



Painting a river black

A study by Stamford, Jahangirnagar and Waterkeepers Bangladesh shows how dyeing factories pollute the Buriganga

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

The level of pollutants in the Buriganga water samples taken from some dyeing factory effluent release points is much higher than standard levels, found a study.

Three institutions yesterday jointly released the study on the water quality of the river and the impact of dyeing factories on it.

The three are

– Department of Environmental Science of Stamford University, geography and environment department of Jahangirnagar University and Waterkeepers Bangladesh.

The study found that the pH levels in the water were 7.6, 6.7, and 8.5 in pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon seasons respectively against the standard level of 7.

The Total Suspended Solids in the water were 108, 57, and 195 per litre against the standard level of 10. The Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) were 190, 227 and 276 mg per litre against the standard level of 4. The Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) were 87, 72, 106 mg per litre while the standard is 0.2 mg per litre, said the study.

Dozens of dyeing factories being operated along the five-kilometre stretch of the Buriganga bank from Postogola bridge to Mary Anderson point now appears to be a big hurdle to decontaminate the water as the government relocated more than 100 tanneries to Savar's Hemayetpur in 2017.

Following a High Court order, the Department of Environment early last year snapped water, power, and gas supply connections to at least 50 factories in Shyampur-Kadamtoli area to force them to set up effluent treatment plants (ETPs).

The HC, however, in mid-2021 instructed the DoE to restore the connections after the setting up of ETPs.

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), said they hoped there would be a positive impact on the water quality as ETPs were supposed to be installed at dyeing factories.

"But this sadly is not the case. The water quality in the Buriganga is

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- Some 80 to 100 dyeing factories in operation
- 60,000 cubic metre effluents being discharged per second into the Buriganga
- 39 pipes release effluents into the river, despite a court ban
- Land shortage hinders CETP installation



Laundry workers washing clothes, including those given for cleaning by hotels, hospitals and clinics, in the heavily polluted Buriganga. For several decades, the river has been victim to various forms of pollution, including those caused by dyeing factories. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

20pc Covid patients are down with Omicron

Finds BSMMU study on 96 samples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As much as 20 percent of the Covid-19 patients examined by BSMMU researchers in the month to January 8 were infected with the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, indicating that the highly transmissible variant is fast putting down its roots in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh reported its first confirmed cases of Omicron on December 9 last year, and as of Sunday, the tally stands at 55.

None of those Omicron-infected patients, however,

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Scrap unnecessary projects

PM also asks DCs to go tough on militancy, drug menace

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the deputy commissioners to ensure that no development projects that damage the environment and ecological balance are taken up.

"Cancel all the unnecessary projects," she said while presenting



a 24-point directive on the first day of the annual DC Conference yesterday.

For it, the DCs framed 263 proposals, one of the which was to form committees at the district level to oversee development projects.

Rejecting the proposal, the government suggested that the DCs carry out supervision as per the law.

The PM inaugurated the conference

as the chief guest, joining virtually from the Ganabhaban, reports BSS.

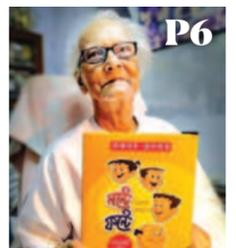
She asked the DCs to discharge their duties with the mindset of serving the people and ensuring welfare of the commoners.

"I call upon you to focus on some issues out of all the huge tasks you are already doing.

"Public welfare and service-oriented projects would have to be taken up considering the promises that public

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DON'T ABUSE POWER: PRESIDENT – PAGE 2



Narayan Debnath and his creations

- Biman owns 18 of 21 planes in its fleet
- Served 29 international destinations with a smaller fleet
- Now serves 19 international destinations
- Govt still enjoys 100 percent share in Biman
- Biman's debt is around Tk 1,000 crore

BIMAN'S 50-YEAR JOURNEY Bumpy all along

RASHIDUL HASAN

Despite a robust fleet of 21 modern aircraft, Biman remains a losing concern due to a lack of planning and poor service delivery, said aviation experts.

The absence of planning ahead left many of its new aircraft underutilised and substandard services shrank its market shares over the years, they said.

Since its inception in 1972, the national flag carrier lost money in most of the fiscal years.

Biman made Tk 133 crore profit in 2020-21 (as of Dec 2020) and reported a loss of Tk 81.13 crore in 2019-20 fiscal year, according to Bangladesh Economic Review.

It owes over Tk 1,000 crore to different organisations and pays annual instalments of around Tk 250 crore for the new planes, according to aviation experts.

"Biman's profit actually cannot be called profit as the airline owes several hundred crores to Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation," Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert, told The Daily Star.

He also said Biman was not transparent with its financial statement. It currently flies to 19 international destinations, most of which are short- or medium-haul. It had flights to 29 international destinations – from New York in the west to Tokyo in the east and major European cities – with fewer planes in its fleet, according to Biman insiders.

Since 2006, Biman gradually stopped serving around 10 destinations, including New York, Frankfurt, Rome, Tokyo, Brussels, Amsterdam and Libya, largely due to financial problems, shortage of modern planes, and routes becoming not viable.

After becoming a public limited company in 2007, Biman, to bolster its fleet, has been on a shopping spree since 2008 and spent around Tk 19,020 crore on new planes.

Despite having air service agreements with 42 countries, Biman failed to fly to new destinations or serve those it stopped serving, said Wahidul.

Even though it has a huge captive market and loyal passengers, Biman's market share has reduced 20 percent in recent years due to

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Manpower shortage a key crisis



Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal

RASHIDUL HASAN

The shortages of experts and professionals, including pilots, have left Biman unable to realise the full potential of its modern fleet, said Biman Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal in an interview with The Daily Star.

Speaking at his office at the Biman headquarters in the capital's Kurmitola, Mostafa said the national carrier lost its market share in different destinations as it could not increase flights to those.

He said Biman had around 4,000 people on its payroll when it operated very few flights daily. Now flights have increased seven to 10

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Whip allowed to go abroad: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted Jatiya Sangsad Whip Shamsul Haque Chowdhury the permission to go abroad, even though a lower court had earlier banned him from traveling outside the country.

In June last year, a Dhaka court issued a travel ban on the ruling Awami League lawmaker because the ACC was investigating him for money-laundering.

The HC stayed the order for a period of six months.

It also issued a rule asking the ACC to explain in four weeks why the lower court's order should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Shamsul Haque Chowdhury challenging the travel ban.

Shamsul's lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star that there is no case filed against his client, but a Dhaka court on June 21 imposed a travel ban on him citing an enquiry into corruption allegations against him.

Terming the ban illegal, he added, the JS whip can go to any foreign country for any necessary purpose following the HC order.

Shamsul's name came up during the ACC's probe into illegal casinos in the city in 2019. The AL MP, who represents Chattogram-12, is also the general secretary of Chattogram Abahani club.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka's Senior Special Court had passed the travel ban order last year after ACC Director Syed Iqbal Hossain, who is also head of the enquiry team, submitted an application on June 13, seeking a ban on him and several others from travelling abroad.

PK HALDER LOAN SCAM

ACC summons 4 BB officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has summoned four officials of Bangladesh Bank's financial institutions inspection division for questioning over Proshanto Kumar Halder's loan scam.

They are: Bangladesh Bank's Joint Directors Mohammad Ferdous Kabir and ABM Mobarak Hossain, Deputy Director Hamdul Alam, and Assistant Director Kader Ali.

In a letter signed by ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhan, the officials were asked to appear at the ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters on January 24.



Students wearing masks come out of Government Mohammadpur Model School and College in the capital yesterday. The school authorities have put up warning signs at the gate to make students aware of the serious nature of the coronavirus transmission. A message reads -- "No mask, no school".

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Vaccinate whole world to end pandemic

UN chief tells Davos; China orders overseas mail disinfection over Omicron fears; Australia suffers deadliest day of pandemic

AGENCIES

UN chief Antonio Guterres told the all-virtual Davos forum that the world must vaccinate everybody against Covid-19 to ensure a way out of the pandemic.

"The last two years have demonstrated a simple but brutal truth -- if we leave anyone behind, we leave everyone behind," he said on Monday.

"If we fail to vaccinate every person, we give rise to new variants that spread across borders and bring daily life and economies to a grinding halt."

Guterres said the international community needs to "confront the pandemic with equity and fairness."

He noted that the World Health Organization unveiled a strategy last autumn to vaccinate 40 percent of the planet's population by the end of 2021 and 70 per cent by the middle of this year.

"We are nowhere near these targets," Guterres told the World Economic Forum.

"Vaccination rates in high-income countries are, shamefully, seven times

higher than in African countries. We need vaccine equity, now," he added.

Guterres said pharmaceutical companies should "stand in solidarity with developing countries by sharing licenses, know-how and technology so we can all find a way out of this pandemic."

The coronavirus has killed at least 5,565,745 people worldwide since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to an AFP tally compiled from official sources yesterday.

China's postal service has ordered workers to disinfect international deliveries and urged the public to reduce orders from overseas after authorities claimed mail could be the source of recent outbreaks.

Multiple small outbreaks in recent weeks -- including in Beijing -- have tested China's strict policy of targeting zero Covid cases, which authorities have pursued even as the rest of the world has gradually reopened.

Australia suffered its deadliest day of the pandemic yesterday as a fast-moving Omicron outbreak continued to push up hospitalisation rates to record levels, even as daily infections

ceased slightly. A total of 77 deaths was recorded, exceeding the previous national high of 57 last Thursday, official data showed.

Japan's new Covid-19 cases jumped to a record yesterday, local media reported, as the government considered expanding measures to contain the infectious Omicron coronavirus variant.

The mayor of Moscow said he was extending Covid-19 home-working rules and guidance to protect elderly people until April 1 as the city braces for a sharp rise in infections with the Omicron variant.

A senior health official in Israel, meanwhile, said the country will continue to offer a fourth Covid-19 vaccine shot despite preliminary findings that it is not enough to prevent Omicron infections, predicting contagions stoked by the variant will wane in a week.

The fastest country to roll out vaccinations a year ago, Israel last month started offering a fourth shot -- also known as a second booster -- to its most vulnerable and high-risk groups. It has held off on expanding the offer to the wider population.

Painting a river black Scrap unnecessary projects

FROM PAGE 1

nowhere near the standard level," he told The Daily Star.

Prof Kamruzzaman Majumder of Department of Environmental Science at Stamford University said every parameter of the river water, including COD, TSS, pH, grease and oil, nitrogen and phenol, was found to be well above the standard levels and this may pose a serious threat to human health.

Around 80 to 100 factories release an estimated 60,000 cubic metres of effluents per second into the river partly due to their incapacity and negligence, according to a DoE report released in 2015.

Visiting a stretch of the river from Doleswar Ghat area to Fire Service Ghat of Shyampur yesterday, this correspondent found factory effluents flowing into the river right under the steps at Doleswar Ghat.

There was a foul smell in the area which could make anyone feel almost suffocated. The colour of the river water was pinkish in some areas.

Hanif Sharif, senior executive member of BAPA and also an organiser of Buriganga Nodi Morcha, said many who came in contact with the water developed skin diseases.

Underground pipes through which effluents are being released must be snapped, he said, adding that there are around 65 such pipes in Shyampur-Kodomtoli area.

Sharif Jamil of BAPA said as the garment sector is the country's economic backbone, shutting down dyeing factories will not be a solution to this problem.

"The government must ensure that there are cluster ETPs to treat effluents. It must introduce colorogen technology which doesn't emit any effluent for dyeing clothes. Otherwise, the factories will remain as a big hurdle to decontaminate the river water," he observed.

Advocate Manzill Morshed, who filed a writ with the HC in 2015 to stop pollution by dyeing factories, said the court ordered the DoE to snap gas and power links to those factories which didn't have ETP and shut down the underground pipes.

DoE Director (monitoring and enforcement) Mohammad Masud Hasan Patwary said his department last year disconnected power and gas lines to factories without ETP.

He said the court later ordered them to restore the connections as factory owners submitted compliance reports.

The official said they conduct compliance drives on a regular basis.

"We have shut down six dyeing factories and a re-rolling mills in Shyampur. The problem is when we conduct a drive at one factory, the others close theirs. Some factory owners don't run the ETP at times and we know it. We don't have enough manpower to monitor them round the clock," he said.

Azizul Haque, general secretary of Shyampur Dyeing Factory Association, did not receive calls from this correspondent for comments.

However, Mehedi Mokammel, office secretary of the association, claimed they keep ETPs running.

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representatives make to the people."

She also asked the DCs to take and implement projects in coordination with the public representatives.

Hasina directed the commissioners to take stringent measures to protect government lands, rivers, forests, hills and natural waterbodies.

"Give emphasis on vertical extension in case of constructing new government buildings to ensure maximum use of land, and planned urbanisation and forestation," she said.

The PM asked the DCs to take a tougher stance against religious fanaticism and militancy to maintain communal harmony.

About drives against narcotics, she told them to continue the "zero-tolerance" policy against drugs to create a society free from the menace of drugs.

She also instructed them to strengthen market monitoring to ensure a smooth supply of products in the markets, prevent artificial crises, and keep

Manpower shortage a key crisis

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for recruitment to technical posts but it would take several years for the new recruits to join work after completing all formalities.

Mostafa said Biman was facing some challenges in implementing its plans as it had shortages of equipment and experts.

He said the carrier never got necessary funds to meet the demand of the growing number of passengers. That's why Biman had to depend on loans and it now pays Tk 250 crore a year to

prices normal.

Hasina then asked them to take initiatives to coordinate work of government offices in all districts accordingly to ensure Bangladesh's spot on the list of developed countries by 2041.

The conference began on a limited scale due to the fresh surge in Covid-19 cases. It was held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the presence of 15 ministers and secretaries.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam and the PM's Principal Secretary Dr Ahmad Kaikaus addressed the conference.

Divisional Commissioner of Khulna Ismail Hossain, Deputy Commissioners of Chandpur and Rangpur Anjana Khan Majlish and Asif Ahsan spoke on behalf of the divisional commissioners and DCs.

MEET WITH MINISTERS
At the inaugural session, DCs met with the ministers of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and Planning Ministry and top officials of the Finance Division,

during the appointment of principals and headmasters at private schools and colleges, ensuring transparency in the work of the institutions' managing committees, and forming coordination committees for secondary education at the upazila level.

After meeting them, Education Minister Dipu Moni told journalists that they are considering the proposals.

About in-person classes during the spread of the Omicron variant, she said, "The situation to shut educational institutions has not yet been created in the country."

She added that students will join online classes if Omicron spreads in educational institutions and the priority now is on vaccinating all students between 12 and 17 years.

"Until Monday, 86 lakh students have been brought under the vaccination campaign."

On the second day of the conference today, six sessions will be held with 13 ministries.

Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division and Economic Relations Division.

Planning Minister MA Mannan, after the meeting, said the DCs proposed forming committees at the district level to supervise project implementations.

"We told them that there was no need for it [separate committee]. They have the right to look after work in their respective areas. We told them we will maintain regular communications with them and also to carry out their job accordingly."

Mashiur Rahman, PM's adviser on economic affairs, said the DCs will be involved in overseeing projects implementations if it is necessary.

"Mega projects are carried out in several districts. Therefore, it is difficult to form committees."

Another proposal by the DCs was to erect multi-storied buildings under the Ashrayan Project -- which the PM office rejected.

The DCs also proposed their representation in the selection committee

repay those loans.

Apart from widening its domestic market, Biman is now working to expand international destinations, including Indian's Chennai, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Canada, and Japan, he told this newspaper.

"After completing all the required process and getting slots at our convenient time, Biman will spread its wing to those popular destinations."

The Biman MD said they bought equipment worth Tk 80 crore and were expanding

various infrastructure facilities to serve passengers better.

He said Biman has an agreement with Sabre solutions under which its passengers, from February or March, would be able to avail different services, including check-in from home.

Mostafa said, "Despite our limitations, we are sincerely trying to serve our valued passengers properly and we are committed to gaining customers' confidence."

Passenger service

Don't abuse power

President to DCs

UNB, DHAKA

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked the deputy commissioners not to abuse power while discharging their duties.

The exercise of power is essential to discharge responsibilities properly and efficiently, but it is even more important to ensure that power is not abused, he said while virtually addressing the DC Conference at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Hamid reminded the officials of the great leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the creation of an independent Bangladesh.

"We should not forget that since the country became independent under the leadership of Bangabandhu, today I have become the president, you have become the secretary, divisional commissioner or deputy commissioner," he told the conference.

Stating that getting services is the right of the people, he said, "You will have to perform duties as servants of the people."

"Deliver government services to the doorstep of the people. It should be remembered that we run our families with people's money. So, providing government services is not a matter of kindness or benevolence."

He also told the officials, "You have to come up with effective leadership to meet the basic needs of poor people of the country, and ensure social protection and public empowerment of the people, especially women empowerment."

He said land records and survey management was being digitised to ensure the best use of land and land-related services. "But during land records, a group of dishonest employees is doing irregularities in collaboration with locally influential brokers taking illegal facilities. It is increasing public sufferings."

Prof Tajmeri gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Prof Tajmeri SA Islam, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was granted bail yesterday in a case filed over obstructing police in performing duties during a rally in Uttara in 2018.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbub Ahmed passed the order after a bail petition was filed by her lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder, court sources said.

The court granted her bail, taking her age, health complications, and reputation as a former Dhaka University teacher into consideration, the sources said.

On January 13, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Arafatul Rakib sent Prof Tajmeri to jail after scrapping her bail plea.

The case was filed with Uttara Paschim Police Station on September 10, 2018, accusing Prof Tajmeri and 133 leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islam of obstructing police and carrying out sabotage in Uttara during a rally to free Khaleda from jail.

Police arrested her on January 13.

'No more talks on Ukraine'

AFP, Moscow

Moscow yesterday rejected new talks on Ukraine unless the West responds to its demands, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken prepared to fly to Kyiv in a show of support amid fears of a Russian invasion.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday said that there would be no further negotiations until the West gives it proper answers.

Bumpy all along

FROM PAGE 1

poor service, mismanagement, improper planning and marketing professionals, he said.

He said over the 50 years, Biman could not directly recruit 50 professionals due to government interference. "Lack of experts and professionals left Biman in a nosedive and its world is gradually shrinking," he added.

A senior pilot, also a leader of Bangladesh Airlines' Pilot Association (Bapa), said it was unfortunate that Biman could not make a proper fleet plan to optimally use its modern aircraft.

For example, he said, "Biman is using Boeing 787-8s, a remarkable long-haul aircraft, on short-haul routes, including Dhaka-Singapore and Dhaka-Malaysia, which is nothing but bad planning."

He said the Boeing 787-8s can fly 14 to 15 hours at a stretch and is best suited for distant cities like New York, Toronto, or Tokyo.

Talking to The Daily Star, chairman, Biman Board of Directors, Sajjadul Hassan admitted that Biman could not achieve its target in the last 50 years.

"Passenger service quality did not reach the desired level due to various reasons," he added. Speaking at a programme at the Biman's headquarters in Kurmitola in late November, he even said Biman's quality of service remains the same as before. Former MD and CEO of Biman, MA Momen said there was no reason for Biman's inability to serve properly and survive in the market. Biman MD and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal said manpower shortage was the reason for Biman not flying to new destinations and serving passengers properly. He mentioned a shortage of pilots and cabin crew members. A c k n o w l e d g i n g passengers' allegations on the poor quality of service, he said, "Despite our limitations, we are sincerely trying to serve our valued passengers properly ..."

Biman started its commercial operations on February 4, 1972, with a single DC-3 aircraft. It now has 21 aircraft -- four Boeing 777-300 ERs, four Boeing 787-8s, two Boeing 787-9s, six Boeing 737-800, and five De Havilland Canada DHC-8 Q400.

'Govt to probe source of BNP's lobbying money'

Says Shahriar Alam

In the last several years, BNP signed three agreements with the US-based lobbyist firms. Our calculation found that BNP spent at least \$3.75 million.

SHAHRIAR ALAM
State Minister for Foreign Affairs

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to investigate the source of BNP's lobbying money, amounting to at least \$3.75 million, that BNP spent in the last several years to campaign against Bangladesh, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday.

He said the Awami League government has not appointed any lobbyist in the US but a PR firm to promote Bangladesh's positive image as well as fight the negative publicity against the country.

"In the last several years, BNP signed three agreements with US-based lobbyist firms. Our estimates suggest that BNP spent at least \$3.75 million," he told reporters at the foreign ministry.

Besides, Jamaat also signed deals with some US lobbyist firms, including New York-based Organization

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Balancing a bunch of fresh produce on his head, this man is on his way to sell his goods at the nearby kitchen market. Even though the roads are barely visible due to the winter-morning fog, the seller, clad in warm clothes, does not seem to be fazed. This photo was taken recently from Dhamrai's Royail area. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

It won't bring any positive change: BNP

The government's attempt to legitimise the ongoing process of forming a loyal and incompetent Election Commission in the interest of the ruling party will produce the same result as in the past. This time it's possibly going to be even worse than in previous elections.

NAZRUL ISLAM KHAN
BNP senior leader

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday said the draft law on the Election Commission (EC) formation will not yield any positive outcome as the party thinks it will only protect the interests of the ruling party.

"The government's attempt to legitimise the ongoing process of forming a loyal and incompetent Election Commission in the interest of the ruling party will produce the same result as in the past. This time it's possibly going to be even worse than in previous elections," said BNP senior leader Nazrul Islam Khan.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office, he said what has been happening in the administrative system for so long will now happen in the legal system after the enactment of the law. "That's why we think it won't bring any positive change."

The BNP leader said as per the provision of the draft law no one can be an EC member without having experience in government service. "This means no one

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



'Listen to the people'

Says TIB on enacting law for EC formation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday said it is necessary to finalise the law regarding formation of the Election Commission (EC), incorporating opinions of civil society and all stakeholders.

"If the law is passed without the opinions and scrutiny of stakeholders concerned and civil society, its acceptability will be questioned, and its effectiveness will not be assured. Therefore, there is no alternative to passing the law based on public opinion, giving utmost importance to public expectations."

In a statement, TIB executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman demanded the draft law to be made available to all immediately.

"The sudden government step to enact the law for forming the election commission, which reflects the constitutional commitment and long-standing expectations of the people, is positive," the statement read.

If the law is passed without the opinions and scrutiny of stakeholders concerned and civil society, its acceptability will be questioned, and its effectiveness will not be assured.

It also said according to media reports, the law proposes the formation of an EC through a search committee as usual, which is consistent with international practice.

But the details of what is in the draft law, apart from setting some general criteria for the search committee, are still unknown to stakeholders and civil society.

CONCERNS

- Will there be a woman representative in search committee?
- What will be eligibility criteria of two citizens' representatives?
- What will be committee's working procedure?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Incorporating civil society, stakeholder's opinions
- Keeping assurance provision to ensure neutrality of CEC, others
- Making the law available to public immediately

Dr Iftekhar, in the statement, mentioned some concerns in particular, regarding whether there will be a woman representative in the search committee, the eligibility criteria of the two citizen representatives, the working procedure of the committee and publishing names proposed by it.

The statement also mentioned that an assurance provision should be incorporated in the law to ensure the qualifications, skills, experience, neutrality and acceptability of the chief election commissioner and other commissioners, and their determination to uphold a neutral and objective stance.

"The draft law should be immediately released and finalised based on views of stakeholders concerned and civil society. Otherwise, possibility of forming a free, fair and acceptable Election Commission, as per the expectations of citizens, will be thwarted again," read the statement.

Finalise OTT regulation in 4 months: HC



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the BTRC to finalise a regulation to operate OTT (over-the-top) platforms and collect revenues from them. BTRC was also asked to submit its progress report to the court in four months.

Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Fatema Najib's bench fixed May 24 for passing further order on the matter.

During a hearing of a petition yesterday, BTRC's lawyer Khandker Reza-E-Raqui told the bench that his client has prepared the draft regulation on the issue.

BTRC wants to finalise the regulation after soliciting opinions from stakeholders on approval from the law ministry, and it needs the HC's permission in this regard, he said.

The bench granted the permission and passed the order.

BTRC on January 18, 2021, submitted a report to the HC saying it could not collect revenue from OTT platforms as there was no specific guideline.

Earlier, CID submitted another report to the HC through the deputy attorney general, saying it cannot take action against misusing OTT platforms due to the absence of guidelines.

The HC bench on September 8, 2020, questioned the authority's inaction in removing "obscene and immoral" videos from OTT platforms across the country.

TK 12CR LOAN SCAM

ACC sues former SBACB chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sued former chairman of South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank (SBACB) and seven others for misappropriating a loan worth Tk 12 crore.

ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Prodhan filed the case with its integrated office in Dhaka on Monday. The accused are SBACB former chairman Amzad Hossain, its former director Capt (retd) M Moazzam Hossain, Rafi-Mahi Corporation owner AKM Asif Uddin, SBACB vice president Sheikh Sharfuddin, its executive officer Ishtiaq Ahmed, assistant vice president Rumon-ul-Islam, executive officer Tanjir Uddin Chowdhury and senior officer Tasrifa Nahid.

During investigation, ACC found that SBACB approved the loan without any collateral to a construction material supplier - Rafi-Mahi Corporation. AKM Asif Uddin, owner of the company, was an SBACB employee during the tenure of its former chairman Amzad Hossain when the incident took place.

ACC also found that about Tk 11.55 crore was given to Asif between 2017 and 2018. Of the money, about Tk 4.5 crore was transferred to the accounts of three different organisations of Moazzam Hossain.

Asif told ACC that Amzad gave him money to open a trade licence and Sharfuddin helped him to do so. At the 124th SBACB board meeting, both Amzad and Moazzam admitted that they took the loan and promised to repay it. "The resolution of the board of directors proved that they misappropriated the money," reads the FIR.

SC judicial functions to run virtually from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the judicial functions of both the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court will run virtually from today, due to the ongoing surge in Covid-19 infection.

The SC administration issued two separate notifications to this effect yesterday.

The notifications said judicial activities of all the benches of the Appellate and High Court Divisions will be conducted under the Usage of Information Technology by Courts Act, 2020 and following the practice directions issued by the then chief justice in 2020 for maintaining health guidelines from January 19.



Even though the footbridge is right within reach, a person goes through the hassle of contorting his body to pass through the road divider in Basabo area yesterday. And two other like-minded individuals are waiting for their turn. Such activities makes one wonder whether people do it for convenience or to save time. But there's no doubt about the fact that this is quite dangerous and a clear violation of traffic rules. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

PRAYER
TIMING
JAN 19



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-30	12-45	4-15	5-40	7-00
Jamaat	6-05	1-15	4-30	5-44	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

20pc Covid patients

FROM PAGE 1
were admitted to the hospitals as they had mild symptoms, said the researchers of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).
"All the samples collected from the patients admitted in the hospital were Delta variant," said Md Sharfuiddin Ahmed, vice-chancellor of the BSMMU, while sharing the findings of the study at an event yesterday.
Between December 8 last year and January 8 this year, 96 samples were collected.
A total of 769 samples from patients aged between nine months and 90 years from all divisions were collected between June 29 last year and January 8 this year for the study, which found death risk was higher among those aged 60 years and above if they had tested positive for the second time.

About 98 percent had the deadly Delta variant, while 1 percent each had the Beta variant and the Nigerian variant.
However, earlier on Monday, the Directorate General of Health Services officials said the Omicron variant is replacing the Delta variant faster and has been causing the skyrocketing in the daily caseload, which was a "bad sign".
In the 24 hours to 8 am yesterday, 8,407 cases were recorded -- the highest since August 13 last year.

BNP expels

FROM PAGE 12
Zia and also from the Narayanganj district convener post for contesting the election violating the party decision of boycotting the polls.
Taimur lost the mayoral race to Selina Hayat Ivy in the city corporation polls on Sunday.

Husband

FROM PAGE 12
disagreements.
Police detained Nobel, 48, and Farhad, 47, from Green Road around 4:00am on Monday after finding in the car a piece of the thread used to sew the two sacks together.
They were arrested later in a murder case filed yesterday by Shimu's elder brother with Keraniganj Model Police Station.
After police brought them to a Dhaka court with a 10-day remand prayer yesterday, the court placed each of them on a three-day remand.
Shimu's younger sister Fatema Nisha told reporters that Nobel and her sister got married 18 years ago. Her brother Shahidul Islam Khokon said Shimu, 41, was working at the advertisement section of a TV channel.
Shimu stepped into the silver screen with the movie "Bartaman" in 1998. She performed in over 20 films.

Over 200 sued

FROM PAGE 12
The students were accused of attempted murder, battery, wrongful confinement, unlawful assembly, obstruction of public duty.
The demonstrators said the case was filed to intimidate them into suspending the protests.
The students yesterday sent a letter via the postal service to President Abdul Hamid, also

the chancellor of the university, demanding the VC's resignation and the appointment of a new VC.
Hundreds of them gathered on campus in the morning and staged a sit-in in front of the VC's residence later in the day.
Sust authorities on Sunday closed the university for an indefinite period and asked all students to vacate the dorms by Monday noon.

Special vaccine drive

FROM PAGE 12
surgeons across the country to carry out similar drives at their localities.
There are some 60 to 70 lakh road transport workers across the country, according to Bangladesh Road Transport Workers

Federation.
However, no such move was taken for waterway workers across the country.
Shah Alam, president of Bangladesh Noutjan Sramik Federation, said very few of their 2 lakh workers were vaccinated.

Govt to probe

FROM PAGE 3
for Peace and Justice, to campaign against Bangladesh, especially to stop the trials of the war criminals in 2013-14.
He presented several documents that show BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir wrote to the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs in 2019.
BNP lobbied to stop foreign assistance and increase the US government's pressure on human rights grounds, he said. "We believe BNP-Jamaat worked on other issues against Bangladesh under disguise."
"We decided today to send the documents to Bangladesh Bank to inquire if the money spent by BNP on lobbying is legal and declared to the EC. They will act accordingly after the inquiry." He said as per US law, appointing lobbyists is legal but it has to be ensured that money is clean because it can come through illegal means.
Asked about AL appointing lobbyists in the US, Shahriar Alam said the government signed a contract with

a BGR PR to fight the negative campaign against Bangladesh, especially that began during the war crimes trial in 2013-14. The contract is valid until March this year.
He said Bangladesh also needed to show its achievements to the world in terms of SDGs, women empowerment, climate change and poverty alleviation. In no way, this is for a lobby. It's for promoting Bangladesh.

Asked if the government decided to appoint any lobbyist firm, especially after the US sanctions on Rab, he said, "We don't believe in pursuing political agenda using that route where cash is involved... we hope to directly engage with the US and bring results."
Meanwhile, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud questioned BNP's right to politics in the country.
"BNP is hatching conspiracies against Bangladesh to stop the country's ongoing development and create barriers in export trade through appointing lobbyist firms in many countries, including the US," he said at a views-exchange meeting with journalists.

It won't bring
FROM PAGE 3
from civil society or any educationist and jurist can be its member."
He said the EC is going to be formed with only government officials or those who have a habit of obeying government orders all their lives and such an EC will not yield any positive outcome.
On Monday, the

Cabinet approved the draft of the "Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner Appointment Act, 2022" to have a law in this regard as per the constitution.
Nazrul, a BNP standing committee member, said their party is not willing to join general election under the current government and administration.

Resist any syndicate

FROM PAGE 12
As per the G2G Plus mechanism, the recruitment cost was initially set at Tk 37,000 but it was then increased to Tk 1,60,000. In reality, each worker had to spend Tk 3,50,000 on average for a job in Malaysia.
A portion of this extra cost used to be laundered out of the country to be southeast Asian nation.
"Our estimate suggests at least Tk 5,000 crore was laundered from Bangladesh to Malaysia because of the syndication," said the letter.

Apart from that, the syndicate swindled at least Tk 600 crore through unnecessary medical tests of around 12 lakh Bangladeshi workers, the letter said.
"If there is again a syndicate of agents for labour recruitment to Malaysia, our migrant workers will once more become victims of labour exploitation, corruption will spread, human trafficking will increase and the overall potential of the [overseas employment] sector will be affected. Our

dignity abroad will also be hampered," said the letter.
In the letter, the SSF also demanded punishment of syndicate members through a judicial commission.
Contacted, SSF Senior Vice-president Riaz-Ul Islam said a majority of the 1400-plus licensed recruiting agencies are against any syndication.
"We want fair play, not monopoly. We want to get rid of the infamy associated with labour recruitment," he told this correspondent yesterday.

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন
BANGLADESH SHIPPING CORPORATION
www.bsc.gov.bd

অনলাইনে বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় যোগদানের লিঙ্ক

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অনিবার্ণ কারণবশতঃ বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন (বিএসসি)র ৪৪তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা আগামী ২৭/০১/২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকায় অনলাইনে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় গত ১৬/০১/২০২২ তারিখের রেকর্ড ডেট অনুযায়ী বিএসসির শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণ নিম্নোক্ত লিঙ্ক এর মাধ্যমে যোগদান করতে পারবেন।

অনলাইনে বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় যোগদানের লিঙ্কঃ <https://bsc.bdvirtualagm.com/>

উল্লেখ্য, এজিএম শুরু ৪০ ঘণ্টা পূর্বে থেকে শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণ উক্ত লিঙ্ক এর মাধ্যমে ৪৪তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার নেটিশ অনুযায়ী আসোচাসুতীতে উল্লেখিত বিষয়সমূহ অনুমোদনের বিষয়ে পৃথক পৃথকভাবে ভোট প্রদান করতে পারবেন। এছাড়া, প্রয়োজনীয় মতামত ও পরামর্শ (যদি থাকে) কমেন্ট বক্স এ প্রদান করতে পারবেন।

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনের পক্ষে
স্বা/-
১৬/০১/২০২২
মুহম্মদ আশরাফ হোসেন
সচিব, বিএসসি

GD-112

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

Tender No. NSU/21-22-08

North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ distributors/ business partners/ agents for supplying photocopier, desktop computer for North South University as described in the tender schedule.

Detail of the items mentioned below:
Lot: 1- Photocopier (30 ppm).
Lot: 2- i7 desktop computer

Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days till **January 30, 2022** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **January 31, 2022** by 2.15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202
E-mail to: procurement@northsouth.edu, www.northsouth.edu

GD-104

Panchbibi Pourashava
Dist: Joypurhat

Memo No. PANCH/Engg/2022/715

e-GP Tender Notice 03/2021-22 (OTM/NCT)

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
645854	UIIP-BC/PCO/W-474	A) Construction of One-Storeyed Public Toilet (Type A = 56 Sqm) at Panchbibi Pourashava, Joypurhat. B) Construction of One-Storeyed Vegetables & Agricultural Products Market of 5-Storeyed Foundation (Floor Area = 314 sqm) at Panchbibi Pourashava, Joypurhat	16/02/2022 17:00	17/02/2022 13:00	17/02/2022 13:00
645855	UIIP-BC/PCO/W-508	Rehabilitation of RCC Road & RCC Drain St from Joypurhat-Panchbibi Road to H/O Chandan, Ward No. 02, Ch 0+94.00m	16/02/2022 17:00	17/02/2022 13:00	17/02/2022 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk.

Md. Maruf Ahsan
Assistant Engineer (In-charge)
Panchbibi Pourashava, Joypurhat

GD-104

Murarichand College, Sylhet
www.mccollege.edu.bd

Memo No. ৩০-এমসিক/বি/২০২২/৫০

Date : 18.01.2022

e-Tender Notice 06/2021-2022

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	647547	Renovation of classrooms, Seminar, washroom, Library, Laboratory and other academic structures with interior design, electrical work, electrical instrument set up etc.	03-Feb-2022 02:00 pm	03-Feb-2022 03:00 pm

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 02 February, 2022, 04:00 pm
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Professor) Md. Saleh Ahmed
Principal
Murarichand College, Sylhet
Phone: 02 996641634
e-Mail: mccollegesylhet@gmail.com

GD-111

Padma Oil Company Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 02 (Two) Nos. Motor Driven Centrifugal Pump Set with Starter by Synchronizing with Existing Pumping System on Turn-Key Basis for Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	Executive agency	Padma Oil Company Limited.
5	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
6	Procuring entity district	Chattogram.
7	Invitation for	Tender
8	Invitation Ref No.	28.22.0000.651.32.07.21/595
9	Date	13/01/2022
KEY INFORMATION		
10	Procurement method	NCT
FUNDING INFORMATION		
11	Budget and source of funds	The Fund of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
12	Development partner (if applicable)	None.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
13	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A
14	Project name	N/A
15	Tender Package No.	N/A
16	Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 02 (Two) Nos. Motor Driven Centrifugal Pump Set with Starter by Synchronizing with Existing Pumping System on Turn-Key Basis for Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport
17	Invitation for Tender Ref No.	E & P/Capex-BPC/F-32/P-115/21-22
18	Tender publication date	18/01/2022
19	Tender last selling date	23/02/2022 up to 14:00 Hrs.
20	Tender closing date and time	Date (dd/mm/yyyy) Time
21	Tender opening date and time	24/02/2022 02:00pm
22	Name & address of the office(s)	Address(s)
-Selling tender document (principal)		
a) Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram.		
b) DGM, Dhaka's Office, BTMC Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
-Selling tender document (others)		
N/A		
-Receiving tender document		
a) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), BSC Bhaban, Soltgola Road, P.O. Box No. 2050, Chattogram-4100.		
b) Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram.		
-Opening tender document		
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), BSC Bhaban, Soltgola Road, P.O. Box No. 2050, Chattogram-4100.		
23	Place/Date/Time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Place Date Time
Head Office of Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram		
1/2/2022 12:00 Hrs		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
24	Eligibility of tenderer	(a) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 05 (five) years of overall experience in Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Motor Driven Pump set or Authorised Distributors of mentioned pump in Bangladesh, years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper (b) The satisfactory completion of supply, installation, testing and commissioning of at least 02 (two) Nos. 75 KW Motor Driven Centrifugal Pump set with starter of minimum Bangladeshi Taka 1,50,00,000.00 (one crore fifty lac) under a single contract in the last 05 (five) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper at any govt., semi govt. autonomous organization, any oil marketing company, ERL or Petro-Bangla or any other Jet A-1 Project. (c) The minimum supply and/or production capacity of goods is/are: 02 Nos. per year. (d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 1,75,00,000.00 (one crore seventy-five lac).
25	Brief description of goods	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 02 (Two) Nos. Motor Driven Centrifugal Pump Set with Starter by Synchronizing with Existing Pumping System on Turn-Key Basis for Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport
26	Brief description of related services	N/A
27	Tender document price	BDT 5,000 per tender schedule (non-refundable).
28	Location and estimated date of completion of works	Hazrat Shah-Jalal International Airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh & Sep. 2021.
29	Type of payment of tender price	On cash payment.
30	Type of payment for security amount	As per tender schedule.
LOT INFORMATION		
31	Lot No.	Identification of lot Location Tender security amount in Taka Completion time in weeks
1	N/A	Hazrat Shah-Jalal International Airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh 5,50,000.00 (five lac fifty thousand) only 6 (six) months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
32	Name of official inviting tender	Chowdhury Md. Zauil Hassan.
33	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Engineering & Planning).
34	Address of official inviting tender	Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
35	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 880-31-833243 Facsimile number: 8802-33362368 Electronic mail address: cmzhasan@yahoo.com
36	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

"সবাই নিলে গড়বে দেশ, দুর্নীতিবৃত্ত বালোদান"

GD-109

A death trap for wildlife

Uncovered electric line running through Lawachhara killing its endangered species

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A connecting electric line runs right through the Lawachhara protected forest in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila. The power line packs 33 kilovolts, putting the forest's wildlife in peril, as the animals often come in contact with it.

In fact, the number of injuries or fatalities is increasing by the day. Almost every month, there's news of at least one or two endangered species of wild animals injuring themselves or dying due to the uncovered power line.

Shamsul Haque, joint convener of Lawachhara Bon O Jibobaichitra Rakkha Andolan, said a lot more animals get injured or die like this than the stories that come to light. "Wild animals need a corridor, as they come out from the jungle at night in search of food."

"As the electric line is not protected by non-conductive covers, the animals get



electrocuted when they come in contact," he said.

"We have already asked the forest department and rural electricity office many times to install suitable covers for the wires, but nothing of this sort has been arranged yet," Shamsul said.

According to the Department of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation, a meeting was held on August 2, 2016, chaired by the director general (administration) of the Prime Minister's Office, in this regard.

At the meeting, a decision was taken to replace the uncovered wires with rubber or other non-conductive electrical wires.

At that time, a letter was sent to the Palli Bidyut Samity regarding the decision. But this is yet to materialise.

"I have been hearing for more than a year that the authorities will install covers on the power line for the animals' safety," said tourist guide Saju Marchiang, a resident of Lawachhara Punje.

Contacted, Ziaur Rahman, general manager of Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity office in Sreemangal, said he has received the letter.

If possible, after surveying, steps will be taken, he added.

Meanwhile, the forest department has obstructed the installation of electric poles and providing electricity connection in illegally constructed localities in different parts of the forest.

According to the Forest Act 1928 (Amended 2000), a letter was sent to Moulvibazar Palli Bidyut Samity mentioning that installation of electric poles, laying of lines and providing electricity connection without permission of the forest department are completely prohibited, said Shyamal Kumar Mitra, assistant conservator of forests, Department of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation, Moulvibazar.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer, said in the interest of conserving the overall biodiversity in Lawachhara National Park, it is vital to replace the power line's covering with rubber or non-conductive coating.

The PMO has given out some instructions to the relevant authorities in this regard, he said.

If the rare animals keep dying at this rate, someday they'll simply go extinct, which will severely upset the balance of the area's ecosystem.



Every day, the many wild species residing in Lawachhara protected forest are at risk of getting electrocuted by the line that runs across the area. It has been several years, but authorities still haven't followed through with their decision of replacing the existing wires with non-conductive ones. PHOTO: STAR

Where risky way is the only way

Due to lack of alternatives, pedestrians are forced to use unfinished footbridge to cross highway



PHOTO: STAR

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Owing to the failure of contractors to finish the construction of a foot-over bridge on time, pedestrians on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway's Joypura area, are risking their lives to cross the road through the unfinished bridge, which doesn't even have safety railings.

According to the RHD in Manikganj, the construction firm -- Jitu Enterprise -- started construction work of the footbridge in Joypura bus stand area under Dhamrai in early 2001.

But even after the construction deadline expired in December 2021, the bridge is yet to be finished. During a visit to the area on Sunday, this correspondent found road divider pillars set up on the highway to prevent pedestrians from crossing the road on the ground.

This is why even though the overbridge is unfinished, pedestrians, including school and college students, have to use it to cross roads.

Arafat Hossain, a seventh-grade student at a

local school, said they are using the footbridge under risk as they have no other way to cross the highway.

The next footbridge is almost 1.5km away. "I'm aware it is risky to cross the road this way, but how else do we cross the highway?" he asked.

Locals said pedestrians have been using the bridge for the last 15 days under immense risk.

A local, who runs a shop right beside the bridge, said neither the construction firm nor the authorities have taken any safety measures for pedestrians yet. "Who will take responsibility in case of an accident?" he asked.

Contacted, Sifat Ahmed, project manager at contractor Jitu Enterprise, said the bridge's railings will be installed very soon. "We are also working on taking safety measures for pedestrians," he said.

Md Gaus-ul-Hasan Maruf, executive engineer of Manikganj, RHD, said the construction of the footbridge was supposed to be over by now.

He said they will investigate the matter.

COPS KILLED IN ROAD CRASH

Who was driving the car, police or arrestee?

Conflicting claims about driver of vehicle seized with yaba cause stir

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The car that plunged into a roadside pond on Monday, killing two police sub-inspectors in Narayanganj, was seized earlier that day with 42,000 yaba pills.

An assistant sub-inspector was injured and a person, arrested with the pills, fled after the accident at Dattapara around 6:30pm in Sonargaon upazila. The incident created a huge sensation, since police cannot use vehicles seized with narcotics without court directive.

Although police said one of the officers was driving the car, some media reported that the arrestee was driving it. However, The Daily Star could not verify the claim.

Zaidul Alam, SP of Narayanganj, said the police officials made a mistake. The deceased are sub-inspectors Shariful Islam (35) and Kazi Saleh of Sonargaon Police Station. The injured ASI Rafiqul Islam was undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh Police Hospital in Dhaka.

The three had arrested one Alamgir, who was coming from Cox's Bazar with the yaba pills, on Meghna Bridge on Monday morning. Police seized his car and drove it with the accused to the office of the SP for a press briefing, said SP Zaidul.

After the briefing, they were returning to Sonargaon Police Station, and SI Shariful was driving the car, the official said. The vehicle fell into a pond while giving way to another car near the station, said Mostafizur Rahman, additional superintendent of police in Narayanganj.

The accused fled the scene immediately after locals rescued them by breaking the car's window, said SP Zaidul. "We are trying to arrest him [the accused]."

Replying to a query as to why the accused was being taken to a police station in the seized car, the SP said, "It was not the right thing to do. It was a mistake."

HC orders speedy trial of graft case against Bodi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the lower court concerned to expeditiously finish the trial proceedings of a corruption case against former Awami League lawmaker from Cox's Bazar-4 constituency Abdur Rahman Bodi.

The ACC filed the case in Chattogram on December 17, 2007 against Bodi on charge of amassing wealth of Tk 66.7 lakh beyond known source of income. Yesterday, the HC rejected a petition filed by Bodi seeking a stay on the trial proceedings.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman rejected the petition as it was not presented properly.



Lines of people were seen in front of Chattogram General Hospital yesterday, waiting to get inoculated. Although vaccination starts at noon, they stand in queue from the morning, so they can get the jab before hospital authorities call it a day. While waiting, however, social distancing falls by the wayside, as the lines get increasingly huddled. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

NIKO GRAFT CASE

Hearing adjourned till Mar 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing of the Niko graft case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and eight others till March 8.

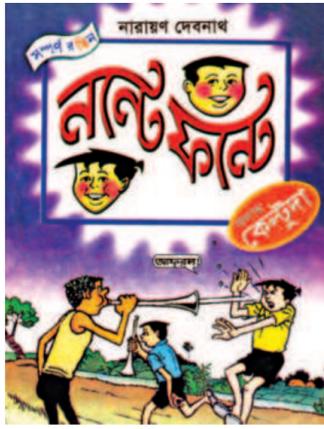
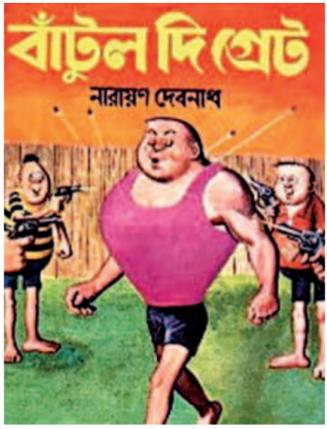
Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the Special Judge's Court-9 of Dhaka passed the order after a petition was filed with the court on behalf of Khaleda, seeking an adjournment, Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder, one of her lawyers, told The Daily Star.

Masud represented Khaleda, who is sick, at the court. In the petition, Masud told the court that they would complete the hearing on behalf of Khaleda on the next date of hearing.

Among the accused, Giasuddin Al Mamun is now in jail, while the rest are on bail.

During the hearing, Mamun and two other accused were present at the makeshift court of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.



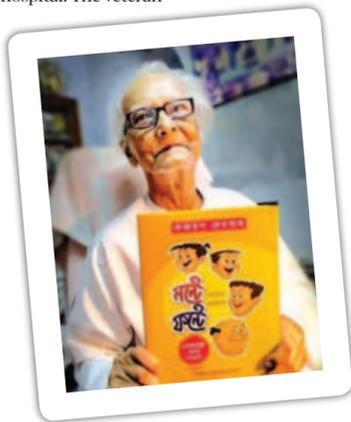


Narayan Debnath's creations will live forever

Timeless creations like "Handa-Bhonda", "Nontephonte" and "Batul The Great" served as India's answer to superheroes like Batman, Superman and Spiderman – and behind it all was earnest and creative legend, Narayan Debnath.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The eminent artist passed away in Kolkata yesterday (January 18), in the morning. He was 97 years old at the time of passing. He was suffering from prolonged illness, while receiving treatment at a private hospital. The veteran



cartoonist was admitted on December 24, and was immediately put on ventilator support.

For more than 50 years, Debnath entertained Bengali youth with his simplistic, fun and relatable characters, with "Handa Bhonda" running for a record 53 years – it was the longest running comic series by an individual artist.

The artist's fascination with visual arts began very early in life. He came from a family of gold retailers, and designed patterns for gold jewellery.

Later, he decided to take up his interest in design seriously and joined the Indian Art College to study fine arts.

However, he dropped out, and freelanced for advertising agencies for some years. His first break came in 1950 when he joined Dev Sahitya Kuthir, a renowned publishing house.

"Handa-Bhonda" was born with the encouragement of editors Dev Sahitya Kuthir, who encouraged Debnath to work in comics in Bengali.

Batul, another of his iconic characters, was based on his friend and famous bodybuilder, Manohar Aich. Batul, which started off as a human character, went on to have



superpowers at the

instance of the editors to add 'an

aura of invincibility' to the character during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

Some more of Narayan Debnath's iconic characters are Black Diamond Indrajit Roy, Potolchand the Magician, Koushik Roy, Bahadur Beral, Daanpita Khandu Ar Tar Chemical Dadu, Petuk Master Batuklal and Sutki Mutki.

For all of Narayan Debnath's fame and longevity – his recognitions came relatively late – the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi awarded Debnath's Comics Samagra the 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' in 2013.

He received Bengal's highest honour, the Banga Bibhusan, in the same year.

When Debnath won the Padma Shri in 2021, he was 95 years old, and he had to be explained multiple times that he had won the award. His response was, "Why so late?"

For readers, however, Narayan Debnath would always be a part of their childhood, as future generations can either read the timeless comics, or see the numerous cartoon adaptations that follow their spirit.

PARINEETI CHOPRA ready to turn producer

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra is all set to take up a new role as a film producer.



In an interview, the Bollywood star spoke to Indian media about taking up production, similar to her famous cousin Priyanka Chopra Jonas. She called it the next step in the film industry, in a bid to promote more female-centric stories. "I do want to produce, and I want to do that because I feel that many times there is a struggle for actresses to get the kind of budgets, stories or casting that they sometimes need for their project," Chopra said in the interview.

Benedict Cumberbatch seen ripped in 'Doctor Strange' set, says movie requires 'massive transformation'

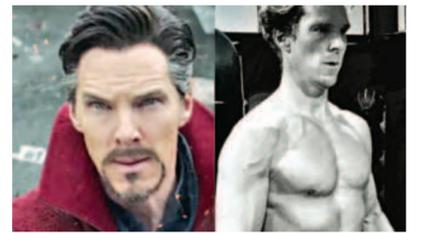
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Benedict Cumberbatch was seen flaunting his chiseled body in an allegedly leaked photo from the sets of Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness.

In an image shared by various fan pages on Twitter, fans can spot the Sherlock star shirtless displaying his abs and muscles.

"A leaked photo of Benedict Cumberbatch's behind the scenes trainings for Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness!" It shows Benedict shirtless curling dumbbells, showing off his bulked-up physique," the post read.

Earlier, Benedict admitted that his role in the Marvel movie requires massive physical transformation.



COUNTRYWIDE

2 held for raping 5th grader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police yesterday arrested two youths in connection with the gang-rape of a fifth-grader in Dimla upazila on Monday night.

OC of Dimla Police Station Sirazul Islam said they arrested Sujon Islam, 25, and Bulbul Badsha, 26, after victim's father filed a case.

According to the case statement, parents of the 11-year-old victim went to funeral of one of their relatives at a neighbouring village on Monday afternoon, leaving the girl alone at home.

Taking the opportunity, neighbouring youths Sujon and Bulbul entered the girl's room forcibly and gang-raped her before leaving the place.

After returning home, victim's parents found their daughter, also a Class V student, lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

Hearing cry for help, neighbours took her to Dimla Upazila Health Complex, from where she was shifted to Nilphamari General Hospital the same night.

Meanwhile, the arrestees were produced before a court yesterday noon that sent them to jail, rejecting their bail prayer, the OC said.

AL council held, defying govt directive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Amid the alarming rise in the number of Covid-19 cases, the triannual council of Bhangura upazila Awami League (AL) was held yesterday, defying the government directive on avoiding large gathering.

Although most of the guests and AL central committee leaders did not attend the programme, over 3,000 ruling party men were seen gathering at the Bhangura Union School premises, defying the health guidelines.

Lawmaker from Pabna-3 constituency Mohammad Mokbul Hossain took the initiative to hold the council as his son Golam Hasnayan Russel was the secretary candidate," secretary of now-dissolved committee Abdur Rahman said.

On January 8, the district unit AL organizing committee directed the party leaders to organize the council on January 18, Rahman said.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Lawmaker Mokbul Hossain over phone for his comment.

An epitome of success

A female entrepreneur in Pabna has achieved phenomenal success in handicraft, creating employment opportunities for underprivileged women

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

At one stage of life, she did not have money to pay the tuition fees for her college exams following marriage. She married against the will of her family which alienated her from the family in 2002. Her husband had a volatile career being a newly-appointed entry-level officer at a bank. When everything seemed to be going in the wrong direction, however, her tenacity and willpower to excel brought her to the place where she is today.

Shomana Sulatana Shathi, a successful entrepreneur of Pabna, now supplies embroidered dresses, cushion covers, window screens and other designed clothes to super shops including 'Aarong'. She has created work opportunities for underprivileged women.

After completing her Masters in Geology, she started her embroidery business in full swing.

Shathi, who hails from Patulipara village in Pabna's Vangura upazila, said she did not have enough money to pay tuition fees when she followed a few of her relatives who had been producing handmade products for Aarong.

"Since my early life, I had a creative bent of mind always trying to create something new. I designed two samples of clothes and took them to Aarong centre one day. They selected one of my designs and gave an order for 80 pieces of cushion covers and that was the beginning of the journey," she said.

Borrowing money from relatives and taking clothes and thread on credit from a shop, she delivered those in 20 days burning the midnight oil.

"The first payment inspired me to go ahead," she said.

"After the successful delivery of the first order, I got more orders and I had to take support from my relatives and neighbours who had no job," she said.

"Living in a small tin-shed room of Patulipara, I along with my husband started our embroidery business; half of the room was used as a factory. I single-handedly did everything including the

design," she added.

"As orders increased, I involved more women of my village and outside. My husband left his job to join my business and we both worked together and thus SR Handicraft was launched in 2008," she said.

"Within few years, my business expanded and we built a two-storey

country at present," she said.

"Over four hundred underprivileged village women from Vangura, Chatmohar and Sadar upazila in Pabna and Faridpur, Satkhira, Jashore and Chapainawabganj are working with me," she said.

After completing all necessary works, they supply products to Aarong,

Monwar Hossain Rana, husband of Shathi, said, "My wife was struggling alone so I left my job and joined hands with her. Now, we both are working together to make a difference."

Shathi epitomises success as an entrepreneur and in recognition of her work, she has received several awards including 'Joyeeta' award in Rajshahi



What began as a solo journey some two decades ago has now turned to be a successful endeavour involving more than 400 underprivileged women working under the guidance of Shomana Sulatana Shathi. The entrepreneur is seen guiding her employees in Pabna's Vangura upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

building in which we used to live on the first floor and the factory work ran in the ground floor," she further said.

"Now, I have shifted my factory to Pabna town where 25 to 30 employees are working while over 400 female workers are working remotely across the

one of the biggest shopping chains in Bangladesh while few unique products are being sold online, she added.

"Around 20 varieties of handicraft products are manufactured in SR Handicraft," Lipi Khatun, factory manager, said.

division and Bangabandhu Industrial award.

Vangura municipality Mayor Golam Hasnayan Russel said the journey of Shathi may be inspiring for other women who can make a difference in the society.



Yemenis inspect the damage following overnight air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition targeting the Huthi rebel-held capital Sanaa, yesterday. The alliance strikes, which killed at least 20 people including children, followed an attack claimed by the Iran-aligned Houthis on Monday on coalition partner the United Arab Emirates, in Abu Dhabi, in which three people were killed.

PHOTO: AFP

GLOBAL SURVEY ON PUBLIC TRUST

Autocracies outdo democracies

REUTERS

Public trust in governments running the world's democracies has fallen to new lows over their handling of the pandemic and amid a widespread sense of economic pessimism, a global survey has found.

The Edelman Trust Barometer, which for two decades has polled thousands of people on trust in their governments, media, business and NGOs, conversely showed rising scores in several autocratic states, notably China.

It also highlighted that business, thanks to its role developing vaccines and adapting workplace and retail practices, had retained strong levels of trust globally, albeit with reservations about its commitment to social fairness.

"We really have a collapse of trust in democracies," said Richard Edelman, whose Edelman communications group published

the survey of over 36,000 respondents in 28 countries interviewed between Nov. 1-24 of last year.

"It all goes back to: 'Do you have a sense of economic confidence?'" he added, noting high levels of concern about job losses linked either to the pandemic or automation.

The biggest losers of public trust over the last year were institutions in Germany, down 7 points to 46, Australia at 53 (-6), the Netherlands at 57 (-6), South Korea at 42 (-5) and the United States at 43 (-5). By contrast, public trust in institutions in China stood at 83%, up 11 points, 76% in United Arab Emirates (+9) and 66% in Thailand (+5).

The trillions of dollars of stimulus spent by the world's richest nations to support their economies through the pandemic have failed to instill a lasting sense of confidence, the survey suggested.

In Japan, only 15% of people

believed they and their families would be better off in five years' time, with most other democracies ranging around 20-40% on the same question.

But in China nearly two-thirds were optimistic about their economic fortunes and 80% of Indians believed they would be better off in five years.

Edelman said higher public trust levels in China were linked not just to economic perceptions but also to a greater sense of predictability about Chinese policy, not least on the pandemic.

"I think there is a coherence between what is done and what is said...They have handled Covid better than the US for example."

The results of the latest Edelman survey are in tune with its findings in recent years that charted rising disillusionment with capitalism, political leadership and the media.

Indonesia passes law to relocate capital

REUTERS, Jakarta

Indonesia's parliament has approved a bill to relocate the nation's capital from Jakarta to a jungled area of Kalimantan on Borneo island, the planning minister said yesterday.

The new state capital law, which provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious \$32 billion mega project, stipulates how development of the capital will be funded and governed.

"The new capital has a central function and is a symbol of the identity of the nation, as well as a new centre of economic gravity," planning minister, Suharso Monoarfa, told parliament after the bill was passed into law.

The new centre will be called "Nusantara", a Javanese name for the Indonesian archipelago chosen by the president, Monoarfa announced on Monday.

Plans to relocate the government from Jakarta, a bustling megacity of 10 million people that suffers from chronic congestion, floods and air pollution, have been floated by multiple presidents, but none have made it this far.

Southeast Asia's largest economy has envisioned the new capital as a low-carbon "super hub" that will support pharmaceutical, health and technology sectors and promote sustainable growth beyond Java island. But critics say the law was rushed through with limited public consultation and environmental consideration.

British PM 'lied to House about lockdown party'

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson lied to parliament when he claimed he did not know of his staff's plans to hold a drinks party on May 20, 2020 during lockdown, his former aide Dominic Cummings has said. Cummings made the claim on social media on Monday evening. He has repeatedly attacked his former boss since resigning as Johnson's former chief adviser in November 2020. Cummings said he himself warned the prime minister over the party, saying Downing Street was becoming a "madhouse", but Johnson "waved it aside". "The events of 20 May alone, never mind the string of other events, mean the PM lied to Parliament about parties," said Cummings. Deputy PM Dominic Raab denied the allegation.

Outcry as India shuts Kashmir Press Club

AFP, Srinagar

The Indian government has shut down the Kashmir Press Club, prompting an outcry from journalists, politicians and others who called the move further evidence of efforts to silence critical reporting in the disputed territory. The KPC was the only elected journalists' body in Kashmir. Authorities on Monday said that the association, created in 2019 after a lengthy struggle by local journalists, had "ceased to exist" as a registered body, accusing members of "illegalities on several counts". The Editor's Guild of India called the action an "armed takeover". The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said the aim of the shutdown was "to prevent journalists from doing their jobs", calling on authorities to stop the "repeated harassment of journalists" in Kashmir.



Breivik seeks parole

AFP, Oslo

Right-wing extremist Anders Behring Breivik made a Nazi salute and held up racist messages yesterday as he asked for parole, a request widely expected to be denied just 10 years after carrying out Norway's deadliest peacetime attack. Breivik, 42, appeared before the district court in the southern region of Telemark, convened for security reasons in the gymnasium of the Skien prison where he is incarcerated. In 2012 Breivik, who killed 77 people during the massacre, got 21 years in prison. He said he killed his victims because they embraced multiculturalism.

মুজিব শতবর্ষ ও স্বাধীনতার সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী উদযাপন উপলক্ষে দেশের ৭৫টি নৃত্যদলের অংশগ্রহণে মৌলিক নতুন নৃত্য পরিবেশনায়

জাতীয় নৃত্য উৎসব

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প্রতিদিন বিকাল ৪:০০টা
জাতীয় নাট্যশালা মিলনায়তন

অংশগ্রহণে:

- বেগুলা ললিতকলা কেন্দ্র
- মনিপুরি থিয়েটার
- অসীমা ভাস থিয়েটার
- সাধনা উপমহাদেশীয় সংস্কৃতি প্রসার কেন্দ্র
- আবনা
- নৃত্যমাম
- বাংলাদেশ ব্যালিট্রুপ
- কায়্যা আহাম
- নৃত্যশিল্পী
- নায়িম খান ডান্স কোম্পানী
- রিনম ড্যান্স গ্রুপ
- বহির্শিখা
- ইভানস ড্যান্সপারেশন
- নন্দন কলা কেন্দ্র
- অ্যালিমিয়া ফোয়াজ
- নৃত্যলোক সাংস্কৃতিক কেন্দ্র
- ধীনা ডান্স একাডেমি
- ধৃতি নর্তনালয়
- নৃত্যানন নৃত্যকলা
- নৃত্যগ্রাম
- একাডেমি ফর মনিপুরী কালচার এন্ড আর্টস
- কথক নৃত্য সম্প্রদায়
- পরম্পরা নৃত্যালয়
- স্বপ্নবিকাশ কলাকেন্দ্র
- বাংলাদেশ গৌড়ীয় নৃত্য একাডেমি
- নুপুর নিগুন ডান্স একাডেমি ঢাকা

- প্রদ্যলোক
- নর্তন
- মাস ফুল নদী
- দীক্ষা
- নৃত্যকথা
- কং নৃত্যালয়
- নৃত্যানন
- সঙ্ঘর সংগীত বিদ্যালয়
- নিত্যী
- প্রদ্যনী নৃত্যালয়
- নৃত্যাক
- নবরস
- স্পন্দন
- শিখর কালচারাল অর্গানাইজেশন
- চিকিত সাংস্কৃতিক একাডেমি
- সাধনা উপমহাদেশীয় সংস্কৃতি প্রসার কেন্দ্র
- কাথ্যাকিয়া-না সেন্টার অফ আর্টস
- রিনমোস
- জাগো আর্ট সেন্টার
- কালারস অফ হিল
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- জিনিয়া নিগুন একাডেমি
- বহর
- পরশমনি কলা কেন্দ্র
- নান্দনিক নৃত্য সংগঠন
- শৈলী শিল্পচর্চা নিকেতন

- পদ্মবী ডান্স সেন্টার
- নৃত্য নন্দন
- নৃত্যম ডান্স টিচিং সেন্টার
- সুটি কালচারাল সেন্টার
- ম্যাশ মাহাবুব কোরিওগ্রাফি টিম
- তুরসমী রেপোর্টারি ড্যান্স থিয়েটার
- সুকন্যা নৃত্যসঙ্গ
- বাংলাদেশ একাডেমি অফ ফাইন আর্টস
- প্রদ্যনী নৃত্যালয়
- ত্রিশূল
- তপস্যা
- নৃত্যবিহার
- ওডিসি অ্যান্ড টেম্পোর ডান্স মুভমেন্ট সেন্টার
- গ্রাপন একাডেমী
- একাডেমি অব ফাইন আর্টস ময়মনসিংহ
- বর্ণমালা একাডেমি
- নৃত্যজন
- স্বাত্তিক গুরুকুল নৃত্যস্থল
- সিমনমাই গ্রো ডান্স ট্রুপ
- অঙ্কর নৃত্য নিকেতন
- আমরা ক'জন শিল্পী গোষ্ঠী
- আরাধনা
- আর্টসিবি ও
- বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি নৃত্যদল

অনুষ্ঠানটি সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত। ● কোভিড-১৯ থেকে সুরক্ষার জন্য স্বাধিবিত্তি প্রতিপালনে আপনার সহযোগিতা প্রত্যাশা করছি।

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি
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Zila Parishad
Patuakhali
www.zpatuakhali.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.10.7800.000.14.01.21-22
Date: 18-01-2022

e-Tender Notice No. 03/2021-2022

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works in district of Patuakhali, as mentioned below:

SL No.	e-Tender ID No.	Last date & time for selling	Last date & time for closing	Procurement method	SL No.	e-Tender ID No.	Last date & time for selling	Last date & time for closing	Procurement method
1	646178	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM	09	646112	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	LTM
2	646158	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM	10	646053	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	LTM
3	646150	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	LTM	11	646052	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	LTM
4	646146	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM	12	646049	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	LTM
5	646130	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM	13	646048	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM
6	646128	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM	14	646046	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM
7	646122	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM	15	647323	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	LTM
8	646113	16-02-2022 16:00	17-02-2022 12:00	OTM					

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

The fees for downloading e-Tender documents of above Packages 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 helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Shahjahan
Assistant Engineer (In Charge)
On behalf of Procurement Entity
Zila Parishad, Patuakhali

GD-111

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Can we ever have a spotless election?

The EC should address concerns about the past of some NCC candidates

It was only yesterday that we congratulated the Election Commission for holding a fair and peaceful election in Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC)—a parting gift from a soon-to-retire commission otherwise bedevilled by controversies. However, it took all of 24 hours for this moment to be spoiled. According to a report by this daily, while mayor-elect Selina Hayat Ivy got a well-deserved win on Sunday, there were at least 13 councillors who contested and won the election despite having multiple cases filed against them, on charges ranging from murder and drugs to arms and explosives. Of them, eight were affiliated with the BNP and five with the Awami League.

True, many of these cases may have been politically motivated, but it doesn't take away from the fact that the Election Commission has failed to do its job of candidate screening properly. "Data related to these cases are an essential part of the candidates' personal information," as an expert told The Daily Star, "and it's the duty of the commission to inform the voters about this." The commission didn't even upload the candidates' basic information on its website, he added. What this essentially means is that it failed to uphold people's right to information, and thereby opened up the possibility for misinformed decisions. The question is: Why did the Election Commission allow it to happen?

This is especially unfortunate, because it may partly damage the credibility of an election the likes of which we haven't seen in a long time. Just imagine: no clashes were reported for about 18 days in the run-up to the polling day. There was no show of muscle power. Voters exercised their right without fear or intimidation. Even the two mayoral candidates exchanged pleasantries after the results were announced. When did we last see a peaceful campaign like this in the country? Now contrast this with the record of the last city corporation election held in January 2021, in Chattogram, where at least two people ended up dead. The whole campaign was marked by clashes. Even the five phases of the ongoing union parishad elections have been marked by heavy clashes and casualties. Unfortunately, such incidents as well as allegations of various electoral irregularities have been the hallmarks of the tenure of the current Election Commission, which expires in February.

But the NCC campaign gave us hope that while we cannot change the past, the future doesn't have to be weighed down by it. The legal ramifications of the latest revelation about NCC councillor candidates is unclear. But it leaves a message for the upcoming Election Commission that you can't be too careful while conducting an election in a political climate like ours. We urge the authorities to look into the merit of these allegations, and take measures accordingly.

Public transport cannot be held hostage

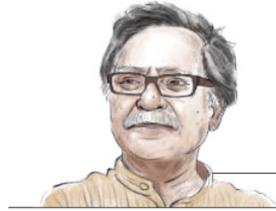
Govt needs to be more decisive and firm with the transport sector

It is hardly believable from the current state of affairs on our roads that we're going through a still raging pandemic. As the country witnesses yet another surge in Covid-19 cases, the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has informed us that the government retreated from its earlier decision to run public transport at half capacity. We cannot help but note the apparent disregard for public opinion and safety in the "ministry concerned" verbally telling the BRTA that buses can now run at full capacity, before informing the public—who would be most affected by this decision—about it. Although one official from the Dhaka Road Transport Owners' Association (DRTOA) refuted the allegation that the government made this move under pressure from transport associations, we find it hard to believe, especially given how it frequently bowed to lobbying from the transport sector in the past.

As this daily has reported, in the last 30 days, the government has made at least three decisions as per the demands of transport associations, mostly led by influential and politically connected people. Just last week, the authorities, under pressure from transport associations, waived fines for drivers who fail to renew their documents on time. Consider how the implementation of the Road Transport Act, 2018 has been delayed frequently, and how much it has been modified to suit the demands of transport owners and workers. The question is: Whom do the authorities serve—the public or the influential transport associations? An argument has been made by officials that there would have been a crisis of transport if buses operated at half capacity while all institutions remained fully open. If this is the case, we wonder why the government had not thought of this possibility before announcing its initial instruction to transport associations.

It is truly disconcerting to see the government bending so easily and frequently to demands made by transport organisations, with no regard for how it affects the public or what message it conveys to them. We urge the government to come up with coherent plans for public transport, keeping in mind the need to curb the surge of Covid-19 cases and to avoid another full lockdown. The goal must be to reduce the rising number of cases, while implementing a system of transportation that sits well with other regulations.

Free our universities of suppression and violence



Anu Muhammad is a professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

It is a matter of common sense that a university is supposed to create space and opportunities to generate knowledge, open up scopes for creative ideas and thinking, invite questions against the existing knowledge and system, and raise voices against injustice, discrimination and oppression. From this perspective, students and teachers walk the same path, where teachers have a greater responsibility to ensure a proper environment and create the space for students to become active thinkers. Teachers should be friends, philosophers and guides to their young students, and also be open to questions and differences of opinions.

Unfortunately, we are witnessing a completely different scenario in Bangladesh now, where critical thinking and voices raised against injustice and corruption are suppressed even at public universities. The recent incident of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) is a reflection of that.

This is how it started: female students of SUST were peacefully demanding solutions to some long-standing problems regarding daily meals and the environment of the halls. But the situation snowballed quickly as the residential hall authorities and university administration responded first with misbehaviour, then with threat, and then by unleashing ruling party activists and later police on the students.

A university administration is supposed to look after the well-being of its students. But in our universities, as far as the administration is concerned, they look at students through the lens of power. The vast majority of students are of little importance to the administration. But then there is a small section of students affiliated with the student wing of the ruling party, who terrorise the campus, forcibly occupy the residential halls or control the distribution of seats in the halls, and so on. This group is seen to be in close terms with the administration. The latter uses the former in various ways to protect their own interests, and as such, succumbs to all their demands.

University authorities are supposed to maintain close relations with all their students, and be responsive to all their problems. But it is unfortunate that when university students in Bangladesh voice legitimate issues or concerns that affect them, teachers and the university administrations either ignore them or react with annoyance or anger to their

plight. On the other hand, when it comes to the terror tactics employed by the ruling party activists, the administration is conspicuously silent. Rather, they hand over the control of the halls to the student wing of the ruling party and allow them to extort money from various construction projects and surrounding areas. This discrimination is rampant in all university campuses across this country. We saw this

talk to the students, who ensures that there is no terrorist or police attacks on the students. However, the main problem in our country is that the government wants the type of intuitional heads who will be loyal to them and implement all of their plans without question. Nowadays, the prerequisite for a VC is being able to surrender all of their self-esteem and being ready to work closely with corrupt,



▲ A university is a place where many different voices and opinions are supposed to be nurtured.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

If we are to believe that the SUST administration was not involved in the attack on the students, then they should take action against the perpetrators. However, no action has yet been taken against the attackers.

tragic situation take a horrible turn when we saw police suppression of student protests with the permission of or at the behest of the administration.

It is inconceivable that teachers can endorse violent attacks on their own students. It is possible that students might have problems with some of their teachers. But the role of a teacher is to listen to the students' grievances and engage with them in a constructive manner. Instead of doing that, they allowed students to be attacked—not just by the police, but also by the student activists of the ruling party.

If we are to believe that the SUST administration was not involved in the attack on the students, they should take action against the perpetrators. However, no action has yet been taken against the attackers. This proves that the attacks were directly or indirectly provoked by the administration. It can't be an acceptable norm for a university administration to unleash ruling party activists on students one day or police the next day.

We have seen university VCs in our country—the kind that we want to lead the highest institutions of education—who resigned from their post after state forces stormed into campus and attacked students. That's what the role of the VC should be. A VC is a teacher—they are not a member of the police or military. A VC is someone who should give the utmost importance to the students, who should

irresponsible and anti-people groups. Big construction projects have become the main area of interest for university administrations, ruling party bosses and their student leaders. The priorities of education and student interests are not on their agenda.

No university administration has taken any measures against criminals and the corrupt, or against violence committed by ruling party leaders. What they do is use the cadres for their own benefit, and if they face a difficult situation, they close down the university. Closing down the university is not the answer. Those who find solutions in doing so are not qualified to run university operations.

This problem exists all over Bangladesh. VCs and administrations are flexible towards the powers that be and rigid towards the student bodies. When students protest against injustice and corruption, they respond with anger and violence, with the help of political cadres and state forces. That cannot be the environment of a university where learning and free thinking is valued.

Universities should be run by putting knowledge-sharing and the interests of general students at the forefront. Therefore, teachers should be teachers first and last. The SUST authorities should reopen the university soon after meeting all the demands voiced by the students, and ensure an environment appropriate for higher learning.

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

Envisioning Governance 4.0



Klaus Schwab is founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), and co-author of "The Great Narrative: For a Better Future" (Forum Publishing, 2022).

KLAUS SCHWAB

In 2022, the Covid-19 pandemic and the myriad crises it spawned may finally start to recede. But even in that best-case scenario, a tsunami of new challenges—from the failure of climate action to the erosion of social cohesion—is within sight. When our institutions are well-governed, we pay little attention to them. They are simply invisible infrastructure supporting the economy and virtually all aspects of the social order.

Today, however, many people have lost faith in their leaders. Faced with mounting risks and our collective failure to address them, we have started looking for culprits. Some point the finger at inept political leaders, others blame "Davos Man" CEOs, and a desperate, growing minority sees an elite conspiracy behind the current gloom and doom. But at the heart of our failure to foresee and manage global risks lies an unresolved problem of global governance. We tend to view history as a series of big, earthquake-like events. But the degradation of global governance was mostly a case of gradual erosion.

In the Governance 1.0 period immediately after World War II, both public and corporate governance were marked by the rule of the "one man": the elected or unelected "strong leader." This

type of leadership worked well in a society where the cost of information was high, hierarchical power and management functioned relatively smoothly, and technological and economic advances benefited almost everyone.

The Governance 2.0 model, emerging at the end of the 1960s, affirmed the primacy of material wealth, and coincided with the rise of the economist Milton Friedman's "shareholder capitalism" and progressive global financialisation. The new managerial class, accountable only to shareholders, reigned supreme and had global reach. And while the 2008 global financial crisis dealt Governance 2.0 a serious blow, its narrow vision continued to prevail until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The brutal social and economic shock inflicted by Covid-19 ushered in Governance 3.0. Crisis management currently dominates decision-making, with leaders focusing on operational thinking and showing relative disregard for possible unintended consequences. This short-term, trial-and-error approach has led to haphazard management of the pandemic and its socioeconomic fallout. But when the pandemic ends, we will need a new governance model. Governance 4.0 would differ from its predecessors in several fundamental respects.

First, it would replace today's short-term crisis management with long-term strategic thinking. A focus on current problems must be complemented with action to tackle climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and address related social challenges such as involuntary migration. Second, Governance 4.0 must replace the tunnel vision and top-down approach that prevailed in the past. We live in a complex and interconnected world.

The roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in society must change. Businesses can no longer ignore their social and environmental impacts, while governments can no longer act as if they alone have all the answers.

Third, the current emphasis on a narrow conception of economics and short-term financial interests must cease. Instead, the primacy of society and nature must be at the core of any new governance system. Finance and business are important. But they must serve society and nature, not the other way around.

Many leaders remain stuck in the shareholder capitalism mentality of Governance 2.0, while some societies still favour the strongman structure of Governance 1.0. And as long as Covid-19 remains a threat, the crisis mentality of Governance 3.0 will continue to dominate boardroom and cabinet discussions. But many leaders are already thinking and acting like pioneers for a new age of governance. They include business executives advocating for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics. Above all, young people are demanding a better future.

Instead of criticising such leaders for not "staying in their lane," we should welcome them for acting outside of their narrow interests. The best gauges of responsible and responsive governance today measure the extent to which leaders embrace and consent to stakeholder responsibility over shareholder responsibility.

The 21st century will bring many unprecedented challenges. If we want our successors to look back at the progress we made with the same satisfaction that we felt at the end of the 20th century, our governance model must evolve.

Businesses can no longer ignore their social and environmental impacts, while governments can no longer act as if they alone have all the answers.

We must nurture a pluralistic culture



A CLOSER LOOK

TASNEEM TAYEB

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem_tayeb

ON January 12, 2022, the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University should have been swaying to the soulful melodies of Qawwali. All preparations had been made for a concert, and approvals taken from relevant authorities. The university students' Qawwali band, "Silsila," along with prominent Qawwali and folk artistes Nadim Ehtesham Reza Khan and Sheikh Fahim Faisal, were supposed to perform at the concert. But it was not to be—in the evening, a group of miscreants swooped on the venue and ransacked it, injuring the organisers, guests, and a journalist in the process.

This unfortunate incident has, once again, brought to the fore the debate over Bangladesh's growing problem of suppression of diversity and the shrinking spaces for liberal thoughts. Since the attack, the social media has been flooded with speculations regarding what triggered it. Some tried to paint it through an extremist lens. Some questioned the place of Sufi culture in our society. Some went on to suggest that it had been organised to revive the usage of Urdu as a major language, alluding to the 1952 Language Movement to highlight the stark contrast. Some pointed to the growing intolerance towards minority voices and diversity in the country, which could have triggered this incident as well. All of these aspects need to be thoroughly scrutinised during the investigation into the incident.

There is no denying the presence of extremist groups in the country, who cultivate support to grow their ranks by either appealing to our religious sentiments against the so-called un-Islamic practices, or at times—as seen recently—by evoking our Bengali nationalism, trying to "other" diverse groups. Those who pointed to the so-called incongruity of Sufi practices within the fabric of our Muslim-majority society to justify the attack on the Qawwali

concert, are either ignorant or in denial of the wealth of diversity that underpins our cultural identity.

And those who, evoking nationalist thoughts, suggested that Qawwali should not be performed in our country should not overlook the intertwining ideologies of Sufi mysticism and Lalon's teachings. Many of the core values of Sufism coincide with Lalon's philosophy, one that advocates love for the divine, purification of the soul, and harmonious and peaceful coexistence of individuals, irrespective of their caste, creed or religion. For us Bengalis, Baul songs mean far more than just words laced with soulful music. The philosophies and messages these songs carry form an integral part of our Bengali nationalism that promotes communal harmony and adds to our diverse character as a nation. And we take immense pride in the pluralistic, secular mosaic of the social fabric we have inherited.

And the groups that tried to justify the attacks, suggesting a Qawwali concert could restore Urdu as a major language, are not presenting a rational argument, because one concert cannot change the cultural heritage of a nation. The historical dislike of many for anything that is related to our past oppressor or their culture is understandable—after all, memories of the genocide are still vivid in our collective memory. However, discouraging a cultural practice—that, too, so violently—is simply not acceptable.

Qawwali, once a very popular artistic expression in the sub-continent, has seen a decline in interest in Bangladesh since the country's independence, as many did not patronise it because of the language. On the other hand, many conservative Islamists have cornered the Qawwali artistes for their Sufi practices, which they term "un-Islamic." Despite there being Qawwalis written in Bangla, this is an art form we are on the verge of losing.

However, this is not how it should be. After 50 years of independence, Bangladesh is a shining example of inclusive progress, where the nation and its people have fought and overcome myriad challenges with their unity and innate resilience to become one of the fastest growing economies in the world. One of the drivers of this growth has been our secular character.

As we graduate from the Least



A view of a damaged stage at Dhaka University's TSC area where a Qawwali programme was scheduled to take place on January 12, 2022.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Development Country (LDC) status, it is time for us now to open up to the world further. Confident as we are with inclusive growth and achievements, we must learn to embrace different cultures, which will only broaden our horizon and give us new perspectives. We can learn Chinese, French, Russian, Arabic and any other language we want in order to be better able to learn their cultures, and this is especially important in this age of global value chains, given our growth aspirations.

And as we aspire to grow as a regional powerhouse—not just in economic terms, but to flourish as a centre for culture and learning—we should also learn Persian, Urdu, Hindi and Sinhala, among other languages, for effective cultural exchanges.

Bangladesh is known and respected around the world for its secular, inclusive and syncretic nature, where people from all religions, races and ethnic backgrounds coexist in harmony—where cultural diversity forms an essential part of our social fabric. Ours is a nation born without a silver spoon, yet over 50 years, we have matured into a shining beacon of inclusive progress, outstripping our more privileged peers in the process. All and sundry has cited our incredible resilience as the key ingredient of this journey.

Our pluralistic, polyphonic society lies at the heart of this resilience. By making our tolerance threshold vulnerable, we risk not just undoing decades of our progress, but subverting a value that makes us who we are.

Tackling the climate crisis needs daily actions



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SALEEMUL HUQ

Dr Saleemul Huq is the director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

WE are living in the era of impacts by human-induced climate change, which requires actions by everyone on the planet every single day if we are going to reach the goals set to tackle the climate crisis by 2030. We have no time to lose; every single day counts. This means that we can no longer leave things to our leaders and the annual climate summits by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), although they remain important points in time for global stocktaking of our overall progress.

Let's look at some key actors at both global and national levels. The first topic of importance remains the issue of keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, which we are yet to achieve. Efforts need to be redoubled by everyone concerned—from investors who need to switch to renewable energy sources from fossil fuel companies, to consumers who should opt for using better products, such as electric vehicles. Each of us can do our bit to shift the trajectory towards keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees.

One important element in this goal will be challenging fossil fuel companies who have quite clearly demonstrated their unwillingness to change, and indeed are doing their best to prevent change. They must be fought, and the companies who are developing renewable energy need to be supported.

Other companies also have a key role to play by aligning themselves with the Race to Zero global campaign to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and actually delivering their promises once they join in.

The second issue is tackling the climate impacts that are unfortunately a reality now, as we have already entered the era of loss and damage from human-induced climate change. So, we need to deal with adaptation and loss and damage at the same time. The Race to Resilience campaign is focused on this issue, and every organisation and group can join it. This will need actions by individuals,

households, communities, towns, cities, and countries that are the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as by all the other actors who support those communities to adapt before climate change impacts occur and deal with the loss and damage once those impacts actually take effect.

By now, every government is well aware of the need to invest in climate adaptation and are developing national adaptation plans (NAPs), but actual implementation of those plans is still a long way ahead. The main actors here are, of course, the national governments, but local governments as well as the private sector, scientific research institutions, NGOs and civil societies are also vital to enable the most vulnerable to be better prepared for

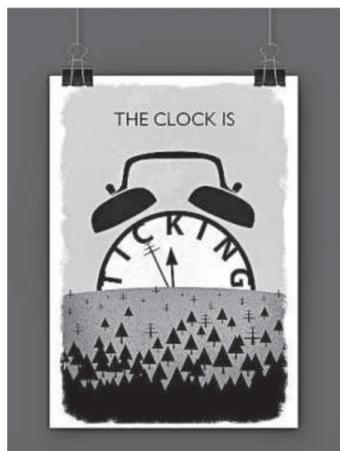


ILLUSTRATION: COLLECTED

climate impacts.

A particularly important group in both mitigation and adaptation are the youth in each country, who have an important role to play not just at the local level, but also at the global level.

In the context of Bangladesh, the issue of tackling climate change has been well understood and given due importance in national planning, with the latest being the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCP), which now needs to have a whole-of-society approach to its implementation.

In conclusion, the global climate emergency now needs to be taken seriously by every citizen of Planet Earth. Actions need to be taken every single day if we want to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

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উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
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তারিখঃ ১৭/০১/২০২২

খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এবং সংশোধিত পিপিএ ২০০৯ এবং সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত পিপিআর ২০১৯ এর আলোকে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য এম এস আর সামগ্রী (মেডিকেল এন্ড সার্জিক্যাল রিকুইজিটস) ক্রয়/সংগ্রহের নিমিত্তে এম এস আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবরে সীলগালাকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিভিশন	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়/স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ।	
২	সংগ্রাহক সংস্থার নাম ও মোবাইল নং	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার- ০১৭১৬-৭১০১২৭।	
৩	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।	
৪	আহ্বানকৃত কাজের ধরণ	এম এস আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহ।	
৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য নিয়মিত সরবরাহ কার্যক্রম।	
৬	বরাদ্দের উৎস	রাজস্ব বাজেট (জিওবি)।	
৭	মোট গ্রুপ	৬টি, এম এস আর-গ্রুপ-ক ওষধ (ইডিসিএল বহির্ভূত), গ্রুপ-খ (যন্ত্রপাতি), গ্রুপ-গ (লিলেন সামগ্রী), গ্রুপ-ঘ-(পজ-ব্যাডেজ-তুলা), গ্রুপ-ঙ (এস-রে সামগ্রী, কেমিক্যাল ও রিয়েজেন্ট), গ্রুপ-চ (আসবাবপত্র ও ক্লিনেন সামগ্রী)।	
৮	দরদাতা যোগাধানদার/সরবরাহকারী যোগ্যতা	চলতি অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, চেম্বার অব কমার্স/সরকার অনুমোদিত ব্যবসায় সমিতির সদস্য সনদপত্র, নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র, আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা ও যোগ্যতা (শর্তাবলীর বিবরণ মোতাবেক)।	
৯	দরপত্রের মূল্য চালানোর মাধ্যমে জমাদানের কোড নং-	চালানোর মাধ্যমে কোড নং ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার শাখা/সরকারি কোষাগারে জমাদানপূর্বক চালানোর মূলকপি ও অনলাইন ডেরিফিকেশন কপি আবেদনপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করে দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।	
১০	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির তারিখ	১৭/০১/২০২২ইং।	
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর ক্যাশ শাখা।	
১২	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	প্রতিকার প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে ০৯/০২/২০২২ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার।	
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।	
১৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১০/০২/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১৫	দরপত্র বাত্র খোলার স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার।	
১৬	দরপত্র বাত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১০/০২/২০২২ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।	
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট ২০০৮ এবং সংশোধিত পিপিএ ২০০৯ এবং সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত পিপিআর ২০১৯ এর শর্তাবলী এবং সংগ্রাহক সত্ত্বা কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্তাবলীর আলোকে দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন ও গ্রহণ করা হইবে। খ) বর্ণিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি শর্তাবলী হিসাবে গণ্য হইবে। গ) দরপত্রের কোন সংশোধনী অত্র দস্তুরের নোটিশ বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে জানানো হইবে।	

কাজের বিবরণ, সিডিউলের মূল্য ও দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণঃ

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ
১	গ্রুপ-ক- ওষধপত্র (ইডিসিএল বহির্ভূত)	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-
২	গ্রুপ-খ- যন্ত্রপাতি	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-
৩	গ্রুপ-গ- লিলেন সামগ্রী	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-
৪	গ্রুপ-ঘ- পজ, ব্যাডেজ, তুলা	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-
৫	গ্রুপ-ঙ- এস-রে সামগ্রী, ক্যামিকেল ও রিয়েজেন্ট	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-
৬	গ্রুপ-চ- আসবাবপত্র ও ক্লিনেন সামগ্রী	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-

১। 'স' প্রকিউরমেন্ট প্যাতে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করিতে হইবে।
২। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় বর্ণিত সকল সনদের মূলকপি অবশ্যই সঙ্গে আনিতে হইবে।
৩। দরপত্রের সহিত শর্তাবলীর সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্রাদির ছায়ািলিপি প্রথম শ্রেণীর পেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হইতে হইবে এবং সত্যায়নকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম যুক্ত সীল থাকিতে হইবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্রাদি ও নিয়মাবলী পালনে ব্যর্থ হইলে উক্ত দরপত্র বাছাইকালে অসম্পূর্ণ/বাস্তব বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
৪। উপরোক্ত দরপত্রের জামানতের টাকা উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, উখিয়া শাখার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সরবরাহ করা হইবে। দরপত্রের বিষয় যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর কাশিয়ায়/হিসাব শাখায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

ডাঃ রজনয় বড়ুয়া রাজন
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা
উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার

জিডি-১১০



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

OUTER STADIUM

All business, no play

Once home to prodigal sports talents, the stadium is now being used for anything but sports.

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Imagine a ground that helped create the prodigies of the country's cricket – names like Akram Khan, Minhajul Abedin Nannu, Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed and others associated with it – remaining occupied in any and every activity other than sports for most of the year.

Such is the situation with Chattogram Outer Stadium. Located in the city's Kazir Dewri area, adjacent to MA Aziz Stadium, this ground was once home to the best talents of the country, but now remains

exposition and other programmes, are held at the outer stadium regularly. This phenomenon has stopped organisers from holding games, training and tournaments at the venue.

Local coaches say star youth tournament, star summer tournament, various club-based and age-based tournaments had been organised on this ground regularly before 2005.

"The outer Stadium was basically like our in-house playground. Akram Bhai (Akram Khan), Nannu Bhai (Minhajul Abedin Nannu), Nobel (Nurul Abedin Nobel) Bhai

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) constructed a swimming complex occupying about half of the four acres of land of the Outer Stadium in 2017.

Later, an open stage and several shops were constructed, shrinking the open space. The rest are mostly reserved throughout the year for the fairs, events and expositions.

Local sports organisers also complained that even if the ground is free, there is absolutely no environment for playing, as the entire field remains accumulated with water.

"We can't make the field suitable for sports again even if we spend on renovation," said AJM Nasir Uddin, general secretary of CJKS.

"Muktijuddho Bijay Mela has been held in this field throughout December, but the fair setup has not been removed yet. Preparations go on for about a month before any fair, keeping the field occupied for three months for a month-long event," said Nasir, also general secretary of Chattogram Metropolitan Awami League and former city mayor of the port city.

However, when asked why the fair was allowed to be held on the ground in the first place, he said the stadium has been hosting the fair every December for years.

"It has almost become a customary affair," he added.

Hafizur Rahman, sports organiser and vice-chairperson of the Chattogram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS), said, "We have failed to make policymakers realise the importance of such establishments."

"A separate place has to be fixed for the fairs, and prohibitions should be imposed on holding any fair or event on the field," he said.



occupied with fairs, expositions and programmes throughout the year.

Sports organisers believe that decreasing playgrounds in the port city over the last two decades is one of the main reasons behind the crisis of new talents to represent Chattogram when it comes to sports.

Several fairs, including Bijoy Mela, textile fair, Baishakhi Mela, Sabuj Mela, motor

used to play and regularly practice in this field," Aftab Ahmed, former national team cricketer and founder of Aftab Academy, told this correspondent.

"Prior to joining the national team Nafiz (Nafiz Iqbal), Tamim, I and many others used to play in this field almost every now and then. At present the field is not open for sports," he said.

SHORTAGE OF FOOTBRIDGE

Risk at every step

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Most intersections on the streets of Chattogram do not have any footbridge. Hence, pedestrians at these intersections are compelled to cross the roads, putting their lives at risk.

Accidents have become a more frequent phenomenon in these different areas of the port city. Pedestrian Fulchan Miah (54), was killed by a truck while he was crossing the road at Tulatoli intersection on December 16 last year.

Earlier on December 11, Abdul Quddus (45) was killed after being hit by a four-wheeler leguna while crossing the road in front of Baby Super Market at Sholashahar.

On September 21, Md Masiuddaulah (50) was killed by an unidentified vehicle while crossing the road at Halishahar Port Connecting Road.

The city currently has 12 footbridges at New Market, Chattogram Railway Station Road, Dampara, Port Connecting Road, CEPZ Intersection, Colonel Hat, Fakirhat, Muradpur, Chattogram Customs House Intersection, Port Officers Colony and Navy Hospital Gate areas.

According to the residents, foot over-bridges are required at a minimum of 18 intersections and 22 areas of the port city, including Chawk Bazar, Nawab Sirajuddaula Road at Chawkbazar point, Kotwali, Bahaddarhat, Sholashahar Gate-2, Wasa, Lalkhan Bazar, Dewanhat, Chowmuhuni, Agrabad Badamtoli, Oxygen, Anderkilla, Laldighi, AK Khan, Alankar, GEC, Tulatoli and Kazir Dewri intersections.

On Sunday, Tamanna Khanam, a West Bakalia resident, was seen to be waiting with her six-year-old daughter at Chawkbazar point on Nawab Sirajuddaula Road. She told this correspondent that she had been waiting for around 10 minutes to cross the road.

"The moment I try to



cross the road, a vehicle appears and I can't go to the other side," she said.

"We could have crossed the road safely and with ease with a foot over-bridge here."

There were many others like Tamanna. Some were also seen to be running to cross the road quickly and taking a risky endeavour.

Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) started to build two foot-over bridges in GEC intersections in 2019. However, the project was not completed.

Contacted, CDA chief engineer Hasan Bin Shams said they constructed a foot-over bridge in Muradpur Intersection, but the GEC project was halted as the city corporation has taken an initiative in this regard.

According to sources, Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) recently conducted a survey in different areas along with a feasibility study of constructing foot over-bridge in those different areas. Around 93.4 percent of people were found to prefer foot overbridge. CCC has taken an initiative to construct 38 foot-over bridges at 31 intersections in the city after the survey.

"The LGRD ministry has approved the project worth Tk 58 crore," said Rafiqul Islam, CCC chief engineer. "We will call for tender for the construction by March," he added.

Hathazari's own winter treat

The popular sweet is in such high demand that one may even find themselves waiting in a queue for 10-15 minutes before getting the chance to buy one.

NAIMUR RAHMAN

Everyone knows of "jilapis", but a "chaler jilapi"? Perhaps not many have heard of it, and for good reason.

Its claim to fame is not something you can find on Google, but this specific type of jilapi is noted for its unique recipe and taste. While in Chattogram's Hathazari, you cannot miss the taste of this mouthwatering, authentic jilapi, made of rice powder.

According to locals, the jilapi was first invented by a local vendor from Sarkarhat, an area from North Chattogram. Later, the recipe spread to nearby areas.

The sweet fragrance that pervades the air in neighbourhoods where a vendor makes this jilapi cannot be missed.

The shops that sell these winter delicacies aren't very fancy or well-decorated. They're mostly quite small. But during the season, their premises cannot contain the crowd.

Some vendors from Sarkarhat start preparing the jilapi in the morning, but they're



usually sold from the afternoon till 11:00pm. The popular sweet is in such high demand that one may even find themselves waiting in a queue for 10-15 minutes before getting the chance to buy one.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT CHALER JILAPI?

The jilapi is made out of rice powder and molasses. The powder is first mixed with hot water, with the paste then placed inside a

piece of cloth with a small opening. The paste is poured on to the boiling oil and fried until it turns reddish. Over this, a syrup made of molasses is then poured.

But this is how all jilapis are made. According to locals, what makes the chaler jilapi so special lies in the hands of its artisans from Hathazari.

Each jilapi can weight up to a kg or even more, but they're also made in small chunks for those who want to try it before purchasing a large amount. The big jilapi go for Tk 150 per kg.

Sabbir Khan, a seasonal fruit vendor, has been selling this jilapi in winter for the past 20 years. "I learned it from my father about 20 years ago. It's only suitable for winter because the batter stays good for a long time," he told this correspondent.

Bengali sweets, apart from their delicious flavours, also come with history. If you're looking for a special treat that encapsulates the history of North Chattogram, the chaler jilapi is a must-try.

Real legend Gento no more

AFP, Madrid

Paco Gento, the only footballer to win six European Cups, has died aged 88, his former club Real Madrid announced on Tuesday.

Gento's club record of 23 trophies, which stood for over 50 years, was equalled on Sunday by Real captain Marcelo when he came on as a substitute in the Super Cup victory.

Gento scored 182 goals in 600 matches, also accruing among his trophies 12 league titles and two Spanish Cups from 1953-1971.

"Real Madrid C. F., the club's president and the Board of Directors are deeply saddened by the death of Francisco Gento, honorary president of Real Madrid and one of the greatest legends of our club and of world football," read Real's statement on their website.

"Paco Gento is the only player in the history of football to have won the European Cup 6 times.

"He will always be remembered by madridistas and all football fans as one of their greatest."

Gento played on the left wing in a formidable attacking line-up with some of the greatest names of the era, including Alfredo di Stefano, Raymond Kopa and Ferenc Puskas.

They won five successive European Cups from 1956 to 1960 with Gento surviving a cull of that generation by former teammate-turned-manager Miguel Munoz and going on to lift the trophy for a sixth time in 1966.



Comilla Victorians' star batsman Faf du Plessis warms up at the BCB Academy Ground yesterday as foreign stars started to join their respective BPL franchises. (Bottom) Mashrafe Bin Mortaza bowls to Minister Dhaka teammate Tamim Iqbal at the nets.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mirpur abuzz with stars

SPORTS REPORTER

With the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) slated to begin in two days' time, the Academy Ground adjacent to Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium was buzzing with activities as the franchises continued their scheduled practice sessions.

The teams were getting their players acclimatised with the setup, with international stars such as Faf du Plessis, set to feature in his first-ever BPL stint, joining Comilla Victorians practice session yesterday while established stars such as Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza continued their grind ahead of the start of the tournament on January 21.

However, the month-long tournament will be a huge challenge due to growing concerns over Omicron variant of coronavirus. There were already suggestions that there could be more cases in the coming days.

"We started the mandatory Covid-19 tests of the players and support staff of the BPL teams yesterday and so far, we have got a few positive cases," BCB chief physician Debashish Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

With all the six franchises undergoing their practice sessions in the same ground, albeit in different times of the day, it remains to be seen how the



managed bio-secure environment can keep the tournament running smoothly.

In the morning session, Mashrafe, who had a bout with back injuries, pulled a muscle during while bowling with a longer run-up. The former ODI captain may well miss the opening fixture of his side against Khulna Tigers but the arrival of international stars such as Andre Russell, Oshane Thomas and Isuru Udana

should soften some of the blow.

Du Plessis joining Comilla's practice session was the pick of the international attraction and the South African batted at the nets with gusto, the sound of his bat hinting at the incoming demolition.

Later, Du Plessis was seen having a long chat with coach Mohammad Salahuddin and veteran Imrul Kayes. Former Bangladesh head coach Steve Rhodes, who will be working as the team's advisor, was happy to be back and working with Salahuddin.

"Salahuddin, as you all know, has been a very successful coach and not just in the BPL, but also in bringing along some tremendous cricketers. He is the head coach I'm here to assist, to help, not just the players, but the coaches as well. Hoping I can share my experience and my knowledge of cricket. I got on really well with Salahuddin. I think it's going to work very, very well. It's important that players know the head coach is Salahuddin," Rhodes said.

He was, however, keen to not shy away from controversy relating to his departure as head coach following 2019 World Cup.

"After departure from certain jobs or posts, people have opinions but I don't really want to get too involved with that. All I can say is how pleased I am to be back among people of Bangladesh," Rhodes dictated at the end of Cumilla's session yesterday.

Deposed captains in focus as SA meet India in ODIs

AFP, Paarl

Two deposed captains, Virat Kohli and Quinton de Kock, could play significant roles in a three-match one-day international series between South Africa and India, starting at Boland Park in Paarl on Wednesday.

Both former skippers have the potential to be the leading batters for their respective sides.

For Kohli, it will be the first ODI series since Rohit Sharma was named captain by the Indian selectors in December.

Even though Sharma had to withdraw from the series in South Africa because of injury, the captaincy was not returned to Kohli but was passed to KL Rahul.

Kohli, who captained India in 95 ODIs with a 65.27 win-loss ratio, made it clear after India's Test series defeat last week that he could speak about the coming one-day games purely "from a player's point of view".

Kohli, who subsequently stepped down from the Test captaincy, said: "You are obviously very driven and motivated to perform in any match you play for India. As an individual I can definitely say that I am looking forward to the ODI series and I am driven to perform in those ODI games."

De Kock was made South Africa's long-term white-ball captain in February 2020 and was made Test captain for four matches last season. But he did not seem comfortable in the role and a decision was made last March to put Temba Bavuma in charge of the white-ball teams, with Dean Elgar taking over as Test captain.

De Kock, who was already due to miss the last two Tests against India on paternity leave, announced after the first Test last month that he was retiring from Test cricket, although he remained available for limited-overs games.

The series marks De Kock's return to action for the first time since becoming the father of a baby daughter. He fell to two indifferent shots in his final Test match and South Africa will be hoping for a return to the free-flowing, motivated batsman who hit three centuries in successive matches against India eight seasons ago.

The series is not part of the International Cricket Council's World Cup Super League but South Africa in particular will be keen to record their first one-day series win since beating Australia 3-0 in March 2020 before cricket was effectively shut down by the coronavirus pandemic. Since then, series against India and England have been aborted because of the virus, they have lost against Pakistan and Sri Lanka and have had to share the honours against Ireland and the Netherlands.



Two Bangladesh batters bump fists during their Commonwealth Games Women's Cricket Competition Qualifiers match against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The Nigar Sultana-led side made a fine start to the campaign, beating the hosts by eight wickets.

PHOTO: ICC

Bashundhara Complex to host Kings' matches

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Sports Complex and Rajshahi are the two fresh venues for the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), set to begin from February 3 and played in a total of seven venues across the country.

Aside from these two latest entrants, BPL had seen 15 more venues used in its previous 13 editions.

However, it is the first time in Bangladesh that a professional football club – Bashundhara Kings – will be hosting all of their league matches at their own venue. Sheikh Russel KC have also expressed their desire to use the same complex as their home venue.

Due to the unavailability of the Bangabandhu National Stadium, the Dhaka-based clubs have been forced to make their home venues outside the capital.

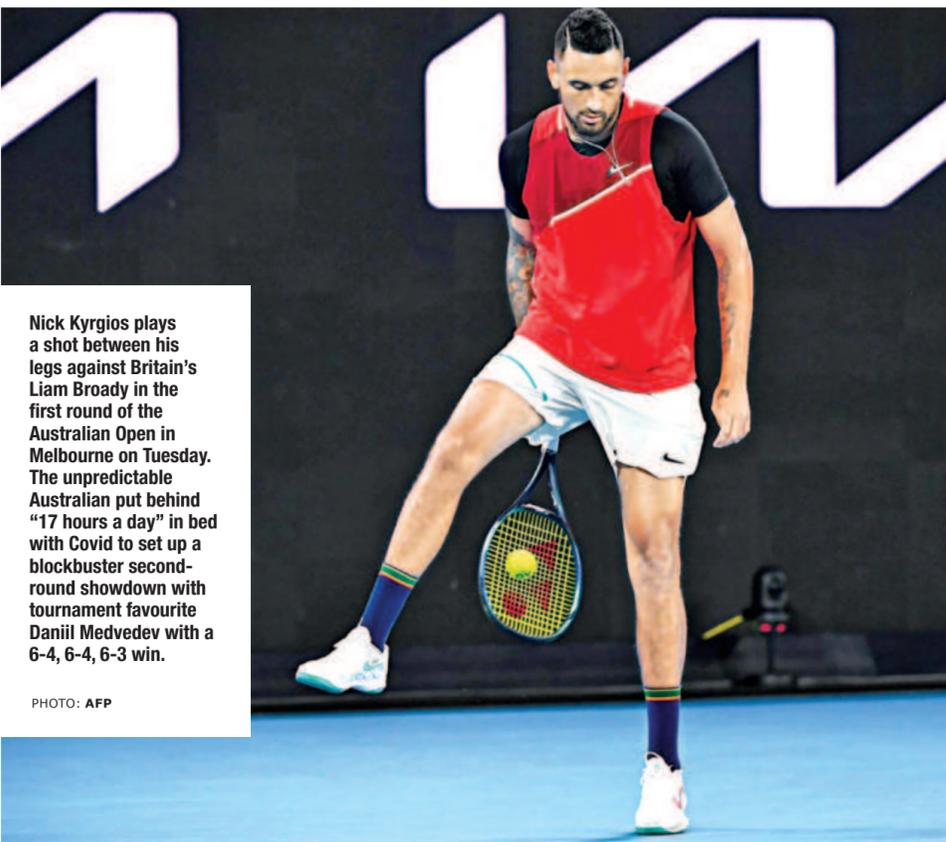
"A technical committee has looked into the Bashundhara Sports Complex's matters such as the measurement of the ground, distance between gallery and the ground, dressing rooms, media box, galleries and parking. The complex will be ready by January 25. So, we have selected it as one of the premier venues for the league," BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Mursheedy said after a league committee meeting yesterday.

"Rajshahi stadium just completed a sporting event [cricket] but we think it has yet to fulfil some requirements such as proper equipment for watering the ground in dry season, painting and other small works to uplift the venue which also has the floodlight facility," said Mursheedy, adding that renovation or final works at five other venues have been going on and to be made ready, except for the Cumilla Stadium, before the start of the league.

Bangladesh Police have made the Rajshahi Stadium as their home venue.

Apart from these two venues, the five other venues are: Sylhet (home venue for Abahani), Cumilla Stadium (home venue for Mohammedan and Chattogram Abahani), Munshiganj Stadium (home venue for Sheikh Jamal and Sail), Gopalganj Stadium (home venue for Muktijoddha Sangsad) and Tongi Stadium (home venue for Rahmatganj and Swadhinata).

The home venue of Uttar Baridhara Club has not been decided yet.



Nick Kyrgios plays a shot between his legs against Britain's Liam Broady in the first round of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Tuesday. The unpredictable Australian put behind "17 hours a day" in bed with Covid to set up a blockbuster second-round showdown with tournament favourite Daniil Medvedev with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 win.

PHOTO: AFP

From sick-bed to second round

REUTERS, Melbourne

Nick Kyrgios promised COVID-weary fans a show after recovering from his own infection and duly delivered on Tuesday with a twener laden 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 win over Briton Liam Broady on Tuesday to reach the Australian Open second round.

Sealing the win with a furious backhand return down the line, Kyrgios dropped an "F-bomb" in his televised on-court interview and performed Cristiano Ronaldo's trademark post-goal celebration.

On his way out of the arena, he took a swig of beer from a cup offered by a fan. COVID-19 be damned.

"I served ... well today," said Kyrgios with an obscenity as fans roared in agreement. I don't know what I have done to this crowd as you guys are a zoo now. I am super happy to be here again."

CAP 10 OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

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SHAH CEMENT



With only gamchhas wrapped around their heads, workers polishing brass items at a small workshop in the capital's Jatrabari. Safety gear to protect workers from health hazards or accidents are rarely provided by the workshop authorities. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Resist any syndicate

Group of recruiting agencies writes to PM over labour recruitment to Malaysia

PORIMOL PALMA

A group of recruitment agencies urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to prevent the formation of any syndicate for labour recruitment in Malaysia.

Syndication will lead to a reappearance of the large-scale money-laundering and human trafficking seen in 2016-18, said the Shommitto Somonnoy Front (SSF) of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies in a letter to the PM.

A syndicate would result in monopoly of recruitment and the victimisation of hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi youths, it added. The PMO received the letter on January 13.

Signed by SSF President Mohammad Farooq, Secretary General Mostafa Mahmud and Senior Vice-president Riaz-Ul-Islam, the letter was also copied to Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad, the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on expatriates' welfare ministry and the secretary of the ministry.

It referred to the situation of 2016-18 when a syndicate of only 10 agencies, chosen by Malaysia against an offering of over 700 agents, monopolised recruitment.

“If there is again a syndicate of agents for labour recruitment to Malaysia, our migrant workers will once more fall victim to labour exploitation. Also, corruption will spread, human trafficking will increase and the overall potential of the sector will be affected. Our dignity abroad will also be hampered.”

Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labour recruitment between Bangladesh and Malaysia on December 19, 2020, a total of 25 Bangladeshi recruiting agencies are now reportedly trying to monopolise recruitment.

The MoU brought an end to the Malaysian government's freeze on labour recruitment from Bangladesh since September 1, 2018, when it said malpractices in labour recruitment led to forced labour and debt bondage.

Minister Imran Ahmad denied the existence of any syndicate.

However, according to the recently leaked standard operating procedure under discussion between the two countries, Bangladeshi workers will be recruited by 25 main agencies which will be supported by 250 sub-agents.

In the letter, the SSF said the main barrier of labour recruitment to Malaysia is a vested quarter that is creating a syndicate to monopolise the sector.

During 2016-18, only 2.74 lakh workers were recruited from Bangladesh despite the Malaysian government declaring a requirement of 15 lakh over the next three years, the letter said.

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ACTOR SHIMU KILLING

Husband confesses, placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slain actor Raima Islam Shimu's husband dumped her body in Keraniganj near midnight on Sunday and then went straight to Kalabagan Police Station in the capital to report that his wife had gone missing.

Khandaker Shakhawat Alim Nobel and his friend Farhad were each placed on a three-day remand by a Dhaka court yesterday after Nobel admitted to police that he strangled his wife to death on Saturday night in their flat on Green Road, Shahabuddin Kabir, additional superintendent of police (Keraniganj), told The Daily Star.

Their 15-year-old daughter and seven-year-old son were sleeping in the next room during the murder.

Nobel then contacted Farhad and the duo planned to dump the body at a quiet place, Kabir said.

On Sunday morning, Nobel and Farhad sewed two sacks together and put Shimu's body in it. They then drove around Mirpur, Rupnagar and Ashulia areas with the body in the trunk of Nobel's car, looking for a place to dump the body.

They returned home with the body in the evening and dumped it in a bush near Alipur Bridge in Keraniganj near midnight. Nobel then went to Kalabagan Police Station to report that his wife had been missing.

By Monday noon, Keraniganj police recovered Shimu's body and ascertained her identity using her fingerprint.

Maruf Hossain Sorder, superintendent of police in Dhaka, at a briefing at his office yesterday said Nobel admitted that he and Shimu had long-standing

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FOR TRANSPORT WORKERS

Special vaccine drive in capital today

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is going to launch a special Covid-19 vaccination drive in the capital today for road transport workers, many of whom are still unvaccinated.

The drive will start from Mohakhali Bus Terminal and then be gradually expanded to Sayedabad, Gabtoli and Phulbaria terminals, officials said.

Civil surgeons across the country have also been directed to arrange similar drives at district level in consultation with local transport associations, they said.

The Cabinet Division in a circular on January 10 directed that only vaccinated transport workers would be allowed to operate vehicles and that all public transport would have to operate at half capacity to curb Covid transmission.

However, the number of vaccinated transport workers is low, say people involved in the sector.

“We are going to start a special drive to bring all transport

workers under vaccination,” Dr Md Shamsul Haque, member secretary of Covid-19 vaccine management committee of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told The Daily Star last night.

On January 12, road transport leaders at a meeting with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) demanded that the government arrange a crash programme to bring all workers under vaccination.

They also demanded that the government allow them to run at full capacity.

On the following day, BRTA sent both proposals to the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry.

On Sunday, the ministry informed the transport associations in writing that they would be allowed to carry passengers at full capacity.

SPECIAL VACCINATION DRIVE
BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder said 100 transport workers from Mohakhali Bus Terminal have already been registered.

“The special drive will start tomorrow [today] with them,” he

told The Daily Star last night.

He said transport associations at three other terminals in the city were also asked to start registration of unvaccinated workers.

“The programme will be carried out at those terminals gradually and continued until all of them get the vaccine,” he said.

Shahidullah Sadhu, general secretary of Mohakhali Bus Terminal Workers' Union, said they have 6,500 members.

Besides, there are several thousand workers at the terminals and many of them already received the vaccine, he said.

“We are asking people through loudspeakers to get registered for vaccination. Many of them already got registered,” he told The Daily Star last night.

The Dhaka civil surgeon's office had assured that it would be able to supply vaccines for as many transport workers listed for inoculation, BRTA sources said.

Asked about other parts of the country, Dr Shamsul Haque said they have already directed civil

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SUST PROTESTS

Over 200 sued for attempted murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hundreds of students continued to demonstrate on Sust campus for the fifth day yesterday while police filed a case accusing 200-300 unnamed students of attempted murder of law enforcers.

On Sunday evening, at least 30 students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology were injured as police charged them with truncheons, fired rubber bullets and threw sound grenades to free the vice-chancellor who was confined to his office by the demonstrators.

“The case is just a formality. It was not filed to intimidate or harass the general students protesting on campus. Since policemen were hurt and firearms were used, we had to file a case,” Azbahar Ali Sheikh, deputy commissioner (north) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

The demonstrators announced last night that they would fast unto death

unless VC Farid Uddin Ahmed resigned from his post by 12:00pm today. They also declared that they would protest on campus all night demanding that police withdraw the case filed against them.

On Thursday, resident students of Begum Sirajunnessa Chowdhury Hall began protesting following allegations that Provost Zafrin Ahmed Liza misbehaved with a student who called him to report substandard foods at the dormitory.

The demand for the resignation of the VC came on Sunday. Prof Zafrin resigned from her post after the student-police clash on the same day.

The complaint filed yesterday by Sub-Inspector Abdul Hannan mentioned that the students threw bricks, crude bombs, and opened fire at police.

The police then fired 31 rubber bullets and threw 21 sound grenades to take control of the situation and rescue the VC from confinement.

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A group of students at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet protesting on campus for the fifth consecutive day yesterday. At one point, they surrounded the VC's residence and chanted slogans against him.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

BNP expels Taimur, his chief polls coordinator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just a day after he lost the election in Narayanganj City Corporation, Taimur Alam Khandakar was expelled from BNP yesterday for violating the party's discipline.

Apart from Taimur, his chief election coordinator and also Narayanganj city unit BNP General Secretary ATM Kamal was ousted from the party.

The party's Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi told The Daily Star that their primary memberships were also cancelled.

Taimur was earlier relieved from post of adviser to party Chairperson Khaleda

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