajbari court yesterday against Gazipur City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam over his controversial comments on Bangabandhu and Liberation War martyrs.

One Shashi Akter of Rajbari Police Lines area filed the case with Rajbari Judicial Magistrate's Court-1 around noon under penal code 505 and 504.

Shoshi is the president of Manobik Bangladesh Society's Rajbari municipality unit.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A part of the walkway along the Buriganga collapsed in Narayanganj's Munshikhola. The mooring of cargo vessels in the area has been causing damages to the walkway for about a year. *Inset*, a crane is deployed on the shore of the river to unload goods from boats. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Chaos all day long

Hundreds of UAE-bound passengers crowd HSIA for Covid test prior to departure

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Over 1,500 passengers, who need a Covid-19 negative certificate six hours prior to flying to the UAE, start crowding the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport every day since morning.

The overcrowding is so severe that passengers cannot even find a place to sit before check in. All the chairs and even luggage carts are occupied by the passengers waiting to give samples, get their test results, and board their flights.

The passengers usually arrive nine to 10 hours before their flights to give samples

and all the collection booths are inside the terminal.

The situation has been worsened by the fact that the five to eight flights to the United Arab Emirates depart between 5:00pm and 7:30pm every day.

Other departing passengers have to navigate through the mayhem and some even complain that they can't hear the public announcements due to noise inside the terminal.

During a recent visit to HSIA, our correspondents found that more than 1,000 passengers were sitting on carts and chairs inside the departure area.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) vide letter no. BSEC/CI/DS-163/2021/597 dated November 23, 2021 has accorded its consent to AB Bank Limited for raising Additional Tier-I (AT-I) capital through issuance of Transferrable, Unsecured, Non-cumulative, Contingent-convertible AB Bank Perpetual Bonds of BDT 600 crore of which BDT 540 crore through Private Placement and BDT 60 crore through Public Issue with a face value of BDT 1,000 each. Interest rate of the said bonds is 20-years' Treasury-Bond rate plus 2.0% margin p.a. with a coupon floor rate of 6% p.a. and coupon ceiling rate of 10.0% p.a. The consent has been accorded subject to the compliance of relevant laws and regulatory requirements.

Dated: Dhaka, November 23, 2021

AB Bank Limited
The Skymark, 18 Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan-1, Dhaka | www.abbl.com

Sd/-
Md. Jasim Uddin, ACS
Company Secretary (In-charge)

BANGLADESH
UPDATE



284
New cases in 24hrs



15,74,636
Total cases



27,958
Deaths



15,38,855
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE



5,179,985
Deaths



258,804,967
Total cases

RELOCATING ROHINGYAS

Govt to send 2,000 others to Bhasan Char

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has resumed the process for relocating Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char, said officials.

Around 2,000 more Rohingyas are likely to be relocated to the island in Noakhali's Hatiya in the first phase by tomorrow, they said, adding that the Rohingyas have already been taken to the Ukhiya College ground.

The government is planning to shift around 80,000 Rohingyas to the island by the end of next March, Md Mohsin, secretary of the disaster management and relief ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mohammed Moazzam Hossain, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, said Rohingyas will be taken to Chattogram by bus today and they will stay there overnight. "On Thursday [tomorrow], Rohingyas will reach Bhasan Char by ship."

Around 18,000 Rohingyas have already been moved to the island. The first batch of 1,642 refugees was taken there on December 4 last year.

Bangladesh Navy has implemented a Tk 3,100-crore project titled the Ashrayan-3 Project on Bhasan Char for the refugees.

In Cox's Bazar refugee camps, a family of six-eight people live together within a space of 400-square foot. At Bhasan Char, the buildings have electricity, solar panels, biogas plants, and mobile networks.

The houses have been built four feet above the ground with concrete blocks. Each building will house 16 families of four in its 16 rooms, providing more than the UN stipulated 37 square feet space for each person, said project officials.

Although the United Nations was not engaged in the process of Bhasan Char project, it signed an agreement with Bangladesh last month to provide humanitarian support.

The UN's engagement started nearly a year after Bangladesh started moving the Rohingyas to the island. After the signing of the agreement, the UN said it would allow close cooperation between the government and the UN to provide services for refugees on the island.

Headed for a health calamity

FROM PAGE 1
parasites is called antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

"The AMR is another type of pandemic. It should not be that there is no drug for curing illnesses," Flora said.

Data indicates that the use of antibiotics is driven by practitioners, said Nitish Chandra Debnath, One Health Bangladesh's national coordinator.

"We have to work on it -- we need a strong movement among professionals. AMR is a challenge for both the public health and the economy," he added.

Antibiotics are classified into three sets: the "access group" is prescribed for a wide range of primary level infections, the "watch group" for higher resistance bacteria and the "reserve group" when all alternatives fail.

Of the 21 antibiotics, seven were from the access group, nine from the watch group and two from the reserve group. Of them, 15 are progressively becoming ineffectual.

In 2021, Cefazidime, a watch group drug, has become ineffective in killing different bacteria in 70 percent of the cases. In 2017, its ineffectiveness rate was 62 percent.

The ineffectiveness has increased from 52 percent to 58 percent for Cefixime, from 57 percent to 61 percent for Cefepime, from 52 percent to 65 percent for Ceftriaxone, from 57 percent to 67 percent for Ciprofloxacin, from 20 percent to 40 percent for Carbapenem. All are watch group drugs.

During the period, access group drugs Doxycycline and Tetracycline have become more useful, with their

ineffectiveness rates decreasing from 47 percent to 39 percent and from 58 to 54 percent respectively.

"This may be because of the lesser use of these drugs -- physicians mainly use drugs from the watch and reserve groups," Zakir Hossain Habib, lead investigator and head of microbiology at the IEDCR, told The Daily Star.

Among the access group, drugs that have lost effectiveness include Nitrofurantoin, Sulphamethoxazole-Trimethoprim, Ampicillin, Amoxicillin-Clavulanate and Gentamicin. Penicillin have slightly gained in effectiveness.

The ineffectiveness of Aztreonam, a reserve group drug, has increased to 61 percent from 59 percent; it has remained static at 37 percent in the case of reserve group drug Linezolid.

"We are losing our first-line antibiotics [access group] -- the second- and third-line antibiotics are costly and toxic," said Mohamed Ramzy Ismail, WHO technical expert on essential drugs and medicines in Bangladesh.

There are only a few promising options for new antimicrobials in the research pipeline, he said.

To fight AMR, Ismail called for the "One Health" approach, where Bangladesh has made good progress.

One health recognises that human health is closely connected to the health of animals and the shared environment.

Some countries are using antibiotics more in food production than in medical care.

"We need to find ways to target all behaviour that contribute to the misuse of these fragile medicines," he added.

WHO ANTIBIOTIC CATEGORISATION

ACCESS GROUP	WATCH GROUP	RESERVE GROUP
first or second choice antibiotics	first or second choice antibiotics	"last resort"
offer the best therapeutic value, while minimizing the potential for resistance	only indicated for specific, limited number of infective syndromes	highly selected patients (life-threatening infections due to multi-drug resistant bacteria)
	more prone to be a target of antibiotic resistance and thus prioritized as targets of stewardship programs and monitoring	closely monitored and prioritised as targets of stewardship programs to ensure their continued effectiveness

Govt given ultimatum

FROM PAGE 1
On November 3, the government raised the prices of diesel and kerosene by Tk 15 per liter and the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) on November 7 increased the fares for intra-city and inter-district buses by 26.5 percent and 27 percent respectively following a strike by transport owners.

Over the last couple of weeks, students have been demanding half fare for bus rides. Students and transport workers got into heated debates over the bus fare issue.

On Sunday, a student of Begum Badrunnesa Government Girls College was threatened with rape by a bus driver's helper when she wanted to pay half fare, according to media reports.

PROTESTS CONTINUE

Yesterday, about 100 students of Dhanmondi Ideal College, Dhaka City College, and Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College blocked Science Laboratory intersection in the capital around 12:30pm to stage demonstrations, said witnesses.

Protesters wrote slogans on buses using spray paints and markers.

The blockade caused congestion in Dhanmondi and New Market areas. Caught in traffic snarls, bus passengers were seen getting off.

Protesters alleged that some 50-60 students of Dhaka College chased them around 1:15pm. At one stage, they picked up a demonstrator.

The demonstrations continued for about two hours.

Adnan, a student of Dhanmondi

Ideal College, said they were giving a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to meet their demand. He threatened that they would resume their protests on Saturday if their demands were not met by Friday.

At Bakshibazar, an agitating student demanded the government implement half bus fare for students and issue a gazette in this regard immediately.

Shahen Shah, additional deputy commissioner (New Market Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the student who was picked up was freed in the evening.

In Savar, Jahangirnagar University students raised a five-point demand, including half bus fare for students, abolition of seating bus service and stopping harassment of students in public transport, reports our JU correspondent.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam.

Students have been staging demonstrations since November 18 demanding half fares for bus rides.

On November 20, students of two colleges vandalised 10-12 buses in the capital's Science Laboratory area during protests over half bus fare.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder said there was no provision of half fare in public transport.

"Since it is a private service, reduction of fares depends on bus owners," he said.



A group of youths grabs a college student, in white shirt, who was among others staging a demonstration demanding half fare in buses at the capital's Science Laboratory intersection yesterday. Cops present there did not intervene. Inset, agitating students block the intersection.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/ PALASH KHAN

Killers trained, target clear

FROM PAGE 1

All of them are associates of the councillor, said locals.

Meanwhile, the family members of Soheli, councillor of ward-17 and also the panel mayor of Cumilla City Corporation, termed it a political killing.

"Political rivals are behind the murder ... We want justice," Soheli's elder brother Syed Mohammad Alamgir told The Daily Star yesterday.

Councillor's wife Shahnaz Akhter said, "My husband was popular not only in the locality but also across the Cumilla city. They killed him in a planned way."

The councillor, also the president of ward-17 Awami League, was shot nine times and eight of the bullets went through his body. Haripada was the member of the ward-17 AL unit.

"The killers wanted to confirm his death on the spot. We hardly found any bullets in the dead bodies," said a source at Cumilla Medical College morgue after the autopsy.

Law enforcers could not arrest anyone even 24 hours after the grisly double-murder that took place around 4:00pm on Monday.

Police, however, recovered three locally made guns, 12 bullets usually used in rifle, a bag of crude bombs and two black garments from Sangraish, around 500 metres away from the spot.

Anwarul Azim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station, said the criminals might have left those there.

Police collected footage of several CCTV cameras, three of them installed in front of the office, to identify the

killers.

No case was lodged till filing of this report around 10:00pm yesterday.

Soheli's Personal Assistant Majedul Haque Badal, who was shot in one of his legs, said, "The killers stormed the office shouting that they were members of a law enforcement agency. Six to seven people were sitting with the councillor at that time."

Haripada sustained bullet wounds first during the indiscriminate firing, he added.

Another injured, Badal, however, gave a different version claiming that he identified at least two of the masked attackers by their voices.

The two he named are: Shah Alam and Soheli alias "Jail Soheli" -- both are local criminals. Alam had a rivalry with the councillor over some local issues, claimed Badal.

However, this newspaper could not independently verify his claim.

Jahangir Hossain Babul, councillor of Ward-16, alleged that Alam, known as a drug trader, had a dispute with Councillor Soheli as he opposed Alam's illegal activities.

A week ago, Alam opened fire in Pathuriapara area when some locals tried to catch one of his friends for disturbing a girl, he told The Daily Star.

Soheli informed police of the matter, which irked Alam, said Babul, a friend of the slain councillor.

He also alleged that police personnel reached the spot around an hour after the incident.

Farooque Ahmed, superintendent of Cumilla police, said apart from other possible causes, police were

looking into the involvement of Alam and "Jail Soheli" in the murders.

Asked about the delay in going to the spot, the SP said police went to the spot after hearing about the incident.

Yesterday, hundreds of people gathered outside the councillor's office and his house after the body of councillor Soheli was taken there from the hospital.

In tears, they demanded justice for the killings.

"We want justice," Momena Akter was shouting near the councillor's office.

"The councillor was our guardian. He used to always help poor people like us," she said.

Soheli was buried at the family graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza at local mosque premises. Haripada was cremated in Tikarkhar area.

Before the janaza, Syed Mohammad Nadim, only son of the Soheli, said, "What I only want is capital punishment of those who killed my father."

The spot where Soheli was murdered is four-five km from Bibir Bazar land port.

The name of the councillor, who had a huge popularity in his locality, came up in the discussion after communal violence took place during the Durga Puja celebrations in the city.

Iqbal Hossain, who is accused of placing the Holy Quran in the city's Nanua Dighir Par puja mandap in the early hours of October 13, used to reside in one of Soheli's houses at Pathuriapara as a tenant.

Sharmin hits magical figure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opener Sharmin Akhter smashed a century as Bangladesh thrashed United States of America by 269 runs in their second match of the ICC Women's World Cup 2022 Qualifier in Harare yesterday.

Sharmin's unbeaten 130 off 141 deliveries, together with healthy contributions from Murshida Khatun (47), Nigar Sultana (33) and Fargana Hoque (67) propelled the Tigresses to a massive total of 322 for five in 50 overs after they were asked to bat first.

USA, who don't have official one-day international status, struggled in their chase right from the beginning, losing wickets at regular intervals before being bowled out for 53 in 30.3 overs.

Salma Khatun, Fahima Khatun and Rumana Ahmed scalped a couple of wickets each for the Tigresses, who sit on top of Group B with four points from two matches.

Bangladesh had started their qualifying campaign with a three-wicket victory over Pakistan.

MATARBARI PROJECTS

Govt to form 'development authority'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to form a "development authority" to coordinate all development programmes of Matarbari, along with the 1,200 MW coal-based powerplant, in Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave instructions in this regard at the Executive Committee of National Economic Council [ECNEC] meeting.

In it, the government approved 10 development projects at a cost of Tk 29,344.27 crore, including the first revision of the Matarbari power plant and two new projects -- a digital connectivity establishment and an elevated road over haor areas.

"The Matarbari project is revised at Tk 51,854.9 crore... There will be more development works. Different institutions are set to be built there, including power plants. There is also a plan to build a tourism centre on Sonadia island," said Prof Dr Shamsul Alam, state minister for planning.

"The prime minister has decided that all those development works will be coordinated by a single authority named Matarbari Development Authority."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

AL man shot dead in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Masked criminals shot dead an Awami League activist from the Marma community in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila yesterday evening.

The dead is U Thowai Nu Marma, 40. "Criminals in masks shot him dead in Talukdar para near his house in Taracha union around 7:00pm," said Bandarban Superintendent of Police Jerin Akhter.

A woman also sustained bullet wounds during the attack. However, her identity could not be confirmed immediately, she added.

Chaw Hai Mong Marma, president of Rowangchhari upazila AL, said U Thowai Nu was a member of Taracha union AL.

A police team went to the spot to recover the body, the SP said.

GHATARCHAR-KANCHPUR ROUTE

120 buses under one authority from Dec 1

Operations to start on pilot basis as part of bus route rationalisation project

HELEMUL ALAM

A total of 120 brand new, green-coloured buses will ply Ghatarchar-Kanchpur route under a single authority on a pilot basis from December 1, as part of the government's bus route rationalisation initiative.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) has already prepared a draft guideline to run the buses under the name "Dhaka Nagar Paribahan". It has also prepared a draft of the joint venture contract for agreement among bus owners.

All the buses will run under a management committee comprising bus owners, and it will be responsible for the whole operation, said an official of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

He said the committee will report to DTCA.

Currently, there is no guideline to run the buses in the capital. Discussions centring the draft guideline will take place in a meeting with stakeholders on December 24. It will then be presented at the 19th meeting of the bus route rationalisation committee on December 28 for approval.

Around 40 passenger stoppages and

AT A GLANCE

» Management committee comprising bus owners will be responsible for operation

» Draft guideline for the buses will be presented to authorities on Dec 28

» 40 passenger stoppages and 16 bus-bays to be installed on pilot route

» Passengers must buy tickets from counters to board bus

» Buses will have to embark from designated bus terminals, depots

» They will only be allowed to park at designated spots

16 bus-bays will be installed on the pilot route. But work for bus-bays will start after inauguration, the DSCC official said.

No passenger will be allowed to board the bus without a ticket, which will have to be collected from certain counters, he said.

Design of the buses has already been

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Buses parked in two lines take up about half of this section of the capital's Azimpur road pretty much all day, every day. This condition forces all kinds of vehicles to squeeze through an otherwise wide road. Despite this being a regular practice, authorities seem to be turning a blind eye. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

7 decades of cultural exchange

British Council celebrates 70th founding anniversary in Bangladesh



Stevie Spring CBE, chairperson of British Council, presenting a historic photograph to Education Minister Dipu Moni on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of British Council in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: COURTESY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"When I was a student of Dhaka Medical College, I used to study at the British Council Library regularly. It was a time when there was no internet and we had to rely on physical libraries to learn about the world. For many students like us, the library was the perfect place to get in touch with the contemporary world, to read the global literature and famous international magazines."

With these words, Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni recounted her memories with the British Council during a reception programme on Monday celebrating its 70th founding anniversary in Bangladesh.

In November 1951, British Council opened an office on 17 Nazimuddin Road with only two employees.

At that time, its functions were mostly arranging visits of distinguished guests from the UK, setting up exhibitions and fielding educational inquiries.

However, according to the minister, in the last 70 years, this organisation has evolved to be a provider of educational services, a centre for cultural activities and an advocate of women's empowerment and inclusive community.

At the event, Tom Misciocia, director Bangladesh, British Council, said, "We now have offices in three cities in the country with a team of over 200 staffers, 95 percent of whom are Bangladeshis working with partner organisations in 64 districts in the country."

"It is very special to see all our valued partners and friends here today who have helped us over the last 70 years to create the impact across the country," he added.

Robert Chatterton Dickson, British high commissioner to Bangladesh, said, "As a diplomat I have worked with the British Council for 30 years in many

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Mother, son burnt in Mugda fire die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two of the four family members burnt in a fire in Dhaka's Mugda area on Monday have died.

The deceased are Priyanka Baroi (32) and her son Arup Boidya (5), confirmed Dr SM Ayub Hosen, resident surgeon of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Arup died around 10:00pm last night with 67 percent burn injuries and Priyanka around 2:00am with 72 percent burns, the doctor said.

They were both being treated at the intensive care unit of the hospital.

The two other victims -- Priyanka's husband Sudhanshu Boidya (35) and her mother Shefali

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

BCL INFIGHTING

30 students suspended, CMC to reopen Nov 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Medical College (CMC), which was closed following a clash between two factions of Chhatra League (BCL), will reopen on Saturday.

The decision came at a meeting of the college academic council yesterday, confirmed Prof Dr Shahena Akter, principal of CMC.

According to the decision, the male dormitory will remain closed while the female one will be opened on Friday.

The authorities during the academic council meeting also decided to take punitive actions against as many as 30 students for their involvement in the clash.

Of them, eight were suspended for two years, two for one and a half years and 20 for one year, the principal said.

One internee doctor was also found guilty in the investigation by the probe body formed to investigate the clash, added

the principal.

On Monday, the probe body headed by Dr Motiur Rahman Khan, a professor of CMC general surgery department, submitted the probe report to the principal.

Dr Shahena, who presided over the academic council meeting, said all the previous allotments of the male hostel have been cancelled, and the students will have to apply anew for allotment.

Meanwhile, both the BCL factions rejected the decision of suspension. In this regard, the college unit of BCL issued a statement yesterday.

Chittagong Medical College was announced closed for an indefinite period following the clash on the campus on October 30.

CMC student Mahadi J Aqib, a BCL activist and follower of Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, was critically injured during the clash.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

9 members of teen gang held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion claimed to have arrested nine members of a Mohammadpur-based teen gang and seized sharp weapons, a toy pistol and yaba from their possession.

Rab came to know about the gang known as "Vaibba Lo King" after it arrested four teens on charge of mugging a couple at Dhaka Udyan area in Mohammadpur on Monday night.

The three others are below the age of 18.

Rab also recovered a stolen wrist watch and bag from the arrestees.

Following their information, Rab arrested five other members of the gang.

Seven knives, an axe,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

New drug 'DOB' seized, 3 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) claimed to have seized the narcotic DOB (dimethoxybromoamphetamine) for the first time in the country yesterday.

On information of a consignment of LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), a DNC team conducted a drive in Khulna on Monday and arrested two suspects -- Asif Ahmed Shuvo and his friend Arnab Kumar Sharma.

The team also arrested Mamunur Rashid, manager of Khulna's Boyra Bazar Sundarban Courier Service, for assisting the narcotics trade.

The DNC team traced and seized a consignment of around 90 blots of DOB upon interrogating Shuvo, said Md Fazlur Rahman, additional director of DNC. They also found LSD blots from Shuvo's residence.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Restricted, yet being sold in open market

Drug for chronic illness being abused, say law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oxymorphone, a drug used to reduce pain induced by last-stage cancer and chronic heart disease, and for surgery patients, is reportedly being abused due to its availability in the open market, claimed the detective branch (DB) of police.

DB arrested two persons -- Alamgir Sarker and Jahidul Islam -- with 13,000 pieces of oxymorphone in their possession from the capital's Dhanmondi and Kotwali areas on Friday.

Addressing a briefing at its media centre yesterday, AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner of DB, said detectives arrested the duo while conducting drives in courier service offices at Dhanmondi and Babubazar.

Detectives claimed that the medicine is only supposed to be sold against the prescription of registered physicians.

Special permission is required to import its raw material, and for production and sale, and pharmacies are not authorised to sell the drug without the supervision

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

CPB leader released 18 hours after detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Sajedul Huq Rubel was released 18 hours after police detained him allegedly for his involvement in organising a labour movement.

Police picked him up around 10:30pm on Monday from his Senpara residence in Dhaka. But the Kafrul police initially declined it. He was released around 4:30pm yesterday, said Ali Kawsar Mamun, president of CPB Ward-14.

Sajedul was spearheading a labour movement of workers of "4 You Clothing Limited" and "Fashion 2000 Limited" in Senpara for several days, to increase their benefits, he said. The workers were staging sit-in in front of the factory from Sunday.

Workers of different factories alleged that local ruling party activists barred many garments workers from joining the protest. They chased away workers at different alleys of Mirpur-14 and also threw brickbats at them.

Kafrul Police Inspector (Operation) Jahanur Ali said the chase counter chase took place between groups of workers and there was no involvement of activists of any political party. Meanwhile, OC Hafizur Rahman yesterday said they detained Sajedul for questioning on Monday night. "We have released him after quizzing."

CPB yesterday rallied at Purana Paltan protesting the detention of Sajedul, who is the immediate past general secretary of its Dhaka unit.



Due to security reasons, some gates of the capital's Ramna Park remain closed, while others welcome in visitors. But just to save a few minutes, many people take the unnecessary trouble of climbing over the closed gates, instead of walking for some distance to enter through the open ones. Aside from this being a violation of the rules, such climbers are at risk of getting injured in the process. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUNON

Youth Tied up, Tortured Newly-elected UP chairman arrested in Dhamrai

Our Correspondent, Savar

Police have arrested 12 people including the newly-elected chairman of Balia Union Parishad in Dhamrai, Mojibur Rahman, on charges of assaulting a youth.

The arrestees were sent to a Dhaka court yesterday.

On Monday evening, Mojibur and his cohorts tortured a local youth -- Israfil Hossen (32) -- over previous enmity. They ambushed him at Shurapur, tied and beat him up.

They also vandalised his house, said Inspector Wahed Parvez of Dhamrai police. Israfil filed a case against 24 people. In the elections held on November 11, Mojibur contested with the "boat" symbol and got elected with 6,658 votes.



Lack of maintenance and mindless abuse quickening the decay of age-old MT Hossain Institute in Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Age-old MT Hossain Institute lies in neglect

S DILIP ROY

Cultural workers and civil society members are ringing an alarm as the age-old moveable theatre stage ‘MT Hossain Institute’ of Lalmonirhat is being pushed to the brink of further destruction even though it was supposed to be protected as promised.

Railway staffers have started taking away the rails from in front of the institute.

‘Lalmoni 71’ was the last theatrical presentation by Bangladesh Poribesh Theatre (Bangladesh Environmental Theatre) held on the stage on October 29. Since then, there has been no activity centring the site as it lies empty and unattended.

Bakul Miah, a railway employee, said that they were taking away rails from the MT Hossain Institute as per the order of the authorities. ‘We are working the way we have

been instructed to,’ he said.

The institute was built during the British rule in 1934 on 2 acres and 73 decimals of railway land on Fire Service Road in Lalmonirhat town. It became an epicentre of literary and cultural practice. Poets, litterateurs and theatre personalities from Bangladesh and West Bengal of India frequented it.

Political personalities from different places also used to come here. Even after the independence, this institute played a crucial role in literary and cultural activities for some period. Even ten years ago, the condition of this traditional theatre was not so dilapidated.

The institute is being destroyed due to a lack of maintenance.

Several attempts have been made to occupy the land in collusion with a section of unscrupulous railway officials but those were foiled due to the vigorous movement of literary and

cultural activists.

The land grabbers became desperate to take possession of the land in November 2017. At that time, the movement also became strong. Many national and local literary and cultural organisations including Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, International Theatre Institute, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies of Dhaka University, Bangladesh Pathonatak Parishad and Aranyak Natyadal demanded that the heritage site be preserved.

Sufi Mohammad, founder and director of Lalmonirhat Cultural Centre, said that the then Railway Minister and Railway GM, who came to Lalmonirhat in January 2018, told that MT Hossain Institute would be preserved and its original design would be restored. Railway officials and employees were also instructed to maintain the traditional theatre

properly. ‘But there is still no implementation of that promise,’ he said.

However, Idris Ali, a senior sub-assistant engineer in Lalmonirhat railway division, said that since the rails outside the institute were being stolen, they are taking these elsewhere. They have not yet received any instructions from the higher authorities to maintain the site.

‘I have heard that the MT Hossain Institute will be restored to its previous design but it is up to the higher authorities of the Bangladesh Railway,’ he said.

Lalmonirhat Railway Divisional Engineer Anwar Hossain said they have not yet decided on the fate of MT Hossain Institute. For the time being, the institute’s lines are being preserved to prevent theft. They were vigilant so that no land grabbers could take the land of the institute, he added.

Slain Pirojpur JL leader Shuvo had a close shave earlier

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Jubo League (JL) leader Faisal Mahbub Shuvo who died after receiving bullets in a clash between supporters of two rival chairman candidates in Shankarpara Union Parishad (UP) elections in Sadar upazila of Pirojpur had a close shave earlier.

In a Facebook post on July 18, Shuvo said that he was targeted by miscreants. He uploaded some photos of bullets and bombs which were reportedly used to kill him. But he narrowly escaped the attack as the bullets missed the target and the bombs did not explode. The incident took place near his office at Ukilpara in Pirojpur town, Shuvo claimed in the Facebook status.

In another development, police have arrested ten accused in the murder case including the prime accused Md Nasir Uddin Matubbor, AL rebel chairman candidate of the union. Md Mojammel Hossain Mollik Tapan, brother of Shankarpasha UP Chairman Md Tofazzel Hossain Mallik Swapan, filed the case accusing 36 named and 120-130 other unnamed on November 8 with Pirojpur Sadar Police Station.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Slain Faisal Mahbub Shuvo

In a Facebook post on July 18, Shuvo said he was targeted by miscreants, and uploaded some photos of bullets and bombs which were reportedly used to kill him.

School closes after three teachers get Covid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Authorities of Rajnarayanpur Government Primary School, located near Nagarbari port area in Bera upazila, stopped all academic activities after three teachers of the institution were tested positive for Covid-19.

The school authority has also asked the teachers to gather information about health conditions of the students, who attended their classes recently.

Coronavirus infected Shamima Akter, 32, Mohabbat Ali, 35 and Iffat Ara, 38, are currently being treated under home quarantine.

Bera Upazila Primary Education Officer Mohammad Kofil Uddin said they closed the school for the student’s safety after three teachers were infected with coronavirus.

He said they will reopen the school only after the health condition of all the students are found all right.

Mercury dips in N-districts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Cold accompanied with thick fog started affecting the normal life in the northern districts as mercury dipped to 15.2 degree Celsius in Dinajpur yesterday.

According to Dinajpur Met Office, the temperature in Dinajpur recorded yesterday was 15.2 degree Celsius, the lowest in the country so far this winter.

Tofazzal Hossain a meteorologist at Dinajpur Met Office, said due to light fog the sky remained overcast till 11:30am.

Cold started intensifying in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh since the end of October, he said.

Chaos all day long

FROM PAGE 1

“The airport has turned into a chaotic place because there aren’t adequate facilities for the passengers,” Jebel Mia, a UAE-bound passenger, told The Daily Star recently.

Alamgir Hossain, 70, who was sitting on the floor and waiting for his flight to Saudi Arabia, said, “I have been waiting for more than two and half hours for a place to sit.”

His flight to the KSA for Umrah was to depart hours before the flights to the UAE.

The airport has seating arrangements only for 250 to 300 departing passengers, airport sources said, adding that it has about 2,000 luggage carts.

Md Selim, who was heading for Turkey, said, “The airport has become a chaotic place, like Sadarghat Launch Terminal.

“The main gateway of the country cannot be like this,” said Khalid Hossain, who was heading for Kuwait.

Several staffers at the airport said they were finding it difficult to manage the crowd inside the airport.

They added that the situation turns chaotic after 1:00pm and continues until all UAE flights depart in the evening.

Wishing anonymity, a member of the Airport Armed Police Battalion said it was hard to deal with the chaos as five-six UAE flights depart one after another. At that time, 1,600 to 1,700 passengers enter the terminal, said the APBn member.

The UAE had imposed a flight ban from Bangladesh on May 12 following a huge spike in Covid-19 cases there. The ban was lifted in August but the Gulf state made it mandatory to have Covid tests done six hours prior to departing.

Following this, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh gave permission to six healthcare service providers to set up labs and sample-collection booths at the airport. It had asked for the labs

and collection booths to be set up in the car park on the north-east end of the airport.

The service providers had then said having the lab outdoors could compromise the testing process.

The testing and 12 sample-collection booths began operating inside the departure area in late September.

Contacted, Group Captain Touhid-Ul Ahsan, executive director of HSLA, said they were trying to relocate the sample-collection booths to the car park’s roof as soon as possible.

“The airport has turned noisy and chaotic due to the Covid-19 sample collection inside the airport,” he told The Daily Star.

Seven airlines, including Biman, have direct flights to the UAE from Dhaka. They carry around 20,000 passengers a week to the Gulf country, airport sources said.

The Daily Star tried to contact three of the healthcare service providers but they did not respond.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 12

“The car is owned by Fahmid’s family and he went out early in the morning with the driver. Fahmid was driving,” he said.

The accident took place in front of RAOWA Club around 5:00am, said the OC.

He said apart from the professional driver, there were five people in the car. The driver was in the back seat.

“The car was at speed and it hit the flyover pillar. An investigation is going on,” he said.

The injured were taken to a hospital in the capital, the OC told The Daily Star.

Two cases were filed with the police station and Harun was the complainant of one case.

Govt to form

FROM PAGE 2

The meeting, which Hasina joined virtually, was held at the planning ministry.

In response to a question, Sharifa Khan, member (Secretary) of the industry and energy division of the planning commission, said they initially planned to build a small jetty there for small vessels, but are now trying to make the channel usable for deep-sea vessels.

“In the original plan, the channel was supposed to be 3km long, 250 metres wide and 15 metres deep. Now, we plan to make it 14.3km long, 350m wide and 18.5m deep. If we implement it, we could make a deep-sea port there.

“Our neighbouring countries will also be able to use the port,” she added.

Planning Minister MA Mannan said there will be a development hub in the areas of Matarbari and Sonadia island, which will create a competitive environment there.

A planning ministry source told The Daily Star that there will be 37 development projects in those areas.

At the Ecneec meeting, a government funded project, worth Tk 3,490 crore, was taken up for the “Development of Elevated Way and Infrastructure” in Haor areas, including Sunamganj and Netrakona.

Under the project, a 10.8km elevated road, a 97.86km all-season upazila road, and 20.27km union road will be developed by the local government division.

Another Tk 5,883.74 crore project was approved in the meeting to establish 109,244 broadband and user connections, 10,000 digital labs, 57 specialised labs, a central cloud platform and frontier technology centre of excellence, IT infrastructure in district, and upazila complexes and training facilities across the country.

Covid strikes hard

FROM PAGE 12

has failed to ensure expected service quality, experts said.

LOSSES PILE UP

BR earned Tk 1,125.8 crore in the 2019-20 fiscal year, while total operating expenses were Tk 31,88.9 crore, according to BR’s Information Book-2020.

Covid-19 hit Bangladesh in March last year and the operation of passenger trains remained suspended for over two months from March 23 to curb the spread of the virus.

The effect of this suspension was visible in the financial report.

BR transported 63.99 million passengers in the 2019-20 fiscal year, compared to 92.71 million the previous year.

Even though all passenger trains -- around 90 percent of the railway fleet -- remained suspended for more than two months, operating expenses saw a rise in the 2019-20 fiscal compared to the previous year.

The total operating expenses for 2019-20 amounting to Tk 3188.9 crore, was a 4.34 percent increase compared to the expenses of 2018-19 amounting to Tk 3,050.6 crore.

Although the operation of freight trains continued amid the pandemic, the number of goods transported by BR reduced significantly in the 2019-20 fiscal.

The freight carried was 3,179.68 thousand tonnes in 2019-20 against 3,959.25 thousand tonnes in 2018-19, shows its books.

On the report on 2020-21 fiscal year, a top official of BR, who deals with finance-related issues, said, “... the preliminary report shows BR will incur further losses in the 2020-21 fiscal year. But, it may not be as big as the 2019-20 fiscal year, because of the rise in income from the operation of freight trains.”

After the second wave of Covid-19 in March this year, the operation of passenger trains remained suspended again for a long time.

WHAT DO EXPERTS AND AUTHORITIES SAY?

Transport expert Prof Md Hadiuzzaman said the government was investing a huge amount of money every year but it kept the losing concerns like other public entities, which was very unfortunate.

“Because they [BR officials] lack accountability. There is a lacking of professionalism in their service and they failed to create a culture that requires to give people proper services,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

“Why will railway continue to incur losses when the demand for railway services is rising sharply?” he questioned.

Contacted, Sardar Shahadat Ali, additional director general (operations) of BR, said around 80 percent of the earnings of BR come from passenger trains.

“So, suspension of passenger trains amid the pandemic hit the railways income hard, which continued in the last fiscal year too,” he told this newspaper yesterday.

He said income from freight trains suffered as there were less than expected imports from India at that time. However, it has bounced back in 2020-21.

Asked about the allegations of poor service and lack of accountability, Shahadat said this was a “policy issue” and he was not the competent authority to respond to the particular question.

BR’s Director General Dharendra Nath Majumder could not be reached for comments over the phone. Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon and Rail Secretary Salim Reza are now abroad.

Bangavax

FROM PAGE 12

the company announced that its first vaccine candidate had shown promise in pre-clinical trials on mice. Researchers initially named it Bancovid but later renamed it Bangavax.

Then on January 17, Globe Biotech submitted the protocol for the first and second phase human trials of Bangavax. On February 9, the BMRC asked for additional information on more than 100 issues of the proposed trial. The information was furnished eight days later.

USA, UK call

FROM PAGE 12

steamer. The jetty was also damaged.

In Kushtia district, Mukti Bahini ambushed enemy platoon at Maheshkundi today inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Mukti Bahini encountered Pak troops near Tilakpur today killing 17 enemy soldiers.

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

Morocco says 147 African, Asian migrants rescued at sea

AFP, Rabat

Morocco’s coast guard rescued more than 140 African and Asian migrants in difficulty aboard makeshift boats early Monday, a military source said.

The 147 migrants were from sub-Saharan Africa and from 10 Asian countries, said the source quoted by the official MAP news agency.

The source did not specify the location of the rescue operation but said the migrants received first aid at sea before being handed over to police “for the usual administrative procedures”.

Migrant departures from Morocco’s coast have increased, with most boats aiming to reach Spain’s Canary Islands, despite tighter controls.

Trial seems never-ending

FROM PAGE 12

Police did not implement the court’s orders, Assistant Public Prosecutor Rehana Akter told The Daily Star, adding, “Most of the witnesses are not coming to the court because of safety concerns as the accused are influential people.”

On December 22, 2013, AKM Mohsin Uzzaman Khan, an Inspector of Criminal Investigation Department of police, pressed charges against Tazreen Fashions owner Delwar Hossain, his wife Mahmuda Akhter, and employees Abdur Razzak, Shahiduzzaman Dulal, Mobarak Hossain Monju, Dulal Uddin, Mahbubul Morshed, Hamidul Islam, Md Al Amin, Al Amin, Anisur Rahman, Md Rana, and Shamim Mia.

The court framed charges

against them on September 13, 2015. Of the 13 accused, Monju, Rana, Al Amin, and Shamim are on the run. Dulal is in jail and the rest are on bail.

Labour rights campaigners and legal experts say the accused have managed to evade justice due to lengthy legal process and the culture of impunity.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said, “The trial in such cases usually gets delayed as the prosecutors and police fail to bring witnesses before the court in time.

“Sometimes such cases are not properly investigated because the accused are influential and rich. Besides, witnesses, being influenced by the accused, do not

appear before the court to testify.”

VICTIMS’ FRUSTRATION

Mosammat Yeasmin is losing hope of ever getting justice. A survivor of Tazreen Fashions fire, she feels forgotten.

“A long time has passed. I do not believe we will ever get justice,” said Yeasmin, who was a sewing machine operator at the factory.

Yeasmin’s frustration is shared by many other victims.

Hasan Mia Akash was a line supervisor at the factory. He suffered severe injuries to his spine, head, and arms. He cannot work because of his injuries.

“I don’t think our lives will ever be the same again. Justice could be the only solace, but we don’t know how many years we have to wait for that,” said Akash.

Farmer killed in Munshiganj

FROM PAGE 12

after the autopsy report is done,” the doctor said.

According to the victim’s father, supporters of Bazlur threatened Sattar some days ago.

Imran Kabir, member candidate for ward-8 demanded a proper investigation into the murder.

Contacted, Bazlur denied the allegations and said, “My supporters were not involved in the incident.”

Sumon Dev, additional superintendent of police (administration and crime), said

they were investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, in Bogura’s Dhunat upazila, two election campaign offices of an AL candidate were vandalised and set on fire early yesterday.

The AL chairman candidate Shah Alam of the Gopalnaga union alleged that activists and supporters of the independent candidate Anarul Islam vandalised his two offices at Mohishura and Kalitala bazar areas around 1.00am and set those on fire.

Asked, the independent candidate Anarul Islam refuted the

allegation and said, “Shah Alam’s people vandalised their own offices and blamed me.

“On Sunday night, Shah Alam and his people vandalised my publicity mike and also insulted my officer.”

Kripa Sindhubala, officer-in-charge of Dhunat Police Station, said, “The AL candidate Shah Alam has given a written complaint in this regard. We will investigate it and take action accordingly.”

Our Munshiganj and Bagura correspondents contributed to this report.

Quote of the day



The US stands out among democracies for incomplete legislation for the recognition of human rights and for their protection.

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR MINORITY RIGHTS
FERNAND DE VARENNES
DECRIES NEAR 'TYRANNY' IN US AGAINST MINORITY VOTING RIGHTS

Poor diets imperilling the planet

AFP, Paris

Nearly half the world's population suffer from poor nutrition linked to too much or not enough food, a global assessment said yesterday with wide-ranging impacts on health and the planet.

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR), a yearly survey and analysis of the latest data on nutrition and related health issues, found that 48 percent of people currently eat either too little or too much -- resulting in them being overweight, obese or underweight.

At current rates, the report finds, the world will fail to meet eight out of nine nutrition targets set by the World Health Organization for 2025.

These include reducing child wasting (when children are too thin for their height) and child stunting (when they are too short for their age), and also adult obesity.

The report estimates nearly 150 million children under five years old are stunted, more than 45 million are wasted and nearly 40 million are overweight.

It also finds more than 40 percent of adults (2.2 billion people) are now overweight or obese.

"Avoidable deaths due to poor diets have grown by 15 percent since 2010 and poor diets are now responsible for a quarter of all adult deaths," Chair of the GNR's Independent Expert Group Renata Micha told AFP.

"Our global findings show that our diets have not improved over the last ten years and are now a major threat to people's health and to the planet."



This year's GNR is the first to look at global diets and how food choices are affecting people and the planet.

It finds people are failing to consume enough health-promoting foods like fruits and vegetables, particularly in lower-income countries.

Higher-income countries had the highest intake of foods with harmful health impacts like red meat, dairy and sugary drinks.

Consumption of harmful foods is on the rise, the report found, with red and processed meat already at almost five times the maximum recommendation of

GLOBAL NUTRITION REPORT

- » 48 percent of people currently eat either too little or too much
- » Nearly 150m children under five years old are stunted, more than 45m are wasted and nearly 40 million are overweight
- » More than 40 percent of adults (2.2 billion people) are now overweight or obese
- » Global food demand generated some 35 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in 2018

one serving a week.

In line with other estimates, the GNR calculated global food demand generated some 35 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in 2018.

The report called for urgent funding to improve nutrition across the globe, particularly as Covid-19 has pushed an estimated additional 155 million people into extreme poverty.

The GNR estimates the nutrition spending will need to increase by nearly \$4 billion annually until 2030 to meet stunting, wasting, maternal anaemia and breastfeeding targets alone.

MORE NEWS

46 killed in Bulgaria bus accident

Forty-six people, including a dozen minors, were killed after a bus caught fire south of the Bulgarian capital early yesterday, officials said, in the country's deadliest road accident in years. A cause has yet to be determined but officials believe a fire broke out on board the tourist bus which was travelling from Turkey to North Macedonia. It then crashed into guardrails. There were no other vehicles involved in the accident, which occurred around 2:00 am on a highway about 40 kilometres from Sofia, near the village of Bosnek, and seven people survived. Among the dead were victims of several nationalities, including a Belgian. All survivors were in stable condition.

UN criticises arrest of rights activist in J&K

Rights groups including the United Nations have criticised the arrest of a prominent activist in Indian-administered Kashmir on terror funding charges. Khurram Parvez was arrested late on Monday by India's federal National Investigation Agency (NIA), an Indian official briefed on the situation told Reuters. His residence and office were searched and a mobile phone, laptop and books seized, he added. He is being held under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, that allows for detention of up to six months without trial. Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, called Parvez's arrest "disturbing". "He's not a terrorist, he's a human rights defender," she said in a tweet. Parvez, one of Kashmir's best known activists, is head of Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society.

Myanmar opposition launches 'revolution' bonds

A shadow government in Myanmar said it has raised \$6.3 million on the opening day of its inaugural bonds sale, in its biggest move yet to generate funds for its "revolution" to topple the ruling military junta. Myanmar has been in bloody turmoil since the military's Feb. 1 coup and movements that have sprang up to challenge the junta have been mainly supported by public donations. The National Unity Government (NUG), an alliance of pro-democracy groups, ethnic minority armies and remnants of the ousted civilian government, said bonds went on sale on Monday to mainly Myanmar nationals overseas in denominations of \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$5,000, with two-year tenures. Even though the bonds will generate no interest income for buyers, \$3 million worth were sold in the first three hours, the NUG said, increasing to \$6.3 million by the end of the day. Its overall target is \$1 billion. The junta has outlawed the NUG and designated it a "terrorist" movement. The NUG has not disclosed how the funds would be used.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

CLIMATE WARMING

Forecasts may be too rosy: study

AFP, Paris

UN projections of how much current climate policies and national pledges to cut carbon pollution will slow global warming are more uncertain than widely assumed, researchers reported Monday.

Leading into this month's COP26 summit, the UN said existing policies would see Earth's average surface temperature rise a "catastrophic" 2.7 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels by 2100.

Renewed pledges from large emitters such as India would have a negligible effect on warming this century, the UN said during COP26, and were still worlds away from the Paris Agreement temperature goal of 1.5C of warming.

But the apparent precision of these estimates is misleading, according to a new study, written by several contributors to the UN reports it calls into question.

Seven different climate modelling groups assessed how voluntary pledges under the Paris treaty running to 2030 -- known as nationally determined contributions -- would play out by 2100.

Their estimates, published in Nature Climate Change, ranged from 2.2C to 2.9C, roughly in line with the UN figures. What stood out, however, was the lack of certainty.

"If you take the low end of that range, it may sound like we are really close to meeting the Paris goals," Peters told AFP. "But it is equally likely that the outcome could be up around 3C, in which case much stronger policies would be needed."



Derek Clayton of the Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association takes Amritpal Grewal by boat to see his home after rainstorms lashed the western Canadian province of British Columbia, triggering landslides and floods, shutting highways, in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Pirojpur PWD Division

District: Pirojpur

ee_perroj@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.7900.150.1.8.1276/10

Date: 22/11/2021

e-Tender Notice

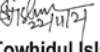
(Tender No. prj/pwd/dpp/Hos/Service-01/2021-22)

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Procurement method	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
01.	627394	Upgradation & Renovation of Pirojpur District Hospital from 100 to 250 Bed in Pirojpur District (S.H. Construction of 6-Storeied Service Building with 6-Storeied Foundation including Civil, Internal Sanitary & Water Supply, Internal Electrification etc.)	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	15-Dec-2021 12:00pm	15-Dec-2021 13:00pm	15-Dec-2021 13:00pm

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 15-December-2021 at 12:30pm (ID-627394). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.procure.gov.bd>).



S.M. Towhidul Islam
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Pirojpur

GD-2137

Israel ready to confront Iran

Says PM Bennett as IAEA chief visits Tehran ahead of nuclear talks

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett yesterday signalled readiness to step up Israel's confrontation with Iran and reiterated that his country would not be bound by any new Iranian nuclear deal with world powers.

His warning comes as International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said he was seeking "common ground" with Iran following talks with officials in Tehran ahead of negotiations next week aimed at salvaging the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Indirect negotiations will begin on Nov. 29.

Iran, which denies seeking nuclear arms, has since the US walkout breached the deal with expanded uranium enrichment.

Bennett, who took power in June,



described Iran in a speech as being at "the most advanced stage of its nuclear programme".

While his government has previously said it would be open to a new nuclear deal with tougher restrictions on Iran, Bennett reasserted Israel's autonomy to take action against its arch-foe.

"We face complicated times. It is possible that there will be disputes with the best of our friends," he told a televised conference hosted by

Reichman University.

"In any event, even if there is a return to a deal, Israel is of course not a party to the deal and Israel is not obligated by the deal."

Bennett voiced frustration with what he described as Israel's smaller-scale clashes with Iranian guerrilla allies.

"The Iranians have encircled the State of Israel with missiles while they sit safely in Tehran," he said. "To chase the terrorist du jour sent by the (Iranian covert) Qods Force does not pay off anymore. We must go for the dispatcher."

Stopping short of explicitly threatening war, Bennett said cyber-technologies and what he deemed Israel's advantages as a democracy and international support could be brought to bear. "Iran is much more vulnerable than is commonly thought," he said.

COVID PANDEMIC IN EUROPE

WHO fears 700,000 more deaths by March

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday it feared Covid deaths in Europe would rise from the current 1.5 million to 2.2 million by March 2022 if the current trend continues.

It said it expected "high or extreme stress in intensive care units (ICUs) in 49 out of 53 countries between now and March 1, 2022," adding that "cumulative reported deaths are projected to reach over 2.2 million by spring next year."


WHO Europe, which is based in Copenhagen, Denmark, also cited growing evidence of a decline in protection against infection and mild disease through vaccines, and said a "booster dose" should be given as a priority to the most vulnerable populations - including people with weakened immune systems - as well as people over age 60 and health care workers.

The European region, which stretches deep into central Asia, reported that deaths due to Covid-19 rose to nearly 4,200 per day last week - a doubling of levels recorded at the end of September.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn yesterday called for further restrictions as the country's rate of infections hit a record high and more politicians backed compulsory vaccinations, reports AFP.

Belgium and the Netherlands are still reeling from clashes that rocked weekend protests against new anti-Covid measures.

Europe's return to the pandemic's epicentre has been blamed on a sluggish vaccine uptake in some nations, the highly contagious Delta variant and colder weather moving people indoors again.




বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১

প্রধান কার্যালয়

ঢাকা

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"মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার দেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার"

স্টাফ বাস ভাড়ার পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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মোঃ আবুল কালাম আজাদ

মহাব্যবস্থাপক

ফোনঃ ৯৫৩০১৪৮

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৩৭৯৯

তারিখঃ ২৩-১১-২০২১

জিডি-২১৪০

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer

Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram

Memo No. 22.01.0000.751.29.05.21.


Date: 23/11/2021

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram for the procurement of:

SI No.	Description of goods & Package No.	Tender ID No.	Tender publication date	Last selling date & time	Tender submission deadline & opening time
01	Supply of Nursery Equipment, Water supply materials and MS wire for nursery raising Ctg-CFD/SUFAL/2021-2022/GD-06	628895	24/11/2021 10:00	12/12/2021 17:00	13/12/2021 14:00
02	Supply of materials for Mangrove & Golpatta plantation. Ctg-CFD/SUFAL/2021-2022/GD-07	629002	24/11/2021 10:00	12/12/2021 17:00	13/12/2021 15:00
03	Supply of Fertilizer (Urea and NPK) for plantation. Ctg-CFD/SUFAL/2021-2022/GD-08	629291	24/11/2021 10:00	12/12/2021 17:00	13/12/2021 16:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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GD-2138

Board the Hyena Express at TSC tomorrow



RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Shonar Bangla Circus is ready to perform in ‘Hyena Express Experience’, the band’s first solo concert at TSC auditorium tomorrow. The relatively new band took the entire nation by storm last year, with the online release of its conceptual album, which contains nine mesmerising, psychedelic tracks.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the band opens up about the release of ‘Hyena Express’, physical album and their upcoming concert tours. Physical albums have become niche in the age of Spotify and YouTube. However, the band will release a physical disk version of their album, for its fans.

“When you are listening to your favourite band in YouTube, the song belongs to that outlet, and it’s not yours. However, when you buy a CD, you feel a sense of belonging with the album and you want to listen to it. You feel an organic connection with a physical thing which is impossible with online,” says Probar Ripon, the vocalist of the band.

Many of the fans were intrigued by the fact that the band simply released the audio versions

of the song. “Music is something that plays with your auditory senses, not with your vision. When we were writing the song, we didn’t have enough budget to portray the music video and so we decided to opt out of it. Audio is sufficient enough to pull the audiences, music videos is optional,” asserts the band.

As the concert season reigns over, the popular rock band is excited about their solo concert.

“We are really grateful towards our fans for supporting us during the pandemic. We are arranging the concert by ourself without any sponsorship. People who love our band are basically sponsoring the concert by paying the ticket sum,” says the band.

The Bangladeshi rock band mentions that they have lots of surprises round up in their sleeves for their upcoming concert.

“As we are called the ‘Shonar Bangla Circus’, there will be lots of surprises for the audiences. I don’t want to spoil anything right now,” mentions the band. The band’s upcoming projects includes Bangladesh tour and are also planning on working on an album.



PHOTO: STAR

Swagata to make silver screen comeback after 12 years

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Renowned actress Zinat Sanu Swagata’s last full-fledged film, “Oshanto Mon”, was released in theatres 12 years ago. The actress had shared the screen opposite popular film star Manna.

The star has been working on television and been busy with anchoring for a long time. The actress has worked in Nurul Alam Atique’s government granted forthcoming feature “Lal Moroger Jhuti” which will release on December 10. In a conversation with The Daily Star, Swagata talked about the project.

“For any artiste, it is a dream to be featured on the big screens,” she shares. “The film is being released commemorating the silver jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence.”

The actress has meanwhile featured in two films, titled “Dubshatar”, and “Phire Esho Behula”, which were released in television. Another film, “Shuchona Rekhar Dike” was not completed, as the director passed away. She will also be seen in Giasuddin Selim’s “Paap Punno”. “I have worked more in small screens these years,”

says Swagata. “Whatever the medium I have always wanted to keep acting.”

Swagata says that she really enjoys working with Nurul Alam Atique. “He is one of the finest filmmakers we have; we paired up for television projects. I really appreciate the way he takes care of a project”, she says. The plot of the film is based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh.



PHOTO: COLLECTED FROM SWAGATA’S FACEBOOK PAGE



PHOTO: COLLECTED

‘Our art tells a story, and our stories should be listened to as we intended’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Adele has persuaded Spotify to remove the shuffle option from all album pages to ensure that tracks are played according to the artist’s order, reports BBC.

The singer tweeted: “We don’t create albums with so much care and thought into our track listing for no reason.

“Our art tells a story and our stories should be listened to as we intended. Thank you Spotify for listening.”

The streaming service replied: “anything for you” and immediately took away the option for listeners to mix up the order of music being played from album pages.

However, the shuffle symbol - two intersecting arrows - still appears on individual tracks in an album, meaning one can still choose to shuffle songs that way, reports BBC.

Also, the shuffle option has been kept open for playlists. The BBC has asked Spotify for a comment.

Adele’s latest album “30” - first in six years - was released on Friday and has been available on Spotify.

This was a change from her last album - 25 - which could only be bought physically or downloaded when it was released.

“25” was the fastest-selling album in British history, with more than 800,000 copies sold in the first week, added the BBC report.

‘Whenever I decide to retire, I will announce it myself’

SHARMIN JOYA

Soon after the Dipankar Dipon directorial “Dhaka Attack” was released, Taskeen Rahman, became a sensation amongst audiences, for his role as an antagonist. The actor is currently in Australia, due to his treatment. His upcoming film, the Sunny Sanwar and Faisal Ahmed directorial “Mission Extreme” will hit theatres on December 3. He will also appear in “Operation Sundarban”, “Casino”, “Shaan”, and “Girgiti”. We caught up with the actor to know more about his work.

How was your experience of working on “Mission Extreme”?

Working on “Mission Extreme” was great. We worked very hard to put this film together. I can only hope that viewers will enjoy it just as much as we enjoyed making it.

When we started filming in 2019, the production team spent an entire day in a workshop, where we got to learn about each character and the film itself.

As an actor, I thought that was really helpful as we had a better understanding of what is expected from us. Unlike “Dhaka Attack”, my character is not very loud in this film; it is much more subtle.

Will you be in “Mission Extreme 2”?
I guess I will leave it to the viewers to watch part 1, and figure out whether I am in part 2 or not!

Wikipedia says you are a ‘former’ Bangladeshi actor! What is your reaction to that?
I wasn’t aware of this! Whenever I decide to retire, I will announce it myself. For now, that information is inaccurate.

When are you planning to come back to Bangladesh?
I wish I could come back to Bangladesh tomorrow, unfortunately that’s not the case. I’ve got a few things lined up at the moment that, including my treatment. However, I hope to come back sooner rather than later.

You have played an antagonist in all of your films, except ‘Boyfriend’. Do you see yourself as the next big ‘villain’ of the industry?
I have been accepted as an antagonist partly because of my character in “Dhaka Attack”. However, I don’t think I will keep on playing villainous roles. Some of the characters I took up recently are not entirely ‘bad guy’ roles. My preference is to keep surprising myself, as I experiment with different characters. My worst nightmare is being typecast. As long as I am in the industry, I do not want to be in that position.

Many don’t know that you participated in ‘Notun Kuri’ during the 90s. Since you came back after a break and are now working in full swing, do people still treat you like a newcomer?
Well, interestingly, a renowned director once asked me how my Bangla is! I thought it was funny because I have only done Bangla films, and have been in the media since childhood. Nonetheless, I am elated with all the appreciation from people.

Do you think the craze for you is still the same, since it started from your debut film?
People’s interest in me after my debut film was definitely pleasant, but it is not something I am constantly bothered about. I am glad that people liked the character I portrayed, but at the end of the day, what matters most is that I enjoy my work.



AS WE KNOW IT’ UNDERWAY AT EMK CENTER

“TIME: As We Know It” is a group exhibition with 55 artworks of ten young artists as they explore their perceptions about time. The exhibition is currently underway at EMK Center, Dhanmondi. The participants — Anika Roy, Fuad Hasan, Procrity Sarker, S M Raahim, Sadia Afrose Piya, Sagufta Nowrin, Shifa Tasnim, Shimanto Ghosh, Tapos Sarker and Tasfia Habib are students of Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. They planned this exhibition during the pandemic. Since most of the artists are from out of Dhaka, the exhibition promotes art from peripheral regions. “TIME: As We Know It” will be open to visitors till November 29.

PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Untangle the mystery behind Cumilla councillor killing

The attack points to a precarious law and security situation

THE shocking murder of Syed Ahmed Sohel—a ward councillor of Cumilla City Corporation—and his associate Haripada Das, has left us deeply concerned about the current state of politics in the country, especially at the local level. So far, we have little concrete information regarding the killings, but the implications of such a daring attack are likely to be far-reaching. According to a report in this daily, masked gunmen, dressed in black, stormed into the ward councillor’s office on Monday and started firing almost immediately, killing the two men and injuring five others, before making a quick getaway on their motorcycles. While the reasons behind the killings are not yet known, it is clear that the attacks were premeditated and planned extensively.

This is not the first time that Cumilla City Corporation has witnessed such violence. According to a *Prothom Alo* report, in November last year, a Jubo League leader who had contested in the 2017 city corporation elections as a councillor candidate was hacked to death; and in November 2018, a Chhatra League leader, who had also contested in the same elections, was shot dead in the streets. While there is no indication yet from law enforcement regarding whether these deaths are in any way related, we hope the authorities will, during investigations, take into consideration the fact that those killed in recent years were all connected to the city’s local political administration in some way.

According to anonymous sources, there was a rivalry between Sohel and another group over establishing supremacy in the area, which was directly linked with the control of the area’s drug trade and extortion rackets. Although *The Daily Star* was unable to verify this claim independently, the almost professional style of Monday’s murders means the involvement of organised crime cannot be discounted. Media reports have also suggested a potential link to intra-party conflict and the struggle to establish dominance in the area. Most recently, Sohel’s name came up after the communal violence in Cumilla during Durga Puja, since the man who was accused of provoking the attacks by placing the Holy Quran on a puja mandap was a tenant in one of Sohel’s houses.

There are clearly a number of elements at play here, and we hope the authorities will do their utmost in untangling this web of mystery and getting to the bottom of Monday’s horrific murders. The fact that such a brazen attack could be conducted in broad daylight, and against members of the political administration, raises serious questions about the law and security situation in Cumilla city, which must be addressed urgently. At the same time, we urge the government to investigate any alleged links of local leaders in criminal activities like drug trafficking and extortion, and to ensure that party rivalries and power politics do not lead to situations where lives are lost and the safety of the general public is threatened. Such contemptible activities put the very fabric of political life at risk, and strong steps must be taken to ensure they are rooted out from politics.

Preventing party rallies is undemocratic

Shrinking of political space is even more glaring now

WE notice with a deep sense of consternation the rapid constriction of political space of the opposition, which has by now become a constant phenomenon, principally for the major opposition BNP, but by and large for all those that venture to express their disagreement with the policy of the government. Once again, the BNP’s plan to organise countrywide demonstrations and rallies to ventilate their frustration and to call on the government to allow the party chief to go abroad for treatment, was thwarted in many places in the country.

But such an attitude from the government is not new. It is the manifestation of the government policy to keep the BNP off the streets since the ruling party assumed the reins of the administration in 2009. Since then, the opposition has been forced to remain indoors and any attempt to take to the streets has been blatantly foiled by the law enforcing agencies, on most occasions. This time too, as reported in this paper, most of the planned rallies were scuttled or prevented from being held to begin with. Even rallies in front of BNP’s party offices did not meet with police approval. The common refrain of the police is that the BNP was blocking the road or they had attacked the police first.

We agree that no political programme should cause public inconvenience, but BNP is not the first or only party to do so. Often, we find important intersections of the city blocked by protesters for hours on end with the police doing little to disperse the crowd and clear the area for resumption of traffic movement. We believe that political activity has not been banned in the country. In that case, holding of political protests, demonstrations, rallies—peacefully and within the bounds of the law—is a constitutional and fundamental right which, when curtailed arbitrarily or selectively, diminishes the image of not only the party in power but also of the country. The result is that the country’s democratic credentials are called into question by international watchdogs.

We regret to say that the ruling party’s image as a democratic party has been taking a beating over the last several years, primarily because of its inability to countenance dissent and its iron-fisted treatment of the opposition. It pains us when the country is classified as having an “authoritarian regime,” as has been done by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, a Sweden-based intergovernmental organisation, in its recent report.

To permit or not to permit Khaleda Zia to proceed abroad for treatment is entirely for the government to decide. But to prevent her party’s men and women from expressing their feelings politically is uncalled for.

A plea for life and progress in harmony with nature

Our survival is entirely dependent on protecting nature and biodiversity



Two high-profile environmental conferences—the UN Biodiversity Conference under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Climate Change Conference under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—were held recently in Kunming, China and Glasgow, Scotland, respectively. The biodiversity conference recognised that change in land and sea use, overexploitation, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species are the main drivers behind biodiversity loss worldwide. Following that recognition, world leaders pledged to reverse the current trends of biodiversity loss by 2030

nature and biodiversity is necessary to tackle climate change, thereby vital for our survival and existence.

Now that we realise the importance of conserving nature and biodiversity, we also face the challenge of conserving them while meeting our developmental needs. This is because development often involves clearing forests or natural areas, while conservation actions demand that forests and natural areas remain intact. So, how do we deal with these conflicting interests? One of the ways to do that is to find a balance between development works and conservation. Rightly so, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphasised building a developed and prosperous Bangladesh, but at the same time, building it green and climate-resilient. That is, the government’s policy is friendly to both development and nature conservation.

That being said, our development and conservation-friendly model faces a significant problem in practice. Policy

tree felling in Sylhet in the name of development work. The action directly conflicts with protecting greenness and climate resilience. Second, a letter of concern was published in the *Science Magazine* that Padma Bridge would threaten the Sundarbans. That concern directly conflicts with development and prosperity. The first case illustrates the short-sightedness of development workers, while the second case demonstrates exaggeration from conservationists. This type of debate usually takes place on an emotional ground, rather than on scientific understanding, which is somewhat frustrating and does not serve the country’s best interest. What is needed the most is that policymakers and activists take both the ideas—not just the one that suits their own individual interests—by heart, argue scientifically, and look for the overall sustainable development of the country, instead of sectoral development. At this point, we must appreciate the

of “net zero deforestation.”

The very first step towards achieving the goal of net zero deforestation is changing our mindset. Our conservationists still adhere to traditional attitudes and focus merely on forests, ignoring nature beyond forests, such as urban areas and riverbanks. The assessment of conservation success also pays little attention to biodiversity and ecosystem services, focusing mainly on restoring or preserving forest areas instead. The Forest Department has a specialised branch named wildlife and nature conservation circle, but the circle is still in its infancy. Its focus has so far lied on the conservation of charismatic animals, instead of plant diversity or the diversity of non-charismatic animals. Thus, it is not uncommon that some forests in our country are characterised by a lack of vegetation cover or single-species plantation—that is, they represent nature of poor quality and poor biodiversity. On the other hand, we traditionally measure development success through the extent of infrastructure developed—including roads, bridges and buildings—with minimal regard to their costs on greenness or climate resilience. I suggest that it is time to move on from our traditional ideas of conservation or development. We should embrace newer ideas, such as: a) nature conservation is more than just protecting forests, and it is about saving biodiversity and ecosystem services within forests and beyond; and b) greenness can be incorporated within the development plan, as illustrated by the Pudong model of development in China.

I, therefore, urge the relevant authorities and experts to minimise the development-versus-conservation dilemma by broadening the scope of nature management and promoting green development. That is, we should (a) keep our natural forests intact; (b) improve the quality of our forests—by paying attention to biodiversity and ecosystem services; and (c) bring our city spaces, urban areas, and riverbanks under nature management to improve greenness. Relevant and applicable development projects must be eco-friendly, cautious about greenness, and planned away from natural forests. We must keep in mind that we cannot survive without nature—neither can we stop the wheels of development. So, we should coordinate among the stakeholders, including political leaders, and adapt to the modern approaches that can save nature, promote development and improve the quality of our living, leading to a modern and climate-resilient Bangladesh.

Dr Shekhar R Biswas is a professor of ecology at East China Normal University in Shanghai.



There needs to be a balance between development work and conservation of nature; the two ideas cannot be at odds in this day and age.

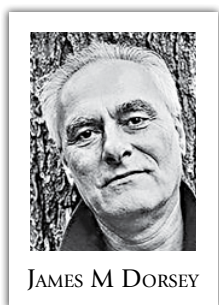
FILE PHOTO: STAR

and envisioned living in harmony with nature by 2050. In this context, it is vital to note that saving nature and biodiversity is the key to solving climate-induced socioecological problems. Rightly so, the UN climate conference has emphasised reducing deforestation by 2030. Climate scientists and activists have also called for saving nature and utilising nature-based goods and services to tackle climate-induced problems—popularly known as “Nature-based Solutions” (NBS) to climate change. These conferences, ideas, and pledges suggest that conservation of

implementers and activists often take one of the two ideas that suit their interests more. On the one hand, conservationists often emphasise the idea of a green and climate-resilient Bangladesh and protest against any project near the forests, even if the project is vital for the country. On the other hand, development activists often emphasise the idea of a developed and prosperous Bangladesh and push for any project, even if that could potentially cost greenness or climate resilience. Take these two examples: first, there have been news reports recently regarding

pace at which Bangladesh is currently developing. Many development projects are now in progress, with more in the pipeline. However, we are also among the top-ranked climate vulnerable countries globally, in need of more climate adaptation and resilience efforts and measures. Although essential, setting aside a vast chunk of land purely for nature conservation or climate change adaptation is becoming increasingly challenging. So, we must offset the potential loss of nature by creating new nature around our dwellings, and achieving the overall goal

A new world: The Middle East tries cooperation alongside competition



bury hatchets.

On the contrary, improved relations shifts the battlefield away from potential armed conflict, allowing rivals to compete while enjoying the benefits of trade and economic cooperation, as well as lines of communication that help prevent disputes and conflicts from spinning out of control.

With his visit, Cavusoglu was stepping into a breach. He sought to fill a vacuum after Turkey’s geopolitical and religious soft power rivals, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—together with Bahrain and Kuwait—imposed an economic boycott on Lebanon and withdrew their ambassadors from Beirut.

A one-time middle-income country, Lebanon is teetering on the brink of collapse due to endemic corruption and an elite willing to protect its vested interests at whatever cost. As a result, the United Nations estimates that three-quarters of the population have descended into poverty.

Aggravating Lebanon’s predicament, the boycott intends to loosen the grip on the country of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed militia and political party, which has become a part of the elite. A Hezbollah protest in October, demanding the replacement of a judge investigating last year’s devastating Beirut port explosion that killed more than 200 people, descended into sectarian violence reminiscent of Lebanon’s 15-year-long civil war in the 1970s and 1980s.

Cavusoglu travelled to Beirut in advance of a one-day UAE-Turkey business forum in Istanbul and a visit by UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed—the first in 12 years. Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu met in Rome with his UAE counterpart, Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

days after the Beirut visit on the sidelines of the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.

Turkey and the UAE have been at loggerheads because of Turkish allegations that the Emirates had funded a failed 2016 military attempt to topple President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Emirati objections to Turkish support for political Islam—particularly the Muslim Brotherhood.

Turkey and the UAE have fought military and/or political proxy battles in Libya, Syria, the Eastern Mediterranean, and France, where they were on opposite sides of the divide. Moreover, Turkey supported Qatar and expanded its military presence in the Gulf state during the

travelled to Tehran a day before arriving in Beirut. In Tehran, he sought to bolster his position as a potential mediator in Lebanon, manage Turkish-Iranian tensions in the Caucasus along the Azerbaijani-Iranian border, and find some common ground in Syria where the two countries are also at odds.

“If there is anything that can be done for the issue (in Lebanon) to be resolved as soon as possible, we are ready to carry it out,” Cavusoglu said.

Despite improving relations between Turkey, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, it was unlikely that the Gulf states would loosen their stranglehold on Lebanon or that they would trust Turkey to be an



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, left, and his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bou Habib hold a joint press conference in Beirut, Lebanon, on November 16, 2021.

PHOTO: AFP

3.5-year-long UAE-Saudi-led diplomatic and economic boycott of Qatar that was lifted in January this year.

Similarly, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been seeking to tone down their differences with Turkey at a time of uncertainty over the United States’ security commitments in the Middle East, and the need of all Middle-Eastern states to focus on some combination of economic reform, diversification, and expansion as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the demands of climate change.

Against that backdrop, Cavusoglu

acceptable and unbiased mediator. At the same time, Turkey appeared to be further drawing regional battle lines not only with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, but also with Southeast European states as well as Russia and Iran, with which it simultaneously competes and cooperates.

It did so in a recent gathering of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States in Istanbul. The council groups Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, Turkic-speaking states in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Turkmenistan, the only other Turkic-

speaking nation, and Hungary have observer status.

The Istanbul gathering restricted membership and observer status to Turkic-speaking countries. The decision bars not only other Southeast European countries from associating themselves with the council, but also Iran, where Azeris—the country’s largest ethnic minority—account for 15 percent of the population, and Russia with its Turkic minorities.

Add to all of this the diplomatic impact of the recent arrest on espionage charges and the subsequent release of an Israeli tourist couple for taking pictures of Istanbul’s Dolmabahce Palace, one of the city’s major tourism attractions. The palace, on the shores of the Bosphorus, served as the administrative headquarters of Ottoman sultans in the 19th century and the place of death of Kemal Mustafa Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, in 1938.

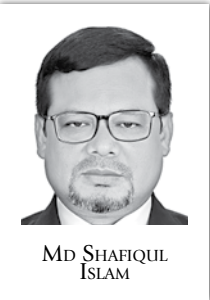
The couple’s release prompted the first phone call between Erdogan and top Israeli leaders in nine years, with President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett phoning the Turkish president separately to thank him. Israel has until now cold-shouldered Turkish efforts to improve long-strained relations between the two countries.

Beyond the fact that Erdogan does not want the incident to scare off badly needed tourists at a time of severe economic crisis, it also provided an opportunity to break through to Israel and reduce the UAE’s geopolitical advantage in maintaining close ties to the Jewish state. Erdogan expects the Turkish move to be reciprocated. That is precisely what Israeli conservatives fear.

“Ankara’s accusations of ‘espionage’ and apparent threats to raise the price for the detainees show that it was using hostage diplomacy involving innocent tourists. This is how Hamas, which is backed by Ankara’s ruling party, has also behaved... Normal regimes don’t detain innocent people,” thundered Seth J Frantzman, the right-wing *Jerusalem Post’s* Middle East correspondent.

Dr James M Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar, and a senior fellow at the National University of Singapore’s Middle East Institute.

In search of safe, affordable and clean electricity



FOLLOWING the 2011 nuclear disaster in Japan's Fukushima, nuclear power's share in global electricity-generation saw a staggering decline from 13 percent to 10 percent. Should the trend continue, will nuclear power be of any consequence in the global energy mix of the future? If not, how will the world's electricity demand be met with nuclear power out of the picture? Can Germany, Italy, Japan and South Korea become partners in building the proverbial green "utopia" based on renewable energy?

As of today, a total of 443 reactors—including a Generation-1, 405 Generation-2, 36 Generation-3/3+ and one Generation-4—are operational in 32 countries. Another 46 Generation-3/3+ reactors are under construction in 17 countries. Plus, a total of 406 Generation-1 and Generation-2 reactors will reach redundancy between 2030 and 2040. On the other hand, Germany currently has eight reactors in operation, all of which will be shut down by 2022. Twenty-six reactors are already in their decommissioning stage. By phasing out its reactors, Germany will revert to the stage Italy is currently in. Japan and South Korea seem to be following suit. The United States saw the largest commissioning of reactors in the 1970s and has built a total of 104 reactors since. At present, the country has 94 reactors in operation. Only two reactors are currently under construction in the United States. If this situation continues, they, too, are likely to be dropped out of the list of nuclear power-producing countries by 2040 or 2050.

Russia, China, India, Hungary, and

some newcomers like Turkey, UAE, Belarus, Bangladesh and Egypt are now building several reactors. But to increase power generation from nuclear fission, it is necessary to build more reactors to replace the reactors that will be shut down, which is not happening at the moment. Assuming no change in current trends, the production of electricity from nuclear power will decrease at an unprecedented rate between 2030 and 2040.

The cost of generating electricity from oil, gas and coal is soaring. Their stock is not inexhaustible. These fossil fuels are playing a major role in global warming. Research has found that nuclear power generation is far more economical and environmentally-friendly than other fuel sources. Due to the lack of public support and the risk of another accident (like the Fukushima 2011 one), developed countries involved in nuclear technology are not taking the initiative to build new reactors. The reactors that malfunctioned in the past were designed in the 1970s, with poor safety and of medium and large sizes (such as the Generation-2 reactors). But at present, large (and small) reactors with Generation-3+ and Generation-4 technologies are being built. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has termed the reactors with a maximum capacity of 300 MWe as small modular reactors (SMRs). SMRs have improved safety features compared to large reactors. They have a natural heat dissipation system in the event of an accident, so the fuel will not be damaged and there will be no need for an emergency shelter. Other advantages include lower investment costs, a smaller volume of nuclear waste, reduced construction time, streamlined fuel cycle, simpler licensing and commissioning, power supply without long transmission lines in remote off-grid areas and cost reduction due to off-site factory integration and modular



The cost of generating electricity from oil, gas and coal is soaring, and their stock is not inexhaustible.

COLLAGE: SUSHMITA S PREETHA

construction. There is no chance of accidents such as those in Chernobyl or Fukushima occurring. SMRs can be used to generate electricity as well as to produce hydrogen from wasted heat, or purify seawater and run heavy industries.

The concept of the SMR was introduced in 1954 with the launch of the US nuclear submarine, USS Nautilus. SMRs are attached to nuclear submarines. They were not produced commercially due to their smaller capacity to meet large energy demands. Reactors which are even smaller than SMRs are known as microreactors, with a maximum capacity of two to 10 MWe. These are now under development in the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan. Their use in the military-civilian field will be more attractive. Currently in operation are two SMRs in

China, one in Russia and one in Japan, while another is under construction in Argentina. In the future, these reactors could be used as proven technology and reference plants. The design of many SMRs is in the approval stage in the United States, Canada, and even Germany, Italy and South Korea. Large and small entities have a vested interest to build SMRs and microreactors in 15 countries. Overall, the SMR market in the international arena is quite promising for almost all countries. However, to make the use of SMR more profitable, vertically-integrated mass production is required. For this, big international power utility companies have to come forward.

It is expected that multiple SMRs will be commissioned in many countries by 2040. The suitable place for these is in places where

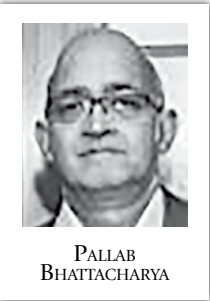
there are no power transmission lines. SMR is a very suitable technology for Bangladesh. It is necessary to include the SMR technology in the energy and power system master plan, and in the national nuclear power action plan. There is also a need to build a pilot plot of 10 MWe SMR with the participation of the Atomic Energy Commission, concerned universities, and power-related organisations. The purpose of this project would be to determine how to commercialise SMRs safely and sustainably.

If SMRs are successfully commercialised, we will no longer need coal-fired power plants. Even the 210 MWe steam cycle power plants—which are constantly being shut down due to lack of natural gas—can be replaced by SMRs. To this end, the suitability for setting up SMRs at these power plant sites can be verified. In addition, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority may seek the assistance of the IAEA to prepare the necessary regulations regarding the availability of their site licenses. At the same time, the relevant organisations may be instructed to take appropriate action regarding the nuclear fuel cycle. The recent COP26 conference has emphasised choosing SMR as a source of clean energy. My personal opinion is that two more large reactors similar to the VVER-1200 model could be set up at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant site without earmarking a construction site for large reactors in the southern part of the country. It will then be an easier, faster and more cost-effective project. Now, it is necessary to formulate a roadmap for setting up SMRs and microreactors nationwide and implement it accordingly. Only then will it be possible to supply reliable, uninterrupted, affordable and clean electricity for all.

Dr Md Shafiqul Islam is a researcher and writer, and a professor at the Department of Nuclear Engineering in Dhaka University.

No country for reforms?

Indian PM Modi's withdrawal of farm laws comes just before assembly polls in several states



IT is not very often that one sees the prime minister of a country publicly tendering an apology for a job they failed to push through. But that was what Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi did when he addressed the nation on television on the morning of November 19 to announce the decision to withdraw the three controversial farm laws.

Modi had dourly defended the three laws passed by parliament in its monsoon session 2020, and repeatedly advertised them as a major agricultural sector reform that reflect his government's appetite for pushing through hard economic decisions. The Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had also derided the farmers protesting against the three laws as *andolanjeevi* (habitual agitators).

and Goa in less than six months. Secondly, as a section of the Indian media reported, the government was worried about the possible impact of the protracted agitation by Punjabi farmers, most of whom are Sikhs, in the state of Punjab, which borders Pakistan, as Sikh separatists abroad could tap into their resentment and once again foment terrorism in the state. The question that arises is: Did the government not realise this at the initial stage of the farmers' protest before it snowballed?

The decision to take back the three laws, particularly for the "benefit" of a majority (80 percent) of poor farmers with less than two hectares of landholding, was the second instance of the Modi government capitulating on an issue related to farmers. In 2015, a year after Modi was swept to power, he had to revoke the land acquisition ordinance after sustained pushbacks against it.

India is witnessing a clash of two contrasting politico-economic philosophies. Should the country continue to believe in the politics of freebies, doles and subsidies for its

of subsidies cannot empower the farmers, isn't it time to revisit them? Agreed that farmers are *annadata* of the country and consist of the largest segment of India's electorate. But the subsidies have a cost because they are being met by the *kardata* through their taxes and duties paid by the minority sections of the society. The danger is against getting into the binary of *annadata* and *kardata*. It is not a case of one versus the other, but a balance between the two.

Modi desperately needs to win the battle for Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and the other smaller states in the first half of 2022, whose results would be a key marker as to which direction the wind is blowing in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Of particular significance is UP. It is often said that the road to power over India passes through UP, electorally the most crucial state which has the highest number of 80 seats. The traction the farmers' agitation gained in the last one year has made BJP leadership worried by the party's dimming prospects in the western part of Uttar Pradesh, which accounts for nearly 130 of the 400-odd seats in the state assembly.

power sector. The insatiable hunger for political power triggers expediency and makes it tempting to give up on convictions. That is where the political slide begins. After being in power for a decade, the BJP could well see its unravelling with the withdrawal of the three farm laws. That Modi sought apology while deciding to withdraw the three laws shows how much he is ready to bend for electoral gains, which are non-existent yet.

The report card of the government's handling of the economy has been far from encouraging ever since the

high GDP growth of 8.3 percent in 2016-17. The growth rate fell in the subsequent three years, and the decline began even before the country was battered by Covid-19.

There is no guarantee that the repeal of the three laws will help the BJP achieve its electoral objectives of checkmating the ruling Congress in Punjab or countering the rivals in UP. There is no reason to assume that public memory is short, and the four to five months before the next round of assembly elections is a long time in politics. Those five months

are numerically—if not politically—shorter than the last one year when the BJP was seen going the whole hog, championing the three farm sector laws as part of big-ticket economic reforms. What will happen to Modi's much-vaunted development agenda if GDP continues to stutter? Some analysts apprehend that failure on the economic front may even prompt the ruling party to increasingly turn to a divisive agenda in elections.

Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for The Daily Star. He writes from New Delhi, India.



Farmers in New Delhi, who have been protesting the new farm sector laws for more than a year, celebrate after hearing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to repeal the laws on November 19, 2021.

Some party leaders even went to the extent of alleging anti-national links of the agitating farmers, and questioned the inflow of funds to fuel the year-long stir.

Why did Modi decide to repeal the three laws at a time when the sagging farm sector in India is crying for huge investments, technology, cold storage networks, a seamless market, and new marketing techniques to make agriculture a remunerative vocation and prevent the exodus of farm labourers? Most political pundits in India would have us believe that this was due to the forthcoming fresh assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand

poor, or opt for empowering them through a calibrated journey on the path of reforms, which at times impose temporary hardships to adjust to the new regime? Doles and freebies don't allow the poor to come out of the rignarole of dependence on handouts. But the other side of the challenge is how to make the reforms result-oriented and less painful so that it does not deform.

For decades, successive governments have been subsidising the poor farmers by providing cheaper electricity, diesel, fertilisers, insurance, and credit. The question is how long this process will go on. Most of the farmers, rich or poor, are exempted from income tax. If an array

In his televised address announcing the repeal of the three laws, Modi admitted that his government had failed to convince a section of farmers about the benefits of the new legislations. In fact, what has amplified is the failure to win the perception war with the farmers and a united opposition including the Congress party which, under the leadership of then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, had originally mooted the idea of the three laws. It has often been seen that the BJP has failed to counter its rivals when it comes to street mobilisations for major reforms. The BJP has come out awfully street-shy. Politics is best fought not in TV studios and drawing rooms, and on social media, but on the streets even in this age of digital connect. No one is a better example of this than West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is known for her street-savvy image.

As was expected, the withdrawal of the three laws by the government has emboldened the agitating farmers to shift the goalposts in return for calling off the agitation. The agitators have now further upped the ante on the issue of Minimum Support Price (MSP), which emerged as the main sticking point. There was an apprehension among the farmers that allowing outside-APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) trade of farm produce would lead to lesser buying by government procurement agencies in the approved *mandis*. The protesting farmers say the new laws would thus make the MSP system irrelevant, and they would not have any assured income from their farming.

The rollback of the three farm laws has also raised speculations about the future of reforms in other areas like labour laws, privatisation of loss-making public sector units, and the

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC

BPATC, Savar, Dhaka

Eol Ref No. 05.01.2672.248.99.068.20.110

Date: 22.11.2021

Re-Request for Expression of Interest (Eol) for

Selection of Consulting Firm

Bangladesh Public Administration and Training Center has been allocated public funds from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) for Carrying out Services of Architectural Working Drawing, 3D View and Animation of Lake Beautification of BPATC by engaging consulting firm (National) during the year 2021-22 (Package No. SD-05).

The Project Director of "Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC" Project now invites Expression of Interest (Eol) from reputed consulting firm or firms in joint venture/association for short-listing the consulting services.

The services include:

The services include for Architectural Working Drawing, 3D View and Animation. These services shall be completed within one (01) month from the date of commencement.

The experience, resources and delivery capacity required:

Submitted Eols will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Brochures & registration of the firm(s);

2. Legal establishment of the firm(s) (TIN, VAT registration, trade license etc);

3. General and overall experience of the firm(s) (limited to three pages);

4. Experience of the firm(s) in similar works the last 05 (five) years including cost and duration; (Limited to three pages);

5. Average annual turnover of the firm(s) during the last 03 (three) years; and

6. Summary of permanent professional employees with key qualifications (including academic qualification and experience adequacy to perform the assignment).

Interested consulting firms are invited to submit Eol enclosing only the required information mentioned above.

Consulting firm will be selected using the Least Cost Selection (LCS) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008 and procurement procedures by the Government of Bangladesh.

Eol shall be submitted on or before **Thursday, 09 December 2021 by 12.00pm** in sealed envelope to the Project Director, Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC and be clearly market **"Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Consulting Firm for Services of Architectural Working Drawing, 3D View, Animation of Lake Beautification of BPATC (Package No. SD-05)"**

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Eols without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: The firms who have applied previously no need to apply again.

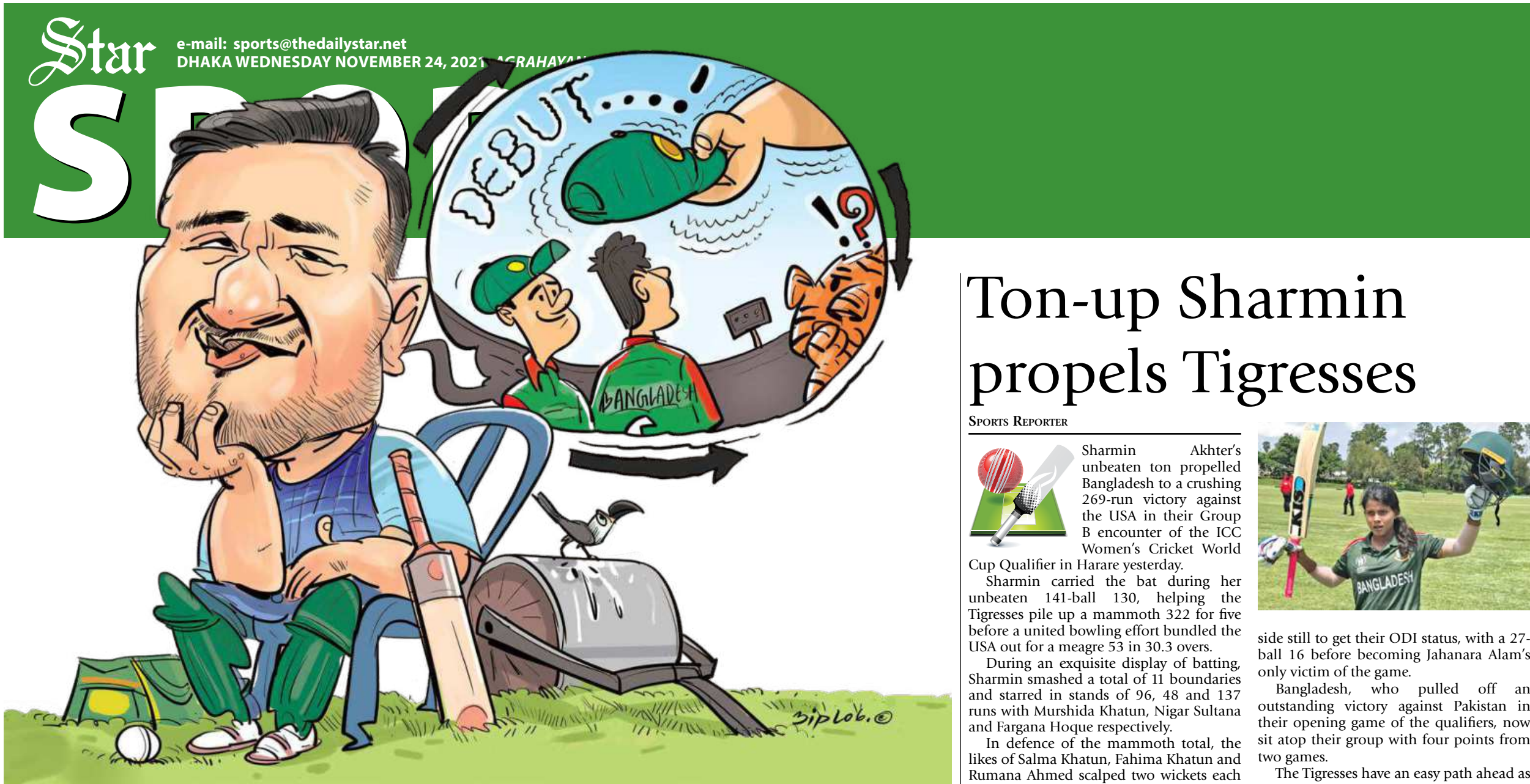
22.11.2021

Project Director

Enhancement of Training Capacity of BPATC

BPATC, Savar, Dhaka

GD-2136



Ton-up Sharmin propels Tigresses

SPORTS REPORTER



Sharmin Akhter's unbeaten ton propelled Bangladesh to a crushing 269-run victory against the USA in their Group B encounter of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Harare yesterday.

Sharmin carried the bat during her unbeaten 141-ball 130, helping the Tigresses pile up a mammoth 322 for five before a united bowling effort bundled the USA out for a meagre 53 in 30.3 overs.

During an exquisite display of batting, Sharmin smashed a total of 11 boundaries and starred in stands of 96, 48 and 137 runs with Murshida Khatun, Nigar Sultana and Fargana Hoque respectively.

In defence of the mammoth total, the likes of Salma Khatun, Fahima Khatun and Rumana Ahmed scalped two wickets each and their concerted efforts allowed only two USA batters reach double figures.

Tara Norris top-scored for the USA, a



side still to get their ODI status, with a 27-ball 16 before becoming Jahanara Alam's only victim of the game.

Bangladesh, who pulled off an outstanding victory against Pakistan in their opening game of the qualifiers, now sit atop their group with four points from two games.

The Tigresses have an easy path ahead as they will now face Thailand and Zimbabwe in their remaining two group stage matches on November 25 and 29 respectively.

What impact will investigation lead to?

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) two-member committee entrusted to unearth the reasons behind the national team's dismal campaign in the T20 World Cup in Oman and UAE will finalise their report by the end of this month.

"We have already talked with a few players and officials. We are taking time because an international series is going on, but we will complete the report by the end of this month," BCB director Jalal Yunus, one of the members of the committee alongside Enayet Husain Siraj, said.

"Our main objective is to make a report that will help the board fix problems regarding our team. There were number of factors that played a role behind the World Cup failure and we want to identify those issues to create a healthy atmosphere in the

dressing room," Yunus added.

When asked how they, given their roles as BCB directors, would handle any failures from the board's side, he responded: "We have to be fair to make a fruitful report."

The BCB has taken some initiatives in the aftermath of the national team's abysmal performance in the T20 World Cup, among which the appointment of former national captain and current board director Khaled Mahmud as team director for the upcoming Pakistan series was the most visible one.

But the way the team management changed things in the just-concluded three-match T20 series against Pakistan gave the same old impression that there is hardly any scope to settle problems with quick-fix solutions.

Now it will be interesting to see whether two-member committee's report can have any impact when there has been a call for an independent committee to unearth the real facts following one debacle after another.

NABID YEASIN



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) injected fresh blood into the squad for the Tigers' first World Test Championship fixture against Pakistan in the form of batter Mahmudul Hasan Joy and pacer Rejaur Rahman Raja.

The pertinent question now is whether these two be given fair opportunities or if they will be left to rot in the periphery.

If history is anything to go by, the latter could be a more likely answer and the case of Yasir Ali Rabbi is one that could shed some light in this regard.

For over two years, even as Bangladesh made a number of changes to their squads across the formats, the only consistent was Yasir Ali on the sidelines.

Since earning a maiden call-up to the national team in 2019, the right-handed middle-order batter has seen as many as three Test debutants, six new entrants to the ODI squad and a total of 10 players get T20 caps.

He probably thought his fate would change when the team was purported to be undergoing a massive overhaul after the T20 World Cup debacle. Even drills during practice sessions suggested that Yasir Ali was being moulded into a sought-after big-hitter for the Tigers' T20 side.

But the 25-year-old still remains uncapped across formats.

The fear of seeing the two new Test entrants endure a similarly endless wait on the sidelines is amplified considering their experience, or rather the lack thereof, in longer-version cricket. Both Raja and Joy have played only 16 first-class matches between them.

It should not require pointing out that the players have only been included in the squad since the likes of Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan, Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam have been left out due to injuries.

Although Joy secured a nod from the national selectors hot on the heels of two successive first-class tons while representing Chattogram Division in the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL), his background is as modest as Raja's, who took 12 wickets at an average of 16.91 in the NCL.

That begs the question whether their inclusion is another typical spur-of-the-moment decision by the BCB, taken only to show that the revamping process is a serious one.

That could be the case as the board pulled the same trick when they called up Parvez Hossain Emon and Kamrul Islam all of a sudden before the final Pakistan T20I, only to have them warm the bench on matchday.

Even if Raja and Joy make their way into the eleven, what happens if the youngsters with just a handful of domestic games under their belt crumble under pressure against the experienced lot of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Ali and the wiles of visiting captain Babar Azam?

Will it be another case like Saif Hassan's, who despite never exhibiting T20-like batting nor being around the T20 set up, was fielded for only two T20Is before being cast aside after his predictable failure?

All that is left to be seen is whether Joy and Raja have only been included to prolong the national team waiting list alongside Yasir Ali or if the BCB actually has a long-term plan regarding any of them.

'Bowler' Mithun springs a surprise

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammad Mithun, known as a middle-order-batter and wicketkeeper, can now be recognised as a bowler as well as he grabbed a seven-wicket haul for Khulna Division in their Tier-1 encounter against Dhaka Division on the third day of the final round of the 23rd National Cricket League at BKSP yesterday.

Dhaka got their second innings off to a flying start as Abdul Mazid and Rony Talukdar strung a 139-run opening partnership before both of them got picked by Mithun. Then Mithun ran through the entire batting line-up of Dhaka as seven out of the eight wickets of Dhaka division were collected by the occasional off-break bowler. Dhaka declared their second winnings posting 256 for eight.

Khulna will resume the final day on seven as they need 372 runs to win with all wickets remaining.

In another Tier-1 match in BKSP,

resuming the day on 90, Amit Hasan played a patient 186-run knock off 422 balls for Sylhet while putting an emphatic 243-run partnership with skipper Zakir Hasan, who scored 126 runs against Rangpur Division, who are topping the table of Tier-1. Sylhet posted 455 runs for five before stumps were called. Nasir Hossain scalped a couple of wickets for Rangpur.

Meanwhile, at Sylhet Academy Ground, Rajshahi posted 421 in their Tier-2 encounter against Barishal, leading by 88 runs ahead of the final day. Rajshahi's Farhad Reza scored 99 runs before being shown the way for Barishal.

In another match in Sylhet, Chattogram Division resumed the day on 24 runs against Dhaka Metropolis. Middle-order-batter Shahadat Hossain remained unbeaten on 97 as he guided his side to 221 for five. They now lead by 186 runs ahead of the final day as they look to get promoted to Tier-1.



TIGERS SANS SHAKIB TURN FOCUS ON TESTS



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Pakistan team reached Chattogram yesterday to play the first Test of the two-match series against Bangladesh, starting from November 26. The onus will now be on Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque to turn things around following the Tigers' long queue of debacles in the shortest format of the game. Bangladesh will return to the red-ball game after winning their last Test match against Zimbabwe in Harare in July this year. The challenge, however, will be huge for the hosts against high-flying Pakistan as Mominul mentioned during an interview with The Daily Star in August this year: "We won in Zimbabwe but that doesn't mean we have done a lot in Test cricket. I think we have bigger challenges like the two Tests against Pakistan." The bad news for the Tigers is that premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will not be available for the Test as he is yet to recover from a hamstring injury, sustained during the T20 World Cup.

Windies avoid follow-on

AFF, GALLE

Rain forced an early end with the West Indies tail still hanging on after avoiding the follow-on for day three of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Tuesday.

The Windies scored 224 for nine before stumps yesterday.

The West Indies added nine runs in 30 balls and lost Rahkeem Cornwall in a brief passage of play after lunch before the heavens opened. The forecast for the next two days was more wet weather.

With the new ball due, Suranga Lakmal was called up to bowl the 79th over of the West Indies innings from the City End and he dismissed Cornwall.

Lakmal bowled a short ball and Cornwall could not resist the pull shot, but got the execution wrong and was caught by Ramesh Mendis running backwards from mid-wicket. Cornwall made 39 off 58 balls with five fours and a six.

But the 49-run stand between Cornwall and Joshua da Silva ensured the West Indies avoided the follow-on.

After a brief pause in the rain, umpires inspected the field and decided to resume play. Another downpour soon washed out the final session before it began, threatening to spoil Sri Lanka's early advantage.

"We are hoping and praying the weather gods are kind to us," said Sri Lanka spin bowling coach Piyal Wijetunga, who was disappointed his spinners had failed to dispatch the tourists before the rain, despite accounting for eight wickets between them.

Play will resume early for the final two days to make up lost time, with 98 overs scheduled for each.



Abahani exact revenge on MSC

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani exacted revenge for their first-leg defeat against archrivals Mohammedan with a 4-2 win in the Super Five stage of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, who lost the first-leg match 4-0, thwarted 12 out of 14 penalty corners taken by Gonzalo Peilet of Argentina, once regarded the best penalty corner flicker in the world, to come back in title race with 36 points from 14 matches.

The outcome of the match helped Mariner Youngs as they now need a single point from the two remaining matches against Abahani and Mohammedan to regain the prestigious title.

The Arambagh-based outfit, who defeated Bangladesh SC 7-1 in the day's second match, have 39 points from 13 matches while Mohammedan

have 33 points from 13 matches.

The Sky Blues dominated most of the match except for the third quarter and marked Argentine forward Joaquin Menini tightly to keep Mohammedan away from making any damage. They also brilliantly defended Mohammedan's attacks and corner kicks.

The Sky Blues led the first half 2-1 through strikes from Khorshedur Rahman and Arshad Hossain while Peilet scored one for Mohammedan in the first quarter.

After resumption, Abahani widened the margin 3-1 through another penalty corner from Khorshed before Mohammedan put tremendous pressure in the third quarter to reduce the margin 3-2 through a penalty-corner from Peilet.

The Argentine squandered a penalty stroke to blow a chance to draw Mohammedan level before Dutchman Bjorn Kellerman wrapped up the victory for Abahani two minutes from time.

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

T SPORTS

Sri Lanka vs West Indies
1st Test (Day 4)
Live from 10:30 am

TEN 1

UEFA Champions League
Liverpool vs Porto
Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)

TEN 2

UEFA Champions League
Inter Milan vs Shakhtar Donetsk
Live from 11:45 pm
Manchester City vs

PSG

Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)
TEN 3
UEFA Champions League

Sheriff vs Real Madrid
Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)
SONY SIX
UEFA Champions League
Besiktas vs Ajax

Live from 11:45 pm
Atletico Madrid vs AC Milan
Live from 02:00 am (Thursday)

NCL (Round 6, Day 4)
Dhaka vs Khulna, BKSP-3
Rangpur vs Sylhet, BKSP-4

Chattogram vs Dhaka Metro, Sylhet
Rajshahi vs Barishal, SICS Academy

No early skirmish among giants

SPORTS REPORTER

Giants avoided an early clash of heads as the draw for the 15-team Riviera Independence Cup was held alongside the signing ceremony and logo unveiling at the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

The Independence Cup, which is usually held either in the middle of the season or at the end, is this time being launched as the season's



GROUPINGS

Group A:

Abahani, Rahmatganj MFS and Swadhinata KS

Group B:

Sheikh Jamal DC, Sheikh Russel KC, Uttar Baridhara Club and Bangladesh Air Force

Group C:

Saif SC, Mohammedan SC, Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Bangladesh Army

Group D:

Bashundhara Kings, Ctg Abahani, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Navy

Independence Cup featured only Bangladesh Premier League clubs, three services teams -- Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force -- have this time been given the green light to compete against top professional clubs.

The 15 teams will be split into four groups and will seek passage to the quarterfinals.

The last Independence Cup, held in 2018, saw Bashundhara Kings, Sheikh Russel and Sheikh Jamal pitted in the same group, which led to an early exit for Sheikh Jamal.

This time, defending champions Bashundhara Kings find themselves in Group D alongside former champions Chittagong Abahani, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Navy.

Last edition's runners-up Sheikh Russel were drawn alongside Sheikh Jamal, Uttar Baridhara Club and Bangladesh Air Force in Group B while Mohammedan, who were eliminated from the group stages in the last edition, were drawn alongside Saif SC,

Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Bangladesh Army in Group C.

Abahani have been handed a relatively easier Group A assignment, contending with Rahmatganj and newcomers Swadhinata Krira Sangstha.

The tournament's inaugural match will be between Abahani and Swadhinata KS at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium on Nov 27.

"We could not complete some competitions last season, including the Independence Cup, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are going to start the season through the Independence Cup in the month of victory to mark the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as well as to honor those martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country," BFF senior vice president and professional league committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshed said at a press conference yesterday.

opening tournament in line with the BFF's promise of holding the tournament to start the new season after failure to stage the Independence Cup last season.

While previous editions of the



PSG in CITY

AGENCIES



Seeking to avenge their September defeat at the Parc des Princes, Manchester City welcome Paris Saint-Germain to the Etihad Stadium for Wednesday's Champions League Group A battle.

The hosts currently sit at the summit with nine points to their name, but PSG are only one point behind and will also eye qualification to the next round this week.

Such a thumping saw this merciless City surge to the top of the rankings in Group A after PSG were held by RB Leipzig, and Pep Guardiola's side will assure themselves of a first-place finish and a spot in the last 16 with all three points against PSG.



Man City will remain without Kevin De Bruyne for this fixture following his positive coronavirus test, and it remains to be seen if Jack Grealish will be passed fit after missing the Everton win with a minor injury.

Meanwhile, PSG's medical room has emptied out in recent weeks, and

there is a chance that Sergio Ramos may finally be ready for his long-awaited debut in navy blue.

Among the other big battles on the night will see Inter host Shakhtar Donetsk in Milan as Real Madrid travel to FC Sheriff, with Real, Inter and Sheriff in the hunt for the two qualifying spots.

Meanwhile, after picking up their first Group B point on Matchday 4, AC Milan may have an eye on Atalanta's great escape of 2019-20 when the Serie A club recovered from a similarly grim start to make it to the round of 16. With Liverpool already through, and Porto and Atletico not out of reach, that escape route is open and Milan would look for all three points away to Atletico.

AGRANI BANK LIMITED

Establishment & Engineering Division

Head Office, 9/D Dilkusha C/A, Motijheel, Dhaka.

Invitation For Tenders

1	Procuring Entity Name	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
2	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.	
3	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV System on Agrani Bank Limited, Jatiyo Jadugarh Branch, Dhaka, Demra Branch, Narayanganj, Jashore Medical College Branch, Jashore and Pirijpur Bazar Branch, Bajitpur. Kishoreganj.	
4	Invitation Ref No	ABL/E&ED/Eng/Mecha-257/2021	
5	Date	22/11/2021	
Key Information			
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.	
Funding Information			
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank limited.	
Particular Information			
8	Tender Publication Date	22/11/2021	
9	Tender Last Selling Date	19/12/2021	
		Date	Time
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	20/12/2021	3.00PM
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	20/12/2021	3.00PM
12	Name & Address of the Tender Document Selling Office	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
13	Receiving Tender Document	Agrani Bank Limited, Credit Policy and Credit Risk Division, Head Office (4 th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Date: 20/12/2021	
14	Place of Tender Document	Tender Opening will take place at the Primary Place	
Information For Tenderer			
15	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	Tenderers who have: a. Not been prevented by order of any judicial court from entering into and/or signing contract with the procuring entity. b. Tenderers shall have at last 03 (Three) years of overall business experience in similar works preceding the date of publication of IFT. c. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. d. Certificate by the bidder stating that he/she had successfully completed CCTV installation, testing and commissioning works at Govt/Semi-Govt Autonomous organizations / Reputed Limited Company. e. No joint venture company is allowed.	
16	Tenderer to attach copies of the following documents	i) Up to date valid Trade license ii) Up-to-date income tax paid certificate iii) Valid VAT registration certificate iv) TIN Certificate v) Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the Tenderer shall be TK. 7,70,000.00 (Seven Lac Seventy thousand) only. vi) Main Catalogue/Brochure. vii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 years, each with a value of at least TK. 5,80,000/-. viii) Affidavit/Declaration of legal ownership/ Certificate of incorporation. ix) Tender Submission Letter (Form PG3-1) x) Bio-data of key personnel employed by the contractor to carry our the functions stated in the schedule. xi) Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. xii) International Standard Conformity Certificate and Every other documents mentioned in TDS.	
17	Price of Tender Document (TK)	500/- (TK Five Hundred Only) Non-refundable pay-order from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favor of Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.	
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Nurul Islam	
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager	
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Agrani Bank Limited , Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	01552475489 029561674	eedmechanical@agrani.bank.org
22	a) The Tenderer shall furnish Registration certificate and evidence of being managed by Bangladeshi nationals in original and certificates of satisfactory completion of previous work for proposed brand CC Camera of above magnitude from the owner at the time of dropping the Tender documents. b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the Tender(s), the same will be received at the same time on the day after next working day. c) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg. 127 of PPR 2008. d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. No claims will be entertained in this regard.		

(MD. Nurul Islam)
Deputy General Manager
Agrani Bank Limited
Establishment & Engineering Division
Head Office, Dhaka.

A woman walks past a mural of late football legend Diego Armando Maradona in Buenos Aires as Argentina prepare to mark the first death anniversary of its famous son. (Inset) Cuban Mavys Alvarez presents documents at a press conference alleging Maradona of rape and human trafficking.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS

'All my innocence was stolen from me'

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

undergo drug addiction treatment.

At a news conference in Buenos Aires, Alvarez said Maradona had raped her in the clinic in Havana where he was staying, while her mother was in the next room.

"He covers my mouth, he rapes me, I don't want to think about it too much," Alvarez said.

"I stopped being a girl, all my innocence was stolen from me. It's hard. You stop living the innocent things that a girl of that age has to experience."

Matias Morla, Maradona's lawyer before his death, did not respond to a request for comment. Reuters could not identify other legal representatives for Maradona in the case.

Alvarez has previously described the relationship in media interviews as consensual, but also said that Maradona had at least on one occasion forced himself upon her.

She said that her family had only allowed a relationship

with the star to happen, despite the large age gap, because of Maradona's friendship with the late Cuban President Fidel Castro.


"My family would never have accepted it if the Cuban government had not been involved," she said. "They were forced in another way to accept a relationship that was not good for them, or for anyone."

Cuba's government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.


Alvarez said she had filed the complaint "in order to help all women, all victims of trafficking, of crime," she said. "To be able to help them in whatever way I can. That's my idea."

She said it was hard to be back in Argentina, where Maradona remains a hero to many.

"It's hard to be in his country, to see that he is everywhere, he is an idol and at the same time everything I remember about him as a person feels ugly," she said.



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NINE YEAR OF TAZREEN TRAGEDY

Trial seems never-ending

Due to absence of witnesses, victims don't believe justice will be ever done

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Trial proceedings of a lawsuit over Tazreen Fashions fire made no significant progress in six years as prosecutors kept failing to bring witnesses to court.

A fire at the garment factory on November 24, 2012, left 112 workers dead and many others injured. The case was filed with Ashulia Police Station the next day.

Only nine out of 104 prosecution witnesses testified at the court since the trial started six years ago.

The last witness to testify was garment worker Jarina Begum who appeared before the court on January 13 this year, said a prosecutor.

The witnesses ignored repeated summons as well as “non-bailable” arrest warrants, he added.

On October 28 this year, the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka issued non-bailable arrest warrants for seven absentee witnesses for failing to comply with multiple court orders.

The witnesses are: Chaina Begum, Mosammat Parvin, Morsheda, Shamoly Akter, Arfuza, Ale Nur and Ramesha Begum.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to bring the absentee witnesses before it on January 18, 2022, when the next hearing on the case will be held.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Ignoring a “no parking” sign, state-owned and privately-owned vehicles park illegally on a street in the capital's Motijheel area. These vehicles obstruct traffic flow, cause jams and add time to people's travel time . The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bangavax gets nod for human trials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The homegrown Covid-19 vaccine Bangavax got ethical permission from the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) to begin human trials, in a massive endorsement of the research credentials of the local drug maker.

Globe Biotech, which announced the development of the single-dose vaccine on July 20 last year, will now send the human trial protocol to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), said Mohammad Mohiuddin, its senior manager for quality and regulation.

Once the DGDA gives the clinical trial permission, Globe Biotech can start the human trial, he said.

“The sooner the DGDA will give permission, the sooner we can start the trial,” Mohiuddin said, adding that Globe Biotech has completed all preparations.

On October 5 last year, SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

BANGLADESH RAILWAY

Covid strikes hard, losses pile up

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The pandemic took a huge toll on Bangladesh Railway as movement curbs over a significant period left the state-run operator with Tk 2,063 crore losses in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

The loss was Tk 419 crore higher than the previous year, when it was Tk 1,644 crore, shows BR data revealed recently.

With the latest amount, BR incurred Tk 6,670.6 crore losses in just four years since 2016-17.

Although BR's financial report of 2020-21 fiscal year has not been completed, railways officials fear that the losses would continue as the operations of passenger trains remained suspended for a significant period.

The hike in fuel price early this month also means that the railways would keep losing money as the authorities have decided not to raise tickets' prices for now.

However, transport experts said although the pandemic had a role in increasing the losses, lack of accountability, professionalism, and poor services of BR are the main reasons behind the losses.

The BR operates 360 passenger and freight trains on its 3,093km network across the country.

While the number of passengers has risen over the years and it has got a huge investment in the last decade, the sector

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

USA, UK call for restraint

NOVEMBER 24, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

US, UK EXPRESSED CONCERN

Both America and Britain expressed their concern at the military confrontation between India and Pakistan, and appealed to the two states for restraint in the present “ potentially dangerous situation in the subcontinent”.

But while the British government was pressed in the House of Lords to raise the issue in the Security Council as a real threat to the world peace, the US and the Soviet Union took up direct bilateral diplomatic contact.

Meanwhile, the UN Secretary General U Thant was ‘gravely concerned’ about the situation and was following the development there closely.

WE ARE AT WAR, SAYS PAK DIPLOMAT

Pakistan Ambassador to the US Agha Muhammad Reza said his country was in a state of undeclared war with India. “ Definitely we are at war,” he commented.

The ambassador said the trouble in East Pakistan was an internal affair which had nothing to do with India. If we left Pakistan, he claimed, “ we would settle it.”

PAKISTAN CALLS UP OFFICERS ON LEAVE

All officers on leave before retirement and reservists in Pakistan was asked to report for duty immediately. A special announcement to this effect was made by the general headquarters in Rawalpindi today.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini captured Fulgazi and Chandgazi today and consolidated their position in the whole area.

Mukti Bahini cleared areas along Atgram, Rahimpur and Zakiganj road in Sylhet district today.

The daring naval commandos raided Bahadurabad Ghat on the river Jumna tonight. The ammunition depot of the occupation troops were shelled resulting in the explosion and damaging of a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



POLLS VIOLENCE

Farmer killed in Munshiganj

STAR REPORT

A farmer was killed allegedly by the supporters of a union parishad member candidate ahead of the polls at Char Kewar union in Munshiganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

Farmer Mohammad Sattar Sarkar, 45, of Naulbuniakandi village, was strangled to death by the supporters of member candidate Bazlur Rahman, said the victim's father Mohammad Suruj Miah Sarkar.

He said, “Sattar was a supporter of Bazlur's opponent Imran Kabir Iman. He had been missing since Monday evening.

“His body was found around 6:30am yesterday. It was tied with a tree and a plastic rope was wrapped around the neck.”

The victim's relatives brought the body to Munshiganj General Hospital around 7:30am yesterday, said Abul Kalam, an on-duty doctor at the health facility.

“Initially, it seems that Sattar was strangled but further can be said only

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Airbus A340 plane lands on Antarctica for first time



CNN ONLINE

For the first time in history, an Airbus A340 plane has landed on Antarctica.

Hi Fly, a boutique aviation company, was behind the flight. The company specialises in wet leases, which means they hire out both aircraft and air crew and are responsible for handling insurance, maintenance and other logistics.

Hi Fly 801 took off from Cape Town, South Africa on Tuesday, November 2.

The plane was commissioned by Wolf's Fang, a new upscale adventure camp on the world's southernmost continent, and brought much-needed supplies to the resort. Wolf's Fang is a new project from high-end Antarctica tourism company White Desert.

The crew of Hi Fly 801 (and its return trip to Cape Town, Hi Fly 802) was led by Captain Carlos Mirpuri, who is also Hi Fly's vice president.

Each flight took between five and five and a half

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Two killed as SUV hits Mohakhali flyover pillar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths were killed and three others injured after an SUV they were in hit a pillar under the Mohakhali flyover in the capital yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Aiman Umar, 22, son of retired Col Umar Faruque of Mohakhali DOHS, and his friend Fahmid Ahmed Raiyan, 19, son of late Ilias Ahmed of Nikunja, said Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station.

Fahmid was an A-level student in Canada, his uncle Harun Khan told The Daily Star. He said Fahmid had come to Dhaka during the pandemic and was supposed to return to Canada next month.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 24

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



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