



Agrahayan 24, 1428 BS

Your Right to Know

Jamadiul Awal 4, 1443 Hijri

BUET STUDENT ABRAR MURDER VERDICT

20 students get death

5 others sentenced to life term; all convicts are BCL men

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Twenty Buet students were sentenced to yesterday death involvement in the murder of a fellow student in a dorm room, an incident that shocked the nation two years ago.

The Dhaka court also sentenced five other Buet students to life imprisonment for their role in the grisly murder of Abrar Fahad Rabbi, who was a second year student of the country's premier engineering university.

The five students are also fined Tk 50,000 each, defaulting which would mean one more year in prison. Life imprisonment means 30 years in jail.

Twelve of the convicts were members

of Buet Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling Awami League, while the rest were their followers. Twenty-two of the convicts are in jail and three are on the run.

Abrar was a student electrical and electronics engineering. The convicts began torturing him with skipping ropes and cricket stumps inside a room of Sher-e-Bangla

Hall on the night of October 6, 2019. They kept beating him up until early morning even though the 21-year-old threw up, urinated, and pleaded for water.

His battered body was found by several students under the staircase of the dormitory early in the morning. The killing sparked widespread student demonstrations on campuses and other places for justice and



GESTURE OF VICTORY, FACE OF LOSS... Barkat Ullah, father of slain Buet student Abrar Fahad, shows the V sign after a Dhaka court delivered the verdict over the murder of his son.

This must not happen to any other child

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

The parents of slain Buet student Abrar Fahad said they do not want to see anyone else being killed by fellow students on university campuses like their son was.

They demanded the quick execution

of the verdict that sentenced 20 Buet students to death and five others to life imprisonment for killing Abrar.

"I am primarily satisfied, but I will be fully satisfied when the verdict will be upheld and executed by the higher courts, Abrar's father Barkat Ullah said in a prompt reaction on the court premises.

"Then Abrar's soul will be at peace." Barkat came to Dhaka all the way from Kushtia with some relatives to witness the SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

HORROR IN ROOM 2011

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

October 6 evening, 2019.

Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering (EEE) department, was studying mathematics inside his room at Buet's Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

He had come back from his home in Kushtia a couple of hours ago and SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Strong message to offenders

Teachers call for end to criminality in the name of student politics

STAR REPORT

The Daily Star talked to several current and former university teachers after a Dhaka court yesterday convicted 25 Buet students, who were also involved with the Chhatra League, for killing their peer Abrar Fahad in October 2019.

The teachers observed that the tragic incident of Abrar murder is the outcome of the descent into criminality of student politics, which apparently

controls most educational institutions in the country. They also blamed mainstream political parties and even teacher politics for the situation.

ANU MUHAMMAD Professor Anu Muhammad said both Abrar and his killers are victims of corrupt politics on campuses over the years.

"They were all brilliant students... national assets. But when one is killed by others, it becomes SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

TRIAL AT A GLANCE

Murder took place OCTOBER 7, 2019

Charge sheet filed

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Charges framed SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Convicted 25

(22 in jail, 3 fugitive)

Khaleda Zia again starts bleeding

Says Fakhrul STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Zia, now undergoing treatment at the Critical Care Unit of the capital's Evercare Hospital, has started passing blood again, the BNP said yesterday.

"Her condition has become critical. She is bleeding again. There is no technology in the country that can treat liver cirrhosis completely," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, said at

a programme. Addressing a human chain in front of the National Press Club, organised by Shikkhok-Karmachari Oikya Jote demanding that Khaleda be allowed to go abroad for treatment, Fakhrul said the BNP chairperson did not get (any medical) treatment SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Inequality rising

1pc of country's population holds 16.3pc of national income

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

Just 1 percent of Bangladesh's population holds 16.3 percent of the total national income in 2021 and the bottom half 17.1 percent, according to a report -- making it a quintessence of poor and unequal country.

The report, titled 'World Inequality Report 2022', by the World Inequality Lab of Paris did not give any ranking to Bangladesh. Seeing that neighbouring India -- where

20 percent of the national income is held by the top 1 percent -- topped the list, Bangladesh would rank quite high. The latest update of the index, published

on December 7, showed 44 percent of Bangladesh's total national income is held by only 10 percent of the population. The figures did not change much from

the previous year but showed how income inequality has been rising since the 1980s. In 1981, the share of pre-tax national income of 1 percent of people was 11.8 percent while the bottom 50 percent held

20 percent wealth. The scenario has been stable in recent years but the number of poor is increasing day by day and also the number of rich, according to economists.

"The trend is not new -- inequality has been increasing for years as our GDP is not increasing inclusively," said Selim Raihan executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM).

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey published in 2016 showed a worrying development.

"The survey showed the country did not generate as much employment, did not spend enough on the health sector, education and social transfer protection. These are the basics for reducing the gap," Raihan said.

The report also suggests so: the US

had about 33 intensive care unit beds per 100,000 people when the global coronavirus pandemic broke, but India, Pakistan and Bangladesh had about 2.

Corruption was another major cause for the increasing inequality, Raihan said.

"We must address the issue of corruption in every stage of our system. Our taxation structure is also weak," he added.

It is a general theory that if a country is economically growing fast, the inequality will also increase there, Shamsul Alam, the state minister for planning, told The Daily

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Hasina 43rd on Forbes' most powerful women list

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been ranked 43rd on Forbes' list of the most powerful women in

the world. MacKenzie Scott, Kamala Harris and Christine Lagarde have been ranked first, second and third

respectively. Queen Elizabeth II is ranked 70th.

The American business magazine says Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the longestserving prime minister in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Ray of hope in eye healthcare

National survey finds rate of blindness declines 35pc over two decades

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The rate of blindness in Bangladesh has dropped by 35 percent over the last two decades, finds a national survey.

Although the rate of blindness has fallen, 19 percent of the population aged 30 and above still suffers from different types of visual impairment. The global rate of such cases are 30 percent, it said.

The study titled "Nationwide Blindness Survey 2020" also found that more than 80 percent of the blindness cases are avoidable with timely intervention. Centre for Injury Prevention and Research,

Bangladesh (CIPRB), with technical and financial support from the National Eye Care, conducted the survey aimed at finding the prevalence of blindness and visual impairment among the population aged 30 and above and their causes.

Data was collected between November 2020 and January 2021 from 18,810 participants from both urban and rural areas of all 64 districts.

The survey results will be made public



One in every 100 adults aged 30 years or older suffers from blindness in Bangladesh

19% adults suffer from any degree of visual impairment

More than 80% of the blind cases are avoidable with timely intervention

Cataracts are the primary cause and are responsible for 81% of severe visual impairment

According to the report, the prevalence of blindness from cataract was one percent which equates to 534,000 people.

A nationwide survey on blindness conducted in 1999-2000 had found the prevalence of blindness to be 1.53 percent, with a total of 650,000 blindness cases from cataract.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



New German Era Scholz takes reins from Merkel

AFP, Berlin

Olaf Scholz became Germany's new chancellor yesterday after 16 years with Angela Merkel at the helm, pledging his centreleft-led coalition would offer a "new beginning" for Europe's top economy.

Scholz was officially named the country's ninth post-war leader by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who urged him to "ensure that the pandemic does not keep

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

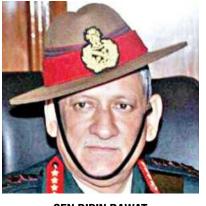


vesterday when an Air Force helicopter carrying them crashed on a forested hill enveloped in dense fog in Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. "With deep regret, it has now been ascertained that Gen Bipin Rawat, Mrs Madhulika Rawat and 11 other persons on board have died in the unfortunate

AGENCIES

accident," the Indian Air Force said in a post on its official Twitter handle. The Mi-VH17 helicopter crashed in Katteri-Nanchappanchathram area near the hilly Nilgiris district and went up in

There were 14 people on board the helicopter, including two senior army officers and his other personal staff. Only one male, a captain working at the DSSC, survived the crash, Nilgiris District Collector SP Amrith said. He was being treated for his injuries at a nearby military hospital.



HELICOPTER CRASH IN INDIA

Defence chief, wife

GEN BIPIN RAWAT

The chopper was on its way from Sulur air base in Coimbatore to National Staff College in nearby Wellington where Rawat, along with Indian army chief Manoj Mukund Naravane, was slated to participate in an event later, the sources said.

The chopper was already making its descent at the time of the crash and

came down around 10 kilometres (six miles) from the nearest main road, forcing emergency workers to trek to the accident site, a fire official told AFP. An eyewitness at the scene said he

had seen passengers falling from the helicopter before the crash, and that one person had crawled out from the The IAF said a Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the accident,

involving the chopper that took off from the Sulur IAF Station in nearby Coimbatore. TV visuals showed the mangled chopper in flames, possibly under the impact of the crash. The helicopter fell at some distance away from a human

habitation. The remains of the ill-fated IAF chopper were strewn along the crash site and rescue personnel were seen carrying bodies in stretchers to waiting

It was a horrific scene at the accident site with trees being reduced SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ambulances.



Engineer Abdus Sobhan, Managing Director & his elder daughter Nabila Tasnim, Director of AUKO-TEX GROUP, has been honored with Green Factory Award for the year 2020 by the Ministry of Labour & Employment in recognition of his Extra Ordinary Performance in terms of Ethical Business Practices and massive contributions towards Corporate Responsibility on Environment & Social Issues, Job Creations & Skill Development, Research & Innovation. We express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina & the Ministry of Labour & Employment for honoring us with this Prestigious award which will definitely inspire us to go further ahead. On this auspicious occasion, we acknowledge and appreciate the Honesty, Integrity, Strong Leadership, Intellectual Rigor, Determination and Dedication of our beloved Managing

Director which has helped him in paving ways to achieve this significant milestone. On behalf of all members of AUKO-TEX GROUP, we express our warm greetings to our beloved Managing Director & his elder daughter for this great achievement with the hope of achieving more glory and laurels in future.



Moniruzzaman

Monir

Hossain Mohammad







15,43,204 Recoveries

Ifti Mosharraf

Shokal

Khandaker Tabakkarul

Islam alias Tanvir



5,290,948



267,630,694 Total cases

BGB-BSF talks can settle small issues

Visiting Indian foreign secretary says on incidents along border, meets Hasina

Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla yesterday said some small issues along the Bangladesh-India border can be settled by holding meetings between the border forces of the two countries.

"Bangladesh and India have settled all major issues through discussions; some small incidents happening along the border between the two countries can be solved through holding meetings between BGB [Border Guard Bangladesh] and BSF [Border Security Force]," Shringla said when he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban, her official residence.

PM's press secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting. "We want this issue to be resolved," he quoted the Indian foreign secretary

as saying. The PM agreed with Shringla, said

Shringla said normalcy is returning in India after the setback of the Covid-19

He conveyed the greetings of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sheikh Hasina. Hasina also greeted her Indian counterpart through the Indian foreign secretary.

Shringla appreciated the economic progress of Bangladesh despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

He added that India will

commemorate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujbur Rahman, Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence and the 50th anniversary of establishment of Bangladesh-India diplomatic relations in their missions across the world and will project Bangabandhu among the

people of respective countries.

Hasina said Bangladesh is also returning to normalcy gradually after the shock of the pandemic.

She also recalled the days of her and family members' captivity during the Liberation War and mentioned that the recognition by India had overwhelmed

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami and India's Policy Adviser to the Ministry of External Affairs Ashok Malik were present from the Indian side. Principal Secretary Dr Ahmad Kaikaus was present from the Bangladesh side.

Ray of hope in eye healthcare

Blindness means inability to count fingers from a distance of 10 feet in day light while visual impairment means vision related problems.

However, the country's population has increased significantly in the last two decades and the average life expectancy has also increased, the study said.

"Spectacle coverage was found to be 26 percent among the people aged over 30 years," it added.

The survey recommended that a planned approach be taken for managing eye diseases to reduce eye health morbidity. It also said eye care services could be expanded through establishing community vision centres in all upazila health complexes across the country.

The government had initiated National Eye Care programme in 2005 with a target to reduce blindness by 50

percent aligning with the global target of Vision 2020, aimed at eliminating

avoidable blindness around the world.

Dr AHM Enayet Hussain, an ophthalmologist and director general (Medical Education) of the Directorate General of Health Services, said, "Blindness decreasing in the country is a great news. Our progress in this regard is very satisfactory. Still there is a concern about impairment of vision, but it is not a threat to public health. We can easily

Globally, three out of every 10 people are living with some forms of visual impairment, which equates to a staggering 2.2 billion people with impaired vision. There are 43.3 million blind people worldwide and another 295 million people with moderate to severe visual impairment. Besides, 258 million people experience mild vision impairment, according to the report.

Defence chief, wife

to broken pieces under the impact of the crash, flames from the chopper engulfing the wooden logs resulting in billowing smoke and personnel scurrying to douse the fire, including using buckets and water hose.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep grief over the demise of Gen Rawat, his wife and other personnel of the armed forces in the ĥelicopter crash, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted: "A very sad day for the Nation as we have lost our Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat Ji in a very tragic accident. He was one of the bravest soldiers who has served the motherland with utmost devotion.

Indian Army Chief Gen M M Naravane and all ranks of the Indian Army expressed their deepest grief and sorrow over the untimely demise of Gen Rawat, Madhulika Rawat and 11 other military personnel in the unfortunate

air accident. In a tweet, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called Rawat's death "an irreparable loss to our armed forces and the country."

Congress party President Sonia Gandhi, who turns 75 today, has decided not to celebrate her birthday in view of the death of Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 others in the helicopter

In a condolence message sent to ministers.

the Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen expressed deep shock and sorrow over the death of Gen Rawat and his wife at the tragic crash.

Pakistan Army's spokesman in a short statement posted on Twitter said Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Nadeem Raza and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa expressed condolences over the "tragic death" of Gen Rawat, his wife and and 11 others.

Gen Rawat, 63, was appointed as India's first Chief of Defence Staff by Modi's government in late 2019. The position was set up with the aim of integrating India's three military services the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

An infantryman with over four decades of military service, Rawat served along India's border with China, the disputed Kashmir region and on a United Nations mission in Africa. before taking charge of the Indian army in late 2016.

He left behind two daughters.

Gen Rawat and his wife will be cremated in Delhi Cantonment tomorrow. Their mortal remains are expected to arrive in the national capital in a military plane by this evening, reports TOI.

India has dozens of Mi-17s in service. They are widely deployed to transport senior army personnel and government

Scholz takes reins from Merkel

us firmly in its grip for another year" as a

fourth wave of the coronavirus outbreak The former finance minister, who

won 395 of the 707 votes cast in the

Bundestag lower house, has vowed broad "continuity" with the popular Merkel while making Germany greener Asked by parliament speaker Baerbel Bas whether he accepted the election,

a beaming Scholz removed his black corona mask to say "yes" and then received bouquets of flowers from all parliamentary groups except the far-

Scholz led his Social Democrats to victory in the September 26 election an outcome considered unthinkable at the start of the year given the party's then festering divisions and anaemic

63-year-old, who turned The emulating Merkel in style and substance into a winning strategy, has now cobbled together Germany's first national "traffic light" coalition with the ecologist Greens and the liberal Free Democrats, nicknamed after the parties'

Their four-year pact sealed late last month is called "Dare for More Progress", a hat tip to Social Democratic chancellor Willy Brandt's historic 1969

pledge to "Dare for More Democracy". "We have a chance for a new beginning for Germany," Scholz told his party at the weekend as it gave its blessing to the coalition agreement with 99-percent support.

The alliance aims to slash carbon emissions, overhaul decrepit digital infrastructure, modernise citizenship laws, lift the minimum wage and have Germany join a handful of countries worldwide in legalising marijuana.

French President Emmanuel Macron congratulated Scholz, pledging "we will write the next chapter together" while EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said she looked forward to cooperation for a "strong Europe".

Scholz's office announced his first official visit would take him to Paris and Brussels Friday for talks with Macron, von der Leyen and Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg.

Vladimir Putin said Russia was offering "constructive ties" with the new government, while China's Xi Jinping said Beijing was willing to work with Scholz to "promote bilateral ties to a new level".

GENDER BALANCED

The new foreign minister, Annalena Baerbock, has pledged a tougher line with authoritarian states such as Russia and China after the business-driven pragmatism of the Merkel years.

Greens co-leader Baerbock is one of ight women in Germany's first genderbalanced cabinet

"That corresponds to the society we live in -- half of the power belongs to women," Scholz, who describes himself as a "feminist", said this week.

Scholz and his team promise stability just as France braces for a bitterly fought presidential election next year and Europe grapples with the enduring aftershocks of Brexit.

DEATH PENALTY

Mehedi Hasan Robin

alias Shanta

Mujahidur Rahman

alias Mujahid



Mehedi Hasan Russel

Meftahul Islam

Zion

Shamim Billah

Shamsul Arefin

Rafat



Anik Sarkar alias



Majedur Rahman



ASM Nazmus Sadat



Morshed Amartya Islam



Morshed Uz Zaman alias Zisan

LIFE TERM



Mizanur Rahman

alias Mizan

alias Tanim



SM Mahmud Setu





Ishtiaq Ahmed Munna



Amit Saha

20 students get death

Akash Hossain

FROM PAGE 1

Muhtasim Fuad

prompted the Buet administration to ban political activities on campus.

The court yesterday said it was Nations to express grave concern over punishments. As the judge left the proved beyond reasonable doubt that the pattern of campus violence in courtroom at 12:14pm, the convicts the accused colluded with each other and beat Abrar, saying that the latter was a Shibir man and making false allegations against him.

Circumstantial and ocular evidence, confessions of the accused and CCTV footage have proven their involvement in the killing, said Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamaruzzaman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1.

"The incident hurt all the people of Bangladesh. The tribunal decided to award the highest punishment to all the accused to prevent recurrence..." reads the verdict.

Death penalty to such a large number of students in a single case is quite uncommon. Conviction for

campus killing is also quite rare. According to the charge sheet, the accused held meetings for two consecutive days with the sole intention to beat Abrar to death. And they did what they intended to do. They beat him 50 to 60 times inside the Sher-e-Bangla Hall of Buet. Although Abrar threw up and

urinated, they beat him 40 to 50 times the judgment, the judge cited rulings

The murder prompted the United

Moaz Abu Hurayra

Amid protests, Buet authorities in less than a week of the murder banned all political activities on campus and

suspended 19 students, mostly BCL Abrar's father Barkat Ullah filed a murder case with Chawkbazar Police

Station on October 7. In November 2019, the Detective Branch of police pressed charges against 25 Buet students. The tribunal framed charges against them in September last year.

The trial proceedings concluded last month after several months' delay caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Yesterday morning, police brought 22 accused from Dhaka Central Jail in

Keraniganj and took them to the court around 11:40am. Some of them were seen talking to their lawyers while others remained

The judge arrived at 11:57am in a

packed courtroom.

University Professor of Dhaka international relations Tanzimuddin Khan said, "The Abrar murder is the manifestation of mal-politics practised in the name of politics. Teachers in universities are so lenient towards leaders of the ruling student organisations that they often incite the misdeeds of the student leaders by supporting them. The Abrar murder has proved the kind of miserable situation that has been created for the

MIZANUR RAHMAN

Prof Mizanur Rahman, director of

to jail in a prison vehicle. After the verdict, Abrar's father Barkat told reporters: "We will get

from India and Bangladesh's courts.

were seen talking with their lawvers

and each other. They were later taken

The judge then announced the

justice when this verdict is executed after being upheld by the higher court.' Chief Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol also expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

However, Monjur Alam Monju, lawyer for Amit Shaha, who was given the prison sentence, said his client was out of campus at the time of the incident to celebrate Puja and thus was not involved with the incident.

Amit will file an appeal with the High Court, he said. Besides, Law Minister Anisul Hug

yesterday said, "Natural justice and rule of law have been ensured in the

The government cooperates with the High Court for quick disposal of the case and its documents will reach the HC in seven days, he told reporters While reading out a summary of at his office in Gulshan.

Strong message to offenders

a waste of national assets," Prof Anu

Muhammad said. "None of them were criminals before being admitted to the university. The role of the ruling party student wing and mal-politics are to blame for this, he said, adding, "We observe such

MOINUL ISLAM Noted economist Prof Dr Moinul Islam has blamed political parties for such "heinous" incidents and termed the development tragic.

a situation in all the universities."

"Political parties have been using student organisations as a factory for raising goons to serve their ill interests. A culture has developed in the country to use students' organisations as the muscle forces of political parties. In the name of politics, politicians have kept student leaders and activists busy in unruly activities for their own benefit."

Dr Moinul, also a retired professor of economics at Chittagong University, said almost all political parties are responsible for such a culture. They cannot deny their responsibility for "criminalisation of student politics".

The practice has gotten so bad that student politics has actually become "subservient" politics. Public university teachers are also deeply

involved in this servile politics, he MOHAMMAD TANZIMUDDIN **KHAN**

"The teachers assuming different posts in the administration are severely unaware. This culture will change when there will be a qualitative change in the degenerated culture that has taken hold in the name of

student welfare at Buet, said the verdict is a strong message to those who live in residential facilities not only in Buet but all other universities and colleges across Bangladesh. "It now becomes clear that one has to undergo a trial process if he or she tortures a student mentally or physically in a

dormitory and gets involved in such malpractice," he told this newspaper.

"In the future, those who are thinking of committing such acts will think twice. Overall, the verdict is a strong message to all," he added.

Hasina 43rd

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh

the history of Bangladesh, is currently serving her fourth term. She won the fourth term, which is also her third consecutive term, after

her party, Bangladesh Awami League, won 288 of the 300 parliamentary "During what she believes will be her final term, Hasina plans to focus on issues such as food security and

access to education and healthcare," the magazine adds. It also mentions that an ongoing struggle for Hasina has been establishing a firm democracy in

Every year, Forbes releases a list of 100 powerful women of the world. This year, the 18th annual list of powerful women included 40 CEOs, the most since 2015, who, according to the magazine, "oversee a record \$3.3 trillion in revenue." The list also included 19 world leaders, and an

Munia Murder Case

Submit report by Dec 28

Court directs PBI

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Police Bureau of Investigation to submit its report by December 28 in the case filed over the rape and murder of college student Munia.

Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir and seven others were sued in the case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yasmin Ara passed the order after Investigation Officer Golam Moktar Ashrafuddin, also an inspector of PBI, failed to submit the report yesterday, said court sources.

With the latest, PBI took four dates but was yet to complete the probe report. Earlier on November 21, the same court asked PBI to submit the report by yesterday.

Bashundhara Group MD was made prime accused in the case while the group's Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and six others were accused of assisting Anvir in

committing the offence. The six others are Shah Alam's wife Afroza Begum, Anvir's wife Sabrina Sayem, model Faria Mahbub Piyasha, Saifa Rahman Mim, Ibrahim Ahmed

Ripon and his wife Sharmim. The High Court on September 29 refused to grant anticipatory bail to

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

Anvir on charge of suicide abetment. On July 19, Abul Hasan, the investigation officer of that case and also Gulshan Police Station's officer-incharge, submitted the final report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

On August 18, a Dhaka court accepted the final report and relieved

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

Schoolgirl raped in Cox's Bazar

2 Rohingyas sued, say police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A schoolgirl in Cox's Bazar has been raped allegedly by two Rohingya youths in the district town.

victim's mother filed a case with Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station on Tuesday, said police. III, was gang-raped by Kefayet Ullah,

Six days after the incident, the

Muhuripara area, read the case statement. Bipul Chandra De, officer-in-charge (investigation) of the police station, said the accused were on the run but

20, and Imran, 19, of the district's

the law enforcers trying to arrest them within the shortest possible time. According to the case statement, the victim was first abducted from the town on December 1. The duo picked

her up as she went out of her home to

buy food in the evening.

Khaleda Zia

FROM PAGE 1 when she was in jail for two years. He said physicians clearly said

immediately for better treatment.

Chaleda should be sent abroad

"From the very beginning, the

government did not take the issue of her treatment seriously. As you [people] may remember, she [Khaleda Zia] walked to the jail.' He said that when Khaleda was sent to an abandoned jail, she was denied

treatment and when she was taken to BSMMU, it was too late. "She was pushed towards death."

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

Inequality rising

FROM PAGE 1

"But since 2016, things have been stable on the inequality front. But we are trying to reduce the gap by connecting the country through roads and highways, providing electricity facility, internetmobile phones," he said.

The gap will not increase as the government is trying to create more employment through emphasising industries. "We are trying to reduce the

corruption, which was a historical problem in our country. But we made a free and fair Anti-Corruption Commission, where lots of progovernment people are also facing cases," he added. The report also said in Bangladesh,

Myanmar and South Africa, full-time employees work around 2,100 hours per year compared with 1,600 in rich countries.

Verdict fair, timely

Say Buet VC, students demanding swift execution

Abrar Fahad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) Vice Chancellor Prof Satya Prasad Majumder demanded swift execution of the Abrar murder case verdict yesterday.

"We think the judiciary gave the right verdict after thorough analysis. We want the verdict to be executed swiftly, with due legal

at a press conference at his office. He said the verdict on Abrar's murder was long-awaited, terming it "fair and

timely"

In the verdict, 20 out of the 25 accused have been sentenced to death.

Urging students to not get involved in such crimes anymore, he said, "If anyone engages in such activities in the future, they must be punished.'

Asked whether Buet as an institution can evade liability for the students' wrongdoings, the VC said, "The judiciary will look into whether the institution is responsible or not. We have nothing to say on this issue. We have rethought whether there was any fault in our system.

"For this, we have strengthened security



administration's decision to ban student politics on campus, he said, "I am not sure what the successor administration will later. However, we want the current one to maintain this

On the development, Buet student Megh Raha said, "We have been waiting

procedure," Prof Majumder told journalists for such a verdict since the murder. We are satisfied with the verdict and hope that no such incident will happen in any educational institution in the future."

> Another student, Mizanur Rahman, said, "We want to see the verdict's execution as soon as possible. We don't want any of the accused to evade the verdict by using loopholes of the law.

In the early hours of October 7, 2019, Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of electrical and electronics engineering at Buet, died after being brutally beaten by some Chhatra League men at Sher-e-Bangla hall of the university.

The incident triggered a firestorm of protests on campuses across the country. Many took to social media to demand justice for Abrar.



The road in front of Ideal School and College at the capital's Motijheel was jam-packed with parents and children yesterday, amid no sign of social distancing. As educational institutions are vaccinating students who are 12 to 17 years old, such crowds have become a frequent sight.

Begum Rokeya Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Begum Rokeya Day will be observed countrywide today to pay tribute to

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat, a social reformer and pioneer of women's education.

The momentous day marks the 141st birth and 89th death anniversaries of Begum Rokeya.

Various organisations have chalked out numerous events to observe the day.

The main event will be marked by the Begum Rokeya Award giving ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The awardees are -- Prof Hasina Zakaria Bela for contributing to women's education, Archana Biswas for establishing women's SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

From child bride to **CHANGEMAKER**

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

She was a victim of child marriage. Being only a ninth-grader, she was forcibly married off at 14 in 2003.

By the time she turned 18, Taslima Shirin Mukta was already a mother of two. Her life by then consisted of an endless series of household chores, which left little time for studies.

But Mukta wasn't one to give up. She envisioned for herself an educated future and kept fighting for it, overcoming all her obstacles.

Sticking to her goals, she went on to complete her graduation, qualified for the Bangladesh administrative service, and joined as an assistant commissioner and executive magistrate.

The story of her early struggles is shared by many women in the country, which is why her achievement is especially important. For those like her, Mukta's resilience shines a light of

Mukta first became pregnant when days old. Mukta was 16.



Taslima Shirin Mukta

she was in tenth grade. "My in-laws did not take it well that I still chose to continue my studies. Even my parents expressed their frustration," the Sandwip-upazila native told this orrespondent.

"But even then, I knew that only education could change my and my children's lives.'

SSC exams arrived when she was seven months pregnant. By the time the results came out, her baby was 29

She then enrolled into college and came out of her higher secondary exams with good results.

But despite her educational success, she continued to be discouraged by family members.

She took the next step by enrolling in Chittagong College. While studying there, she got pregnant again. But even during her second pregnancy, she didn't give in to the pressure.

After graduation from college, she concentrated on preparing for a government job.

"My target was to pass the (Bangladesh Civil Service) examination. All of my efforts paid off when I qualified in the 35th BCS exams in 2016 and got selected in the administration cadre," she said.

"I joined the office of deputy commissioner (DC) of Habiganj as assistant commissioner and executive magistrate. In the history of Habiganj, I was the first woman who served as NDC (nezarat deputy collector),"

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Unequal burden of unpaid care work

Women's unpaid work hindrance to entering labour market, say speakers at roundtable



Speakers at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The unpaid care and domestic work that women do hinders them from entering the mainstream labour market and climbing the occupational ladder, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The recognition of women's unpaid work has become crucial, as its monetary value stood at almost 40 percent of

Bangladesh's GDP in fiscal 2016-17, they

The roundtable, titled "Importance of care economy to reduce domestic violence against women and girls", was jointly organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and The Daily Star.

Sayema Haque Bidisha, professor of Dhaka University's economics department, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

At least find my son's body

Says father of 12-year-old Kamal who fell into an open drain in port city on Monday

SANJAY KUMAR BARUA, Ctg

"I called for help from everyone. Local shopkeepers. The police. But no one would come forward."

"I had to go down the drain myself, but returned empty-handed," said Md Kausar, father of 12-year-old Kamal who went missing inside a Chattogram drain on Monday afternoon.

"If you couldn't save him, at least find my son's body," he said in a despondent

As of the filing of this report yesterday night, a search operation by the fire service was still on. A fire service personnel told this correspondent, "We will keep looking until we find the body."

A day-labour by profession, Kausar said Kamal was the youngest among his two sons and a daughter.

Kamal went missing in the drain while playing in the area with a friend, Rakib. Both had fallen into the open drain around 4:30pm. Although Rakib managed to get out, Kamal could not.

Located in the port city's Sholashahar



Railway Station area, this is the same drain where 55-year-old vegetable trader Saleh Ahmed disappeared on August 25.

This is the third such incident over the last three months for Chattogram.

Experts believe that due to lack of solid waste management, drains in the city have turned into waste dumps. As a result, the risk of death is multiplied if someone falls into a drain.

Shafiqul Islam, a fire service personnel who came to rescue the child, said, "Although the drain is 10-12 feet deep, it is clogged with waste."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

And the rage continues

Students say they will keep protesting until road-safety demands are met

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The protests demanding safe roads are still raging on. Students from several schools and colleges of the capital were seen yesterday, carrying placards that stated many of their demands, aimed at ensuring road safety and ending corruption and mismanagement in the transport sector.

Their demands also include justice for Notre Dame College student Naveem Hasan and Ekramunnesa High School's SSC candidate Mainuddin -- two victims of recent road accidents. Speaking on behalf of

the protesting students, SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Civil society struggling due to shrinking space

Observe speakers at CPD conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the significant role it played in the lead up to and during the Liberation War, the country's civil society is currently struggling due to shrinking intellectual space and weakening democratic environment.

As a result, many are adapting to the situation by scaling down their criticism or activities, or adjusting their positions on issues in line with government policies and activities.

Speakers said this at a session at the virtual international conference to reflect on Bangladesh's 50 years. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), in collaboration with South Asia Program of Cornell University, organised the four-day event, which concludes today.

While presenting a paper, CPD distinguished fellow Debapriya

The decline of civil societygovernment relationship parallels the deterioration of domestic polity in the country.

> **DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA** Distinguished Fellow Centre for Policy Dialogue

still restrict women's access to resources, spaces within formal institutions and their voice.

SOHELA NAZNEEN Research Fellow IDS (University of Sussex)

Sticky social norms and gatekeepers

Bhattacharya said the civil society played an important role during the pre-liberation period, helped uphold the spirit of liberation and ensured trial of the collaborators afterwards, as well as restoring and protecting democratic values and promoting the peoples' interests.

Post 1971, the decade between 1990-2000 was one of the most productive periods of competitive collaboration between civil and political elites, he said.

Unfortunately, this collaboration declined later and only improved to an extent after the 2008 national election. He said till the national elections of

2014, there was a degree of openness on the part of ruling elites to listen to the opinions and suggestions of the civil society.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



With patriotic fervour at a high during the month of December, flags become much sought-after around this time every year. Makeshift shops selling the red and green in different shapes, sizes, and prices have popped up all around the capital. This photo was taken from Gulistan area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

4 including 3 siblings crushed under train

Our Correspondent, Nilphamari

Four including three siblings were killed after being crushed under the wheels of a running train near Bou bazaar rail crossing in Nilphamari Sadar's Monshapara village around 7:30am yesterday.

The deceased are siblings Lima Akhtar (11), Rima Akhtar (10), and Mominur Rahman (10), children of rickshaw-puller Rezwan Ali, and Shamim Hossain (28).

Shamim was a neighbour of the deceased siblings. Eyewitnesses told this correspondent that the victims were sitting on

the rail track beside their house. Their father was with them, but he left a little while before the tragic accident. But as the Khulna-bound mail train from Nilphamari rail station reached the spot at high speed, the siblings could not escape. Shamim

Hossain, who was standing nearby, died while trying to rescue them. Locals said they couldn't notice the approaching train as there was dense fog all around.

It became all the more tragic for the family as Mozir Ali (68), maternal grandfather of the deceased siblings, died of a heart attack as the news After the incident, agitated villagers obstructed movement on the line

for two hours but left after the Nilphamari SP and Saidpur Railway Police Station's OC pacified them. The obstruction compelled the mail train Rupsha Express to remain

stranded for the duration. Locals have levied allegations that though the spot is an open rail crossing that hundreds of people pass through every day, no train blows whistle to caution people while passing the spot.

'Labour fare' for migrant workers

Demand recruiting agencies amid recent airfare hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recruiting agencies yesterday demanded that the government introduce "labour fare" for migrant workers.

They made the demand in the wake of the recent hike in airfare on different international routes.

The press conference was organised by 'Sammilita Samannay Parishad, Baira", a platform of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies members at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

They mentioned that airfare of major destinations for migrant workers, especially the Middle East, has reached a range between Tk 75,000 to Tk 90,000 recently, from earlier prices of Tk 40,000 to Tk 50,000. Fakhrul Islam, former finance secretary of Baira, said the labour fare could be two-third of the regular fare, in acknowledgement of the contribution of migrant workers to the country's economy.

Former Baira president Abul Basher and its former secretary-general Ali Haider Chowdhury attended the press conference.



Marking 50 years of the country's independence and Barishal's freedom day, Journalists' Union of Barishal organised a drawing competition at City College yesterday, where children of different ages participated. PHOTO: TITU DAS

At least find

Chattogram town planner engineer Subhash Barua said, "If the drains were clean, the missing could be quickly rescued from any point of the drain.

On September 27, university student Seherin Mahbud Sadia (19) fell into a ditch at the Mazar Gate area of Agrabad. Her body was found about four and a half hours after she went missing.

A month earlier on August 25, elderly vegetable seller Saleh Ahmed went missing after falling into the same drain where Kamal died

On June 30, two people died when a CNG-run auto rickshaw fell into another drain in Sholashahar area.

The tragedy stretches much further back. In 2020, two children died after falling into the Maheshkhal canal in Halishahar area, while in 2017, a government official died inside a drain near Shilpakala Academy.

A seven-year-old boy died similarly in a Baizid area drain on June 2018, while two others died as a CNG-run auto rickshaw plunged into a drain in Agrabad-CNB area on July 2015.



Fire service personnel rummage through the waste-filled waters of the drain yesterday, where Kamal went missing on Monday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN





গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়

কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকা

৯, তোপখানা রোড (৩য় তলা), সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা Website: www.taxezone11dhaka.gov.bd

ভুল সংশোধনী

গত ০৮/১২/২০২১ইং তারিখে দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকার শেষের পাতায় প্রকাশিত কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকা এর "২০২২-২০২৩ কর বৎসরের জন্য অগ্রীম আয়করের ২য় কিন্তি প্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি" এর প্রথম অনুচেছদের ৪র্থ লাইনে আয়ের ভিত্তিতে ২০২০-২০২৩ করবর্ষের স্থলে ২০২২-২০২৩ করবর্ষের অগ্রীম আয়করের ২য় কিন্তি পড়তে হবে। এই অনবধানতাজনিত ক্রটি



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Dt: 25/11/2021

করের টাকায় সেতু হবে

বিশ্ব অবাক চেয়ে রবে

Divisional Forest Officer's Office Social Forest Division, Kushtia www.forest.kushtia.gov.bd

Memo No. 22.01.5000.341.28.009.2021.2070 Invitation for a Tandar Nation: 04/2021-22 (OTM)

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of scheme	Tender last selling (date and time)	Last date & time for security submission	Tender/proposal closing & opening date and time
1	630918	DFO/KST-07	Construction of New Office Building (Two-Storied) at Jibonnagar SFNTC in Chuadadanga District.	13-Dec-2021 17:00	14-Dec-2021 15:00	14-Dec-2021 17:00
2	631849	DFO/KST-08	Construction of New Mali Barack One-Storied at Jagati SFNTC in Kushtia District.	26-Dec-2021 17:00	27-Dec-2021 15:00	27-Dec-2021 17:00
3	635047	DFO/KST-09	Constructions of New Boundary Wall in Jibonnagar SFNTC Chuadadanga District.	28-Dec-2021 17:00	29-Dec-2021 15:00	29-Dec-2021 17:00
4	635042	DFO/KST-10	(A) Repair works of Residential Building of Staff Quater in Social Forest Division, Kushtia District. (B) OC's Quarter of Jagoti in Kushtia District (C) Jibonnagar Mali Quarter Chuadadanga District	28-Dec-2021 17:00	29-Dec-2021 15:00	29-Dec-2021 17:00
5	634327	DFO/KST-11	Supply of animal feed at Meherpur and Gangni SFNTC in Meherpur District.	28-Dec-2021 17:00	29-Dec-2021 15:00	29-Dec-2021 17:00

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to date and time mentioned above.

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

Saleh Md. Shoaib Khar Divisional Forest Officer Social Forest Division, Kushtia Tel: 02478853075 Email: dfokushtia@gmail.d

From child bride

she said, adding that she is now serving duties as AC-land in Manikgani Sadar upazila.

In the last five years, she has conducted over 300 mobile courts in four districts. "I have tried to combat various social problems, like child marriage, food adulteration, school drop-out, corruption in medical services, sexual harassment and illegal soil extraction," she said.

"I have successfully stopped over 50 child marriages." As an exemplar herself, Mukta believes in women's empowerment. "I believe every woman has the capacity to make her dreams come true," she said.

Mukta was announced as a "Joyeeta" -- in the category of success in education and employment -- by the government in her own upazila and district this year.

Talking to The Daily Star, Manikganj Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Abdul Latif said, "Mukta carries out her duties with utmost devotion. Her stories of struggle are a source of inspiration for women and students across the country."

Begum Rokeya

rights, Shamsunnahar Rahman Paran (posthumous) for socio-economic development of women, Dr Zinat Huda for literature and culture, and Dr Saria Sultana for rural

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the programme virtually from her Gono Bhaban official residence as the chief guest with State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indira in the chair, said a press release on Tuesday. Besides, Begum Rokeya Deepshikha Parishad has

arranged an event at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka University at 7:00pm today. Meanwhile, Rangpur district administration, Begum

Rokeya University, and several socio-cultural and women organisations will also hold programmes.

The Rangpur district administration has organised a programme to observe Rokeya Day at her birthplace in Pairaband village.

Begum Rokeya, who was a fierce champion of gender equality, was born at Pairaband village in Mithapukur upazila, Rangpur on December 9, 1880 and died on the same day in 1932 in Kolkata. The birth and death anniversaries of Begum Rokeya are being officially observed as Rokeya Day since 1994.

And the rage continues

Shohagi Samia, a student of Khilgaon Model College, said they will continue with the demo until their 11-point demand is met.

"We don't want to see deaths on the roads anymore," she said.

As part of the ongoing protests, some students yesterday also organised a bicycle rally from Ekramunnesa High School to Notre Dame College in Dhaka.

They started the rally around 3:45pm from Rampura Bridge, which was initially intercepted by police, on the grounds that the students had not acquired permission. However, in the face of protest, they later allowed the students to continue with the rally.

The students will also distribute leaflets to raise awareness about their movement and demands at Rampura bridge area today from 3pm.

In Barishal, several students held a protest rally yesterday and submitted a memorandum to the district commissioner, with their seven-point demand, which includes half-fare on river-ways.

Students have been protesting in demand of half-fares, after bus fares went up following a hike in diesel price.

On November 24, Nayeem Hasan was killed by a Dhaka South City Corporation vehicle in Gulistan, and Mainuddin was killed in a similar incident on November 29.

Students from schools and colleges all over the capital erupted in protests following the two incidents, demanding road safety and justice for the deceased.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Position Vacancy Announcement Position: Development Program Specialist (Budget), FSN - 11

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of Development Program Specialist (Budget), FSN - 11 in the Office of Program (PRO).

Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: January 09, 2022. For a complete job description, required qualifications and

detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website: http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers and www.bdjobs.com D-173 Custodial Death in Rangpur

HC forms probe committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday formed a threemember committee headed by Rangpur's district and sessions judge to conduct inquiry into the alleged custodial death of one Tajul Islam last month.

The committee has been directed to submit the report in 15 days, said Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Khandaker and Justice

Diliruzzaman passed the order.

He said the Rangpur police earlier submitted its inquiry report to the HC saying that Tajul's death was natural. Tajul was reportedly tortured to death in police custody in Rangpur's Kaunia on November 1.

After the news spread, a mob reportedly threw brickbats at Haragach Police Station and vandalised a few police vehicles at evening on November 1. Police said they did not torture anyone.

Civil society struggling

"After the 2018 elections, this vibrancy gradually gave way to a conflictual situation. The decline of civil society-government relationship parallels the deterioration of domestic polity in the country," said

He cited the Freedom House Index and CSO Sustainability Index, in which Bangladesh's score has been sliding since

In the former index, political rights deteriorated by 42 percent, while the civil liberty score fell by 27 percent.

He also said arbitrary use of the draconian Digital Security Act is affecting civil society and media in various ways.

Speaking at the event, Selim Jahan, former director of Human Development Report Office, UNDP, said Bangladesh has an impressive journey in terms of human development, in metrics such as size of the economy, per capita income, life expectancy and more.

"The achievements are impressive, but they are not evenly distributed across all socioeconomic groups, gender and regions of the country," he said. "Another deepening challenge is in the area of rule of law, accountability and transparency of public services."

Meanwhile, presenting another paper, Sohela Nazneen, research fellow at Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, said Bangladesh has made rapid but uneven progress in gender equality.

She said gender inequalities in some areas remain persistent -- apparent in the high levels of malnutrition among women and girls, child marriage, and violence against women.

"Sticky social norms and gatekeepers still restrict women's access to resources, spaces within formal institutions and their voice," she said.

Among others, Sabina Alkire, director of Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford; Elora Shehabuddin, professor of Transnational Asian Studies, Rice University; and David Lewis, professor at London School of Economics and Political Science, also spoke at the programme.

The session was chaired by Bina Agarwal, professor of development economics and environment at Global Development Institute, University of Manchester.

Unequal burden

presented her keynote at the event held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

She said investment in infrastructure, like establishing tube wells for rural women, can help lighten domestic and care

To reduce the burden of unpaid work, governments can establish daycare centres, both in community and institution levels, and provide fiscal incentives like tax rebates, childcare vouchers, daycare schemes and allowance for private sectors for establishing community-based centres, she added.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, "We have to change the narrative of care work and dignify it, so that women who are involved in such work do not assume that they do nothing."

There is no scope to ignore the care economy, she added.

"SDG 5.4 mentions that it is absolutely crucial to recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies. Promoting shared

responsibility within the household and family is also necessary," she said.

Shaheen Anam also insisted that care services be integrated into the mainstream labour market and necessary infrastructures be developed to reduce the burden, so women can concentrate on paid work or involve themselves in home-based enterprises to earn a living.

Soma Dey, associate professor of DU's women and gender studies department, said awareness and advocacy are needed to change the patriarchal mindset towards household chores.

Umme Wara, assistant professor of DU's criminology department, said according to the constitution, everyone shall be paid for their work following the principle "from each according to their abilities, to each according to their work".

Prof Golam Rahman, editor of Ajker Patrika; Udisa Islam, chief reporter at Bangla Tribune; Naznin Akhter, journalist at Prothom Alo; Shuprova Tasneem, journalist at The Daily Star; and Sajida Islam Parul, journalist at Samakal, also spoke at the event.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD E/M Wood Workshop Division, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka Phone & Fax: 88-02-55028813

Website: www.pwd.gov.bd Memo No. 25.36.2680.534.14.170.21-736

Date: 08/12/2021

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Tender ID No. LTM/OTM Last selling Opening date date 633969 OTM 19/12/2021 19/12/2021 01 02 636213 OTM 23/12/2021 23/12/2021 03 OTM 26/12/2021 636616 26/12/2021 636668 OTM 26/12/2021 26/12/2021

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> Md. Ayub Ali **Executive Engineer** PWD E/M Wood Workshop Division Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka ee_wood@pwd.gov.bd

পরিচালক (পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন) এর কার্যালয় খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় খুলনা-৯২০৩, বাংলাদেশ

GD-2276



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) Khulna University of Engineering & Technology Khulna-9203, Bangladesh

Tel: PABX: 041-769468-75 Ext.-199, E-mail: planning_development@kuet.ac.bd, Fax: +880-41774236 স্মারক নং-খ্রপ্রবি/পঃওউঃ/১৬২(০৫)/২০২১

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for

procurement of						
SI.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Descriptio	Online tender	Online	
No.			n	notice	tender	
				publication date	closing date	
01	635394	Package No. RG-	Supply of	08 December	21	
	(KUET/P&D/162(05)/2021	04 (Revenue)/	Computer	2021	December	
	Date-08/12/2021	2021-2022 Limited			2021	
		Tendering Method				
		(LTM) Khulna				
		District				

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Prof. Dr. Kazi ABM Mohiuddin

Director, Planning & Development

GD-2274

Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET) Khulna-9203



This open air battery recycling factory at South Basudebpur village under Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur has wreaked havoc on the cattle farmers with 25 deaths of the domestic animals have been reported in a week.

Battery recycling factory killing cattle in Phulbari

Villagers claim at least 25 cows died in a week, many suffering

KANGKAN KARMAKAR

Fear gripped the cattle farmers of two villages in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur as 25 cows have died in a week of breathing difficulties and stomach ailments due to toxins released from a nearby battery recycling factory, veterinary experts and locals said.

At least 25 cows died in the last seven days, said the locals.

Villagers said the disease, which is still unknown to locals, is being spread from the battery recycling factory in the area.

The livestock experts have also said that the cows are dying due to the toxins released from the factory. According to the locals, the incident was first reported on

November 27. The villagers of South Basudebpur and Moheshpur in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur said that ten cows of

Md Badsha Mia of Basudebpur village said his three cows including a calf died on a single day on November 27.

three families died in the two villages.

Badsha said that the cattle were to the factory, said the locals. suffering from breathing difficulties and later they also developed stomach ailments. After suffering for a couple of days, they died.

"Within five days, all of my cows died", said Badsha.

Badsha claimed that his cows died due to ingesting the toxins released by the nearby battery recycling factory at the village. Like Badsha, other villagers also claimed the same.

The local village vet also echoed the villagers.

This correspondent visited the two villages recently and found that the battery recycling factory had been shut overnight as the news spread that cows were dying due to the toxic gas emitted from the factory.

None concerned of the factory could be reached for their comments.

Villagers said that the factory had been releasing toxic lead and acid in the air and on nearby grazing fields. The cows might have fallen sick after ingesting the grass mixed with toxic substance, said the villagers.

The whole area has become inhabitable for humans as well due threatened to go for agitation.

Shafiqul Islam of Moheshpur village said that more cows in these villages fell sick and were being treated there.

The poor people rear cow as their asset and these families would incur massive financial losses for the incident", said Shafiqul.

He demanded that these poor families be compensated for their

Dr Md Ahsan Habib, the Livestock Officer in Phulbari upazila, said that he visited the two villages recently and examined the infected cows.

"It seemed to me that these cows fell sick after inhaling the toxic fumes while grazing beside the battery recycling factory. As lead and acid are very lethal to the cattle," he said.

Phulbari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Reaz Uddin said that he was aware of the incident. Action will be taken after forming a probe body, he added.

Locals demanded that the local administration shut the battery factory permanently. Otherwise, they

Bridge collapses a year of construction

Villagers compel to use a makeshift bamboo bridge to cross the canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Nearly 16,000 people of different unions in Kurigram's Roumari upazila have been experiencing untold sufferings since the concrete bridge on a canal in Charshoulmari Bazar collapsed only over a year of its construction.

Local people have set up a makeshift bamboo bridge beside the collapsed bridge to go to their destinations including the upazila headquarters.

During a visit to the area this correspondent saw no three-wheelers or motorized vehicle can ply the makeshift bridge, only pedestrians or bicyclists move on it.

Locals alleged that the newly constructed concrete bridge collapsed within a short time due to use of substandard materials and unplanned

Local resident Nurul Islam said about 16,000 people of Ghughumari, Char Ghughumari, Sukherbati, Char Gender Alga, Mayezer Char, Khedaimari and Sukher Char areas under Charshoulmari union are the worst suffers due to the bridge. collapse of the important bridge.

College and Charshoulmari Girls' High School are only 250 metres from the by the onrush of floodwaters.

bridge, he said, adding that hundreds of students of four government primary schools also use the bridge.

According to Roumari Upazila Project Implementation Office, the 60-footlong bridge in Charshoulmari Bazar area was built under a project of the Disaster Management Department at a cost of Tk 54 lakh in 2016-17 fiscal year.

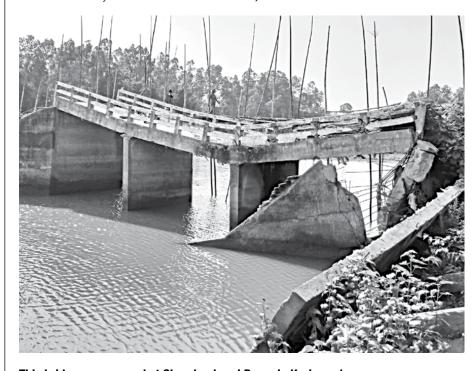
Contractor Monirul Islam completed the bridge construction work in March

Charshoulmari Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Dulal Hossain said due to use of substandard materials the bridge collapsed only over a year of its construction.

The authorities concerned should built a new bridge in place of the collapsed one as soon as possible to ease peoples' sufferings, he added.

Contractor Monirul, however, denied the allegation of using substandard materials in the construction work, and said the bridge collapsed in a short time due to illegal sand lifting from near the

Roumari Upazila Moreover, Charshoulmari Degree Implementation Officer (PIO) Azizur Rahman said the bridge was washed away



This bridge over a canal at Charshoulmari Bazar in Kurigram's Roumari upazila collapses only over a year of its construction, causing immense suffering to the locals.

Horror in room 2011

informed his mother Rokeya Khatun him with a cricket stump. Then came canteen of the dormitory. over phone about his safe return to the the third attacker with another stump.

Around 8:00pm, some Chhatra League leaders and activists of the dormitory asked him to go to room number 2011 on the first floor. As he stepped out of his room and headed towards Room 2011, his roommate waited for his return.

Reaching Room 2011, Abrar saw some BCL leaders inside. One of them forcefully took Abrar's cell phone and started checking his Facebook account and messenger app. The BCL men began to interrogate him about his alleged links with Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The Chhatra League men were furious because one of Abrar's Facebook posts seemed critical of a recent government deal with India.

While quizzing Abrar, one of the BCL men started slapping him. have dinner. After it became clear that

Another approached and began hitting Abrar died, the body was moved to the

At one point, one of the stumps broke in two. The third BCL man kept on beating Abrar with that broken During the assault, two BCL men

whipped Abrar with a skipping rope and others slapped him at regular

Abrar begged for water, but they didn't give him a single drop.

A numb Abrar fell to the floor. The BCL men forced him back on his feet and started beating him again.

Abrar then started throwing up and could not move anymore.

Realising his condition, the attackers called Abrar's classmates and along with them took him to the landing of the stairwell between the first and ground floors around 2:30am.

The BCL men then went out to

Video footage captured by the dormitory's CCIV camera showed three youths carrying Abrar in a corridor and taking him towards the staircase. Another youth was seen next to them while six others were walking behind. It was not clear whether Abrar was alive at that time.

Later, BCL leaders called the hall provost and the resident doctor, who declared Abrar dead.

According to doctors, Abrar died of internal bleeding and excessive pain. There were injury marks all over his body, with bruises on his arms, legs and back.

The fateful night when her son Abrar was in excruciating pain, Rokeya Khatun had called him over phone around 9:00pm. Little did she know that when she bade goodbye to him in the morning, it would be the last time she would see him.

Petition filed with HC

Murad by ex-Dhaka University student and special crime unit will collect the making derogatory comments about DU and its female students.

Shahbag police sent the complaint to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner vesterday for necessary measures, said Moudut Hoawlader, officerin-charge of the police station.

Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner investigate the complaint lodged against (media) of DMP, said the DC of the cyber complaint from the commissioner today and assign an officer to investigate it.

"After investigation, the officer will submit the probe report to the judge of the cyber tribunal, Dhaka who will instruct whether a case will be filed," Faruk told The Daily Star last night.

A runway way too vulnerable

thieves may have stolen the wire on top of

that section of wall. This correspondent also saw ditches dug beneath the wall which people can use to

gain access to the airport. Sohel Rana, a local, said the spot was far from the main tarmac and so officials concerned rarely visited there.

The wall near Baraishal at the eastern side of the airport was most vulnerable as the lower portion was open, allowing

outsiders to regularly go inside to graze their cattle while some others trespassed merely to see flight operations.

Atiar Rahman, a resident of the area, said the airport boundary wall had collapsed here in the flood of 2019. Although the authorities

repaired the wall, they kept a portion open. Suplob Kumar Ghosh, manager of Saidpur Airport, told journalists that the problems would be solved immediately as he had brought the matter to the attention of his higher authorities.

Pakistan accepts truce call of UN had become a rout as Mitro Bahini

Washington was taking a less pro-Pakistani position in the crisis. The envoy Mustafizur Rahman Siddiqi, according to the newspaper, said that Bangladesh had stepped up its appeal for United States recognition this week, as Mitro Bahini gained the upper hand in East Pakistan.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Indian aircraft attacked Karachi harbor and city early today, sinking one merchant ship and killing more than 60 civilians, the Pakistan radio reported. The radio said that a second ship had been set ablaze and a third, a foreign vessel, had been seriously damaged. In an earlier attack during the night, Indian planes struck a petroleum storage tank near the harbor and set it on fire, the radio

The commander of India's eastern forces Lieut. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora said tonight that the retreat of the Pakistanis in East Pakistan

continued to push the Pak troops into an ever-shrinking circle whose center is Dhaka. He added that the air force had had "a field day" the last 24 hours, shooting up river boats loaded with Pakistani troops trying to escape. Mitro Bahini took three important

towns on or near the Meghna ---Ashuganj, Chandpur and Daudkandi. In the eastern sector, Moulvi Bazar

was captured. In the western sector, a vast area west of the Madhumati River had been liberated. **NEUTRAL ZONE IN DHAKA**

The US State Department said today

New telescope to unravel mysteries

that a "neutral zone", comprising the Intercontinental Hotel, the Holy Family Hospital and the headquarters of the United Nations relief operations, had been established in Dhaka to protect nearly 500 foreigners, including some 70 Americans. The zone would serve as an assembly area for the foreigners before they were taken to the airport to be flown out.

A spokesman said that the creation of the "neutral zone" was requested by the United Nations and the United States in expectation of ground fighting in Dhaka as Indian troops approached. **BANGLADESH MISSION**

INAUGURATED IN NEW DELHI

A mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was inaugurated in New Delhi today by the Chief of the Mission Humayun Rasheed Choudhury. He unfurled the flag of Bangladesh in the accompaniment of a band and the booming of guns. Expressing the gratitude of his government for the help given by India in hte hour of peril, Choudhury said Bangladesh forces would be prepared to fight shoulder to shoulder with their Indian brethren to repulse Pakistani aggression in western front of India.

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

Tigers crash to innings defeat A lack of maturity from the right-hander

miracle from Taijul Islam and Ebadot

Hossain.

Bad light was just about to force the umpires to draw stumps and end proceedings in a draw before the scheduled time, but no miracle would be forthcoming after Sajid Khan began the visiting celebrations after picking up the final wicket of Taijul.

Sajid ended with twelve wickets following an eight-wicket haul in the first innings and his figures of 12 wickets for 128 runs were the second-best figures registered by a Pakistani against Bangladesh.

With the result, the visitors completed clean sweep, featuring whitewash wins in the three-match T20I and two-match Test The Tigers will have little time to

regather as they are scheduled to travel to New Zealand today for another tough two-Test assignment, leaving no room for Mominul Haque and Co to overcome any demotivation brought on by the dramatic

Shakib Al Hasan was Bangladesh's biggest hope after they were forced to follow-on. His 63 was the only fight that the batters showed, with the top-order crumbling horribly.

Shakib and Mehedi Hasan Miraz's 51-run seventh-wicket stand provided some stability and the pair saw off the first hour of the final session positively, but Miraz's dismissal proved the turning point of the game.

proved costly as he went for a slog sweep and was trapped leg before and becoming Babar Azam's maiden Test wicket.

The biggest blow came when Shakib, going onto his back foot, was bowled by a quicker Sajid delivery, signaling the start of a race against time for Pakistan. Khaled Ahmed was then caught behind

off Saiid as Pakistan began to make the impossible task of snatching a win in the rain-curtailed Test match look very possible. Bangladesh were just nine runs shy of the 213 needed to force Pakistan to come out to bat again and, with bad light also

hope that the hosts could draw the Test match before Sajid wrapped things up. Earlier, Bangladesh resumed their first innings needing 25 runs to avoid the follow-on before being bowled out for 87, with Shakib the last wicket to fall inside the

coming into play, there was still a ray of

first hour of the day. Pakistani seamers Hasan Ali and Shaheen Afridi then burst onto the scene at the start of the second innings to remove the top four Bangladesh batters, leaving the hosts reeling on 25 for 4 before Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das steadied the ship.

Liton was guilty of playing a loose shot and handed a simple catch to short square leg on 45 off the bowling of Sajid before Shakib and Mushfiq added 49 runs. Mushfiqur's suicidal run-out on 48, iust minutes before the tea break, changed the complexion of the game.

This must not

FROM PAGE 1 fate of those who brutally beat his son to death in the university's Sher-e-Bangla hall on October 7,

Abrar's mother Rokeya Khatun, while speaking to The Daily Star, said she expected that all the accused would be sentenced to death.

"I'm satisfied, but I wanted death penalty for all... They [all] destroyed my family. "We have faith in the

higher court, who, we hope, will award all of them death penalty."

She said she hoped that convicted Amit Saha, one of the five sentenced to life term, will be handed down death penalty.

"Though he was not on the spot that day, he was the one who directed others over the phone." The family members

of the convicts burst into tears after the verdict was announced in the packed courtroom. Some of them shouted

that their sons are innocent and framed, and that they would go to a higher court to challenge the verdict. "My son was in Rajshahi

during the incident and was in no way involved; he was framed in the case," said Rabiul Islam, father of death-row convict Morshed Amartya Islam. "We have been deprived

of justice," said Abu Taher, father of Muhtasim Fuad, who was sentenced to life in jail.

Convict Amit Saha's mother Debi Rani Saha claimed her son was framed falsely in the case and that he was in his Netrakona home during the incident. "His fault is that he

was involved in Chhatra League politics." PROSECUTION AND **DEFENCE REACTION** The prosecution expressed satisfaction over the verdict in the Abrar murder case. while the defence claimed the judgement was not

appropriate.

"This incident has traumatised people. The tribunal awarded highest punishment to the accused to prevent any recurrence of such brutality," said Chief **Public Prosecutor** Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, while talking to reporters on the court premises.

Faruque Ahmed, a lawyer for three accused, said, "Those who masterminded the murder were not brought under the trial. We had placed the issue before the court during our argument. We thought the judge will address it, but he did not do so... We will appeal to the High Court, challenging the verdict."

Govt goes

FROM PAGE 12 The Dhaka-Mawa highway is directly linked with the under-construction Padma bridge and to Narayanganj via Dhaka-Narayanganj

The connections between the major highways and thus the north, south and west of the country means the expressway will have some effect on diverting traffic from Dhaka and thereby reduce congestion in the capital, according to the feasibility study.

The project is a component of the strategic road network planning of the Dhaka Structure Plan (2016-2035) and the Asian Highway Network.

During the feasibility study, the cost of the project was estimated at \$2.04 billion, which is equivalent to Tk 16,388.5 crore, while the per kilometre cost was estimated at Tk 417.6

Out of the total cost, \$1,465.77 million was estimated to be spent for construction and \$375 million for land acquisition and rehabilitation, according to the study.

observatory of its kind. The satellite will be able to see an often overlooked aspect of cosmic ray sources called polarisation.

"The launch of IXPE marks a bold and unique step forward for X-ray

statement. "IXPE will tell us more fields, collisions between objects, about the precise nature of cosmic explosions, scorching temperatures X-ray sources than we can learn by studying their brightness and colour

spectrum alone." X-rays are a highly energetic wavelength of light that are IXPE's principal investigator, in a this includes powerful magnetic telescopes in space.

and rapid rotations. This light is practically encoded with the signature of what created it, but Earth's atmosphere prevents X-rays from reaching the ground. This astronomy," said Martin Weisskopf, born from extremes. In space, is why scientists rely on X-ray

MYANMAR MILITARY-BACKED BUSINESSES

Meta to ban all firms from its platforms

Facebook parent Meta will ban all pages and accounts belonging to Myanmar military-backed businesses, it said, expanding its restraints on the country's armed forces.

Myanmar's secretive military has extensive business interests, with tentacles in industries as diverse as beer, tobacco, transportation, textiles, tourism and banking.

Activists and rights groups say they funded crackdowns and abuses even before the February coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi and launched a bloody crackdown on dissent. In late February Facebook removed all accounts linked

to the military, also known as the Tatmadaw, citing the junta's use of deadly force against anti-coup demonstrators. It also banned military-linked firms from advertising on

Meta "will now also remove Pages, Groups and Accounts representing military-controlled businesses", it said in a statement on Tuesday.

The decision was "based on extensive documentation by the international community of these businesses' direct role in funding the Tatmadaw's ongoing violence and human rights abuses in Myanmar", it said.

It would use the report from a 2019 UN fact-finding mission into the military's economic interests "as the basis" for its actions, it added.

The pages of Myawaddy Trading Ltd, Myawaddy Bank and Myanma Beer -- all included in the 2019 report -- were inaccessible as of yesterday.

A page for a film production company allegedly run by the daughter of junta chief Min Aung Hlaing was also



Omicron spreads to 57 nations | India among top nations

WHO warns hospitalisations set to rise, says existing vaccines should work against the new Covid variant

AGENCIES

The Omicron variant has been reported in 57 nations and the number of patients needing hospitalisation is likely to rise as it spreads, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

The WHO, in its weekly epidemiological report, said more data was needed to assess the severity of disease caused by the Omicron variant and whether its mutations might reduce protection from vaccine-derived immunity.

"Even if the severity is equal or potentially even lower than for Delta variant, it is expected that hospitalisations will increase if more people become infected and that there will be a time lag between an increase in the incidence of cases and an increase in the incidence of deaths," it said.

On November 26, the WHO



declared the Omicron variant, which was first detected in southern Africa, a variant of concern. It is the fifth SARS-CoV-2 strain to carry such a designation, reports Reuters.

The number of reported Covid-19 cases in South Africa doubled in the week to December 5 to more than 62,000 and "very large" increases in incidence have been seen in Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia and Lesotho, it said.

The spread of Omicron, coupled with enhanced testing and low vaccination rates may have played a role, it added.

Referring to the risk of reinfection, the WHO said: "Preliminary analysis suggests that the mutations present in the Omicron variant may reduce neutralising activity of antibodies resulting in reduced protection from natural immunity."

Meanwhile, WHO emergencies

director Michael Ryan said in an interview on Tuesday: "We have highly effective vaccines that have proved effective against all the variants so far, in terms of severe disease and hospitalisation... There's no reason to expect that it wouldn't be so" for Omicron.

However, Ryan acknowledged that it was possible that existing vaccines might prove less effective against Omicron.

in inequality: report

India stands out as a "poor and very unequal" country, with the top 1 percent of the population holding more than one-fifth of the total national income in 2021 and the bottom half just 13 per cent, according to a report.

The report, titled "World Inequality Report 2022", has been authored by Lucas Chancel, co-director of the World Inequality Lab, and coordinated by several experts, including French economist Thomas Piketty.

It further said India is now among the most unequal countries in the

The report pointed out that the average national income of the Indian adult population is Rs 204,200. While the bottom 50 percent earns Rs 53,610, the top 10 percent earns more than 20 times (Rs 1,166,520).

"While the top 10 percent and top 1 percent hold respectively 57 percent and 22 percent of total national income, the bottom 50 percent share has gone down to 13 percent.

"India stands out as a poor and very unequal country, with an affluent

According to the report, average household wealth in India stands at Rs 9,83,010. It observed that the deregulation and liberalisation policies implemented since the mid-1980s have led to "one of the most extreme increases in income and wealth inequality observed in the world". It also said gender inequalities in India are very high.

"The female labor income share is equal to 18 percent. This is significantly lower than the average in Asia," the report said.

MORE NEWS

UK, Australia join US diplomatic **boycott of Beijing Olympics**

Australia and Britain will join the United States in a diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, their prime ministers said yesterday, as other allies weighed similar moves to protest at China's human rights record in Xinjiang. The United States has said its government officials would boycott February's Beijing Olympics because of China's human rights "atrocities", just weeks after talks aimed at easing tense relations between the world's two largest economies. China said the US would "pay a price" for its decision and warned of countermeasures in response. It also has denied any wrongdoing in Xinjiang and said allegations are fabricated.

KSA rejects French claim of Khashoggi suspect arrest

French authorities were yesterday seeking to confirm the identity of a man arrested on suspicion of playing a key role in the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi after Saudi Arabia insisted the suspect was a victim of mistaken identity. The man, bearing a passport in the name of Khaled Alotaibi was arrested by French border police at Paris's main airport on Tuesday as he prepared to board a flight to Riyadh, police and judicial sources said. A man named Khaled Alotaibi is one of the 26 on trial in absentia by Turkey for being part of the hit squad that carried out the murder of Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. He has also been sanctioned by the



US hits Iran with new sanctions for rights abuses

The United States slapped fresh sanctions on a dozen Iranian officials and entities for "serious" human rights abuses Tuesday, ahead of the expected resumption of nuclear talks with Tehran after they halted last week without any concrete progress. The sanctions announced by the Treasury and State Department targeted government officials and organizations involved in the repression of protesters and political activists, and prisons where activists have been held in brutal conditions. The Treasury also placed several Syrian officials on its sanctions blacklist for their roles in political repression and chemical gas attacks, and Uganda's military intelligence chief was hit with sanctions for extreme abuse of people arrested for their nationality or political beliefs.



Israeli security forces arrest a young woman from a school in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, yesterday, following a reported stabbing attack.



DECEMBER 9

1961 - Tanganyika became independent within the Commonwealth, with Julius Nyerere as PM; the following year it became a republic. **1987** - The first riots of the intifada, or Palestinian uprising, erupted on the Gaza Strip.

2016 - South Korea's President Park impeached in parliamentary vote.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Biden-Putin talks 'positive'

Says Ukraine amid military buildup on border

AGENCIES

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that a video call between US President Joe Biden and Russian leadei Vladimir Putin was "positive". "I think it is positive that the president of

the United States spoke with the president of Russia," Zelensky said, a day after Biden warned Putin of "strong" Western economic retaliation for any Russian attack on ex-Soviet Ukraine. Speaking at a news conference, Zelenskiy also hoped that Ukraine and Russia

exchanges when their representatives held talks on the conflict in Ukraine's easterly Donbass region yesterday. "In general, I think it is positive that the president of the United States spoke with the president of the Russian Federation,"

could agree a new ceasefire and prisoner

Zelenskiv said. "The most important thing that we see

now is that there is a personal real reaction

and personal role of President Biden in resolving this conflict, the war in the east of our state."

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss warned yesterday it would be "a strategic mistake" by Moscow to invade Ukraine, amid concern at a Russian troop build-up on the border.

The message, delivered during a wideranging speech and question-and-answer session in London, follows similar warnings from Western capitals as tensions on the Ukrainian frontier. Moscow has deployed up to 100,000 troops there in recent weeks, sparking fears of a major war in eastern Europe, reports AFP.

On Tuesday, President Joe Biden warned Russian President Vladimir Putin in a video link call of "strong" Western economic blowback against any attack on Ukraine.

The Kremlin leader demanded guarantees that the Nato alliance keep clear

ATTACK IN NIGERIA

23 people burn to death

AFP, Abuja

Gunmen in Nigeria attacked a bus in the country's northwestern Sokoto state, causing a fire that killed 23 people, police and the governor's spokesman said yesterday.

It was unclear why the ous was attacked but heavily armed criminals, known locally as bandits, have for years terrorised northwest and central states in Africa's most populous nation.

"23 people lost their lives," said the governor's spokesman Muhammad



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chattogram City Corporation Tiger Pass, Chattogram www.ccc.gov.bd



Dated: 07-12-2021 Memo No. 46.02.1823.000.14.001.21-750

GD-2273

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.14.21.0021

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 of following package from the National e-GP System Portal have to

be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to particular date specified on tender notice

Tender Notice-CCC/ADP-1230Cr./2021-22

Package No. Name of works Tender Last date & time Last date & time of selling of submission documents documents DRBEL/CCC/ Construction of Bridge at J-Block at 11 No. 634571 30-12-2021 30-12-2021 W48/17 12:05 14:05 DRBEL/CCC/ Construction of Jheleypara Bridge at 11 634587 30-12-2021 30-12-2021 W46/9 No. Ward. 12:05 14:05 DRBEL/CCC/ Construction of Bridge at I Block at 11 No. 634591 30-12-2021 30-12-2021 W48/16 12:05 14:05 DRBEL/CCC/ Construction of Bridge at College Road at 634596 30-12-2021 30-12-2021 W48/14 11 No. Ward 12:05 14:05 DRBEL/CCC/ Construction of Bridge at Loharpool over 634600 30-12-2021 30-12-2021 W48/15 Goyner Chora Khal at 11 No. Ward 12:05 14:05 CCC/W-29 Construction of Halishair Main Road (Chy 634601 05-01-2022 05-01-2022 Para to Chowcala) and G-Block to artillery 12:05 Lot-5 14:05 at 26 No. Ward DREBL/CCC/ Construction of RCC Girder Bridge on Rubi 30-12-2021 30-12-2021 W47/10 Gate over Chasma Khal at 8 No. Ward 12:05 14:05

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

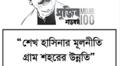
CCC/PRD-62/21-22

সাইজ- ৬ ×৪ কঃ GD-2277

Mohammed Abu Saleh PD & Superintending Engineer Chattogram City Corporation

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর চুয়াডাঙ্গা সদর, চুয়াডাঙ্গা www.lged.gov.bd



Date: 08/12/2021

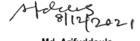
Invitation for Tender (Works) (LTM) Tender Notice Number: 01/2021-2022

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated below:

Package	Name of work	Estimated cost	Tender security (Tk)	Time of completion	Price of tender	
No.		(Tk)		(days)	documents (Tk)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের বাসভবন ও শারিরীক	\$6,00,000.00	80,000.00	৯০ (নব্বই)	960.00	
	নিরাপত্তার জন্য আনসার সদস্যদের আবাসন ভবন নির্মাণ।					
1	Sources of fund	GOB/Upazila Revenue Fund.				
2	Procurement method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM).				
3	Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting	Date: 19/12/2021 Time:11.00am and Place: Office of the undersigned.				
4 Last date, time and places of selling tender Date: 29/12/2021 Time: Upto office hour.						
	documents	Places a) Office of the undersigned.				
		b) The Éxecutive Engineer, LĞED, District: Chuadanga.c) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Alamdanga, Chuadanga.				
5	Last date, time and places of receiving	Places (a) Office of the undersigned.				
	tender documents					
		b) The Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Chuadanga.				
		c) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Alamdanga, District: Chuadanga.				
6	Date, time and place of opening tender	Date: 30/12/2021, Time: 2.00pm.				
		Place: Office of the undersigned Unazila: Chuadanga Sadar, Chuadanga				

Tender shall be valid for a period of 60 days from tender opening and accompanied by the tender security specified above. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned and purchase the tender documents Cash/ Treasury Chalan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

- দরপত্র দর প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের শতকরা ৫% (পাঁচ) ভাগ অধিক কম বা বেশী দাখিল করিলে দরপত্রটি সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। দরপত্রের সাথে হালনাগাদ ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্সের ফটোকপি, ভ্যাট, আয়কর, ও ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের ফটোকপি, এবং লিকুইড এ্যাসেটে (ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট) দরপত্রের সাথে
- দরপত্রের বায়নার টাকা পে-অভার/ডিমান্ড ড্রাফট আকারে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন



Md. Arifuddoula Upazila Engineer Chuadanga Sadar, Chuadanga Phone: 0761-63397

FEATURE

The comfort of books amidst wedding lights

Reflections and recommendations for this wedding season's brides and grooms-to-be

ISHRAT JAHAN

It is December again and as evenings set in, Dhaka becomes brighter than it has been in the past few months. At every alternate street, fairy lights glitter and lanterns float against a dark night—the wedding season is here. Yet, admiring the lights from a distance and being in their midst, in the eye of the storm, are two different worlds. We reached out to the local book-reading community on social media to ask brides and grooms-to-be (of the past and present) how books provided them with comfort and insight while confronting such a major change.

Inhabiting this role often comes with the mental and physical strain of planning a wedding—from deciding the colour of the tiniest cufflinks to overseeing guest lists and venue decorations. Doito Bonotulshi, 27, who is currently in the midst of organising her upcoming wedding events, finds herself reading her childhood favourites on her commutes to shopping malls. "I have been reading Humayun Ahmed and at times Jafar Iqbal because of the ease of language and flow of writing. The characters seem like people I know in real life."

It is while standing at this exciting turning point that many find themselves unpacking what goes into a marriage. Even in the midst of the chores and chaos, there is a need for introspection.

"More importantly", she adds, "I always know where the story is heading, even if I don't remember the exact endings after all these years. So, there is a sense of comfort and control to be found."

The looming presence of "what if something goes wrong?" waits at the turn of every shopping trip and venue tour, especially amidst

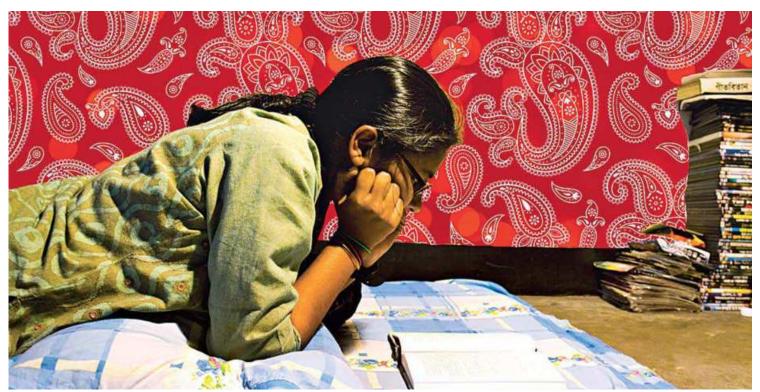


PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

the ongoing pandemic. But with the help of friends, families, and books, there is a sense of relief and happiness to be found when things

Golpo Guccho

"Golpo Gucho

Mashrura sha

Beyond the pressures of organising, one also stands at the precipice of personal changes that will impact all aspects of their lives—from sharing their space with another person everyday, to learning about a new family's habits and dynamics. Wahida Mashrura, a Bangladeshi marketing and business professional living in New York who got married in 2018, shares the books that she would seek out at the time: *The Blue Castle* (1926) and *Anne's House of Dreams* (1917) by Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Good Wives* (first published in 1869) by Louisa May Allcott, and

COLLAGE: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

come together eventually.

Golpo Guccho by Rabindranath Tagore.

"Golpo Guccho is one of my favorite books", Mashrura shares, recalling with particular fondness short stories like "Hoimonti", "Megh o Roudro", and "Moddhobortini'" among others. "For me, the stories reflect how humans and their motivations interact, and it shaped my expectations and tolerance for other people's perspectives. Marriage brings new people into our lives and as a general rule, accepting that people are different, helps", she adds.

It is while standing at this exciting turning point that many find themselves unpacking what goes into a marriage. Even in the midst of the chores and chaos, there is a need for introspection. Upoma Rashid, 28, a development professional based in Dhaka who

tied the knot earlier this year during lockdown, shared her experience in searching for more practical advice from books.

"My then fiancé/now husband and I have completely different personalities. I was looking for assurance that despite having so little in common, it's possible to build a wonderful life together. A bit of browsing directed me towards books by co-writers, John M Gottman and Nan Silver, and I picked up What Makes Love Last? (2012). Despite dealing with a topic that can get overwhelming and which has so many factors to account for—because no two relationships are the same—it felt easy to read, provided insights on issues of communication, intimacy, etc."

Upoma's reflection points out the

importance of not only remembering to focus on our relationships but also to carve out time to understand, to navigate the changes and challenges of a relationship that is transitioning—be it a love or an arranged marriage.

Getting married comes with a burden of intense social scrutiny—the choices and decisions of a bride and groom to-be are rarely their own. Looking back at my own experience of getting married, I remember reaching out to books when I felt exhausted by the social expectations of acting and looking like the "perfect" bride. I found myself reaching out for poetry anthologies; I knew that in between verses I would find that inexplicable sense of hope and love, which had led me and my partner to marriage in the first place. Chris Riddell's illustrated anthology, Poems to Fall in Love With (Pan Macmillan, 2019), is one such varied set of poems. It talks about the universal experiences of love, a collection where classic Shakespearean verses sit along with modern ones.

So in the spirit of reaching out for comfort at a time when life visibly rearranges and changes around us, I leave you, dear readers, with a verse. I hope you find joy both in between these lines and in between the celebrations and bittersweet change:

Because there are things you cannot know before you experience them.

Because no study can prepare you for the joys or the trials.

Because nobody else's love, nobody else's marriage, is like yours,

and it's a road you can only learn by walking it, a dance you cannot be taught,

a song that did not exist before you began, together, to sing.

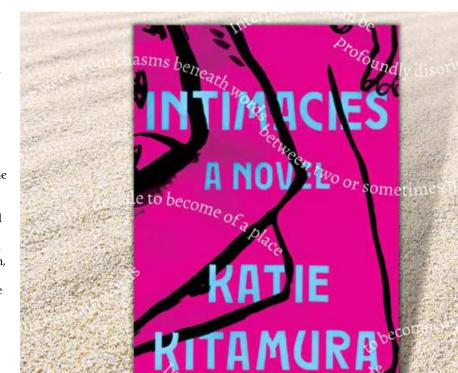
- All I Know about Love, Neil Gaiman

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

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Neutrality is an illusion in Katie Kitamura's 'Intimacies'

JAHIN KAIISSAR



Katie Kitamura's latest novel, *Intimacies* (Riverhead Books, 2021), is a stunning follow-up to its critically acclaimed predecessor, *A Separation* (2017). In *Intimacies*, Kitamura, once again, shows herself to be psychologically astute, focusing on the moral quandaries that arise from the intimate and intricate relationships that one might have with language, with other people, and with one's own emotions.

In the wake of her father's death, the

unnamed narrator moves from New York to The Hague, where she takes up a year-long contract as an interpreter for the International Court. Soon after arriving in her new city, she is forced to navigate a series of disquieting situations in her personal and professional life. For instance, she finds out that her Dutch boyfriend, Adriaan, is married. Weeks pass with no words from him once Adriaan departs for Lisbon to divorce his estranged wife. In his absence, the narrator displays quiet interest in the truth behind the violence inflicted upon a newfound friend's brother, a victim of a brutal street crime. Meanwhile, her professional responsibilities become more demanding and emotionally draining. She is assigned to a high-profile case that requires her to interpret for a former West African president who stands accused of ethnic cleansing and other war crimes.

Kitamura's main thematic concerns are the power of language and the complexity of interpretation. When the narrator translates in court for a witness testifying about the former president's war crimes, there is a slippage, a shift in perspective—her "I" merges with the "I" of the witness. In this crucial moment, the act of interpretation becomes achingly intimate, causing the narrator to ponder the moral implications of channeling the voice of someone else. Kitamura also depicts moments outside of the courtroom—at an art gallery, a small dinner party, or a business lunch—when the narrator is forced to interpret the words, demeanour, and intentions of others. Although the narrator's ability to interpret is her strength, it can prove pernicious, especially when she starts spiraling.

Other themes go hand in hand with the act of interpretation: neutrality and complicity. As a conduit for language, the narrator is required to be neutral. However, over the course of the novel, she realises that neutrality is an

illusion. In a flyer that she receives from a demonstrator, she reads: "This was the true face of neocolonialism, this apparatus of Western imperialism, this Court." Kitamura thus sheds light on the hypocrisy of the Court and raises profound questions: why is a western judiciary meddling in the affairs of an African country? How can the narrator be neutral if she is working for a biased institution? As a person who works for the Court and as a person from "a country that has committed terrible crimes and atrocities," is the narrator herself complicit?

The most intriguing aspect of *Intimacies* is the way in which the role of the interpreter is foisted not only upon the narrator but also upon the reader. In describing her job, the narrator states: "Interpretation was a matter of great subtlety, a word with many contexts, for example it is often said that an actor interprets a role, or a musician a piece of music." Interpretation, then, is not a mechanical, word-by-word translation. It is less a linear process

and more a circuitous journey, made difficult by false turns and dead ends. The tricky nature of interpretation is reflected in the style of Kitamura's prose: intimate yet distant; subtle yet powerful; sparse and digestible, yet full of insightful observations. Moreover, her deliberate defiance of grammatical conventions—the prolific use of commas and the absence of quotation marks for dialogues—turns reading itself into an interpretive act.

Despite being beautifully written and emotionally searing, *Intimacies* falls into a pit common to slim novels. Kitamura makes subtle and thought-provoking comments on infidelity, gentrification, violence; but many of these ideas remain under-explored.

The novel is, nonetheless, nothing short of a masterpiece. Within a relatively short page count, Kitamura writes an engrossing tale that is interpretive, interior, and intimate.

Jahin Kaiissar is a contributor. Reach her at jahinkaiissar@gmail.com.

BOOK NEWS

National award winner Kajol Ibrahim launches her memoir

MAISHA SYEDA

In an intimate ceremony held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 4, national award-winning dancer, choreographer, and stage performer Kajol Ibrahim launched her memoir, *Nritte Gantha Kotha Mala*, published by Ramon Publishers.

The audience included chief guest, museologist and former Director General of the Bangladesh National Museum, Dr Enamul Haque; and special guests, critic, writer and academic, Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, and Bangladeshi actor, director, singer, composer, and cultural organiser, Liaquat Ali Lucky, who is the Director General of Shilpakala Academy at present.

The event, organised by Nrityanchal Dance Company in the Studio Theater Hall, commenced and ended with dance performances by young artists, choreographed by Kajol Ibrahim herself. The programme included introductory speeches from co-directors of the school, dancers and choreographers, Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa.

Kajol Ibrahim's mother, Badrunnessa Abdullah, along with her family were invited to the stage to inaugurate the ceremony. Remembering Kajol's childhood, Badrunnessa Abdullah amusingly recalled that she had never really seen her daughter hold a pen growing up, so the authoring of the book came as a pleasant surprise.

"It's not just a memoir, it has become a narrative of her life in the performing



PHOTO: MAISHA SYEDA

arts", she said. "I would like to extend my gratitude to all the notable artists, performers, and literary figures present here today who have inspired my daughter".

The memoir, Kajol Ibrahim tells Daily Star Books, is a snapshot of her life—her first self-composed performance, at the age of 14, to the dramatisation of "Nakshi

Kanthar Math", a Bangla verse narrative written by poet Jasimuddin; being casted as the lead in a performance with her mentor; working in later years with her co-dancers; memories with her parents; and the picture of Old Dhaka as she knew it.

She is especially grateful to Shamim Ara Nipa, who made sure she remained connected with the world of dancing, as well as her brother and younger daughter, who guided her through the writing process, and the editors who helped compile the manuscript. The author's only requirement from the editorial process was that her language remain true to her personal style. For her readers and an upcoming generation of dancers, Ibrahim hopes the book will reveal how the government in those days played a vital role in honing the talents of young performers.

At the book launch, Dr Enamul Haque recalled Kajol Ibrahim's unparalleled contribution to the field of theater throughout the years. "The talent that Kajol has should be utilised by schools and institutions; they need to recruit her in order to educate the next generation of dancers, by exploiting her knowledge", he said. "It will be a tremendous loss to the performing arts if we are not able to preserve such talent."

Highlighting his role as an audience member of stage performance, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam said, "A tradition is created in the future generations of artists commemorating their predecessors. By navigating the harsh tides of our tradition and dedicating ourselves to our art completely, we are able to uphold this tradition and pay the utmost respect to

By representing her life through pictures in her book, Kajol Ibrahim is able to show us her struggles and leave a legacy for the upcoming artists, Professor Islam pointed out.

Distribution rights to the book have not yet been shared. Readers can purchase copies by getting in touch with Kajol Ibrahim personally or through Facebook messenger.

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

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LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 2021, AGRAHAYAN 24, 1428 BS

Accident, negligence or murder?

CCC cannot avoid responsibility for deaths from open drains

■ HE open drains of Chattogram have taken lives before, and this time around, a 12-year-old boy fell in a drain on Monday and disappeared. Fire service personnel are conducting an operation to recover the body of the missing boy. The photograph of the mournful father holding the mug-shot of his missing son that appeared on the front page of this daily is a poignant one, indeed. Ironically, the boy fell in the same drain which had devoured 55-year-old Saleh Ahmed, a vegetable trader, on August 25 this year. And only a month later, on September 28, 19-year-old university student Sehrin Mahbub Sadia met with the same fate. Even earlier, in the month of June, a CNG-run autorickshaw fell in one such drain and the driver died along with a passenger.

The open drains have turned into veritable death traps for the citizens of the port city, and these unfortunate deaths, occurring in quick succession, seem to have failed to stir the conscience of the people responsible for keeping the drains covered anticipating such accidents. These wide and deep drains have been constructed very close to the roads and during heavy rains it becomes difficult to guess where the drains are located. Rescue operations by the fire service department personnel cannot run smoothly because of the filth and sludge in the drain-water.

The main mantra of any construction project is "safety first", but we hardly notice people responsible for the maintenance of safety implementing the slogan as diligently as they should. Following the accidents involving the open drains, citizens have demanded that these be covered with durable slabs. But, no perceptible action has been taken so far to prevent such tragedies. One town planner, almost echoing our concern, told the correspondent of this daily that drains in the city have been left open and accidents are happening because of the sheer negligence of the authorities. He further said that the Chattogram City Corporation cannot avoid responsibility for these accidents. We cannot but agree with him that you need not be an engineer to sense it. Just common sense is enough to understand that leaving drains open may cause accidents.

We notice the same old tendency of passing the buck here as well. When contacted, the CCC mayor, instead of taking responsibility, said the drain in question could not be covered up as the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has been working on it as part of a mega project to address waterlogging. The mayor has no idea when CDA would hand over the drain to them.

The whole episode smacks of negligence and apathy towards human suffering and human life. It is criminal in nature and needs to be investigated by the government so that no more lives are lost in avoidable accidents.

Weak institutions lead to bad governance

50 years on, why are we yet to develop strong and independent institutions?

ESPITE racking up impressive GDP growth numbers over the years, Bangladesh's failure to establish effective institutions and institutional capacity is very disappointing. At a recent panel discussion, experts expressed their concern regarding how this would affect the country going forward, particularly as it graduates from the least developed country (LDC) category. Bangladesh has had to pay a hefty price already due to its weak institutions. While our economic performance has been admirable, various studies by national and international organisations have revealed on multiple occasions how our economy could have performed better if it weren't for reasons that are ultimately tied to weak institutional capacity—such as widespread corruption and lack of accountability and transparency on part of state agencies.

The rising inequality—both economic and social—is another major problem that we see as a result of feeble institutions. This has also been holding us back from attaining our developmental goals, including the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For years, experts have been harping on the matter, asking politicians and bureaucrats to take it seriously. However, due to the unfortunate fact that weak institutions allow for a lack of accountability and transparency—which in turn can be exploited by people in positions of power—none of them seem to have been listening. As a result, Bangladesh's institutions rank among some of the worst in the world.

If we look at the banking sector for example, we see that the sector has been in perpetual crisis for years with some fearing that we haven't even seen the worst of it yet—due to the absurd policy-making of the central bank and numerous interventions from the finance ministry in its decision-making. The lack of autonomy of our central bank is a perfect example of how we have failed to build effective and independent institutions. Another such example is the lack of independence of our Anti-Corruption Commission, whose powers have been gradually weakened by policymakers through laws that outright undermine our constitution—by granting civil servants undue privileges.

Throughout the world, there have been countless examples of countries that have failed to make the jump that we are about to, simply because they failed to develop effective institutions that can hold bureaucrats and politicians accountable. Will we turn out to be

another such case? If not, it is high time for our policymakers to recognise the danger we are in, and pursue policies that strengthen the capacity of institutions that are supposed to hold the decision-makers accountable. We have to try and instil the concept of checks and balances in all our state institutions. Otherwise, those in positions of power will continue to do as they please—and exploit state power for personal benefits—instead of acting in the best interest of the country.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

Expand space for accountability to control corruption



the International Anti-corruption Day (IACD). On this day in 2003, the United Nations called upon governments and peoples of the world to mark the

adoption of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). IACD is intended to highlight the importance of concrete and collective action against corruption involving all stakeholders.

The Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh decided in 2017 that IACD will be officially observed in the country annually. For Bangladesh, IACD has assumed much greater significance this year as we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the glorious victory of our independence.

terms of nearly every credible indicator of governance and corruption. These include the Rule of Law Index, Regulatory Quality Index, Government Effectiveness Index, Political Stability Index, Voice and Accountability Index, Press Freedom Index, Political Rights Index and the civil liberties index.

According to the Corruption Perception Index 2020, Bangladesh continues to be ranked among countries where corruption is perceived to be most pervasive. Although it has been able to overcome the pains of being at the very bottom of the list as during 2001-05, its current 12th position from the bottom, with a score of 26 out of 100, remains well below the global average of 43, and the second-lowest in South Asia, only after Afghanistan.

Corruption is a crime that undermines and impedes development, social cohesion, political stability and democratic progress everywhere. It is a menace that causes the plundering of resources, destroys level playing field in

controlled corruption, the cost of which is estimated as at least two to three percent of GDP. For the common people, it is a distressing experience that hurts the poor and disadvantaged the hardest. According to the national household survey on corruption released by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in 2018, 66 percent of the surveyed people experienced corruption in the service delivery sectors while 89 percent of those who were victims of bribery were forced to make unauthorised payments as they wouldn't otherwise have access to public

Against this backdrop, as we mark the country's 50th victory anniversary, we need to consider the opportunity costs of corruption in terms of our aspirations for sustainable development, democracy, justice and equality. What the UN has identified as the theme of this year's IACD—"Your Right, Your Role: Say No to Corruption"—was much more eloquently and comprehensively articulated by

fortress against corruption."

Given the level of criminalisation of politics and the depth and breadth of corruption, there is hardly any indicator of whether and to what extent Bangabandhu's call inspired subsequent rulers and political leaders, including the party he led before being brutally killed and deprived of the opportunity to lead the transformation needed to realise his

The incumbent head of the government coincidentally echoed the same spirit in the context of the casino scandal and a short-lived high profile drive against ruling party-affiliated youth leaders, procurement lords and casino "dons". She declared zero tolerance against corruption, promised that nobody would be spared and made the ambitious pledge to cleanse "own house" first. The zero tolerance commitment was repeated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the context of Covid-19 pandemic response.

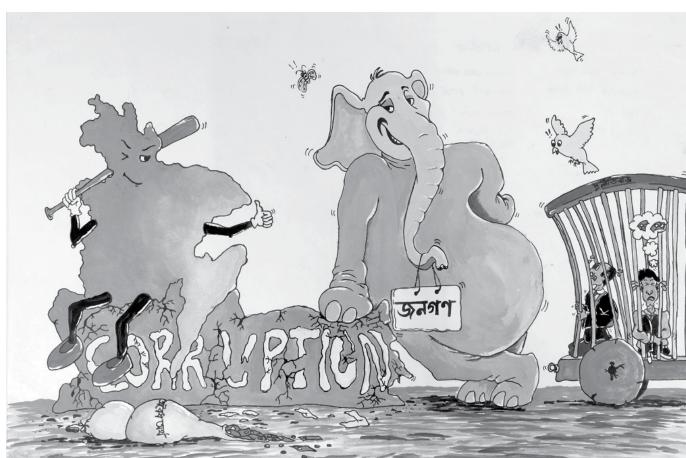
However, hardly anything has been done to effectively implement these pledges. Nowhere in the world can such pledges be translated into reality by the head of a government alone. Ironically, a section of the people—in their official and institutional capacity—who are entrusted to implement the pledge are among the colluders, beneficiaries and protectors of corruption.

The importance of multi-stakeholder participation against corruption has been underscored by Article 13 of the UNCAC, "each State Party shall ... promote active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption." A State Party to the Convention against Corruption for Bangladesh thus has to be committed to creating space for citizens' participation in the anti-corruption movement.

This is easier said than done in an environment where there are aspirations of monopolising the political space, and where the scope for voice and accountability has been severely restricted by the motivated application of certain provisions of laws that restrict freedom of speech and opinion of civil society, media and common people. For the same reason, nearly every institution of democracy and national integrity system has been rendered politicised and dysfunctional, creating scope for widespread impunity enjoyed by abusers of power.

Enforcement of law and holding the corrupt to account without fear or favour are crucial for corruption control, but equally important is to transform anticorruption work into a social movement, as stressed by Bangabandhu. Space must be expanded, not restricted, for civil society and media to exercise their rights and responsibilities as enshrined in the Constitution, without which any prospect of holding power-abusers to account will remain only a dream.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman is Executive Director,



We take pride in our internationally enviable achievements in terms of many socio-economic indicators and now realistic aspirations to become a middleincome country. The country's GDP growth remains consistently high, while in terms of such indicators as Human Development Index, Multidimensional Poverty Index, Gender Development Index, population growth reduction and life expectancy at birth, Bangladesh has been performing better than comparable countries in South Asia and beyond.

However, Bangladesh also anguishes for its contrastingly poor performance in public contracting, distorts competitive business and investment environment, and erodes trust in government and politics. It increases poverty and income disparity, too. It is a multi-trilliondollar global scandal that includes illicit transfers of corrupt money, mainly from the developing countries like ours to the developed world. Credible estimates suggest annual illicit transfers from Bangladesh at a rate of USD 10 to 12

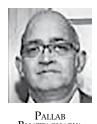
Bangladesh's performance in growth and socioeconomic transformation could have been much better if it had effectively ILLUSTRATION: NAZMUL SAKIB RABIT/TIB

the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, back in 1975 in a speech on Independence Day, as follows: "In 1971, I called upon you to create

fortresses in every household against

Pakistani rulers ... the number one priority today is to root out corruption ... I will enforce the laws, I will not spare anybody ... I need your help ... it has to be a people's movement ... it has to be a movement to socially boycott the bribe-takers and the corrupt. ... Who can do it? Students can do it, the youth can, intellectuals can, the people can ... each household should be turned into a

India-Russia ties in a changing world



S Russian President Vladimir Putin wrapped up his six-hour visit to New Delhi on December 6, most commentaries on India-Russia relations invariably termed it as the continuation of

decades of romance that first blossomed in the Cold War era—a global geopolitical scenario that is very different from what it is today.

Few have noted the important coincidence that Putin's visit took place on the day India and Bangladesh celebrated "Maitri Divas" at a function held in New Delhi, addressed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, albeit through a recorded video message. After all, it is the Liberation War of 1971, which led to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation, that added a new depth in strategic ties between India and the then Soviet Union. During that time, the warming of ties between the US and China under the stewardship of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, Pakistan's Operation Searchlight in then East Pakistan, and the grave security challenge posed by the Washington-Beijing tie-up pushed India and the Soviet Union to sign the landmark 1971 Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, which envisaged each other's help in defending their territorial integrity.

The international scenario has, of course, changed since 1971. But one thing that has remained constant between then and now is the flux in that scenario. No wonder that India's ruling establishment, irrespective of their ideological moorings, has not given up any opportunity to gush about how India-Russia ties have been tested through vicissitudes and changing times. The Cold War is long gone. Today, India has moved much closer to the US,

and Russia and China have grown closer in the face of Russia's frayed relations with the US and Europe. But what has not changed is the sustained India-Russia engagement at the summit level—the meeting between Putin and Modi in Delhi on December 6 was the 21st top-level interaction, possibly unprecedented for any two countries.

Three major takeaways from the Putin-Modi summit are in defence and trade.

issues" that remain to be sorted out. India to new areas for long-term cooperation already has such military logistics support agreements with a number of countries, including the US. To take defence and diplomatic ties forward, India and Russia have for the first time institutionalised meetings between their defence and foreign ministers, who held their first in-person and delegation-level talks under that format. India and the US already have the same institutional arrangement.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India on December 6, 2021.

The two countries entered into a 10 year pact on military-technical cooperation, which includes a deal for manufacturing AK203 assault rifles in a factory in India's Uttar Pradesh state. Contrary to expectations, however, the two countries failed to ink an agreement on logistical support for each other's military because, as Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said, there were a "few

On trade, the two sides acknowledged that this front has been somewhat lagging, as the volume of bilateral trade is not commensurate with the depth of the strategic partnership between India and Russia. They set a target of trebling the volume of trade in goods from USD 10 billion at present to USD 30 billion in the next four years, a tall order by any yardstick. The two countries looked

to achieve this. By contrast, India's trade with the US and China are close to USD 100 billion, and Russia's trade with China is pegged at slightly over the same amount. But a robust trade is no guarantee for a burgeoning relationship in other areas. High stakes in trade do not always dampen political and military tensions-India-China, US-China and Japan-China are examples of that.

It is a sign of maturity on the parts of India and Russia that they have not allowed the ties between New Delhi and Washington, and Beijing and Moscow, to come in the way of boosting and diversifying their own bilateral relations. For instance, India has gone ahead with procuring the S-400 Triumf air missile defence system from Russia despite the threats of sanctions from the US. Secondly, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during the bilateral meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu on December 6, raised upfront the issue of China's combativeness on the unresolved border along the Himalayas. True, Rajnath did not name any names, but his reference to the military tensions in India's northern border with China left little doubt as to whom he had in mind. More importantly, Rajnath used this tension to seek greater military cooperation with Russia considering the "real, immediate and legitimate defence challenges" posed by China, and expressed the hope that Moscow will remain a major partner for New Delhi in these "changing circumstances.'

India and Russia are also not entirely on the same page as far as the security scenario in Asia-Pacific-which China considers to be its backyard—is concerned. As both India and Russia seek new allies, the flames of their long-

standing ties continue to burn brighter. Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for The Daily Star. He writes from New Delhi, India

Dreaming with Rokeya



It is intellectual

power that sets

human beings

apart, and women

have been denied

the opportunity to

explore this aspect,

as Rokeya has

reminded us in

and in all her

Dream is a

essay after essay,

writings. Sultana's

wonderful exposé

can do with their

of what women

"brainpower."

ULTANA'S Dream published in 1905 in the Ladies Home Journal in what was then the Presidency city of Madras. Penned by an unknown

writer then residing in Bhagalpur, this short story has travelled the globe as the imagining of a utopian world run by women on feminist principles. The history of its publication shows a pan-Indian or South Asian sensibility at work, as the young Bengali writer writing in Bihar is published in Madras. Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's entry into the literary firmament was indeed

What are the main elements of the space that Rokeya, through Sultana, is dreaming of? Of course the most well-known is freeing the women from the zenana and locking the men in the murdana, thus reversing gender norms and overturning gender roles. As Sultana is guided through the kingdom of Ladyland by Sister Sara, she notices the absence of men on the streets. Sister Sara at the same time remarks on Sultana's "manly" mannerisms. In Ladyland, "manly" connotes shy and retiring, as women can boldly walk about at all hours of the day and night, safe from horrible leers or danger. This is a dream indeed as we still cannot walk the streets of our cities without fear, both of attack and of social castigation.

How did this come about? "Through the superiority of intellectual powers and scientific innovation," says Sister Sara. The war with the neighbouring kingdom was won not through the superior armed power of the existing armed force, but by unmanned solarpowered missiles. This is shown as a force for good. But we, as twenty-first century readers, have to pause a bit at this point, as this kind of warfare has become a reality in our times. Science

and technology at the beginning of the twentieth century had held up immense possibilities for the social good, but a century and more later, we are faced with its dystopian potentials.

But winning this war has led to the establishment of the fabulous Ladyland. Here, the state is run on humanitarian principles: policing and penal systems are unknown, as there is hardly any crime or incidents of violence. The harshest punishment is banishment from the kingdom; most violators of the system are forgiven, and it is only repetition of violations that leads to banishment. Religion is based on universal love and the communal differences of the time find no expression in this ideal land.

There are two universities in the land, and taking a page out of Swift's Laputa perhaps (but completely overturning its satirical intentions), Sultana's Dream evinces great faith in scientific innovation. Thus, we are given pictures of clean kitchens, where of course the men are stirring the pots. These hearths are fired by solar power, so the sootcovered kitchens in which women chopped and baked all day, are replaced with clean spaces where women's entry appears to be optional. Agriculture has been revolutionised by harnessing this solar power as well as by harvesting rainwater. Rokeya has really let her imagination soar to ride on air balloons and control the weather. And women, being given educational opportunities, are easily able to explore and realise their potentials. Don't women have smaller brains than men? Size does not matter, as there are many creatures, such as elephants, who have larger brains than human beings. And what about physical strength? On that count, lions and tigers would rule the earth. It is intellectual power that sets human beings apart, and women have been denied the opportunity to explore this aspect, as Rokeya has reminded us in essay after essay, and in all her writings. Sultana's Dream is a wonderful exposé of what women can do with their "brainpower."

But are "feminine virtues" completely



Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain (December 9, 1880 - December 9, 1932)

denied in Ladyland? Not at all, as a perfect work-life balance is achieved here. Lady-like "accomplishments", such as embroidery, fit into this world as leisure activities or even artistic expressions. Work is so organised that there is time left over for domestic involvements. Vegetables and flowers are cultivated as domestic chores are transformed into pleasurable and relaxing tasks.

Sultana is bemused as she wanders through the well-laid-out streets, safe and gaining in confidence. But at the end, she is jolted into reality as she wakes up with a start to realise it's only a dream. But is Sultana's dream and Rokeya's "sweet revenge" just that—a dream and a wish fulfilment? This early vision of a perfect world for women—it is one of Rokeya's earliest writings—has echoed through for over a century. It has acquired a historic position as the first feminist utopia, it speaks to women across time and geography, and for us in Bangladesh, Rokeya's dream gives us a full vision of the world we are

aspiring to. (Yes, I agree that locking up the men may be an extreme measure, but curbing the violence that women are subjected to, from leery looks to rape, requires some kind of drastic solution). First written in English, and later translated to Bangla by the author herself, the story has been able to travel the world, and has acquired a place in world literature, at least in the annals of transnational feminism.

Rokeya's vision most crucially has continued to inspire the women's movement in Bangladesh. We are indeed fortunate in having such a wonderful example to follow, as Rokeya traversed over the fields of writing, education and organising in her times. Her vision was expressed playfully and with a light touch in Sultana's Dream, but her total body of writing and life's work were devoted to the advancement and liberation of women. In this task, she recognised no barriers, cultural or national, in reaching out to women of all communities in her city, including Christian nuns and

Brahma educators, read widely, drawing examples from the lives of women in Turkey or Bombay, looking at the causes of women's subordination in culture and religion, and speaking out when she needed to. Her writing spans essays and fiction. Padmarag, for example, builds on the themes from Sultana's Dream to construct a woman's space, throwing in a lot of women from diverse communities together. Sakhawat Memorial School, which Rokeya established in Kolkata, educated the first generation of Bengali Muslim women. She was not constrained in defining herself, either as Muslim or Bengali or Indian, but what was absolutely central to her, was her mission for the advancement of women. Transforming dreams into reality was her mission in life. She called on all womenbhaginigon—to join her in this effort.

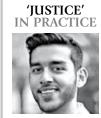
The contemporary women's movement in Bangladesh still turns to Rokeya, responding to her call in various ways, be it in its stance on secularism, or in its call for the safety and security of women in homes and public spaces.

Dreams and visions are necessary for the path to women's advancement and liberation. Today, the anniversary of her birth and death, will be marked as usual by memorial lectures and functions. Naripokkho has taken a leaf out of Rokeya's book this year to mount an exhibition comprised of paintings by 50 women. These paintings have been chosen through a call for submissions, and will be on display at Drik Gallery from December 9 to 16. Entitled Amader Shopno, this exhibition recognises the importance of dreaming, of creating visions that can be transformed into achievable goals, or dreams as expressions of our realities, where the conditions of our lives take on new and meaningful dimensions. Rokeya had called for the unlocking of women's creativity, and we, in our humble way, are trying follow in her footsteps.

Firdous Azim is a professor of English and chairperson of the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University. She is also a

16 Days Of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

We need a state compensation fund for victims of violent crime



violent crime like gang rape or custodial torture takes place, we are quick to demand justice for it. However, what exactly do we mean by justice? More often than not, our demands for and perception of justice only extend to ensuring

punishment of the perpetrator of the crime. While that is certainly an essential component of securing justice, it is not and should not be the only aspect we focus on. The modern study of victimology stresses that focusing on the victim and addressing the harms and costs they face as a result of the crime committed against them should be an essential component of justice, yet it is something we seldom acknowledge.

violent crimes, the possibility of receiving compensation was made dependent on the possibility of securing a criminal conviction of the perpetrator. For instance, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, the Acid Control Act 2002, the Prevention of forture and Custodial Death Act 2013 and the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, etc. all introduced provisions relating to compensating the victim of the offence. However, under these provisions, a court is given the discretion or duty to convert a sentence of fine (which goes to the state treasury) into an award of compensation (which would go to the victim). These provisions only served the purpose of reiteration as criminal courts already had the power to convert fines into awards of compensation under section 545(b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898.

Making the possibility of receiving compensation dependent on the possibility of securing a criminal conviction of the

compensation for custodial torture, and Tk two lakh for custodial death. Additionally, according to a 2020 study by BLAST, the average amount of fine imposed by the Court in rape cases was around Tk 28,000. Thirdly, if award of compensation from the

order of fine is subject to judicial discretion, as it is under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, this further reduces the victim's chances of receiving compensation. For instance, the 2020 study by BLAST also found that although the Court imposed fines on convicted rapists in 100 percent of the cases (since fine is mandatory for rape), the judge converted the fine into compensation and awarded it to the victim/survivor in less than seven percent of the cases.

Fourthly, securing a criminal conviction may take years, if not decades, while victims of violent crime require monetary relief immediately due to the costs associated with

Therefore, it is clear that for victims of violent crime to receive compensation, an alternative is needed. In 2007, the Law Commission noted the inadequacy of the existing laws to provide redress to victims of violent crime and proposed a draft law named Crime Victims Compensation Act to fill this void. Due to the concerns and challenges outlined above, compensation schemes for victims of violent crime have been introduced

in many countries across the world. The draft law primarily obliges the state to create a Crime Victims Compensation Fund in each district, from which victims of a closed list of violent offences (including rape) can apply for compensation as a matter of right. This closed list of offences includes: murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, causing death by rash or negligent driving or riding on a public road, attempt to murder, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, causing death or grievous hurt by means of corrosive substance, kidnapping, abduction, rape, extortion, robbery, dacoity, and offences under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000.

The fund is to be managed by a Victim Services Committee (VSC), which would have to be established in the office of the District and Sessions Judge in every district and supervised by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Every application for compensation is to be heard by the Committee, which will decide not only whether to grant compensation, but also the amount and the mode in which it is to be paid (i.e. lump sum or periodic payments).

the award of compensation is to be made independently of apprehension, prosecution or conviction of the alleged perpetrator. The draft law also clarifies that the award of compensation is not to be seen as a price of compromise between the parties, as it often is in our country even in the case of non-compoundable offences.

The financing of the fund remains somewhat vague, as the draft law lays down government contributions to the fund as one of only two mandatory sources of financing, but does not specify which branch of government would have to budget for this. The other mandatory source is the money recovered from all fines, amount of forfeited bail bonds, and

penalties that can be realised from those convicted of the list of violent offences covered by the Act. Optional sources of funding include: voluntary contributions, donations or grants from any individual or organisation, and any other source.

As we celebrate our miraculous economic growth and transition into a middle income country, it is essential that we reinvest some of the country's wealth in activating the Crime Victims Compensation Fund proposed by the Law Commission back in 2007, so victims of violent crimes are able to get the monetary relief they deserve as a matter of right.

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More often than not, our demands for and perception of justice only extend to ensuring punishment of the perpetrator of the crime.

perpetrator, and linking it with the fines

Firstly, securing a conviction in a criminal court itself remains a daunting and improbable task. For instance, a 2015 study by BRAC University found that the conviction rates in the cases disposed by the Women and Children Repression Prevention tribunals in three districts was less than one percent.

to secure a conviction, the amount of compensation is likely to be inadequate since it depends on the amount of finewhich is typically nominal and limited. For instance, the maximum amount of fine (and therefore compensation) under the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 is Tk one lakh, while the Prevention of Torture and Custodial Death Act 2013 prescribes only Tk 25,000 as

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



GD-2272

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer Jashore

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গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Dated: 07-12-2021

Memo No. 46.02.4100.000.07.001.21-4152

e-Tender Notice: 18/2021-22

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of

following Tender ID & Schemes.						
SI. No.	Package No, Name of Scheme & Tender ID No.	Tender method	Last date & time of selling document	Last date & time of submission document		
1	SupRB/Jas/Replace/21-22/W-46 Construction of 30.00m long PSC Girder Bridge on Jhikargacha-Kayemkhola GC via Sreerampur Road at Chainage: 7100m under Replacement category Road ID-241232011 under Jhikargacha Upazila, District: Jashore. (TID No. 617073)	ОТМ	02-Jan-2022 14:00	03-Jan-2022 15:00		
2	SupRB/Jas/Replace/21-22/W-60 Construction of 36.05m long RCC Girder Bridge on Monirampur GC-Bakra GC via Rajgonj GC Road at Chainage: 70m under Replacement category Road ID-241612001 under Monirampur Upzila, District: Jashsore: (TID No. 633613)	ОТМ	02-Jan-2022 14:00	03-Jan 2022 15:00		
3	KDRIDP/Jess/W-208-2021-22 Improvement of Noapara North Bengal (Bengal Textile)- Gobindapur Thrimohony via Dhopara Primary School Road Ch. 3600- 5960m by BC (Road ID 241044004) under Abhoynagar Upazila District Jashore. (TID	OSTETM	26-Dec-2021 14:00	27-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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from E-mail: xen.jashore@lged.gov.bd or Call to 0421-68951. For any quarries interested tendered are requested to communicate with the undersigned during office hours.



A.K.M. Anisuzzaman LGED, Jashore Phone No. 0421-68951 E-mail: xen.jashore@lged.gov.bd

inability to care for dependents. Even where our laws have sought to introduce compensation for victims of

Victims of violent crime should be

adequately redressed for the harms suffered, as

part of the justice response, such as by being

granted compensation or reparation. Victims of violent crime, such as rape, torture and

murder, are likely to face an array of diverse

harms that punishment of the perpetrator alone

does nothing to address. These harms may be

(depression, post-traumatic stress disorder

for these injuries may cause the victim to

and anxiety). Seeking professional treatment

incur hefty medical expenses, especially in the

case of mental health services, which remain

from the crime may lead to the victim losing

employment, causing a loss of earnings and

limited and costly. Severe injuries resulting

physical (e.g. bruises and wounds) and mental

imposed on the perpetrator, is limiting for three

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Secondly, even if the victim manages

In determining the amount of compensation, the Victim Services Committee must take into account a number of factors. These include expenses actually and reasonably incurred as a result of the personal injury or death of the victim, by the victim or his dependents; loss of earning power as a result of the victim's total or partial incapacity; economic loss to the deceased victim's dependents; lost wages or loss of support; medical, funeral and burial costs; the need for financial aid; and any other relevant matters. Most importantly,

Disillusion affecting Shakib's Test motivation?

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

There have been insinuations, remarks and opinions regarding all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's involvement in Test cricket from the media, cricket experts and even board

Looking back, Shakib had missed a few Tests in recent years, lending credibility to arguments about his lack of interest in Tests. Opting out of the New Zealand tour and the consequent drama has put these arguments back in focus. However, there exist finer points between the two arguments that 'Shakib doesn't want to play Tests' and 'Shakib doesn't enjoy Tests'.

The second Test against Pakistan in Dhaka, which Bangladesh came very close to grinding out a draw from yesterday, showcased Shakib's enjoyment but also the demotivating factors.

Shakib played one of his very special knocks under pressure, but in the end the result did not go in Bangladesh's favour. When that happens, how does Shakib feel?

Shakib's ability to not allow anyone to dictate terms was once again on display as he did not let the bowlers feel they were on top of him for a moment. How he dealt with spinners was exemplary. The Pakistan spin duo had a general plan for the Bangladesh batters, getting the ball to pitch right in front of the bat and getting

that slight turn to do the trick for them. Shakib was able to adjust remarkably

Mahmud in as Tigers

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)

replaced all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan

with uncapped Fazle Mahmud for the

upcoming two-Test tour of New Zealand,

The Bangladesh squad was scheduled

to depart for Dubai, UAE on way to New

out of the New Zealand series, part of the

Shakib, however, was initially included

Zealand at 1:00am. The decision from

the BCB comes after Shakib had opted

2021-2023 cycle of the ICC World Test

Championship, citing family reasons.

in the 18-member squad for the tour

despite verbally communicating his

unavailability to the BCB. The board

eventually. Shakib's absence opened the

door for Mahmud, who earned a maiden

call-up to the Test squad following a stellar

showing in the recently concluded National

Cricket League (NCL) in which the 33-year-

old finished as the leading scorer with 630

in two ODIs for Bangladesh against

Zimbabwe in 2018, failing to leave a

both matches. The Bangladesh team,

of Sri Lankan spin legend Rangana

to join the squad in New Zealand.

Twenty20 World Cup.

for the away series against Zimbabwe

this year followed by home series against

Australia and New Zealand and the ICC

mark as he was dismissed for ducks in

meanwhile, were boosted by the inclusion

Herath, who has agreed to a two-year term

extension as spin bowling coach and is set

Herath was the team's spin consultant

The left-hander had previously featured

granted Shakib's leave application

runs at an average of 60.30.

for which the Tigers were scheduled to

leave in the early hours of Thursday.

leave for New

Zealand

SPORTS REPORTER



within the same delivery, from a front foot to a slightly back foot stance. He did not need to release shots like Mushfiqur Rahim for instance, but was able to make adjustments late to keep scoring. From a pressure situation, Shakib had a groove about him which took Bangladesh close to

A pivotal moment came when Mehedi got out to another sweep in the second innings which saw Pakistan come back into the game. As soon as the umpire had

the review, Shakib vehemently chastised Mehedi for playing that shot. Mehedi's two dismissals were significant to the fate of the

Without arguing in Shakib's favour, when a good player sees the supporting cast fail alongside the team processes, any player has a tendency to be demotivated.

Shakib's long-term mentor Nazmul Abedeen Fahim analysed the scenario for The Daily Star.

signaled not out and Pakistan went for attacked to avoid the follow-on due to demotivation.

match scenario. In the second innings, I was relieved to see that he wanted to play good cricket. What he did was very difficult because need to be in the groove for a long period of time. Unless you love the game and the challenge, you can't do that. One of his best innings," Fahim said.

"If he was careless, he wouldn't be able to play like that," he said.

However, once Miraj got out, Shakib changed too, even playing a lofted shot over mid-off that fell short, pointing to his dwindling morale.

"Take the case of Mahmudullah Riyad. He was told some 17 months before his Test retirement that he wouldn't be considered [for Tests]. How demotivated must he have felt? But his decision was like shooting yourself in the foot. It became an emotional thing and players are going through such demotivation at the moment," Fahim

It cannot be argued that there exists a gap in quality between the generation of the Big Five and the current crop of players.

When there are no correct procedures and the existence of haphazard selection process alongside bad results on the pitch, players will find a way to relieve workload or responsibility.

That may very well be the phase Shakib's Test career is going through. Not "In the first innings, he counter- a lack of enjoyment but an existence of

'No excuses', Mominul says before defending batters

SPORTS REPORTER



A horrible batting display from the batters saw Bangladesh hit a new low in the longest format of the game as the hosts lost 13 wickets on an eventful fifth and final day to

crash to an innings and eight-run defeat to Pakistan in Mirpur yesterday.

Despite rain washing away almost seven sessions of the Test, Bangladesh were in trouble after being bundled out for 87 in the first innings in reply to Pakistan's 300 for 4 and being forced to follow-on. However, the questionable approach from the batters remained unchanged as the Tigers folded for 205 in the second innings.

"It was very disappointing, especially

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN

First Innings- 300 for 4 declared in 98.3 overs (Babar 76, Azhar 56, Fawad 50 not out, Rizwan 53 not out; Taijul 2-73, Khaled 1-49, Ebadot 1-88)

BANGLADESH

First Innings- 87 all out & Second Innings- 205 all out in 84.4 overs (Shakib 63, Mushfiqur 48, Liton 45; Sajid 4-86, Hasan 2-37, Afridi 2-31) RESULT

Pakistan won by an innings and 8 runs. Player-of-the-match: Sajid Khan. Player-of-the-series: Abid Ali.

the top four. It was a bad day since yesterday (Tuesday), when we lost seven wickets for just 71 runs. There is nothing to make excuses for. I think we batted very poorly and once again we

were 25 for four in the second innings. It was difficult to bat out there but despite that Mushfiq[ur Rahim], Shakib [Al Hasan] and Liton [Das] did well," said Mominul.

Interestingly, Mominul seemed to disagree with the notion that Bangladesh's batters had played aggressive cricket in the first innings, when a majority of the batters threw their wickets away chasing expansive

"I don't think everyone was out playing aggressive shots and I will support Mushfiq, Liton and everyone. If you noticed, everyone was trying to play according to the merit of the ball. Unfortunately, they were unable to connect. It's very difficult to play too defensively on such wickets but ultimately my dismissal was very ugly because it was not right to look for a single from such a situation," he said.

Mominul was also questioned about the pressure of being the captain of a Test side that had been unable to improve over the years, but he said he was eager to take on tougher challenges, including the upcoming two-Test tour of New Zealand.

Sajid Khan ended up picking 12 wickets during the game and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam opined that the off-spinner's eight-wicket haul in the first innings was the turning point of the game.

"I think the turning point was Sajid's spell, the way he picked up eight wickets in the first innings. That gave us momentum. I must also praise the seamers like Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali for picking up those early wickets in the second innings," Babar said.

With a second Test win, Pakistan completed a clean sweep on the tour, having earlier won the three-match T20I series. According to Babar, a total team effort helped his side maintain their purple patch.

"When you have a clear mindset and look to win, I think results go your way. My message was to put the effort and stick to the plan and just express yourself with a positive frame of mind," he said.

Non-existent top-order the only shocking thing!

NABID YEASIN



Bangladesh failed to put up a decent fight against Pakistan in the two-Test series, which concluded yesterday with the hosts' dramatic innings and eight-run defeat at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

What was more agonising than seeing the Tigers fall to an unfathomable defeat in a Test that had one entire day washed out and only 6.2 overs bowled on another day was how the fragility of Bangladesh's top-order was once brutally exposed again in front of the whole

The events that had transpired in the past few days should serve only to amplify pre-existing concerns regarding the country's cricketing future. 48, 19, 34 and 21 were the scores accumulated by the top four batters in the four innings of the

On three occasions, Bangladesh's top-order was picked to pieces by the pace threat of Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Ali. Then it was inexperienced off-spinner Sajid Khan who single-handedly dismantled the entire

Closely scrutinising Bangladesh's batting, especially the top-order, would go a long way to showing how the Tigers were never in contention in any of the two Test matches against Pakistan.

While Shaheen and Hasan's pace, swing and bounce dumbfounded the Tigers' and depicted an age-old problem of not being technically solid enough to negotiate quality fast bowling, enabling a three-Test old Sajid to turn into a menace reflected deep flaws in the batters' thought process and approach.

In the second Test, Sajid ended with figures of 12 for 128, his career-best in the format. The off-spinner will probably be excited to tour the country in the future as well given how Bangladesh made his work easier by throwing wickets away in nonsensical manner at a point of a game when patience was the need of the hour.

The only two times that Bangladesh looked to be in control of the matches were when their middle-order clicked. Once when Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das instigated a fightback with a 206-run stand in the Chattogram Test and the other was yesterday when Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur, Liton and Mehedi Hasan Miraz compensated with a few decent partnerships after a horrible top-order collapse that forced Bangladesh to follow-on.

To sum it up in a sentence, Bangladesh's toporder was non-existent throughout the series. It was on the two rare occasions that the middleorder had somewhat saved the Tigers' face.

What is concerning is that Bangladesh, without much time to reflect on what went wrong in the Pakistan series, are now headed for a Two-Test series away to New Zealand, a side that the Tigers could never beat in their backyard in any format. They will also be without premier all-rounder Shakib, who had almost salvaged a draw yesterday with his 63-run knock.

However, the most horrifying part is that in the very little time that Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque probably had to ponder and admit the flaws during the post-match presser, the 30-year-old ended up saying that not only was their batting approach justified but also that any questions regarding it were shocking.



Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (R) impersonates Mushfigur Rahim (C) to the amusement of the former's teammates as the Bangladesh batter shadow practises following a block during the final day of the Dhaka Test yesterday. Mushfigur played a gritty knock of 48, only to be dismissed through a run-out as Bangladesh's hopes of salvaging a draw faded. PHOTO: STAR

Cummins savours 'dream start'

REUTERS



Pat Cummins needed only a few hours to crush 65 years of Australian scepticism over fast-bowling captains as he torched England with a five-wicket haul in the opening day of the Ashes on

Wednesday. Cummins replaced Tim Paine in the top job last month after the wicketkeeper resigned abruptly over a 'sexting' scandal, becoming the first quick to lead the side since Ray Lindwall captained for one Test in the mid-1950s against India.

There was plenty of concern over how Cummins would handle stepping up in the pressure of an Ashes series, but the 28-year-old strolled off with team-best figures of 5-38, having helped roll England for 147 by tea.

"Pretty crazy ... it's all gone to plan so far," Cummins said. "You're always in the



game on the morning of day one. "The body felt decent. I've bowled better before and haven't got as many rewards.'

Though vice-captain under Paine, Australian media pundits had fretted over how Cummins would juggle captaincy and bowling. Cummins said he would lean heavily on vice-captain Steve Smith, who led the test side for over 30 matches before losing his job amid the 2018 Newlands ball-tampering scandal.

Cummins said he had plenty of good advice from his team mates on day one but in truth he had few big decisions to make or crises to overcome.

England skipper Joe Root won the toss, sparing Cummins the conundrum of whether to bat or bowl on a grassy wicket.

"It's tradition that if you bowl first and it doesn't work out you get hounded whereas if you bat first and it doesn't come off you kind of get left alone," he said.

Live from 11:45 pm West Ham vs Dinamo Zagreb Live from 02:00 am (Friday) **SONY SIX**

UEFA Europa League Real Sociedad vs PSV Live from 11:45 pm

Lazio vs Galatasaray Live from 02:00 am (Friday) The Ashes Australia vs England 1st Test, Day 3 Live from 06:00 am (Friday) T SPORTS

Banglabandhu Gold Cup U17 Rajshahi Division vs Sylhet Division Live from 12:30 pm Bangamata Gold Cup U17 Mymensingh Division vs Rangpur Division Live from 02:30 pm

'No team will want to draw Ajax in CL'

REUTERS, Amsterdam

Ajax Amsterdam coach Erik ten Hag said no team will enjoy being drawn against them in the Champions League round of 16 when the pairings are announced on Monday after the Dutch club won all six of their group stage matches.

Ajax completed a clean sweep of Group C with a 4-2 home win over Sporting Lisbon on Tuesday, with Sebastien Haller becoming only the second player after Cristiano Ronaldo (2017/18) to



in a row," said Ten Hag, who added that he would not watch the draw for the next

"We'll see what comes out. You also know in advance that it will be tough, but we have gained confidence. "We know we can achieve something. No team will enjoy being drawing against Ajax. But we also know that we have to be very good to go to the next round."

Haller, who scored 10 goals in the group, said he was proud of the team's performances. "Of course I feel great, but mainly because of the said the Frenchborn Ivory Coast



AFP, Paris



Atletico Madrid won a badtempered game in Porto on Tuesday to qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League as Liverpool and Ajax both completed the group stage with 100 percent records.

Diego Simeone's Atletico, who lost to Real Madrid in the 2014 and 2016 finals, needed to beat Porto in Portugal to advance to the knockout phase and they duly triumphed 3-1 in a game which featured three red cards.

Atletico finish second in Group B, a huge 11 points behind group winners Liverpool, who made it six wins out of six in Europe this season by beating AC Milan 2-1 at San Siro despite fielding a virtual reserve side.

Milan had to win to stand a chance of going through and they went ahead midway through the first half through Fikayo Tomori.

Mohamed Salah did start for the visitors and he equalised in the 36th minute before Divock Origi -- who scored a stoppage-time winner in the Premier League at the weekend -- made it 2-1 10 minutes into the second half, heading in after Sadio Mane's shot was saved.

Milan finish bottom of the group in their first Champions League campaign since 2013-14, with Porto parachuting into the Europa League.



REAL MADRID TOP GROUP

Elsewhere, Real Madrid secured top spot in Group D with a 2-0 defeat of Inter Milan at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Both sides had already qualified for the last 16 and Real just needed a draw to top the group. They went ahead through an early Toni Kroos

strike, and Inter had Nicolo Barella sent off just after the hour mark before substitute Marco Asensio sealed Real's victory with a stupendous

"Our objective is to go all the way, not just reach the last 16," said Real coach Carlo

Moldovan debutants Sheriff Tiraspol had already secured third place before Boban Nikolov's injury-time goal earned them a 1-1 draw at bottom side Shakhtar Donetsk, for whom Fernando had opened the scoring.

MBAPPE, MESSI DOUBLES

Earlier Manchester City, having already clinched first place in Group A, lost 2-1 at RB Leipzig, with Dominik Szoboszlai and Andre Silva on target for the Germans in their first game since sacking coach Jesse Marsch.

Riyad Mahrez pulled one back for City, who had Kyle Walker sent off late on as Leipzig took third place.

Paris Saint-Germain, who finish second in the group, crushed Club Brugge 4-1 with Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi both scoring twice.

Mbappe's goals both came inside the first seven minutes and he then set up Messi's first goal, with the Argentinian adding a penalty as he moved on to five Champions League goals in five appearances this season.

Australian Open Djokovic on entry list, no Serena

AFP. Melbourne

Men's world number one Novak Djokovic was named among the entries for the Australian Open on Wednesday, following intense speculation about his vaccination status, but women's great Serena Williams was missing.

The Serbian had cast doubt on whether he would defend his Melbourne title next month, refusing to reveal whether he was inoculated against coronavirus, a requirement to play.

But after being named on Tuesday as part of the Serbia team for January's ATP Cup in Sydney that will precede the opening major of the year, he was also listed for the Grand Slam.

Williams, who is marooned on 23 Grand Slam titles -- one short of the all-time record held by Margaret Court -- had been expected to play, but she is not fully fit.The American superstar turned 40 in September and may have played her last Australian Open. Williams said she had

withdrawn following

advice from her medical team. "While this is never an easy decision to make, I am not where I need to be physically to compete, she said.

Kings drag Police thru to last eight

SPORTS REPORTER



quarter The finals lineup of Riviera Independence Cup was decided

after Bashundhara Kings handed a 3-0 defeat to Chattogram Abahani at Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Kings emerged Group D champions with maximum nine points from three outings, which meant that Bangladesh Police finished as group runners-up, by virtue of superior goal difference than Abahani and Bangladesh Navy, after playing a 1-1 draw against Navy in the day's first match.

Having confirmed the quarterfinal berth in the previous match, Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon brought eight changes in the Kings eleven.

Even though Kings lacked intensity upfront with a depleted side, Brazilian Robson Da Silva broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute with a drive from top of the box before Rubel Mia failed to place a shot on the open net in the 26th minute to deprive Abahani an equaliser.

Abahani's Nigerian duo Kehinde Yisa Anifowose and Ebimobowei Thankgod came close to striking one minute before the break but Anifowose squandered the opportunity, which could have taken Abahani ahead of Police in terms of greater goal number of goals

A f t e r resumption, K i n g s strengthened attack with Mahbubur Rahman Sufil, Mohammad Ibrahim and Matin

Mia in the second half. Sufil However, squandered opportunity despite goalkeeper afterwards, Abahani

getting opponent and goalkeeper Azad Hossain was sent off in 80th minute as he picked up the ball from the stalemate.

feet of Bosnian striker Stojan Vranjes outside the box.

And following the marching order, Abahani conceded two quick goals. Ibrahim tapped in to double the margin after substitute goalkeeper Saiful Islam stopped a free-kick from Stojan while



Matin wrapped up victory by dribbling past goalkeeper in the 89th minute to ensure that Kings maintain all-win record before their quarterfinal clash against Sheikh Jamal DC on December 12.

In the day's first match, after a barren first half, Police broke the deadlock national players-studded Bangladesh Navy with MS Bablu beating goalkeeper Shahedul Alam with a low drive outside the box.

However, Police could hold the lead for only 21 minutes as the former national winger Zahid Hossain, coming on as a substitute, mustered a low freekick from the left which reached home through the legs of Police defenders.

Both Police and Navy aimed for a spot at quarterfinals with an outright win but they had to be content with a



The Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday accorded a reception to Swadhin Bangla Football Team in presence of 14 footballers and two officials of that team that played a tremendous role in creating public opinion and raise fund during the war of independence. The team's captain Jakaria Pintu, vice-captain Protap Shankar Hazra, team manager Tanvir Mazhar Tanna and Kazi Salahuddin, member of that team and current president of BFF, were among others, present at the event. Zahid Ahsan Russel, the state minister for youth and sports, also graced the occasion.

Raikkonen 'wouldn't change a thing'

While all eyes in Abu Dhabi will be on the headline drama of the title fight between Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen this weekend, another world champion will be making his final appearance in a Formula One

Twenty years after making his F1 debut for Sauber at the 2001 Australian Grand Prix, Finnish driver and final race on Sunday but he says he "wouldn't change a thing" and has his own path.

no regrets about stepping away. never been the main thing for me,"

the 2007 world champion told AFP.

"My life has always been outside. There are other more important things for me than F1. Today my am looking forward to the day I have nothing planned and can do what

they want." Raikkonen also admits that he has the course of his career as he forged

"I think I was given a lot of advice "F1 takes up a lot of time but it has but didn't listen. I always felt you had to live your life in the best way for yourself and not for others.

"At work, if I had an option, I wouldn't do most of what I'm asked, but with your life, how you live yor schedule affects my whole family so I life... you live it for yourself. If you try to live it as someone else wants, you might do it for a year or two but it will not end up very nicely.

"I'm happy I lived my way. Good or Kimi Raikkonen will start his 349th not always been the best listener over bad, I can live with it because it's my decisions

"I wouldn't change a thing."







MATARBARI POWER PLANT Cox's Bazar

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EAST-WEST ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

Govt goes for public-pvt partnership

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The long-awaited elevated expressway from Hemayetpur in Savar to Langolbandh in Sonargaon yesterday got some impetus after the government decided to implement the project under a public-private partnership.

The government will select the partner in the project through tender since several companies expressed interest, said Md Shamsul Arefin, additional secretary of the cabinet division, after the meeting of the cabinet committee on economic affairs, where the decision was taken.

Companies of China, Japan, South Korea are keen to invest in the project, according to officials in the bridge division and PPP office.

Called the Dhaka East-West Elevated Expressway, the project is aimed at creating a vital link between major highways and is expected to increase GDP growth by 0.317 per cent, according to a feasibility study on the project done in August 2017.

The users of the 39.2 kilometre-long expressway, which would pass through Nimtoli-Keraniganj-Ekuria-Janzira-Fatullah-Haliganj Bandar, would have to pay an average toll of \$0.147 per km or Tk 11.5 per km, the study stated. It would allow traffic to switch highways and skip the

congested streets of the capital. Vehicles on the Dhaka-Aricha highway would be able to speed towards the Dhaka-Chattogram highway with

options to go in the directions of Mawa and Sylhet. In turn, vehicles from Chattogram and Sylhet would be able to bypass the city and head towards Mawa, Aricha and the northern districts of the country.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



PHOTO: EMA ASADUZZAMAN

A runway way too vulnerable

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Vulnerabilities in the boundary wall of Saidpur Airport in Nilphamari have given rise to security concerns as locals regularly enter the facility to graze cattle, cut grass and even for sightseeing.

The country's northernmost airport operates 10-12 flights on the Dhaka-Saidpur route daily and one flight a week on the Chattogram-Saidpur and Cox's Bazar-Saidpur routes. The process to upgrade it to an international airport is

underway. This correspondent on Wednesday visited villages around the airport, built on 136.59 acres of land, and witnessed the vulnerability in different points of the wall and how locals entered the airport illegally.

At Poschimpara, there was no barbed wire on top of 70-80 feet of the airport's boundary wall.

Outsiders can enter using a ladder to cut the grass near the runway or to see planes landing and taking off.

According to locals, SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

SI held over raping of woman in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police was arrested yesterday over raping a woman.

Jahangir Alam allegedly stormed the hotel room of the woman and then raped her in front of her daughter early yesterday.

after he was produced before it yesterday evening, said police. Hasan Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of

Khulna Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star that they arrested the SI at the hotel.

The woman was sent to the One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Khulna Medical College Hospital, he said.

Citing the victim's family, the OC said the victim, along with her ailing daughter, reached Khulna from Mongla Tuesday afternoon to see a doctor. They rented a room at a hotel adjacent

to the city's Shaheed Hadith Park. Around 2:30am, the SI forcibly entered

the room and raped the mother in front of the sick daughter, he said. Hearing her screams, the hotel manager

called in the police who arrested the SI.

The woman filed a rape case yesterday. BM Nuruzzaman, deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police's intelligence branch, claimed that Jahangir was drunk.

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Pakistan accepts truce call of UN

DECEMBER 9, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

UN TRUCE CALL: PAKISTAN ACCEPTS, INDIA REJECTS Pakistan informed the United Nations today that she had "decided to accept" the General Assembly's call for ceasefire and for a withdrawal of hostile troops to their own soil.

In message to UN Secretary General U Thant, Pakistani chief delegate Agha Shahi said, "Under the instructions of my Government, I have the honor to state that even though the resolution fails to take note of the Indian aggression against Pakistan (which has been admitted by India), the Government of

Pakistan has decided to accept the call for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of troops contained in that resolution.

"Inasmuch as the resolution provides for an immediate withdrawal of the troops of each party to its own side of

the border and thus would stop bloodshed, Pakistan is willing to overlook its inadequacies at this time," he added.

Elaborating on the Pakistani message, a delegation spokesman said that a ceasefire and a withdrawal "cannot be unilateral." This confirmed a Government declaration in Rawalpindi that Pakistan would comply with the Assembly resolution only if India did the

On the other hand, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi rejected the General Assembly's truce call. She said that India would

"take all steps" to achieve the independence of Bangladesh. The New York Times reported that the emissary to the United States of the Bengali "secessionists" welcomed signs that

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Petition filed with HC over Murad's JS membership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lawyer filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of Murad Hasan's Jatiya Sangsad membership yesterday.

Supreme Court lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as a public interest litigation a day after Murad resigned from the post of state minister for information and broadcasting.

The prime minister asked him to resign from his state minister post following a wave of criticism for his derogatory remarks.

Lawyer Eunus submitted the petition saying that Murad violated his oath as a JS member by making the remarks.

He prayed to the HC to pass necessary directives for conducting a judicial inquiry into Murad's obscene comments.

Meanwhile, the cyber and special crime unit of the Detective Branch will SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

New telescope to unravel mysteries of black holes

security measures, people easily pass through the walls to graze cattle, cut

grass, and even to watch flight operations. The photo was taken yesterday.



CNN ONLINE

We're about to get a new perspective on some of the most extreme objects in the universe. In the early morning hours of today, Nasa will launch its Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer mission, or IXPE, to measure X-rays released by black holes and neutron stars.

The satellite was scheduled to launch around 1:00 am ET aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Nasa's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Live coverage of the launch will be available on Nasa TV and the agency's website.

The spacecraft, which is the collaborative effort of Nasa and the Italian Space Agency, carries three telescopes. While IXPE isn't as big as Nasa's Chandra X-ray observatory, it is the first space

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Tigers crash to innings defeat SPORTS REPORTER

In a dramatic fifth and final day of the second Test, a woeful batting display from Bangladesh saw them crash to an innings and eight-run defeat to Pakistan despite the fact that rain had washed out around two prior days of the Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Pin-drop silence and suspense were the defining features of the final 20 minutes of the day as the hosts battled to save the game, with the Bangladesh team in the dressing room perhaps praying for a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 9

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00 JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Complete Islamic Banking services at the new UCB Taqwa Islamic Banking Branch

UCB with its 213th branch, will start operations today, 9th December 2021 at Gulshan 1, Dhaka. We are looking forward to serving you with all available Islamic Banking facilities. We cordially welcome you to our new branch to experience the difference.

Mr. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Land, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will inaugurate the branch as the Chief Guest.

South Breeze, Plot number 03, Block SE(D), Gulshan Avenue Road, Ward 19, Dhaka North City Corporation, Thana - Gulshan, Dhaka.

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