



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 304

AGRAHAYAN 10, 1428 BS

Your Right to Know

RABIUS SANI 19, 1443 HJRI

20 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE : Tk12.00

"The process to provide subsidy on diesel for irrigation purpose is so complex. So, the government has no plan to provide any new subsidy to farmers in this regard."

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABDUR RAZZAQUE ON INCREASING SUBSIDY



I had always thought of going on a high and I believe this is the right time to end my test career.

MAHMUDULLAH ON RETIREMENT FROM TESTS



"The United States prefers ... to divide countries into those that -- in their opinion -- are good, and those that are bad."

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN DMITRY PESKOV ON INVITATION TO BIDEN'S DEMOCRACY SUMMIT



## STATE-RUN FERTILISER FACTORIES

# White Elephants they're now



Old machinery, poor gas supply blamed for low efficiency; govt subsidy keeps climbing by the year

ASIFUR RAHMAN and SUKANTA HALDER

The factories are consuming natural gas heavily, but producing urea fertilizer much less than their modern peers do.

The wastage of gas in these four state-run fertiliser factories in just nine days is enough to produce a day's electricity, about 9,000MW, for the entire country, according to an estimate by the government's Power System Master Plan.

The four factories in question churned out 7.96 lakh tonnes of granular urea in FY 2019-20, consuming around double the required gas, the key ingredient to manufacture urea.

On average, the four factories consume 43.72 million cubic feet (mcf) of gas to produce 1 tonne of urea, when the global standard is 25mcf, show documents of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

The factories, which operate under BCIC, are Jamuna Fertiliser Co Ltd (JFCL), Ashuganj Fertiliser and Chemical Company Limited (AFCCL), Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) and Shahjalal Fertiliser Company Ltd (SFCL).

Government officials attributed this low efficiency to old machinery with no overhaul in years, interruption in gas supply and lack of skilled workforce.

Of the four factories, AFCCL, CUFL and JFCL have already exhausted

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



IN THE DEPTHS OF GRIEF ... Shah Alam, father of Notre Dame College student Nayeem Hasan, breaks down at Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital yesterday after hearing about the death of his son in a traffic accident in Gulistan.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

YEAR	PRODUCTION AT 4 FACTORIES (IN TONNES)	GAS USE (IN MCF)	EFFICIENCY (MCF/TONNE)
2015-16	1,110,576	42,020,276	37.83
2016-17	1,017,123	39,826,285	39.15
2017-18	843,421	32,030,446	37.98
2018-19	868,996	33,408,350	38.44
2019-20	878,098	38,393,700	43.72

### KEY POINTS

- 3 of the four state-run urea plants already exhausted 20yr lifespan
- No overhauls in years, affecting production
- Cumulative effects result in huge gas wastage
- Multinational joint venture KAFCO stands in stark contrast

"The country cannot afford to waste natural gas or sell it at a cheaper price as the LNG price is rising day by day worldwide."

ENERGY EXPERT DR IJAZ HOSSAIN

SOURCE: BCIC

## Defying odds, Bangladesh marches on

Hasina tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that Bangladesh was marching ahead despite numerous obstacles, and that the country would still go a long way.

"I hope that the Sonar Bangla as dreamed by the Father of the Nation will one day stand tall among all other nations," Hasina said, giving her speech on a proposal to hold a special discussion on the Golden Jubilee of the country's independence.

The proposal, tabled by Hasina yesterday, is expected to be adopted today after two days of deliberations.

Bangladesh is marking the 50 years of its independence from Pakistan this year.

Recalling Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's return to Bangladesh after liberation, Hasina, Bangabandhu's eldest daughter, said, "We were waiting for our father to come home.... But he put the people of the country above everything else."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Khaleda 'getting weaker day by day'

Still in critical condition, say physicians, relatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, now undergoing treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital, is getting weaker day by day. She cannot eat anything. She only has liquids, said her physicians and close relatives.

Blood was detected in her vomit and stool which is making her health even more critical. She was given blood yesterday, they said.

"Doctors are thinking of conducting colonoscopy and endoscopy tests to establish the cause of the bleeding. She vomits whenever she eats anything," a close relative of Khaleda told The Daily Star wishing not to be named.

Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, Khaleda's personal physician, said an endoscopy was performed on the BNP chief as her health deteriorated. She was later taken back to the CCU.

The 76-year-old former prime minister was admitted to Evercare Hospital on November 13, nearly a week after being discharged from the same healthcare facility.

She was moved to the CCU on November 14.

BNP leaders said Khaleda still remain in critical condition and her health can deteriorate anytime. They have been demanding that the government allow her to go abroad for better treatment.

Her family members have urged the government to allow her to receive treatment in any foreign country under any condition.

They also said the government was responsible for ensuring better treatment for her as she had been the prime minister of the country thrice.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## 'We want safe road'

Peers chant after Notredamian killed in crash



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like every morning, Nayeem Hasan, a Humanities student, yesterday said goodbye to his parents and headed out for classes at Notre Dame College. That turned out to be the last time he had stepped out of his Kamrangirchar home, his final goodbye to his parents.

"Why did I send my son to college today?" an inconsolable Shah Alam,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## BUSINESS

### Remittance powering economy

Remittances are playing an increasingly important role in the economy of Bangladesh. They are a major source of external financing and help meet families' increased need for livelihood support. In recent months, money transfers by the migrant workers rose to record highs. Now, the government should make it easy for the workers to go abroad and at a lower cost. Besides, measures should be put in place to bring down the cost of sending remittance using technology with a view to retaining its steady flow.

TO KNOW MORE, READ TODAY'S BUSINESS SUPPLEMENT



Workers under the banner of non-government jute, thread, garment workers-employees federation go on hunger strike in front of the gate of Shiromoni Mohsen Jute Mills in Khulna yesterday to press home their five-point demand, including reopening of their factories.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## COUNCILLOR KILLING

# Rab arrests accused at hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

An accused in the Cumilla ward councillor murder case was arrested yesterday at Cumilla Medical College Hospital while undergoing treatment, said Rab officials.

Sumon, 32, a resident of Cumilla city's Sujanagar Bou Bazar area, was held around 10:00am, said Maj Mohammad Sakib Hossain, company commander of Rab-11.

Sumon was admitted to the hospital's urology department on November 15, said a hospital source.

The source could not say whether Sumon was outside the hospital on November 22 when Syed Mohammad Sohel, 48, councillor of ward-17, and his close aide Haripada Das, 45, were shot dead by masked gunmen in the councillor's office in the city's Pathuriapara area.

However, no one from the hospital authorities spoke on the issue on the record.

The councillor's younger brother Syed Mohammad Roman told The Daily Star, "We have heard that Sumon was undergoing treatment at the hospital. But the CCTV footage showed that he was involved in the killing."

Sumon is the number four accused in the murder case filed by Roman with Kotwali Police Station early yesterday.

Twenty-one people, including 11 identified ones, were made accused in the case, said Anwarul Azim, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The 11 accused are: Shah Alam, "Jail Sohel", Sabbir, Sumon,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Sohel



BANGLADESH  
UPDATE

312  
New cases in 24hrs

15,74,948  
Total cases

27,961  
Deaths

15,38,193  
Recoveries

GLOBAL  
UPDATE

5,188,772  
Deaths

259,476,245  
Total cases

# Build culture of tolerance

President calls upon political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday stressed the need for building a culture of tolerance and mutual respect among the political parties.

He said unity among all, irrespective of religion, caste, and creed, is required to implement Bangabandhu's promise to build "Sonar Bangla".

"Unity must be built against communalism, undemocratic practices and violence. Political parties need to build a culture of tolerance and mutual respect," the head of the state said while delivering his speech at the Jatiya Sangsad.

Hamid addressed the House on the occasion of the special discussion in parliament to mark the Golden Jubilee of Independence.

The day's sitting began around 3:05pm, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The president in his written speech, approved by the Cabinet on Monday, highly lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her strong and indomitable leadership, successes in various sectors, successfully tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and making Bangladesh a role model in the world in terms of development.

"Let us forget the differences among parties and opinions in the Golden Jubilee of Independence and pay the debt we owe to the millions of martyrs by accelerating the democratic journey and socio-economic development of the country," the president said.

Talking about good governance, Hamid said political leaders, civil society members and stakeholders, irrespective of party affiliation, must work together to establish good governance in the country.

"All-out efforts are going on to establish good governance in



the country. The Anti-Corruption Commission, the National Human Rights Commission and the Information Commission are actively discharging their responsibilities [in this regard]."

He said the rule of law has been established by speedily disposing of verdicts in the Bangabandhu murder case, war crimes and other sensational cases, including those for crimes against humanity.

"The government's 'zero tolerance' policy to curb corruption, drugs, militancy, terrorism and extremism and communalism has brought relief to the country, which is being lauded worldwide," the president said.

Pointing to the pandemic, Hamid said it has temporarily hampered the country's development and progress, but couldn't stop it.

"Due to timely and far-sighted steps taken by the government, coronavirus infection and mortality rates in Bangladesh are relatively low compared to many developed countries."

Hamid said under the able leadership of the prime minister, Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in socio-economic conditions. Bangladesh is now one of the 11 countries in the world which are termed "emerging eleven" for future development.

"Today, Bangladesh is the 41st largest economy in the world."

The president said the poverty rate has come down to 20.5 percent in 2019 from 40 percent in 2005 as a result of the strong leadership of the PM.

He said under the strong and far-sighted leadership of the prime minister, Bangladesh is moving towards rapid development.



Demonstrating students of Notre Dame College block the Gulistan intersection yesterday after their fellow student Nayeem Hasan was run over and killed by a garbage truck earlier in the day.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## White Elephants they're now

FROM PAGE 1

their 20-year life span. AFCCL and CIUFL were commissioned in 1981 and 1987 respectively while JFCL started production in 1991.

The performance of SFCL in Sylhet, which started production just five years ago, is already low.

In contrast, Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited (KAFCO), the lone multinational joint venture in the sector, is almost at par with the global standards for consumption-production ratio.

Commissioned in 1991, KAFCO produced 5.30 lakh tonnes of urea at 27.97 mcf/tonne efficiency in 2019-2020.

Experts said the low efficiency of the state factories had been an open secret for years. The wastage has already stressed the country's fast depleting natural gas reserve and incurred huge economic losses.

These factories are running on government subsidies that have been increasing with every passing year, they added.

In FY 2015-16, the subsidy for these four factories was Tk 235 crore, which nearly tripled to stand at over Tk 659 crore in FY 2019-20, according to the industries ministry's 2019-20 annual report.

Eminent energy expert Dr Ijaz Hossain said the government was in a great dilemma here.

"The dilapidated factories are like an old model car which needs lots of fuel but we can't dump it as we don't have the ability to purchase a new one. If we stop production then the country will face urea shortage which will be more problematic," said Dr Ijaz, a former professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Bangladesh needs around 24.41 lakh tonnes of urea each year. Of this, the state-owned factories cater around 8.77 lakh tonnes while the rest 16 lakh tonnes are imported, according to the agriculture ministry.

Dr Ijaz said he was against continuing production in old and dilapidated fertiliser plants, adding, "The country cannot afford to waste natural gas or sell it at a cheaper price as the LNG price is rising day by day worldwide."

He said, "The factories get gas at a subsidised price. But they have to calculate their production cost with the international LNG market price to be economically viable."

He said uninterrupted gas supply was key to improving efficiency.

About the low efficiency of SFCL in Sylhet, he said, "It is not working

efficiently because the proposed design was not followed to build it."

A top BCIC official acknowledged that there might be some flaws in the design, and said the issue was now under investigation.

THE NEVER-ENDING CYCLE

Over the last five years, the wastage of gas at the four factories is about 67,727,250 mcf or about 37,110 mcf per day, according to government estimates.

The government acknowledged such waste of gas across the country in the Power Sector Master Plan (PSMP) 2016.

If the international benchmark was followed, the country could have saved 130mmscf gas daily which is equivalent to 1,000MW power, observed the PSMP 2016.

The report also made various recommendations to improve efficiency, but very little has changed.

In the last five years, six government-owned fertiliser factories that also included the now-decommissioned Palash Urea Fertiliser Factory and Gorashal Urea Fertiliser Factory produced 42.80 lakh tonnes of urea at an average efficiency rate of 39.42 mcf/tonne.

The government closed the age-old Palash Urea factory in 2018 and Gorashal the following year.

Of the four factories in question, only Shahjalal Fertiliser factory operates regularly. Last year, CIUFL was out of operation for 359 days, Ashuganj for 211 days and JFCL for 206 days, BCIC data show.

Ashuganj Managing Director AKM Anwarul Haque said they closed the plant last month for overhauling and maintenance.

"It's normal that a 40-year-old factory will not give you optimum output. We conducted overhauls every 10 years. We need another three months to resume operation," he said.

The newest one, Shahjalal fertiliser factory, also has been wasteful as it produces urea with an efficiency of 34.33 mcf/tonne.

Sunil Chandra Das, general manager (operation) of the factory, said they could produce urea at optimum level had the machine run at 100 percent load.

"We can run our machine at 80-82 percent load and there is no option to increase the load manually. We have not even got urea at 25 mcf/tonne when the test run was conducted," he told The Daily Star recently.

He said the plant efficiency was supposed to be 22.5mcf/tonne.

Asked if the design was followed properly, Sunil said, "Maybe there was

some problem with the design."

The government built the 5.8 lakh tonnes per year capacity SFCL plant for Tk 5,409 crore, according to the industries ministry's 2019-2020 annual report.

But in the last five years the average annual production of SFCL, built by a Chinese company using technology from the USA and the Netherlands, is around 3.4 lakh tonnes.

KAFCO IN BETTER CONDITION

KAFCO, a joint venture with 43.5 percent government share, produced 20.07 lakh tonnes of urea in the last five years with an efficiency of around 28.76 mcf/tonne.

Its efficiency was calculated with the gas distribution data from Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL).

KAFCO is successful because it invests a lot of money for proper maintenance, officials said.

"The government buys urea from KAFCO at an import price and their income is good enough to invest in maintenance. A machine should be overhauled every 18 months, which we couldn't do since 2010," said Shaheen Kamal, director (production and research) of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

In the case of KAFCO, the government sells gas at import prices as well.

WHY THE LOSS?

Shaheen Kamal said they sell urea to the government at a much cheaper price.

"We charge the government just Tk 14,000 a tonne, when the import price is around Tk 72,000 now. We save the government Tk 58,000 per tonne," he said.

He also faulted the age-old machinery and low pressure of gas for the low production.

"It's not possible to get the desired service from a machine of the '90s like the modern ones. We are trying to become efficient but we need time."

Citing the example of Jamuna Fertiliser Company, he said the factory ran almost daily but it faced low pressure of gas for 330 days a year.

"The economic life of those factories decreased considerably. The machines are almost 30-40 years old and we are putting extra pressure on the machines. We need 8-10 days to start a machine, which needs gas equivalent to Tk 3 crore," he added.

BCIC Chairman Shah Md Imdadul Haque said he was not aware of any report about gas wastage. "We produce a unit of urea at Tk 22 and sell it at Tk 14. That's why we incur loss."

## LATEST

### UNGA adopts resolution on Bangladesh's graduation from LDC

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a historic resolution on Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC category.

"What better way to celebrate 50th anniversary of our independence and birth centenary of Bangabandhu! Fulfillment of national aspiration and prime minister's vision 2021," Bangladesh's permanent representative to the UN Rabab Fatima tweeted yesterday.

## PBI REPORT

### Kishore to lodge no-confidence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore will file a no-confidence petition against the probe report submitted by Police Bureau Investigation over the torture on him in custody.

Kishore's lawyer yesterday submitted an application seeking permission for filing the no-confidence petition on the next scheduled date.

After granting the petition, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka fixed February 23, 2022, for submitting the petition against the probe report, said Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

Earlier on October 17, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of police at PBI, submitted the report to the court.

In the probe report, the IO said they did not find any evidence that one or more people picked up Kishore from his home and tortured him physically and mentally in May last year.

Kishore's allegations of torture against 16-17 unnamed individuals in plainclothes were not primarily proved, the IO added in his probe report.

The cartoonist filed the case on March 10 stating that he was picked up from his residence around 5:45pm on May 2 last year and tortured until May 4 and that he found himself in a Rab office on May 5.

Kishore filed the case under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, seeking redress. Judge KM Emrul Kayesh then directed the PBI to investigate the complaint.

When he filed the case, Kishore told the judge how he was brutally tortured before he was shown on record as arrested in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

After languishing in jail for almost 10 months, the cartoonist walked out on bail on March 4 this year. He then told journalists how he was tortured and wrote multiple times on Facebook about his ordeal in custody.

The probe report, written by the PIB officer, said the victim could not provide any information about the 16-17 men in plainclothes, who supposedly picked him up.

The investigator did not find any "seizable evidence", it said, adding that the complainant could not produce any evidence before the investigator.

During the investigation, people around the scene were asked about CCTV footage, but could not provide any information, the report adds.

### Sudan PM calls for halt to post-coup sackings

AFP, KHARTOUM

Sudan's newly reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok on Wednesday ordered a halt to sackings and a review of all appointments made after his detention in last month's military coup.

Top General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan had grabbed power and detained Hamdok on October 25 but, following international condemnation and mass protests, reinstated the premier last Sunday.

After the coup Burhan had dissolved major institutions and dismissed the heads of state media, public companies and banks as well as many provincial officials.

## Khaleda getting

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, the BNP yesterday announced an eight-day programme to press home their demand for allowing Khaleda to go abroad for better treatment.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the programme at a press conference at its Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital.

The programme, which begins today, includes demonstrations, rallies, human chains, silent processions and prayers.

The party alleged that a quarter which has a vested interest was spreading rumours about Khaleda's health.

"The rumours have no basis. I think a quarter which has a vested interest is spreading rumours with an ill motive in a planned way," Fakhrul told the press conference.

Yesterday, a total of 2,582 journalists issued a joint statement urging the government to release the BNP chairperson and allow her to go abroad. "Khaleda Zia is critically ill and

undergoing treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital. Doctors said she is now fighting for life... so we are urging the government not to consider the issue from political perspective, but on humanitarian grounds," they said in the statement.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Trustee Zafrullah Chowdhury yesterday demanded that Khaleda be sent abroad for treatment immediately.

"After seeing her yesterday [Tuesday], I can say Khaleda Zia is fighting for life. I cannot say how long she will survive. She is being murdered and the prime minister and the law minister are responsible for this," he said at a press conference at Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

Khaleda has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, dental and eye problems. She was sent to prison on February 8, 2018 in a corruption case. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, she was released temporarily on certain conditions on March 25 last year.

## Rab arrests accused athospital

FROM PAGE 1

Sajon, Ashikur Roki, Alam, Jishan Mia, Masum, Saimon and Rony, the OC added.

Contacted, Mustafizur Rahman, director of Cumilla Medical College Hospital, said Sumon was arrested at the hospital.

Five others who suffered bullet injuries in the attack are: Awal Hossain Rizu, 23, Rasel, 29, Majedul Haque Badal, 39, Jewel, 40, and Sohel Chowdhury, 43. They were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

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

Councillor Sohel was also the panel mayor of Cumilla City Corporation and president of ward-17 Awami League unit, while Haripada was its member.

Meanwhile, Home Minister

Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at a programme in the capital yesterday said, "Our police force is working. We hope to unveil the reasons behind the killing within a day or two."

Locals said Sumon is the uncle of another accused Shah Alam, who stands accused in different criminal cases, including murder, extortion, drugs and possession of illegal arms.

Besides, Shah Alam's elder brother Mohammad Alam is also involved in yaba trade, claimed locals.

The name of Shah Alam came to the fore after some witnesses of the murder incident claimed that they could identify him among the killers.

His house is just around 50 yards away from the councillor's office where the killing took place.

Locals alleged that Shah Alam has a

gang that extorts money from shops in the city's Bou Bazar area.


They, however, could not confirm whether there was any rivalry between councillor Sohel and him.

But Shah Alam's friend Sabbir and his supporters were locked in a clash with those of the slain councillor near the councillor's office on November 15.

Locals said the clash happened as Sabbir was stalking a girl and the councillor's followers protested it.

Apart from Shah Alam, other accused in the double-murder case, including "Jail Sohel", Sabbir and Sajon, stand accused in different criminal cases, said police.

Farooque Ahmed, superintendent of Cumilla police, visited the councillor's house yesterday and assured his family that the killers would be brought to book.



**ইসলামী ব্যাংক**  
বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড  
ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত

**মানুষের কল্যাণে শিল্পের ক্রমোন্নয়নে**

বুড়িগঙ্গা তীরবর্তী ব্যস্ত জনপদ, গার্মেন্টস ও জাহাজ ডাক্তা শিল্পে সম্ভাবনাময় ঢাকার কেরাণীগঞ্জের কালীগঞ্জে ডিজিটাল প্রযুক্তি সম্বলিত বিস্তৃত ব্যাংকিং সেবা নিয়ে শুরু হচ্ছে ইসলামী ব্যাংকের ৩৮১তম শাখা

**কালীগঞ্জ শাখা, ঢাকা**

স্বাধীন গার্ডেন সিটি, নবা সাধু রোড, পূর্ব আগানগর দক্ষিণ কেরাণীগঞ্জ, ঢাকা

**শীঘ্রই উদ্বোধন হতে যাচ্ছে**  
সবিশুর শাখা, ঢাকাইল, বাঘা শাখা, রাজশাহী, রানীরহাট শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম

২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২১

Contact Center: 16259 or 02-8331090

www.islamibankbd.com

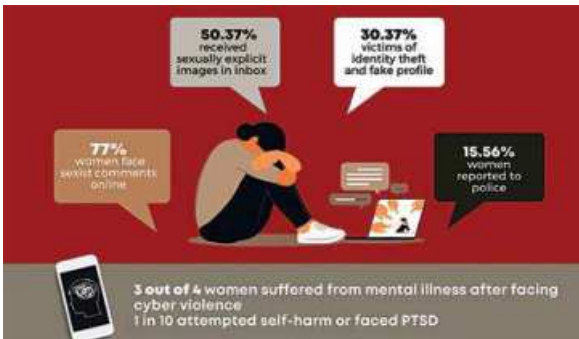


77pc women victims of online abuse

Finds ActionAid Bangladesh, Prothom Alo survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-seven percent of women faced sexist or misogynistic comments online, while 50.37 percent received explicit images in their inbox, revealed a recent survey. It was also found that 30.37 percent of women were victims of identity theft and fake profiles, while 23.70 percent faced non-consensual dissemination of intimate photos; 19.26 percent faced cyberstalking and 14.07 percent received threats of sexual harassment for supporting the LGBTQ community. During the Covid-19 lockdown, one in every two women faced more cyber-violence compared to pre-pandemic times, it revealed. The findings of the survey were presented yesterday at a roundtable titled "Online Violence against Women: SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Sleeping on the dividers of a busy street is risky as it is, but when there's a toddler asleep right on its edge, the danger increases manifold. At any point, the child might move and fall onto the road, while vehicles of all kinds pass by at speed. This photo was taken recently from the capital's Dhanmondi Road-2 area. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Hasina for strengthening connectivity with Maldives

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for strengthening the connectivity between the two countries will improve further," she said at a meeting with visiting Maldives Vice President Faisal Naseem at Gono Bhaban, according to her Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim, who briefed reporters after the meeting. The prime minister said Bangladesh can extend technical support to the Maldives on human SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Don't burden students with fees

Suggests survey on reducing school dropout

STAR REPORT

To reduce the school dropout rate and ensure better education for students of urban-slum institutions, focus needs to be on proper need-based financial support, development work and alternative learning opportunities. A recent survey report on reducing school dropout rate in urban slums of Bangladesh made the recommendation. International development organisation Plan International Bangladesh, with support from Research and Development Collective,

**SURVEY AT A GLANCE**

Study conducted in over 40 schools, 673 households in DSCC areas from Dec 2020 to Mar 2021

Dropout rate high in secondary schools, particularly for girls

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Focus on proper need-based financial support, development work, alternative learning opportunities

Remedial education, financial and other necessary support should be ensured in schools

Institutions should not burden students with fees, other charges

presented the report of the survey titled "Reducing School Dropout in Urban Slums of Bangladesh: Impact of Covid-19" yesterday at Brac Centre. The study was conducted in over 40 schools and 673 households of students from different grades in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation from December 2020 to March 2021. The report pointed out the high dropout rate in secondary schools, particularly for girls in urban slums. It was found that the long school closure has had an SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

It's politically motivated

Says info minister on BNP's demand to send Khaleda abroad for treatment

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the demand to send BNP chief Khaleda Zia abroad was raised with a political reason, not simply because of her health problems. "Who has said Khaleda Zia is in a critical condition? It was said by BNP central leaders, including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Almgir and Rizvi. No physician has said that Khaleda Zia is critically ill yet," the minister said while talking to reporters at the secretariat. He added that neither physicians nor Evercare Hospital authorities [where Khaleda is admitted] said anything about the necessity to send her abroad for treatment and that it is only BNP's demand, he added. "It's my question whether BNP leaders have become doctors! It's also a question whether the government will take any decision as per BNP leaders' prescription," he said. "We saw in the past that when Khaleda Zia fell sick, they always demanded that the government send her abroad... whether it's knee pain or high body temperature, they SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

NINE YEARS OF TAZREEN TRAGEDY

Survivors still cry for justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

On the ninth anniversary of the Tazreen Fashions fire in Savar's Ashulia, relatives, colleagues and leaders of various workers' organisations gathered at the factory gates to pay tributes to the fallen workers, saying that after all this time, none of their demands have been met. Reba Khatun, a mother of two, had survived the fire by jumping from the second floor of the factory, sustaining serious injuries on her legs, waist, and head. She told The Daily Star that she could not return to work even after receiving treatment for a long time. She also termed the fire a "pre-planned accident", which took away 112 lives and left many more injured on November 24 in 2012. "None of our demands, for rehabilitation of family members of victims and survivors, for compensation, for better treatment, and for capital punishment of the accused have been met," she said. "We only got some financial support



and help with our medical bills, but this is nowhere near enough to run our families," she added. Khairul Mamun Mintu, organising secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Center, said, "No steps have been taken to rehabilitate the families of the slain and injured worker." He also urged the government to meet all their demands soon, while also demanding that the burnt building be renovated and used to rehabilitate workers.

JUTE-BASED SANITARY PAD Bangladeshi scientist wins global award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Farhana Sultana, assistant scientist at International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), has won the grand prize at a global competition, for her proposed innovation -- developing a machine to produce jute cellulose-based sanitary pads. The fourth Annual Innovations Pitch Competition on "A Healthier Global Community Addressing the Twin Challenges of Pandemic Preparedness and Impact of Climate Change" was organised by the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH). As recognition, ASTMH has awarded USD 5,000 to Farhana, according to an icddr,b post on its official Facebook page. She is also set to be a judge at the fifth Annual SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Probe report delayed for 83rd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to submit by December 26 the probe report of a case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi. With yesterday's date, the investigation officer has so far taken 83 dates to complete the investigation. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary passed the order after Rab's Additional Superintendent Khondoker Shafiqul Alam, also the case's investigation officer, failed to submit the SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Riding on horse-carts is still popular in Old Dhaka. But plying the area's bumpy roads can take a toll not only on the animals, but also on the vehicles. This means they require regular repairs, and yesterday, some mechanics were busy fixing shock absorbers of carts at Kamrangirchar.



After almost two years, the stress, anxiety, as well as excitement centring final examinations have returned to schools. Yesterday morning, the capital's Willes Little Flower School was buzzing as guardians accompanied students for their tests. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Daraz doppelganger!

CTTC arrests man for replicating e-commerce sites to swindle people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They first created a website that looks completely like daraz.com.bd. They attracted customers into the site posting lucrative advertisements like 50-70 percent discount offers. For creating these advertisements, they used clone pictures collected from other e-commerce sites. As a trick, they only kept the option to pay through mobile financing services (MFS) to place orders. However, as soon as they received payments, they'd switch off the number and disappear. The Cyber Crime Investigation Division of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit has disclosed the findings after arresting a syndicate member, Al Imran Juwel (20), on Tuesday. Based on a tip-off, a CTTC team conducted the drive in Noakhali and arrested him, Chatak Chakma, assistant commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star yesterday. The CTTC team also recovered a cell phone, one desktop computer, electronic cards of different financial institutions, and over hundreds of pre-activated cell phones from his possession.

AC Chatak said Juwel bought the domain and hosting on September 18 from ofaex.com. It took around a week to prepare the website to make it look almost exactly like Daraz's website. In just the last one and half months, Juwel embezzled around Tk 10 lakh, said the AC, citing Juwel's bank statement and primary interrogation. "We are now investigating how Juwel managed to get such a huge number of pre-activated SIM cards with MFS accounts activated. We have come to know that Juwel used to buy the SIM cards for Tk 250 each," said the AC. A case was filed with the Banani Police Station. Juwel was later placed on a two-day police remand. Asked about targeting Daraz, AC Chatak said Juwel also had plans to create a fake site similar to Evaly.com. Shayantani Twisha, head of PR, media and communication of Daraz.com, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have a content monitoring team to check whether anyone uses the Daraz logo without license. "We've noticed the fraud a month back and immediately filed a GD and an FIR, after which police took the action."

WAR CRIMES Former BNP MP Momin sentenced to death

STAR REPORT

Former BNP MP Abdul Momin Talukder Khoka has been sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal for his crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. A three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam delivered the verdict yesterday, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman told The Daily Star. On November 1, the tribunal kept the verdict waiting after both the prosecution and defence counsels completed their closing arguments in the case. Abdul Momin Talukder alias Khoka (69), who is absconding, was tried SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



MORE NEWS



**Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers' Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited on Tuesday distributed financial assistance to families of newspaper workers who passed away recently. 25 families received Tk 25,000 each. Family members, circulation managers of different newspapers and industry leaders were present at the association office on the occasion.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Petition seeks HC directive on half fare for students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition has been filed with the High Court seeking its directive on the government on half bus, launch, and train fares for students. Supreme Court lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition yesterday.

He said Covid has reduced income of students' guardians over the last two years. In this situation, bus fares have been doubled and therefore, students are waging a movement.

US provides 1.8m Pfizer vaccines

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has provided another 1.8 million doses of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine to Bangladesh. The American people have now donated a total of 16.8 million doses of vaccines to Bangladesh with the latest shipment.

The vaccines will help the government continue administering jabs to young people -- aged 12 and up -- and reach its goal of vaccinating 40 percent of the eligible population by the end of 2021.

Probe report delayed

FROM PAGE 3

report. Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Rumi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012 in their rented flat in the capital's West Razabazar.

After Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police and the DB, Rab was tasked with the probe on April 18, 2012.

First death anniv of journo Muniruzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first death anniversary of journalist Khandaker Muniruzzaman was observed yesterday.

He passed away at Mugda Medical College Hospital on November 24 last year.

He was serving as the acting editor of the Daily Sangbad at the time of his demise. He started his journalism career in 1970 as a reporter of Weekly Ekota, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

He was founding member of Trade Union Centre and later become CPB Dhaka committee general secretary. He was also famous for his columns and political analyses.



Mamunur Rashid no more

CITY DESK

Wing Commander (ret'd) Mamunur Rashid, chief of security, North South University, breathed his last on November 23 at Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka.

He left behind his mother, wife, two sons, and a daughter. Commissioned in 1991, he rose to the rank of wing commander and retired from Air Force in 2018. He was buried at Uttara Sector-12 graveyard.



Save Savar rivers

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must fix the map of rivers and canals in Savar immediately and conduct a drive against illegal occupants, and housing projects, which are planned to be constructed in flood zones, said speakers at a public hearing yesterday.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) and Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) organised the event titled "Savar Rivers in Existence Crisis: Protection and Conservation Actions" at Savar Golf Club auditorium.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda presided over the programme, and Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela, conducted the event.

"These kinds of discussions were held several times, but the main problems are lack of monitoring and follow-ups," said Dr Md Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, who was the chief guest.

Hasina for

FROM PAGE 3

resources and healthcare. Hasina also offered the services of Bangabandhu-1 satellite for use by the Maldives.

Naseem said whenever the Maldives had fallen into any crisis, Bangladesh extended its support. He conveyed Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's best wishes to the PM on the golden jubilee of the country's independence and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

It's politically

FROM PAGE 3

always demanded the same. It's a politically motivated demand," said the minister. They want to send Khaleda to London where Tarique Zia is staying so that she could continue politics from there despite being a convicted accused, he said.

Don't burden students

FROM PAGE 3

adverse impact on students already. Remedial education and other necessary support should be ensured in schools, so students can get back on track regarding their studies.

The report suggests that financial and other types of support are necessary for students, as the schools have reopened. Schools should not burden students with fees and other charges, which may cause them to drop out.

Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, addressed the event as chief guest. Ashik Billah, head of central and northern region at Plan International Bangladesh; Wahida Banu, executive director of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh; Prof Syeda Tahmina Akhter of DU; and Nishat Nazmi, education officer of Unicef Bangladesh; spoke among others.

Former BNP MP

FROM PAGE 3

in absentia. He faced three charges, Rezia said.

According to the tribunal's investigation agency, Momin was Razakar commander of Adamdighi Police Station of Bogura and was involved in the killing of at least 19 people. He was an assistant organising secretary (Rajshahi division) of BNP central committee and was elected lawmaker from Bogura-3 (Dupchanchia and Adamdighi) in 2001 and 2008.

**কমার্শিয়াল গুট বিক্রয় বসুন্ধরা বারিধারায়**

বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় ৭ বিঘা, ৫ বিঘা, ২ বিঘার, কমার্শিয়াল রেজিষ্ট্রেশন, মিউটেশন, বাউন্ডারি করা নির্ভেজাল গুট বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগঃ

মোবাইল: ০১৭১৫৪৬৬৮৭, E-mail: mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com

**খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড**

বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

তারিখ-৩০/৮৮/২১-২২ ২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২১

০১।	ক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড, বিরেন, খুলনা।
০২।	ক্রয়কৃত বস্তু/সেবার বিবরণ এবং পরিমাণ	99.95% Pure Zinc Ingot = ১০০০০ কেজি।
০৩।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২১ হতে ০২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।
০৪।	দরপত্র জমাের তারিখ	০৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ (বেলা ১১.১৫ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)।
০৫।	দরপত্র নোদার তারিখ ও সময়	০৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ বেলা ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ডের এমপ্লয়িজ রুমে।
০৬।	দরপত্র গ্রাহকের স্থান	ক) খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ এর হিসাব বিভাগ (ডাশা শাখা) হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে। খ) নৌ-উপভোগ্য, বিল্ডিং/কনস্ট্রাকশন নামা পাড়া, বিল্ডিং/কনস্ট্রাকশন, ঢাকা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
০৭।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ এর প্রধান গেটে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্স নামে করা। প্রদান করতে হবে অফিস Online এ (email: gicocomi.ksy@gmail.com) এর দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।
০৮।	টেন্ডার ভর্তুকির মূল্য	৮৮/৮০০/- (টাকা আশ্রয় মাত্র অফিসের ভর্তুকি)।
০৯।	জামানতের পরিমাণ	উক্ত মূল্যের ৩% হারে খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ এর অনুস্টল ডিভি/সি-সেক্টর ডাওয়ার (কেন্দ্রস্থান) প্রদান করতে হবে।
১০।	যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোন ০২-৪৪১১০৮৭/০৪৪১১০৮৭ মোবাইল ০১৭১৬ ৭০৪৪৭৭ ফ্যাক্স ৮৮-০২-৪৭৭৭০৪০৪ ইমেইল gicocomi.ksy@gmail.com ওয়েবসাইট www.khulnashipyard.com
১১।	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

জিডি-২১৫৯ ডিজিএম (সিএজপি)

**TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH**

Social movement against corruption

**Vendor Enlistment Notice**

Transparency International Bangladesh is requesting for application from Vendors/Service Providers for enlistment for the period of 1 Year from January-2022 to December -2022 (May extend Subject to performance for next year) for following categories:

1 Stationery	10 Electric & Electronic Appliances
2 Office Supplies	11 Furniture
3 Publication	12 Training & Workshop Venue
4 Promotional Item	13 Hotel Accommodation
5 Media & Communication	14 Office Repair & Maintenance
6 IT Equipment	15 Media Clipping
7 General Service	16 Travel Agency
8 IT Repair & Maintenance	17 Courier Services
9 General Supplier	18 Books

Interested firm/company/vendor/service provider can collect detail Schedule of Enlistment with detailed terms and conditions (free of cost) from reception desk of **Transparency International Bangladesh, House 5, MIDAS Centre 4th Floor, Road 16 (new) 27 (Old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209** from November 25, 2021 to December 20, 2021 on working days (Sunday-Thursday) between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Soft copy of Schedule of Enlistment will be available in TIB website (www.ti-bangladesh.org). Last date of submission: December 20, 2021 on or before 3:00 PM at above TIB Head Office Address.

**TIB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all application(s) without conveying any reason whatsoever.**

Bangladeshi scientist

FROM PAGE 3

Innovations Pitch Competition, scheduled to be held in 2022, read the post.

In collaboration with Dr Mubarak Ahmed Khan, scientific adviser at Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Farhana manually developed and piloted the jute cellulose-based disposable pad, which is potentially a better alternative product to maintain menstrual health and hygiene for women and girls in Bangladesh, the post added.

Jute cellulose is a biodegradable material. Currently, there is no machine available in the country to manufacture such pads, which is a barrier to scalability.

With the money won from the award, Farhana will conduct an industrial trial for mass production, develop a business plan, and explore options for further scale-up and waste management, according to icddr,b.

"We will make a prototype of the machine with the award money, which will have a capacity to produce around 1,000 pads every day. We already have talked to a private company for this," Farhana Sultana told The Daily Star yesterday.

The industrial trial will also assess the compatibility, compressibility and stretchability of the pad, and conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis with other commercially available disposable sanitary pads, the post revealed.

She said the objective of the innovation project was to make a biodegradable and low-cost menstrual product from locally produced ingredients.

"Currently, we have a dependency on imported materials to produce menstrual pads. We are also conducting trials of hand-made pads. If we become successful, it would be very good progress," she added.

77pc women victims

FROM PAGE 3

Challenges and way forward", organised by ActionAid Bangladesh, in partnership with Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

The survey also found that three in every four women suffered from mental illness, such as depression and anxiety, while two out of every five women felt insecure after facing cyber violence.

Alarmingly, one in 10 victims attempted suicide or self-harm or suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Additionally, 34.81 percent of women also said they lost their self-esteem and dignity after becoming victims of cyber violence, while 31.11 percent suffered immediate and long-term physical problems, like gastrointestinal and central nervous system disorders, chronic pain, insomnia, etc.

Such violence also forced 30.37 percent to reduce their online activity, which resulted in digital exclusion, the survey also found.

The percentage of women who reported sexual harassment online was comparatively low: only 23.70 percent took no action out of fear, after such an incident, while 13 percent treated it casually.

Only 15.56 percent reported the incidents to police; 2.22 percent reported them to lawyers, while 43.40 percent shared them with their friends and parents, the survey added.

In terms of making formal complaints, more than half of the respondents of the survey complained to the government's cybercrime investigation division, while only 31.6 percent complained to the nearest police station, and 15.8 percent called the national emergency helpline -- 999.

No respondents called 109, the national helpline centre for violence against women and children.

Among those who did not complain, 47.41 percent said making a formal complaint does not help, 43.10 percent said they were not sure about the outcome, while 30.17 percent said they didn't know where to file a complaint.

Besides, many did not complain fearing

the stigma and further harassment.

The survey questionnaire was promoted among women through Facebook, and a total of 269 women responded.

The survey respondents recommended developing a coordinated strategy with the existing government reporting options.

They also recommended creating a chatbot in every app and website for violence reporting, run by Bangladesh Police and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, to make mediums to file complaints more accessible to teenage victims, many of whom prefer chatting over calling a number.

Additionally, they suggested developing specific communication materials for different social media platforms using simple language and infographics to raise public awareness about online violence.

Taslima Yasmin, associate professor of law at Dhaka University, said ensuring orientation of the parents and teachers in schools is crucial regarding the safe use of the Internet.

"We don't want our girl children to discontinue the use of the internet due to the lack of cyber security," Yasmin further said.

Nijera Kori coordinator Khushi Kabir said there should be a powerful social support system so that survivors know they can seek assistance if and when they need it.

"We also need to think about how we can hold Facebook accountable [for allowing hate speech]," she added.

Barrister Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), said, "Although the lawyers are supposed to provide legal support to the victims, they are not coming for help because on our end many of us don't know what kind of responses should be provided [in cases of cyber violence]."

Lawyers usually urge the victims to file a case, but in such cases, filing a case will not bring any effective solution, Sara Hossain said.

"Rather, there is a need for immediate response," she added.

**To-Let in Bashundhara Area**

House # 81, Road # 2, Block # A, 1st Floor, 2nd Floor, 7th Floor & 8th Floor, 1800 sq. ft. 3-Bed, 4-Bath. House for rent with Living, Dining, Garage & modern fittings. Foreigner will be given Preference. Mobile: 01762-327361, 01795-594960, 01718-553961

**LAND FOR SALE**

On main Dhaka-Mawa highway. 50 shotok land located in Keraniganj. Just 100 metre before Dhaleshwari Toll Plaza opposite to Shamsu Filling Station. Contact: 01711298777.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Govt. Shah Sultan College, Bogura  
Sherpur Road, Banani, Bogura  
Website: [www.govssc.edu.bd](http://www.govssc.edu.bd)

Memo No. gssc/bog/idgsp/cedp/2021/225 Date: 24/11/2021

**e-Tender Notice 03/2021-2022**

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	629722	Renovation and Refurbishment of ICT Lab, Library, Common Room, Class Rooms & Others	15 Dec 2021, 11.30	15 Dec 2021, 14.00

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

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 15 Dec 2021, 11.30am.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Professor Md. Shahidul Alam-8424**  
Principal  
Govt. Shah Sultan College, Bogura  
Phone: 051-65249  
E-mail: [cedpspogovtshahsultancollege@gmail.com](mailto:cedpspogovtshahsultancollege@gmail.com)

GD-2156

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ পরিচালিত পরিবেশ।

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়  
সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, কুষ্টিয়া

**সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ০৩/২০২১-২০২২ তারিখঃ ২৪/১১/২০২১খ্রিঃ

**“বৃক্ষরোপণে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জাতীয় পুরস্কার-২০২১”**

এতদ্বারা কুষ্টিয়া, চুয়াডাঙ্গা ও মেহেরপুর জেলার জনসাধারণ, শিক্ষা/ধর্মীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান, সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি, স্বায়তশাসিত সংস্থা, বৃক্ষ গবেষণা/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবনে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান ও এনজিও প্রধানগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বৃক্ষরোপণে কৃতিত্বপূর্ণ অবদানের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত ০৭ (সাত)টি শ্রেণীতে বৃক্ষরোপণে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জাতীয় পুরস্কার-২০২১ প্রদান করার জন্য আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানগণের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনপত্রের ফরম কুষ্টিয়া, মেহেরপুর ও চুয়াডাঙ্গা জেলার সকল উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের দপ্তরসহ অত্র সামাজিক বন বিভাগের আওতাধীন সকল এসএফ এনটিসি/এসএফপিসি (নার্সারী) কেন্দ্রে পাওয়া যাবে। প্রতিটি শ্রেণীর জন্য পৃথক পৃথক আবেদনপত্রের ফরম যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা/সংশ্লিষ্ট ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তার নিকট আগামী ১৫/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে দাখিলের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

জাতব্য অন্যান্য বিষয়াদি উপরোল্লিখিত দপ্তরসমূহে যোগাযোগপূর্বক জানা যাবে।

**বৃক্ষরোপণে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর জাতীয় পুরস্কার-২০২১ঃ**

**“নিম্নোক্ত ০৭ (সাত)টি শ্রেণীতে প্রদান করা হবে”**

ক. প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়/উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়/এবডেদারী মাদ্রাসা/সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা/কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

খ. ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/উপজেলা পরিষদ/জেলা পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন/অধিদপ্তর/পরিদপ্তর/সেক্টর কর্পোরেশন/প্রতিষ্ঠান/এনজিও/ক্লাব/স্বচ্ছসেবী সংস্থা।

গ. ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ে বৃক্ষরোপণ।

ঘ. ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন নার্সারী।

ঙ. বাড়ির ছাদে বাগান সৃজন।

চ. বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক সৃজিত বাগান (উপকূলীয় এলাকায় সৃজিত বাগানসহ অন্যান্য সকল ধরনের বাগান)।

ছ. বৃক্ষ গবেষণা/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবন।

ছালেহ মোঃ শোয়াব খান  
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা  
সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, কুষ্টিয়া  
ফোনঃ ০২৪৭৮৮৫০৭৫  
Email: [dfokushtia@gmail.com](mailto:dfokushtia@gmail.com)

জিডি-২১৫৪

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১  
(রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)

প্রধান কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা

[erecruitment.bb.org.bd](http://erecruitment.bb.org.bd)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৮২/২০২১ তারিখঃ ০৭ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪২৮  
২২ নভেম্বর ২০২১

**দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এ ১৬-২০তম ফ্রেডের ১০ ক্যাটাগরি পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনুষ্ঠেয় লিখিত পরীক্ষার আসন বিন্যাস ও সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ এ ১৬-২০তম ফ্রেডের ১০ ক্যাটাগরি পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২০/২০২০, তারিখঃ ১৮/০২/২০২০ এর সূত্রে নিম্নোক্ত ১০ ক্যাটাগরি পদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত হবেঃ

ক্র. নং.	পদের নাম	পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র	পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও বার	পরীক্ষার সময়
০১	নিরাপত্তা সহকারী (পুরুষ)	ড. মাহবুবুর রহমান মোস্তাফিজ, মাতুয়াইল, ডেমরা রোড, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা-১৩৬২।	০৪/১২/২০২১ শনিবার	সকাল ১০:০০টা হতে ১১:০০টা
০২	নিরাপত্তা সহকারী (মহিলা)	লালমাটিয়া উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়, ৯/১৫, ব্রক-ডি, লালমাটিয়া, ঢাকা-১২০৭।		
০৩	টেকনিশিয়ান (পুর)			
০৪	টেকনিশিয়ান (মেকানিক্যাল ও ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)			
০৫	টেকনিশিয়ান (ইউটিলিটি)			
০৬	টেকনিশিয়ান (অফসোর্স প্রোট মেকিং)			
০৭	জুনিয়র টেকনিশিয়ান (মেকানিক্যাল ও ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)	লালমাটিয়া উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়, ৯/১৫, ব্রক-ডি, লালমাটিয়া, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	১০/১২/২০২১ শুক্রবার	সকাল ১০:০০টা হতে ১১:০০টা
০৮	ডিম্বি/বউটার	সেন্ট্রাল উইমেন্স কলেজ, ১৩/২, অজর দাস লেন, টিকালি, ঢাকা-১২০৩		বিকাল ০৩:০০টা হতে ০৪:০০টা
০৯	জুনিয়র কোয়ার্টার (পিসন-৪, সার্ভিস বয়-১)	লালমাটিয়া উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়, ৯/১৫, ব্রক-ডি, লালমাটিয়া, ঢাকা-১২০৭।	১১/১২/২০২১ শনিবার	বিকাল ০৩:০০টা হতে ০৪:০০টা
১০	সহকারী	ড. মাহবুবুর রহমান মোস্তাফিজ, মাতুয়াইল, ডেমরা রোড, যাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা-১৩৬২।	২৪/১২/২০২১ শুক্রবার	সকাল ১০:০০টা হতে ১১:০০টা

২। ‘সহকারী’ ব্যতীত অন্যান্য পদের পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণে প্রার্থীগণ আগামী ২৫/১১/২০২১ তারিখ থেকে পরীক্ষা শুরু করার অব্যবহিত পূর্ব পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (<http://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) হতে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।

৩। ‘সহকারী’ পদে ইতোপূর্বে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকারী প্রার্থীগণ আগামী ২১/১২/২০২১ তারিখ থেকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট হতে ড্রাফট প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করার সুযোগ পাবেন। নতুনভাবে কোনো প্রার্থীকে প্রবেশপত্র ইস্যু করা হবে না।

৪। ‘টেকনিশিয়ান (মেকানিক্যাল ও ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)’ ও ‘সহকারী’ পদে ২০১৩ সালে এবং ‘নিরাপত্তা সহকারী (মহিলা)’ ও ‘জুনিয়র টেকনিশিয়ান (মেকানিক্যাল ও ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)’ পদে ২০১৬ সালে ম্যানুয়াল পদ্ধতিতে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র তাদের স্থায়ী ঠিকানা ব্যবহার প্রেরণ করা হবে। প্রবেশপত্র না পেলে সংশ্লিষ্ট পরীক্ষার অব্যবহিত পূর্বের ০৩ (তিন) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১, রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা (প্রধান ভবনের যষ্ঠ তলা) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

৫। ম্যানুয়াল পদ্ধতিতে আবেদনকারী বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র এসপিবিএলের প্রশাসন বিভাগ হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট পরীক্ষার অব্যবহিত পূর্বের ০৫ (পাঁচ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

৬। পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশের পূর্বে প্রয়োজনীয় চেকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য পরীক্ষা শুরুর কমপক্ষে ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে পরীক্ষার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতিরেকে কোন প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

৭। পরীক্ষার হলে প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতীত কোন ধরনের কাগজ, বই, মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, স্মার্টওয়াচ ও অন্যান্য ইলেক্ট্রনিক ডিভাইস নিয়ে প্রবেশ করা যাবে না।

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

৯। পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে কোনরূপ টিএ/ডিএ দেয়া হবেনা।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-০৮১৮  
তারিখঃ ২৪/১১/২০২১

স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
মোঃ গোলাম মোস্তফা  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক

ব্যার্থকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

জিডি-২১৬০





In this recent photo, local children are seen negotiating a payment for carrying a motorbike on the under-construction flood bypass of Teesta barrage in Doani area of Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

NILPHAMARI-LALMONIRHAT ROAD

# Sufferings unbounded

As road communications between the two districts remain snapped for a month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Thousands have been suffering immensely since October 20 when flash floods washed away a 610-meter-long section of flood bypass in Doani area of Lalmonirhat.

The bypass is an integral part of the Teesta barrage and direct road link between Nilphamari and Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat.

While visiting the site recently, different contractors, engaged by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), were seen conducting repair work on the bypass.

As dredgers were being used to fill up five to six feet depth of the site with sand, locals including children and elderly were seen struggling to wade in watery sand.

Many local children were seen carrying people's belongings or pushing their motorbikes in exchange for money.

Atiar Rahman, a government employee from Borokhata village in Lalmonirhat, has to use the road every day to commute between his house and workplace in Dimla upazila.

With the scorching sun above, people have been falling sick all the time, while passing through the sand and mud on the road, he said.

With the scorching sun above, people have been falling sick all the time, while passing through the sand and mud on the road.

Because not even the lightest of vehicles can pass through the place easily, valuable time is being wasted and money being spent to carry commodities, said Shafuiddin, a trader from Sadhur Bazar in Hatibandha upazila.

Farhanul Haque, vice president of Nilphamari Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said highest priority should be given to repair the Nilphamari-Burimari-Lalmonirhat road via the Teesta barrage, as this is the shortest road to transport goods to and from the Burimari land port.

Contacted, Asfauddoula, BWDB's executive engineer for Dalia Division, said they already started urgent repair work on the flood bypass in order to restore road communications.

A Tk 1.5-crore proposal to reconstruct the bypass is also pending with the higher authorities, he also said.

## Some MPs violating codes

FROM PAGE 12

At the meeting, the EC also asked the law enforcers to step up security measures and advance intelligence surveillance at the pockets where usually election violence takes place to prevent any untoward incident, according to meeting participants.

Until yesterday noon, at least 40 people were killed across the country in violence centring on the staggered UP polls, which began in June.

A notice has been issued informing that members of the parliament and ministers cannot stay in the area, Huda said while talking to media after the meeting.

"At the meeting, we agreed that there should be steps such that they [MPs] cannot violate the electoral code of conduct," he said, adding that allegations of throwing weight have surfaced against only a few MPs and ministers.

The EC is investigating the matter, Huda said.

"If they are found guilty, we will take action," he said, while urging the magistrates to stay vigilant during the polls.

The EC have no official data on how many people were killed in polls violence; the commission did not get first-hand information, so they need to depend on secondary data, said a member of the

commission requesting anonymity.

"This creates scope for confusion," he said, adding that it was tough for returning officers who are upazila fisheries, agriculture or bank officials to bring allegations of "violation of electoral code of conduct" against influential people, let alone MPs.

It is impossible to stop the violence by guarding every neighbourhood, Huda said.

The police headquarters have asked all police force to remain on alert so that no untoward incident takes place centring on the third phase of the UP polls, said Md Kamruzzaman, assistant inspector general of police headquarter.

"We do not want a repeat of the incident in Cumilla," he said, adding that putting police on alert is a "continuous process".

Meanwhile, the fourth phase of the UP election slated for December 23 is likely to be deferred to December 26 due to the Higher Secondary Certificate exams, said an EC member.

A total of 840 UPs were set to go to the polls for the fourth phase.

The decision of deferral of election will be finalised after holding discussions with the commissioner, Huda said.

The first phase of elections was held in June and September and the second phase was on November 11.

## Bangladesh not invited

FROM PAGE 12

has long been condemned for his far-right views and was a staunch supporter of controversial former US president Donald Trump.

Rights groups have questioned whether the summit can push those invited world leaders, some of whom accused of harbouring authoritarian tendencies, to take meaningful action, Reuters reports.

The Summit for Democracy is a flagship presidential initiative that illustrates the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to putting democracy and human rights at the heart of US foreign policy.

A broad and diverse group of world leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector will be joining

the summit that will focus on three themes: strengthening democracy and countering authoritarianism, fighting corruption, and promoting respect for human rights.

A top US official last week told The Daily Star: "We couldn't invite all the democracies in the world. So, we used a UN index of some sort. How the UN categorised democracies... A few democracies are going to gather and say what we have done and we need to do."

US South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau Deputy Assistant Secretary Ambassador Kelly Keiderling during her visit to Bangladesh said, "In the next summit, which will be in two years, we can expand that and hopefully Bangladesh can participate in it."

## EU considers booster shots

FROM PAGE 12

Ammon said that boosters will increase protection against infections caused by waning immunity and "could potentially reduce the transmission in the population and prevent additional hospitalisations and deaths".

She advised countries with low levels of vaccinations to speed up their rollouts and warned of high risks of a further spike in deaths and hospitalisations in Europe in December and January if the recommended measures were not introduced.

The European Commission is expected to take the advice on boosters into

consideration when proposing changes to the use of Covid-19 certificates later this week, officials said.

Many EU countries have already begun giving booster doses to their populations but are using different criteria to select groups that are prioritised and using different intervals between primary vaccinations and boosters.

Austria, which has this week reintroduced a lockdown amid a spike in cases, has decided to give boosters after four months, whereas in Italy the additional dose can be administered after five months.

BANGABANDHU MURAL

## Katakhali mayor loses AL post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Paba upazila unit of the Awami League in an emergency meeting yesterday revoked the post of Abbas Ali as the convener of the party's Katakhali municipality unit.

The action against Abbas Ali, the mayor of Katakhali municipality in Rajshahi's Paba upazila, came after his controversial remarks about a mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman went viral in social media.

The Paba upazila AL also issued a notice to Abbas, asking him to show cause within three days as to why he would not be expelled from the party.

The audio clip of Abbas that had been doing rounds on social media since Sunday night has been drawing widespread criticism and produced outpourings of protests on the streets of Rajshahi city, Paba and Katakhali towns.

Meanwhile, Abdul Momin, a ward councillor of Rajshahi City Corporation, in a complaint filed under the Digital Security Act with Boalia Police Station, accused Abbas Ali of making demeaning comments.

Two other complaints, filed with Rajpara and Chandrima police stations, are currently under preliminary investigation, said police.

In a 1.51-minute audio clip, Mayor Abbas was heard saying, "I'm not allowing construction of the Bangabandhu mural... it is not right as per the Islamic Shariah laws. I will do whatever it takes to stop it."

In another clip, 12 minutes in length, he was heard making demeaning comments about AL Presidium Member and Rajshahi city Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton.

Freedom fighter and Paba upazila AL President Yeasin Ali said they would wait for Abbas' reply to the show cause notice before making their recommendations to the AL central committee.

Claiming that the audio clips were not his, Mayor Abbas Ali said, "It's a conspiracy against me."

## Rape accused gets boat symbol in UP polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Mir Liaquat Ali, accused in a rape case, has become the candidate with Awami League's (AL) boat symbol in upcoming union parishad (UP) polls in Sirajdikhan's Kola union.

Liaquat is currently in Dhaka Central Jail.

Earlier on Tuesday, AL published the list of party candidates for the fourth phase of UP election. The list contains the name of Liaquat, chairman of Kola UP, also an accused in a case filed for raping an adolescent in 2019.

Victim's mother lodged a complaint against him with Munshiganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal.

Sirajdikhan Upazila AL President and Upazila Parishad Chairman Mohiuddin Ahmed said four candidates had applied for the nomination with boat symbol from Kola union in the upcoming UP polls.

Of them, incumbent Chairman Liaquat, who applied for the nomination from jail, has been nominated by the party as the chairman candidate.

Voting in 14 unions of Sirajdikhan upazila is scheduled to be held on December 26.

## The HC has turned

FROM PAGE 12

cases were being moved, heard and disposed of at the HC.

On November 2, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain questioned the HC orders that granted anticipatory bail in cases involving serious offences, including murder and rape.

"If the High Court grants anticipatory bail even in murder, rape, and heroin [drugs] related cases, then what should we [the Appellate Division] do? Will not we stay those orders? We must protect the country," he said.

"Around 1,000 orders of bail are passed by the High Court in a week. But the state appeals against only 50 to 100 of such orders before the Appellate Division."

## Point of no return

FROM PAGE 12

Mukti Bahini attacked a razakar camp in Mirsharai area today. They killed three razakars and recovered a number of rifles and some ammunition.

Mukti Bahini raided Gara area of Sylhet district today and cleared up to Goyainghat-Radhanagar. During the raid, Mukti Bahini killed 10 enemy soldiers and captured large quantity of ammunitions.

Mukti Bahini encircled Mohanganj Police Station and Panihata camp of the occupation troops in Mymensingh district.

Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani irregular forces in Monakhali area in Kushtia district. In the action 12 Rangers were killed, 12 others were injured. On the same day, Mukti Bahini attacked with mortars on the occupation troops in Amanganda area killing two and injuring four enemy soldiers.

During the night of November 25, 1971, Mukti Bahini raided Kazipur Police Station and killed 16 West Pakistani Policemen and enemy irregular soldiers.

On the same date, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani troops position at Madhupur killing six enemy troops.

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

## Zahangir now faces

FROM PAGE 12

capital's Gulshan area.

Other three people, against whom the contempt of court rule was issued, are Alfaz from Painshal village under Joydebpur Police Station in Gazipur, Harunur Rashid alias Thandu of Paschim Dogori village and Fazlul Huq of BK Bari village under the same police station.

Following a writ petition filed by Ashraf, the HC on October 8, 2018 asked the respondents, including Zahangir, to refrain from entering the land of the petitioner in BK Bari Mouza under Joydevpur Police Station or doing mutation of the land in the name of others or anyway and not to disturb the peaceful possession of the petitioner for three months.

Later, the HC directive was extended. On June 21 this year, the court asked the respondents not to disturb the peaceful possession of the petitioner.

Despite the HC orders, the respondents, including Zahangir, prevented Ashraf from entering the land. Being helpless, Ashraf filed a case with Joydebpur Police Station on August 18 this year.

Even then, Zahangir and three other accused were threatening Ashraf, petitioner's counsel Abul Kalam Azad told The Daily Star.

Amid such a situation, Ashraf filed the contempt of court petition with the HC against the four three weeks ago, the lawyer added.

# 'I don't want anything from anyone'

Born with congenital deformity, Shukur Ali defies the odds grabbing the handlebar of a rickshaw

MOHSIN MILON

"Begging is disgraceful and I feel ashamed of begging," said Shukur Ali, 30, who was born with congenital deformity which does not let him walk. Despite having a pair of deformed legs, he runs a four-member family with his own income.

Shukur, son of Abdur Rashid of Balia Vekutia village in Arabpur union under Sadar upazila, runs a battery-powered rickshaw in Jashore town for earning his bread. In addition to bearing the family expenses, Shukur also has to pay Tk 1600 loan installment every week.

This correspondent found him in Daratana area of the town recently. He was busy asking pedestrians whether they needed a rickshaw. Donning a blue T-shirt and a cap, Shukur Ali unlike others with the same condition, did not want to be a burden to his family or society.

"I find it disrespectful asking people for money that's why I grasped the handlebar of the rickshaw," he said. His father Abdur Rashid is also physically challenged and he also pulls a motorised rickshaw.

"I never thought of my physical disability as a burden. I always wanted to move forward defying my odds," said a confident Shukur Ali.

He started earning his bread from a very early age. He started selling shoes setting up a makeshift shop on the banks of

'Laldighi' in Jashore town.

Shukur Ali got married 12 years ago as the business was quite good.

He is now the father of two children. They are Sohana Khatun, 10, and one year and two months old son Abdul Hakim. His children are also physically challenged.

Shukur Ali said that his business was doing well but it had to be shut since the municipal authorities started the construction of a building on 'Laldighi' a few years ago. He didn't have any choice but to beg. But his conscience did not let him do so.

He then bought a battery-run rickshaw taking a loan of Tk 60,000 from two NGOs.

Shukur Ali earns Tk 500 to Tk 600 every day by driving the rickshaw from morning to late night.

"If any other vehicle collides with the rickshaw in a congested road, I am likely to fall down," he said adding that the streets of the town are congested during the day but empty at night.

So, he is more comfortable driving his rickshaw at night. Despite seeing my disability, the patrol police held my rickshaw for a few days, he alleged.

He gets an allowance of Tk 4500 from the government twice a year.

"I don't want anything from anyone. I want to spend the rest of days working hard," he said.



Born with congenital deformity, Shukur Ali struggles to stay afloat on the tumultuous journey of life defying the odds.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## RMG workers' demo turns

FROM PAGE 12

they added.

Asked, Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station, admitted that the AL office was ransacked.

There were a few policemen at the station when the attack took place, he said, adding that additional police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control later.

The OC, however, said no worker was beaten up.

The clash between the workers and the ruling party activists and leaders took place as the party men protested when the workers tore off some posters, he said.

None was arrested over the incident as of yesterday evening, the OC said, adding that three cases would be filed in connection with the incident.

Billal Hossain, who runs the restaurant that was vandalised, said the workers left their workplace and started protesting around 9:00am.

Around 11:00am, they attacked the party office and his restaurant.

Some party men stood nearby but they could not stop them, he said.

The protestors blocked several roads during their three-hour protest, causing traffic congestion in the area.

The workers said they would take to the streets again with the demand for salary hike as their house rent and daily expenditures have gone up recently.

Workers demanded that the factory owners introduce night allowances and increase their wages.

Shariful Islam, a garment worker, said the landlord of his house in Pallabi increased the rent by Tk 1,000 from January next year.

Besides, prices of daily essentials and transport costs have also increased.

"As a result, it has become quite difficult to run my four-member family with my present income of Tk 13,000 to Tk 14,000 a month, including overtime bill," he added.

Visiting some garment factories in Mirpur-10, -13, -14 and Senpara areas, it was seen that most of those were closed.

## 'We want safe road'

FROM PAGE 1

Hasan's father, told the gathered media personnel at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Around 11:30 am, while crossing the road in front of the Gulistan Hall Market, a compactor vehicle of the Dhaka South City Corporation rammed into Hasan, a second-year student.

While he was rushed to the DMCH, the thrust of the vehicle was too much for the 17-year-old. Doctors declared him dead around 12:15 pm, according to Salahuddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station.

"Reckless driving took his life," said Alam, a bookstore proprietor at Nilkhet.

Police seized the vehicle and detained its driver Russel Khan from the spot.

As the word spread of Hasan's accident, students of Notre Dame College combusted into a street protest demanding justice.

They thronged to the Nagar Bhaban and attempted to enter the compound but failed. Later, they blocked the road in Gulistan where Hasan died.

"We want justice. We want to live. We want safe roads," they chanted. There were placards with the same slogans, while some inscribed the demands in their clothes.

Meanwhile, the DSCC formed a three-member committee headed by its Chief Waste Management Officer to determine how the accident took place and identify those responsible and make recommendations for averting such accidents in future.

The committee has been asked to submit the report within seven working days. It will also provide recommendations to avoid any accidents in future.

Hasan's body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Nasa launches spacecraft

FROM PAGE 12

Tuesday (0621 GMT Wednesday) from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

"Asteroid Dimorphos: we're coming for you!" Nasa tweeted after the launch, adding later the DART spacecraft had successfully separated from the rocket's second stage.

"We've received our first signals from #DARTMission, which will continue to roll out its solar arrays in the coming hours and prepare for its 10-month, one-way trip to the asteroid," it added.

Dimorphos is a "moonlet" around 525 feet (160 meters, or two Statues of Liberty) wide, that circles a much larger asteroid

called Didymos (2,500 feet in diameter). The pair orbit the Sun together.

Impact should take place in the fall of 2022, when the binary asteroid system is 6.8 million miles (11 million kilometers) from Earth, almost the nearest point they ever get.

"What we're trying to learn is how to deflect a threat," Nasa's top scientist Thomas Zurburchen said of the \$330-million project, the first of its kind.

To be clear, the asteroids in question pose no risk to our planet. But they belong to a class of bodies known as Near-Earth Objects (NEOs), which approach within 30 million miles.



# Merkel era ends

German parties seal coalition deal

REUTERS, Berlin

German Social Democrat Olaf Scholz yesterday said he had reached a deal with the Free Democrats and Greens to form a new coalition government that will bring the curtain down on the Angela Merkel era.

According to 177-page agreement struck after two months of talks, the three parties want to accelerate public investment in green technology and digitalisation while returning to strict debt limits from 2023 onwards.

The will install Germany's first federal coalition between the Social Democrats (SPD), libertarian Free Democrats (FDP) and the ecologist Greens, and end 16 years of Merkel-led conservative government, marking a new era for relations with Europe and the rest of the world.

"We want to dare to make more progress," Scholz told a news conference in Berlin, flanked by the FDP and Greens leaders. "We will massively invest in Germany to keep it at the forefront."

Merkel leaves big shoes to fill. She has navigated Germany and Europe through multiple crises and been a champion of liberal democracy in the face of rising authoritarianism worldwide. Her critics say she has managed rather than solved problems and leaves her successor tough decisions on many fronts.

The alliance - named a traffic light coalition after the three parties' respective colours - has a majority in the lower house of parliament and hopes the government will be sworn in early next month after the parties ratify the coalition pact.

It faces immediate challenges, with Germany tackling its worst Covid-19 surge yet and Europe grappling with the fallout from Brexit and a crisis on the EU's border with Belarus.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) receives a bouquet of flowers from German Finance Minister, Vice-Chancellor and the Social Democrats (SPD) candidate for Chancellor Olaf Scholz prior to the cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## MORE NEWS

### US-Taliban talks 'next week'

The United States will resume talks with the Taliban next week in Qatar, addressing among other issues the fight against terrorism and the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. The American delegation will be led by the US special representative for Afghanistan, Tom West, for the planned two weeks of discussions, State Department spokesman Ned Price said Tuesday. A first session between the two sides was held October 9-10 in the Qatari capital Doha, where US diplomats overseeing relations with Afghanistan transferred after the Taliban takeover.

### Australia lists Hezbollah as 'terrorist organisation'

Australia yesterday listed all of Hezbollah as a "terrorist organisation", extending an existing ban on armed units to the entire movement, which wields considerable power over Lebanon. Hezbollah defies easy definition -- acting as part political party, part armed group and part provider of basic services to Lebanon's Shiite community. No reason was given for the timing of Canberra's decision, which comes as Lebanon reels from spiralling political and economic crises. Nearly 80 percent of the Lebanese population is estimated to be living below the poverty line.

### 'no progress' in Iran talks

The UN nuclear watchdog's head yesterday said there had been "no progress" in talks with Iran to resolve disputes over the monitoring of the country's atomic programme, a day after returning from Tehran. Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told a quarterly meeting of the agency's board that his talks in Tehran were "inconclusive", despite being "constructive". Grossi's comment came ahead of November 29 talks between 2015 nuclear deal parties.



### Sweden gets first woman PM

Sweden's parliament elected Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson as the country's first woman prime minister yesterday, hours after she clinched a last-minute deal that gave her victory by the slimmest of possible margins. The 54-year-old, who took over as leader of the Social Democrats earlier this month, reached a deal with the Left Party late on Tuesday to raise pensions in exchange for its backing in yesterday's vote in parliament. All other Nordic countries -- Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland -- have seen women lead their governments.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## BIDEN'S DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

# China, Russia furious over 'divisive' guest list

AFP, Beijing

China and Russia reacted furiously yesterday to US President Joe Biden's planned democracy summit, which will exclude them, with Beijing angered over an invitation for Taiwan and the Kremlin branding it divisive.

The global conference was a campaign pledge by the US president, who has placed the struggle between democracies and "autocratic governments" at the heart of his foreign policy.

The inclusion of Taiwan, and not China, led to an angry rebuke from Beijing, which said it "firmly opposes" the invitation to "the so-called Summit for Democracy."

Beijing claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory to be retaken one day, by force if necessary. Around 110 countries have been invited to the virtual summit.

But Russia said the guest list, released Tuesday on the State Department website, showed that the United States "prefers to create new dividing lines, to divide countries into those that -- in their opinion -- are good, and those that are bad."

"More and more countries prefer to decide

themselves how to live," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding that Washington is "trying to privatise the term 'democracy'."

The invitation is a major coup for Taipei at a time when China is ramping up its campaign to keep Taiwan locked out of international bodies.

Taiwan said the gathering would be a rare opportunity to burnish its credentials on the world stage. Only 15 countries officially recognise Taipei over Beijing.

The long-advertised meeting will take place online on December 9 and 10 ahead of an in-person meeting at its second edition next year.

Despite concerns, India, Pakistan were invited to the summit. Turkey did not make the list. Neither did the city-state of Singapore, or Bangladesh, one of the world's most populous democracies.

In the Middle East, only Israel and Iraq were invited. The traditional Arab allies of the US -- Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- are all absent.

Biden also invited Brazil, which is led by controversial far-right President Jair Bolsonaro.

# Israel, Morocco sign security agreement

AFP, Morocco

Israel and Morocco yesterday signed a security agreement making it easier for Rabat to acquire high-tech exports from Israel's defence industry, as the countries expand ties following their normalisation deal last year.

The memorandum of understanding signed in Rabat by visiting Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz and Morocco's minister in charge of defence administration, Abdellatif Loudiyi, was "unprecedented" for the Jewish state, an Israeli official said.

The Morocco deal marks the first-of-its-kind agreement with a majority Arab nation, the official said.

Israel has full diplomatic relations with only four Arab countries: Egypt, Jordan, UAE and Bahrain.

The Morocco deal came as Gantz made the first visit by an Israeli defence minister to the North African kingdom.

Morocco and Israel previously set up low-level ties in 1993 but Rabat broke them off at the start of the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, in 2000.

Rabat normalised ties with the Jewish state last December, shortly after similar announcements by the UAE and Bahrain. Sudan followed suit in January but has yet to build relations.

Those pacts brokered by former US president Donald Trump infuriated the Palestinians, who urged the Arab world to maintain its stand against recognising Israel until it agrees to a peace deal establishing a Palestinian state with its capital in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem.



## ECONOMIC CRISIS AFGHANISTAN

# Child marriage rises amid poverty

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

Jobless and engulfed in debt, Afghan brick kiln worker Fazal said the country's imploding economy had left him with a stark choice - marry off his young daughters, or risk the family starving to death.

Last month, he received a \$3,000 dowry payment after handing over his 13- and 15-year-old daughters to men more than twice their age. If the money runs out, he may have to marry off his seven-year-old, he said.

"I had no other way to feed my family and pay off my debt. What else could I have done?" he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from the Afghan capital, Kabul. "I desperately hope I won't have to marry off my youngest daughter."

Child marriage has increased in tandem with soaring poverty since the Taliban seized power 100 days ago on Aug. 15, with reports of destitute parents even promising baby girls for future marriage in exchange for dowries, women's rights activists said.

They predicted the rate of child marriage - which was prevalent even before the Taliban's return - could nearly double in the coming months.

"It paralyses (my) heart hearing these stories ... It's not a marriage. It's child rape," said prominent Afghan women's rights campaigner Wazhma Frogh.

She said she was hearing of cases every day - often involving girls under 10 years of age, although it was not clear if young girls would be forced to have sex before reaching puberty.

UN children's agency UNICEF said there were credible reports of families offering daughters as young as 20-days old for future marriage in return for a dowry.

Crippled by drought and economic collapse, Afghanistan is set to become the world's worst humanitarian crisis, according to UN agencies.

As winter sets in, they said millions were on the brink of starvation, and 97 percent of households could fall below the poverty line by mid-2022.

The headline Islamist group's sudden return to power saw billions of dollars in Afghan assets frozen abroad and most international aid halted. Food prices have rocketed and millions are jobless or have not been paid.

Frogh said families were marrying off their girls to reduce the number of mouths they had to feed, and to obtain dowries, which typically range from \$500 to \$2,000, with younger children attracting higher sums.

Parents are also handing over daughters to settle debts.

Rights experts said the Taliban's closure of girls' high schools was also pushing parents to marry off their daughters.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Noakhali  
Phone: 0321-61606, Fax: 0321-61606  
Email: ee\_noakh@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. ৩০১৭  
Dated: ২৩/১১/২০২১

**Corrigendum Notice (Amendment)**  
It is hereby notified to all concern that the following amendment have been made to the invitation of work "Construction of DFO Residence with Earthwork, Boundary wall, Approach road, Small culvert etc. at Noakhali Sadar. (WD-37)" Tender ID: 625190 vide Memo No. 2834 dated: 03/11/2021 due to unavoidable circumstance and the amendments shall be as follows.

Tender Notice field name	As mentioned in original Tender Notice	To be Replaces
Tender documents last selling date & time	23/11/2021 16:00	24/11/2021 16:00
Tender closing date & time	24/11/2021 15:00	28/11/2021 15:00
Tender opening date & time	24/11/2021 15:00	28/11/2021 15:00
Last date & time for tender security submission	24/11/2021 14:00	28/11/2021 14:00

**Executive Engineer**  
Noakhali PWD Division  
GD-2155

**বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট**  
(বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)  
শ্রীমঙ্গল-৩২১০, মৌলভীবাজার  
[www.btri.gov.bd](http://www.btri.gov.bd)  
E-mail: [director@btri@gmail.com](mailto:director@btri@gmail.com)  
**সিটিপিটি ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

"বেশী বেশী চা পান করুন, স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন।"

"বেশী বেশী দিকার চা পান করুন, ফলপ্রসূ হার মানে"

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়।
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড।
৩	সজ্ঞাহককারী সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট।
৪	সজ্ঞাহককারী সংস্থার অবস্থান	বিটিআরআই, থানা ও উপজেলা-শ্রীমঙ্গল, জেলা মৌলভীবাজার।
৫	আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	ওটি সিটি ও ওটি সিটি।
৬	সজ্ঞাহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)
৭	দরপত্র নং	বিটিআরআই/২/দরপ-১১৭৫, তারিখঃ ২৩/১১/২০২১ইং
৮	অর্ধের স্থান	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব ভাত হতে।
৯	দরপত্র সিটিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	৩০/১১/২০২১ইং হতে ১৫/১২/২০২১ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থানঃ ১। বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। ২। বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১৭১-১৭২, বায়েজিদ বোস্তামী সড়ক, মাদিরাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম ৩। বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, দিল্লীজো অফিস, ১১১-১১৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা। ৪। বিটিআরআই উপকেন্দ্র, ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম।
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৬/১২/২০২১ইং দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৬/১২/২০২১ইং দুপুর ১২-১০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১২	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়ের পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণক, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধনকরণ সনদপত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, এনুয়াল টার্নওভার ও লিকুইডি এসেট র‌্যাংকিং সার্টিফিকেট দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৩	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা প্রতিটি।
১৪	পণ্যের পরিচিতি	সরবরাহের স্থান টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি সরবরাহের সময় ওটি সিটি ও ওটি সিটি
১৫	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির অর্থ	ফেরতযোগ্য হিসেবে সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন ব্যাংক হতে পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট অনুকূলে ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৬	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা	ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী, পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। ফোনঃ ০৮৬২৬-৭১২২৫; ইমেইলঃ <a href="mailto:director@btri@gmail.com">director@btri@gmail.com</a>
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্র সজ্ঞাহক যে কোন ভাষা অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। খ) বিল হতে সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভ্যাট কর্তন করা হবে এবং সরকার কর্তৃক আরোপিত সকল ধরনের কর্তন প্রযোজ্য হবে। গ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অধবা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অধবা বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

**ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী**  
পরিচালক

জিডি-১১৫২

**বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
শতভাগ রাষ্ট্র মালিকানাধীন ব্যাংক  
[www.basicbanklimited.com](http://www.basicbanklimited.com)

**ব্যাংকের পুরাতন গাড়ী বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র আহবান**  
বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর দাপ্তরিক কাজে ব্যবহৃত নিম্নে উল্লিখিত ১০ (দশ) টি পুরাতন গাড়ী (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) বিভিন্ন জন্য অগ্রাধী দেয়াবশতের নিকট থেকে মুখ বন্ধ থামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। অফিস চলাকালীন বিরতিসমূহে যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে পরিদর্শন করা যাবে। গাড়ীর বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিটিউল অফিসেরতথ্যোগ্য নাদ ২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকার বিনিময়ে ডিসেম্বর ০৯, ২০২১ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ ঢাকাই সেনা কল্যাণ ভবনের ৫ম তলায় অবস্থিত বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ হতে সত্বেই করা যাবে। এক্ষেত্রে, ১ (এক) বা একাধিক গাড়ী ক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র সত্বেই করা যাবে। সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগে স্বাক্ষরিত দরপত্র বাজে ডিসেম্বর ০৯, ২০২১ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একই দিন বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র প্রত্যাখান করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

**গাড়ী সমূহের বিবরণ:**

ক্রম নং	নিবন্ধন নং	ব্র্যান্ড/প্রকার	ধরণ	সিসি	নিবন্ধনের তারিখ	বর্তমান অবস্থান
০১	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-৩৫-১২৭৩	টয়োটা এভেঞ্জা	কার	১৫০০	১৩.০৫.২০১৩	বাবুবাজার শাখা
০২	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-৩৫-১২৭৩	টয়োটা এভেঞ্জা	কার	১৫০০	১৩.০৫.২০১৩	মাতুয়াবাজার শাখা
০৩	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-৩৫-১২৭৩	টয়োটা এভেঞ্জা	কার	১৫০০	১৩.০৫.২০১৩	প্রধান কার্যালয়
০৪	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-৩৩-০৮৪৭	হোন্ডা সিটি এসডি	কার	১৫০০	২৮.১২.২০১১	প্রধান কার্যালয়
০৫	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-৩৩-১৪৫৯	হোন্ডা সিটি এসডি	কার	১৫০০	১৫.১২.২০১১	প্রধান কার্যালয়
০৬	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-২৩-৩৩৩৮	টয়োটা কুরোলা জিএলআই	কার	১৫০০	৩১.০৮.২০০৮	ইসলামপুর শাখা
০৭	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-২৩-১০৮৭	টয়োটা কুরোলা জিএলআই	কার	১৫০০	২৬.০৬.২০০৮	প্রধান কার্যালয়
০৮	ঢাকা মেট্রো-ঢ-৫৩-৪৩৮৮	টয়োটা হাইসেস	মাইক্রো	২৭০০	১৬.০৬.২০০৮	প্রধান কার্যালয়
০৯	ঢাকা মেট্রো-ঢ-৫৩-৬৩৯৬	টয়োটা নোহা	মাইক্রো	২০০৭	১৭.০৬.২০১২	প্রধান কার্যালয়
১০	ঢাকা মেট্রো-জ-১১-০২৪৬	টয়োটা হাইসেস	মাইক্রো	২৭০০	২৩.০১.২০০৭	প্রধান কার্যালয়

**উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক**  
সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

**Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Civil Division-2, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229  
Website: [www.caab.gov.bd](http://www.caab.gov.bd)

File No. 30.31.0000.423.02.017.21.3007  
Date: 22/11/2021

**e-Tender Notice**  
This is for all concerned that e-Tender is invited and published in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following tender. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

SL No.	Tender ID	Brief description of works	Tender Reference No.	Last date & time of submission
1	629389	R.M.O Building during the year 2020-2021 (S.H: Repairing works of CATC store road back side inc. other allied works of CATC Complex) at HSIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.	30.31.0000.401.31.101.21.288/1, Date: 25/03/2021	12-Dec-2021, 16:00
2	624980	O&M of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka during the year 2018-2019 (S.H:- Painting works of operational building- Renewing painting inside and outside surface of Airport Jame Mosque inc. other allied works).	30.31.0000.401.14.171.19.26, Date: 22/01/2020	12-Dec-2021, 16:00
3	618809	R.M.O Building the year 2019-2020 (S.H: Essential repair top surface road inside of CATC Manager Building compound) at HSIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka)	30.31.0000.401.31.254.19.75/1(2), Date: 03/02/2020	12-Dec-2021, 16:00
4	579023	R.M.O, Building during the year 2020-2021 (S.H: Essential repair of renewing door frame, shutter, plaster, painting & replacing sanitary fittings inc. other related works of H-type bldg. units No. 7/21 to 30 = 10 units at Kurmitola R/A at HSIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.	30.31.0000.401.31.217.21.488/1, Dated: 08/05/2021	12-Dec-2021, 16:00

নং- ৩০.৩১.০০০০.০৫১.১৪.০০১.২১/৪৪৫  
তারিখঃ ২৩/১১/২০২১ইং

**Md. Shoriful Islam**  
Executive Engineer (Civil)  
Civil Division-2  
CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka  
Email: [xencd2@caab.gov.bd](mailto:xencd2@caab.gov.bd)

GD- 2146



## IN MEMORY OF HASAN AZIZUL HAQUE

## Two tales of violence from the hands of a master

MURSALIN MOSADDEQUE

Hasan Azizul Haque, who passed away on November 15, 2021, began his career with the publication of the short story “Shokun” in 1960, and since its publication till today, it has shocked and stupefied most readers who have found their way to this unique and masterfully crafted story—reading it is not an experience one forgets easily, or ever.

The story is about a group of boys and the titular *shokun*, a vulture. It aims to shatter our anthropomorphic notions of a vulture as a mere foul smelling creature which feasts on corpses, and the common belief of the innocence of humanity in adolescent boys untainted by the phlegm of adulthood. Boys that young can be mischievous but what takes place in the confines of Haque’s story makes you question the very fabric of humanity and its supposed pretensions of justice and righteousness.

An injured vulture finds itself as an object of vile curiosity by a group of boys who chase the poor creature, drag it when it is incapable of flying or running, pluck its feathers from its still living body.

This appalling spectre of violence shakes



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

Haque, in his work, is commenting on the human ineptitude for self-reflection. Unlike most other left-leaning thinkers and writers, his depiction of injustice and violence that pervades our society is effortless and incisive.

us, but these boys have no clue why they are doing it, they have nothing on their minds about what they want to do to this creature; only an untamable impulse of hatred and a compulsion to inflict hurt overwhelms them. They are filled with disgust at the foul-smelling, dirty-feathered bird and are unable to see that after a long evening of chasing the bird, they don’t look or smell any better themselves. Angry at the bird that feasts on the dead to survive, they inflict pain on the alive whose beating heart they are almost near to feel and

hear. They are unwilling to forgive that the vulture devours newborns who are thrown to the gutter, without registering that it is humans like them who throw their own children away. Picturing the image of who they would inevitably become in their adulthood is what terrifies us, as readers.

Haque, in his work, is commenting on the human ineptitude for self-reflection. Unlike most other left-leaning thinkers and writers, his depiction of injustice and violence that pervades our society is effortless and incisive.

In 1966, Hasan Azizul Haque published his unforgettable story, *Atmoja o Ekti Korobi Gaach* (Shahitya Prakash), which narrates another instance of unspeakable violence. A family displaced by the partition is struggling to survive—a daughter, a wallowing mother, and a father who can barely catch his breath from asthma. They have found no way to survive but commit an unbelievable act of violence. When you first read it, it takes a while to swallow the atrocity; it gets under your skin and that moment of gut wrenching debilitation stays

with you long after you’ve finished reading the book.

Unlike the boys from “Shokun”, the parents in *Atmoja* are completely aware of what they are doing, or should we say, what circumstances have compelled them to do. It makes the story even harder to stomach.

Despite what may appear on the surface, the boys, and the parents, in these two stories, are not active agents of violence. The group of boys are slaves to an instinct they have almost no control over. The geo-political and social upheaval that resulted from the partition in the subcontinent caused millions of families to be uprooted from their homes and livelihood, and for these people, survival has higher priority than social or ethical values, as is evident in *Atmoja o Ekti Korobi Gaach*.

The picture that Haque paints of humanity is bleak, and rightly so. His responsibility as a writer and a free-thinker hardly allows him to revel in sunshine in the face of inequality and injustice.

Now that Hasan Azizul Haque is gone, it will be hard and painful to bear that this world will not hear any more of his stories about people in the margins. There is hardly anything more political than telling stories, especially in choosing whose stories to tell. Haque had dedicated his life’s works to telling the stories of the folks from low socioeconomic class in the suburbs and the countryside. He had a voice unlike any other in world literature and his demise is an irreparable loss.

Mursalín Mosaddeque is a writer who grew up in the suburban town of Rangpur in Northern Bengal.

## BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

## Surrealism and suffering in South Korea

SEJAL RAHMAN

Han Kang’s atmospheric novel, *The Vegetarian* (Portobello, 2016), is an evocative look at the psychosis of a woman plagued by her own humanity. In a masterstroke, Kang creates a world of straightforward prose deliciously juxtaposed with complex characters. While I cannot speak to the veracity of the translation—and there is some debate there—I appreciate Deborah Smith producing an accessible path to this haunting drama as it unfolds over the course of several years. Kang is a South Korean author who has graduated from the prestigious International Writing Program at the University of Iowa and is now working as a professor at the creative writing department at the Seoul Institute of the Arts. In this Anglophone debut, which won her the International Booker Prize in 2016, Kang’s sparse, quiet narrative lulls the reader into a false sense of security only to constantly stun them with the utterly bizarre situations the characters find themselves in. Here I must issue a disclaimer: *The Vegetarian* is not for the faint-hearted. It is a baffling mixture of psychological horror and erotica, and the metaphors we often use to symbolise the birds and the bees have been converted into something quite literal here.

In 183 pages of poetic anguish, I found myself transfixed by some of the most complex fictional characters I have come across. Yeong-Hye, an outwardly dutiful, if slightly one-dimensional, wife has a dream. A rather gory one. Taciturn and melancholic, our protagonist finds herself giving up meat. This single act of agency earns Yeong-Hye her husband’s consternation (who is appalled at Yeong-Hye’s audacity to choose what she can eat), her brother-in-law’s predatory obsession, and her sister’s rude awakening (that she, too, may not be as okay as she would like to believe). The novel’s three-part structure, each devoted to a family member, is often too harrowing to push through, but, with a lightning-quick build-up to the climax, Kang wastes no time in laying bare where the bones hide in this family.

The first act follows the meandering Mr Cheong, Yeong-Hye’s husband. Detached and content with an average life, he reveals his callous disregard for his “completely unremarkable” wife. But he’s not the only disappointing man in this story. We learn of Yeong-Hye’s father, whose abusive ways spared not even a ferocious street-dog; her brother, who inherits their father’s towering temperament; her husband in his cold aloofness; and her brother-in-law, whose artistic indulgences come first no matter the mental state of his subject.

The only other sympathetic character in this story is Yeong-Hye’s sister, In-Hye, the devoted second-mother-figure of the family who knew that the only way to escape their father’s wrath was to take up the mantle of duty. Her self-aware reflections in the final act are heart-breaking;



she wants her sister to live, but identifies with her desire to give in. Ultimately, Kang’s choice to starve the narrative of any interaction with Yeong-Hye’s thoughts—save for sporadic monologues revealing her dreams—reinforces the distance we, as readers, feel from her. Because she remains isolated, dominated by everybody else, we too are surprised when she finally takes a stand.

With a single decision, like a tree caught in a bad hailstorm, Yeong-Hye uproots the stability of those around her. Her actions express her mind’s break from reality: she runs away to forests unknown, performing laborious handstands with no thought of the unhealthy rush of blood to her head—after all, why should it be unsafe? She photosynthesises; waits for her rebirth to commence. It is a daunting section to read, and each scant syllable uttered by Yeong-Hye speaks of a resolution she believes herself to be on the cusp of.

In this quest to overcome violence, Yeong-Hye recognises in humanity what we tend to overlook often: murderous aggression. The savage face of her dreams is in her “stomach”—it is always a part of her. Her acts of resistance against this innate callousness lead to one goal: to cast the face away. Whatever she does in the novel, she does because she yearns for her true self. And it is not human. Her true consciousness lies with the oldest spiritual force in existence: nature. Kang does not tell us what happens to our protagonist, and as one for non-conclusive endings, I am grateful. Because, while in the novel Yeong-Hye is pumped with IVs, pinned down by careless hands and stifled under the watchful gaze of irritated psychiatrists, I can picture her where she belongs: in the trees, gentle and calm, finally at peace.

Sejal Rahman is a contributor. Reach her at [sejalrahman@gmail.com](mailto:sejalrahman@gmail.com).

## THE SHELF

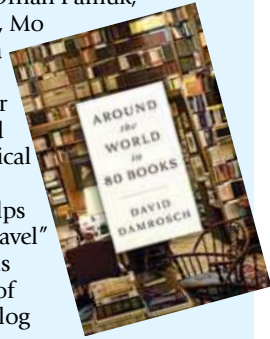
## Staff picks for Nonfiction November

STAR BOOKS REPORT

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 BOOKS

David Damrosch  
Penguin Press, 2021

David Damrosch is Chair of the Comparative Literature department at Harvard University and founder of Harvard’s Institute for World Literature, having authored the genre-defining *What is World Literature?* (Princeton Press) in 2003. Taking a cue from Jules Verne’s character, Phileas Fogg, in this latest book Damrosch maps out the way world literature traverses across the globe and evaluates how writers live in two different worlds of their own making: one, that of their personal experiences, and the other, molded by the books that have helped shape their worldview. In what reads like a cartography, the writer includes classics as well as contemporary works, ranging from Woolf and Dante to Nobel Prize-winners like Orhan Pamuk, Wole Soyinka, Mo Yan, and Olga Tokarczuk, each author or book attached to a geographical location. Damrosch helps his readers “travel” to. The book is an extension of Damrosch’s blog series of the same name completed during the COVID-ridden lockdown period of May to August 2020.



## READING LITERATURE IN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH STUDIES IN BANGLADESH: POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES

Fakrul Alam  
Writers Ink, 2021

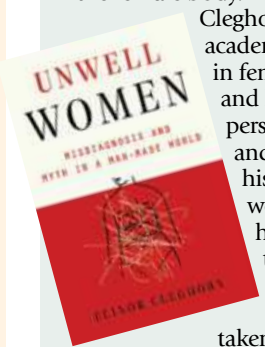
A sequel to his earlier work, *Imperial Entanglements and Literature in English* (University Press Limited, 2007), Fakrul Alam’s latest collection of essays looks deeply into the ideas of post colonialism through the lens of notable Western as well as Eastern writers. In addition to dedicating two chapters of the volume to Defoe—who he terms as a “colonial propagandist”—the writer also discusses South Asian writers like RK Narayan and traces back at length to his well known preoccupations with Edward Said. UGC Professor of English at Dhaka University and a well known critic, translator, and academic, Alam attributes his book to Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury, who he declares, is “truly a mentor for all seasons”.



## UNWELL WOMEN: MISDIAGNOSIS AND MYTH IN A MAN-MADE WORLD

Elinor Cleghorn  
Dutton Books, 2021

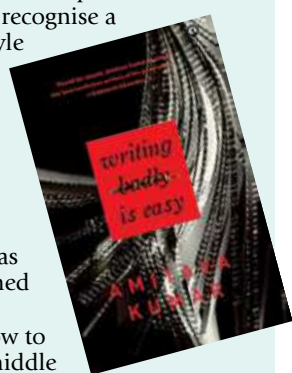
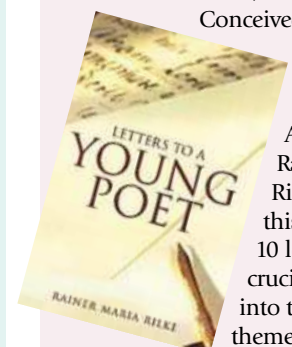
After spending years going to the doctors’ who were unable to diagnose her for an autoimmune disease, Elinor Clegane writes about her unfortunate experiences in the world of biased medical science where the standard of “healthy” is deemed to be a slender white man; and where countless women have been misdiagnosed owing to their ignorance towards the female body. In her work, Cleghorn, who has an academic background in feminist culture and history, pairs her personal experiences and traces through history how women’s bodies have been taught to be hidden and shamed, instead of being taken as what it is—a biological entity. As a result, the more subtle symptoms of what could be major illnesses are often overlooked and ignored.



## LETTERS TO A YOUNG POET

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1929

Conceived over a crucial part of the Bohemian-Austrian poet, Rainer Maria Rilke’s life, this series of 10 letters offers crucial insights into the underlying themes and ideas of his work. The correspondence started when a young student at a military academy sent some of his verses to the already prominent poet, asking for his advice and assessment of his work. The first of the letters is a respectful declination to review the work but, in later replies, Rilke advises Franz Xaver Kappus on how a poet should feel and seek the truth in his experience of the world and the pursuit of art. *Letters to a Young Poet* is a brilliant read for anyone with an interest in poetry, scholarship, and in Rilke’s works.



## WRITING BADLY IS EASY

Amitava Kumar  
Aleph Book Company, 2019

*Writing Badly is Easy* by Amitava Kumar is a comprehensive style-guide for anyone with an interest in learning how to write or better their craft. The writer, in an easily-flowing conversational tone, follows on the works of notable writers like Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Salman Rushdie and highlights defining extracts from their work as examples on how to set tone, recognise a personal style of writing, and make good use of narrative form. He draws from his own experience as an established writer, and explains how to reach the middle ground between an academic and a creative style of writing.

## TRICK MIRROR

Jia Tolentino  
Fourth Estate, 2019

In a collection of essays, Jia Tolentino talks about feminism, religion, drugs, reality television and the celebrity/influencer culture—cultural tropes that have shaped her perception of the contemporary world. At the base of it all, the former deputy-editor of *Jezebel* and current staff writer of *The New Yorker* grapples with the idea of coming to a “true self” in an age of penetrating, technology-driven deceptiveness. Tolentino writes, in the introduction of her 2019 debut book, “Writing is either a way to shed my self-delusions or a way to develop them”.





The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2021, AGRAHAYAN 10, 1428 BS

# AMR a huge public health concern

Authorities must be vigilant in reducing the use of antibiotics in healthcare and food production systems

A recent study conducted by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) has found that almost all clinically important and widely used antibiotics have lost their effectiveness by more than 50 percent. This is a distressing piece of information that should cause us all a great deal of concern. The IEDCR studied the performance of 21 antibiotics against 10 priority pathogens between 2017 and 2021, and found that five of the most critical medicines listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) are progressively becoming ineffective, leaving us almost defenceless in the face of certain illnesses, including future pandemics.

This increasing ineffectiveness of antibiotics, known widely as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), has been declared by the WHO as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. One does not have to think too far ahead to consider the severity of the consequences of being unable to treat previously treatable bacteria, viruses and parasites. This will not only impact human health, potentially causing greater suffering and even death; prolonged illnesses as a result of less effective treatment will also increase the financial burden on patients from longer hospital stays, frequent consultations and expensive medicines. This will inevitably create greater stress on the healthcare system as a whole, and will ultimately cost the economy as well.

The WHO identified misuse and overuse of antimicrobials to be the main drivers in the development of such drug resistance. In Bangladesh, experts have also reached the same conclusions—according to a report in this daily, the data indicates that the overuse of antibiotics is driven by practitioners. In this regard, there is no alternative but for the authorities to put forward strict guidelines on antibiotic use, and closely monitor that these guidelines are being followed. A strong movement among health professionals is also required to discourage the overuse of antibiotics—not just in major public and private hospitals, but in every healthcare centre and private clinic across the country.

In many countries, the overuse of antibiotics in food production is a major concern as well. We urge the authorities to look into this issue, too, and ensure that Bangladeshis are not consuming meat from animals that have been stuffed with antibiotics. The world is now beginning to recognise that human health is closely connected to the health of animals and the shared environment—as the Covid-19 pandemic clearly demonstrates—and that the war against AMR needs to be fought on multiple fronts. Armed with this information, we must also take up this battle against AMR, and formulate coherent strategies to ensure that it does not have severe negative consequences for the country and its people.

# Rising NPLs is the regulators’ fault

They need to stop rescheduling big loans and strictly implement banking rules

IT is alarming that default loans in the banking sector in Bangladesh have surpassed Tk 1 lakh crore again, despite a relaxed loan classification policy adopted by the central bank. Because of the economic ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bangladesh Bank was forced to relax the loan policies, following which the rise in non-performing loans (NPL) came. But now that the economy is getting back on track and businesses are again making profits, some are still refusing to pay back their loans.

What is most unfortunate is that we are not really surprised by any of this. Even before the pandemic hit, the regulators had been granting defaulters—many of whom were wilfully so—absurd amounts of leniency, which experts had warned at that time would have long-term negative impacts for the banking sector. Many large borrowers were able to reschedule their loans ad infinitum using their political connections, violating all banking rules and norms. In fact, regulations in the banking sector have turned meaningless as the regulators have consistently bent them at the will of big businesses that are backed by influential quarters. Then why should we be surprised when others try to take advantage of this? And whose fault is it really that more and more borrowers are now refusing to repay their loans, despite having the means to do so?


When delinquent borrowers were not punished and had their loans rescheduled without any legitimate reasons, what signal did that send to potential borrowers—that they, too, can default on their loans without any repercussions? The impunity granted by the regulators over the years is what has created this tendency among a large number of borrowers now to not repay their loans. Which is why the responsibility for this rise in NPL now falls squarely on the regulators’ shoulders.

The only way to solve this mess is for the regulators to return to applying the banking rules and regulations uniformly for all, and to not give in to political pressure when it comes to making banking-related decisions. In line with that, the regulators must identify the wilful defaulters and, instead of rescheduling their loans over and over again, take all legal measures necessary to try and recover their borrowings.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

# To be free from gender-based violence, we need empowerment

A CLOSER LOOK



TASNEEM TAYEB

have been and still are considered as the inferior sex, always a step behind men—both in terms of their abilities to perform chores requiring physical strength or their intellectual acumen. It is in this biased attitude that misogyny has found a hotbed, and it is this social perspective that has normalised violence against women.

While states and governments in the modern world are trying to break the shackles that bind women to a life of discrimination and abuse—gender equality has been enshrined in the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the nations are working hard to achieve—violence against women is on the rise globally.

Although women have better access to education, skills development opportunities, jobs, and entrepreneurial options in the cities, in the peripheries, the story is quite different altogether. These women and girls live in the murky shadows of male-dominated communities, with no possibility of access to education, let alone income generating activities. And often, these women perish in the obscurity in which they endure life.

Despite some differences in the living standards of the women in the urban and rural settings, one thing is common for the majority of them: violence, often at the hands of their family members—be it the father, brother, husband, uncle, cousin or in-laws.

Violence against women comes in many shapes and forms: physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and political. There are cases where women are subjected to marital rape by their “better half.” Then there are those instances where infants are murdered within hours of their birth by their own fathers. There are incidents of women being tortured mentally and emotionally by their families for various reasons; then there are circumstances where they are not allowed to keep the money they earn. And of course, there are those classic examples of smothered female voices in politics, through intimidation, threats, character assassination, and stoking the ever-present doubt about their leadership capabilities.

These are just the tip of the iceberg. Women are subjected to violence and discrimination day in and day out—at home and outside, at their work place, thorough state policies and institutionalised biases. At times, these are

conscious acts, and at times just a part of social norms. Sometimes, they are done even in the name of cultural and religious practices.

The ongoing global pandemic has only aggravated the plight of women. According to a UN Women report, “two in three women reported that they or a woman they know experienced some form of violence and are more likely to face food insecurity. Only 1 in 10 women said that victims would go to the police for help.” This is based on a study of data collected from 13 countries in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak. According to USAID, about a third of women have faced gender-based violence, which in numbers comes to around 700 million.

In Bangladesh as well, there has been a rise in violence against women. As per a World Health Organization (WHO) report, Bangladesh ranked fourth in the world in gender-based violence by

2020, Brac’s legal aid services received more than 25,000 complaints of gender-based violence. In view of such a high number of formally lodged complaints, one wonders what the actual figures would be, given that many women, girls and their families shy away from making such issues public, let alone seek legal recourse, due to fear of social stigma as well as the hassles and expenses associated with the process.

Child marriage has also seen a spike in Bangladesh during the pandemic. Brac’s community-based women’s group, Polli Shomaj, revealed that in the first 10 months of 2020, child marriage increased by 68 percent, compared to the corresponding period in 2019. Many families, unable to bear the economic brunt of the pandemic, resorted to marrying their daughters off at an early age. But with child marriage comes marital rape, adolescent pregnancy, forced labour, and at times, even death.

her genital bleeding.

Nurnahar is just one of the many young girls who are considered an economic and social burden by their families, and married off early to wash their hands off of unwanted responsibilities. While this case came to prominence, many more girls have died as a direct result of child marriage—during childbirth, due to torture and domestic violence, suicide—without us ever knowing about them.

Gender-based violence is not just a minor social problem; it’s a malady, an endemic, a pandemic itself. It is eating at the heart of all the progress mankind has made. And it has economic implications too: USAID suggests that gender-based violence has been estimated to cost the world more than five percent of global GDP.

However, it is not a problem that can be addressed with a one-dimensional solution. The governments, including ours, need to adopt a multi-pronged approach to address this crisis: awareness, education, and sustainable empowerment.

On the one hand, the governments need to work towards changing the gender bias of the patriarchal societies we live in through mass awareness campaigns, celebrating the innate resilience, energy, and contributions of women—especially the rural women who toil day and night to support the men in their families in their income-generating activities, including farming, animal husbandry, poultry rearing, among others. On the other hand, the governments need to create improved access for girls and women to education, skills development and entrepreneurship training programmes, and then integrate them into mainstream economic activities by providing them with employment or sustainable livelihood generation opportunities. For women, education and skills development are mandatory, as without them income opportunities would remain unutilised, and thus empowerment will not be sustainable or effective.

To this end, the government can collaborate with the development actors working in these areas, in order to be able to enjoy the benefits of their tacit knowledge, experience, community access and best practices.

Empowerment is the only key to ending violence against women. Without this, no matter how many shades of orange you splash, they will be consumed by the bleakness of their lives.

To truly “Orange the World,” we first need to remove the dark tint of the gender-biased lens of our patriarchal society and empower our women with knowledge, and the tools and means of financial freedom. Only then will we be able to ensure a violence-free future for our girls, for our women.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem\_tayeb



Gender-based violence is a social malady—it’s a pandemic that is as old as civilisations.

ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

intimate partners. Prepared by analysing data between 2000 and 2018, the report suggested that about 50 percent females aged between 15 and 49 have had to endure sexual and physical violence at the hands of their partners in the country.


It got worse during the pandemic. A Manusher Jonno Foundation study, conducted in 27 districts, revealed that 4,249 women and 456 children had to endure domestic violence in April 2020, during the government announced general holidays. The study shed further light on some grim social realities: of the 57,704 women and children interviewed for the study, 1,839 were physically tortured, 4,622 were mentally tortured, 203 suffered sexual violence, and 3,009 women had to face financial hardships due to pressure from their husbands.

A Brac report released last year suggested that in the first 10 months of

The death of Nurnahar—a 14-year-old girl from Tangail—last year, due to excessive genital bleeding as a result of persistent marital rape and a lack of access to medical help is still raw in our memories. The girl’s family, reeling from pandemic-induced economic hardships, gave her in marriage to a 34-year old man named Rajib.

The girl bled from the first night of her marriage, and despite the constant bleeding, her husband kept forcing himself on her. She was taken to a *kobiraj* by her in-laws; they did not allow her medical help. Later, as her condition kept deteriorating, as a last resort, she was taken to a local clinic and finally to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). But she succumbed to her internal injuries a few days later. Her mother-in-law later alleged that she had been possessed by demons, which caused

# Gender violence is a multi-layered issue, so must its solutions be



SHAHIDA RAHMAN

IMAGINE a society where women and girls don’t have to be afraid. A society where women and girls are treated with the same respect as men and boys, and where they have the freedom to reach their full potential in all aspects of life. One where girls don’t become wives or mothers while they themselves are still children. A society like this, where all women are encouraged to contribute their diverse and necessary strengths, would be a formidable power—economically, educationally, politically and socially. But the prevalent and rising gender-based violence against women, which takes place worldwide, stops this from being a reality. That is where the significance of today’s date stems from. November 25 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. But how did this day come about?

On this day in 1960 in the Dominican Republic, three of the four Mirabel sisters were beaten to death, placed in their car and thrown over a cliff. Raphael Trujillo, the brutal dictator at the time, had made numerous and forceful advances toward one of the sisters. Minerva Mirabel repelled these advances and made it clear she was unimpressed with Trujillo as well as his brutal politics.

Subsequently, the Mirabel sisters became active members of a resistance group protesting Trujillo’s ruthless regime. As Minerva was under close government surveillance after her rejection of Trujillo’s advances, she and her sisters were easy targets for the dictator’s henchmen. The Mirabel sisters, unfortunately, paid the ultimate price for their bravery.

Intelligence, innovation and skills are being wasted as the female bodies and minds that house these strengths are beaten, abused and even burned.

Of abuse from their partners; half of these involved physical assault. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, violence against women spiked by nearly 70 percent in March and April of 2020, compared to 2019, according to Brac. This has to stop. The prevalence of such violence hurts a nation in multiple ways, one of which is by stunting its growth.

It is time for Bangladesh to tap into its human resource assets of not only men, but women as well. Intelligence, innovation and skills are being wasted as the female bodies and minds that house these strengths are beaten, abused and even burned. Bangladesh, like the

rest of the world, is navigating through the severe impacts of the pandemic, the climate crisis and political unrest.

Wouldn’t it be wise to use every available asset to navigate through such crises and grow meaningfully through these times? Instead of thwarting fertile minds and innovative ideas from women and girls, why not nurture them? Within a patriarchal society, it may take effort and time to tap into the precious commodities hidden in the underutilised minds of women, but raising awareness about the violent crimes which thwart their talents would be a good start.

Violence towards women must not be normalised. It cannot be dismissed with acceptance and a shrug. Silence is dangerous, as it allows for the suppression of women’s potential while allowing oppressors to keep treating them as inferiors. Women must be liberated through the education of their minds and by helping them take control of their own livelihoods.

With heightened awareness and vocalisation, the extremely low conviction rate of cases of violence against women may increase. Currently, when women do report violent crimes, very few reach a successful conviction. This is demoralising to the victim but also discouraging to others who might approach the law for help. But this vicious cycle of justice denied giving way to more violence can be broken. With collective, strong and unwavering voices, laws can be upheld and justice can be served. Women can begin to feel safer in their own communities if authorities back them up with exercising existing laws and replacing ones which do not favour victims of gender violence.

Besides this, it is equally important to ensure that our children are also learning about crimes committed against women and what can be done to decrease them. The next generation is learning, growing

and maturing. Young minds are grasping for truth and knowledge. Now is the time to teach and model equality. Children soak in experiences and follow in the footsteps of their role models.

A young boy who sees his father treating his mother respectfully learns to respect her as well. This can generalise into respecting his sister, the girl next door and a girl at school. Similarly, a young boy who is reprimanded for hitting his sister or using his physical strength to intimidate her will learn that his behaviour was wrong.

Treating sons and daughters equally within the family incorporates this sense of justice into the rest of a child’s life. Seeing the females in their family being respected and listened to just as the males are is crucial. Expecting equal behaviour from both a son and a daughter, and listening to both sends a clear message: “You are both equal.”

But sons are not the only children in this equation. Girls should also be taught to stand up for themselves more. When a girl’s ideas and opinions are listened to as respectfully as her brother’s, she learns that her thoughts and ideas are just as valuable as a male’s—a view that should be the norm. Equality in the family therefore leads to equality in the community.

The rise of violence towards women has been called a shadow pandemic—a frightening result of the effects of Covid-19 on our communities. But luckily, we can all take steps to combat this in our own small and big ways. From November 25 to December 10, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, join UN Women and the rest of the world to right this wrong, and so we don’t just have to *imagine* a society where women and girls aren’t afraid.

Shahida Rahman is a British-Bangladeshi author who writes historical fiction, non-fiction and children’s stories.







# 'Right time to end my Test career'

SPORTS REPORTER

After more than four months since Mahmudullah Riyad's shocking decision to retire from Test cricket made during the middle of the Zimbabwe Test back in July this year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) finally issued an official press release confirming his retirement from the longest format of the game yesterday, a day before the Tigers face Pakistan in the first of the two-match Test series.

The 35-year-old played his 50th and last Test against Zimbabwe where Bangladesh recorded a 220-run victory. In his final innings, the right-hander made an unbeaten 150, his fifth hundred in Tests, and was also adjudged as the player of the match. Mahmudullah scored 2914 runs at an average of 33.49 and took 43 wickets while also having captained Bangladesh in six Tests.

"Leaving a format which I have been a part of for such a long time is not easy. I had always thought of going on a high and I believe this is the right time to end my Test career. I want to extend my gratitude to the BCB President for supporting me when I returned to the Test team.

"I thank my teammates and the support staff for always encouraging me and believing in my ability. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to play Test cricket for Bangladesh and I will cherish those many memories," Mahmudullah quoted in the BCB press release.

After the third day of the Test match in Harare, the members of the Bangladesh team even gave Mahmudullah the Guard of Honour, the traditional way of paying tribute to a player for his services to the game, when he took the field the next day. However, the BCB surprisingly had barred him from making the announcement publicly

## TEST CAREER IN NUMBERS

### Test debut:

Against West Indies in Kingstown in 2009

### Last Test:

Against Zimbabwe in Harare in 2021

### Total matches:

50

### Runs:

2914

### HS:

150\*

### 100s:

5

### 50s:

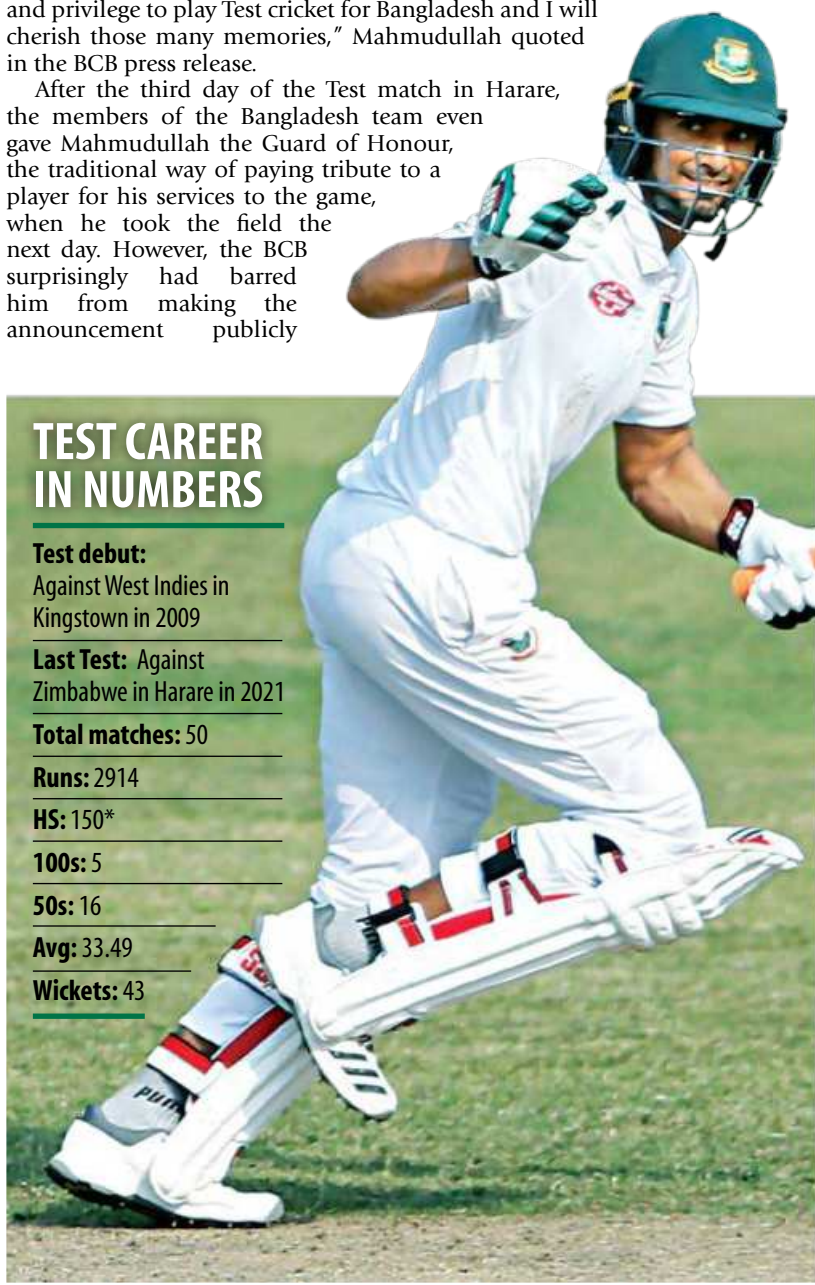
16

### Avg:

33.49

### Wickets:

43



in the press and the player had obliged. But that did not stop the fans from witnessing a flurry of tributes for Mahmudullah on social media from the likes of ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal alongside other cricketers of the country.

The whole Mahmudullah issue, like every other affair of Bangladesh cricket and its management, has been murky from the very beginning. In Mahmudullah's case, it all began back in February 2020 when the cricketer was dropped from the Test side after Bangladesh was hammered by Pakistan in the Rawalpindi Test.

While it was understandable that he was dropped from the Test squad owing to a series of poor performances prior to the Rawalpindi Test, Mahmudullah's total expulsion from the Test side and from its future plans were never justified, given his calibre.

Famously known as 'Silent Killer' for his calm and composed character both on and off the field, it was unfortunate that Mahmudullah retired from the longest format with hardly any noise from the field.

However, Mahmudullah intends to continue playing the ODI and T20I format for the Tigers. "Although I am retiring from Tests, I will still be playing ODIs and T20 internationals and really looking forward to continuing giving my best for my country in white-ball cricket," he said.

# Burden of leadership lies on Mushfiqur

SPORTS REPORTER



His determination and dedication towards the game was never in doubt even though Mushfiqur Rahim remained in the headlines for all the wrong reasons in recent times since the ICC T20 World Cup.

Following Bangladesh's dismal show in the mega event, the controversy over Mushfiqur's exclusion from the squad for the T20I series against Pakistan once again made the news after the 34-year-old expressed his frustrations over the reason the selectors provided to justify his exclusion.

Off-field issues aside, all eyes will be on Mushfiqur for the upcoming two-match Test series against Pakistan, starting from tomorrow, where the experienced campaigner is expected to perform a masterclass with the bat.

Bangladesh started training at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram from 1.30 pm ahead of the first Test yesterday and Mushfiqur was characteristically present at the ground earlier than everyone else. However, this time he arrived almost two hours before the scheduled practice time.

Mushfiqur reached the port city a couple of days before the selectors announced the Test squad and it



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

seems that his appetite towards the game only increased.

As one of the most consistent Bangladesh batters over the years, Mushfiqur has been in fine form in the longest format of the game, scoring two fifties and two forty run knocks in his last six innings.

And certainly the Test series against Pakistan will be a huge challenge since the onus is on Mushfiqur to share the burden of

responsibility in the batting line-up alongside skipper Mominul Haque to fill the void of experience left by the injuries to the likes of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal.

Bangladesh will also lack the experience of Mahmudullah Riyad, who had announced a sudden retirement from red-ball cricket in the middle of the Zimbabwe Test, earlier this year.

Going back to Chattogram, the

# Dhaka champions for sixth time

SPORTS REPORTER



All-rounder Shuvagata Hom's second first-class 10-wicket haul helped Dhaka Division clinch the National Cricket League (NCL) title after seven years as they romped to a 179-run victory against defenders Khulna Division on the fourth day of the final round of the competition at BKSP 3 yesterday. This was Dhaka's sixth NCL title and first since 2014. Only Khulna, the seven-time champions of the competition, precede Dhaka in this auspicious list.

Going into the final round, both Dhaka and Rangpur Division were in contention for the title as Rangpur began the round being 3.49 points ahead of Dhaka in the Tier-1 table. However, with Rangpur's game against Sylhet Division headed towards an expected draw, Dhaka's long wait for the title finally ended.

Having resumed the day on seven

for no loss, Khulna needed 372 runs more to win on the final day. For Dhaka, spinners dictated terms yesterday as left-arm spinners Taibur Rahman, Nazmul Islam and off-spinner Hom shared nine wickets between them to bundle out Khulna for 199 in 98.1 overs.

Taibur finished with figures of five for 40 in 17.1 overs, the 30-year-old's first first-class fiver, while Hom scalped three for 66 as he ended with a total of 10 wickets after a seven-wicket haul in the first innings.

Khulna batters were unable to put up much resistance as Nahidul Islam top-scored for the side with his 109-ball 40 before falling prey to player-of-the-match Hom. Yesterday's crushing defeat also saw Khulna, who won four times in the previous five editions, get relegated to Tier-2.

While Dhaka celebrated their triumph, Rangpur had to stay content being runners-up as their encounter against Sylhet ended in an eventual stalemate. Resuming the day with 455 for five, Sylhet amassed 540 all

out in their first innings, taking a 147-run lead. In reply, an unbeaten 75 by national discard Nasir Hossain and a fifty from skipper Ariful Haque saw Rangpur score 196 for five before stumps. Meanwhile, in Sylhet, Chattogram Division got promoted to Tier-1 as they finished top of the Tier-2 with 31.60 points despite a draw with Dhaka Metro, who finished bottom of the table. Youngster Shahadat Hossain, who started the day unbeaten on 97, got to his second first-class ton as his 159-run knock helped Chattogram score 360 all out in their second innings, setting a 326-run target for Dhaka Metropolis.

In reply, Dhaka Metro scored 82 for four as the match ended in a draw.

The other game in Sylhet between Barishal Division and Rajshahi Division also endured the same fate. Barishal, who resumed the day being 88 runs behind in their second innings, scored 286 for four before stumps with Mohammad Ashraf, Fazle Mahmud and Abu Sayem smashing fifties for their side.



# Sri Lanka close in on victory

AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka need just four wickets to win the first Test against West Indies in Galle after setting the all-but-impossible target of 348 on Wednesday's penultimate day of play.

West Indies had made just 52 before bad light forced an early end after the hosts' spin trio made quick work of the top order.

The sensational collapse saw the tourists lose four wickets in 15 balls for just four runs.

Ramesh Mendis was the pick of the bowlers finishing with four for 17. The off-spinner had the makings of a hat-trick as he trapped Kyle Mayers leg before.

Jason Holder was expecting the ball to turn into him on the next delivery but a straight path smashed his off-stump.

Joshua da Silva walked in to face the hat-trick ball but it was wayward from Mendis, who bowled down the leg-side.

Lasith Embuldeniya accounted for Jermaine Blackwood and Roston Chase.

There was little hope for West Indies at 18 for six and all signs were that the game was going to end on the fourth day.

Then Nkrumah Bonner (18) and da Silva (15) batted for just over 45 minutes to hang in before the umpires called bad light. West Indies' lowest total against Sri Lanka is 93 all out in Barbados in 2018.

Sri Lanka declared their second innings on 191 for four after a 123-run stand by Angelo Mathews and Dimuth Karunaratne in just 150 deliveries.

Skipper Karunaratne, who had posted 147 in the first innings, narrowly missed twin centuries with 83, including nine fours.

He finally stumbled after attempting to cut Rahkeem Cornwall, a top edge knocking the ball off the wicketkeeper's gloves and into the hands of first slip.

Karunaratne has been prolific this year with over 850 runs now at an average of 77. He is the world's third-highest run getter in Test cricket for 2021.

# India pursue Test revenge against NZ



Ajinkya Rahane will be captaining the India side in absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli.

PHOTO: AFP

AFP, New Delhi

Buoyed by their T20 clean sweep, India will look to avenge their defeat in the World Test Championship final when they host a weary New Zealand in the first Test in Kanpur from Thursday.

The Indians have been hurting since the eight-wicket hammering by Kane Williamson's Black Caps at the inaugural World Test Championship final in Southampton in June.

But they routed the tourists, runners-up in the T20 World Cup earlier this month, in the recent three-game series, giving them confidence that they can start the new World Championship cycle in winning style.

However India -- under new coach Rahul Dravid and second in the Test rankings behind New Zealand -- will be without their in-form opener Rohit Sharma, who has opted out of the two-Test series, and skipper Virat Kohli as

well as opener KL Rahul, who was ruled out due to injury.

Kohli will return for the second Test in Mumbai in early December while Ajinkya Rahane will lead the side in his absence in Kanpur.

New Zealand will be boosted by the return of captain Williamson,

who was rested from the T20 games following a gruelling schedule that saw his side travel to India just the day after losing the World Cup final in Dubai.

Dravid was quick to offer a reality check. "To be honest, we have to keep our feet on the



ground and be a bit realistic about this win," said Dravid, after India won Sunday's final game by 73 runs to wrap up the series 3-0.

"(It's) not easy for New Zealand to play a World Cup final and then to turn up three days later and play three games in six days."

Veteran Black Caps batsman Ross Taylor, returning to international action for the first time since the Test final five months ago, admitted retaining the crown would be a tall order.

"We've gone so many years as underdogs. But now coming in as champions, I guess the element of surprise is gone," Taylor said during a virtual press meet on Sunday.

Like for the T20 series, spectators will be allowed for the game in Kanpur -- where there has been heavy pollution -- but the players will continue to stay in strict bubbles because of the coronavirus.



# What to WATCH

**T SPORTS**  
Sri Lanka vs West Indies  
1st Test, Day 05  
Live from 10:30 am  
Abu Dhabi T10  
Bangla Tigers vs Deccan Gladiators

Live from 08:00 pm  
Delhi Bulls vs Northern Warriors  
Live from 10:00 pm  
**TEN 1** (UEFA Europa League)  
Rangers vs Sparta Praha  
Live from 02:00 am (Friday)

**TEN 2**  
UEFA Europa League  
Leicester City vs Legia  
Live from 02:00 am (Friday)  
**SONY SIX**  
UEFA Europa League

Leverkusen vs Celtic  
Live from 11:45 pm  
**STAR SPORTS 1**  
India vs New Zealand  
1st Test, Day 1  
Live from 10:00 am



**Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his opener against Villarreal in a Champions League clash on Tuesday. The Portuguese superstar's goal helped the Red Devils to a 2-0 win and a place in the last 16. (Inset) Callum Hudson-Odoi scored one as defending champions Chelsea thrashed Juventus 4-0 at Stamford Bridge.**

PHOTO: AFP/TWITTER

# Mohammaden content with mediocrity?

**SPORTS REPORTER**

While former Premier League champions Sheikh Russel formed a strong squad, traditional powerhouses Mohammedan could only make another mediocre squad for the upcoming football season, which gets underway on Saturday through the Riviera Independence Cup. Mohammedan have not won the Bangladesh Premier League title in 12 previous attempts, with management pointing to financial constraints behind their failure to form a squad that can vie for the title.

Supporters had pinned hopes on the new management, which could not make big changes last season due to restrictions which meant they would have to play almost the same team that was part of the season which was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the new management got ample time ahead of these transfers but they seemed content with a mediocre squad, retaining most of the players even though they had delivered nothing by finishing sixth in the 13-team table and being eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup. "The new committee was formed eight months ago and we could not cash in on the opportunity this window because we were a bit late to form the squad," Mohammedan's football committee member secretary Abu Hasan Prince told The Daily Star. "However, we signed good foreign players who we believe will provide us with good results in the league. We could have finished runners-up last season but did not due to the poor finishing. I will request the supporters not to be disappointed because we will prove ourselves on the ground," Prince said.

Mohammedan have signed two new foreign defenders from Australia and Macedonia while bringing back Nigerian midfielder Obi Moneke and retaining the services of Guinean striker Souleymane Diabate. Head coach Sean Lane informed they would start the Independence Cup campaign with only Diabate while the other three foreign players will arrive in Dhaka at the start of next month.

Sheikh Russel and Saif SC are now title contenders alongside Bashundhara Kings and Abahani, who are expected to complete their players' registration today.

Sheikh Russel retained only 10 players and signed national players like Saad Uddin, Rahmat Mia, Manik Hossain Molla, Habibur Rahman Shohag, Mohammad Jewel, Manaf Rabbi and Nasiruddin Chowdhury. They also roped in four new foreign players, one Kyrgyzstan national team member and three Brazilian.

Saif SC retained the services of last season's national players, including national captain Jamal Bhuiyan, defender Riyadhul Hasan, Faisal Hossain Fahim and goalkeeper Pappu Hossain while national defender Manjurur Rahman Manik, former national players Nasirul Islam and Shahedul Alam Shahed and some promising players like Jamir Uddin, Nazmul Islam Rasel, Kawsar Ali Rabbi and Nihat Jaman Uccchaash joined Saif SC, who also brought four new foreign players from Uzbekistan, Nigeria and Rwanda.

# The cult of Maradona runs strong in Naples

**AFP, Naples**

It is almost 30 years since Diego Maradona ended his remarkable playing spell at Napoli but a year on from his death at the age of 60 the Argentine great is as present as ever in the Neapolitan world. His name is stitched on to shirts, daubed on the walls of the southern Italian city and etched into the hearts of the people, many of whom are too young to have ever seen him play.

And on Thursday, the first anniversary of his death, a bronze statue will be unveiled in front of the stadium which now bears his name -- Stadio Diego Armando Maradona -- to celebrate the "eternal" link with the "Pibe de Oro", the golden boy. Diego is everywhere, from the central station all the way to the official Napoli store where his face stares out from the stylised fingerprint on the jersey in the window.

The shirt, worn by the Napoli players in November, is probably one of the last to be found in the city. Produced in limited numbers and sold for charity, these collector's edition jerseys have long sold out on the club's website.

For those who set sail for Naples in memory of Maradona, the first stop is

often Mario Filardi's famous fresco in the Spanish Quarter painted in 1990 and restored in 2016.

It is a meandering walk from the ferry terminal and the wandering pilgrim is sure to pass other images painted on the walls as well as posters for the film "The Hand of God", Paolo Sorrentino's homage to the Naples of the 1980s which is released this Wednesday in cinemas in Italy. But the stroll to the Spanish Quarter

is worth it. "It was important to come", says Aisha, 17, who braved heavy rain to come to meditate in front of the famous mural which shows a shaggy-haired Maradona in Napoli's powder blue shirt running earnestly towards goal.

It is in a humble surrounding, set back from the road, often found with a couple of cars parked in front.

But this yard is dedicated to the worship of "god" Maradona, and

adorned with photos, flags, jerseys and other relics left by the football faithful.

Aisha came all the way across Italy from Bari on the east coast, around 260 kilometres, with her family to "see the way the city remembers him".

"You can see that it's not just Napoli shirts, but most of the teams he's played with, and pictures of him as a player and also as a man," she told AFP.

"It's interesting how normal people, not just supporters, bonded with him."

Facundo Perez, 26, an Argentinian living in Europe, also came specially to Naples to "greet" Maradona, a year after his death. "For me, Diego is a god. To see the flags, and the fact that he conquered the heart of Naples, it's crazy. I came here to try and understand how much people love him."

Frescoes keep blooming on the walls in Naples and the region beyond. Street artist Mario Casti, who has already produced ten in the last year, was still at work this week finishing off another one for the anniversary.

Maradona also inspired the sculptor Domenico Sepe who has created the work that will stand in front of Napoli's stadium.



**রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর**  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ।

**Office of the Registrar**  
Jashore University of Science and Technology  
Jashore-7408, Bangladesh

Memo No-JUST/Reg.(Aca.)/1423/M.Phil & Ph.D Admission Circular/2019-2021

Date: 23/11/2021

**Admission Circular**  
(Full-time / Part-time M.Phil and Ph.D Program)

Applications are invited for admission in the **full-time M.Phil and Ph.D program** at Computer Science and Engineering, Microbiology, Fisheries and Marine Bioscience, Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Chemical Engineering (Ph.D only), Industrial and Production Engineering, Petroleum and Mining Engineering, Pharmacy and Mathematics departments and **full-time/part-time M.Phil and Ph.D program** at English, Accounting and Information Systems, Finance and Banking, Management and Marketing departments in the January-2022 semester of 2021-2022 academic year.

- General qualifications, conditions and the process of admission form collection and submission of the M.Phil and the Ph.D program are available in the university website (<https://just.edu.bd>) or in the respective departments.
- The application form has to be filled-up properly and submitted to the respective department by **12/12/2021** (excluding holidays).

/

(Engr. Md. Ahsan Habib)  
Registrar  
Jashore University of Science and Technology

GD-2153

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Upazila: Itna, District: Kishoreganj  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

শেখ হাসিনার দর্শন  
বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়ন

Memo No. 46.02.4833.000.14.20-742

Dated: 23/11/2021

**Invitation for e-Tender (Works)**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 02/2021-22**

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work & Package No.	Tender method	Tender publishing (date & time)	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
1	631535	Construction of irrigation drain including slab at Nayandihati village at Itna upazila in Kishoreganj district. INF-2020-21-304833-01	OTM	24-Nov-2021 10:00	08-Dec-2021 15:00	09-Dec-2021 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 09-Dec-2021 14:00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Rashedul Alam  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED, Itna, Kishoreganj  
Mobile No. 01708161426  
E-mail: [ue.itna@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.itna@lged.gov.bd)

GD-2148

**IBA**  
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

**INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**


**MBA ADMISSION TEST**  
(REGULAR PROGRAM)  
Session 2021-2022

**Required Academic Qualifications**


- Bachelor's degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 out of 4.00 (or 2nd class).
- Minimum GPA of 3.00 out of 5.00 (or 2nd division) in both SSC and HSC exams.
- No 3rd division/class at SSC/HSC/bachelor's level of education.
- Minimum GPA of 2.00 in both O level and A level exams. For details, please visit our website.
- Note: In order to be eligible for the test, an applicant must obtain published official result of his/her bachelor's degree on or before 07 December 2021.

- Launched in 1966, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is the flagship program of Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. Written test for the 2021-2022 session of the MBA Program will be held **Friday, 17 December 2021 at 10:00 am**. The venue of the written test will be published on the website of IBA at a later date.
- The Written test is aimed at evaluating applicant's aptitude in Language, Mathematics, and Analytical Ability. An Applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of these areas to pass the test. After qualifying in the written test, candidates must appear before an interview board and secure satisfactory marks to be admitted to the MBA program.
- A foreign national having a GMAT score of minimum 75 percentile may be exempted from taking the written test. However, s/he is required to appear before the interview board.
- For all foreign certificates/degrees (excluding O and A Levels), equivalence will be determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, applicants are not eligible to sit for the admission test.
- The application fee is Tk. 1,200/-. The application must be submitted online by **Tuesday, 07 December 2021**.
- For detailed application procedure, please visit: **[www.iba-du.edu](http://www.iba-du.edu) or <http://iba.registrationbd.com>**
- For further information, please call 01764119001 or 01764119002 between 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on any working day until **07 December 2021**.  
**Director**  
Institute of Business Administration  
University of Dhaka





**Payra Bridge has been built by**  
Country's No.1 Steel Expert BSRM





**MATARBARI POWER PLANT**  
Cox's Bazar

**PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER**



## DEMAND FOR PAY HIKE

# RMG workers' demo turns violent

*They block roads, torch motorbikes, attack AL office*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Readymade garment workers yesterday blocked streets in Mirpur, vandalised an office of the Awami League and torched two motorcycles of the party activists during their demonstration -- for the fourth consecutive day -- for salary hike and other demands.

With sticks and machetes, the demonstrators ransacked the AL office of unit-9 at ward-4, located across Kafrul Police Station, witnesses said.

Police could not intervene as the incident involved a huge number of workers.

The protesters also vandalised a nearby restaurant and several vehicles on the street, witnesses and protesters said.

The RMG workers attacked the AL office as some leaders and activists of the ruling party allegedly beat up several of them during their demonstration yesterday, they said.

Witnesses said while vandalising the AL office, protesters also hurled brick chunks towards the nearby Kafrul Police Station.

Some local ruling party men alleged the protesters attacked the local AL office. They immediately sought police support, they said.

Although the police station was nearby, policemen reached the spot after the protesters ended their vandalism,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Garment workers demonstrate in Mirpur-13 yesterday demanding salary hike among others. They torched two motorbikes and vandalised an Awami League office for what they said was beating up of fellow workers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## PHASE-3 UP POLLS

# Some MPs violating codes

*says an election commissioner*

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A section of lawmakers is violating the electoral code of conduct during campaigning for the third phase of union parishad polls, an election commissioner said.

Subsequently, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda has asked election officials and law enforcers that steps should be taken against lawmakers found violating the electoral code of conduct.

The Election Commission yesterday held a special meeting with top officials of the home ministry, local government division, police, the Rapid Action Battalion and others on the law and order situation ahead of the third phase of UP polls slated for November 28.

A total of 1,000 union parishads of 63 districts will go for polls in the third phase of the election. A total of 2.01 crore voters are expected to cast the vote at 10,059 polling centres.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

**ROAD TO FREEDOM**  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Point of no return: Yahya

NOVEMBER 25, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**RUSSIA WARNS PAKISTAN**  
The Soviet Union made a new urgent appeal to Pakistan to desist from escalating the situation in the Indian subcontinent. It warned Pakistan against disastrous consequences should that country persist in its present war like course in total disregard of international counsel for peaceful means of resolving its problems.

The Soviet note delivered to Pakistan demanded the Pakistan military regime to come to political terms with the parties fighting for East Pakistan's independence.

**YAHYA ACCUSES INDIA OF DISTURBING PEACE**  
Pakistan President Yahya Khan said today that the "current situation" had brought his country's relations with India to a point of no return. Inaugurating a China-aided heavy machinery factory at Taxila, he said Pakistan would defend the "honour and integrity" with all forces at its command.


Yahya accused India of having committed aggression against East Pakistan and of disturbing the peace in the subcontinent.

Meanwhile, Pakistan today officially asked Britain to use its influence to prevent a worsening of the India-Pakistan situation.

The Pakistan high commissioner in London General Mohammad Yusuf called on British Prime Minister Heath and handed to him Yahya's message in which the Pakistan president expressed the hope that Britain would use its influence to "restrain India".

**ON THE WAR FRONT**

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



## Bangladesh not invited to Biden's summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has not been invited to US President Joe Biden's Summit for Democracy when its South Asian neighbours India, Pakistan and Nepal have made it to the list.

Afghanistan and Sri Lanka also did not make the cut, according to the list published by the White House yesterday.

A total of 110 countries will be joining the summit, which will be virtually held on December 9 and 10.

Israel, considered a major non-Nato ally by the US, and Iraq are the only two countries invited from the Middle East.

Traditional Arab allies of the US -- Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar and the UAE -- have not been invited.

The list also includes Brazil even though its president, Jair Bolsonaro,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Nasa launches spacecraft to kick an asteroid off course



AFP, Washington

A Nasa mission to deliberately smash a spacecraft into an asteroid -- a test run should humanity ever need to stop a giant space rock from wiping out life on Earth -- blasted off Tuesday from California.

It may sound like science fiction, but the DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) is a real proof-of-concept experiment, the goal of which is to slightly alter the trajectory of the asteroid Dimorphos.

The SpaceX rocket carrying the mission spacecraft lifted off at 10:21 pm Pacific Time

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## The HC has turned into a criminal court: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is no more a constitutional court now. It has become a criminal court, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain said yesterday.

"This is not the court [High Court] I had hoped to see before I leave at the end of my service," he said without elaborating.

The chief justice was responding to a plea moved by lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal to grant bail to a number of convicts in a criminal case. He said this while presiding over a full bench of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, who is to retire on December 31, told Ruhul, "We will not grant bail in such a case."

Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a senior judge of the bench, asked Ruhul why he was seeking bail for his clients from this court when they had earlier lost the case in other courts.

The apex court dropped the bail petition from its cause list.

Contacted, Ruhul told The Daily Star that the chief justice made the comments after he sought bail for his clients who have been sentenced to 14 years in prison.

"We will move the bail petition before the Appellate Division further in January," he said.

Ruhul, however, refused to give details of the case.

Asked about the chief justice's comment, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin refused to comment.

SC lawyer and Editor of Dhaka Law Reports Khurshid Alam Khan said the chief justice perhaps made the comments out of anger or resentment as more and more criminal

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 25**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Zahangir now faces contempt of court rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Gazipur City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam and three others on charges of grabbing land ignoring its directives.

In the rule, the court asked them to explain within a week why the contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for violating its orders.

On Friday, Zahangir, the general secretary of Gazipur city Awami League, was expelled from the party for his controversial comments on Bangabandhu and Liberation War martyrs. His party primary membership was also cancelled.

The bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman yesterday issued the rule after a contempt of court petition was filed by Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, a resident of the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



Mostly children and teens have a day of fun catching fish with their bare hands in a canal in Baliarpur of Savar yesterday. With the onset of winter, rivers, canals, lakes and ponds have started drying up across the country and festive scenes like this have become common.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# EU considers booster shots for all adults

REUTERS, Brussels

The head of the European Union's public health agency Andrea Ammon yesterday said that Covid-19 vaccine boosters should be considered for all adults, with priority for those above 40 years, in a major change to the agency's guidance.

Recommendations issued by the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) are not binding on EU governments but are used to make health policy decisions.

"Booster doses should be considered for all adult individuals prioritising persons above 40 years of age," Ammon said in a recorded statement, noting that boosters should be administered at least six months after completing the primary vaccine schedule.

In its previous guidance issued in September alongside the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the ECDC said there was no urgent need for the administration of booster doses to fully vaccinated individuals in the general population, but suggested that additional doses should be considered for people with weakened immune systems and could be used as a precaution for older frail individuals.

"Available evidence emerging from Israel and the UK shows a significant increase in protection against infection and severe disease following a booster dose in all age groups in the short term," the ECDC said in a report published yesterday.

It advised giving boosters to all adults with priority "for those aged 40 years and over".

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1