

## The liberator's epic return

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A liberated Bangladesh was in a state of euphoria following the surrender of the Pakistani occupational forces on December 16, 1971.

But a sense of incompleteness lingered as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the undisputed leader of independence, was not present for the momentous occasion.

The nation, nay the entire world, eagerly waited for the return of Father of the Nation, who

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A JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT - P8, P9

## Unvaccinated can't attend classes

Says circular about school students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students aged between 12 and 18 will not be allowed to attend classes in person unless they are vaccinated against Covid-19, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education said in a circular yesterday.

"All students aged between 12 and 18 have been instructed to get vaccinated by January 15," the circular reads.

The DSHE also issued five instructions for the successful implementation

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Students swarm the gate of Motijheel Ideal School and College to get jabbed yesterday. In a circular, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education said students between 12 and 18 will not be allowed to attend classes in person unless they are vaccinated against Covid-19.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## COVID-19 SITUATION

# Not alarming yet, but it's getting there

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Everything is under control – still. But the ticking hospital bed occupancy rate from the turn of the year presages a storm ahead, not too dissimilar from the one witnessed about six months ago.

On the first of January, 9 percent of the intensive care unit-equivalent wards were occupied by Covid-19 patients. Yesterday, it was 19 percent, according to the COVID-19 Dynamic Facility Dashboard of the health directorate.

Similarly, the occupancy rates for ICUs and high dependency units (HDU) crept up:

from 12 percent to 15 percent and from 11 percent to 13 percent respectively.

The caseload has shot up 115 percent in the last week. And in the 24 hours to 8 am yesterday, 1,491 fresh cases were recorded – the highest since Sept 21 last year, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

And the reason for the surge is the latest variant of the coronavirus: Omicron.

The variant has undergone 50 genetic changes, making it more transmissible than the dominant Delta variant and more likely to evade the immune protection provided by vaccines or previous infection.

Subsequently, it is causing a fresh wave of coronavirus cases the world over, compelling governments to enforce measures to restrict social mixing.

In Bangladesh, the official tally of Omicron cases stands at 21 as of yesterday. But health officials believe the fast-multiplying variant is causing the spike in cases witnessed in recent days.

Vaccinated patients are more likely to experience milder disease, and a vast majority of Omicron patients who require intensive care are unvaccinated or have severely compromised immune systems,

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Thick smoke billowing out of shanties being ravaged by a fire at Rohingya Camp-16 in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar yesterday. At least 1,200 homes of the Rohingyas were destroyed in the fire, which broke out around 4:45pm and was doused at 9:10pm.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Fire ravages Rohingya camp again 1,200 homes destroyed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A massive fire swept through shanties in Kata area of Camp-16 in Ukhiya yesterday, leaving thousands displaced.

Additional Superintendent of Police Kamran Hossen of Armed Police Battalion-8, said the fire broke out around 4:55pm and rapidly spread, destroying around 1,200 homes of Rohingya refugees.

It was doused around 9:10pm, said Emdadul Haque, station officer of Ukhiya Fire Station in Cox's Bazar.

Enamul Hossen, a firefighter, said four units of the fire station and dozens more from Cox's Bazar rushed to the spot on being informed around 4:50pm.

In a video footage of the incident shared on social media, the fire was seen spreading rapidly and engulfing hundreds of shanties while dozens of Rohingya refugees ran for safety.

Saddam Hossain, a local of Shafiullah Kata area, told The Daily Star that they found the thick smoke billowing over Camp-16 around 5:00pm and saw hundreds of homes gutted in the fire.

"Fire service along with other government agencies are trying hard to douse the fire," he said last night.

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## GENDER SENSITIVITY

# Judiciary not trained enough Say experts

NILIMA JAHAN

Rights activists have long been demanding effective gender sensitivity training for judges and lawyers dealing with cases of sexual violence so the victims, especially rape survivors, are treated with gender responsiveness and sensitivity throughout the legal process.

But there is still a lack of gender sensitivity within the judiciary and one of the reasons is that there is hardly any training exclusively on gender issues and sensitivity during their professional training, experts say.

They said if the judges, lawyers and others falter, especially in gender-related crimes, they imperil fairness and inflict damage on the survivors' quest for justice.

The verbal observations that former judge Mosammat Qumrunnahar of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka made on Banani Raintree double rape case have once again raised questions about the sensitivity especially among those who hold women and children repression prevention tribunals.

While delivering the verdict on November 11, she verbally recommended that police not register any rape case if the complainant goes to them 72 hours or longer after the incident, which drew flak from different quarters.

In light of the situation, experts stressed the need for providing regular training to the judges and lawyers as it would help them avoid stereotyping and unconscious biases that can creep into judicial reasoning. It will also make them better aware of the laws and the constitution, of their powers and jurisdiction, they added.

"As rape and other forms of sexual violence are normalised to problematic extents in the society, it is necessary to ensure that the judges and lawyers involved in the trial of sexual offence cases are gender-sensitive enough to not be swayed by gender biases, which re-traumatise survivors and perpetuate the culture of impunity," said Taqbir Huda, advocacy lead of Brac's Gender Justice Programme.

"There are numbers of examples of judgments, which feature the gender insensitive language used in rape cases," he said.

Taqbir, a member of the Rape Law Reform Coalition, a body of 17 leading rights organisations, said the training must include a comprehensive breakdown on what counts and does not count as consent in sexual relations so that the key question in any sexual offence trial is properly guided by the questions of capacity and consent, instead of a complainant's character or lifestyle choices.

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## WE MOURN

**Zafar Ahmed**, the honorable chairman of Apex Holdings Limited, a renowned industrialist breathed his last on Sunday 09/01/2022 at 2.50 pm, due to brain hemorrhage (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeon). He was 73.

He is survived by his wife, son & two grandsons.

Mr. Ahmed is a renowned entrepreneur, contributed to country's economic development and created Job opportunities, around 25 thousand people are working in his organizations at present. His established readymade Garments & Frozen Foods industries are in leading position in Bangladesh for many years. His companies received numerous export trophies and high Tax paid awards several times.

We request all relatives, friends & well-wishers to pray for his departed soul.

Family members, Board of Directors and all employees.

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Death Anniversary

DEATH: 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother Late "**Masuda Begum**" wife of Late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.). Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to Almighty for His divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS





## MITU MURDER CASE Ex-SP Babul shown arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Former superintendent of police Babul Akter was shown arrested yesterday in the case filed by him over the murder of his wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu in Chattogram five and a half years ago.

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Halim in Chattogram ordered to show Babul arrested in the case following an application by PBI Inspector Abu Jafar Md Omar Faruk, also the investigation officer of the case.

On June 5, 2016, Mitu was stabbed and shot dead while she was taking her son to his school bus stop in the port city's GEC intersection area. Babul filed the case with Panchlaish Police Station the following day against three unidentified men.

Mitu's father Mosharraf Hossain lodged another case against Babul with the same police station in May last year. In the case document, Mosharraf alleged that Babul killed Mitu over his extramarital affairs with a woman.

Babul was then interrogated at the PBI office and taken into their custody. A court later sent him to jail after he was produced before it.

Both the cases are being investigated by the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI).

On May 16 last year, the PBI submitted the final report in the case filed by Babul, calling him the "mastermind" behind the murder. Later, Babul was shown arrested in the case by Mosharraf.

On November 3, a court rejected the PBI's final report asking for further investigation into the case lodged by Babul.



Farmers loading paddy straws onto nosimon vehicles in Khulna's Daulatpur Dewana Morolpara yesterday. They sale every 1,000 bundles of the straw, mainly used as cattle feed, for around Tk 3,500 at local markets. Farm owners buy them for Tk 4,500.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

### DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY

## Sisters perform last rites of parents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Himanshu Roy, a tea stall owner who died in police custody in Lalmonirhat, and his wife were cremated in the same funeral pyre on Saturday night.

In a twist of fate, their two daughters became orphans in less than 24 hours.

Himanshu died while being questioned in a room of Hatibandha Police Station on Friday over the alleged suicide of his wife, Sabitri Rani. Earlier in the day, the law enforcers recovered Sabitri's body in Purba Kadma Maldahpara village of Hatibandha upazila.

Himanshu's death raised questions as the room where he was interrogated had no working CCTV camera. His family members alleged he was tortured to death while police claimed he hung himself by the window grilles with an internet cable.

District police later formed a three-member committee to investigate the incident.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday,

Additional Superintendent of Police (A-circle) in Lalmonirhat Marufa Jamal, who is the head of the committee, said departmental action would be taken on the basis of the investigation report.

**"We don't have the courage to stand up against the police, but we want a proper investigation. We need justice."**

The autopsy on Himanshu's body was carried out at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital while that on Sabitri's at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Doctors said the cause of the deaths would be revealed in the autopsy reports.

After the autopsies, the bodies were taken to the crematorium in their village Purba Kadma Maldahpara.

The couple's 14-year-old daughter Priyanka Roy conducted the last rites while her 10-year-old sister Priyoshi

stood next to her.

Several policemen from Hatibandha Police Station were also present.

Priyanka, a ninth grader, told The Daily Star that her father was absolutely fine when police took him to the station on Friday morning, but he returned dead.

She said her father was killed. Himanshu's brother Sudhir Chandra Roy said the same.

"We don't have the courage to stand up against the police, but we want a proper investigation. We need justice," he added.

Local union council member Bijoy Chandra Roy said, "Police told us Himanshu died by suicide. How can anyone get a chance to commit suicide while in police custody? What is the point of police custody then?"

In a statement, rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, said, "There is a law to prevent custodial deaths, and the constitution too has a clause that protects citizens from torture, but these allegations [of custodial deaths] are never investigated."

## Don't be afraid, get vaccinated

### Hasina urges all

UNB, DHAKA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to get vaccines without unnecessary fear to fight off the coronavirus and its new variants.

"I request all, please get vaccinated... do not fear. This vaccine will at least save your lives. Maybe you will suffer for a few days [if infected by the virus], but your life will be saved. That's why my request to all is that please don't fear and take jabs," Hasina said.

She made the call while addressing a programme marking the laying of the foundation stone of 460-bed integrated cancer, kidney and heart units at medical colleges in eight divisional cities of the country.

Held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium, the prime minister joined the programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

"No one will be left unvaccinated."

Hasina said many are unwilling to take vaccines fearing the pain caused by the injection needle in addition to various negative propaganda against vaccination.

"Our target is to put 80 percent of the total population, except minors, under the vaccination coverage to save them from the coronavirus and the new variant Omicron."

As the new variant is also infecting children, the government has started vaccinating the 12-above children, she said, adding, "Whenever WHO will announce the age of children for taking jabs, we'll start vaccinating them as per its guideline. By the time we've given more than 13 crore doses, including double doses. We've started giving booster doses as well as I want the people of the country to remain safe.

"Please use masks and avoid mass gatherings."

## KSJL wants law on EC formation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the dialogue with President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban yesterday, Krishak Samik Janata League opposed search committee for the formation of the next Election Commission.

It proposed that the president takes measures so that a law is enacted in line with the constitution for the EC formation.

The current EC expires its tenure next month. KSJL said in case the law cannot be formulated due to time constraints, Hamid should form the EC including people who he thinks are patriots and acceptable to all.

Led by KSJL President Kader Siddique, a nine-member delegation from the party also submitted to the president a six-point proposal, including on formation of an election-time government comprising leaders of different registered political parties.

The president yesterday invited the ruling Awami League to the dialogue on January 17, the last day of the talks.

Bangladesh Muslim League yesterday boycotted the dialogue, terming it meaningless.

With BMI, seven political parties have so far boycotted the talks.

## Not alarming

FROM PAGE 1  
reports The New York Times.

But in Bangladesh, the rate of vaccination is modest: as of January 6, 39 percent of the targeted population and 31 percent of the total population have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, according to the DGHS.

At the same time, the administration of booster dose, which is said to provide bigger and broader protection against the Omicron variant, has not taken off on a massive scale.

In short, all the components indicate a storm is brewing.

Until now, the rate of hospital admissions from illnesses caused by the coronavirus has been slower than six months ago, when the Delta variant was wreaking havoc, said Forhad Uddin Chowdhury Maruf, a medicine and infectious disease specialist at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

During July last year, the overall bed occupancy rate skidded to about 90 percent – leaving hospitals stretched precariously thin.

"If the transmission of Omicron happens massively, the number of patients will definitely increase," he added.

But the number of critical patients will be less than it was seen during the second wave of Covid-19 caused by the Delta variant, according to Mushtaq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

"Any massive transmission will cause a rush of patients to the hospitals again. We have seen pressure on hospitals in countries where

Omicron has spread fast and extensively – a similar situation may arise here."

To avoid such a scenario and stricter measures like lockdowns, he stressed firm enforcement of health and safety compliances.

"The most urgent step right now is to stop the mass gatherings. The community events should also be limited. Otherwise, there will be no alternative to imposing lockdown, even though the Omicron seems milder than the Delta," he added.

To avoid a repeat of the dire scenario seen during the previous wave of infections, the government has ramped up its vaccination efforts in recent days.

"Transmission has been on the rise – we want to ensure vaccines for more people," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told journalists yesterday after attending the foundation stone unveiling ceremony of Cancer Treatment Centres at eight divisional government medical college hospitals.

There is no shortage of vaccines, but people seem to have lost interest in taking the vaccine, he said.

"That's why we are running awareness campaigns."

The government has gone to community clinics for administering vaccines, while the number of wards offering the vaccine at the union level would be increased from three to nine.

While the vaccine does not prevent the spread of Covid-19, it certainly reduces the chances of death, Maleque said, while urging everyone to wear masks and follow the health rules to prevent another wave of coronavirus cases.

## Judiciary not trained enough

FROM PAGE 1  
Taslima Yasmin, associate professor of law department at Dhaka University, said the women and children repression prevention tribunals were introduced to give protection to the victims of sexual offences, but they are still being treated the way they were treated by courts before the inception of these tribunals, with the same gender biases and patriarchal mindset.

"We have separate laws and tribunals for women, but we couldn't touch upon that barrier – whether those dispensing justice are gender-sensitive or not, and whether we could have sensitised them towards the plight of the victims," she said.

"Rather, we are in a way nurturing the same overwhelming mindset continued from the British period that the victims of sexual offences are lying – we will receive them with utmost suspicion – and their duty will be breaking that suspicion beyond any reasonable doubt, which ultimately becomes difficult for them to prove," she added.

Taslima conducted a study on the effectiveness of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act-2010 in 2020 and found a dismal picture of training implemented by the Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) of Bangladesh.

The study said the judges' training includes a module on the DVPP Act under its four-month foundation training, which consists of only a couple of hour's sessions taken by

an external organisation invited by JATI, and is highly inadequate to build a proper understanding on the detail and peculiar provisions of the law.

"Such project-based training cannot create awareness or sensitisation. Instead, there must be a regular, and institutionalised approach," opined Taslima.

According to JATI, currently it has a wide range of training modules for different judges, but it does not provide any training exclusively on gender issues and sensitivity.

Md Golam Kibria, director (training) of JATI, said when senior judges conduct the training, gender issues come up invariably.

"But this remains only one component of the curricula and usually covered in a day workshop," he told The Daily Star.

Besides, for the judges of women and children repression prevention tribunals, it has a week-long refresher course after their joining, conducted by Supreme Court judges, external members, forensic experts and others, the director said.

"But we have some limitations – we only have one institute for 1,800 judges, and we form a batch with only 45 judges. It happens that a judge doesn't get any training for two to three years," added Kibria, also a senior district and sessions judge.

Speaking to this newspaper on condition of anonymity, some judges said JATI's training is inadequate and irregular,

and they require more attention, because what they studied in universities are completely different from the real-life experiences.

A senior judge who conducts training at JATI said it also happens that some judges are called for a fundamental training two years after holding courts without any experience.

Another senior judge of a women and children repression prevention tribunal said the observation that judge Qumrunnaher gave is not surprising because there are many who often make contradictory remarks.

Advocate Salma Ali, president of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, said it is the duty of the government to arrange regular training for judges and lawyers, and make them aware of some specific issues – how to deal with the victims, keep their protections in mind, and share positive landmark judgments with them to avoid unnecessary biases in sexual offence cases.

### Fire ravages

FROM PAGE 1  
Incidents of fire have become a common phenomenon in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. In March last year, 10,000 homes were razed to the ground in a huge fire in four camps in Balukhali of Ukhiya.

Officials concerned have often attributed the origin of fires to gas cylinders, but insiders in Rohingya camps have claimed that the fires are acts of arson.

## The liberator's epic return

FROM PAGE 1  
had been put in solitary confinement in Pakistan since the Liberation War began on March 26.

After dilly-dallying by Pakistani rulers over his release, Bangabandhu finally appeared at London's Heathrow airport on the morning of January 8, 1972.

As he walked out into the airport, a tearful on-duty police official said, "Sir, we had been praying for you" – a testimony to how the world had been supporting Bangabandhu and Bangladesh in the fight for liberation.

Mujib returned to his beloved country on January 10, after his "Sonar Bangla" was finally liberated.

**BHUTTO MEETS MUJIB**  
On December 26, Bangabandhu was brought to a police academy in Shihala, not far from Pakistan's Rawalpindi.

When Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the then president of Pakistan, visited him, Bangabandhu asked him if he was also detained.

Bhutto said he came as the president of Pakistan, to which Mujib laughingly asked, "How did you become the president after I secured twice as many seats as you in the National Assembly?"

He also said he had no desire to become Pakistan's president. "I long to go to Bangladesh as soon as possible".

Bhutto said he would make the necessary arrangements but needed a few days. Bangabandhu was then finally able to fly away on January 8.

**STOP AT LONDON**

After arriving in London, Bangabandhu called for other states to recognise Bangladesh as an independent country.

British Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath welcomed Sheikh Mujib in the evening and said that, in principle, they had decided to recognise an independent Bangladesh.

Heath also arranged his own plane for Bangabandhu to fly to Delhi.

**THE DIPLOMACY**  
On board, Sheikh Mujib did not sit idle.

He took Indian diplomat Sashanka S Banerjee, who was accompanying him, into confidence and asked him to convey a message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi regarding the early withdrawal of Indian troops from Bangladesh.

The Indian PM had earlier announced that the troops would leave by June 30, 1972.

The British PM, during his talks with Mujib in London, expressed his wish to see the Indian troops pull out by March 31, three months before Gandhi's scheduled deadline, as this would then pave the way for Britain to extend diplomatic recognition.

Mujib wanted Sashanka to personally pass on this request to Gandhi as soon as they arrived in Delhi.

Indira Gandhi gracefully complied and announced withdrawal at the end of Mujib's Delhi visit.

Bangabandhu delivered a short speech to an enormous crowd in Delhi, where he expressed sorrow for not being able to stop by at Kolkata and promised to

visit it soon.

**'AMAR SONAR BANGLA'**  
During his flight to Delhi, Bangabandhu sang Rabindranath's "Amar Sonar Bangla" with the joy of victory, of liberation, evident in his voice.

He discussed with Sashanka whether this song could perhaps be adopted as his new born nation's anthem.

**THE LEADER'S RETURN**  
The Father of the Nation arrived in Dhaka at 1:40pm to a rapturous welcome from his people on January 10.

In the company of Bangladesh government leaders, his truck ride to the Race Course Maidan was almost three-hour long.

Once there, he could not hold his tears while paying tribute to the millions who sacrificed their lives for freedom.

The people of Bangladesh felt the real impact of victory upon Bangabandhu's homecoming.

The country today celebrates the 50th anniversary of its leader's return.

Bangabandhu took his oath as the country's prime minister on January 12, 1972, and immediately started working to rebuild his war-ravaged country into a prosperous, democratic nation with secular freedom.

[The story is based on Sashanka S Banerjee's, book titled "A Long Journey Together - India, Pakistan and Bangladesh" and Dr Kamal Hossain's book titled "Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice".]





Throughout the capital's Abdul Gani Road, countless banners have been hammered onto roadside trees that are supposed to enhance the beauty of the area. Coincidentally, as this photojournalist was about to take the shot, this environmentally conscious CNG-run auto-rickshaw -- covered with a layer of grass -- popped up, as if to point to the apparent incongruity of the situation. This photo was taken yesterday from near the Secretariat.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



The mangled 3-wheeler after the accident.

## 3 students die as truck hits auto-rickshaw

STAR REPORT

Three madrasa students were killed and two others were injured in a head-on collision between a human haulier and a truck in Fakirhat area early yesterday.

The accident took place on Khulna-Mongla highway in front of Katakhalhi Jute Mill, said police.

Hafeez Abdullah, Abdul Gafur and Salahuddin -- students of Hakimpur Qawmi Madrasa in Bagerhat Sadar upazila -- died on the spot, said Katakhalhi Highway Police Station OC Ali Hossain.

The injured were taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital, said the OC.

The OC said the accident might have occurred due to dense fog. The truck fled the scene after the incident.

In Pabna, a motorcyclist was killed as a three-wheeler hit the bike in Jotadam area under Dapunia union yesterday morning. The biker -- Sazzad Hossain -- succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital. Meanwhile, a truck crashed into a three-wheeler on Pabna-Nagarbari highway at Telkupi about 7:30am, leaving two people dead and two injured.

Robiul Islam Bishwas (65) and Abdul Momin (45) died on the spot, said Ataikula Police Station OC Md Jalal Uddin. The truck driver lost his control over the steering, resulting in the accident.

# 3-wheeler accidents triple in a year

Govt fails to remove them from highways, formulate guidelines

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

As the government fails to execute the ban on three-wheelers on highways and formulate regulatory guidelines, the illegal vehicles continue to take more lives.

The situation has turned so deadly that data compiled from media reports by Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet shows the number of road accidents involving three-wheelers tripled last year compared to 2020.

organisations' on Saturday.

Amidst the publication of these reports, even yesterday, six people were killed and four were injured in two separate accidents involving three-wheelers in Bagerhat and Pabna.

In August 2015, the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry imposed a ban on three-wheelers on 22 major highways.

The High Court then ordered imposing a ban on these vehicles on highways across the country in January 2017.



Despite ban, three-wheelers continue to ply the highways for lack of proper initiatives by the authorities concerned. This photo was taken from Dhaka-Mymensingh highway recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

While there were 312 accidents involving three-wheelers in 2020, the number rose to 939 last year.

A total of 3,776 people were killed in 3,204 road crashes last year, while 3,558 people were killed in 3,064 incidents in 2020. However, the number is much lower in data published by two road safety

According to section 46 (4) of the Road Transport Act-2018, no one is allowed to operate faulty, risky, banned or restricted vehicles on roads and highways or issue permission to operate them.

Nasimon, Karimon, Bhatbhati, easy-bikes, battery-run rickshaws and vans are specified as such vehicles under the

section.

Despite the ban, these vehicles, lacking even half-decent braking capabilities, saw a phenomenal rise in the last few years, thanks to the backing of influential people.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader on several occasions expressed helplessness over curbing such vehicles. According to him, when the authorities try to get them off the streets, local representatives get involved to create obstruction. The ministry, in June 2019, formed a 12-member committee to recommend measures of controlling these vehicles.

Following the recommendations made by the committee, the ministry in November last year prepared a draft regulatory guideline.

However, the draft is going through a lengthy process to be functional.

As the operation of public transport like buses, trains, launches remained suspended for a long time last year due to the pandemic, more three-wheelers came out on the highways to cater to the growing demands, resulting in more accidents, ARI's Director Prof Hadiuzzaman told this correspondent yesterday.

The authorities concerned did not stop importing the vehicles despite the ban in effect, hence the number reached around 40 lakhs now, he said.

Poor policy decisions like connecting and overlapping roads with highways are another major reason behind the rise of three-wheelers, he said. "The authorities have failed to solve the problem when it was easier. Now, it has turned into a major one."

Nazrul Islam, secretary of road transport and highways division, could not be contacted for comments.

## It takes up to 60 years to dispose of a civil case!

Law minister disappointed over backlog

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing disappointment over the long delay in case disposal and huge backlog of pending cases, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said sometimes around 60 years' time is needed for final disposal of a civil case at present.

Before, it used to take around 30 years on an average, he added.

"If this trend continues, the judiciary will come under question. The judges must discharge their duties with utmost sincerity, honesty and competence in order to reduce the backlog of cases and to tackle the challenges."

He said this while speaking as chief guest at a function organised on the occasion of inauguration of a special foundation training course for the assistant judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute in Dhaka.

He said the government enhanced the facilities of judges including raising their salaries, taken steps for providing them with necessary training, and improved the infrastructures on the court premises to tackle challenges of case backlogs.

The government has undertaken a project of a cost of Tk 2,200 crore for establishing e-judiciary in the country, he said, adding that around 3.5 lakh litigants have been given relief through virtual courts during the pandemic.

He said people want justice in a short time and the judges must work to fulfill their desire.

He also said the government will take all possible steps including use of Alternative Dispute Resolution for reducing the backlogs.



## DSA being used against opposition, dissidents

Alleges BNP

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday alleged that the Digital Security Act (DSA) is being used against opposition leaders, activists and dissidents as a tool of repression.

"The Digital Security Act is a repressive law. If anyone belonging to opposition or any dissenter files a case under the act in the morning, it will be dismissed by the court in the afternoon," said BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Speaking at a discussion, he said conversely, when any Awami League leader files a case against a BNP leader under the DSA, the legal process continues smoothly from the very beginning. "That BNP leader will be arrested by police and sent to jail by the court."

Rizvi also said if BNP leaders are sent to jail under the DSA case they will only be granted bail after a long time. "This is how the Digital Security Act has been applied in the country."

Jatiyatabadi Online Activists arranged the programme at BNP's Nayapaltna central office.

Describing the current situation in the country as "suffocating", Rizvi said, "We live in a society where there is no freedom of speech. We have to always look left and right all the time to see whether anyone is following us."



When it comes to pedestrians' road-crossing, city authorities are faced with the dual dilemma of trying to make the experience smooth for people on one hand, while preventing small-vehicles from using the gaps along road islands to move to the other side. As a solution, a number of poles were placed on the zebra crossing at Matsha Bhaban area so that people can pass through but vehicles cannot. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka





**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Department of Public Health Engineering  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Manikganj District, Manikganj



"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo No. 1805

Date: 09-01-2022

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

Sl No.	e-Tender ID	Work name	Opening & closing date
1	636379, 636399, 636395, 636389, 636386, 636383, 636401	Installation for Construction of Community Based Water Supply scheme by installing 100mm x 50mm dia tube well with 1.5 hp Submersible Pump Manikganj Sadar Upazila Manikganj under PSWSC project during the FY-2021-2022.	27-Jan-2022 12:30

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submitted e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Gazi Fatima Ferdous  
Executive Engineer  
Department of Public Health Engineering  
Manikganj District, Manikganj

GD-55

## Dhaka roads that will be closed to traffic today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has restricted traffic movement on Hatirjheel and adjacent areas for seven hours -- from 4:00am -- today for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Dhaka Marathon-2020.

Commuters have been requested to avoid roads in Hatirjheel and take alternative routes during the period. Similar restrictions will be in force on the way from Bangladesh Army Stadium-Kakoli-Gulshan-2 Gulshan-1 to Hatirjheel when the marathon participants will start from the stadium.

However, these roads will reopen soon after the marathon passes through.

## Court allows

FROM PAGE 5

Meanwhile, three firearms licensed under the names of Murad and his wife were handed over to Dhanmondi police on January 8.

On January 6, a team of Dhanmondi police rushed to Murad's house at Dhanmondi after Jahanara called 999 and sought police assistance, saying her husband Murad was about to beat her up.

**ভাড়া হবে**

মাজার রোডে ১ম কলোনিতে  
২৪০০০ কোয়ার্টারের একটি ভবন  
ভাড়া হবে। হুসপিটাল, শপিং  
কমপ্লেক্স ইত্যাদি। মোবাইল নম্বরঃ  
+৮৮০১৯১৯৬২০০৭ ডি-৩৩



**Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES**

H.S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH,  
PHONE-8901500-19, 8901640-54, [www.biman-airlines.com](http://www.biman-airlines.com)

**PROCUREMENT & LOGISTIC SUPPORT DIRECTORATE**  
REF: DACPF/INTL TENDER/016 & 018/2021-2022  
DATE: 09-JAN-2022

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER**  
Sealed tenders are hereby invited for supplying following items to Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.


S/N	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY
01.	DACPF/INTL TENDER/ 016/2021-2022 Date: 09-JAN-2022	FORK S/S (JCL) (As Per Specification)	7,200EA
02.	DACPF/INTL TENDER/ 018/2021-2022 Date: 09-JAN-2022	2/3 TRAY MAT NON-SKID (MEDIUM) (As Per Specification)	18,00,000EA

Tender schedule with detailed specifications, terms & conditions will be available at price of BDT 2,500.00 (BDT two thousand five hundred) only or equivalent US Dollar per set (non-refundable) from Manager Accounts, Cash & Banking, Baloka, Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka and from Biman's outstation in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai & London on cash payment during all working days up to 01-FEB-2022. A formal application in bidder's letterhead pad mentioning Tender Number and date shall be required for purchasing the Tender schedule. Tender schedule and other related information may also be viewed at Biman's website [www.biman-airlines.com](http://www.biman-airlines.com).


Last date for submission of tender/offer is: 02-FEB-2022 at 1100 hrs (LT).

Swapan Kumer Dey  
Manager (Commercial Purchase)

GD-57



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Bangladesh Forest Department  
Sustainable Forests & Livelihood (SUFAL) Project  
Cox's Bazar North Forest Division



Date: 09 January, 2022

Memo No. 22.01.2200.771.29.041.21.90

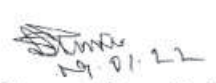
**e-Tender Notice**

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online notice publications date & time	Online tender closing date & time
643670	CoxNFD/Sufal/ 2021-22/GD-15	Supply of Poly-propylene bags for new 400Ha.FGS Nursery raising.	10-01-2022 10:00	27-01-2022 13:00
644344	CoxNFD/Sufal/ 2021-22/GD-16	Supply of Nursery Materials for new 400Ha.FGS Nursery raising.	10-01-2022 10:00	27-01-2022 14:00
644438	CoxNFD/Sufal/ 2021-22/GD-17	Supply of Plantation Materials for new 400Ha.FGS Plantation.	10-01-2022 10:00	27-01-2022 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 selling/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 from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd), +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529).



**Md. Anowar Hossain Sarker**  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Cox's Bazar North Forest Division  
Phone: 0341-63409  
Email: [dfocoxsbazarnorth@gmail.com](mailto:dfocoxsbazarnorth@gmail.com)

GD-52



**পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
**PUBALI BANK LIMITED**

Head Office: 26, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh  
PABX Number : +88 02223381614, Fax : +88 029564009  
E-mail: [info@pubalibankbd.com](mailto:info@pubalibankbd.com), web: [www.pubalibangla.com](http://www.pubalibangla.com)

**PUBALI BANK PERPETUAL BOND**

**Notice for Eligible Investors (EIs) and General Public Categories (General Public and NRB) to submit their Application(s) through the Electronic Subscription System (ESS) and Stockbrokers /Merchant Bankers respectively for the Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond.**

This is for the kind information of all concerned that Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has accorded consent vide letter no. BSEC/CI/DS-151/2021/633 dated December 08, 2021 for raising Additional Tier-1 Regulatory capital through issuance of Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond under fixed price method. All the General Public (GP) including Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) are hereby requested to apply through the Stockbrokers/Merchant Bankers. On the other hand, all the Eligible Investors are hereby requested to visit website: [www.essbangladesh.com](http://www.essbangladesh.com) to participate in the Public Offer Subscription Process through the Electronic Subscription System (ESS). The summary of the Public Offer subscription for the Eligible Investors (EIs) and General Public (GP) including Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) are as follows:

**A. Offer Summary:**

Issue Name	Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond
Issue Type	Unsecured, contingent-convertible, non-cumulative and BASEL III Compliant Perpetual Bond
Issue Code	PBLPBOND
Issuer	Pubali Bank Limited
Originator	Pubali Bank Limited
Total Issue Size to be raised through Public offer	BDT 500,000,000 (Fifty Crore Taka) Note: There shall be no quota wise amount distribution between EIs and GP
Total Number of Bond Units to be offered to Public	100,000 Units
Face Value	BDT 5,000 (Five Thousand Taka)
Issue Price	BDT 5,000 (Five Thousand Taka)
Issue Manager(s)	UCB Investment Limited City Bank Capital Resources Limited

**B. Details of Subscription for EIs and General Public Categories (General Public and NRB):**

Eligibility of EIs & GP including NRB Applicants for Subscription	Minimum investment to be eligible to apply in listed securities is not applicable.
Period of Subscription for EIs & GP including NRB and Foreign Applicants under Public Offer	<b>Start on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10:00 AM</b> <b>Close on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 5:00 PM</b>
The registered Stockbroker's/Merchant Bankers shall upload the lists of application from GP to ESS and shall deposit the full subscription amount should be: <b>[Condition No. 6 of Step-2 of Part D of the BSEC consent letter dated December 08, 2021]</b>	<b>Start on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at 10:00 AM</b> <b>Close on 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 5:00 PM</b>
Eligible Investors shall submit their application through the Electronic Subscription System ("ESS")	<b>Start on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10:00 AM</b> <b>Close on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 5:00 PM</b>
Deposit of collateral for EIs	<b>Start on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10:00 AM</b> <b>Close on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 5:00 PM</b>
Subscription Fee for EIs	BDT 3,000 (Three thousand)
Collateral amount for EIs	100% Subscription
Mode of payment	Pay Order/Demand Draft/ B.B. Cheque
Minimum amount allowed should be <b>[Condition no. 6 of Part C of BSEC consent letter dated December 08, 2021]</b>	<b>BDT 5,000 each or its multiples</b>
Maximum Amount allowed for Subscription of Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond	<b>No Bar</b>

**C. Bank details for depositing EIs Subscription Money:**

Account Name	Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited
Bank Name	The City Bank Limited
Bank Account Number	1121063938001
Branch Name	Any Branch in Bangladesh

**Note:**

I. All the General Public (GP) including Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) and Foreign Applicants are requested to submit their application through the Stockbroker/Merchant Bankers where the applicants maintain customer account. On the other hand, all the Eligible Investors are hereby requested to submit their application for subscription through the Electronic Subscription System. All the EIs and GP including Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) and Foreign Applicants shall apply in accordance with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Debt Securities) Rules, 2021 as well as other relevant rules and regulations through the Electronic Subscription System (ESS) of the Stock Exchange(s) for Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond.

II. There is no pre-defined quota for any EI or General Public including Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) and Foreign Applicants. In case of over subscription, Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond shall be allotted on pro-rata basis subject to minimum subscription and any fraction shall be considered to the nearest integer and accumulated fractional Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond shall be allotted on a random basis.

III. An applicant cannot submit more than two applications, one in his/her own name and the other jointly with another person. In case an applicant submits more than two applications, all applications will be treated as invalid and will not be considered for allotment purpose. Moreover, the applicants who have applied for more than two applications using the same bank account, their application will not be considered for allotment purpose.

IV. Making of any false statement or giving any incorrect information or suppressing any relevant information in the application shall make the application liable to rejection.

Information Memorandum of Pubali Bank Perpetual Bond is available in the website(s) of the Issuer Company ([www.pubalibangla.com](http://www.pubalibangla.com)), Manager(s) to the Issue ([www.ucb-investment.com](http://www.ucb-investment.com)) ([www.cbcr.com](http://www.cbcr.com)), Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission ([www.sec.gov.bd](http://www.sec.gov.bd)), Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited ([www.dsebd.org](http://www.dsebd.org)) and Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited ([www.cse.com.bd](http://www.cse.com.bd)).



**AGRANI BANK LIMITED**  
Establishment & Engineering Division  
Head Office  
9/D Dilkusha C/A  
Dhaka.

**Invitation for Tenders**

1	Procuring Entity Name	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
2	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
3	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV System on Agrani Bank Limited, Mirpur Branch, Kustia and Khalishaundi Branch, Kustia
4	Invitation Ref No	ABL/E&ED/Eng/Mecha-010/2022
5	Date	05/01/2022
<b>Key Information</b>		
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.
<b>Funding Information</b>		
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank limited.
<b>Particular Information</b>		
8	Tender Publication Date	05/01/2022
9	Tender Last Selling Date	25/01/2022 (till office hour)
	Date	Time
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	26/01/2022 3.00PM
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	26/01/2022 3.30PM
12	Name & Address of the Tender Document Selling Office	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
13	Receiving Tender Document	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. Time: 10:00AM to 3:00PM, Date: 26/01/2022
14	Place of Tender Opening	Tender Opening will take place at the Primary Place
<b>Information For Tenderer</b>		
15	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	<b>Tenderers who have:</b> a. Not been prevented by order of any judicial court from entering into and/or signing contract with the procuring entity. b. Tenderers shall have at least 03 (Three) years of overall business experience in similar works preceding the date of publication of IFT. c. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. d. Certificate by the bidder stating that he/she had successfully completed CCTV installation, testing and commissioning works at Govt/Semi-Govt Autonomous organizations/ Reputed Limited Company. e. No joint venture company is allowed. i) Up to date valid Trade license ii) Up-to-date income tax paid certificate iii) Valid VAT registration certificate iv) TIN Certificate v) Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 5,20,000.00 (Five Lac and Twenty thousand) only. vi) Main Catalogue/ Brochure. vii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 4,00,000/-. viii) Affidavit/Declaration of legal ownership/ Certificate of incorporation. ix) Tender Submission Letter (Form PG3-1) x) Bio-data of key personnel employed by the contractor to carry out the functions stated in the schedule. xi) Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. xii) International Standard Conformity Certificate and Every other documents mentioned in TDS.
16	Tenderer to attach copies of the following documents	
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	1000/- (Tk One Thousand Only) Non-refundable pay-order from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favor of Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Yousuf Khan
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	02223381674 <a href="mailto:eedmechanical@agraniabank.org">eedmechanical@agraniabank.org</a>
22	<b>a) The Tenderer shall furnish Registration certificate and evidence of being managed by Bangladeshi nationals in original and certificates of satisfactory completion of previous work for proposed brand CC Camera of above magnitude from the owner at the time of dropping the Tender documents.</b> <b>b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the Tender(s), the same will be received at the same time on the day after next working day.</b> <b>c) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg. 127 of PPR 2008.</b> <b>d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. No claims will be entertained in this regard.</b>	



(Mohammad Yousuf Khan)  
Deputy General Manager  
Agrani Bank Limited  
Establishment & Engineering Division  
Head Office, Dhaka

GD-51





Even amidst the chill of winter, the animal world, much like humans, can't dissociate themselves from industrious work. In that course, a speckled yellow butterfly rose in the early morning, skipping from flower to flower to collect nectar, aiding pollination for new flowers to bloom. This photo was taken recently from Chattogram's Raozan upazila.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Save us from waterlogging

Around 1,000 people from Bhabadah besiege DC office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Remove water, save people" was the slogan that around a thousand residents of a waterlogged Bhabadah were heard chanting while besieging the deputy commissioner's office in Jashore yesterday.

The protest was organised by Bhabadah Pani Niskashan Sangram Committee, where the people of Bhabadah urged the DC's attention to solve the crisis.

"Water increases during monsoon and decreases on winter, but our yards are never dry," said Shamoli Mandol, a resident of Puradanga village of Monirampur upazila in Jashore.

"We will not go back until we get a proper solution to the issue," said Hafizur Rahman, a resident of Padmanathpur in Monirampur.

Iqbal Kabir Zahid, adviser of the sangram committee, said around 120 villages in the Bhabadah region are still underwater. "The authority is unbothered about the plight of the residents," he said.

The movement will continue until their six-point demand are met, added Zahid. This include tidal river management before the full moon, cancellation of proposed water pumping project, Amdanga canal excavation and more.

Advocate Abul Hossain, president of Communist Party, Jashore unit; Zillur Rahman Vitu, secretary of Jashore Workers' Party (Marxist); and Ranajit Baoali, convener of Bhabadah Pani Niskashan Sangram Committee, spoke at the programme, among others.



PHOTO: STAR

## 8 acres of mangrove forest gone overnight

Miscreants put up fence, cut around 30,000 trees in Cox's Bazar



This particular area in Cox's Bazar's Kosturighat, along the Bakkhali river, was already reeling from indiscriminate grabbing. After yesterday's heinous incident, almost the entirety of the area has been taken over.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown miscreants have grabbed around 800 decimal (8 acres) of mangrove forest land, felling thousands of trees, in Kosturighat area along Bakkhali River in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

Around 4:00am, they put up a fence of corrugated sheet and started felling the trees, which continued well into the daylight.

According to Forest Department data, there are 600 hectare's of mangrove forest in the estuary of Bakkhali River. It serves as a habitat for 205 bird species.

Ibrahim Khalil Mamun, chief executive of Cox's Bazar-

based green organisation Youth Environment Society, told The Daily Star that around 30,000 trees were felled and burnt to clear the mangrove forest. He mentioned the area had already been almost completely grabbed by local influentials over the last few months.

He said as no one including the district administration and the Department of Environment (DoE) takes any stern action against the miscreants, they continued grabbing the land and getting away with it.

Mentionable, the mangrove forest was created in 2006-2007 under a project of DoE.

Nazmul Huda, deputy director of DoE, Cox's Bazar, told The

Daily Star that they have filed a case regarding the latest incident.

"This has been going on over the past few months. We have filed three cases so far. We are unable to stop this menace ourselves due to our shortage of human resources," he said.

Nua Mong, assistant commissioner of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, said upon being informed, they have visited the spot in the morning.

He said although cases have been filed against some of the offenders, they can get away by obtaining bail, which enables them to continue in their criminal ways.

"We are trying to identify the culprits," he said.

## Another launch fire scare

Passengers call 999 after smoke emanates from launch in Meghna; staffers-commuters scuffle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

On Saturday midnight, passengers of Surovi-9 launch on the Dhaka-Barishal route panicked as smoke started emanating from its engine room.

One of them immediately dialed the National Emergency Service, 999, which prompted a coastguard unit from Chandpur to force the launch to anchor at Mohanpur launch ghat in the district.

After six hours of examination by fire fighters, the launch was declared safe and was allowed to get back to journeying yesterday morning.

This meant the launch arrived at Barishal River Port at 10:00am yesterday, around seven hours after scheduled time. Talking to this correspondent, passengers said they were frightened for their lives during the incident,



Officials inspect the anchored launch after smoke started emanating from its engine room midriver yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

owing to the recent MV Abhijan-10 launch fire tragedy.

They said as the smoke started billowing from the engine room, launch staffers threw water at it to reduce heat and clear the smoke.

Meanwhile, a scuffle broke out after the launch anchored at Mohanpur, launch staffers allegedly beat up passengers over calling 999 and bringing the journey to a halt. This was picked up by the TV media and was played on air throughout yesterday, fueling rage among people over the incident.

Moreover, two journalists were injured as they tried to cover the fracas.

As of yesterday evening, the launch's assistant manager Mizanur Rahman was suspended by the launch authorities over the issue.

Md Waheduzzaman, in-charge inspector of Chandpur River Police's Mohanpur launch ghat unit, said after the coastguard forced the launch to anchor at Mohanpur, a unit of the fire service went to the spot and conducted an inspection.

Chandpur Fire Brigade Deputy Assistant Director Md Sahidul Islam said, "During inspection, we found that the silencer had heated up, which made smoke come out of it. The launch was running on one engine and was carrying around 400 passengers."

Staff in-charge of the engine room Paritosh said, "The launch was scheduled to go on a picnic trip the day after tomorrow (Tuesday). While cleaning it, some of the dirty water may have entered the silencer, which made it heat up."

**Passengers said they were frightened for their lives during the incident, owing to the recent MV Abhijan-10 launch fire tragedy.**

## A new hope for learning

Border village gets three-storey library

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At a time when even reputed college and universities don't always have libraries, a family of advocates set up a three-storey library at a remote area in Barlekha upazila, some 86 kilometres away from Moulvibazar district town.



Named Tabarak Hossain-Shamsunnahar Library, it was set up at Shahbazzpur High School and College with over 10,000 books on display. The library

was officially inaugurated yesterday afternoon.

Alumni of the school, Supreme Court lawyer Tabarak Hussain and his wife Shamsunnahar built the library building at a cost of around Tk 70 lakh.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw a good number of rare books at the library.

Residents of the locality, who live very close to the Indian border, are at awe of the library. Eighth-grader Peter Mannar, a resident of Pallarthal village and a student of the school, told this newspaper he has never seen such a huge library before.

Dipa Das said she has been meaning to buy a book on the history of Moulvibazar for a long time, but couldn't find one. However, she has found one at the library.

"This is quite the privilege for us," she said.

The inauguration session featured Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin as chief guest.



Education Minister Dipu Moni conferred degrees on graduates during the 9th convocation of Daffodil International University at Daffodil Smart City in Ashulia, Savar yesterday. DIU Chairman Dr Md Sabur Khan, Vice Chancellor Prof M Lutfar Rahman and Pro-VC Prof SM Mahabub Alam Majumder were also present on the occasion.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Court allows cops to probe GD against Murad

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed police to investigate a general diary filed against former state minister for information and broadcasting Murad Hassan for torturing and abusing his wife.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid passed the order after IO Rajib Hasan, sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station, filed an application with the court on January 8, seeking permission to investigate the GD.

Dr Jahanara Ehsan on January 6 lodged the GD with the police station against her husband Murad, bringing allegations of torture.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

# Demolished brickfields resume operations

They were also instructed to remove all the equipment from the place, he said, adding that they will soon conduct another drive against the two brickfields for the violation of rules.

Salam said that he often faces minor accidents due to his physical condition.

Bangladesh has enough vaccines in hand at present and another 31 crore doses are in the pipeline.

www.fsiblb.com

স্বপ্নের জন্যে  
সবসময়

ঢাকা ওয়াসার বিল কালেকশনে টানা  
৩য় বারের মত **১ম স্থান** অর্জন করল  
ফাস্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি:

সেবাই আমাদের শক্তি  
গ্রাহকদের আস্তা ও ভালোবাসা আমাদের অর্জন।

ফাস্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি:  
فارسٲ سٲكٲورٲٲٲٲ اسلامٲ بٲك لٲمٲٲٲ FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK LTD.





Shakib Khan and Puja Chery in 'Golui'.



Siam and Bubly in 'Taan'.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

# 5 new on-screen pairs to look forward to

**"I knew very little about Puja's films before we got this project. However, I can say that she has a very bright future, and audiences will get to see our wonderful chemistry in the film," said Shakib Khan.**

SHABABA IQBAL

A host of our favourite stars are pairing up for the first time on-screen in different upcoming projects. There is a lot of excitement and anticipation about how they would fare in their given roles. Check out what these pairs have in store for us.

**Shakib Khan and Puja Chery in 'Golui'**  
Shakib Khan and Puja Chery will be starring in S A Haque Alik's government-granted film, "Golui".

"I knew very little about Puja's films before we got this project. However, I can say that she has a very bright future, and audiences will get to see our wonderful chemistry in the film," said Shakib Khan in a previous interaction with The Daily Star.

**Sariful Razz and Pori Moni in 'Gunin'**  
Sariful Razz and Pori Moni will be starring in Gias Uddin Selim's "Gunin".

"I have watched Pori Moni in Selim bhai's 'Swapnojaal', and I felt that she is immensely talented. Also, she is a great human being

with a bold personality and a good soul. I am looking forward to working with her," shared Razz in an earlier interaction with The Daily Star.

**Sariful Razz and Mim in 'Poran'**  
Sariful Razz and Mim have paired up in Raihan Rafi's "Poran", which is based on the gruesome Rifat murder that happened on June 26, 2019 in front of Barguna Government College.

The story revolves around the incident when Rifat Sharif and his wife Ayesha Siddika Minni became victims of a gruesome attack in Barguna.

The case became a national sensation overnight, when Minni was convicted of being the "mastermind" behind the murder. "Poran" also stars Yash Rohan in a pivotal role.

**Yash Rohan and Nusraat Faria in 'Pordar Arale'**  
Nusraat Faria has paired up with Yash Rohan for a new web film titled "Pordar Arale".



Nusraat Faria and Yash Rohan

Scripted and directed by Parvez Amin, the project is a Bengal Multimedia production.

It is a thriller that focuses on the lives of two film stars from two generations. Yash will play a CID officer in the film.

**Siam and Bubly in 'Taan'**  
Popular stars Siam and Bubly will share the screen for the first time in Chorki's original film "Taan".

Directed by Raihan Rafi and written by Siddique Ahmed, the story centres on the couple Oboni and Rashed, who elope together and find themselves under horrible circumstances.

## 'Chitmahal' to hit theatres on January 14



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Inspired by the true events on partition and the exchange of enclaves, H R Habib produced and directed the film "Chitmahal". The film features popular model and actress Peysa Jannatul in the lead role.

The film will hit theatres on January 14, amid the upsurge of Covid-19.

The project has been filmed in Maroa, Chitmahal.

"It focuses on the struggles of the people who were trapped in the disputed land between Bangladesh and India," said H R Habib.

The film also stars Moushumi Hamid, Arman Parvez Murad, Anwarul Alam Shazal, and Shimul Khan, among others.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Two documentaries based on Sahid Rahman's 'Mohamanober Deshe' premiere at BSA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The programme titled, 'Bangabandhu Shongrami Rajnitir Kobi' was held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), on January 8, featuring three documentaries based on Sahid Rahman's "Mohamanober Deshe".

"Ami Mayer Kachhe jabo" is directed by Antar Rahman and Mohammad Farid Uddin, while the screenplay was handled by Aurangzeb. It features National Film Award winner Fazlur Rahman Babu, along with Tarin Jahan, and Saberi Alam among others.

Another documentary, "Ekjon Kafiluddin", featuring Gazi Rakayet, Ahmed Rubel, and Rokeya Prachi among others is directed by Sumon Dhar. The screenplay is jointly written by Sumon Dhar and Biddhut Ray.

A discussion was also held at the event. Mahbubul Alam Hanif, MP, and Joint General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League graced the event as chief guests.

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE.

## 'I was unrecognisable amid Covid-19 battle'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Deepika Padukone revealed that difficult battle with Covid-19 made her look physically unrecognisable.

The "Padmaavat" star, including her immediate family members, contracted the virus last year about which Padukone opened up in a recent interview with *Film Companion*.

"Life after Covid changed for me because physically, I was unrecognisable completely... I think (due to) the medication I was given, the steroids that I was put on," she expressed.

"So Covid in itself was weird, your body feels different, your mind feels different".

She also reflected on taking a break from work after the illness for two months, because her mind wasn't working, and she went through a very difficult phase.



# Echoes finally resonate in your Attic

LINE-UP

Shadab Shams- Vocals  
Tauhid Shamsuddin- lead guitar  
Gourav Nandy- Synthesizer and Keyboard

Sharar Shayor-  
Backing vocal and Bass guitar  
Sayem Chowdhury- Drums

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Formed in 2012, Attic is one of the forerunners of the new 'indie' generation of Bangladeshi band music. The rising stars released their debut album, titled after their most well-known song, "Echoes in your Attic", which is available for purchase digitally.

**Congratulations on your new album. When did you start planning for it?**  
Years, actually. We started recording the album in 2018, into post-

production in quarantine period of 2020, and that is when we planned to sell the album on our own website. But it took us till April 2021 to finish the album entirely, and then move on to shooting music videos.

**How was the response for "Echoes in your Attic"?**  
The response was decent at first, now it has rather slowed down. Many are still unaware of the album being out, and a lot of them are just not interested in buying an album. Regardless, we are glad that whoever bought it got their

money's worth.

**Attic did English originals at a time when it was not the norm. Now, many bands have started on this trajectory. Where do you see the future of Bangladeshi songwriting in a global arena?**  
The bands, in our opinion, are doing great.

However, we think that the people who are writing in English, should now move to international markets. We should be touring outside the country, if possible. We could be much

closer to that goal if only we had a significant amount of support from the locals. However, a lot of them do not pay attention to local artists, and a lot of them who do, resent you for not writing in Bangla.

**What are Attic's plans going forward?**  
After "Indigo Straits", we are releasing the music video for our song "Love/Hate" soon. After the video releases, we'll do a solo show for all the #fanattics, and the people of this city. We also plan to tour abroad by the end of the year.





JANUARY 10, 1972

# The day history was made

ENAM AHMED CHAUDHURY

Every moment of this day is vivid in my memory. January 10, 1972, the day Bangabandhu came back from prison to his freed motherland—to the nation which he had led to victory and independence, but from a distance. I was a witness to his great and historic return.

I would like to recount the days immediately prior to this unforgettable moment. We formally won the war on December 16, 1971, but the independent government did not quite start functioning immediately. The remnants of the old Pakistani administration continued to operate, but as a part of a new independent country—adjusting to the completely changed set of circumstances.

The first visible change occurred when the first main batch of officials of the new government started arriving. It appears to be incredible, the way the skeleton government structure started functioning almost automatically, but in an organised manner. Noorul Quader, Secretary, General Administration, however arrived a day earlier on December 17. He was sent primarily to organise the proposed first meeting of the Secretary General the next day. From the airport, he was picked up by Faruq Choudhury and brought to Surma, our family home in Dhanmondi. He requested me to inform some senior officials present in Dhaka to attend the next day's meeting, which I did. The batch of officials, comprising Ruhul Quddus, the Secretary General, Abul Fateh, MA Samad, KA Zaman, HT Imam, MA Khaleq and Anwarul Huq Khan, arrived in the forenoon of December 18. Ruhul Quddus held the meeting at the Secretariat that afternoon—the very first meeting of the senior officers present in Dhaka. SM Hasan, a senior ICS-CSP officer, who was not a Bengali, also attended the meeting. He declared his allegiance to the new government. In fact, he was known to have been sympathetic to the cause of Bangladesh and had chaired the meeting of the CSP Association (East Pakistan Chapter) in the second week of March 1971, where a decision was taken to cooperate with the transition process for the newly elected government led by the majority-leader in the Parliament, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. However, after the initial introduction, he left the meeting, saying that he would be available if called upon. A few decisions were made in the meeting, one of which was to have a seven-day working week for the time being from 9 am to 5 pm with an hour of mid-day break. Mr Quddus gave a few instructions on behalf of the new government.



The political leaders comprising Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Mansur Ali, AHM Qamaruzzaman, Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad, Abdus Samad Azad and others arrived on December 22, 1971. The old Government House, renamed Banga Bhavan, become the central headquarters of the government from where initially the Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam, and the Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad started operating. General Osmany, the C-n-C of the victorious Bangladesh Army arrived on December 24.

On December 27, Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad announced the expansion of his cabinet and on December 29, the portfolios were announced. Most significant was the appointment of Abdus Samad Azad as the Foreign Minister, in place of Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad, who got charges of Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Land Revenue. On January 4, a decision was taken by the prime minister to send a delegation to Delhi primarily to step up and mobilise international efforts to secure the release of Bangabandhu, to ensure urgent essential supplies to Bangladesh and to discuss

about planning for immediate rehabilitation of some disrupted sectors. Abdus Samad Azad, the new foreign minister, led the delegation comprising Mosharraf Hossain, Member, Planning Commission, Faruq Choudhury, Chief of Protocol and DG (Foreign Ministry Administration and Coordination) and Enam Ahmed Chaudhury, Joint Secretary, Commerce (additionally of Industries) and arrived at Delhi on January 5, 1972.

Sardar Swaran Singh, the foreign minister of India, was there at the airport to receive his counterpart. A few officials from the Foreign Office, Planning Commission and Commerce Ministry were also present. The visitors were accommodated at the state-run Hotel Ashoka.

The next day, January 6, the delegation led by the foreign minister called on President VV Giri, Foreign Minister Sardar Swaran Singh and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi expressed her earnest hope about the release of Bangabandhu, assured to extend all co-operation to the new government and wished success for the delegation. The Bangladesh delegation met, for the

first time, the Indian delegation led by DP Dhar, minister-level Chairman of the Policy Planning Cell at the North Block, and decided to break up into two groups to expedite work. One was the Foreign and Diplomatic Committee and the other was to deal with planning, economic affairs and commerce. Mani Shankar Aiyar, though from the Foreign Office, assisted and played an important role in the working of the Second Committee, along with me. Montek Singh Ahluwalia of the Planning Commission, who was a friend of mine from our Oxford days, also participated. That evening, Sardar Swaran Singh held a big dinner party for the delegation where the Indian C-n-C General Manekshaw (later field marshal) was also present. I recall, while Minister Azad was talking with a group, Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram called the Indian General to introduce him. The next day, the Bangladesh delegation heads held discussions with Finance Minister Chavan, Agriculture Minister Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram, Industrial Development Minister Moinul Haque Choudhury and Irrigation Minister Rao. In the South Block Commerce Minister LN Mishra (who had state minister status), Planning Member Dr Shukhamoy Chakravarty and Joint Secretary Commerce Raghupati held meetings with the other group led by Prof Mosharraf Hossain. I was in this committee.

On January 8, while the official discussions were in progress, Mani Dixit of the Foreign Office dramatically announced that Bangabandhu had been set free and he was on his way to London on board a special flight of the Pakistan International Airways. We were all excited, and joy and jubilation knew no bounds.

The amicable discussions ended decisively. On January 9 the joint communique was announced, which included, inter-alia, clause 13. It said that both the governments categorically agreed to note that, on the request of the Bangladesh government, the Indian Army, which had been to Bangladesh to join the liberation forces in their war of independence, would leave from

Bangladesh as soon as the government of Bangladesh so desired.

It was also stated in the communique that prices for supplies from India would be determined at the prevalent international price. The silver Comet of the British prime minister carrying Bangabandhu touched down at Palam Airport, Delhi at 8.10 am, on January 10, 1972. That was a sight to remember, and it will remain culled in my memory forever. From the open door of the plane emerged Bangabandhu, a handsome, tall, erect figure with a smiling face and raised hands. And he loudly uttered Joy Bangla! Present at the airport were President Giri, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, members of her cabinet, heads of many diplomatic missions and hundreds of local and foreign journalists and photographers.

As the grey closed-neck suit and back over-coat clad President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman climbed down the stairs of the plane, 21 cannons fired loudly and many among the waiting crowd shouted "Joy Bangla". National anthems of the two countries, written by the same Bengali poet, were played by brass bands, and Bangabandhu inspected the guard of honour. In a formal statement Bangabandhu recalled his flight "from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from desolation to hope". He stated that within a short span of time, his "people have traversed centuries" and now he would come back to the country to "turn the victory into a march ahead on the road of peace, progress and prosperity". He said, "Truth has at last triumphed over falsehood, sanity over insanity, courage over cowardice, justice over injustice and good over evil."

He profusely thanked the people and the government of India for their support and co-operation in our war of independence and for their tireless efforts and sacrifices in our struggle to establish independent Bangladesh. He remembered his people, the Bengalees. He said, "When I was snatched away from them, they cried, they fought when I was in prison and now as I return, they stand victorious."

SEE PAGE 9

▲  
**An emotional moment at Tejgaon Airport, when Bangabandhu returned after a long imprisonment in West Pakistan. January 10, 1972.**

PHOTO:  
RASHID TALUKDER

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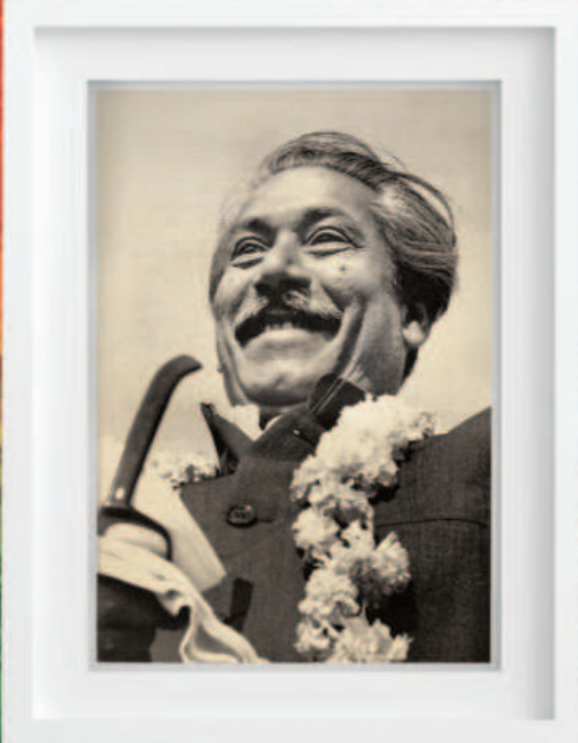
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**ঐতিহাসিক স্বদেশ প্রত্যাবর্তন দিবস**



এই দিনে জাতি ফিরে পেয়েছে আলোর দিশারি  
জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু ধ্বনিতে স্বাধীনতার মহানায়ককে বরণ করে  
বাঙালি জাতি শুরু করে 'অন্ধকার হতে আলোর পথে যাত্রা'  
জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের প্রতি আমাদের গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি।

**সাউথইস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
একটি দূরদর্শী ব্যাংক



# Bangabandhu’s strategy and our independence

SHAMS RAHMAN

India and China are two neighbouring nations. Both countries gained independence from colonial powers around the same time – India in 1947, and China in 1949. However, they achieved independence following two opposite ideologies. One via the non-cooperation movement, the other through the “barrel of a gun.” One was introduced by Mahatma Gandhi, the other by Chairman Mao.

Many nations and political and civil rights leaders around the world were inspired by Gandhi’s ideology and adopted it as a way of liberating their people. Dr Martin Luther King Jr. is a bright example. In the 1950s and 1960s, he sought to establish equal rights for the African Americans through the non-cooperation and non-violence movement. No doubt, the movement made the African Americans conscious about their rights. However, many doubt the success of this strategy in the realisation of rights.

Many nationalities and ethnic groups in Asia and Europe embraced Chairman Mao’s ideology in their liberation movements. Tamils in Sri Lanka, Spain’s Basque Country, and Northern Ireland have failed despite years of armed struggle and bloodshed. The Naxalbari movement in West Bengal, India, also failed.

Located between India and China, Bangladesh is much smaller than the two nations, in terms of both size and population. Under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, almost 25 years after the independence of India and China, Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971.

Bangabandhu was a people person. Once, when asked to comment on his strengths and weaknesses, Bangabandhu responded, “My greatest strength is the love of my people, and my greatest weakness is that I love them too much.”

Like Gandhi and Mao, Bangabandhu sought freedom for the masses from all forms of exploitation and injustice. He had profound faith in the power of the people and was committed to delivering their rights. These rights were not limited to

the right to vote only. It allowed people to be closely involved in the production and distribution of wealth in society. Can this assimilation and integration of elements, essential to redefine real democracy, be called “humanistic democracy”?

Two principles of Bangabandhu’s concept of secularism can be noted here – one, in the form of there being “no asymmetry” in the treatment of different religions by the state, and two, in the form of “no political use of religion.”

As emphasised by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen in a recent presentation, “A good understanding of secularism, as explained by Sheikh Mujib is particularly important right now in many countries. This applies not only in India but also in other countries across the world.” And so, he rightly entitled Bangabandhu as “Bishwa Bandhu” – Friend of the World.

Ultimately, the ideals of humanistic democracy and secularism became the cornerstone of Bangabandhu’s politics.

What was Bangabandhu’s strategy in gaining the independence of Bangladesh?

It is known to everyone that the democratic movement was the primary strategy of Bangabandhu in achieving independence. However, waging an armed “people’s war” was Bangabandhu’s alternative strategy, the last resort.

On February 5, 1962, Bangabandhu went to Agartala via Asharambari. A recently published book highlights that “...the Awami League supreme Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arrived in Agartala secretly to meet Sachindralal Singha, the chief minister of Tripura, to seek assistance for a possible independence campaign” (Bhaumik, The Agartala Doctrine, Oxford University Press, 2016 pg. 13).

The matter reached the then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru via the Chief Minister of Tripura but was not taken on board due to the prevailing tension on the Indo-China border at that time.

However, the efforts to gain India’s cooperation did not stop there. In the late 60s, Chittaranjan Sutar, an Awami League leader from Barisal, was tasked with liaising with the Indian administration to ensure cooperation if required (Karim,



▲  
Bangabandhu delivering his speech to an enormous crowd at Race Course Maidan. January, 10, 1972.

Sheikh Mujib: Triumph and Tragedy, The University Press Ltd, 2005, pg. 206).

The last contact in this effort probably took place in early March 1971 when the General Secretary of the Awami League, Tajuddin Ahmed, met the Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka.

“On March 5 or 6, at the behest of Sheikh Mujib, Tajuddin secretly met with the Indian Deputy High Commissioner K C Sengupta in Dhaka. The purpose was to find out if Pakistan would start a catastrophe in East Bengal, in which case the Indian government would provide political asylum to the affected leaders and

workers and provide any assistance in the possible resistance struggle”. Deputy High Commissioner Sengupta confirmed the news of assurance for assistance and support on March 17 by saying that “India will provide ‘all possible assistance’ to the affected people if Pakistan does attack” (Maidul Hasan, Muldhara 71, The University Press Ltd, 1986, pg. 10).

Bangabandhu saw the armed struggle as a “people’s war”, an extension of the democratic movement rather than a military war. That is why, in his speech on March 7, he called for a non-cooperation movement on the one hand, and on the other, directed people to turn

every home into fortresses, confront the enemy with whatever they had.

The fact that Bangabandhu firmly believed in the people’s war came to the fore when Abdul Ghaffar Chowdhury (then editor of Awaaz) came to Bangabandhu with a proposal from Lt. Commander Moazzem Hossain, one of the main accused persons in the Agartala Conspiracy Case. The meeting took place in 1966, right before Bangabandhu was preparing for the Lahore Round Table Conference. As soon as Moazzem’s name was mentioned, Bangabandhu said, “I know him [Moazzem]. I also know all about his proposal. He has recently been hobnobbing with Manik Choudhury (a businessman from Chittagong). I have told Manik not to have anything to do with this madness. I would also advise you not to get involved in it. Our struggle is for the establishment of democracy and the realisation of autonomy for the people of Bangladesh. I have always fought against the Pakistani military junta. It is not the purpose of my movement to replace it with a Bengali military junta” (Karim, Sheikh Mujib: Triumph and Tragedy, The University Press Ltd, 2005, pg. 206).

Considering the then global political context, Bangabandhu applied Gandhi’s non-cooperation movement in a new way, in combination with Mao’s people’s war, as a strategy to achieving independence. That is the achievement of Bangabandhu. There are a handful of nations in the world that have achieved independence through a democratic non-cooperation movement in conjunction with armed war. This is of great pride for us.

Shams Rahman is professor of Supply Chain Management at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Email: shams.rahman@rmit.edu.au

## The day history was made

**During the course of their meeting, Bangabandhu told Indira Gandhi that he would separately visit Kolkata to specifically thank the people of West Bengal for their shelter and help during the liberation struggle. He also invited Indira Gandhi to visit Dhaka at her earliest convenience and wished that the Indian Army, which had been to Bangladesh to assist the Mukti Bahini, would have left Bangladesh by then. Indira Gandhi reiterated that withdrawal would be completed soon and she would like to be present in Kolkata during Bangabandhu’s proposed visit.**

FROM PAGE 8  
Immediately after the airport formalities, Bangabandhu, accompanied by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, drove in a motorcade to the place for a public meeting. Indira Gandhi warmly welcomed Bangabandhu, with a few words in Hindi. Bangabandhu had his written English speech in his pocket, but he started speaking in Bengali. There was great applause as he spoke. Bangabandhu’s formal English statement at the airport was drafted by Faruq Choudhury. However, his public meeting speech was mostly spontaneous. He deeply appreciated and thanked the Indian people and the government for their heroic role and sacrifices in our struggle for independence. He also passionately recalled the great sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the people. He bore no grudge against anyone and announced that his country will have friendship for all and malice towards none. He envisaged a South Asia of amity and harmony. He dreamt of a world where people would unitedly strive for peace, progress and prosperity. His Bengali speech, applauded greatly, was translated in Hindi.

After the mammoth public meeting, Bangabandhu’s motorcade proceeded towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, driving through welcoming arches and cheering crowds. At the President’s House, after his formal meeting with President Giri, he and Indira Gandhi had an exclusive meeting. Thereafter, the Indian Chief of Protocol Mahbub khan announced that there had been some big changes in Bangabandhu’s itinerary. Initially, it was planned by the Indian government that (a) Bangabandhu, along with his entourage, would change planes, and instead of flying in the British PM’s plane, would travel by the Indian President’s “Raj Hansa” and accordingly their baggage had been transferred; (b) Bangabandhu, on his way to Dhaka, would stop in Kolkata, attend a public reception where he would speak. The revised plan was that Bangabandhu and his entourage would continue to travel in the British plane and their baggage would be brought back to this plane and that Bangabandhu, instead of stopping in Kolkata enroute, would fly straight to Dhaka. The decisions were revised as Bangabandhu thought it would be a breach of diplomatic etiquette if the British plane was forsaken on the way and that he should be in Dhaka well before the sunset so that he could address and see his people in daylight.  
Bangladesh Chief of Protocol

was asked to find out from the Civil Aviation and Sir Terence, the British High Commissioner in Delhi, to find out if their plane could safely land in Dhaka. The answers were affirmative. During the course of their meeting, Bangabandhu told Indira Gandhi that he would separately visit Kolkata to specifically thank the people of West Bengal for their shelter and help during the liberation struggle. He also invited Indira Gandhi to visit Dhaka at her earliest convenience and wished that the Indian Army, which had been to Bangladesh to assist the Mukti Bahini, would have left Bangladesh by then. Indira Gandhi reiterated that withdrawal would be completed soon and she would like to be present in Kolkata during Bangabandhu’s proposed visit.

Everyone who saw and heard Bangabandhu were amazed at his sagacity, wisdom, ready-wit, knowledge of diplomatic norms and etiquette, and above all, his sense of patriotism, pride and self-confidence.

It was decided that in the British plane, besides Bangabandhu and his entourage from London which comprised Dr Kamal Hossain and his wife, a friend Mowla and a journalist Ataus Samad, only the Foreign Minister Azad and Chief of Protocol Faruq Choudhury would be there. The rest of the members of the original Bangladesh delegation, mainly comprising Prof Mosharrof Hussain and myself, would return to Dhaka by an IAF Plane a little earlier and hand some important papers to Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad. Accordingly, we reached Dhaka about an hour earlier than Bangabandhu and had the privilege of seeing his victorious arrival in Dhaka. There could not have been a moment of greater jubilation, joy and pride in the life of a nation.

For Dhaka, a city of importance through four hundred years, mostly as a regional capital, it was a most momentous event—the arrival of the founder of the city as a national capital.

It seemed as if the entirety of the population of Bangladesh was in Dhaka on that day—January 10, 1972. At the airport, all along the road, at the public meeting, on rooftops and tree branches. But it was so orderly. Everyone was keen on having a glimpse of the man who had given the Bengalee people a sense of nationhood, an independent country and a sense of identity in the comity of nations. He was the greatest Bengali ever born.

Enam Ahmed Chaudhury is a former chairman of the Privatisation Commission.

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Mourners embrace as they attend an outdoor vigil for the victims of Ukrainian passenger jet flight PS752, which was shot down two years ago over Iran, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on Saturday. The plane was shot down shortly after take-off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport on January 8, 2020, killing all 176 people on board. Most of the passengers were Canadian-Iranians.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ethiopian raid on IDP camp kills 56

REUTERS, Addis Ababa

An air strike in Ethiopia's Tigray region killed 56 people and injured 30, including children, in a camp for displaced people, aid workers told Reuters on Saturday, citing local authorities.

Military spokesman Colonel Getnet Adane and government spokesman Legesse Tulu did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's spokeswoman Billene Seyoum did not respond to a request for comment.

The government has previously denied targeting civilians in the 14-month conflict with rebellious Tigrayan forces.

The spokesman for the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) that has been fighting the central government, Getachew Reda, said in a tweet that "Another callous drone attack by Abiy Ahmed in an IDP (Internally Displaced People) camp in Dedebeit has claimed the lives of 56 innocent civilians so far."

The strike in the town of Dedebeit, in the northwest of the region near the border with Eritrea, occurred late on Friday night, said the aid workers, who asked not to be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Earlier on Friday, the government had freed several opposition leaders from prison and said it would begin dialogue with political opponents in order to foster reconciliation.

Both aid workers said the number of dead was confirmed by the local authorities. The aid workers sent Reuters pictures they said they had taken of the wounded in hospital, who included many children.

## 164 killed in Kazakhstan unrest

Say reports; nearly 6000 arrested after riots sparked by fuel protests

AGENCIES

More than 160 people were killed and nearly 6,000 arrested in Kazakhstan after the riots that shook Central Asia's largest country over the past week.

The interior ministry, quoted yesterday by local media, said initial estimates put property damage at about 175 million euros (\$198m) after the deadly violence sparked by fuel protests.

More than 100 businesses and banks were attacked and looted and about 400 vehicles destroyed, the ministry said.

A total of 164 people, including two children, were killed in violent, Russia's Sputnik news agency cited the health ministry as saying yesterday.

It said 103 people had died in Kazakhstan's main city of Almaty, where the

worst of the violence took place.

"Today the situation is stabilised in all regions of the country," Interior Minister Erlan Turgumbayev said, adding nonetheless "the counterterror operation is continuing in a bid to re-establish order in the country".

A relative calm appeared to return to the main city Almaty with police sometimes firing shots into the air to stop people approaching its central square.

In total, 5,800 people have been detained for questioning as part of 125 separate investigations into the unrest, the interior ministry said.

The energy-rich country of about 19 million people was rocked by a week of violence with dozens killed after riots prompted President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to issue shoot-to-kill orders to end unrest he has blamed on what he terms "bandits and

terrorists".

Fuel price rises sparked the unrest a week ago in western provincial areas but they quickly reached large cities, including the economic hub Almaty, where riots erupted and police opened fire using live rounds amid the deadliest outbreak of violence in the country's 30 years of independence.

At Tokayev's invitation, the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) sent troops to restore order, an intervention that comes at a time of high tension in Russia-United States relations ahead of new talks on the Ukraine crisis.

"A number of strategic facilities have been transferred under the protection of the united peacekeeping contingent of the CSTO member states," the presidential office said in a statement detailing a security briefing chaired by Tokayev.



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Memo No. CEDP/GCOM/2021-22/G-12/53

Date: 09/01/2022

**e-Tender Notice Goods-12/2021-2022**

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	646204	Supply of Sound system With Security Case for Govt. Commerce College, Ctg.	31-Jan-2022 2:00pm	31-Jan-2022 3:00pm

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to January 30, 2022, 4pm.

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

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GD-56



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বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড



নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর  
নাটোর পত্তর বিভাগ  
বাপাউবো, নাটোর  
ফোন নং: ৬৬৬৪৫  
Dated: 09-01-2022

Memo No. E-1/44

**e-Tender Notice [Notice No. 02/2021-22]**

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No. & description	Location of the works/ supply	Tender/ proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing & opening date & time
1	646369	NDR/Bashbaria/M-1 W-01/21-22 Renovation of Irrigation Canal M-1 from Km. 0.800 to Km. 1.670+870m at Upazila-Bagatipara, District-Natore in C/W "Bashbaria Irrigation Project" under Natore O&M Division, BWDB, Natore during the financial year 2021-22.	Bagatipara, Natore	24-Jan-2022 17:00	25-Jan-2022 12:15

This is the 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 document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 16:00pm on 09-01-2022. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (01762625528-31) (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Md. Mokhlusur Rahman**  
Executive Engineer  
Natore O&M Division  
BWDB, Natore

পানি-৪৪২/২০২১-২০২২  
৫\*১০  
GD-53



## ‘See you later’ First Colombian with non-terminal illness dies legally by euthanasia

REUTERS, Bogota

Colombian Victor Escobar became the first person in the Andean country with a non-terminal illness to die by legally regulated euthanasia late on Friday, his lawyer Luis Giraldo confirmed.

"We reached the goal for patients like me, who aren't terminal but degenerative, to win this battle, a battle that opens the doors for the other patients who come after me and who right now want a dignified death," Escobar, 60 said in a video message sent to media by Giraldo.

On Saturday, a second Colombian, a woman with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALA), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, was euthanized.

Escobar suffered from end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which greatly diminishes quality of life, as well as a number of other conditions, Giraldo told Reuters.

The procedure took place in a clinic in Cali, the capital city of Colombia's Valle del Cauca province. "I'm not saying goodbye, just 'see you later,'" Escobar said.

Escobar had fought two-years for his right to euthanasia in the face of opposition from doctors, clinics and courts, even though the Constitutional Court last year recognized the procedure should not be available just for the terminally ill.

On Saturday, Martha Sepulveda underwent the procedure in the city of Medellin at midday, DescLAB - who supported her case - said in a statement. Sepulveda, who had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in 2018, was due to be euthanized on October 10 last year, but the procedure was halted at the eleventh hour.

Colombia's Constitutional Court removed penalties for euthanasia under certain circumstances in 1997 and ordered the procedure to be regulated in 2014. The first person in Colombia with a terminal illness to die under those rules was in 2015.



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Memo No. 46.03.8800.061.07.109.17-593

Date: 09/01/2022

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division.
2	Implementing agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.
3	Project/program name	Bangladesh Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Project (30 Pourashavas).
4	e-Tender IDs & Package No.	OTM: 643131 & BMWSSP/WD-88
5	Description of works	Construction of Drains at Ullapara Pourashava.
6	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. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ).	

**Md. Wali Ullah**  
Executive Engineer, DPHE  
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GD-58



**Bangladesh Land Port Authority**  
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[www.bsbk.gov.bd](http://www.bsbk.gov.bd)

Memo No. 18.15.0000.022.56.035.21-1

Dated: 09/01/2022

**e-Tender Notice**

Only e-Tender shall be accepted covered National e-GP Portal and submission of any offline/hard copies shall be rejected at once.

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 packages shall have to deposit online through registered bank's branches as designed of National e-GP System.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents	Tender/ proposal opening date & time
1.	BLPA/Tra/eGP/ 05/2021-2022	Appointment of cargo handling Contractor (Manually) for Burimari Land Port, Lalmonirhat.	641406	16.02.2022 at 14:00	16.02.2022 at 14:30	16.02.2022 at 15:30
2.	BLPA/Tra/eGP/ 06/2021-2022	Appointment of cargo handling Contractor (Manually) for Burimari Land Port, Shatkhira.	641408	16.02.2022 at 15:00	16.02.2022 at 15:30	16.02.2022 at 16:00
3.	BLPA/Tra/eGP/ 07/2021-2022	Appointment of cargo handling Contractor (Manually) for Benapole Land Port, Jashore. Group-Ka	637775	16.02.2022 at 13:30	16.02.2022 at 13:30	16.02.2022 at 15:45
4.	BLPA/Tra/eGP/ 08/2021-2022	Appointment of cargo handling Contractor (Manually) for Benapole Land Port, Jashore. Group-Kha	638651	16.02.2022 at 14:00	16.02.2022 at 14:30	16.02.2022 at 15:00
5.	BLPA/Tra/eGP/ 09/2021-2022	Appointment of cargo handling Contractor (Manually) for Benapole Land Port, Jashore. Group-Ga	638878	16.02.2022 at 13:00	16.02.2022 at 14:00	16.02.2022 at 15:30

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

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GD-54





A person holds a sign that reads “Freedom” as people attend a demonstration to protest against a bill that would transform France’s current coronavirus disease (Covid-19) health pass into a “vaccine pass”, in Paris, France, on Saturday. Similar protests were held in Germany, Austria, Italy.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## No concessions Says Russia ahead of talks with US on Ukraine, security

AFP, Geneva

Russia yesterday ruled out any concession at talks with the United States on soaring tensions over Ukraine as Moscow seeks a wide-ranging new security arrangement with the West but faces strong pressure to pull back troops.

Russia’s deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov told Russian news agencies ahead of his talks in Geneva the Kremlin was also “disappointed” with signals coming from both Washington and Brussels, where Nato and the European Union are based.

The high-level discussions start a week of diplomacy in which Russia will meet with Nato and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with the US trying to assure European allies they will not be sidelined.

Russia since late last year has amassed tens of thousands of troops at the Ukrainian border and demanded guarantees that Nato will not expand further eastward. The Kremlin is insisting Nato must never grant membership to ex-Soviet Ukraine, which is pushing to join.

The United States, to be represented by Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, agreed to talks even though it made plain that many of Moscow’s proposals are non-starters.

Originally scheduled to start on Monday, Sherman is now due to have a working dinner with Ryabkov in the evening, said a State Department spokesperson.

“We will not agree to any concession. That is completely excluded,” Ryabkov said. “We are disappointed with the signals coming in the last few days from Washington but also from Brussels.”

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, dismissing Moscow’s demands as “gaslighting”, has insisted that talks will yield no progress so long as Russia has a “gun to Ukraine’s head”.

“We’re prepared to respond forcefully to further Russian aggression. But a diplomatic solution is still possible and preferable if Russia chooses it,” Blinken said Friday.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg, meeting foreign ministers of the alliance on Friday, said there remained real risks of a Russian invasion.

Russia insists it was deceived after the Cold War and understood that Nato would not expand. Instead, the US-led alliance accepted most of the former Warsaw Pact nations and the three Baltic nations that were under Soviet rule.

Putin’s foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov warned after the call with Biden that the United States would make a “colossal mistake” if it went ahead with sanctions.

## ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

# China FM pushes BRI as India watches



AP, Colombo

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was in Sri Lanka yesterday seeking to advance Beijing’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative as the island nation tries to rescue itself from a foreign currency and debt crisis, partly due to infrastructure built with Chinese loans that don’t generate revenue.

Wang arrived in Sri Lanka on Saturday from the Maldives on the last leg of a multi-city trip that also took him to Eritrea, Kenya and Comoros in Africa.

In Sri Lanka, Wang met with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Later, Wang and the prime minister were expected to speak at Colombo’s Port City, a reclaimed island developed with Chinese investment.

The visit comes as Sri Lanka faces one of its worst economic crises, with foreign reserves down to around \$1.6 billion, barely enough for a few weeks of imports. It also has foreign debt obligations exceeding \$7 billion in 2022.

China loaned money to build a seaport and airport in the southern Hambantota district, in addition to a wide network of roads. But the projects have failed to make money. Central Bank figures show that current Chinese loans to Sri Lanka total around \$3.38 billion not including loans to state-owned businesses, which are accounted for separately.

The situation has left households facing severe

shortages. People wait in long lines to buy essential goods like milk powder, cooking gas and kerosene. Prices have increased sharply and the Central Bank says the inflation rate rose to 12.1% by the end of December from 9.9% in November. Food inflation increased to over 22% in the same period.

Wang’s visit also has regional significance, as both China and India, Sri Lanka’s closest neighbor, vie for influence in the island.

“We can see Sri Lanka being saddled between India and China for a potential bailout package,” said political analyst Ranga Kalansooriya. “India is dragging its feet for some time while China is trying to manipulate the situation to the maximum.”

India has been wary of China’s increased investments and loans in Sri Lanka since a civil war ended in 2009. India considers Sri Lanka part of its territory of influence. China considers Sri Lanka to be a critical link in its Belt and Road global infrastructure initiative.

Kalansooriya said Wang may also be looking to iron out relations with Sri Lanka after they were recently strained over a shipment of fertilizer that allegedly contained harmful bacteria and business agreements that were inked with China’s rivals, the United States and India.

But he said that China is unlikely to bail Sri Lanka out of its economic crisis. “They will look for more business opportunities, fishing in the troubled waters of economic doldrums in the country,” he said.

## Taliban arrest Afghan professor after criticism

AFP, Kabul

A prominent Afghan university professor who openly criticised the Taliban’s hardline regime has been arrested in Kabul, a spokesman for the government said. Professor Faizullah Jalal has made several appearances on television talk shows since the previous US-backed government was ousted in August, blaming the Taliban for the worsening financial crisis and criticising them for ruling by force. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted that Jalal had been detained Saturday over statements he made on social media in which he was “trying to instigate people against the system and was playing with the dignity of the people”.



## Cliff collapse kills seven in Brazil

REUTERS, Brasilia

At least seven people were killed and three were missing after a cliff collapsed onto boats carrying tourists on a lake in Brazil, authorities said Saturday. Rescue teams including a dive squad and members of the Brazilian Navy rushed to Furnas Lake in Minas Gerais state, where panicked tourists had watched helplessly as a large rock fragment broke off a ravine and plunged atop three boats. Another 32 were wounded, including nine who had to be hospitalized, authorities said. Tourists flock to see the rock walls, caverns and waterfalls that surround the green waters of Lake Furnas, formed by the hydroelectric dam of the same name. Very heavy rain has fallen in recent days in southeastern Brazil, making the collapse more likely, according to firefighters.

## Nasa fully deploys Webb telescope

AFP, Washington

The most powerful space telescope ever built completed a tricky two-week-long deployment phase Saturday, unfolding its final golden mirror panel, as it readies to study every phase of cosmic history. Engineering teams in the James Webb Space Telescope’s control room cheered as confirmation came back that its final wing was deployed and latched into place. Because the telescope was too large to fit into a rocket’s nose cone in its operational configuration, it was transported folded up. Webb, the successor to Hubble, blasted off in an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana on December 25, and is heading to its orbital point, a million miles from Earth. Though Webb will reach its space destination, known as the second Lagrange point, in a matter of weeks, it still has around another five and a half months of setup to go.



“

We will not agree to any concession. That is completely excluded. We are disappointed with the signals coming in the last few days from Washington but also from Brussels.

Russia’s deputy foreign minister  
Sergei Ryabkov  
ahead of talks with US

Motorists make their way through a partially deserted road after a weekend lockdown was imposed by the state government as a preventive measure against the spread of the coronavirus in Chennai, yesterday. India yesterday reported 1,59,632 new coronavirus cases. The country has reported 3,623 cases of Omicron variant across 27 states and union territories so far.

PHOTO: AFP

Milestone College

৩০ ও ৪৪ গরিব-ই-নেওয়াজ এডিনিউ, সেক্টর-১১, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।

২০২১-২২  
সেশনে ভর্তি

বিজ্ঞানিত দেখুন : [www.milestonecollege.edu.bd](http://www.milestonecollege.edu.bd)  
কলেজ ক্যাম্পাসে Help desk থেকে অনলাইনে  
(Online-এ) আবেদন করার সুব্যবস্থা আছে।

একাদশ শ্রেণি : বিজ্ঞান, ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা ও মানবিক শাখা (বাংলা ও ইংরেজি মাধ্যম)

শ্রেষ্ঠত্বের স্বীকৃতি : ■ কলেজটি ২০০৮ সালে ঢাকা বোর্ড কর্তৃক শ্রেষ্ঠ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত।  
■ মেধাতালিকা পদ্ধতি থাকাকালীন সারাদেশে এবং ঢাকা শিক্ষা বোর্ডের প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক মেধাতালিকায় মোট ১৩বার স্থান লাভ করে।  
■ সাম্প্রতিক ফলাফল : ২০২০ সালে, মাইলস্টোন কলেজ থেকে ২৩৩৩ জন পরীক্ষার্থী এইচএসসি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করে। পাসের হার ১০০% এবং জিপিএ-৫ অর্জন করে ১১৯৯ জন। ২০২১ সালের এসএসসি পরীক্ষায় ১৬৩১ জন পরীক্ষার্থী অংশগ্রহণ করে। পাসের হার ১০০% এবং ৯৯৭ জন জিপিএ ৫.০০ অর্জন করে।  
■ বিশেষ সুবিধা : মফস্বল এলাকার ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের জন্য আলাদা হোস্টেল ও পরিবহনের ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে।  
■ ছেলে ও মেয়েদের এবং বাংলা ও ইংরেজি মাধ্যমের ক্লাস আলাদা ভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।  
■ আবেদনের যোগ্যতা : ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৮.০০। ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা : ২.০০। মানবিক বিভাগ : ২.০০।  
■ অনলাইনে আবেদন : বোর্ড নির্ধারিত website [www.xiclassadmission.gov.bd](http://www.xiclassadmission.gov.bd) এ প্রবেশ করে EIIN: 108572 এর মাধ্যমে ১ম পদক্ষেপ নিয়ে আবেদন করা যাবে।  
■ অনলাইনে আবেদন করার তারিখ : ০৮/০১/২০২২ থেকে ১৫/০১/২০২২।  
■ ভর্তি : ১৯/০২/২০২২ থেকে ২৪/০২/২০২২।  
■ ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত সকল বিখ্যে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ভর্তি নীতিমালা ২০২১ অনুসরণ করা হবে।

কর্ণেল নূরুন নবী (অব.), উপদেষ্টা  
প্রাক্তন অধ্যক্ষ-কৌজদারহাট ও কিনাইদহ ক্যাডেট  
কলেজ এবং প্রতিষ্ঠাতা অধ্যক্ষ- রাজউক উত্তরা  
মডেল কলেজ ও মাইলস্টোন কলেজ।  
ফোন : ৫৮৯৫৭৭৩৩, ৪৮৯৬৩৪৩৭। মোবাইল : ০১৭১৫৮১৬৫০, ০১৯১৩৮৪৩৫৯, ০১৮১৫০৫৪০১,  
০১৬২২১৪৬৮৮০, ০১৯২৫৫৪৮৫৯, ০১৭১৫২৯৮৮১, ০১৬৫৬৯৯৭২২২, ০১৮১৯৩৬০২৫।

এম. কামালউদ্দিন ভূঁইয়া  
নে. কর্ণেল (অব.)  
অধ্যক্ষ।  
প্রফেসর মো. সহিদুল ইসলাম  
অধ্যক্ষ (একাডেমিকস)  
প্রাক্তন অধ্যক্ষ-মিরাপুর ও বরিশাল  
ক্যাডেট কলেজ।



## Young people deserve better opportunities

The pandemic has been brutal for them, as has bad governance

IT is quite disturbing that as many as 1.6 million young people lost their jobs and about 20 million experienced a loss of income as a result of the pandemic, according to a first-of-its-kind study by the finance ministry. The International Labour Organization (ILO) had previously found that in 2020, youth employment around the world had dropped by 8.7 percent and adult employment by 3.7 percent, demonstrating the overall negative impact of the pandemic globally. In spite of that, the pandemic's effect on Bangladesh's youth labour force has been particularly brutal.

Bangladesh had struggled to create enough jobs and exciting new opportunities for its younger population even before the pandemic began. For example, according to the Labour Force Survey 2016-17, even though the country's overall unemployment rate stood at 4.2 percent, youth unemployment rate far surpassed that (at 12.3 percent). Moreover, during that time, the rate of job creation had already slowed down at a worrying rate—between 2013 and 2016-17, while the average annual GDP growth was 6.6 percent, the average annual growth of jobs was only 0.9 percent. The pandemic, of course, has further exacerbated these problems.

It has also created other new challenges for the youth. According to the government study, millions of college and university students are facing uncertainties with regard to completing their degrees on time. Many more are at risk of developing various health problems due to their prolonged absence from active living. The combined effects of these problems mean that we are potentially at risk of losing an entire generation as well as their productivity and creativity.

Whereas now is the time for Bangladesh to take advantage of its demographic dividend—which will not last much longer—the fact that it is struggling to provide its younger population with even the most basic of opportunities is extremely unfortunate. And not all of this can be blamed on the pandemic.

Corruption, which invariably eats away at the potential for productivity and creativity, is something that has been plaguing Bangladesh for decades. Unfortunately, instead of going down, corruption only seems to have increased in recent years. Lack of good governance is another factor that has been holding back our young people from fully committing to our social and economic progress.

Now that the pandemic has really set us back, the only way to turn things around is for the government to sincerely try and address these long-standing problems. The ministry report itself has acknowledged this. Therefore, we hope the policymakers will now recognise the urgency with which they must act to ensure that young people have all the tools at their disposal to create a brighter future for themselves and our country—and to remove all the governance and politics related barriers that have so often stood in their way.

## Sundari no more graceful

### Encroachers left the Tangail canal in ruins

IT is disheartening to learn that the Sundari canal at Karatia in Tangail Sadar upazila has been turned into a relic of the past, almost as a sequel to the previous incidents of encroachment of canals in the country. Also known as Katakhal Khal, Sundari flows through Sadar and Basail upazilas of the district. Once a free-flowing waterbody with boats plying in abundance, it has shrunk in size because of the encroachment of its two banks and dumping of waste by those living near it.

Once a major water route in Tangail, the canal used to connect many villages and important trading centres. When concrete roads were scarce in the remote villages, people travelled by boats through canals like Sundari. According to a report by *The Daily Star* quoting local sources, it was dug at the order of a landlord around 1900 to facilitate communication in the area. It was named Sundari as it enhanced the beauty of the surrounding area. Elderly villagers still recount how water used to flow through the canal all year round including during dry seasons. And because of unfettered communication by boats, traders from far and wide used to come to Karatia Market, which resulted in the economic prosperity of the entire region.

It's a pity that such an important canal is now filled up with organic waste posing a health hazard for the locals. Students and teachers of the Sadat College, who live in hostels, are the worst sufferers of the stench emitting from the garbage dumped into the canal.

We are told that a project for the revival of the canal is presently in hand, and that work will begin soon and all illegal structures will be demolished in due time. The chairman of the Upazila Parishad said, "even though it's true that the Sundari canal remains polluted, it hasn't been encroached. Previously, the canal was partially cleaned through a project but later it returned to its previous state. Necessary steps will be taken to free the canal from encroachment soon." We can only hope that Sundari will once again be restored to its past beauty and will merrily flow around the upazila.

# Is our health system ready to face Omicron?



**MACRO MIRROR**  
Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed in the article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

THE emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of the coronavirus reminds us how uncertain the world has become. Despite vaccination, the third wave of the pandemic indicates that Covid may continue to remain a part of our life. Experts have cautioned that the virus may not be wiped out fully and could continue to prevail and affect people, but over time it may become weaker and the fatality rate may decline. Omicron seems to signal the beginning of that phase. Hence, we have to prepare ourselves to navigate through its perils and learn how to survive.

In the face of the rapid surge of Omicron, several countries are reinstating strict measures including travel restrictions and quarantine of travellers. Citizens are being alerted to the dangers. Companies are revisiting their coping strategies. For example, a global financial company has made vaccination mandatory for its staff if they want to keep their jobs. Some companies have announced work-from-home policies for an indefinite period of time.

In Bangladesh, the government has announced some directives recently, while people have been asked to strictly follow health protocols. Further directives to control people's mobility are supposed to be announced soon.

However, some of the announced measures are inadequate. People traveling into Bangladesh will have to undertake an antigen test post-arrival. This is a very weak measure compared to what has been announced in India where travellers will have to undergo seven days of quarantine and an RT-PCR test on the eighth day. Antigen tests are not very reliable in detecting the coronavirus. That is why it is not accepted in most countries. The health ministry, therefore, should take stronger measures. We may recall that weak measures for international travellers in the early days of Covid-19 had been a reason for the fast spread of the virus in Bangladesh.

During the first and second waves, countries enforced lockdowns and border closures. However, that was not very successful. Of course, countries such as China could control the spread of the virus quite successfully, but have had to see their economy shrink. Indeed, the global economic output reduced significantly. Poorer countries were hit hard as they did not have enough fiscal



**Almost two years into the pandemic, this is also a time for Bangladesh to reflect on how we have prepared ourselves in terms of healthcare facilities.**

of vaccination further helped reduce cases. However, there has been a lack of seriousness among the common people in following health protocols of late. A large number of people do not wear masks in public places. This highlights the need for constant efforts towards awareness-building through various platforms.

Almost two years into the pandemic, this is also a time for Bangladesh to reflect on how we have prepared ourselves in terms of healthcare facilities. The health sector has always been underfinanced. With an allocation of around one percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the sector suffers from inadequate human resources, facilities and innovation. Unfortunately, even with only 5.8 percent allocation in the total Annual Development Programme in 2021-22 fiscal year, the Health Services Division could spend only 6.4 percent of its allocation during July-November of FY22. This is unfortunate since there is a need for higher spending on health services during the pandemic. The allocation for various ministries and divisions is determined by the ministry of finance on the basis of their capacity to spend. So, naturally, there will be lower allocation for the poor performers.

There is a need for higher allocation. But the quality of healthcare services and the inherent weaknesses in the system cannot be improved with higher allocation alone. The sector has to be revamped through reforms since much of the problem is linked to the governance of the sector. How government funds are used, who gets contracts, who oversees procurements, as well as the quality of the supplies are some of the issues that need to be scrutinised and streamlined. The number of healthcare professionals also have to be increased urgently.

While bigger investment by the government is needed to ensure affordable healthcare, the private sector also has to invest more. The private sector needs to increase and improve their services considering the high demand. Reputed international hospital chains may also be brought in to collaborate with local private investors. It's essential that the government ensures proper regulation and monitoring of these hospitals.

Overall, dealing with the coronavirus successfully will largely depend on a robust and affordable health system. Policymakers should utilise the lessons learnt in the past two years and be prepared for a possible third wave.

## Clouds lift as RMG makers bounce back



RMG NOTES

Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited, and the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE) and Bangladesh Denim Expo.

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

IN the spring of 2020, when the whole planet appeared to be going into lockdown and major fashion retailers were collectively cancelling billions of dollars' worth of garment orders, it was difficult to see light at the end of the tunnel. As 2020 rolled on, things got worse, and there were genuine concerns that the impact of global lockdowns could cause serious and lasting structural change to garment industries, such as our own, as the demand for clothing dried up.

While it is too early to begin resting on one's laurels, the most recent data from the Export Promotion Bureau suggests we may have finally turned the corner. As per the bureau's figures, Bangladesh's apparel exporters witnessed around 30 percent growth to USD 35.57 billion in 2021—a new record. This is compared to earnings of USD 27.32 billion in 2020, which was the lowest in several years. The export figures also show that in December 2021 alone, RMG shipments saw about 52 percent growth to USD 3.8 billion, compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

This is a remarkable turnaround, considering our industry went through a series of lockdowns coupled with other logistical factors, such as shipping delays and price hikes, nationwide transport strikes, and rises in costs for raw materials, such as cotton and diesel. There are several reasons for this

**We know ours is a price-orientated industry, but after price, sustainability will be the number one priority for fashion buyers in the years ahead.**

growth in exports. One of the most telling is that several of our competitors, including Vietnam and China, were hamstrung by logistical issues and industry lockdowns in the latter half of 2021. Fashion brands and retailers turned to Bangladesh, along with India and Pakistan, to fulfil orders during this period.

However, this is not necessarily a temporary shift in the sourcing landscape. Several industry executives and sourcing specialists are indicating that the shift away from China by fashion sourcing teams is now in full flow. There are several reasons for this, but one of the most obvious is the growing political tension between the US and China (and, to a lesser extent, the European Union and China).

China has long-standing human rights challenges around the mistreatment of its Uyghur Muslim population, and this is causing many buyers to shift to other apparel sourcing hubs. The fashion industry is generally extremely sensitive to corporate social responsibility (CSR) issues, and this trend is not going to go away in an age of heightened human rights awareness. Due diligence in clothing supply chains will be one of the biggest issues in the next couple of years.

All of this is important because it suggests that the burgeoning orders that RMG makers in Bangladesh experienced in the latter half of 2021 could continue moving forward.

Having said that, we must consolidate our position to make sure that we capitalise on the opportunities at hand. There are several steps I believe we, as manufacturers, as well as our industry leaders, need to take to achieve this.

The first is to double down on sustainable and responsible production. We know ours is a price-orientated industry, but after price, sustainability will

be the number one priority for fashion buyers in the years ahead. Many are now looking to tie down partnerships with those who share their thinking and can help them meet their ambitious climate targets. This is a huge opportunity for our manufacturers to grab and maintain market share and build long-term collaborations.

The second thing I believe we need to do is be proactive. The dust is still settling on the global fashion industry and its supply chains right now. New alignments are being forged, supply chains are in a state of upheaval, and there is a sense of all parties vying for the best position in the current state of flux.

Against this backdrop, it is fair to ask: Do our industry leaders have a plan—if so, what form does this take? The biggest thing I would like to see on this front is a strategy around skills, training and investment in the future of our industry. I genuinely believe we can experience tremendous growth, but we must be ready if more orders do come in and the shift out of China gathers momentum.

This brings me to the final point. Amid the satisfaction of the past few months, our industry is noticeably still struggling to maintain a healthy profit margin on orders. We remain price-takers. As long as this is the case, we will struggle to take a long-term, strategic approach as an industry.

I am encouraged to see that our industry leaders are now upholding the benchmark in the minimum costs of garment production. The results of this will enable us to provide better data to fashion buyers about costing issues, so they might better understand the kind of pressure we face on margins. This, combined with much-needed skills and training in price negotiations with customers, must surely be among high priorities for us all in 2022.



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BANGABANDHU’S HOMECOMING DAY

From death row to deafening cheers



Shahnoor Wahid is a senior journalist.

SHAHNOOR WAHID

THE date January 10, 1972 will remain etched forever in golden letters in the history of Bangladesh. On this day, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the dreamer, the architect, and the supreme commander of the historic War of Independence of Bangladesh, returned to the country after spending 290 days in a Pakistani prison.

Getting Bangabandhu out of the prison was no easy job. One episode of drama unfolded after another in Rawalpindi, especially in the cantonment, where senior generals put extreme pressure on General Yahya Khan to start his trial in a military tribunal. They all wanted to hang him on charges of waging war against Pakistan. Accordingly, a military court was formed, and the trial of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started on August 11, 1971. Two British lawyers wanted to represent him in the trial, but the Pakistani government did not entertain their request. The court declared the verdict on December 4, sentencing him to death.

It is obvious that at that crucial juncture of history, Bangabandhu’s life was poised perilously below the proverbial Sword of Damocles. Gallows was being prepared, and a grave was being dug for the brave Bengali—who still stood tall and towering over his captors. But time was slipping away fast every minute.

Sensing the urgency of the situation, a vigorous international diplomatic campaign was set in motion by the powerful leaders of friendly countries and the Bangladesh government in exile, to put pressure on the military generals. Meanwhile, after the defeat of the Pakistan Army in the erstwhile East Pakistan, Pakistan’s new prime minister,

ambassador at Rawalpindi met with Bhutto on January 3 to talk about his release, the Pakistani generals finally realised that they had been completely ditched by their so-called friends like the US and China.

Despite pressure from the blood-thirsty army generals, a clever Bhutto sensed correctly that he needed to use Bangabandhu to negotiate the return of 90,000 Pakistani soldiers from India. That was needed to consolidate his power in the country.

Therefore, with their backs against the wall, the Pakistanis had no other option but to swallow their pride and free Bangabandhu on January 8, 1972. Like a wounded predator, they watched their prize catch walk away to freedom.

The news of Bangabandhu’s release and journey towards Dhaka reached the people in Bangladesh on January 9. Rifle fires and machine gun bursts and “Joy Bangla” slogans kept the residents of Dhaka awake throughout that night. In the early morning of January 10, people started to walk towards the airport in Tejgaon in groups. Senior leaders of the Awami League’s wartime government, headed by Tajuddin Ahmed, managed to reach the airport in a number of cars. Senior military, police and civil administration officials were also present at the airport.

There was an overwhelming presence of the local and international press at the airport. We had never seen so many foreign correspondents at one place before. We talked with some of them and learnt that they had flown in from Kolkata and New Delhi in the morning to cover the big event.

The sun began to incline towards the western sky, and we began to worry whether Bangabandhu was really coming today or there had been some kind of miscommunication. Finally, in the afternoon, a shining aircraft of the Royal Air Force of Britain appeared in the sky over Dhaka, and the huge crowd shouted in a thunderous voice, “Joy Bangla,” “Joy Bangabandhu.” The long wait was over.

As the plane touched down and taxied to the marked spot at the airport,



The motorcade carrying Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 10, 1972.

PHOTO: RASHID TALUKDER

could not believe their eyes as they saw Bangabandhu walking towards the car waiting for him on the tarmac. Witnessing the whole episode was a lifetime experience for us.

Millions had walked to the airport from different corners of the city, and now they walked alongside the car carrying their beloved leader to the Ramna Race Course venue. Everything else stopped on the track; nature paused to listen to the invigorating slogans of “Joy Bangla,” “Joy Bangabandhu.”

At the Race Course Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan), Bangabandhu spoke to his countrymen in an emotive voice. He narrated how he was arrested

on the fateful night of March 25 and taken to Pakistan. He shared some of his experiences in jail and the uncertainty of the last couple of days. He mentioned the heroic role each Bengali played during the nine-month Liberation War, facing colossal odds. He talked about the brutality of the Pakistani soldiers throughout the length and breadth of Bangladesh, and lamented the deaths of millions of Bengalis. He cried while talking about the female victims who had suffered in the hands of the barbaric Pakistani soldiers.

Bangabandhu, while recalling the contribution of every countryman during the war, urged the people to help him rebuild the war-ravaged country. Millions of hands went up in the air to assure Bangabandhu of their support.

The timing of his return was of the essence. The country was badly in need of cash currency, food and relief goods to feed 75 million people who had lived hand to mouth for nine months. With Bangabandhu at the helm, relief started to pour in every day. The friendly countries were also waiting for his return to formalise the issue of recognising Bangladesh. Recognition of major countries provided Bangladesh with the political clout it needed to negotiate terms in various world forums. He successfully motivated the heavily armed freedom fighters to lay down their weapons and go back to normal life. He also had to address the internal affairs of the Awami League and form a new cabinet.

When we look back, we remain convinced that Bangabandhu’s presence was of utmost importance as remnants of enemy forces were still holing up in the country, and their armed collaborators were still active with illegal weapons in their possession. Decisive actions were required to neutralise those anti-state elements. And the government needed to establish a firm control over the administration, which had not been amalgamated as yet. The issue of the return of the Indian forces could only be addressed by Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s return to his base was the final chapter in the epic War of Independence of the country.



Emotions overflow as Bangabandhu is finally reunited with his family after returning home on January 10, 1972.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, deposed Yahya Khan and put him under house arrest. Powerless, Yahya expressed his anger saying he should have hanged Mujib long ago.

The Pakistan government and the generals were in an indignant mood after their ignominious defeat in Bangladesh on December 16, 1971, and having to surrender in Dhaka along with over 90,000 soldiers to the joint command of Bangladesh and India. They were still wrathful enough to find an opportunity to kill Bangabandhu. But, when last-minute diplomacy failed, and the US

Bangabandhu came out of the door and filled his lungs with the sweet air of his beloved country. We heard the boom of the 21-gun salute given by the artillery regiment of the Bangladesh Army to mark the homecoming of the supreme leader. He waved at the crowd, came down the stairs and stood on the soil of a free and proud country. He smiled as he listened to the thundering roar of a million people outside... “Joy Bangla,” “Joy Bangabandhu.”

The people were caught in the frenzy of the magical moment with broad smiles on their faces and tears in their eyes. Many

Finally, a shining aircraft of the Royal Air Force of Britain appeared in the sky over Dhaka, and the huge crowd shouted in a thunderous voice, “Joy Bangla,” “Joy Bangabandhu.”

COURTESY: MUJIB100.GOV.BD

QUOTABLE Quote

JOHN STUART MILL

(1806 - 1873)  
English political economist

There are many truths of which the full meaning cannot be realized until personal experience has brought it home.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Thin-layered mineral

5 "Wouldn't that be great!"

10 Wise saying

12 Fad

13 Spider-Man's alter ego

15 — Vegas

16 Fellows

17 Belief, in brief

18 Draw out

20 Presidential power

21 Gem

22 Persia, today

23 Words of action

25 Whittle down

28 Recesses

31 Prayer finish

32 Long-plumed

birds

34 Work wk. start

35 Favoring

36 At present

37 "My Favorite Year" star

40 Degrade

41 "Tiny Alice" playwright

42 Like seawater

43 Force

DOWN

1 Syrup source

2 Worthy aims

3 Keep tabs on a tabby

4 Historic time

5 "— Old Cowhand (From the Rio Grande)"

6 Fighting

7 More black

8 Midday break

9 Mark of "NCIS"

11 Royal fur

14 Grammy-winning pianist

19 Witch group

20 Cap feature

24 Colombia capital

25 Grassy plains

26 One-celled creature

27 Tourist's car

29 Obi-Wan —

30 Hot, in a way

33 Sugary

35 Hunted animal

38 Superlative suffix

39 Ancient

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

MOLE ELAN ALIT LIKEN YEAR IDS OWENS TANG ORG LEAD ENV SEEDY

SCRAP PROVES IODINE NEW AND TIA PENT LEDGE MET NEWSMAN OLD TIME OLES RANT ENDS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Principal  
Thakurgaon Polytechnic Institute  
Thakurgaon  
Phone: 0561-61400  
Email: [thakurgaonpolytech@gmail.com](mailto:thakurgaonpolytech@gmail.com)

Ref. No. Thak-PI/Tender/2021-22/2022/05  
Date: 05.01.2022

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ  
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ  
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID/Reference No.	Name of tender	Publishing date & time Closing date & time
1	643200 Thak-PI/e-GP/21-22/GR-1/581	Procurement of Office, Computer & Furniture Equipment	11-Jan-2022 11:40 26-Jan-2022 12:00
2	645143 Thak-PI/e-GP/21-22/GR-1/582	Procurement of Stationery and Cleaning Equipment	11-Jan-2022 11:27 26-Jan-2022 12:00

1) This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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

3) The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any registered bank's branch.

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

05.01.2022

Engr. Md. Maksudur Rahman  
Principal  
Thakurgaon Polytechnic Institute  
Thakurgaon

GD-50





## WINTER WONDERS

**A** LONG with winter come the joys, colours and flavours of winter vegetables. Even amid the concrete jungle of the capital, this time of the year sees small open spaces transform into vibrant patches bearing the season's bounties. Areas like Kamrangirchar see entire families involved in the production of amaranth. Vegetable markets, such as the ones in Kawran Bazar and Hatirpool, are full of the season's favourites like pointed gourd, bottle gourd, cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, brinjal, radish, hyacinth bean, etc. These are produced in vegetable gardens throughout the city and also brought in from Savar on the capital's outskirts and from neighbouring districts like Munshiganj. Although there is an abundance of winter vegetables in the city's markets, prices have been high. In the vegetable markets, even lower quality beans were found to cost Tk 60 per kg, with the number going up to Tk 80 per kg for the higher qualities. A possible reason for this is the hike in diesel prices driving up the transport costs, making the enjoyment of the winter wonders costlier this year.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN







Abahani winger Rakib Hossain jumps in the air to celebrate his goal against Rahmatganj in the Federation Cup final at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. (Inset) Abahani coach Mario Lemos climbs the fencing of the gallery to share his joy with the fans after the Sky Blues beat the Old Dhaka outfit 2-1 to claim their second title of the season.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Abahani make it two in two

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani broke Rahmatganj hearts to clinch the Bashundhara Group Federation Cup title with a 2-1 win in a competitive final at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Costa Rican forward Daniel Colindres gave Abahani a first-half lead before winger Rakib Hossain sealed the game in the second half to confirm back-to-back trophies for Abahani, a feat that led to Abahani's acting director-in-charge Kazi Nabil Ahmed giving the team a Tk 75-lakh bonus. The result also extended giant-killers Rahmatganj's wait for a maiden top-flight trophy.

Despite the absence of the Brazilian duo of playmaker Raphael Augusto and forward Dorielton Gomes, Abahani were bolstered by the lively presence of 2018 World Cup participant Colindres, who led from the front in the attacking third as well as sometimes dropping deep and playing a significant role in midfield in front of some 5,000 spectators.

For his immense contributions, Colindres was not only adjudged the player of the final but also named

Winning a trophy is always a memorable moment, especially if it is a win in a pressure situation

Rakib Hossain



player of the tournament, while Dorielton and Philip Adjah finished as joint-top scorers.

Unfancied Rahmatganj capitalised on the Raphael Augusto's absence in Abahani's midfield and controlled the game from the start before coming close to taking the lead twice in the first 15 minutes. But Nigerian forward Sunday Chizoba and Ghanaian forward Philip Adjah squandered the chances.

Having survived those scares, Abahani grew in confidence and began to press for the lead. But Nabib Newaj Jibon floated over the crossbar from the top of the six-yard box with only the goalkeeper to beat on the half-hour mark before Rakib drove over in the 45th minute.

Colindres then broke the deadlock with a brilliant grounded shot from the top of the box in stoppage time.

Abahani maintained their tempo at the start of the second half and Colindres narrowly missed the target twice before Rakib Hossain found the back of the net with a low shot after Rahmatganj goalkeeper Rakibul Hasan Tushar's poor punch made its way to him in the 64th minute.

After taking a two-goal lead, Abahani retreated into something of a defensive shell, allowing Rahmatganj to press them and the Old Dhaka outfit reduced the margin with a 70th-minute strike from Philip but they could not find an equaliser.

"We did not have important players like Raphael and Dorielton so we were under pressure a bit. But we proved that local players can also do just as well by playing as a team," goalscorer Rakib Hossain said. "Winning a trophy is always a memorable moment, especially if it is a win in a pressure situation."

"The final is always a pressure match. We could not cash in on two early chances but Abahani capitalised on their chances to win the match. We are happy but not too happy because we want to keep our momentum intact in the league and produce a good result," Rahmatganj captain Mahmudul Hossain Kiran said.

# 'The length made all the difference'

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a historic win in the first Test against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui, the confident Bangladesh seamers saw the other side of the coin in Christchurch as they were made to toil by the hosts, who concluded the first day of the second Test on a dominant 349 for 1.

It was obvious that expectations would skyrocket after the pacers' brilliant showing in the first Test saw them bundle out the Kiwis twice on way to registering a maiden win over New Zealand on their soil. But the Bangladeshi pacers' lack of experience, borne of a lack of exposure, especially when it comes to adapting to different surfaces was visibly clear in Christchurch after skipper Mominul Haque won the toss and elected to field on a green top at the Hagley Oval.

The bowling line-up was unchanged from the first Test but there was a stark difference when it came to application whether it was the hero of the first Test, Ebadot Hossain, or Taskin Ahmed or Shoriful Islam. Shoriful got the only wicket as the Kiwis maintained a healthy run-rate of nearly four per over.

A lack of patience from the Bangladeshi seamers was also stood in contrast to what they had shown in the first Test as the pacers continued hunting for glory instead of making things difficult for the batters.

Skipper Tom Latham used the pace of the bowlers to score 21 of his 29 boundaries, being offered enough width to reach an unbeaten 186-run knock.

"I think it's the length that made all the difference and I think our pacers couldn't adjust to the length in Christchurch. Obviously, they were pumped up after seeing the green top but I think they lacked in maintaining a tight

channel. Even when you have favorable conditions and pitches for the seamers, it is important to utilise that properly," local pace bowling coach Mahbub Ali Zaki, who works at the grassroots levels of Bangladesh cricket, told The Daily Star. However, it will be too harsh to point fingers at the relatively inexperienced Bangladesh pace trio. Despite their brilliant showing in the first Test, Zaki believes the Kiwis would always look to come back strongly after the defeat.

"We all knew New Zealand would come at us hard after that defeat. From Bangladesh's point of view, it is important to keep going through the process. It is still early days for our bowlers in Test cricket and they also need to be thrown in difficult situations which they can learn from. I am sure the players will have a look at the wagon wheel of the first day and realise where things went wrong for them," he said.

The win in Mount Maunganui may have raised hopes of a better future for the Tigers in the longest format, but there is still a long way to go if Bangladesh are to become a consistent side. According to Taskin's mentor, that will require huge transformations at the grassroots level. "We need to accept that our boys have done tremendously well despite all the limitations and are already proving what they are capable of. But the fact is that we cannot sit back and wait for things to happen on a regular basis so we need to work accordingly."

"We need to have a pace bowling hub, where coaches will work on swing, bounce, pace and line and length throughout the year. Our bowlers need to know where to bowl on different surfaces and that hub will prepare them mentally and physically for the top-level instead of expecting them to deliver without those skills," Zaki said.



Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand opener Will Young, the only wicket to fall during the opening day of the second Test in Christchurch on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Shakib draws the limelight at start of BCL

SPORTS REPORTER

The one-day version of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) began yesterday and Shakib Al Hasan's involvement drew in visitors to Pitchvision's live feed of the match.

Shakib, who played the last home Test against Pakistan before opting out of the series in New Zealand for personal reasons, returned to cricketing action, hoping to get into the groove ahead of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) and upcoming international assignments.

However, the premier all-rounder found the going hard with the bat, at least in part due to the nature of the wicket in Sylhet.

Batting first, Shakib's Central Zone started well with Mizanur Rahman (36) and Soumya Sarkar, who departed for 13 off 18. Spinner Nayeem Hasan bamboozled Abdul Majid with flight and got the latter out stumped to bring Shakib out to the crease.

Mizanur's departure next over saw a mini-collapse and Shakib looked tentative outside the off stump early, with Alauddin Babu beating the outside edge once before squaring Shakib up and producing a thick outside edge in the 17th over which went for four.

The little seam movement on offer saw Shakib keep on his tip toes.

The ball would keep low at times, with Shakib just about keeping Nayeem at bay. Mohammad Mithun looked good at the other end as the fourth-wicket partnership contributed 56 before departing for a run-a-ball 37.

Shakib, meanwhile, struggled against fuller-



length deliveries from pacers. Rejaur Rahman Raja got a few to angle back in, hitting Shakib on the pads on a few occasions. Bowlers managed to squeeze runs and skipper Mosaddek Hossain departed after a 38-ball 17.

Shakib too departed soon after, following 58-ball 35, holed out at deep mid-on off Tanvir Islam. Rubel and Raja's three-wicket hauls saw Central Zone bowled out for 177.

Rony Talukdar (38) and Imrul Kayes (25) kept East Zone well positioned in the game but once both were dismissed in quick succession, East Zone crumbled to 155 all out in 47.1 overs. Shakib, Soumya and pacer Hasan Murad got two wickets each.

In the other game, fifties from Parvez Hossain and Naeem Islam saw North Zone thump South Zone by eight wickets.

Fans watching the matches live on YouTube were left wondering why the BCB's feed for local matches was not of optimum quality. Meanwhile, Shakib, having won his first game on return, will likely look to adjust to the pitches on offer as he gears up for upcoming assignments.

# Root praises England's character

AFP, SYDNEY

England skipper Joe Root praised his battered team's character to stave off Australia's victory push and hold on for a gritty draw in Sydney on Sunday as injured wicketkeeper Jos Buttler prepared to fly home.

Old stagers James Anderson and Stuart Broad batted out the final two tense overs to give the beleaguered tourists a fighting draw and deny dominant Australia a fourth straight Test win in the lopsided series.

"Relief is the overwhelming emotion and I'm quite proud too," Root said. We had a lot thrown at us in this game and guys have really stood up and showed a lot of character and pride."

"To come out and do that was really pleasing. It's a big step in the right direction."





Workers casting metal to make various ship equipment at a shipyard in Keraniganj's Aganagar. A lot of risk is involved in the work but people and children are seen working there without any safety gear. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Former prisons DIG jailed for 8yrs

### Sentenced on two charges in a graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Partha Gopal Banik, a suspended deputy inspector general (prisons) of Sylhet division, to eight years' imprisonment in a graft case.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 handed down the verdict in presence of Partha, the lone accused in the case.

The court also fined him Tk 50,000, in default of which he will have to serve three more months in jail.

Partha's sentence was given on two separate charges -- three years' imprisonment for being involved in corruption despite being a government official, and five years for his illegal income, the judge said while delivering the verdict.

The sentences will run concurrently.

Out of the Tk 80 lakh recovered from Partha's residence in July 2020, a total of Tk 65,14,000 was amassed illegally, the judge said.

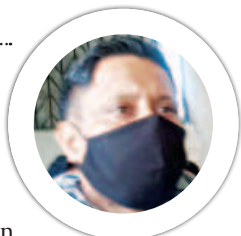
The court also asked authorities concerned to confiscate Tk 65,14,000 in favour of the state, while Tk 14,86,000 would be handed over to the convict's family as those were earned legally.

This is the first instance in Bangladesh of a high-level official of the prisons department being jailed in a graft case, the prosecution said.

In the judgment, the judge said the time that Partha has already spent in jail will be deducted from his sentence.

The charges brought against Partha for laundering

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## NARAYANGANJ CITY POLLS

# Cops 'coercing' AL leaders into Ivy campaign

Alleges Taimur; police deny

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA AND SANAD SAHA

Although the atmosphere surrounding the Narayanganj city polls is still peaceful, locals believe candidates will face a big challenge maintaining it as internal conflicts between parties and leaders have started coming to light.

AL nominated mayor candidate Selina Hayat Ivy's comment on Narayanganj-4 ruling party MP Shamim Osman has again brought to the fore their old rivalry, while independent candidate Taimur Alam Khandakar has alleged that Ivy has been violating electoral conduct by making indecent comments against him.

Meanwhile, a Narayanganj Chhatra League committee was dissolved on Saturday as a section of its leaders are yet to join Ivy's campaign.

Habibur Rahman Ryad, president of the committee, claimed law enforcers went to his and some other BCL leaders' houses on Saturday night.

"The administration told me to work more sincerely in favour of Ivy," he told The Daily Star.

Asked, Jayedul Alam, Narayanganj superintendent of police, said they went to Ryad and other leaders' houses as part of their regular patrol to avert any untoward situation centring the January 16 polls. "But we did not ask any of them to work in favour of any particular candidate."

On the other hand, Taimur said Ivy's situation has become so fragile that the police and

administration are forcing ruling party leaders to extend their support to her.

"Police are going to houses of those who haven't yet campaigned for Ivy and threatening them."

He also alleged that police have been harassing opposition men so that they refrain from supporting him.

"It is a big barrier on the path to free and fair polls. Chaos may take place before the election, but I hope the administration will remain neutral."

On Saturday, Ivy alleged that her main contender Taimur is "a candidate of Shamim and Selim Osman", after supporters of the latter took part in Taimur's campaign the day before.

Asked whether she will seek Shamim's support, she said, "He is involved with Awami League politics. If he does not give me his support, that is his choice. I have nothing to say if he does not want to carry out his responsibility [towards the party]."

Mokhles Mridha, a resident of Sonakanda, said both Ivy and Taimur are yet to garner support from other political leaders. "Except for a few AL leaders, others have not yet joined Ivy's campaign."

Humayun Kabir, a bookstore owner in Chashara area, said both candidates are worthy.

"Ivy did a lot of development work in the city corporation area and Taimur is also a good candidate. If the situation remains calm, it would be a good contest."

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## Apex court gets 4 new judges

STAR REPORT

Four High Court judges have been elevated to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday, raising the judges' number to eight.

The judges are Justice Borhan Uddin, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Krishna Debnath.

Three of the judges took oath yesterday, with Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan unable to do so due to illness. He will take oath later when he will recover.

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique administered the oath at the Judges' Lounge of the SC where the judges of both the Appellate Division and High Court Division were present.

After the three new apex court judges were sworn in, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and Supreme Court Bar Association Secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal accorded them felicitation at the Chief Justice's Courtroom.

The newly appointed judges -- Justice Borhan Uddin, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Krishna Debnath -- paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths to his portrait at Dhanmondi-32 in Dhaka.

Later, they went to Savar and paid tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths to National Martyrs' Memorial.

President Abdul Hamid made the appointment of apex court judges under article 95(1) of the constitution, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star.

He hoped that the new judges would work towards ensuring justice in the country.

The minister later told reporters that the president may appoint new judges to the HC Division as their number has reduced.

## He had no right to drive heavies

### Says Rab after quizzing driver of Gulistan crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The driver of Meghla Paribahan bus, which hit and killed two pedestrians in the capital's Gulistan on Saturday, used to drive the bus with a light-vehicle licence.

"He didn't have a licence to drive heavy vehicles. He worked as a helper of a [Meghla Paribahan] bus for seven-eight years. Then he drove the bus with a light-vehicle licence for the last two years," Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, told a press conference yesterday.

A team of Rab-3 arrested driver Rakib Sharif, 25, in the capital's Wari on Saturday night

Rakib was appointed by the bus owner on daily contracts and that is why he used to drive fast to make as many trips as possible in a day, the Rab official said. He had to pay the owner Tk 2,250 daily, the official added.

Rab said Rakib lost control at the Gulistan exit ramp of Mayor Hanif Flyover due to speeding and brake failure.

The Rab official said Rakib had been driving the particular bus for 15 days. The brakes had not been working properly for several days, the official added.

The official said they quizzed the bus owner.

"The driver is made the lone accused in the case filed with Wari Police Station. While probing, if the investigation officer finds any irresponsibility of the bus owner and helper, the officer will definitely take necessary action."

## 'Avoid visiting India now'

### Doraiswami tells Bangladeshis as Covid cases surge in the neighbouring country

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Vikram K Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka, has discouraged Bangladeshis from travelling to the neighbouring country unless if it is absolutely essential.

"The number of cases of infection with the Omicron variant of coronavirus is on the rise in India -- that's why it is better for the citizens of Bangladesh not to travel to India except for emergency," he said yesterday.

India's Omicron tally rose to 3,623 on Sunday, according to data released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

But the neighbouring country is going through a third wave of Covid-19 cases, believed to be driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant, prompting many Indian states to impose some form of movement restrictions.

For now, the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh will continue to issue

visas and the borders will stay open, Doraiswami said, adding that all international arrivals from January 11 will have to go on seven days' quarantine.

"Not only Bangladeshis, but I would also request all including Indian citizens living abroad to avoid visiting India now," he added.

Doraiswami's comments came at a programme arranged for administering a booster dose of the Covid-19 vaccine for diplomats stationed in Dhaka.

The government would discourage travel through the Bangladesh-India borders to keep the Covid-19 cases at check, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, who inaugurated the programme at the capital's Sheikh Russel Gastroliver Institute & Hospital.

"There should be more health safety measures [at the borders]. Hopefully, we will be able to protect our people."

The government is not considering lockdown at this moment for the sake of

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New Zealand's captain Tom Latham plays a shot during the first day of the second Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh in Christchurch yesterday. He ended the first day with an unbeaten 186.

PHOTO: AFP

## BOAT CAPSIZE

### Six bodies found in the Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six bodies were recovered from Buriganga river in Narayanganj yesterday, four days after a motorboat capsized in the district.

The deceased were identified as Jesmin Akter, 35, her daughter Tasmim, 15, Sabbir Mia, 18, Josna Begum, 33, Motaleb, 42 and Awlad, 25.

All the victims were from Baktabali Char Madhyannagar area of Narayanganj Sadar upazila.

Abdullah Al Arefin, deputy assistant director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the bodies were handed over to family members yesterday.

On January 5, a motorboat carrying around 50 passengers.