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Fighting for bare minimum
Students with disabilities struggling at JU



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Roses gone, dreams dead
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Female students join male counterparts



B1
Exports surge in January
Shipment soars 41pc as RMG rebounds strongly



Kidney patients and their relatives waiting on the floor of Chattogram Medical College Hospital's kidney dialysis centre as the private firm that renders dialysis services to the hospital halted its operations for seven hours since 8:00am yesterday demanding arrears from the DGHS. Following negotiations, the services resumed around 3:00pm.

PHOTO: STAR

Schools to stay closed for two more weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Schools and colleges are set to be closed for two more weeks after February 6 due to the high Covid infection rate in the country.

In the 24 hours to 8:00am yesterday, the positivity rate was 27.43 percent, down from 29.17 percent the previous day.

"We have decided that in-person classes at educational institutions will remain closed for two more weeks based on the recommendation of experts as the coronavirus infection rate is still around 30 percent," said Education Minister Dipu Mani in a statement yesterday.

Earlier on January 21, the government had closed all schools, colleges and equivalent educational institutions for two weeks.

She hopes that the government will be able to restore normalcy in educational institutions and resume in-person classes as soon as the positivity rate drops.

Meanwhile, Unicef on January 28 urged governments across the world to keep schools open to avert a learning catastrophe and put children back on the learning track.

"As the Omicron variant of Covid-19 continues its spread all over the world, we urge governments to

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KIDNEY PATIENTS IN DHAKA, CTG HOSPITALS

Held hostage to public-pvt row

MOUDUH AHMED SUJAN, MD ASADUZ ZAMAN, and ARUN BIKASH DEY

Kidney patients suffered badly as dialysis services remained halted for seven hours at two public hospitals in the capital and Chattogram yesterday.

It happened after Sandor Dialysis Services Bangladesh (Pvt) Ltd, which provides the services under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement, suddenly stopped its operations at the hospitals around 8:00am, demanding dues from the Directorate General of Health Services.

Following hours of negotiations, the services resumed around 3:00pm.

Sandor officials, however, threatened they will completely shut down the services if the dues are not paid quickly.

According to the officials, the dues totalled Tk 23cr, but DGHS officials said it would be around Tk 8.34cr.

After the services were stopped yesterday morning, kidney patients gathered in front of the

National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology (NIKDU) near Shyamoli in protest around 1:00pm, blocking traffic on the Mirpur-Azimpur Road.

They left around half an hour later following requests by the police and the hospital authorities.

Speaking to The Daily Star, 30-year-old Asim Kumar Shil, a patient, said he needs to undergo kidney dialysis twice. "I came all the way from Munshiganj this morning for my dialysis. If I don't get it quickly, I might be in danger."

Asim said he cannot afford the treatment at any private hospital.

Fifty-year-old Prafulla Kumar Nath went to the dialysis centre at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) from the district's Mirsharai upazila.

"I have been having dialysis at this hospital since 2018. I pay only Tk 486 for each session, whereas it will be around Tk 2,000 at any private hospital."

Sandor Dialysis Services Bangladesh, a concern of India's Sandor Medicaids Pvt Ltd, has been

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KILLING OF 3 MIRPUR BOYS

7 years on NO ANSWER

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

On February 22, 2015, three adolescent boys were shot dead in the capital's Mirpur area during a violent political movement, on suspicion that they were arsonists linked to the opposition party.

The incident, at the height of months-long arson attacks on public transport across the country, made headlines as newspapers citing autopsy findings reported that their tender bodies bore at least 56 bullet injuries.

Seven years on, families of the victims were found in the dark about the fate of the two cases – one filed by the police after the incident and another by one family after they 'lost trust' in police investigation.

Police submitted the final report in May 2017, saying although it was a murder incident, they could not track down any of the perpetrators.

"The names and addresses of the perpetrators in connection with the incident could not be known and the possibility of finding their names and addresses and arresting them in the near future is very slim," said the final report submitted by Sub-Inspector Md Rafiquzzaman Mia of the Detective Branch (DB) of police, also the investigation officer.

The court subsequently accepted the report, which also said police would revive the case and press charges if they identified any of the suspects.

In the meantime, a Dhaka court "summarily dismissed" the murder case filed by one of the victims' family in April 2018, shows the court's register book. The family filed the case in December 2015 in the hope that the court would do justice.

However, none of the victims' families is aware of either of the two developments over the fate of the cases.

The three boys – Sumon, Robin and Jewel – were shot in a dark alley of Baishbari area in West Kazipara on the night of February 22, hours after some locals caught them on suspicion of preparing to firebomb public transport near Krishibid Bhaban on Begum Rokeya Sarani in Mirpur.

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Omicron sub-variant may be more contagious

Health officials say citing WHO, urge all to strictly maintain health rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health officials have urged people to follow health safety rules strictly as the World Health Organization said the new sub-variant of Omicron, already detected in 57 countries, may be even more contagious.

"There is no alternative to abiding by the health protocols to stay safe," DGHS spokesperson Dr Md Nazmul Islam said at the daily briefing on the Covid-19 situation yesterday.

In its weekly epidemiological update on Tuesday, the WHO said the variant, which accounts for over 93 percent of all coronavirus specimens collected in the past month, has several sub-lineages: BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2 and BA.3.

The BA.1 and BA.1.1 – the first versions identified – still account for over 96 percent of all the Omicron sequences uploaded to the GISAID, a global science initiative based in Munich, it said.

There has, however, been a clear rise in cases involving BA.2, which counts several different mutations from the original, including on the spike protein that dots the virus' surface and is key to entering

human cells.

"BA.2 designated sequences have been submitted to GISAID from 57 countries to date," the WHO said, adding that in some countries, the sub-variant now accounted for over half of all the Omicron sequences together.

Pointing to the new sub-variant, Dr Nazmul said it is necessary to act responsibly.

The pressure on the ICUs, HDUs and oxygen supplies in hospitals will increase with the rise in the number of patients. "We're preparing to tackle this pressure."

Central oxygen lines have already been set up in 119 hospitals and more than 29,000 oxygen cylinders, 2,000 high-flow nasal cannulas and 2,300 oxygen concentrators are being used, he said.

"If we look at the Covid-linked deaths according to age, the highest number was reported among people aged 61-70."

Division-wise, the highest number of deaths – 12,451 – were reported in Dhaka – more than 43.80 percent of all Covid-related deaths.

Nazmul also said efforts are being made to find out how many among the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



The capital's New Market swarming with people, most of whom seem to be oblivious to health safety rules, including social distancing, while the third wave of Covid-19 rages on due to the Omicron variant. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

3 die after car rams into train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Three people were killed as a private car rammed into the wheels of a moving train at a level crossing in Dinaipur's Birampur upazila yesterday morning. Two of the dead were identified as Md Hafisul Islam, 44, and Md Masum Islam, 39, driver of the car, from Rangpur's Badarganj upazila.

Md Saifuzzaman, the gateman of the level crossing, said the car drove into the Kurigram-bound Kurigram Express intercity train around 6:40am. He added there were two barriers at the level crossing but were removed for development work on the road. The barriers were replaced by a rope, which would be raised to stop vehicles from crossing when a train would pass. "However, the rope was not visible due to dense fog yesterday morning."

The car tore through the rope and rammed into the train from the side, he said, adding that the vehicle then flew off around 100 meters away, throwing all the passengers out. They all died on the spot, he added.

Mohidul Islam, in charge of Hili Government Railway Police (GRP) Station, said Birampur police, on information, rushed to the spot, while GRP officials also went to the area and sent the bodies to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Md Mizanur Rahman, the stationmaster of Birampur Railway Station, said the process of installing new barriers at the crossing was underway.

Ashim Kumar Talukdar General Manager of Western Railway Zone in Pakshey said that a 4-member probe body has been formed making head Divisional Manager to investigate the incident.

According to the media reports and officials of the Western Railway Zone of Bangladesh Railway, at least 11 such accidents occurred throughout January in various districts, including Dinaipur, Nilphamari, Chapaiwabganj and Natore. At least 14 people have died.



The wreckage of a car that flew at least a 100 meters away from a level crossing after ramming into a train in Dinaipur's Birampur upazila yesterday morning. Three people died in the accident.

PHOTO: STAR

Filling stations threaten strike from February 17

They demand their commissions raised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of the country's petrol pump owners yesterday threatened to go on strike from February 17 across the country if the government does not increase their commission.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers, Distributors, Agents and Petrol Pump Owners Association placed a six-point demand including a rise in their commission to 7.5 percent from 2.92 percent.

The government increased the commission by only Tk 0.20 per litre while they increased the fuel price at Tk 15 per litre, said Mizanur Rahman Ratan, general secretary of the association's faction.

The ministry of power, energy and mineral resources and the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation decided on their own to reduce their losses but the people who conducted the entire process found nothing. "All the businessmen in this sector rejected the decision."

He said that they spoke with the higher-ups of the government several times but failed to get a solution.



"We are in the last stage. If the government does not fulfil our demand by February 16, we will stop taking fuel from the depots from the next day," Ratan added.

Sajjadul Karim Kabul, president of the association, was also present at the press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The petrol pumps sell 2,000 litres of diesel on an average a day, according to the association. If the Tk 0.20 commission is implemented, they will earn Tk 12,000 extra in a month, which is too little for them to survive.

However, Mohammad Nazmul Haque, president of another faction of the association, Kabul and Ratan had been suspended for various reasons including stealing fuel.

"We have the same demands -- we also want a 7.5 percent commission. But we are talking with the government," he told The Daily Star. He, however, said a strike is not on the cards. "It's the irrigation season and we can't take such a headlong decision. Such kind of threats by the suspended persons will not be accepted."

12 migrants 'pushed back' by Greece died at border: Turkey

AFP, Istanbul

Ankara yesterday accused Greece of allowing 12 migrants to die in the winter cold after stripping them of their clothes and then pushing them back across the Turkish border.

The charges from Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu threaten to escalate simmering tensions between the rival members of the Nato defence alliance.

They also highlighted Ankara's concern that the European Union was not doing enough to support Turkey -- which hosts an estimated five million migrants and refugees -- in the face of a potential new flow of people from Afghanistan.

Soylu posted blurred images on Twitter showing bodies lying by the roadside.

Schools to stay closed

FROM PAGE 1
do everything in their power to keep it from further disrupting children's education. Keep schools open," said Unicef Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

An estimated 616 million children are currently affected by full or partial school closures, she said.

Partial classroom teaching resumed in the country on September 12 last year after a 543-day closure caused by the pandemic. This was one of the longest school closures in the world.

As many as 39.63 lakh primary and 39 lakh secondary students are at the risk of learning loss due to the long school closure, according to a joint study by Power and Participation Research Centre and Brac Institute of Governance and Development published on October 19 last year.

The closure left academic calendars in disarray.

The government cancelled Primary

Education Completion Examinations and Junior School Certificate exams for 2020 and 2021 as well as the HSC exams of 2020.

Last year's SSC and HSC exams were held on curtailed syllabuses with fewer subjects.

Following the closure, the government launched TV education programmes through the state-run Sangsad Television channel for secondary and primary students. Later, it asked all schools to introduce online education.

Most of the students in urban areas have access to learning through the internet, but the digital divide has so far proved to be a great disadvantage for the underprivileged learners, mainly for a lack of devices and poor access to the internet.

At the end of last year, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education asked all secondary schools to start giving assignments to students.

7 years on no answer

FROM PAGE 1

Families and locals said all three were aged between 14 and 15, although the police report put their age at 19 and 20.

Talking to the Daily Star recently, family members said no one contacted them to inform them about the submission of the final report or the court's rejection of their case.

"I went to the police station, to the court, and to many other places seeking justice. But I am yet to get any," said Jyotsna Robi Das, mother of Sumon, who filed the case with the court.

Mohammad Humayun Kabir, the family's lawyer, said the probe report was not submitted to the court till November 2017.

He said he did not follow the case after that.

"I want justice. But I don't know where to go to get justice," said Halim Khatun, Robin's grandmother who brought him up.

Noted criminal law expert Khurshid Alam Khan said the victims' families could file an appeal seeking further probe, but the families said they are too poor to pay for the expenses required for the legal battle.

Both Halima and Jyotsna earn their living by working as domestic workers.

PROBE IN QUESTION
In the probe report, the investigation officer mentioned that the three victims fell to the ground in an indiscriminate shooting by their associates targeting the chasing mob. They were later beaten by the mob

before police rescued them and took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where they later died.

A group of 10 miscreants, including the victims, randomly fired on the local people when they (locals) chased them (miscreants) during their arson attack towards the cars with petrol and



ROBIN

cocktail bombs in a violent hartal called by the BNP-led 20-party alliance, said the probe report.

However, several media outlets, quoting eyewitnesses, had reported at the time that no mob beating took place in Mirpur area that day.

The police report termed them "mischievous bombers" although there were no criminal records against them in the local police station.

At least 10 locals told The Daily Star late last month that the three boys had no criminal records, although they would sometimes join political gatherings.

Families said police were not sincere enough to investigate the case and find the killers.

In the seizure list of

the case, for example, police did not include the bloodstained ropes believed to have been used in tying up the victims' hands, the cartridges or the bullets that were found by The Daily Star correspondents on the spot the morning after the incident.

Contacted, Mia Kutubur Rahman Choudhury,



SUMON

additional SP at the Police Bureau of Investigation, who oversaw the investigation, told The Daily Star on January 20 that he could not comment on the case without looking at the documents.

WHAT HAPPENED
On January 5, 2015, the BNP and its allies launched a movement to dislodge the government, protesting the national election that the party had boycotted.

The violence, mostly arson attacks on public transport in Dhaka and other parts of the country, claimed at least 75 lives.

Around 7:00pm on February 22, locals caught the three victims suspecting them to be arsonists, said witnesses.

Later, around 10:00pm, some 10 to 12 locals took

the boys to an alley of Baishbari area after tying up their hands, they added.

Several locals said they had seen police carrying away the three bullet-riddled bodies from an alleyway there.

A woman, who lives in a building beside the alley, said there was no mob there.

"There was no crowd. I only heard multiple gunshots rock the area with brief pauses in-between," she said.

At least a dozen other locals supported her version of the event.

However, police told the media after the incident that they found the three critically injured boys in a mob beating at Kazipara, and they died at DMCH in the early hours of February 23.

The police case filed on the same day said three "unidentified arsonists" were beaten and shot to death by a mob.

Omicron

FROM PAGE 1

dead were vaccinated and how many were not.

In January, the country reported 322 Covid deaths and 73% of them were of unvaccinated patients, said Nazmul.

Meanwhile, 36 Covid-19 patients died in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday -- the highest since September 22 last year.

During the same period, the DGHS has also reported 12,193 confirmed cases.

The positivity rate was recorded 27.43 percent after testing 44,451 samples countrywide.

Shab-e-Meraj on Feb 28

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Meraj will be observed in the country on the night of February 28.

The National Moon Sighting Committee took the decision at a meeting at the Islamic Foundation office at Baitul Mukarram yesterday evening.

On the night of 26th Rajab every year, Muslims observe Shab-e-Meraj when Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) embarked on a special journey to meet Allah.

One killed as bridge collapses in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Bailey bridge collapsed along with a rice-laden truck in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila around 2:00pm yesterday, killing the driver on the spot.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Gafur, a 55-year-old man from Chattogram's Satkania upazila, said Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge of Rowangchhari Police Station.

The vehicle was on its way to the district's Ruma upazila from Bandarban Sadar, he said, adding that communication between the two upazilas remained snapped after the incident.

Charges accepted against 'Shishu Bokta' in DSA case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday accepted charges against two people, including "Shishu Bokta" Rafiqul Islam Madani, in a case filed under the Digital Security Case.

Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal passed the order rejecting Madani's bail petition, which claimed he did not make any derogatory remarks on the president and the prime minister.

Madani is in jail since April last year. The other accused, Mahmudul Hasan Murtuza, was granted permanent bail by the tribunal.

It relieved accused Mohammad Amzad, HM Lokman Hossain and Tawhid Islam of the charges as the investigation officer did not find their involvement in the case.

On April 8 last year, one Syed Adnan Shanto filed the case with Motijheel Police Station.

Contract signed with Russia for Bangabandhu-2 satellite

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Satellite Company Ltd (BSCL) yesterday signed a cooperation contract with Russian company Glavkosmos for launching Bangabandhu Satellite 2 within December next year.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC), both the parties will work on detail technical and financial issues regarding construction and launch of the satellite, said BSCL Managing Director Md Shafiqul Islam. "This will convert into an agreement after due diligence of financial, technical and legal aspects," he said.

Glavkosmos is a subsidiary of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos of Russia.

BSCL Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Shahjahan Mahmood and Glavkosmos Director General Dmitry Loskutov signed the contract on behalf of their respective sides.

Held hostage

FROM PAGE 1

providing the services at the 69-bed dialysis centre of NIKDU since November 28, 2016, and at the 31-bed dialysis centre at CMCH since February 28, 2017, said Sandor sources.

As per the PPP agreement, Sandor is supposed to provide 21,450 dialysis sessions per year for Tk 5.30cr. The amount would increase by five percent every year as per the deal.

Sandor officials claimed it provided additional 95,696 sessions in 2020 and 2021 after being asked by the DGHS, but they were not paid for the extra sessions.

Half the annual fees for the regular services -- Tk 2.65cr -- were also not paid, they alleged.

"DGHS owes us Tk 23 crore. We had notified them about it six days before suspending the services, but they did not give us any solution," Rajeev Sindhi, managing director of Sandor Dialysis Services Bangladesh (Pvt) Ltd, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said 360 sessions are conducted every day at the two public hospitals.

NIKDU Director Dr

Mizanur Rahman said, "We made all regular payments. But there is a dispute over the fees for the extra sessions. Sandor resumed the services on our request."

"If Sandor stops providing the services, we might have to think about alternatives. But we are trying to find a permanent solution."

Dr Farid Hossain Miah, director (hospitals and clinics) at the DGHS, said, "We make all the payments regularly following the due process."

About the extra sessions, he said Sandor did not properly take permission from DGHS in this regard.

According to an estimate of 2019, around 30,000 patients needed kidney dialysis in the country. For them, there are only 130 private and public dialysis centres, most of which are situated in the capital.

Cost for each dialysis session at a private hospital ranged between Tk 2,800 and Tk 7,000, The Daily Star has learnt after talking to different hospitals across the capital.

The government launched the PPP deal to cut the cost to Tk 400-600 by providing subsidies.

Man dies by suicide

FROM PAGE 12
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Ramna Division), said the man's wife and son live in Australia.

"He has been suffering from cancer since 2017. He incurred loss in his businesses," added the police official.

"He might have died by suicide for these reasons," said the DC.

Actor Riaz and his wife were at the house when this report was filed around 11:30pm last night.

They were not in a state to speak to the media.

Want to lease a grave? Get ready to pay lakhs!

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and HELEMUL ALAM

Believe it or not, if someone wants to lease a grave – even if it’s just around 28 square feet of land – for 25 years in an area of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), they’ll have to pay a hefty Tk 20 lakh!

The areas under Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) are no exception either. Although the rate is a bit lower, they still go for Tk 11 to 15 lakh for the same duration.

But what is the reason behind such astounding rates? Officials of both city corporations said they have fixed high rates to discourage people from reserving graves for their loved ones, as there will be a shortage of burial spots if everyone does the same.

DSCC fixed the rate at Tk 5 lakh, 10 lakh, 15 lakh and 20 lakh for 10, 15, 20 and 25 years, respectively, for its three graveyards in Jurain, Azimpur and Khilgaon.

On the other hand, DNCC has fixed its prices for people who want to bury their loved ones at the reserved section of six graveyards in Banani, Rayerbazar, Mirpur, and three in Uttara.

They charge Tk 6 lakh for 15 years and Tk 11 lakh for 25 years. However, for Banani graveyard, they charge Tk 15 lakh for 25 years and Tk 8 lakh for 15 years.

However, a person has to pay three times higher if they want to lease a grave in the general section of the graveyards, said Md Enayet Hossain, DNCC’s social welfare official.

Meanwhile, there is no scope to reserve a grave before someone’s death. If anyone wants to get a lease, they will have to apply once their loved one is buried, Enayet said.

In the past, graves could be leased in advance, but that provision doesn’t exist anymore according to new guidelines, he said.

DSCC HAS 3 GRAVEYARDS; DNCC HAS 6 GRAVEYARDS		
YEARS	DSCC PRICE (in lakhs)	DNCC PRICE (in lakhs)
10	5	Na
15	10	6
20	15	Na
25	20	11

DSCC has prepared a new guideline for their graveyards, in which they re-fixed the fee for general burial (except logistics of burial and digging fees) at Tk 1,000. This fee did not exist during the previous mayor’s tenure. DNCC is taking Tk 500 as burial fees.

Md Abu Nasher, public relations officer and spokesperson of DSCC, said they have fixed the fee after a decision was reached at a DSCC board meeting.

He said they have decided to take Tk 1,000 to discourage residents from burying loved ones in city graveyards, and instead bury them in their village homes.

Among the graveyards in DNCC areas, Rayerbazar graveyard, set up on around 96 acres of land, does not allow leasing graves at all. “We do not give any reservations. We have cancelled the system recently, as a grave automatically remains for around 15 to 20 years due to the premises’ vast area,” said Abdul Aziz, caretaker of the graveyard.

He said lease applications for around only seven graves have been approved in the last five years.

Mirpur’s Kalshi hosts a big private graveyard. It also does not allow leases, except in special cases.

Md Ripon, caretaker of Kalshi graveyard, said they have stopped leasing out graves due to the scarcity of land, although they sometimes make exceptions for some special requests. “We take Tk 4.5 lakh for a 20-year lease in these cases,” he said.

However, lessees of the graveyard have complained of irregularities while speaking to this correspondent.

Md Lutful Kabir Shipon, a resident of Mirpur 12, said they had leased a pair of graves for Tk 70,000 on April 14, 2008 after his father died, way before the new regulations came to effect.

“We buried our mother in the other one on December 19, 2019. But during her burial, the graveyard authorities started demanding an additional Tk 50,000, citing that the current spike in price of reserved graves,” he said, adding that they were told at the time that they will be able to keep the graves for as long as they want.

PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 3

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52	7:15
Jamaat	6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

MUNIA’S DEATH PBI takes 7th date as probe yet to end

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked PBI to submit – by February 22 – the probe report in a case filed against Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir and seven others over the rape and murder of a college student in Dhaka’s Gulshan.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yeasmin Ara passed the order after the IO failed to submit the report. With the latest one, PBI took seven dates to submit the report.

Anvir was made prime accused in the case, while the group’s Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and six others



BIRD’S DAY OUT...As opposed to its conventional way of travel, a pet bird decides to take a ride out in the city with its human caregivers to see what the fuss is all about. Perched on the fingers of its owner, the bird bravely takes on an adventure in this city of peculiar events. This photo was taken yesterday at Farmgate.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



The age-old practice of leasing out graves now comes with a hefty price tag. This photo was taken from Azimpur Graveyard yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Fighting for the bare minimum

Students with disabilities at JU struggling from lack of resources

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

At Jahangirnagar University (JU), there’s no books available in braille, neither is there reserved seats in the dorms for students with disabilities.

As a result, these students are slipping through the cracks, as authorities do not provide them any special facilities that they desperately need.

Every year, many students get admitted to JU under the “disability quota”. But with no official penmen available, the students have to go through a lot of hassle when sitting for tests and in classes. Moreover, the university is yet to have special funds to introduce a scholarship for their educational expenses.

“I have no opportunity to tutor or get any kind of part-time job. The visually impaired, like me, have to deal with an ocean of suffering,” said Saiful Islam, a student of JU’s history department. “My family could barely support me. I don’t have an income source nor does the university give me a scholarship. How do I continue my studies?”

Since there are no reserved seats for them, the students said they have to stay at “mini gono room” at the dorms.

Abul Kalam, a visually impaired student who is struggling to live in such a room, said, “I had tried to manage a single seat upstairs, but failed after repeated attempts. This room can at best accommodate two students, but eight of us are staying here.” Neither house tutors nor the hall’s provost ever came to see them, he claimed.

“The day before my exam, I had to spend at least an hour to find a penman who would sit with me for the test... An organisation called PDF (Physically-challenged Development Foundation) tries to help us, but it’s not enough. I have to depend on the mercy of others,” he added.

“They don’t provide books in braille for us. We have to face problems in the library too; we can’t find the books we want to read there. Our central library doesn’t have any special corner for braille books,” said Sharmin Akhter, a student of government and politics.

Those who have other forms of physical disability face a host of other problems too. For example, there are no ramps in buildings for those who use wheelchairs. This simple issue can have major implications. In many cases, some students had to get admitted into departments situated at the ground floor just for this, despite being qualified to enrol in their preferred subjects.

Contacted, Dr Syeda Fahliza Begum, director of students’ welfare and consultation centre of JU, said, “No special fund or scholarship has been introduced for them. We will discuss with the university authority in this regard. A special fund can be very helpful.”

Some students had to get admitted into departments situated at the ground floor, just because there’s no ramps for wheelchairs at the buildings.

ISSUES

- › No books available in braille
- › No special scholarship
- › No person assigned as penman
- › No reserved seats in dorms
- › No library facilities for people with visual impairment
- › No residential ramps for those with physical disabilities

Asked about arranging reserved seats, Dr Mohammad Mujibur Rahman, president of the hall provost committee, said, “That will be a good initiative, and we’ll discuss the matter. We will try to manage a floor for them in our new halls. I will discuss this with our vice-chancellor.”

Rahima Kaneez, acting registrar of JU, said, “We are thinking of introducing braille books and ensuring extra facilities in the library.”

BNP a fragile, dependent party Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

General Secretary of Awami League Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP as a political party is fragile and dependent on others.

He came up with the remark while speaking at a press conference at his secretariat office in the capital.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said BNP went to foreigners and foreign missions, not to the country’s people, to assume power.

“Foreigners will not bring them (BNP) to power. Only the people of this country can do that,” he said.

Quader also said BNP has admitted that it hired lobbyists abroad against the country and now the party is saying that a Bangladeshi expatriate has been working for it in this regard. “Who is this expatriate? Why aren’t you (BNP leaders) revealing his or her identity?” he questioned.

TORTURING, BULLYING STUDENT Three BCL members suspended from hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

Three members of Chhatra League’s Bijoy Ekattor hall unit of Dhaka University (DU) were suspended from the hall for six months over torturing and bullying a student at the hall seven days ago.

The decision was confirmed by Prof Abdul Bashir, provost of Bijoy Ekattor Hall, yesterday.

The decision came after a probe body, formed by hall authorities found their involvement in the incident.

The suspended students are Kamruzzaman Raju of sociology department, Hridoy Ahmed Kajal of history department and Yamin Islam of social welfare and research department.

After victim Aktarul Islam, a first-year student of mass communications department, submitted a complaint letter to the hall authorities, they took the decision to suspend the three yesterday.

In the complaint, Aktarul mentioned six of his seniors who summoned him to the hall’s guest room around 10:00pm last Wednesday. He was later made to stare at a bright light for over 10 minutes.

BCL announces DU hall committee

DU CORRESPONDENT

After a gap of over five years, Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday announced the list of its presidents and secretaries for the 18 Dhaka University (DU) halls.

With approval of the central committee, DU BCL president Sanjit Chandra Das and general secretary Saddam Hussein announced the committee list.

The current DU committee was formed for one-year tenure in July 2018. After more than three and a half years, the committee is still operational, and it announced the hall committees.

“The new hall leaders have been asked to form the full committees at the earliest,” Saddam Hussein told The Daily Star.

Before this, hall committees were formed in 2016 under the previous DU unit committee, led by Abid Al Hasan and Motahar Hossain Prince.

A spontaneous movement

FROM PAGE 12
across the country. Oli Ahad, Toaha, Matin and Samad spoke in favour of violation. But, by a majority vote, it was decided not to violate Section 144.

No formal proposal had been taken to dissolve the all-party committee if Section 144 was violated. Abul Hashim said that if the students do not accept the decision of the all-party committee, then what is the need for such a committee.

Neither Shamsul Huq nor anyone else was formally authorised to explain the decision of the all-party committee to the students the next morning.

The next morning, the violation of section 144 started at 11:30 am. The shots were fired at about half-past one. The all-party committee met at the Medical College Hostel on the evening of February 21 to discuss the situation after the shooting. The whole movement was

spontaneous in nature, and it was developed without any special initiative.

Kazi Golam Mahbub was the convener of the All Party State Language Action Committee.

This is an abridged version of Kazi Golam Mahbub's interview published in Bhasha Andolon Prasanga: Katipay Dalil (Ed. Badruddin Umar, Bangla Academy, 1995.)

Translated by: Shamsuddoza Sajen, The Daily Star.

Roses gone

FROM PAGE 5
Contacted, Upazila Agriculture Officer Najat Ahmed said this disease has appeared due to use of too much pesticides and this year's unfavourable weather.

"We have advised the farmers on how to deal with this and are trying to diagnose the disease by examining the affected plants with agronomists."

"Last week, we arranged a meeting with two hundred farmers to discuss their issues and advise them on several aspects of it," she said. "If the weather improves, the disease may subside a bit," she added.

"Besides, we are working to provide financial assistance to the affected rose growers through upazila administration and government funds," she said.

PBI takes

FROM PAGE 3
were accused of assisting Anvir in committing the offence.

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

Road-crash tragedies stalk

FROM PAGE 12
The authorities would bear all medical costs of the injured student, said Prof Pradip Kumar Panday, director of RU public relations office.

In another development, the VC held a meeting with students on Sabash Bangladesh premises in the afternoon.

Students there raised a five-point demand. VC Prof Sattar assured them of fulfilling the demands.

After the meeting, the VC told reports that the under-construction building and the street where Himel was killed would be named after him.

A memorial will be built. The students demanded

Tk 5 crore as compensation, and the VC said they would provide Himel's family with money as per the necessity.

The VC said the construction work would be suspended until streets inside the campus are repaired and smooth movement of students on the campus is ensured.

Meanwhile, police arrested the truck driver, Md Titu, 35, in Balia area of Rajshahi city in the afternoon, SM Masud Parvez, officer-in-charge of Kashiadanga Police Station, told The Daily Star.

The arrest was made after a case was filed against the driver and the helper of the truck with Motihar Police Station, said

OC Anwar Ali.

In another incident, RU acting proctor Leaket Ali was removed from his post.

Ashabul Haque, professor of mathematics department, was made the new proctor.

Prof Salim Reza Newton said, "In the name of development work, trees have been cut down, soil has been dug and good roads have been destroyed. Nobody cares for anyone."

Prof Kazi Zahidur Rahman said he himself trembled many times while speedy trucks carrying construction materials went past him.

"I talked to the VC sir about it several weeks ago, but nothing changed," he said.

রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ।



Office of the Registrar

Jashore University of Science and Technology

Jashore-7408, Bangladesh

স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/রেজি./সংস্থাপন/বাজস্ব জনবল/১০০২(৬)/২০২১-৪১১

তারিখঃ ০১/০২/২০২২খ্রি.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নোক্ত পদগুলো পূরণের নিমিত্তে বর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা ও স্কেল	শর্তাবলী
০১	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পেট্রোলিয়াম এন্ড মাইনিং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-	আবেদনকারীকে career.just.edu.bd ওয়েব সাইটে গিয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy, আবেদন ফিসহ আগামী ০১/০৩/২০২২খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে। অনলাইনে আবেদন করা ও ফি প্রদানের বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf এই লিংক-এ পাওয়া যাবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে www.just.edu.bd হতে যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনের সাথে দিগ্বিশিষ্ট কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- (ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র ও মন্বরণপত্র (খ) সদ্য তোলা ৩০০*৩০০ পিস্কেল ও অনূর্ব ২০০ কিলোবাইট সাইজের ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র (ঘ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র। চাকরীতে নিয়োজিত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন (নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার সময় ক্রমিক নং ০১ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাকদ ১১০০/- টাকা, ক্রমিক নং ০২ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাকদ ১০০০/- টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং ০৩ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাকদ ৯০০/- টাকা ইন্টারনেট ব্যাবি/মেবাইল ব্যাবিঃ এর মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
০২	সহকারী অধ্যাপক পেট্রোলিয়াম এন্ড মাইনিং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ, ০২টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেলঃ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-	
০৩	প্রভাষক পেট্রোলিয়াম এন্ড মাইনিং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ, ০৩ টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেলঃ ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-	

স্বাক্ষর/

(প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আহসান হাবীব)

রেজিস্ট্রার

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-201



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area

Dhaka-1208





INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites "Two Envelope System International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material on C&FC Dhaka By Air and Chittagong by Sea Basis:

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01	IMP/RM/SEM/60/2021-2022 dated 02/02/2022	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: (specification as per tender schedule): 01. Omeprazole Enteric Coated Pellets (Assay 8.5%) USP 02. Glycerine BP 03. Dichloromethane BP	Tk 1800.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 21.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 24/02/2022 At 11.00 AM Opening : 24/02/2022 at 11.15 AM
02	IMP/RM/SEM/61/2021-2022 dated 02/02/2022	Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: specification as per tender schedule): 01. Indomethacin BP 02. Ciprofloxacin HCl Micro. BP 03. Benzyl Alcohol BP 04. Ketorolac Tromethamine USP 05. Orange Flavour Powder Ph. Gr. 06. Film Coating Material Pink Opadry (Y-5529 Ph. Gr. or equivalent 07. Enteric Coating Material Pink Opadry 91554902 Ph. Gr. or equivalent	Tk 1500.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 18.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 27/02/2022 At 11.00 AM Opening : 27/02/2022 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of " Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever

N.R: This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

(7.5"x4)

General Manager,

Procurement Deptt.


For: Managing Director.

দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যু বার্ষিকী



বিস্মিতাধির রাহমানির রাহিম
বিগত ০৩/০২/২০২০ইং তারিখে বলিয়াদী জমিদার পরিবারের বৌরানী খুরশীদ আজিম সিদ্দিকী আমাদের সকলকে ছেড়ে না ফেরার দেশে চলে গেছেন। তিনি একজন প্রখ্যাত রবীন্দ্র সংগীত শিল্পী ছিলেন। আজ ০৩/০২/২০২২ইং তারিখ তার দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যু বার্ষিকী। তিনি সাবেক মন্ত্রী এবং এফ.বি.সি.সি.আই ও ডি.সি.সি.আই এর সাবেক সভাপতি চৌধুরী তানবীর আহমদ সিদ্দিকীর সহধর্মিণী ছিলেন।
আমরা মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার প্রতি সকলের দোয়া ও মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।
- মরহুমার পরিবারবর্গ

TODAY IS THE 24th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF FORMER SECRETARY M. AKHTAR ALI



Due to "COVID-19" situation Milad Mahfil and Dua can not be held at the residence on the occasion of 24th death anniversary of former secretary M. Akhtar Ali. All relatives and well wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.
Mrs. Raushan Ara Akhtar & family.
House # 14B, Road # 95, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.





ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area

Dhaka- 1208



Invitation For Tenders

Civil Construction and Plumbing Work (Additional Civil Work)

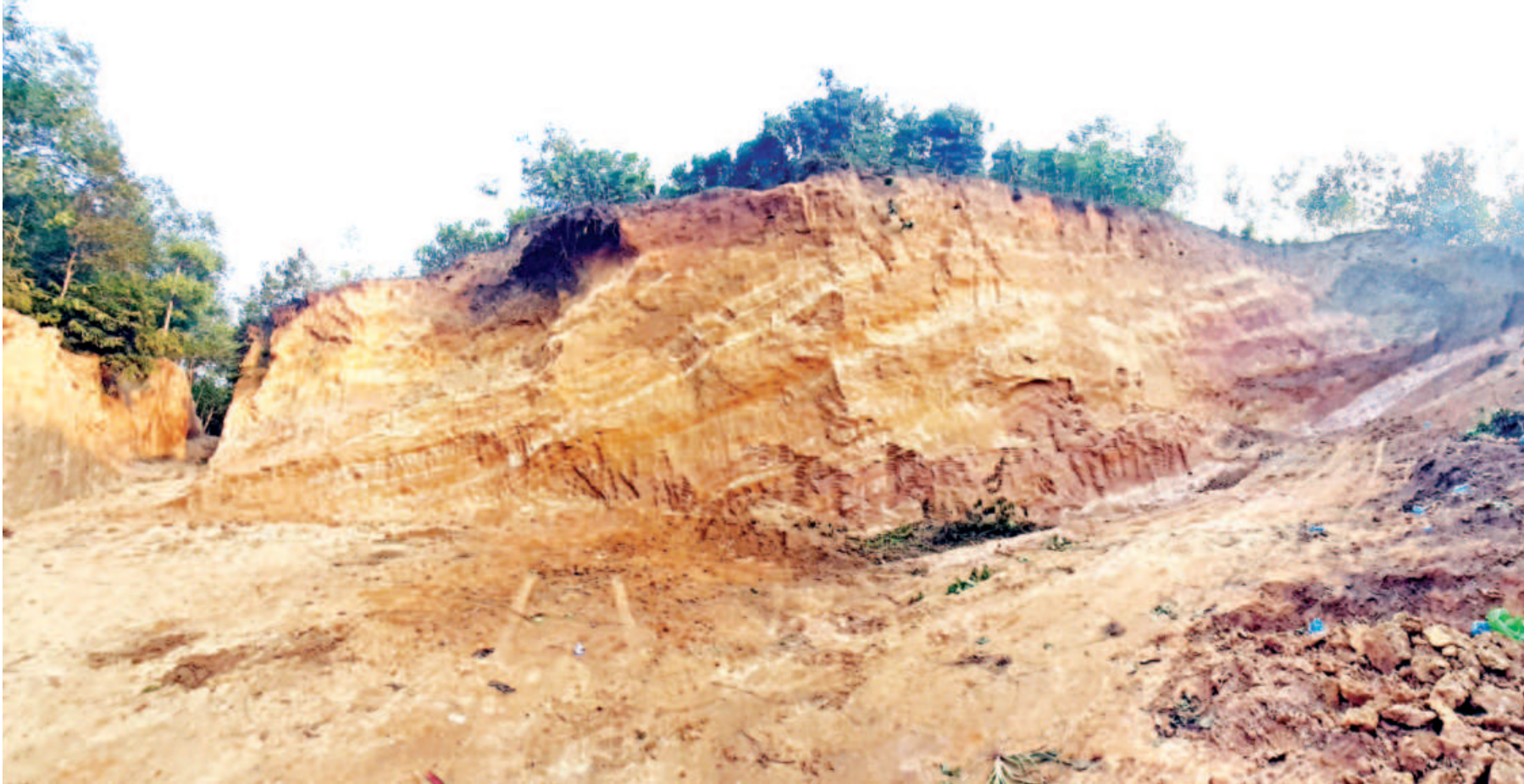
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare			
2.	Agency	Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL)			
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj			
4.	Invitation For	Civil Construction and Plumbing Work			
5.	Invitation Ref. No.	EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/Civil / 2022/27			
6.	Date	26/01/2022.			
KEY INFORMATION					
7.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)-National			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
8.	Budget & Source of Funds	GOB (Government of Bangladesh)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
9.	Project Code	1270101-224020000			
10.	Project Name	Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj			
11.	Location of the Project	Gopalganj Sadar, Gopalganj			
12.	Tender Package Name	W-04(A): Civil Construction and Plumbing Work(Additional Civil Work)			
13.	Tender Publication Date	03 February, 2022			
14.	Tender Last Selling Date	23 February, 2022 at 5:00 pm			
15.	Tender Closing date and Time	24 February, 2022 at 12:00 pm			
16.	Tender Opening Date and Time	24 February, 2022 Time 12:30 pm			
17.	Name & address of the Office (Selling, Receiving and Opening of Tender Document)	Project Management Office C/O: Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh			
18.	Place/Date/Time of Pre-tender meeting	Conference Room of Managing Director Essential Drugs Company Limited 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh. Date: 20 February, 2022 Time: 11:30 AM			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
19.	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ol style="list-style-type: none">The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor shall be 5.0 (Five) years considered from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor in construction works of at least 01 (One)contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology successfully completed within the last 5.0 (Five) years, with a value of at least Tk. 2,00,00,000.00(Two Crore Taka only). The work certificate evidence for successful completion of a work shall have to be issued by the Government/ Semi Government /Autonomous Organisation.The required documentary evidence is average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Tk.4,00,000,000.00 (FourCrore only) over the last 5 (five) years.the required documentary evidence is average minimum liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit facilities from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh of the Civil Construction and Plumbing Work (CivilWork) is tk. Tk. 80,00,000.00 (Eighty LacTaka only) of last 5.0 (five) years.			
20.	Brief Description of Works	Civil Construction: RCC Fuel Tank Construction Including Piling, Street Light Post Civil RCC Base, Substation Fencing Including Graveling Work, Steel Shade, Steel Entry Stair, Netting Work, Steel Stair/Ladder, SS Railing, Brick wall Construction, Grill Rolling Shutter Door, Sock well & Miscellaneous Civil Works etc.			
21.	Period of Validity of tender	120 Days after tender closing date.			
22.	Price escalation	No price escalation shall be given after the award of the tender.			
23.	Price of Tender Document (TK)	25,000.00(Twenty Five Thousand)Taka in the form of Pay Order / Demand Draft in favor of the "Project Director, Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj."			
24.	No.	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security (TK)	Completion Time
	01	Civil Construction and Plumbing Work(Additional Civil Work)	Gopalganj	Tk.8,00,000.00 (Eight LacTaka). (Validity of Tender Security is 28 Days beyond the expiry of Validity of Tender)	7 Months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
25.	Name of Official Inviting Tender			Prof. (Dr) Ehsanul Kabir	
26.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender			Project Director Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj.	
27.	Address of Official Inviting Tender			395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh.	
28.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender			Phone : 48116110-11, 58151080, 58152038 Fax. : 88 02 8119697 E-mail : 3rdplant@edcl.gov.bd Website: www.edcl.gov.bd	
29.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.				

Prof. (Dr.) Ehsanul Kabir

Project Director

Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

Size: 17x4



In Kulaura's Islamnagar, under Bhatara Union, hills are being razed to facilitate markets and residential buildings, flouting environmental laws and the ban by the Department of Environment.

PHOTO: STAR

ACHILLES' HILLS

Rampant hill cutting puts 200 families in Moulvibazar under risk of landslide

MINTU DESHWARA

Even though everything came to a halt during the pandemic, hill cutting didn't.

In the name of development work, syndicates in different areas of Moulvibazar continued this illegal activity unabated throughout the lockdowns.

Take Islamnagar of Bhatara Union in Kulaura upazila, where markets and houses are being built by razing hills. As a result, more than 200 families of the area are forced to live amid risk of landslide.

Talking to this newspaper, locals alleged that despite complaints, the local administration remained indifferent.

Visiting different areas in Islamnagar recently, this correspondent found workers employed by the syndicate busy cutting hills and loading earth onto trucks.

They said that for the last few weeks, an organised group, consisting of Bhatara union residents Rahim Uddin, Bablu Mia, Azadur Rahman, driver Nur Uddin and more, have been cutting various hills in the area.

According to locals, Bablu and Azad were cutting soil from a hill owned by a UP chairperson in Islamnagar.

For a month now, the circle has also been cutting soil from the 40-foot hill, owned by one Eden Mia, a resident of Krishnapur village at Mymensingh.

There are 10 families living within 200 metres from the foot of the hill. They fear that the hill may collapse anytime and fall on their houses due to the ceaseless cutting of soil.

Contacted, Bablu Mia admitted to cutting the hill, saying, they aren't cutting the UP chair's hill in Islamnagar, but did admit to cutting the one owned by Eden Mia.

Asked, Eden Mia said, "The six-acre

hill in Islamnagar is owned by me and my three brothers. We've planted various trees there. Azir Uddin, an influential local in Islamnagar, is behind the hill cutting as he sells our soil."

Even after multiple protests, we couldn't stop it. We've never sold hill land to anyone."

However, Azir Uddin denied this and said, "I have nothing to do with the hill cutting."

All of this is worrying environmentalists and concerned citizens, who are urging authorities to intervene.

Abdul Karim Kim, executive member of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said local influentials are ignoring existing environmental laws and defying the ban on hill cutting by the Department of Environment (DoE)

"Working in the shadows with government officials, they [the influentials] are involved in illegal hill

cutting," he alleged.

Saheda Akther, coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Sylhet unit, said, "As per the Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2010, hill cutting is a recognised offence and no government, semi-government or autonomous organisation is allowed to cut or raze hills, without prior permission from the authorities concerned."

Dr Narayan Saha, former head of forestry and environmental science department at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, said unsustainable use of land and rampant hill-cutting are two major reasons behind the landslide vulnerability in hilly areas.

Contacted, Badrul Huda, assistant director of DoE in Moulvibazar, said "We have zero tolerance towards hill cutting. We will look into the issue and take necessary action."

They went on a picnic, never to return

2 SSC examinees perish in road crash; 6 die across country

STAR REPORT

By this year, they would've been done with their SSC exams and become proud college students. To celebrate their last few days at school, they went to a picnic with their fellows, promising their parents to return home quickly.

But after their human haulier slipped into a roadside ditch, Ismail Hossain (16) and Saidul Mia (16) never returned home. The two SSC examinees were killed while 10 were injured from the accident that took place at Mamdamari area in Sreebordi upazila of Sherpur yesterday night.

The duo hailed from Kharla Kazir Char area. Quoting locals, Sreebordi Police Station OC Md Abul Hashim said the picnic party of 15 school students from different institutions in Sreebordi went for the picnic at Gazni in adjacent Jhenaigati upazila in the morning.

Police seized the vehicle but its driver managed to flee. A case was lodged in this connection.

In another accident in Patuakhali, at least two people were killed and three others were seriously injured when a battery-run auto rickshaw collided head-on with a recklessly driven passenger bus at Ghutabacha area on the Patuakhali-Kuakata highway. The deceased auto-rickshaw passengers are Selim Talukder (47) and



PHOTO: COLLECTED


Mohammad Bayezid (14). The accident took place around 8:00am yesterday. Witnesses believe the accident took place due to dense fog.

In Sirajganj, a joyous occasion turned to sorrow as at least two people were killed and three were injured, all members of the same family, after a speeding truck hit their auto-rickshaw in the Hasil area in Sirajganj-Raiganj road in Raiganj upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Manik Haldar (50) and his nephew Dinesh Sarkar (45). The accident occurred as the duo were off to shop for Manik's sister's wedding programme.



বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট
শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ
স্বাধীনতা ভবন
৮৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০



বিভিন্ন ধরনের ০৬টি একেজো গাড়ি (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র স্মারক নম্বর ৪৮.০১.০০০০.২০১.১৫.০২২.২১.৫৩	তারিখঃ ০২/০২/২০২২
০১ গাড়ির বিবরণ	(১) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১৪-১৯৭৮, (২) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১১-২৫৭৪, (৩) চট্ট মেট্রো-গ-১১-০৭১৪, (৪) ঢাকা মেট্রো-১-১১-০১১৩, (৫) ঢাকা মেট্রো-ম-৫১-১৫৭৩, এবং (০৬) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১১-০৩২৯ঃ
০২ দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১,০০০/- টাকা (অফেন্ডেবোয়াস)
০৩ সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	অর্থ বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ৮৮, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
০৪ সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	আগামী ২৭-০২-২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় ক্রয় করা যাবে)।
০৫ দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ৮৮, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
০৬ দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়	আগামী ২৮-০২-২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৭ দরপত্র খোলার সময়	আগামী ২৮-০২-২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ২-৩০ ঘটিকার দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

সকল দরপত্র আংশিক অথবা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক
ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৪৯০৩

জিডি-২০৩



PHOTO: STAR

Roses gone, dreams dead

Virus attack leaves 1,500 flower growers of Golapgram in despair

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

This was supposed to be their time of the year. There's Pahela Falgun, then there's Valentine's Day, both occasions where people buy flowers to give to their loved ones.

But in such a crucial time, a wave of virus attacks has left rose farmers in Savar's aptly named Golapgram in despair. Since mid-December, the majority of them has been unable to sell even a single rose from their gardens.

According to Savar upazila agriculture office, around 1,500 people from the village are involved in commercial rose cultivation, on nearly 275 hectares of land.

Rose farmer Abdul Oadud Mia (65), of Shampur area under Golapgram, said he has been unable to sell anything this year. He farms on 75 decimals of land, and has been in this profession for 20 years.

"Every year, I sell 2-3 lakhs of roses ahead of Valentine's Day. I've spent around Tk 1 lakh to take care of my rose field this year, but all of it's been wasted due to the virus attack," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, another farmer, Umed Ali, said, they've informed the matter to local agriculture officials, but they failed to take care of the issue. "We don't know if they're even trying to solve the problem," he added.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Biman Bangladesh Airlines
H.S. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH. PHONE: 8901300-19, 8901640-54, www.biman-airlines.com

PROCUREMENT & LOGISTIC SUPPORT DIRECTORATE
REF: DACPF/INT'L TENDER/020, 021 & 022/2021-2022
DATED: 02-FEB-2022

INTERNATIONAL TENDER

S/N	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY
01.	DACPF/INT'L TENDER/ 020/2021-2022	DISINFECTING SPRAY (SINGLE/ONE SHOT)	42,000 EA
02.	DT. 02-FEB-2022 DACPF/INT'L TENDER/ 021/2021-2022 DT. 02-FEB-2022	DISPOSABLE PAPER GLASS (FOOD GRADE)	72,00,000 SETS
03.	DACPF/INT'L TENDER/ 022/2021-2022 02-FEB-2022	ALUMINIUM CASSEROLE WITH COVER/LID	27,00,000 SETS

Tender schedule with detailed specifications, terms & conditions will be available at price of BDT 2,500.00 (BDT two thousand five hundred) only or equivalent US Dollar per set (non-refundable) from Manager Accounts, Cash & Banking, Balaka, Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka and from Biman's outstation in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai & London on cash payment during all working days up to 27-FEB-2022. A formal application in bidder's letterhead pad mentioning Tender Number and date shall be required for purchasing the Tender schedule. Tender schedule and other related information may also be viewed at Biman's website www.biman-airlines.com. Last date for submission of tender/offer is: 28-FEB-2022 at 1100 hrs (LT).

Mohammad Shafinur Rahman Akand
Asst. Manager, Procurement

GD-205

BANGLADESH WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড



নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
নেত্রকোণা পত্তর বিভাগ
বাপাউবো, নেত্রকোণা
ফোনঃ ০৯৫১৬১৪৬৪
Email: xen.netrakona@gmail.com
Memo. No. T-1/1596

Office of the Executive Engineer
Netrokona O&M Division
BWDB, Netrokona
Phone: 095161464
Email: xen.netrakona@gmail.com
Date: 01-02-2022



Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)
Tender Notice No. T-1/1578, Dated: 30.01.2022

Tender ID:	Name of work
654399	Repair of Netrokona Town Protection work along the right bank of Mogra River from km 14.120 to km 14.200 total 80.00m in c/w NDR budget at Katli in Upazila Netrokona Sadar, Dist. Netrokona under Netrokona O&M Division, BWDB, Netrokona during the FY-2021-2022.
654398	Bank Protective work along the right bank of Mogra River from km 0.000 to km 0.050 total 50.00m in c/w NDR Budget near Atpara Thana in Upazila-Atpara, Dist. Netrokona under Netrokona O&M Division, BWDB, Netrokona during the FY-2021-2022.
654401	Repair and maintenance Work of Inspection Banglau, Mosque, Office Building & Colony c/w NDR budget at Upazila-Netrokona Sadar, Dist. Netrokona under Netrokona O&M Division, BWDB, Netrokona during the financial year 2021-22.

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders 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 System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31).

M. L. Shaikat
Executive Engineer
Netrokona O&M Division
BWDB, Netrokona

পানি-৫৩৫/২০২১-২০২২
৬"×৩
জিডি-২০৪

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Rangpur
www.lged.gov.bd



**"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
এম শহরের উন্নতি"**

Memo No. 46.02.8500.000.07.085.2019/345
Date: 02-02-2022

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 21/2021-2022

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

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of work	Tender closing/ opening (date & time)
1	651535	LGED/SSWR DP-2/BD-P98/2021-2022/15248 Structures	(a) Re-Construction of Gates of Bara Makim Khal WRS (4V-1.5mx1.8m), (b) Construction of WMCA Office Building (c) Electrical works of WMCA office building (d) Supply of furniture of WMCA office building (e) Documentation of WMCA office building (f) Supply of Computer (g) Construction of Embankment Protective works of Emadpur-Padmapukur Sub-project (SPID-15248). [Mithapukur, Rangpur] [OTM]	Please see e-GP website

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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Rezaul Haque
Executive Engineer
LGED, Rangpur
Ph: 0521-62362
E-mail: xen.rangpur@lged.gov.bd

GD-207

Bubly out of the BIG SCREEN BUBBLE

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bubly, primarily known as a silver-screen actress, recently made her OTT debut with Raihan Rafi directorial “Taan”.

In the Chorki original, she earned praise starring opposite Siam Ahmed, being a perfect grounded foil for his ‘addicted’ character.

We talk to the actress about her experience, future projects, and more.

How was your experience with “Taan”?

This was the first time I shared the screen with Siam.

There were a lot of new challenges, but the experience also offered a lot to learn from. Critics and fans appreciated my effort, which makes all the effort worth it.

I now am confident that I can succeed despite challenges and look to embrace more such challenging yet notable roles.

What is your opinion about the emergence of OTT platforms? Irrespective of the medium, a good script always manages to captivate fans.

Personally, I have always learned from every experience since I stepped into this industry. Web productions now are offering good content to its audience — their stories are meaningful and the production quality

also looks promising.

I am very interested to work on this platform, but the storyline and production quality will always guide my choices.

The Choloচিত্র শিল্পী সমিতি elections recently stirred up a lot of controversies. What are your thoughts in this regard?

The election was the talk of the town for a while, and as artistes, should note how our audience was also very keen on the matter.

We should learn to treat each other like a family, and work together. Only unity will bring about positive outcomes for this industry.

Which new releases are you looking forward to?

I am in talks for a new film, and I will disclose the details when as soon as we finalise the deal. A few of my projects are also waiting for release, and I am shooting for quite a few. I wish to keep working at this pace, and am trying my best to live up to my own potential.



Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif to reunite with ‘Tiger 3’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Salman Khan and Kartina Kaif are set to reunite on the silver screen with the much-anticipated sequel of Yash Raj Films’ “Tiger Zinda Hain”, “Tiger 3”.

Earlier, the shooting of the film was scheduled on January 12, which got postponed due to the surge in pandemic. However, the spy action-thriller franchise, is now ready to go into production in Mumbai with the “Dabangg” star from February 5. According to reports, Katrina Kaif will join the shooting from February 14 which will take place in Delhi.

Actor Emraan Hashmi is also reportedly playing the antagonist in the sequel. The film is slated to release on December 2022.



Jibon pens theme songs for 2 BPL teams

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Noted lyricist Robiul Islam Jibon wrote the theme songs for the Bangladesh Premier League teams—Minister Group Dhaka and Sylhet Sunrisers.

The theme song is played on the field during the matches of the respective teams, and is also available over the internet.

“I truly love cricket and I am highly passionate about writing songs related to the wonderful sport. I am really happy that audiences are really appreciating my songs regarding cricket,” mentioned the lyricist.

Robiul Islam Jibon has written about 25 cricket songs among which “Jole Utho Bangladesh”, “Joy Hobey Hobey”, and “Lorbe Ebar Bangladesh” has garnered a lot of praises.



COUNTRYWIDE

Youth tied to pole, tortured on theft charge

Culprit trader lands in Chuadanga jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Chuadanga court yesterday sent a shop owner to jail in connection with a case for torturing a young man, tying him to a pole, bringing allegation of stealing some grocery items in Alamdanga upazila on Tuesday night.

Ratna Khatun, wife of victim Saddam Hossain, 22, of Thanapara area filed a case with Alamdanga Police Station against Sheikh Amanullah, owner of Sheikh Traders at Hafiz Intersection in Alamdanga municipality yesterday noon.

Earlier on Tuesday night, police arrested Amanullah after a video of the torture spread on social media the same evening.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Alamdanga Police Station Saiful Islam said employees of Amanullah’s shop were unloading goods from a truck on Tuesday afternoon.

At that time, Saddam suddenly appeared in the scene and tried to flee, taking packets of noodles and some other items.

Seeing him fleeing, the workers caught him after a chase and handed him over to Amanullah, who tied Saddam to a pole in front of the shop and beat him up with a pipe.

While talking to the journalists Amanullah claimed that he was fed up over the incidents of frequent thefts.

When his workers brought Saddam over, he tied him to a pole and beat him, he said, adding that he wanted to punish the young man as a corrective measure.

Although, some 20 to 30 people were present there, no one came forward to save him.

After watching the video on the social media, police rescued Saddam in the evening and took him to the police station.

During interrogation, arrestee Amanullah confessed to the torture, he said.

OC Saiful said no one can take the law in their own hands.

If Saddam had stolen anything, Amanullah could have file a complaint with the police station, he added.

The OC, however, said Saddam is an accused in cases for theft and robbery filed with the police station, and he was detained before for his various crimes.

While talking to the journalists Amanullah claimed that he was fed up over the incidents of frequent thefts.

DASHURIA INTERSECTION

A sight for sore eyes

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Trucker Iqbal Hossain who crosses long distances often feels tired and exhausted but the glimpse of a host of beautiful flowers at Dashuria intersection in Pabna’s Ishwardi upazila on Bonpara-Kushtia highway refreshes and energises his mind.

“The long and tiring journeys often make us bored. Traffic jams and damaged roads add to our sufferings. But the sight at Dashuria intersection soothes our eyes; it invigorates us,” Iqbal said.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Pabna has turned a garbage dumping site into a beautiful flower garden which is very pleasing to the eyes.

Schoolteacher Muslima Khatun has to wait for a bus at Dashuria intersection.

“Waiting for a bus is an arduous task especially on a busy intersection but the presence of the host of flowers makes it



easy,” she said.

“The flower garden spreads beauty and makes the waiting process less arduous giving a respite for the eyes,” Muslima added.

Talking with The Daily Star, Md Amanullah, sub-divisional engineer of RHD in Pabna, said that the beautification work was taken marking the Mujib Borsho and 50 years of independence of the country.

“The higher authority directed us

to do something for celebrating the occasions. We came up with a plan to make a flower garden here at Dashuria intersection in November last year,” Amanullah said.

“This is one of the biggest intersections, which was occupied with garbage. Removing the garbage, we made a flower garden planting over six thousand marigold flower plants,” he added.

A water pump was also set up

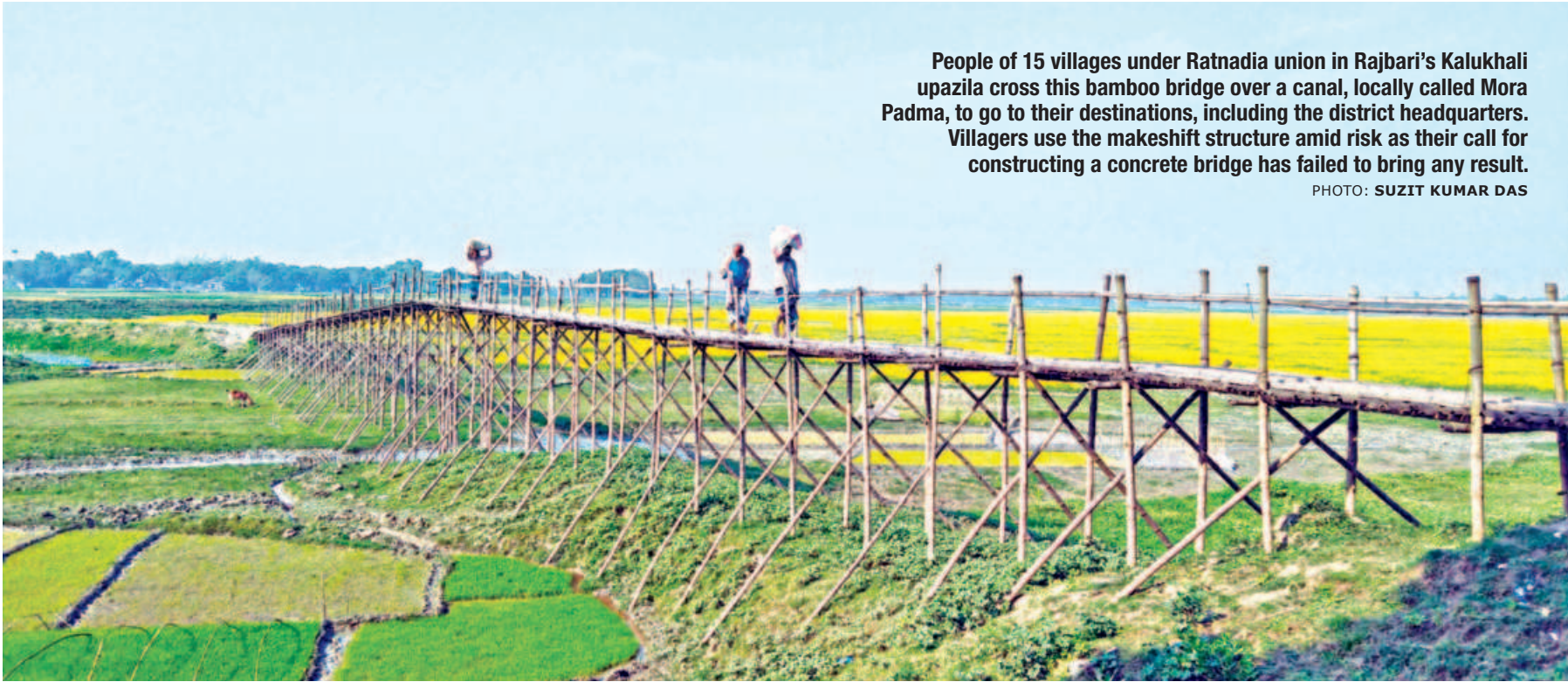
here in the intersection for watering the garden spending around Tk one lakh, Amanullah said, adding that a temporary worker has also been employed for maintaining the garden.

The RHD installed a statue of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the middle of the intersection a few years ago. Now the flowers at the pedestal of the statue have added to the beauty of the busy intersection.

Dashuria intersection is a key point to communicate with the southern and northern districts while thousands of vehicles cross the intersection every day.

“The beautification work in the busy intersection has garnered much appreciation, said Md Abul Mansur, executive engineer of RHD in Pabna.

“Now, we are planning to replicate such beautification work in other intersections of the district as well,” he added.



People of 15 villages under Ratnadia union in Rajbari’s Kalukhali upazila cross this bamboo bridge over a canal, locally called Mora Padma, to go to their destinations, including the district headquarters. Villagers use the makeshift structure amid risk as their call for constructing a concrete bridge has failed to bring any result.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS



This aerial view shows a flood-hit area in La Gasca neighborhood, northern Quito, Ecuador. The heaviest flooding to hit Ecuador in two decades has killed at least 24 people in Quito, washing away cars, damaging homes and sweeping away volleyball players and spectators on a sports field. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

MACHETE ATTACK

At least 40 civilians killed in DR Congo

AFP, Bunia

At least 40 people were killed when machete-wielding militiamen attacked a site for displaced people in strife-torn eastern DR Congo, a monitoring group and local sources said yesterday.

“At least 40 civilians were killed with edged weapons last night in Plaine Savo” in Djugu territory, the US-based Kivu Security Tracker (KST) said on Twitter.

Desire Malo Dra, a representative of civil society groups in Bahema Badjere, said most of the casualties of the attack, which occurred at around 9pm, 10pm” on Tuesday, were women and children.

The KST said the suspected attackers were from a notorious armed group called CODECO, blamed for a string of ethnic massacres in the area.

Female students return to Afghan universities

UN hails move; journos released after Taliban detention

AGENCIES

Afghanistan’s public universities opened yesterday for the first time since the Taliban took over the country last year, with female students joining their male counterparts heading back to campus.

The Taliban administration has not officially announced its plan for female university students, but education officials told Reuters women were permitted to attend classes on the condition that they were separated from male students.

A Reuters witness in the eastern city of Jalalabad saw female students entering via a separate door at Nangarhar University, one of the large government universities opening this week.

Under their previous rule from 1996 to 2001, the hardline Islamist Taliban barred women and girls from education. The group says it has changed since resuming power on Aug. 15 as foreign forces withdrew. But it has been vague on its plans and high school-aged girls in many provinces have still not been allowed to return to school.

Some private universities have reopened, but in many cases female students have not been able to return to class.

A female medical student at Nangarhar University who asked not be named for security

reasons said that classes had already been separated by gender, but it was not clear if they were still able to be taught by male lecturers or interact outside the classroom with male students.

The international community has made education of girls and women a key part of its demands as the Taliban seek more foreign aid and the unfreezing of overseas assets.

The United Nations late on Tuesday praised the inclusion of female students at public universities, appearing to indicate official confirmation.

“Let’s all support the return of Afghan young female and male students to the universities across Afghanistan,” the UN’s Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, added in a Tweet.

“Supporters can consider a range of scholarship programs and ongoing support to female and male professors,” she said.

Only universities in warmer provinces opened yesterday. Tertiary institutions in colder areas, including Kabul, are due to resume on Feb. 26.

Meanwhile, two Afghan journalists detained by the Taliban earlier this week were released yesterday, the news editor of their media organisation said. On Monday Ariana TV reporters Waris Hasrat and Aslam Hijab were detained by the Taliban, according to the Afghan Media Association.

Gas, nuclear get EU nod as green power

AFP, Brussels

The European Commission yesterday defied protests from green campaigners and dissent in its own ranks to give a sustainable finance label to investments in both gas and nuclear power.

Opponents of gas want to discourage investment in a fossil fuel technology they say only fuels the climate change crisis, while critics of nuclear energy point to the threat posed by accidents and nuclear waste. But the EU executive, under pressure from nuclear-powered France and gas-reliant Germany, argues that both have a role to play as cleaner power sources during the transition to a net-zero carbon future.

“The end is a low-carbon future powered by renewable energy. We do not have the capacity for that yet, but we still need to act urgently with all the means at our disposal,” EU commissioner Mairead McGuinness said.

Mamata reelected as TMC chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was re-elected Chairperson of Trinamool Congress party and urged all regional parties to put up a united front against the BJP in the 2024 general elections. Amidst differences within the party, she urged TMC leaders and workers to be united. She said TMC has to fight hard to win all the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the next polls in West Bengal. According to TMC Secretary General Partha Chatterjee, Banerjee was declared elected without a contest as no other leader entered the fray.

US to send warship, fighter jets to UAE

AFP, Dubai

The United States will send a warship and fighter jets to help defend the United Arab Emirates, officials said on Wednesday, after a series of missile attacks by Yemeni rebels left three dead in the wealthy Gulf state. The deployment, to “assist the UAE against the current threat”, follows a phone call between Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the US embassy in the UAE said. The UAE, part of the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen’s Iran-backed Huthi rebels and a major financial hub, suffered its third missile attack in consecutive weeks on Monday.



Shootings at US schools kill 3

AFP, Washington

Two campus police officers were shot and killed at a college in the US state of Virginia Tuesday, while one student was killed and another wounded in a shooting at a school in Minnesota the same day. The two officials were shot and killed around 1:30 pm at the Bridgewater College in Virginia. The suspect, a 27-year-old man named Alexander Wyatt Campbell, was later apprehended. He has already been charged with murder, police said. The motive behind the killing was not immediately known. The shooting in Minnesota occurred in the town of Richfield just outside of Minneapolis around noon, officials said, leaving one student dead and another wounded. The attackers opened fire on the students on a sidewalk outside the South Education Center before speeding away in a car. Two suspects were later arrested. President Joe Biden, who has called on Congress to enact tougher gun control laws, tweeted about the shooting, saying he and his wife “are praying for the families of those lost.”

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Mymensingh PWD Division, Mymensingh

Invitation for Tenders

Phone No. 091-65855, E-mail: ee_mymen@pwd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Memo No. 25.36.6100.110.00.000.21-1778

Date: 01/02/2022

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender last selling	Tender opening
01	651622	Construction of Three-storied (Malkhana, Laundry and Barber Shop, Store, MI Room with medical center) Building with three-storied foundation, Internal Road, Main Drain, East Side Boundary Wall & Gate, and 40 HP Submersible Pump under the project titled “Construction of 05 Nos. RAB Complex and 01 No. RAB Forces Training School Complex” (2nd Amendment)”	16-Feb-2022 17.00	17-Feb-2022 12.00
02	652232	Remaining Construction of Office building, officers mess, CO Bangle, Barrack Bhaban, 650sft quarter, 800sft quarter, 1000sft quarter, 1250sft quarter, and boundary wall at RAB-14, Mymensingh FY-2021-2022. under the project titled “Construction of 05 (Five) RAB Complexes and One RAB Forces Training School Complex” (2nd Amendment)		

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

Rashed Ahsan

Executive Engineer

Mymensingh PW Division

Mymensingh

GD-200

facebook

Google

TECH GIANTS & FAKE NEWS

India seeks tougher action

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian officials have held heated discussions with Google, Twitter and Facebook for not proactively removing what they described as fake news on their platforms, sources told Reuters, the government’s latest altercation with Big Tech.

The officials, from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), strongly criticised the companies and said their inaction on fake news was forcing the Indian government to order content takedowns, which in turn drew international criticism that authorities were suppressing free expression, two sources said.

The sources, who were familiar with the proceedings at the virtual meeting on Monday, described the conversation as tense and heated, signalling a new low in ties between American tech giants and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s administration.

The officials did not issue any ultimatum to the companies at the meeting, the sources said. The government has been tightening tech sector regulations but wants companies to do more on content moderation.

The meeting was a follow-up to the I&B ministry’s use of “emergency powers” in December and January to order the blocking of 55 channels on Google’s YouTube platform, and some Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Directorate of Planning and Development

Invitation for International Tender

P&D/PPS-3/BEPRC-01/21/CHEM-01 (International Tender)/DR- ২১

Date: ০২.০২.২০২২

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)/UGC
3	Purchaser Name	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) represented by Director, Directorate of Planning and Development.
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh
5	Invitation Ref. No.	P&D/PPS-3/BEPRC-01/21/CHEM-01 (International Tender)
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (International Tender)
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget/ Government Funds
8	Tender Package No.	BUET/Chemistry/EPRC/2021/Procurement/G01
9	Tender Publication Date	03.02.2022
10	Pre bid meeting	27.02.2022 at 11.00 AM
11	Tender Last Selling Date	20.03.2022 (during office hours)
12	Tender Closing Date and Time	22.03.2022 at 11.30 AM (BST)
13	Tender Opening Date and Time	22.03.2022 at 12.00 PM (BST), Tender shall be opened in presence of Tenderers/Tender’s authorized representative (if any).
Name & Address of the office(s) - Selling and opening Tender Document		Directorate of Planning and Development (P&D), BUET.
14	Receiving Tender Document	(i) Directorate of Planning and Development (P&D), BUET or (ii) Principal Investigator, Department of Chemistry, BUET, Dhaka-1000.
15	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderers from all countries with minimum of 3 years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services.
16	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Lot-01: Glove Box Workstation Taka 1,000/- (BDT One Thousand only)
17	Brief Description of Goods	Lot-01: Glove Box Workstation & Lot-02: Surface Area Analyzer for the Department of Chemistry, BUET, Dhaka.
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Khan Mahmud Amanat
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director (P&D)
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	The Directorate of Planning and Development (P&D), BUET, Dhaka
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Director, P&D, BUET, Dhaka Tel: 9666413, 55167228-57 Ext. 7350
22	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tendering Meeting	Directorate of Planning & development, BUET on 27.02.2022 at 11.00 AM
23	Special instructions	(i) Intending participants/Bidders or their Local Agent shall have to apply for purchasing tender documents to the undersigned along with Letter of Authorization of Manufacturer. (ii) The Authority reserves the right to accept any Tender to annul the Tender process or to reject any or all Tenders, at any time prior to contract award without assigning any reason thereof.

The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings

27/2/22

Director

Directorate of Planning and Development

BUET, Dhaka

GD-206

Spare us from the crushing blow of price hikes

Govt must find better alternatives to handle subsidy pressure

It is worrying to know that the government is considering raising the prices of electricity, gas and fertilisers by March, in a bid to offset the pressure of subsidies in these sectors. If it decides to go ahead with the move, not only will it increase production costs and affect the consumers of these products, but eventually it will have a knock-on effect on the prices of daily essentials, raising the overall cost of living. Ordinary citizens, especially the poor and low-paid, are already under tremendous pressure. Inflation hit 6.05 percent in December—the highest in 14 months—overshooting the government’s target of 5.30 percent for this fiscal year. Food inflation was the highest in six months, while non-food inflation came close to 7.05 percent.

According to a report by this daily, the prices of electricity and gas could see a rise by February, while fertiliser prices may go up by March. The bid comes two months into the kerosene and diesel price hikes, the effects of which we have already witnessed. A section of officials in favour of another round of hikes believes that a “price adjustment” in the face of spiralling prices in the international market is necessary to bring the government’s subsidy burden down to a “tolerable limit.” They think it will help ensure funds for urgent health emergencies, like procuring additional Covid-19 vaccines and booster shots, increasing rice procurement to save farmers from incurring losses, continuing development activities, and so on.

All good points, but why wring extra money out of the public purse? It is not only politically injudicious in the last year of this government’s tenure, but also an unnecessary burden the public could do without. We understand that different ministries have already sent in requests for additional subsidies to absorb the spiralling international prices. The finance ministry is reportedly reviewing the proposals and will come up with a revised budget by March. The authorities may try to lessen the subsidy burden by increasing the prices of electricity, gas and fertilisers, but we think they need to take a step back and find a way to recuperate from the losses without pushing people under the train.

Since Covid-19 is likely to continue interrupting supply chains and shooting up international prices for some more time, high inflation may continue to be a reality. But instead of sticking to raising prices, the government should think of cutting costs in other ways—like saving money lost in systemic failures, corruption and inefficiencies, establishing greater accountability, discarding or putting on hold money guzzlers like inessential development projects, etc.

Whatever the government decides to do, the solution does not lie in putting the burden on the public. The pandemic has already caused immeasurable sufferings and hardship to people, pushing a vast number of them beyond the poverty line. Unemployment has reached an alarming level. People are already struggling with the rising healthcare costs. Another round of price hike is the last thing they need.

Barishal airport needs a facelift

Authorities must start renovation work without delay

THE fastest way to travel to and from Barishal is by air. This southern district in Bangladesh has immense business prospects for the traders, and many prefer to travel by air as commuting by roads may take almost the entire day—especially if you’re travelling from Dhaka. But the sole airport in the district, which began commercial flights in 1995, lies in a sorry state with its terminal and runway needing immediate repairs. It is mystifying as to why the civil aviation authority let the airport slide to its present poor condition, which may put the life of passengers and airport crew in jeopardy any day.

According to our report, a high-level team of experts appointed by the civil aviation ministry prepared a report after visiting the airport on January 3. The team came to notice that landing aircrafts at the Barishal airport was a risky undertaking as the runway and other nearby structures were in a dilapidated condition; the terminal building was in a poor state and the runway was unprotected because of trespassing. The team also found that 75 metres of the northern end of the runway was being severely eroded by the Sugandha River. Experts are of the opinion that if the ongoing trend of erosion continues, landing and take-off will become quite risky.

We understand that the report made some important recommendations like starting repair and maintenance work of the entire terminal building, repairing asphalt surfaces of the runway, and constructing security walls around the airport. The expert team also recommended taking immediate measures to protect the airport from river erosion by coordinating with the water resources ministry, especially the Water Development Board.

Considering the significance of the airport from the perspective of business and tourism, the relevant authorities must not waste time to undertake the recommended measures, as experts have acknowledged the risks of mishaps occurring any time. There should not be any opening in the boundary wall for humans or animals to enter the airport, and it needs to be protected from river erosion. We hope the probe team report would sound the alarm bell for the higher authorities to start the renovation works on an urgent basis.

Where are all the money launderers?



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

TASNEEM TAYEB

MONEY laundering has become an all-pervasive problem for Bangladesh, permeating all spheres, strengthening its ever-expanding roots, like a metastatic cancer. Around USD 12-15 billion is smuggled out of the country every year, according to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman. This includes money laundered through trade misinvoicing and illegal remittance transfer, among other illicit mechanisms of money smuggling.

Little action is being taken by the authorities concerned to address this problem. At least, the recent submission of two lists containing names of money launderers to the High Court by the Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) suggests as much.

The list shared by the central bank and the BFIU contains names of 69 individuals and seven entities. The list submitted by the ACC contains the names of 61 individuals and entities. However, most of these names have already been exposed by the Panama and Paradise paper revelations and media reports over time.

The BFIU could only obtain information on 10 of the 69 individuals on its list through financial intelligence wings of some other countries, and shared it with the ACC and other agencies for further investigation. Now the question is: Why could they collect information on only 10 individuals—why not all 69 of the alleged launderers?

These lists of alleged money launderers have been submitted nearly one year after the High Court sought them. In the meantime, on four occasions, time extensions had been asked for. Is it too much to expect from these agencies to submit thorough and comprehensive information after spending almost a year on investigation?

The court, in its observation, asked the authorities to “supply the information, if any, collected from the foreign nations concerned under mutual legal assistance request, which was created to prevent money laundering among the signatory nations” (New Age, January 30, 2022).

In response, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik said that for the government agencies, it was very difficult



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STOCK ILLUSTRATION

Since the BFIU has access to intelligence sharing platforms—including the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units—why could it not capitalise on these advantages to gather detailed information on the money smugglers?

information on the money smugglers?

The ACC has said that it has been facing limitations in tracing the launderers along with the smuggled money, and had apparently requested information from the BFIU and the home and foreign ministries, but to no avail. Why? The foreign minister has shrugged off the responsibility, saying it’s not the foreign ministry’s job to find information about money launderers or their actions. Whose responsibility is it to gather such intel, then? Logic would say, the BFIU.

The lists submitted have exposed two major bottlenecks in our fight against money laundering: lack of synergy among the agencies that are supposed to be working together on the problem, and an apparent lack of ownership of specific agencies in delivering their work properly.

If we talk about specific agencies, we need to look at certain factors. Do these agencies have the right resources and logistical support to engage in intel gathering and carrying out investigations? Is there any form of lacking in their technical or institutional capacity which needs to be addressed? Or is it just a case of complacency or a lack of political will?

And why is there such a brazen lack of coordination? Are these agencies not working towards the same goal? Are they

How Bangladesh can avoid the ‘Dutch disease’



Farzana Zaman
is a freelance writer.

FARZANA ZAMAN

RECENTLY, Bangladesh formally proposed the signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The EAEU comprises five countries—Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan—with whom Bangladesh has a combined trade volume of over USD 1.5 billion, something that has the potential to increase manifold if an FTA is inked. A feasibility test was also conducted by the planning ministry to support the speculations over the signing of the FTA and also its potential—which has appeared to yield fruitful outcomes. All these efforts were made to support Bangladesh’s preparation for its change of socio-economic status—that is, graduating from the Least Developed Country (LDC) grouping to the Developing Countries category.

During the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), Bangladesh received the go-ahead for this graduation, which is scheduled to be effective in 2026. Earlier in February 2021, the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP) recommended Bangladesh to graduate as it had acquired eligibility across all three criteria for graduation—per capita income, human assets index (HAI), and economic and environmental vulnerability index (EVI). This is an outstanding accomplishment which coincides with the golden jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence. However, it also forces us to confront a number of challenges that need to be overcome by pursuing a comprehensive trade strategy for a smooth graduation and sustainability in holding on to our new status.

A country exiting the LDC category is



▲
To avoid a rocky aftermath of LDC graduation, Bangladesh needs to plan ahead to maintain free trade facilities.

ILLUSTRATION:
COLLECTED

supposed to lose international support measures (ISM), including preferential market access and special treatment by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in terms of bilateral and regional trade. This means that Bangladesh would have to relinquish its existing privileges, such as duty-free quota-free (DFQF) access to the export markets, for which

under pressure from any vested interest group?

It is baffling how so many responsible agencies have failed to provide concrete and comprehensive information on money smugglers whose names and faces we are familiar with.

“Money laundering is a complex and sophisticated crime. More importantly, since those involved in money laundering are not only smart, but also usually privileged and powerful people, a right combination of political will, technical skill and multipronged collaborative efforts is needed to combat it. Thankfully, the national and international legal and institutional potentials to confront money laundering have become much stronger and systematic than before. That ensuring accountability for money laundering is not impossible was already demonstrated in Bangladesh, when a high-profile, politically linked person was held to account and laundered money were repatriated from Singapore. That being said, the relevant agencies mandated to prevent, control and prosecute offences of money laundering just need to have the will, courage and skills to go to the drawing board to track the process through which that success was achieved, and try to replicate the example in collaboration with each other. Whether or not there is sufficient courage and commitment to take money laundering head-on remains an open question,” said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, while speaking to this writer on this issue.

Whatever obstacles our agencies are facing in tracing the money and the criminals need to be overcome for the greater well-being of the nation and our economy. The High Court has asked the BFIU to submit the names of Bangladeshi citizens who have deposited money in foreign bank accounts, including the Swiss banks. At the same time, the court has asked the ACC and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police to submit the progress report on the investigation into allegations of money smuggling against Bangladeshi nationals mentioned in the Panama and Paradise papers.

One hopes that the agencies concerned would rise above their individual agendas and challenges, and work as a team to fight this malady together. We cannot and must not allow criminals to plunder and loot the common people’s money and get away with it, no matter who these individuals are, whatever their political connections are. Money launderers are criminals and must be brought to book as per the laws of the land. We must do all we can to support the High Court in its endeavour to hold these culprits accountable.

graduates. Moreover, Bangladesh will lose its eligibility for accessing grants and soft loans under official development assistance (ODA).

Bangladesh might also effectively succumb to the “Dutch disease,” due to its heavy economic dependence on the RMG sector. So, to prevent this aftermath of the graduation, Bangladesh will have to craft a host of comprehensive approaches: keep signing more FTAs and PTAs, explore more diversified markets, and not put all its eggs in one basket.

Beyond existing trade-related relational mechanisms, Bangladesh needs to prepare an extensive overseas market strategy, exploring diverse markets across different regions. Joining other trade blocs and signing bilateral and multilateral FTAs will mitigate trade-related complications such as tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions, and facilitate further trade relations and expansion. It is also crucial for Bangladesh to diversify its export basket with leather goods, frozen food, etc.

So far, Bangladesh has only inked a bilateral PTA with Bhutan on December 6, 2020 and is considering signing more PTAs with several countries including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. In order to substitute the soon-to-be-gone privileges, the current FTA domain must be expanded to engage as many countries as possible.

Given Bangladesh’s lucrativeness as an emerging economic power within the Saarc trade bloc and its 165-million-people market, an FTA with Bangladesh will potentially be a stepping stone for Russian and other EAEU businesses and investors to have access to other South Asian markets. And most importantly, with its unique geographical position and easy accessibility to global maritime trade routes, Bangladesh could work as a central trade and manufacturing hub for South Asia and beyond. Thus, an FTA between Bangladesh and the EAEU could be a mutual win for both parties, meaningful progress and prosperity for the people in both regions, and for the world as a whole.

Children are to be nurtured, not tortured



SHAHEEN ANAM

Shaheen Anam is the executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

MANY societies have their own sources of shame. Genital mutilation, honour killing, sexual abuse of children in religious institutions—there are many such practices that go against all norms of a civilised and humane society. What is ours? I can think of at least two: child marriage and child labour. I call them shame as both are condoned and enjoy social acceptance, yet violate the fundamental principles of human rights and dignity—the right to a life of freedom and security.

The IGI Global, which conducted research on child labour with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), estimates that there are 420,000 child domestic workers in Bangladesh, of whom 83 percent are female, and 132,000 work in Dhaka city.

The government has committed to phase out child labour in Bangladesh and enacted a policy to this end in 2010, and issued an order in 2013 prohibiting all children under 18 years of age from working in 38 identified hazardous jobs. However, there is no implementation of this regulation as children continue to work in hazardous and dangerous situations, such as welding, in biri factories, as helpers in human hauliers, stone-cutting, etc. As for domestic work, it did not even make it to the list of hazardous work. Child rights experts, on the other hand, say that child domestic workers are particularly vulnerable as their work is inside people's homes and evades scrutiny from the authorities or those children's families. It is unregulated and unmonitored, leaving children at the total mercy of their employers. Parents with low income hand over their children, often as young as eight, to work in middle- or lower middle-class households in the hope that they will be looked after, at least get better nutrition, and also contribute to their families' income.

Alas! Contrary to their expectations, domestic child workers face regular abuse and neglect. The abuse ranges from overwork, insufficient food, no recreation or education, etc to unspeakable torture such as sexual violence, severe beating, starvation, burning, scalding with hot water and so on—sometimes resulting in death.

As per reports compiled by rights organisations such as Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, etc. in the last five years, at least 200 child domestic workers were found dead in their employers' homes. Meanwhile, 365 were tortured physically, and 62 girls were sexually abused. In 2020-2021, as per reports compiled by MJF from six newspapers, 44 child domestic workers were victims of torture, of whom 16 died, and four died by suicide. Unless there is severe injury or death, such cases are not reported, nor are criminal cases filed. Only 30 percent of the cases of such torture are filed, with no known example of perpetrators ever getting punished for such heinous crimes against children.

The recent case of Farzana, a domestic worker aged 17 years, employed by a banker's family in Kalabagan, Dhaka revealed that physical and mental abuse can continue for years without anyone knowing about it. She suffered continuous torture for seven years, after which she finally sought help. Her

entire body shows marks of old and new wounds. She is now lying at a hospital, undergoing treatment. Her parents have filed a criminal case, but the perpetrator is already out on bail.

This is not a one-off incident. We read about such inhuman acts inflicted by members of the so-called educated or elite class on their domestic helps every so often. In November last year, little Tania, an eight-year-old child from Fulbaria, Mymensingh, was found with blade cuts all over her body. Daughter of a poor tea seller, she was hired as a household help for a monthly salary of Tk 1,000. A criminal case was filed, but again the perpetrators are out on bail. Last year, the 44 reported cases of torture inflicted on child domestic workers all tell the same story of brutal assault, starvation, scalding with hot water and iron, and so on. Medical help was given only when the child faced imminent death. Criminal cases were filed against some, but no one has faced any punishment for their act of such extreme cruelty.

Reports of suicide or attempted suicide by adolescent female domestic workers are common. Most are found hanging from the ceiling fan. Investigation into the cause of suicide is mostly inconclusive without enough evidence to file criminal cases. There is, however, strong suspicion of sexual assault by male employers.

As is obvious, the unreported cases outnumber the reported ones. No one takes notice unless the torture is severe, and the victim lands in a hospital or is dead. Cries for justice go in vain. Not a single perpetrator accused of torturing domestic help has ever been convicted. Being economically solvent, perpetrators are able to prevent cases from being filed or negotiate with the victims' families, who are too poor and powerless to continue with the cases and usually agree to out-of-court settlement.

The government has committed to eliminate all hazardous work by children by 2024 and completely eliminate child labour by 2030. By all standards, setting a deadline that is years away indicates the lack of urgency in implementing any system or policies that will end child labour soon. In the meantime, children continue to fall prey to predator employers, who think they own them and can do whatever they want.

What can we do to make child labour socially unacceptable? What kind of campaign will result in putting to shame those who employ children and mistreat them? The narrative that our socio-economic situation will not permit elimination of child labour has gone on for too long. But why should children pay the price of our inability to build a society where everyone's basic needs are met? When will children enjoy the fruits of our so-called middle-income country status?

The government should consider expanding the social safety net programmes for parents who are forced to send their children to work. An important first step is to address the invisibility of child domestic workers, because once they enter the homes of their employers, they lose all identity and often their parents are not allowed to visit them. They should be registered with the social welfare department, and given ID cards with a hotline number to call in case of emergency. The social welfare department can also organise spot visits on a trial basis to at least give the impression that there is a system in place to monitor how these children are being treated.

The other issue is that of justice. If the law is supposed to work for everyone, then how come not a single case filed against these cruel employers of child domestic workers has ever resulted in conviction? This has given the message that they will not be held to account, no matter what



Childhood is supposed to be full of laughter and wonder, not hard labour.

FILE PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

cruelty they perpetrate on these children.

But a more fundamental question is: What drives normal people to such acts of cruelty? How can people—couples with families—have such double standards of adoring and protecting their own children, but slap, pinch, or worse, starve and burn others' children with hot iron? I don't think we have the answer; perhaps this phenomenon needs further study.

Finally, many of us dream of the kind of society we want. Mine is the following: The mention of "child labour" is greeted with astonishment. "Child labour! What is that? How can the two words, child and labour, go together? The only words that can be associated with children are laughter, playfulness, naughtiness, and joy!"

Is this my wishful thinking, or can it be a reality some day?

Not a single perpetrator accused of torturing domestic help has ever been convicted. Being economically solvent, perpetrators are able to prevent cases from being filed or negotiate with the victims' families, who are too poor and powerless to continue with the cases and usually agree to out-of-court settlements.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ।



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Forest Department
Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Ban Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
www.bforest.gov.bd



Memo No. FD/SUFAL/Procurement/SD-33/11/2021/219

Date: February 2, 2022

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

Country: Bangladesh
Name of the Project: Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project
Credit No. 6325-BD
Assignment Title: Consulting Services for Market study for wood chips, saw dust and other wood products including furniture (demand and supply)
Reference No. Package No. SD-33
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the **Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project** and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
Brief objectives of this assignment are:

- i). Conducting market study for wood chips, saw dust and other wood products including furniture (demand and supply);
- ii). Reviewing and recommending for updating policies and regulatory reforms to ease procedures, costs and barriers for tree growers, sawmill owners and exporters;
- iii). Developing and operationalize an online wood-based market information system, including mobile app with database of nurseries and wood processing units based on the survey (demand, supply and forecast of timber) for using by the stakeholders;
- iv). Conducting feasibility study on the adoption of forest certification of forest management e.g. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)/Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC).

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment and soft copy of Prescribed Format for Submission of Expression of Interest can be found at the following website: www.bforest.gov.bd .
The Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) now invites eligible Consulting Firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consulting Firms should provide information as per Prescribed Format mentioned above that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The required qualification and experience of the firm/firms are as follows:

- A registered consulting firm with minimum 10 years of general experience and substantial experience of working in natural resource sector;
- Similar nature assignment experience i.e. conducting forests/wood-based market study/survey etc. within the last 10 years from the date of submission of EOI.
- Experience of working under donor funded projects will be an added advantage;
- The consulting firm shall have sufficient and relevant managerial, financial and organizational capabilities and logistics for the assignment.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
Attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 (Revised November 2017 and August 2018) ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
Consulting Firms may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate **clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy**. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract. It is preferable to limit the maximum number of firms within 03 (three) in an association including the Lead Firm.

A Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualification-based Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **February 27, 2022 up to 2:30pm**.


Gobinda Roy
Project Director
Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project
Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)
Ban Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Phone: +880-2-55006786
E-mail: sufal.pmu@gmail.com

GD-202

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Zilch

5 Be boastful

9 Out of bed

10 Company symbols

12 Disturbed

13 In the know

14 Halloween scarers

16 Pewter component

17 Urgent call

18 Halloween scarers

20 Snare

22 Tortoise's rival

23 Eat away

25 Opera piece

28 Settle by yeas and nays

32 Halloween scarers

34 Train stop: Abbr.

35 Band blaster

36 Halloween scarers

38 Black card

40 Welcome

41 Energy choice

42 Abrasive powder

43 Unexciting

44 Houston and Rayburn

DOWN

1 Japan, to the Japanese

2 Help out

3 Some bucks

4 Dove's stance

5 Explosion

6 Squabble

7 Christie of

mysteries

8 More gruesome

9 Charlotte — (rich dessert)

11 Reason

15 Capsize

19 Trumpeter Baker

21 Paper pack

24 Rx amounts

25 Accumulate

26 Drunkard, in slang

27 African runner

29 High regard

30 Everyone else

31 Mean

33 "If—a Rich Man"

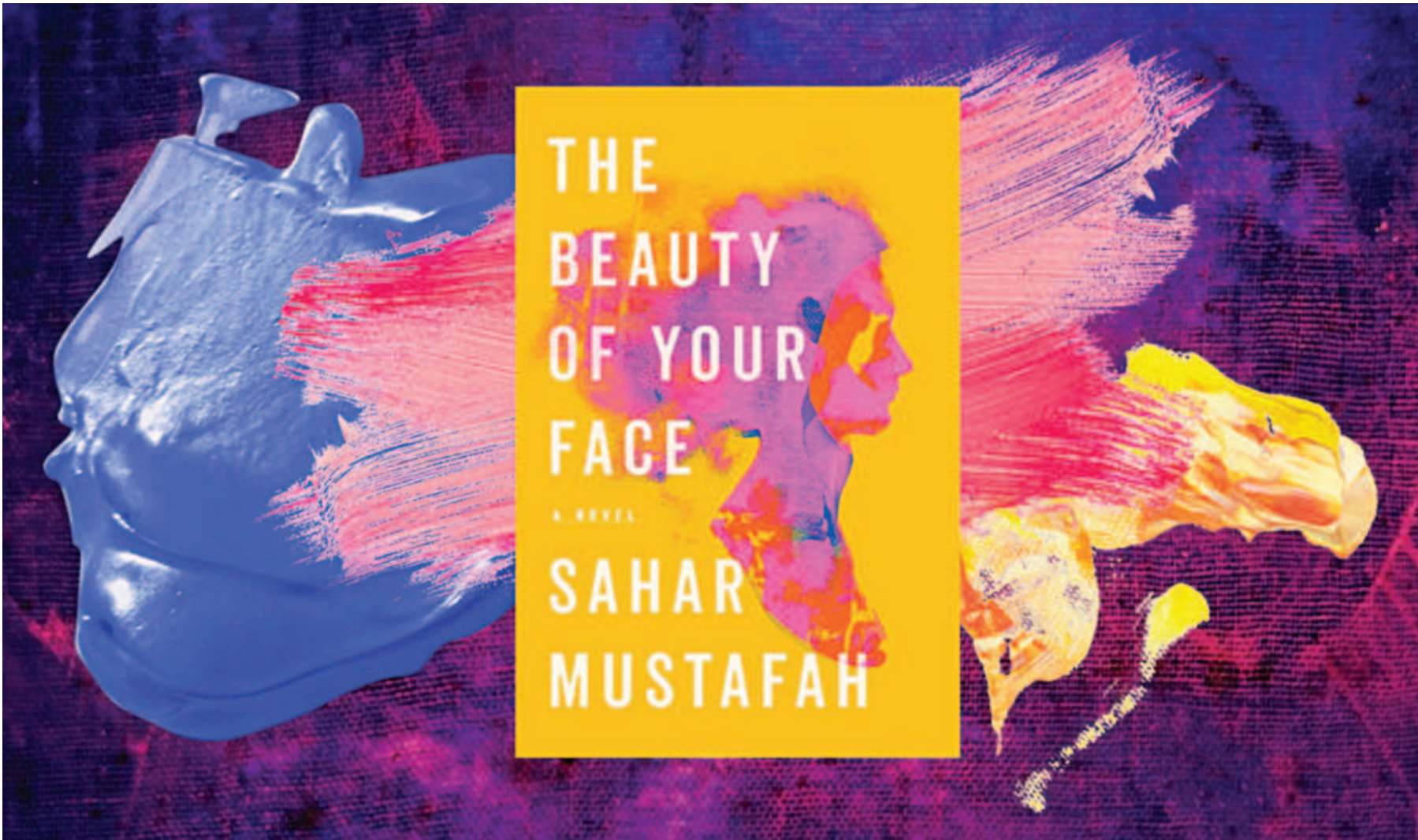
37 "—La Douce"

39 River stopper

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

B	A	T	S		S	O	B	S	H
A	V	R	I	L		E	N	O	C
R	A	I	S	E		D	E	B	R
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A	S	P	S			A	S	T	A



COLLAGE: SARAH ANJUM BARI

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

In which Muslims are not “radicals”

The novel follows the story of one Palestinian-American Afaf, who is the head of Nurideen School for girls in Chicago. One fateful day, a white supremacist shooter attacks the school and has a chance encounter with her.

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

Too often, the representation of Muslims in arts and culture has been tainted by the shadow of “extremism”. If a young man or a woman in a book decides to convert to Islam, we eventually see them trekking across Syria to join ISIS. A Swedish Netflix series, *Caliphate*, and Fatima Bhutto's novel, *The Runaways* (Viking, 2019), are glaring examples. Another, less severe, example is Tahmima Anam's novel, *The Good Muslim* (Harper, 2011), where Sohail's devotion to Islam is viewed through a negative lens to such an extent that I felt like it was designed to pander to a Western audience.

Sahar Mustafah's novel, *The Beauty of Your Face* (WW Norton & Company, 2020), shatters this longstanding image that many tend to associate Islam with. It was the first time I read such a narrative, with an authentic representation of Islam and Muslims, and it felt like a breath of fresh air.

The novel follows the story of one Palestinian-American Afaf, who is the head of Nurideen School for girls in Chicago. One fateful day, a white supremacist shooter attacks the school and has a chance encounter with her. The novel is concentrated mostly on the trajectory of Afaf's life up until that point; we discover

who her parents are and how their relationships strain with their children in the face of dire circumstances, such as the disappearance of Afaf's sister, Nada. We get to see how these people attempt to fit into the social fabric of an American life that always spits them out.

Afaf's father has a long stint with alcohol following Nada's disappearance. When he stumbles across Islam as his sanctuary, he ropes Afaf into this new journey. Comfort and healing descend on them, while it does not have the same effect on her apathetic brother and bitter mother. In hindsight, I can easily see how Afaf and her father's journey into Islam could come off as treading on radicalism. While the author makes it a point to show reluctance to embrace religion so wholeheartedly, her approach is still balanced and nuanced. In that her primary focus is to portray how religion can be an unshakeable refuge.

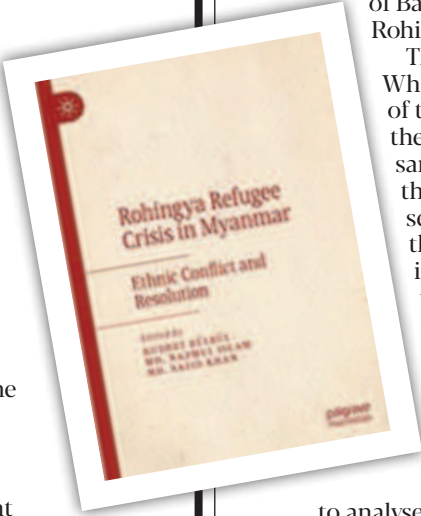
One will find solace from how accurate the representation of religious practises is in this novel: from accepting the decrees of God, to perseverance in facing life's challenges, to the daily mandatory prayers, to performing Hajj, and other essential Islamic rules and rituals. Although there are parts that a faction of practising Muslims might find debatable—such as Muslims

celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas, and receiving piano lessons in an Islamic school—the novel succeeds in turning internalised Islamophobia on its head.

Yet, another strong point of the novel is Mustafa's decision to give the shooter a brief backstory. Through the subplot, readers get a glimpse at why anti-Islamic sentiments run rampant in the US, and the plotpoint can also be interpreted as the writer's attempt to unveil America's hypocrisy in its intervention into the Middle Eastern foreign policy—how it unleashed long spells of violence and disasters in the name of human rights, and at the same time bred supremacists like the shooter represented in the book.

The Beauty of Your Face is a lesson not only in writing about a healing Islamic experience but also in approaching a clever structure for storytelling. The novel swings back and forth from Afaf and her family's past to scenes of the shooting in Nurideen School for Girls. This lends the story a sustained layer of suspense, one that keeps readers glued until the end.

Shah Tazrian Ashrafi is a contributor.



BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

The Rohingya conflict: A critical look from a global and regional lens

MD NIAMOT ALI

Edited by Kudret Bulbul, a professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, Turkey, Md Nazmul Islam, a Bangladeshi who teaches at the Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, and Md Sajid Khan, a research scholar in the Department of Social Work at Hacettepe University, Ankara—Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Myanmar: Ethnic Conflict and Resolution (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) observes critical aspects of the crisis that has seen over 1.3 million Rohingyas seeking shelter from Rakhine in Bangladesh.

In the introduction and also its first chapter, Abdur Rahman Fuad and Ali Dadan dive deep into the origin of Rohingyas and the glorious past of the Muslim Kingdom in Arakan. The second chapter touches upon genocide, forced migration, and forced labour from a global perspective with regards to international law. In contrast, the third chapter narrows down in its discussion of forced migration and human trafficking in context of the Rohingya refugees in South Asia.

The work in its entirety discusses the current as well as a hypothetical future for Rohingyas. The authors propose practical approaches to resolving an ethnic conflict of this magnitude. They have tried to consider the crisis as an international issue played out by two Asian giants, namely India and China, and a number of chapters deal with the Indian policy and realpolitik for the world's most persecuted refugees and interest in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. Asif Bin Ali critically develops the Myanmar government's policies and politics against the Rohingyas. And Sariful Islam analyzes the interest of the present Government of Bangladesh in terms of hosting Rohingyas as a humanitarian response.

The book has some flaws, however. While it does cover a wide range of topics, a significant number of the essays have been written by the same writers, including the editors themselves. Therefore, the discourse seems to create a bubble of ideas that could have been avoided by including more authors. Second, the organisation of the book has not been well planned out. And while some of the chapters have solid theoretical and empirical basis, the rest merely gather information that lacks any solid analytical support.

Conversely, the authors seek to analyse the grave issue under the theme of media representation in Bangladesh and India. In addition, the role of western countries, particularly in providing foreign aid through INGOs and NGOs, has been presented in the last two chapters of the book, along with accounts from the perspective of Rohingyas.

In its consideration of the nationalistic policies of the Myanmar government, the authors have shown how Bangladesh has become one of the primary victims of the crisis; in various capacities, they propose, Bangladesh has even made political profit out of the situation. Because of its various tools for analysing the problem, this book can be referred to for history, politics, sociology, international relations, and media studies.

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REVIEW: SHORT STORY OF THE MONTH

“Mother’s Milk” by Tahmima Anam: Anatomy of a mother’s pain

In this monthly series, we review short stories that deserve to be rediscovered and appreciated.

SARAH ANJUM BARI

In “Mother's Milk”, a short story by Tahmima Anam which appears in *Our Many Longings: Contemporary Short Fiction from Bangladesh* (Dhuali Books, 2021), an unnamed narrator gives us brief snatches of her life as she attempts to endure...something. One can't really call it an incident; it is, seemingly, more a state of being that requires her to keep joy at bay. Consciously, deliberately.

As her “friend” in this project of endurance, the narrator seeks refuge in the newspaper, in the stories of refugees, dead babies, floods, hunger, and poverty that it brings to her everyday. They allow her to flit from flashes of pleasure and peace back to misery, even as her husband, mother, and in-laws attempt to shift her from home to (her husband's) workplace, from her own life to that of her brother's, where things look cheerier. All of these things—and more—are told to us in very brief scraps. Bearing them into one flowing, narrative

whole is the narrator's breast milk, which flows and flows, dampens her blouse during a board meeting, smears her green salwar kameez on a trip to Mymensingh, a flow that seemingly nourishes no one.

Like this outpour of milk (and maternal instincts, and the solace to be found in newspapers), many things in this short story are left open and lopsided and inexplicable, which makes reading it a distinctly different experience from those associated with the *Golden Age* trilogy, or the more recent, *The Startup Wife* (2021). Those stories came with plots, with characters who communicated their personalities and desires to the reader with clarity. Here, the metaphors aren't what you think they're about; the parallels to be drawn between characters and motifs don't quite add up in neat little boxes; grief, as in real life, looks and feels different on each new day.



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

Each sentence carries its own little grievance bitterly, tightly retold. Each paragraph, sowing these sentences together, tells the story of a different experience in the narrator's daily life. And Tahmima Anam shuffles these paragraphs around so deftly that the contrast, the juxtaposition of incidents, bares to the

reader a particularly raw, pink layer of the narrator's pain. It has just stopped stinging, but it will again, in a matter of seconds.

Through this hopping from pain to pain, we learn mid-way through the story that the woman has recently lost her newborn child. The incident reveals many things. How “decent” a man her husband is for not leaving her. How motherhood feels for a fleeting second. How grief is a darkness with agency: you could be “listening to music or browsing through old photographs. You haven't engaged in risky behaviour by daring to read a book”; but it can visit you unannounced and balloon your personal pain into the pain of every suffering individual on the planet, so that you find solidarity not with another struggling mother, but with a bull that has been failing to ejaculate semen for the narrator's husband's business.

This encounter with the bull—the

way his ability to breed is labelled as “productivity” (or lack thereof)—allows the narrator to take one fragment of a step towards reconciling with her pain. At the same time, it lands her on the cusp of reflecting on the mechanical, capitalist lens through which society looks at those who procreate.

In the first sentence of “Mother's Milk”, the narrator specifies that the newspapers that so helped her, do so “in black and white”. Later in the story, in a fit of rage mentioned almost-too-casually in passing, she bites a newspaper into shreds with her teeth. Underneath the calm that narrates this tale of trauma, there appears to be a clawing need to rip through the absolute blacks and whites of a human's, a woman's, and a mother's experiences, and let the shades of red burst forth.

Sarah Anjum Bari is editor of *Daily Star Books*. Reach her at sarah.anjum.bari@gmail.com and [@wordsintean](https://www.instagram.com/wordsintean) on Instagram and Twitter.

Archery's plea to football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) urged the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday to coordinate with them before allotting their Bangladesh Premier League matches at Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi, which has been exclusively used for the archers for the last eight years.

The BFF yesterday disclosed the 66-match first phase of the professional football league starting today by keeping three matches per week (overall 33 matches) at the Tongi stadium but the BAF protested the BFF move.

"If the BFF holds 33 league matches at the Archery centre, then we have to lose 75 percent training time of the national archers, who are preparing to take part in Asian Games qualifiers in March and World Cup in April," said BAF president Lt Gen (Retired) Mainul Islam at a press conference, hurriedly arranged at the BAF office at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

"We received the schedule of football matches this afternoon but the BFF did not discuss the schedule with us, even though the allotment letter from National Sports Council (NSC) clearly asked the football federation to coordinate the matter with the local administration and Bangladesh Archery Federation.

"NSC had allotted the stadium only for the archery federation in 2014 and we have fixed everything like water, electricity, security, cleansing and paying bills every month since. Who will take care of these things if football is played here?" informed Islam while adding they would also be questioned by the sponsors if they are unable to continue the training camp and ranking tournament.



As the Bangladesh Premier League begins today, the participating clubs are all busy with their training. (Top) Abahani players had their training session at the club ground yesterday, with an eye on a treble after having won the Independence Cup and the Federation Cup at the start of the season. (Bottom) Bashundhara Kings, meanwhile, will look to deny the Sky Blues and make it a hat-trick of league titles.

PHOTO: STAR

Kings begin title defence as BPL kicks off today

SPORTS REPORTER

Amid the drama over venues, the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) is all set to get underway today at two separate venues outside Dhaka.

Title holders Bashundhara Kings will take on newcomers Swadhinata Krira Sangha and runners-up Sheikh Jamal DC will play against Uttar Baridhara Club.

Following the unavailability of Bangabandhu National Stadium and participating teams' unwillingness to play on sub-standard turf at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, the selection drama over the venues for the professional football league drew concerning attention as the professional league management committee kept changing their decision time and again during the past week.

Although six venues were allocated to play the home-and-away basis matches initially, the sudden surge of coronavirus forced the management to change the initial plan to three venues without a home ground concept.

The committee proceeded to cancel Kings' home ground Bashundhara Kings Arena just less than 48 hours before the league set to kick off, leaving only two venues to host the league matches. In addition, the Bangladesh Archery Federation also protested against the use of Tongi stadium without consulting them.

Apart from the dispute over the venues, the 14th edition of the professional football league is expected to be much more competitive, largely due to the presence of four to five equal-strength sides while the lightweights have already shown their prowess in the recently-concluded Independence Cup and Federation Cup.

Nevertheless, two-time professional

league champions Kings will be looking forward to taking the hat-trick league title home after failing to defend the Independence Cup and missing in action during the Federation Cup.

There is no question over the ability of Kings, who established their sole dominance in the domestic circuit by winning five consecutive trophies in the last three seasons but they have a few injury concerns before the start of the league.

Kings' Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon



said, "It's a matter of time [when BPL is ready to start] and opportunity that Kings will be contesting for the 3rd consecutive BPL title and the AFC Cup final stage. We are still recovering some of our players from the injuries caused by the terrible turf condition and bad planned game fixtures at Kamalapur."

"Nowadays, all our efforts are on bringing back the desired performance levels. We want to keep our status of being a different and attractive team to watch and ultimately stick to our positive winning record.

However, six-time professional league champions Abahani will pose a great threat to Kings and the Sky Blues have already proved they are no less strong than

Kings by beating them 3-0 in the final of Independence Cup, their first win over Kings in the last three years.

Abahani then kept their winning momentum intact in the Federation Cup to win back-to-back titles and have set their sights on a rare treble in a season, which was achieved by Sheikh Russel KC in the 2012-13 season.

Even though it looks like a two-way battle between Kings and Abahani is on the table, however, it would not be surprising if big-budget Sheikh Russel,

Saif SC and Sheikh Jamal DC join in the race as none of them could show their real strength in the two preceding tournaments.

However, the lightweights like Mohammedan SC, Rahmatganj MFS, Swadhinata KS and Bangladesh Police FC will still be teams to beat as they showed their strength in season's two tournaments as the league are going to be shorter compared to the last season and the teams will get less margin for errors.

Furthermore, the league is vital for national head coach Javier Cabrera, who would be keenly observing each and every league match to find out a probable national squad for FIFA friendly matches in March.

DRS in BPL's latter stages?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will try to implement the Decision Review System from the latter stages of the ongoing Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed yesterday.

The absence of DRS has led to criticism since the start of the BPL and the governing council later introduced the Alternative Decision Review System (ADRS) in the Chattogram leg of the tournament.

However, there confusion remained despite the ADRS after some controversial decisions that were made in the absence of conclusive evidence.

We are trying to see whether we can introduce DRS in the latter stages of the BPL, not only for the upcoming series against Afghanistan.



We have started the process and are trying to introduce the full DRS from the last Dhaka leg and also ensure the technology for the Afghanistan series," Nizamuddin told media yesterday.

The second leg of BPL will begin in Dhaka from today, with Mushfiqur Rahim's Khulna Tigers taking on Sylhet Sunrisers in the day game. In the day's second fixture, Chattogram Challengers will lock horns with Comilla Victorians. Comilla's English all-rounder Moeen Ali already joined the side in Dhaka yesterday and is expected to be available for the rest of the tournament.

Auba time at Camp Nou

AFP, BARCELONA

'I'm here!' Aubameyang tells Barcelona fans after delayed signing

"It's Auba time!" declared Barcelona on Wednesday as they signed Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as a free agent.

The club's tweet also included a video of Aubameyang declaring "I'm here Barcelona fans! Forca Barca!"

"The player will sign a contract until June 30, 2025," said the club on their web site, adding that the deal for the 32-year-old included a 100 million euros (\$113 million) buyout clause.

"I'm very happy, very happy to be here and I'm already looking forward to being on the pitch," Aubameyang told the Barca website.

Barcelona are "one of the biggest clubs in the world and that is why I have signed for Barca"

His previous club, Arsenal, on Tuesday released Aubameyang. That cleared the way for the striker, who was already in Spain, to sign for Barcelona as a free agent outside the transfer window which closed on Monday night. "It was a very long day, but in the end I'm here, I'm looking forward to it and I'm very happy," he said.

'No one has their Argentina spot secured except for one'

AGENCIES

Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni insists there is still plenty to play for in World Cup qualifying with spots in their squad for Qatar 2022 up for grabs "except for one".

The already-qualified Albiceleste got past Colombia 1-0 in Cordoba on Tuesday thanks to Lautaro Martinez's 29th-minute strike to clinch another three points.

Scaloni did not call up Lionel Messi for Argentina's two qualifiers over the past week following his recent COVID-19 case while Rodrigo De Paul and Leandro Paredes were also absent, with Emiliano Buendia making his debut off the bench against Colombia.

"We had the possibility of calling up players but we preferred not to expose footballers who aren't playing right now," Scaloni told reporters after the game.

"Not only did we miss players but we

had to improvise in putting players in positions. We went forward with these call ups who came to contribute and in the end, it went well.

"Here, you can't relax. Everyone is part of this process but on the pitch, you have to perform. The players that were here today took advantage of their opportunity.

"There's still a lot left until the World Cup. No one has their spot secured, except for one, as I have always said."

Meanwhile, Brazil scored twice in the last four minutes, including a first international goal for Real Madrid striker Rodrygo, to cap a comfortable 4-0 win over Paraguay in Tuesday's World Cup qualifier in Belo Horizonte.

The defeat ended Paraguay's hopes of qualifying for Qatar and further cemented Brazil's position as one of the favourites to lift the trophy in December.

Brazil top the qualifying group with no defeats in 15 games and the win extended to 61 matches their unbeaten home record in World Cup qualifiers.



Brazil players celebrate one of their goals during a 4-0 thrashing of Paraguay in a World Cup qualifying fixture in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday. Already qualified, the Selecao lead the South American qualifying table with 39 points from 15 matches, four ahead of archrivals Argentina. (Left) Argentina striker Lautaro Martinez scored the decisive goal against Colombia.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Saudi Int'l tees off today

SPORTS REPORTER

Golfer Siddikur Rahman will tee off alongside the cream of the golfing world in the PIF Saudi International, at the Royal Greens Golf & Country Club in Saudi Arabia today.

The 37-year-old, who recently returned from the USA and played in two season-ending events of the Asian Tour, will feature alongside the strongest field ever assembled for an Asian Tour event.

Americans Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau and Xander Schauffele, all in the top-10 on the Official World Golf Ranking, are competing as well as Phil Mickelson, Graeme McDowell, Sergio Garcia, Lee Westwood, Paul Casey, Tommy Fleetwood, and Ian Poulter, among others.

The tournament will also be one of the most lucrative in the Tour's history with a purse of US\$5 million.



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The journalists took positions on the court premises to collect the news, but the police did not allow them first. As they continued their work defying the restrictions, they were attacked.

REUTERS

The ICJ did not immediately respond to a request for comment and a spokesman for Myanmar's junta did not answer a telephone call seeking comment.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shajjadur Rahman,
deputy commissioner of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7