



NAMES TO EC SEARCH PANEL

Ex-bureaucrats figure high

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Almost one third of the individuals recommended to be in the next Election Commission are former bureaucrats. Names of 322 individuals pitched to be the chief election commissioner and four other election commissioners were published on the website of the Cabinet Division last night.

The names of at least three individuals have been mentioned twice due to what appears to be an oversight.

Some of those interested to be in the commission sent their own names while the others named on the list are nominated by political parties and professional associations.

At least 100 of them are former bureaucrats.

Some of the major opposition parties boycotted the EC formation process and didn't make any recommendations.

"Publishing all the names is a good step. But the final nominations should also be published for the sake of transparency," former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder told The Daily Star yesterday.

The second highest number of nominees are from academia: 51 of the individuals recommended are former vice-chancellors and professors.

At least 42 former judges, including one former chief justice, and 24 lawyers are also on the list.

THEIR FURRY FALGUN
... Three-and-a-half month-old Mew snuggling up to this young lady, who brought her to the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday to celebrate Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring, which coincides with Valentine's Day.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



RECOVERING FROM COVID, REINVENTING OUR FUTURE

31 The Daily Star CELEBRATING YEARS OF JOURNALISM WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

We are pleased to present to our readers the second of our five-part 200-page special series. The second part, titled

"FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION",

features a collection of articles on how Bangladesh can capitalise on the full potential of the innovations of the Fourth Industrial Revolution shaping our future.

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EX-BUREAUCRATS – AT LEAST 100

- » Educationists – 51
- » Former police officials – 10
- » Former judges – 40
- » Doctors – 7
- » Former army officers – 25
- » Journalists – 4
- » Lawyers – 24
- » Engineers – 3
- » Businessmen – 14

SOURCE: CABINET DIVISION WEBSITE

No one from the judiciary helmed the Election Commission since 2007. The country's first six ECs were headed by former judges. Former bureaucrat Mohammad Abu Hena was appointed the 7th CEC in 1996.

Former justice MA Aziz was appointed the 8th CEC in 2006, but that

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THE NAMES PROPOSED FOR EC POSTS -- PAGE 7

CEC Huda not embarrassed

Says the EC performed 3 main functions successfully

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said they have had successes but at the same time failed to earn the confidence of many political parties and fully contain the polls violence.

He also said the commission members had worked hard to fulfil their

responsibilities and were "not embarrassed" by the commission's performance over the last five years.

He was addressing his last press conference at the EC office.

About allegations of ballot stuffing on the night before the last national election and queries about 100 percent turnouts

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

No democracy in the country

Says outgoing Election Commissioner Mahbub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no democracy in the country, and the polls here do not reflect the will of the masses, Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar said yesterday, his last day in office.

He also said the outgoing Election Commission rarely took any action against those involved in polls irregularities, including forgery, and bias.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The Daily Star IPDC Present

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The Daily Star IPDC FINANCE

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SECURITY THREAT India bans 54 more Chinese apps

NDTV ONLINE

India banned 54 Chinese apps that pose threat to the country's security, the ministry of electronics and information technology said yesterday.

"These 54 apps allegedly obtain various critical permissions and collect sensitive user data. These collected real-time data are being misused and transmitted to servers located in hostile country," the ministry said in a statement.

The list of banned apps include - Sweet Selfie HD, Beauty Camera - Selfie Camera, Garena Free Fire - Illuminate, Viva Video Editor, Tencent Xriver, Onmyoji Arena, AppLock and Dual Space Lite.

In June last year, India banned 59 Chinese mobile applications including the widely-used social media platforms such as TikTok, WeChat, and Helo citing a threat to the nation's sovereignty and security.

The apps were banned under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, a ministry said.

Later in September, India further blocked 118 Chinese mobile apps saying they are "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the state and public order".

However, China opposed India's decision to continue the ban on Chinese mobile apps and said the action is in violation of the World Trade Organisation's non-discriminatory principles.

The first round of bans was announced in June 2020, days after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash with Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.



A member of the Hijra community holding a vaccine card after they were given a Covid shot at a temporary vaccination booth set up near Shaheed Minar on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The government launched a special inoculation drive for floating people on February 6.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

He was to come home this Friday

Bangladeshi ex-army man among 5 UN officials abducted in Yemen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was supposed to arrive in Bangladesh on Friday 18. Before going to work on Friday in Yemen, he spoke to his wife in Dhaka saying that he would call her back.

That was the last she heard from him. A Bangladeshi national, AKM Sufiul Anam, is among the five United Nations staff members who have been abducted in southern Yemen, foreign ministry and family sources have confirmed.

Anam works as a Field Security Coordination Officer (Head) of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security in Aden, Yemen.

He retired from Bangladesh Army as a lieutenant colonel, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, who is now abroad, confirmed to The Daily Star through a Whatsapp message.

Anam served the Bangladesh Army from 1977 to 2005. Since he retired from the army, he has been working with the UN. He was supposed to retire from the UN job in December this year, a close relative said.

The relative told The Daily Star the family is shocked and extremely concerned. "We don't know why they abducted him. We just pray that he comes back safely," the relative said.

The relative further said that Anam called his wife on Friday and told her that he was going to duty and that he would call her back.

"Then there was no trace. On Saturday, the family received a call from the UN and got the bad news. The abductors demanded ransom. The UN is working. We hope that we would get him back unhurt," the relative added.

Hailing from Cumilla, Anam and his wife have a son and a daughter. His wife lives in Dhaka while their son and daughter live in Canada.

Earlier on Saturday, Reuters reported that the UN staff were abducted on Friday in Abyan governorate, quoting Russell Geekie, a spokesman for the top UN official in Yemen.

"The United Nations is in close contact with the authorities to secure their release," Geekie said.

Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is based in the

southern region of the country, was working to safely free the UN staff abducted by unknown gunmen, the country's official news agency said on Saturday citing a cabinet statement.

An official at the UN office in Aden told Reuters that four of those seized were Yemeni nationals.

Yemen has been mired in violence since the Iran-aligned Houthi movement ousted the government from the capital, Sanaa, in late 2014, prompting a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia to intervene months later.

Among Yemen's many destabilising forces are Islamist militant groups Al Qaeda and Islamic State that have in the past carried out attacks including in the south, which last year saw protests over deteriorating economic conditions.

The war has killed tens of thousands of people and caused a dire humanitarian crisis with 80 percent of Yemen's population reliant on aid.



No democracy in the country

FROM PAGE 1

"The [recent] Union Parishad elections have showed us there is no democracy ... the corpse of democracy lies out there. Who will shoulder the responsibility for burying it?" he asked while addressing a press conference at the EC.

"Such anarchy across the country, in the name of elections, was never desired. The elections have given conflicts a permanent position at the grassroots level. The question of whether you can call it an election when candidates get elected unopposed is also there," he said.

He also said it is extremely important that the will of the people is

reflected in polls. "From Union Parishad polls to parliamentary elections, the reflection of the masses is absent everywhere.

"The use of money has especially been observed in those elections. Politics is slowly going into the hands of the businesspeople. My question is will lawmakers start doing business with laws in future?"

Mahbub further said people's voting rights and human rights are two sides of the same coin. "It is absurd to talk about human rights in Bangladesh. There are no human rights, there is no human dignity, these cannot exist without democracy.

"At present, development is being

given all the priorities. Lawmakers are more interested in development than in legislation. But development is never an alternative to democracy."

Asked why he did not participate in the last press conference addressed by the outgoing chief election commissioner and two other commissioners, Mahbub said, "I didn't join it because I may not be able to speak there freely. I don't speak in the tone of the BNP. I actually don't know what that tone is."

He added, "I am one of the five [EC commissioners]. There were instances where I was not allowed to speak in [commission] meetings. I lost my battle as I was a minority among them."

CEC Huda not embarrassed

FROM PAGE 1

In many centres, the CEC once again said the commission could do nothing as no aggrieved person had gone to court.

Asked if their activities and operations would embarrass them after their tenure, Nurul Huda said, "There will be no embarrassment. We did not have any shortcomings in holding legal elections. So, there is no embarrassment or weakness."

He said the EC led by him has tried its best to perform its functions and faced many challenges while in office. "We succeeded in overcoming those challenges."

Huda said the EC under him has held 6,690 elections and completed work outside routine and taken steps to revise electoral laws and rules.

He said that holding all the elections was a challenge for them amid the pandemic.

The EC was successful in performing its three functions -- holding parliamentary elections, delimitation of constituencies and preparation of electoral rolls, he added.

"We could not fully contain polls violence and deaths; we are sorry for that," he said.

"We have tried to earn the confidence of all political parties, gave them plenty of time, listened to them. Now after hearing their statements, I don't think many of them are satisfied and see that we could not win their confidence."

The CEC refuted the allegations that the election atmosphere was destroyed and the 2018 national election during their tenure was the "worst one", saying more than 70 percent people cast votes and candidates with different symbols won in the election.

"How was the election system destroyed?" he asked. "I don't know."

"There were debates over the Election Commission in the past; I hope there will be no debate over the commission in the future."

Huda said there may have been some irregularities involving field officials while conducting elections, but they have taken steps whenever wrongdoing was proved in probe.

Asked about numerous allegations of ballot stuffing on the night before election day, he once again refuted it by saying no returning officers or the media reported it.

At this point, Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam said they have talked with chiefs of different political parties on December 30, 2018, when the parliamentary polls were held and they said elections were being held "wonderfully". One of them

is now bringing allegations.

Huda said once the returning officer sends results and it is published in gazettes, the EC has nothing to do. "Then someone could have gone to court. I urged them to go to court, but they did not."

The CEC said he still thinks the aggrieved candidates could have gone to court.

Asked why the EC did not probe the matter that cent percent votes were cast in many polling stations in the last general election, he said, "It was abnormal and now the EC cannot do anything. After the publishing of the gazettes on winning candidates, the matter is not in the hands of the EC; it is now a matter for the court."

Queried why the EC had not stopped the latest Barishal City Corporation elections although Election Commissioner

Mahbub Talukdar wanted them to be postponed in the wake of allegations of irregularities, Huda said they had not received any complaints from the returning officer.

"We have asked Mahbub Talukdar to give it in writing, and on that basis, we could have stopped the election ... it was about 4:20pm by the time Mahbub Talukdar gave the report. By then there was no way to stop the whole election," he said.

He said eminent citizens had brought "false and fabricated" allegations of corruption and misconduct against the EC.

Election Commissioner Kabita Khanam also spoke at the press conference. Commissioner Mahbub did not join it even though he was at the EC office, while another commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain could not be present as he was Covid-19 positive.

Ex-bureaucrats figure high

FROM PAGE 1

commission was dissolved amid widespread protests by the opposition parties.

All the successive CECs were former bureaucrats. On the new list, there are around 25 former military officials, including two former army chiefs.

The EC dissolved yesterday had the first woman commissioner in the country's history. The new recommendations include 31 women, including rights activists, writers, lawyers and a fashion designer.

The names of nine former top police officials and seven physicians are also on the list.

Names of freedom fighters, a former minister, advisers to

caretaker governments, former diplomats, former election commissioners, Bangladesh Bank governors, economists, journalists, rights activists, professional association leaders, business leaders, expatriates, freelance consultants, and madrasa teachers were also on it.

The Cabinet Division disclosed the names after eminent citizens suggested the search committee publish the names. The citizens also requested that the final picks be made public before sending those to the president.

The division, which is giving secretariat support to the panel, did not disclose which party proposed whose names.

The division earlier announced that of the names, 136 came from political parties, 40 from professional bodies, and 34 from individuals.

The committee will propose 10 names to the president by February 24. The search committee had written to all the 39 registered political parties urging them to submit their nominations by February 11, but only 24 parties complied.

The number of the proposed nominations could increase as the search committee will hold another series of talks with media personalities and eminent citizens today at the Supreme Court Judges' lounge.

No papers needed

FROM PAGE 12

Directorate General of Health Services data.

The schoolchildren used to need documents like birth certificate to get vaccines.

At the programme, the minister opened 126 kidney dialysis beds at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Muga Medical College Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College and at Kurmitola General Hospital.

He also inaugurated an

oxygen generation plant at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, which is capable of producing 532 litres of medical oxygen per minute.

Last year, the health and family welfare ministry undertook three projects to set up 99 such plants at different hospitals to cope with the shortage of oxygen due to the rise in Covid-19 cases.

He claimed that installation of 22 plants were already completed,

but most of them were yet to go into production.

The minister said, "We are yet to get the equipment of the remaining plants [77]. We expect to get the equipment by March."

CASES, DEATHS DECLINE The DGHS reported 4,692 cases of Covid-19 yesterday, indicating a steady decline in cases from February 7.

Nineteen more Covid patients died. This number was 28 the previous day. Yesterday's positivity rate was 13.53 percent.

'Khairuzzaman to be brought back'

UNB, Dhaka

Md Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, yesterday reiterated that M Khairuzzaman, arrested in Malaysia, would be brought back home soon.

"I'm confident that he [Khairuzzaman] is coming back," said Shahriar when approached by journalists. He hinted that the government can talk to the UN, if necessary, in this regard.

Khairuzzaman, a retired army major, was accused of participating in the 1975 jail killings and was later acquitted before being appointed as Bangladesh's high commissioner to Malaysia in 2007 during the caretaker government.

Youth in jail for 'rape'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A court in Moulvibazar yesterday sent a youth to jail in a case filed for raping a three-year-old girl in Kulaura upazila on Friday.

Police arrested the accused, Hossain Ahmed, 22, from his village on Sunday night after the child's mother filed a rape case with Kulaura Police Station.

Quoting the case statement, SI Parimal Chandra Das said the accused lured the victim into going to an open space, where he raped her.

Arrest ex-MP Falu by March 24

Dhaka court orders OC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station execute the arrest warrant for former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu by March 24 in a case filed for siphoning Tk 183.92 crore to Dubai.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after the OC of Banani Police Station submitted a report, saying Falu's address mentioned in the case's FIR and charge sheet does not fall under the Cantonment Police Station.

The ACC filed the case with Uttara Paschim Police Station on May 13 in 2019.

BFAA GS issue to be settled at HC: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld its chamber judge's order regarding holding of the office of Bangladesh Film Artist Association's (BFAA) general secretary, saying the issue would be settled at the High Court.

The SC chamber judge on February 9 stayed the HC order that halted the authorities' decision cancelling the candidacy of actor Zayed Khan and declaring Nipun the general secretary of the association.

Full versions of these stories can be found under the same headline at www.thedailystar.net

Election Commissioner At least one from minorities

**Demands Hindu-
Bouddha-Christian
Oikya Parishad**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday demanded at least one election commissioner be from religious and ethnic minority communities.

At a press conference, the organisation's leaders said this is necessary given that 12 percent of the total voters of the country belong to minority communities.

Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad organised a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club to place the demand.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



There's a reason we celebrate. When it comes to welcoming spring, it is the festivities of Pahela Falgun that make sure that the message of the new season's arrival is received loud and clear. It makes it easier for us to take notice and revel in the rejuvenating vibe that permeates through nature during this part of the year. This photo was taken yesterday from Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Autocracy Resistance Day observed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Various student organisations observed the Autocracy Resistance Day yesterday, remembering the movement that caused the then autocratic regime to rescind the Mazid Khan Education Commission report.

On this day in 1983, a truck crushed students Jafar, Joyal and Dipali, as per the then government's directive.

A tribute was paid at Shaheed Bedi and a discussion was held at Dhaka Reporters Unity by former student leaders of the movement.

Govt showing inaccurate data to int'l community

Speakers tell webinar on state projects in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is presenting inaccurate data and impact assessments to legalise the environmental onslaught on the Sundarbans, in order to go through with various deadly projects, speakers claimed in a webinar yesterday.

Referring to the recently drafted Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) by the government, they said local people were ignored in the strategic assessment, and that authorities hid the real scenario of the damage that would be unleashed on Sundarbans.

The event was organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and National

Committee to Protect Sundarbans on the occasion of Sundarbans Day.

At the event, eminent economist Anu Mohammad said the government was going ahead with its environmentally devastating projects, ignoring national and international concerns, just to cater to foreign and private company interests.

"The special economic zone (SEZ), constructed to accommodate large industries didn't take any opinion from locals," he said, adding that over 200 industries categorised as "red" were downgraded to "green". They are now being established around the Sundarbans.

He said the government was lobbying with Unesco, costing public exchequer, so

that Unesco does not take a stern position against Rampal Power Plant.

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bapa, said, "Unfortunately, we saw the strategic assessment was designed to cater to the industries' interest."

Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, professor of Khulna University, said, "Along with the disappearance of sundari trees, the forest also suffers from salinity intrusion, causing seedlings to die. Sedimentation in the rivers also rose to an alarming level."

Bapa President Sultana Kamal, National Committee to Protect Sundarbans' Abdul Matin, journalist Mohsin Ul Hakim and leaders from Bapa's Khulna region also spoke.



The Language Movement did not just come to be. Behind the historic movement, that brought about a turn of events for Bangladesh, are a million stories – of people, of premises, of places.

In this 10-part series, we explore some of the places and premises vital to the movement. Establishments that we've lost to time, buildings that today bear no sign of the glories they once played host to. For part three, we remember the glory days of Rasheed Building, the short-lived office of the Rashtra Bhasha Sangram Parishad.



Gone are the days of thunder

Rasheed Building shows no signs of its glory days;
in its place stands a private bank

DIPAN NANDY

Even before the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, Rasheed Building hosted the Suruj Jamal mess on its first floor. During the early days of the Language Movement, numerous organising activities were carried out from there.

This is also where the Rashtra Bhasha Sangram Parishad was established. Although it could only carry on activities for three months, the parishad's time there was significant in laying down the groundwork for the movement.

But with the passage of time, this historically significant building has become bound to the pages of history. Located at the south-east side of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), it's now a branch



of Janata Bank. There's also a mess for DMCH staffers there.

According to Language Movement researcher MR Mahub's book "Ekusher Sharok", crucial activities surrounding the movement was launched from Rasheed Building, which played host to the organising activities of many educational institutions of the city, including Dhaka University, DMCH, Dhaka College and Ahsanullah Engineering College (present day Buet).

In a meeting held there on December 30, 1947, the parishad was formed, with Prof Nurul Haque Bhuiyan as convener. Among other

members were Shamsul Alam, Abul Khayer, Abdul Wahed Chowdhury and Oli Ahad. Later, after it was expanded, Mohammad Toaha and Syed Nazrul Islam also joined.

Language veteran Gaziul Haque wrote on a meeting that took place at Rasheed Building's Tamaddun Majlish office on December 1947.

The meeting was attended by student representatives, professors and intellectuals, along with local members of Muslim Chhatra League, Ganatantrik Juba League and Tamaddun Majlish. The Rashtra Bhasha Sangram Parishad committee was formed at this very meeting, with the aim to take the movement forward.

Due to it being the parishad's office, Rasheed Building's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ROAD ACCIDENT

Flower vendor's day ends before it even began

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seasonal flower vendor Dipu Mia (26) had gone to Shahbagh area early yesterday morning to buy flowers that he could sell to those who observe Valentine's Day and Pahela Falgun.

But tragically, even before the day rolled on, Dipu died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle near Dhaka's Matsya Bhaban around 6:00am.

Nearby pedestrians rescued him and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died at the neurosurgery ward around 9:30am, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the hospital's police outpost.

Dipu used to live at his grandfather's house in Jatrabari area.

His body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Police are investigating the incident.

GRAFT CASES

Charge sheets against ex-DSCC, BCB officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed approved charge sheets in two separate cases against former Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) councillor AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed and former Bangladesh Cricket Board director Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

In its 27-months long probe, ACC found that Sayeed amassed about Tk 5.60 crore, while Lokman amassed Tk 6.72 crore, beyond known sources of income.

Earlier, ACC filed a case against Sayeed for amassing about Tk 4.47 crore beyond known sources of income on November 20, 2019, and Lokman for having Tk 4.34 crore illegally on October 27, 2019.

PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 15



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-25	12-45	4-30	5-57	7-15
Jamaat	6-00	1-15	4-45	6-01	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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Appeal for help

CITY DESK

Md Rezaul Hoque from Purba Keshali Danga village in Sadullapur, Gaibandha has been suffering from blood cancer for the last three years, said a press release. Despite being given chemotherapy four times so far, he has not recovered yet.

Doctors in India's Vellore have advised Rezaul, who has two daughters, to undergo a bone marrow transplant. Tk 90 lakh to 1 crore is needed for his treatment, which the family cannot afford. So, they have urged all to help him financially.

Aid can be sent to A/C No: 280340919001, City Bank Limited, Shyamoli Branch; A/C No: 1801510022271 (Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, Satkhira Branch); bKash: 01721412115; Nagad: 01721412115; and Rocket: 017214121157.

The family can be contacted at 01721412115.



As the city corporation trudges on with drain repair works, residents of Sylhet find themselves in a fix. Without regards for making alternative routes available, or running the works on one side of the road so that commuters can use the other, the project is taking up almost every inch of the street. This photo was taken from Kuarpur area yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Beware of easy-bike snatchers

CID held 4 over killing driver and fleeing with vehicle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the night grows dark, they get on easy-bikes, pretending to be innocent passengers. But as soon as they get an opportunity, they hold the driver hostage and snatch the vehicle.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) claimed to have arrested four members of such a gang from Sadullapur in Gaibandha on Sunday. They recently killed an easy-bike driver and snatched his vehicle, CID special superintendent Mukta Dhar told a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital's Malibagh yesterday. The arrested are Miru Mia, Laju Mia, Sagar Mondol and Belal Chowdhury.

On February 7, police recovered the body of Abdul Majid Mia (60), the murdered easy-bike driver, from Sadullapur's Ekrampur area. After investigations, CID found involvement of the four arrestees.

The CID official said two of the arrestees - Miru and Laju - got on the easy-bike on February 6 evening. As the vehicle reached near Sadullapur bus stand, they compelled the driver to take the vehicle to an abandoned brick kiln. There they indiscriminately hit him on the head with bricks and fled with the vehicle, all the way to Bogura.

"There, they sold the vehicle at Sagar Mondol's shop for and sold five batteries at Belal Chowdhury's shop."

Such incidents of snatching vehicles have recently increased in the north-eastern districts.



Anwarul Islam's death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 28th death anniversary of Anwarul Islam Bobby, who played an important role in founding different newspapers.

He was the first Bangali to be secretary general of All Pakistan Newspapers Society before the Liberation War, said a press release.

After independence, he helped Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni in founding The Bangladesh Times and Banglar Bani. Later, he founded The Daily Life, the first local English daily from Chattogram; The Pulse, a medical weekly; and The Morning Sun (now defunct).

আঞ্চলিক অস্থায়ী নবতরঙ্গ
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট
তথ্য ও সম্প্রচার মন্ত্রণালয়
(অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়) জাতীয় পণ্যমহাম ইনস্টিটিউট
১২৫/এ, দারুস সালাম, এ. ডব্লিউ. চৌধুরী রোড, ঢাকা-১২১৬
ই-মেইল: bctbd2013@gmail.com ওয়েবসাইট: www.bcti.gov.bd
নং-বাচটেই-২৪৬/প্রশ/শ/প্র/২০২১/১৮৩৩৩ তারিখ: ১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১ম চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য শব্দ গ্রহণ ও প্রয়োগ বিষয়ক ব্যবহারিক কোর্স
1st Practical Course on Sound Recording and its Application for Film and TV Drama

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট-এ ০৬ (ছয়) সপ্তাহ মেয়াদি ১ম চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য শব্দ গ্রহণ ও প্রয়োগ বিষয়ক ব্যবহারিক কোর্স-এর ভর্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।	
কোর্সের শিরোনাম:	১ম চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য শব্দ গ্রহণ ও প্রয়োগ বিষয়ক ব্যবহারিক কোর্স "1st Practical Course on Sound Recording and its Application for Film and TV Drama"
কোর্সের মেয়াদ:	০৬ (ছয়) সপ্তাহ।
প্রশিক্ষণ সময়:	সকাল ১০:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৫:০০টা পর্যন্ত, জুজু, শনিবার এবং সরকারি ছুটির দিন বন্ধ। (পবিত্র রমজান মাসে সরকারি নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী সময়সূচি পুনর্নির্ধারণ করা হবে।)
প্রশিক্ষণার্থীর যোগ্যতা:	ন্যূনতম এইচ.এস./সমমান।
প্রশিক্ষণের বিষয়:	ইন্ডোর রেকর্ডিং অসুবিধা ও সম্ভাবনা, আউটডোর রেকর্ডিং চ্যালেঞ্জ ও সমাধান, বিভিন্ন ধরনের আপস পরিচিতি, নয়েজ ক্রিনিং, মিক্সিং, পরবর্তী প্রজন্মের শব্দের জন্য ভবিষ্যৎ প্রযুক্তি।
আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ:	১০ মার্চ ২০২২। আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি, অনলাইনে অথবা ডাকযোগে নির্ধারিত ঠিকানায় যথাসময়ে পৌঁছাতে হবে। সেক্ষেত্রে, অনলাইন থেকে ভর্তি ফরম ডাউনলোড করে নিতে হবে।
আবেদনপত্রে যেসব তথ্য থাকতে হবে:	নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম, বয়স, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের নম্বর, প্রশিক্ষণ, অভিজ্ঞতা, মুঠোফোন নম্বর, ই-মেইল প্রভৃতি তথ্যাদিসহ জীবন-বৃত্তান্ত।
সংযুক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি:	০২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত সনদ; জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, নাগরিকত্ব ও চারিত্রিক সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি।
বাছাই পরীক্ষা:	১৩ মার্চ ২০২২ তারিখ, সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকায় বিসিটিআই ক্যাম্পাসে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। লিখিত অথবা মৌখিক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে প্রার্থীদের তালিকা চূড়ান্ত করা হবে।
প্রশিক্ষণ ফি:	চূড়ান্ত মনোনীত প্রার্থীদের ৫,০০০/- টাকা (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র) বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট-এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।
ক্রমিক নং:	১৬ মার্চ ২০২২, (সম্ভাব্য)।

প্রধান নির্বাহী স্রাবার নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের ব্যাপারে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে। প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদির জন্য যোগাযোগ- ০১৬৭৬৬৮৭৩৬, ০১৪০৪৯৩০৯৩, ০১৭৪৯৪৪৩৫০২।
মোঃ আবুল কালাম আজাদ
প্রধান নির্বাহী
বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট
ফোন: ০২-৫৫০৭৯৩৫০

River filled, canals

FROM PAGE 5
Association's (Bela) Tangail officials, there used to be 27 canals flowing through the 18 wards in the municipal area only three decades ago.

However, three of the canals have already disappeared, while the remaining 24 are on the way to disappearance due to dumped waste and constructions.

GRABBED A LONG TIME AGO

Although environmentalists and residents have been demanding a solution, no effective steps were taken in this regard so far.

Ratan Ahmed Siddique, general secretary of Tangail River, Canal, Waterbodies and Environment Protection Movement Committee, said the canal lands have been occupied and filled under the shelter of public representatives. This makes them appear on papers, although they were grabbed a long time ago.

Goutam Chandra Chanda, divisional coordinator of BELA, said there is no alternative to recovering the canals to restore the natural drainage system and save the areas from waterlogging.

"Recovering Shyam Babur Khal is a must for the sake of the town's

environment," said Goutam.

"The waterbodies need to be recovered at any cost, no matter how influential the grabbers are," said Jalaluddin Chakladar Shahin of Clean Tangail, a volunteering organisation.

Tanvir Hasan Ferdous Noman, panel mayor of Tangail municipality, said although it will be very costly, the municipality authority is thinking about cleaning the central drain.

"The municipality authorities are also working to recover the grabbed canals at different places in the town," he added.

Meanwhile, after taking office a year ago, Dr Ataul Gani, Tangail's deputy commissioner, directed the local land office to start works on recovering the canals.

Contacted, Mohammad Khairul Islam, assistant commissioner (land) in Sadar upazila, said he has already visited the canals and submitted a report to the DC in this regard.

Gone are the

FROM PAGE 3
significance at the time increased manifold. Participants of the movement, literary figures and intellectuals started frequenting the premises. As expected, surveillance on the building by anti-movement quarters also increased as a result.

On January 20, 1948, the building came under a heinous attack. On the day, a section of Old Dhaka's Urdu speaking community launched an assault on the parish office, ransacking it and assaulting its leaders. The police later came in to lock the premises.

It also came under attack by anti movement quarters after the Language Movement.

Given this, on January 25, 1948, the parishad's office was shifted to DU's Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall.

At least

FROM PAGE 3
"As there was no minority representative, the previous election commissions didn't consider their religious situations," said Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of the organisation.

Dasgupta said they wrote a letter to the search committee to recommend the next election commissioners' names.

President of the organisation Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik, Kajal Devnath, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and Basudev Dhar were present at the press conference.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
গুলশান ১ এ ৩৪০০ বর্গফুটের
১টি লাক্সারিয়ার্স রেডী ফ্ল্যাট ২টি
পার্কিং সহ জরুরী প্রয়োজনে
বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগ করুন-
মোবাইল: ০১৭১০০০৬২৩৮

MANARAT DHAKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE (MDIC)
Plot (CEN) # 16, Road # 104, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212
Website: www.manaratcollege.org

ADMISSION TO PLAYGROUP & NURSERY

Forms for admission to Playgroup and Nursery for the academic session 2022-23 are available in the College Office. Forms must be collected by maintaining health safety rules, social distancing and following government instructions. Forms will be available upto 09 March 2022 during working days between 9.30am and 3.00pm.

Age limit:
Playgroup : Between 3 and 4 years of age (as on 01 July 2022)
Nursery : Between 4 and 5 years of age (as on 01 July 2022)
Last date of submission: 10 March 2022

Requirements: Following documents are to be submitted with the admission forms:
i. Two copies of passport sized coloured photograph of the candidate.
ii. A copy of birth certificate of the candidate issued by the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
iii. Report card of last academic year (if any) for admission in Nursery.

Note: On the day of interview presence of father and mother is mandatory. Date of interview will be informed later. For further information please contact: 01949800800, 01534006263, 01742512024, 55060039-41, Ext-0/110

Brig Gen (Retd) Md Mehdi Hassan Pramanik, psc
Principal
Ex-Principal, Sylhet Cadet College, Sylhet &
Adamjee Cantonment College, Dhaka

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 8181658-61, 8181664-69, Fax: 8181678, Website: http://www.pksf-bd.org, www.facebook.com/PKSF.org
Memo No: 53.23.0000.40.03.001.22.910 Date: 14 February 2022

Request for Expression of Interest (REoI)

(Selection of Consulting Firm: National)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is hereby requesting for Expression of Interest (EoI) in sealed envelope from competent national consulting firm for procuring the service titled "Selection of a consulting firm for conducting the "Baseline Study" of Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP) of PKSF" under Package No: PKSF/RMTP/SD-01 jointly financed by PKSF and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Type of contract will be lump-sum. The firm will be selected using 'Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)' method. Public Procurement Rules-2008 of the Government of Bangladesh will be followed for evaluating the EoI of the consulting firms.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) and Shortlisting Questionnaire are obtainable from the office of the undersigned during office hours: 10:00am to 4:30pm (Except holidays) at free of cost. It also will be available at PKSF website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>. Interested eligible consulting firms are requested to submit EoI along with all necessary documents in sealed envelope to the office directly or by courier/mail by 2:30 PM on or before 03rd March 2022.

Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the consulting firm. PKSF reserves the right to cancel any or all Expression of Interest (EoI) without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

AQM Golam Mawla
Deputy Managing Director & PE

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
লালপুর, নাটোর
ই-মেইল: jalpur@uhpo.dghs.gov.bd
তারিখ: ১৩/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধি ২০০৮ ও সংশোধনী ২০১৯ অনুসারে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, লালপুর, নাটোর এর ভর্তি রোগীদের পথ্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ, লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌতকরণ ও অন্যান্য মনিহারি দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে ২০২১-২০২২খ্রিঃ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী নিম্ন বর্ণনা মোতাবেক প্রকৃত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারী/যোগাযোগের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
০২	সংগ্রহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, লালপুর, নাটোর।
০৩	বাজেট ও টাকার উৎস	রাজস্ব/জিওবি বাজেট, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
০৪	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।
০৫	আর্থিক বছর	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছর।
০৬	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম/দরপত্রের ধরণ	পথ্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ ও লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌতকরণ।
০৭	দরপত্রাদাতাদের প্রাক যোগ্যতা	দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক।
০৮	সংগ্রহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, লালপুর, নাটোর।
০৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিজয়ের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	দরপত্র বিজয়ী পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর হতে আগামী ২৮/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রম প্রক্রিয়া ও প্রাপ্তি স্থান	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) সোনালী ব্যাংক, লালপুর, নাটোর এর কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২০৬৬ কোডে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান সাপেক্ষে চালানের মূলকপি জমা প্রদানকর্তাঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, লালপুর, নাটোর ও উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় হতে নিজস্ব লেটারহেড প্যাডে ছবি এবং ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সহ আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রম করতে হবে।
১১	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিল/গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০২/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল ৯টা হইতে দুপুর ১২ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, লালপুর, নাটোর ও উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর এর দরপত্র বাজায়।
১২	দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০২/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর।
১৩	দরপত্র সভার স্থান	উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, লালপুর, নাটোর।
১৪	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা	ডাঃ এ.কে.এম শাহাব উদ্দীন, উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, লালপুর, নাটোর।
১৫	বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা	দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত রয়েছে।
১৬	প্রশাসনিক দরপত্রের বিবরণীঃ	
	সিডিউলের বিবরণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)
ক	রোগীদের পথ্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ	৭৫০/-
খ	লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌতকরণ	৪০০/-
গ	অন্যান্য মনিহারি দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ	৪০০/-
		বায়ান/জামানতের অর্থ
		মন্তব্য
		৫০,০০০/-
		১০,০০০/-
		১৫,০০০/-

ডাঃ এ.কে.এম শাহাব উদ্দীন
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ অফিসার
লালপুর, নাটোর

জিডি-২৯৩

Third-grader's brutal killing owing to enmity

Police recover body after arresting murderer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

A third-grader was murdered in Chuadanga due to the murderer's rivalry with his father.

Chuadanga ASP Abu Tareq, during a press briefing yesterday, revealed that Momin, a resident of the same area, was behind the killing. Abu Hurairah, the victim, was taken to a graveyard where he was buried.

Police recovered the child's body yesterday, after arresting the culprit the night before.

Two years ago, Momin and his friends were playing music on loudspeakers, when Hurairah's father, Abdul Berek, asked them to lower the volume. As they didn't comply, he went ahead and kicked the speakers. Momin was enraged and had been looking for a way to take revenge ever since, said the ASP.

Police said on January 19, Abu Huraira left home for study and met Momin on his way. Momin lured Huraira to go to Taltola Government graveyard, where he murdered the third-grader.

On January 26, Abu Hurairah's father filed a kidnapping case with the Sadar Police Station. Momin then staged a kidnapping of Hurairah to take the investigation in another direction.

Momin demanded Tk 10 lakh as ransom on January 29. The family, on February 2, offered to pay Tk 5 lakh, but he was adamant about his previous demands. Following his arrest on Sunday, Momin confessed to the killing and showed police the crime scene.



The number of cars imported through Mongla Port has seen an increase over the last couple of years. Whereas 14,474 arrived here in fiscal 2020-21, the port has already seen 11,492 imports in fiscal 2021-22 till January. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

River filled, canals lost

MIRZA SHAKIL, *Tangail*

Within three decades, the once solitary and neat Tangail district town has almost turned into a concrete jungle within, with its waterbodies disappearing one after another. This has proved detrimental, to say the least, to the town's environment and the health of its residents.

Residents of the 134-year-old municipality said they've been facing various problems, including waterlogging, due to the mindless destruction of the natural drainage system.

Take Burai river for example. According to environmentalists, the river flowing at the eastern part of the town has already been filled up due to dumping wastes there for decades.

Burai flows through Biswas Betka, Chorjanga and Dorun areas in Sadar upazila, and falls into the Jhenai river in Suruj area. The smaller river, however, lost its flow due to the lack of water from its source,

Louhajang river.

As a result, wastes from a part of the town has been going straight into the river through a couple of drains, including the central drain, for twenty years.

"Only three decades ago, we could bath in the waters of Burai and fish there. None of that can be imagined now," Shyamol Sutradhar, an elderly resident of Biswas Betka area, told this correspondent.

Sources said some influential locals started filling lands near the river, claiming ownership.

According to Cadastral Survey records, 27 canals flowing through different areas of the municipality were also grabbed.

Meanwhile, the municipality has killed a few of the canals, namely Shyam Babur Khal, also known as Victoria Canal, that flows through the middle of the town, by constructing several markets on it.

Local influentials have also grabbed the rest of the canals and constructed various concrete structures on these.

Such is the tale of Shyam Babur Khal. Originating from Louhajang at Paradisepara area in the town, the 5km-long canal falls in to Burai at Biswas Betka canal, which works as the main natural drain of the town.

Two decades ago, the municipality authorities turned the 30-foot wide canal into a 3-foot drain from Paradisepara to Godown Bridge area, ignoring objections from citizens and environmentalists.

They also constructed several markets and shopping malls on it from the Old Bus Stand area to Nirala Intersection, narrowing down the Victoria Road, known as zero point, which is the entrance of the main town.

Although water is supposed to pass through the drain and fall into Burai, it has now turned stagnant, with dirty water spreading bad smell in nearby areas. It's also become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER CANALS?

According to Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



According to environmentalists, the Burai river, which once flowed through the eastern part of the town, has been almost completely filled up as a result of decades of indiscriminate waste dumping.

PHOTO: STAR

CTG UP POLLS VIOLENCE

Two gun-toting men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Police yesterday arrested two people who were photographed toting guns during the February 7 Khagaria Union Parishad election in Satkania, Chattogram.

Police also seized two firearms and two cartridges from the arrestees, Md Shamsuddin alias Nisan (20) and Joyal Abedin alias Ledaiya (47), said SM Rashidul Haque, superintendent of police in Chattogram.

"The duo possessed guns and worked for different candidates of the UP election," he said at a press briefing at his office.

Supporters of ruling party-backed candidate Md Aktar Hossain and independent candidate Md Jasim Uddin, and the shooters clashed at two centres during the UP polls.

At that time, the two arrestees along with Nisar Uddin, Rubel from Khagaria, Kamrul Alam Azad alias Sumon from Nalua, Shakhawat from Notun Charkhagoria, and Ezhar from Dohazari were seen carrying firearms and opening fire.

After the incident, police filed a case with Satkania Police Station accusing Jasim Uddin, claiming that the independent candidate led the violence.

However, locals alleged that Aktar also led his supporters during the polls violence, but he was not made accused.

The superintendent of police earlier had told The Daily Star that they were trying to arrest the gun-toting criminals.

Seeking anonymity, an officer in charge of a police station under the district's south zone said most of the gun-toting criminals are involved with the ruling party.

Office of the Chapainawabganj Pourashava
District: Chapainawabganj

Memo No. 46.43.7033.002.02.137.22.653

e-Tender Notice (LTM) No. 02/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works & goods as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Source of fund	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing and opening date & time
660202	CNP/ADP/2021-2022/P-01	Re-Construction of Road by RCC of Pourashava Office campus in Ward No. 15. Length 190.00m.	GOB (Revenue)	01 March 2022 at 5:00pm	02 March 2022 at 12:00pm
660203	CNP/ADP/2021-2022/P-02	a) Construction of RCC Slab on existing drain at different places of Pourashava. Length 218.00m. b) Construction of RCC Dustbin 15 Nos. of Poura area. c) Construction of CC Road & Brick drain with RCC slab at Huzrapur Porabag in Ward No. 02. Length 20.00m.	GOB (Revenue)	01 March 2022 at 5:00pm	02 March 2022 at 12:15pm
660204	CNP/ADP/2021-2022/P-03	Supplying of electric goods for street light of Chapainawabganj Pourashava.	GOB (Revenue)	01 March 2022 at 5:00pm	02 March 2022 at 12:30pm
660205	CNP/ADP/2021-2022/P-04	a) Supplying of necessary accessories for water supply of Chapainawabganj Pourashava. b) Supplying 80/100 grade bitumen & Well grade stone chips for O&M Works Chapainawabganj Pourashava.	GOB (Revenue)	01 March 2022 at 5:00pm	02 March 2022 at 12:45pm
660206	CNP/REV/2021-2022/P-05	Construction of 1st Floor Puration Toha Bazar Market (4-Storey foundation) at Puration Bazar under Chapainawabganj Pourashava.	Own fund	01 March 2022 at 5:00pm	02 March 2022 at 01:00pm

There are an online (e-GP System) 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-Tendering documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) Contact Number (01762-625528-31).

Md. Selim Uddin
Executive Engineer
Chapainawabganj Pourashava
District: Chapainawabganj
Phone: 0781-52227

GD-296

ACTOR SOHEL MURDER

Find missing documents: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities to immediately take steps to find documents of actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case, as those have reportedly gone missing from the HC and trial court.

In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule, asking respondents why the documents going missing shouldn't be declared unlawful.

Secretaries at ministries of law and home affairs, Supreme Court registrar general and HC registrar were made respondents to the order and rule, writ petitioner lawyer Abdullah Al Harun Russel told The Daily Star. He said the HC passed the order so that trial proceedings of the long-pending murder case can resume at the court.

The bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman came up with the order and rule after the petition was filed as a public interest litigation.

Russel said film actor Sohel Chowdhury was shot dead in front of Trumps Club in Abedin Tower of the capital's Banani on December 18, 1998. His brother, Touhidul Islam Chowdhury, filed a murder case with Gulshan Police Station on the same day.

After an accused filed a petition, the HC in 2014 stayed trial proceedings and issued a rule. However, the HC in 2015 vacated the stay order and cleared the way for the trial court to run the proceedings. But, the HC's decision was reportedly not communicated to the trial court, and proceedings were not resumed.

Bangladesh Water Development Board
বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
নেত্রকোণা পল্লী বিজ্ঞাপন
বাগউলো, নেত্রকোণা
ফোনঃ ০৯৫১৬১৬৬৪
E-mail: xen.netrakona@gmail.com

Office of the Executive Engineer
Netrokona O&M Division
BWDB, Netrokona
Phone: 095161464
E-mail: xen.netrakona@gmail.com

Memo No. T-1/1707

Corrigendum Notice No. 01

All concerned are hereby informed that due to unavoidable circumstances the following changes have been made in connection with following Tender IDs invited vide this office Memo No. T-1/1596, date 01/02/2022.

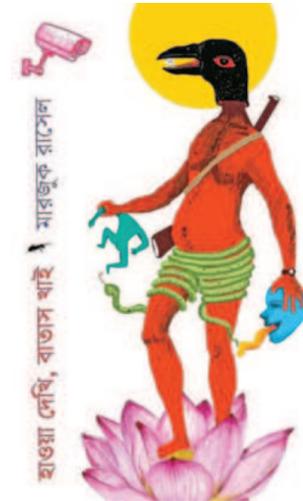
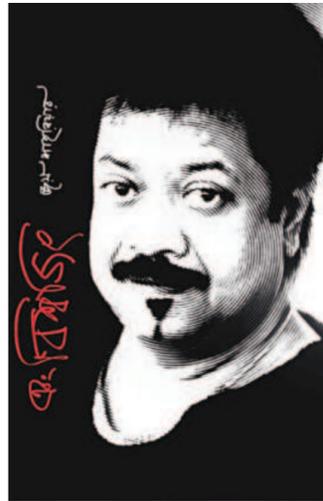
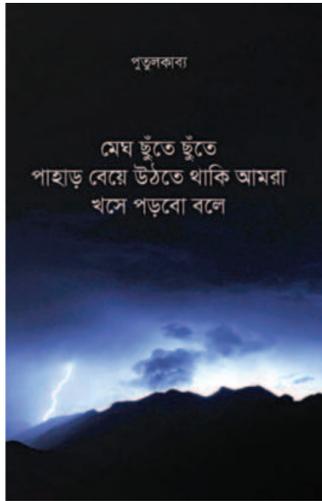
e-Tender Corrigendum Notice (OTM)

SL. No.	Tender ID, tender status	Name of work	Type, method	Closing date & time	
				Original	New
1	654398, Amendment/ Corrigendum issued: 1	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 Alpara Thana in Upazila-Atpara, Dist. Netrokona under Netrokona O&M Division, BWDB, Netrokona during the FY-2021-2022.	NCT, OTM	21/02/2022 14:00	23/02/2022 14:00
2	654401, Amendment/ Corrigendum issued: 1	Repair and maintenance work of Inspection Banglau, Mosque, Office Building & Colony c/w NDR budget at Upazila-Netrokona Sadar, Dist. Netrokona under Netrakona O&M Division, BWDB Netrakona during the financial year 2021-22.	NCT, OTM	16/02/2022 12:45	23/02/2022 12:45

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 (<https://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, Netrakona

পানি-৫৮৩/২০২১-২০২২
৬/১০৩
জিডি-২৯৭



Nargis Fakhri appears in her first Bengali song, 'MONER KHOBOR'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood diva Nargis Fakhri has made a stunning appearance TM Records' Valentine Special song, "Moner Khobor". This is the first time that the actress has worked in any Bengali song. Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi model Asif Azim will be seen with Nargis in the music video.

The track has been written, composed and arranged by Kaushik Hossain Taposh. Talented singers Luipa and Shamim Hasan have lent their voices to the track.

Adil Sheikh from Bollywood is the director of the music video, which was styled and produced by TM Records co-founder, Farzana Munnir.

The song has already garnered critical acclaim for the mellifluous song and spot-on direction.



EKUSHEY BOI MELA where stars appear on pages

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Alongside renowned authors, noted celebrities publish books during the Ekushey Boi Mela. Due to their obvious popularity, these books also tend to perform well at the fair.

Ekushey Padak winning actor

Abul Hayat will be releasing his short story collection, "Ashare" this year. The book contains three short stories, and it is to be published by Priyo Bangla Prokashon.

"I first took up writing during the 90s, and since then, I have been hooked to writing," shares the eminent actor, who is also adept at scriptwriting and direction.

Close up one famed singer Putul has also been exploring her talent in writing for the past few years. Her poetry collection "Megh Chute Chute Pahar Beye Uthte Thaki Amra Khoshe Porbo Bole", will be released this year.

"I really love to write, and hope to publish at least one new book every year," shares Putul, who has previously been appreciated for her series, "Putul Kabbo".

Celebrated singer Kumar Bishwajit's autobiography is also set to hit the stalls. The book, titled "Abong Bishwajit", being the singer's first one, will be published by Ajob

Publications.

"I have been unable to share my experiences candidly with my fans," he says. "This book is an account of the untold episodes of my life, and shows a new side of me."

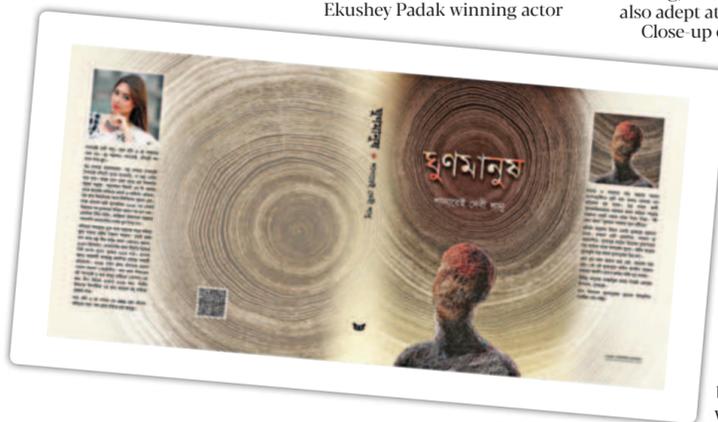
Prominent actress and model Shanarei Devi Shanu has several novels to her credit. This year, she is looking forward to her novel "Ghunmanush", which will be published by Anannya Prokashoni.

"The book will be available to readers from the first day of Ekushey Boi Mela," she informs.

Renowned lyricist and actor Marzuk Russell's "Hawa Dekhi, Batash Khai" will be available at the fair from the first day. The book has been published by Upokotha Prokashon.

Alongside new ones, formerly released books by Bidya Sinha Mim, Azizul Hakim, Tauquir Ahmed, Brindabon Das, Naznin Hasan Chumki, Lopa Hossain, Muhin Khan, Animesh Aich, and, Ashna Habib Bhabna will be available at the fair.

A few interview collections of various stars is to be published by the end of the Ekushey Boi Mela as well.



Submit your play to 'Aly Zaker Shorone Notuner Utshab 2022'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrating an illustrious journey of 49 years, Nagorik Natya Sampradaya is hosting the second instalment of their "Notuner Utshab". The festival had commenced in 2019, showcasing 5 news plays from rising theatre troupes around the country.

From this year onwards, the initiative is set to commemorate the legacy of the legendary actor and one of the founding pillars of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, Aly Zaker.

Aided by Mangaldweep Foundation, "Aly Zaker Shorone Notuner Utshab 2022" will showcase 5 new plays by 5 different theatre troupes.

The organisers have opened the process of submission from all theatre troupes across the nation. The groups have to turn in a copy of their production proposal and a summary of their proposed play by March 31, 2022, to the following address: Asiatic Centre, House# 63, Road # 7/b, Block- H, Banani, Dhaka-1213, or email it to nagoriknatya.50@gmail.com.



COUNTRYWIDE

99 illegal brick kilns run operations in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Defying law and posing serious threats to the environment and public health, over 99 brick factories continue to operate in Brahmanbaria.

The local administration and the Department of Environment (DoE) have yet to take any visible measures against them although it is stipulated that no brickfield can be set up without clearance from the DoE.

The brick kilns have been set up beside bazars, croplands, educational institutions, fruit gardens and other establishments, said locals.

Seasonal fruits and crops including paddy are being damaged due to the emission from the brick kilns.

According to the DoE's Brahmanbaria office, there are 181 brick kilns in nine upazilas of the district. Of them, 82 have clearance but the rest are operating illegally without a license. Of which, 30 brickfields are now remaining closed or abandoned for various reasons. However, the actual number of brick kilns is higher than the list of district administration shows.

According to section-4 of the Brick Making and Kiln Installation (Control) Act, no brick kiln can be operated without clearance from the DoE. If the rule is violated, a provision of two years imprisonment is there.

While visiting different brickfields in Sadar, Sarail and Bijoynagar upazilas, it was found that most of the brickfields are in the middle of croplands. Of them, many are near to the localities and within 500 metres of educational institutions.

Local environmentalists alleged that most of the brick kilns have been operating in Brahmanbaria flouting laws. The brickfield owners 'manage' the administration before the peak season.

Syed Nazrul Islam, president of Brahmanbaria Paribesh Ujjibi Mancho, a group working for the protection of the environment, officials who are in the racket be brought to

Nasir Mia, secretary Brahmanbaria of the Committee to Oil, Gas,

Resources, Power and Ports, said fertility of the land is completely lost following the sale of topsoil. If this unplanned removal of topsoil from agricultural land continues, it will bring a permanent disaster in future crop production.

Azizul Haque, general secretary of Brahmanbaria District Brick Manufacturers and Owners Association, said manufacturing bricks with soil is permitted till 2025. After that, bricks can no longer be made with soil. If the brick kilns are suddenly closed, people will suffer and development will be hampered.

As a result, the administration should exercise the laws with caution in case of less harmful brick kilns but stern action should be taken against those which are causing more harm to the environment, he said.

Md Nurul Amin, deputy director of DoE Brahmanbaria office, said 41 brick kilns were fined Tk 1.65 crore conducting mobile courts and some brickfields were partially demolished in 2021. Separate cases were filed against 29 illegal brick kilns. Last year, five illegal brick kilns owners were also sued.



The mushrooming illegal brickfields are posing threat to the environment and public health. The photo was taken from Dhonkura village of Nasirnagar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Communist

FROM PAGE 12

party decided that it would not allow any rift in the all-party action committee. No extreme action would be encouraged as such incidents would be easily exploited by the government. The party, then, gave clear instructions to Toaha, Oli Ahad, Samad and Dewan Mahub Ali, who were members of the all-party committee, not to pressurise the Committee for violating section 144. They were also asked to explain to the committee that the general election could be postponed due to any emergency situation. At that time there was a talk of holding a general election and its postponement was considered as a great setback in the democratic life of East Bengal.

Shamsul Haque, Toaha and Oli Ahad went to the students in the morning (February 21) to explain the decision of the all-party committee to them and to calm them down. However, it was decided in the end that the students would break section 144 by dividing themselves into 10 groups of 10 each.

The all-party committee ceased to exist following the violation of section 144. After that the students belonging to the [Communist] party were in control of the movement.

Shahidullah Kaiser was a member of the central committee of the Communist Party of East Pakistan during the Language Movement.

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

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajan

Pneumonia in kids

FROM PAGE 12

mentions that almost half of these deaths can be averted by significantly scaling up immunisation and taking various other steps, according to Unicef.

PREVENTION

Immunisation against Hib, pneumococcus, measles and whooping cough is the most effective way to prevent pneumonia.

Pneumonia can also be prevented in the first place

by increasing protective measures and by reducing risk factors like both indoor and outdoor air pollution, which make the lungs more vulnerable to infection.

Adequate nutrition boosts natural defence in children making them less vulnerable to the infection. For newborns, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life is crucial.

The names proposed

FROM PAGE 7

Chowdhury; Mushfika Iklat, former secretary; Md Abdul Mannan, former secretary; Md Gazi Rahman, senior district and sessions judge; Md Jahangir Molla, former additional secretary; Md Fakhruddin, former district and sessions judge; Md Faizur Rahman, retired secretary; Md Badrul Islam, lawyer of Supreme Court; Md Rafiqul Islam, former joint secretary general of FBCCI; Md Shamsul Haque, former district and sessions judge; Md Shah Alam Mia, lawyer; Md Shahiduzzaman, former senior secretary; Md Shafiqul Islam, retired district and sessions judge; Md Habibur Rahman, retired IGP; Rasheda K Chowdhury, former advisor to caretaker government; Rokeya Kabir, woman leader; Rokon-ud-Dowla, retired additional secretary; Lt Gen Md Shafiqur Rahman, former military officer; Lt Col (ret'd) Kazi Sazzad Ali Jahir, Bir Pratik; Lt Gen Jafarullah Siddique, former DGMS of Bangladesh Army; Shaikhul Hadidh Allama Kazi Moinuddin Ashrafi, principal of Sobhania Kamil Madrasa, Chattogram; Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, former judge; Sheikh Wahiduzzaman,

chairman of Janata Bank; Selina Hosen, Bangla Academy president; Syed Mizanur Rahman, lawyer; Hazi Md Shah Alam Mia, lawyer; Hedayetullah Al Mamun, former senior secretary; Humayun Kabir, former ambassador; Abdul Wahab Mia, former judge; Abdul Majid, former judge; Farid Ahmed, former judge; Maolana Mahmudul Hasan, principal of Jatrabari Madrasa; Abdul Latif Masum, former vice chancellor, Patuakhali Science and Technology University; former district judge Asgor Ali; former cabinet secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam; former IGP Shahidul Islam; former bureaucrats Shamsuddoha; former tax commissioner Dabed-Al-Sad; teacher Lindsey Ribeiro; former Air Chief Air Marshal (ret'd) Fakhrul Azam; Saiful Islam Siddique, journalist; former IGP Hasan Mahmud Khandaker; former bureaucrat Md Mohibul Haque; former additional IGP Meer Shahidul Islam; former bureaucrat Nazim Uddin Chowdhury; and former bureaucrat Faizur Rahman Chowdhury.

The Daily Star could not verify all the posts and correct spellings of the names of individuals mentioned above.

Boi mela

FROM PAGE 12

from February 15 instead of February 1, adding that in the last 20 years, the fair has never started so randomly with the grounds still not prepared.

Osman Gani, proprietor of Agami Prokashani, also expressed sadness about the fairground not being ready even 24 hours before the fair. "If such a situation continues, people will not be willing to attend the book fair anymore."

KM Khalid, state minister for culture, said, "We are late in preparing for the fair because we were still unsure when the fair would begin. However, we hope the grounds would be completely ready before the inauguration."

Jalal Ahmed, member-secretary of the fair management committee, at a press conference yesterday said everyone will have to wear mask in order to enter the fair and visitors will be sprayed with sanitizer at the entrance. Stall owners, staffers, management officials and visitors will have to carry vaccine certificates.

He also said the fair this year will celebrate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary; the golden jubilee of independence; 70 years of the Language Movement; and 50 years of drafting of the constitution of Bangladesh.

From tomorrow till February 28, the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, during which the Bangla Academy Awards 2021 will be held, will be open from 2:00pm till 9:00pm.

No one will be allowed in after 8:30pm.

Bangla Academy, which organises the fair, however, hoped the fair can be extended if Covid-19 transmission rates drop further.

INTERNATIONAL

Stakes 'never been higher'

Says IPCC head as nearly 200 nations meet to finalise report on climate impacts

AFP, Paris

The stakes in the fight against global warming are higher than ever, the UN's climate science chief said yesterday as nearly 200 nations met to finalise what is sure to be a harrowing report on climate impacts.

"The need for the Working Group 2 report has never been greater because the stakes have never been higher," Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Chair Hoesung Lee said in a live videocast.

Species extinction, ecosystem collapse, mosquito-borne disease, deadly heat, water shortages and reduced crop yields are already measurably worse due to rising temperatures.

Just in the last year, the world has seen a cascade of unprecedented floods, heatwaves and wildfires across four continents.

All these impacts will accelerate in the coming decades even if the carbon pollution driving climate change is rapidly brought to heel, the IPCC report is likely to warn.

A crucial, 40-page Summary for Policymakers — distilling underlying chapters totalling thousands of pages, and reviewed line-by-line — is to be made public on February 28.

"This is a real moment of reckoning," said Rachel Cleatus, climate and energy policy director at the Union of Concerned Scientists.



Soldiers walk in front of Howitzers of the German armed forces Bundeswehr as they are prepared for loading to Lithuania at the Bundeswehr military base in Munster, Germany yesterday. A German military aircraft carrying troop reinforcements landed at Lithuania's Kaunas airport yesterday, the first of several planned deployments amid fears in the region over a possible Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Solution still possible

Russia sees 'chance' for agreement with West over Ukraine, says some of its military drills 'ending'

AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that a diplomatic solution to Moscow's standoff with the West was still possible and that some of its military drills were ending, after tensions over Ukraine reached fever pitch.

The comments came after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz landed in Kyiv for crisis talks ahead of a visit to Moscow to head off what Berlin said was the "very critical" threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

During a televised meeting with President Vladimir Putin, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said "there is always a chance" to reach an agreement with Western countries over the standoff.

He told Putin that dialogue with leaders in European capitals and Washington should continue and that "opportunities

are far from exhausted" for a resolution.

"I would suggest continuing" talks, Lavrov said.

On his arrival in Ukraine, the German leader headed directly to see President Volodymyr Zelensky, whose government has demanded an urgent meeting with Russia to explain why it has deployed more than 100,000 soldiers to Ukraine's borders.

European leaders warn that the troop build-up is the worst threat to the continent's security since the Cold War, as Putin demands a rollback of Western influence in eastern Europe and a ban on Ukraine joining Nato.

Western allies have prepared what they warn would be a crippling package of economic sanctions in response.

Earlier, a German government source had said: "We assess the situation as very critical, very dangerous."

Western alarm over Ukraine has been

fuelled by recent Russian military exercises, including Belarus, where the US said Moscow had dispatched 30,000 troops for more than a week of drills.

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told Putin in a meeting yesterday that some of the drills were "ending" and some would end "in the near future".

In Kyiv, Ukraine's Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov hailed "positive" talks with his Belarusian counterpart. He said he had been assured "there are no threats to Ukraine from Belarus".

US intelligence officials worry that weeks of crisis talks have given Russia the time to prepare a major offensive should Putin make the ultimate decision to attack Ukraine.

"We are digging trenches that Ukrainian soldiers could quickly jump into and defend in case the Russians attack," 15-year-old Mykhailo Anopa told AFP.

CRITICISM OF GOVT

Gunmen attack Lanka TV journo

AFP, Colombo

Armed men stormed the home of a high-profile Sri Lankan television journalist critical of the government yesterday, police said, sparking condemnation by local media rights groups. Chamuditha Samarawickrama, who had criticised the powerful ruling Rajapaksa family and their allies in recent broadcasts, including on YouTube, was shaken but unhurt after the pre-dawn raid, police said. "They carried weapons to intimidate the guard and gained access to the housing compound," a police official said adding that forensic experts had been called in to launch an investigation. "There were at least three armed men and they travelled in a white van," Samarawickrama told AFP. "I heard shots fired. They smashed my windows and threw faeces at the house. It was captured on CCTV. I don't know who is behind this attack, but I want to tell them that they can't silence me." Local media rights organisations denounced the attack on Samarawickrama.

TMC sweeps West Bengal civic bodies' polls

THE INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE



The Trinamool Congress yesterday made a clean sweep in the civic polls to four municipal corporations in West Bengal — Bidhannagar, Siliguri, Chandernagore and Asansol — as per data available on the State Election Commission's website. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated the people saying: "The election was held peacefully. The State Election Commission and administration played

important roles to ensure people cast their votes. There was no trouble anywhere during polling." Meanwhile, BJP yesterday moved Calcutta High Court demanding Central forces for the remaining Municipalities Polls in West Bengal, scheduled for 27th February. The matter will be likely to be heard by the court today.

The names proposed for EC posts

Ajoy Dasgupta, journalist; Md Abdul Motalab Mia, lawyer; Sultana Kamal, human rights activist; Prof M Shamim Z Bosunia, former president, the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Prof Abdul Mannan Choudhury, vice-chancellor, World University; Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, writer and academician; Prof Abdul Mannan, former chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC); Prof AKM Mostofa Zaman; Zakia Parveen, professor, Dhaka University; Abu Saleh Mahfuzul Bari, professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University; Abdul Awwal Biswas, professor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology; AA Mamun, professor, Jahangirnagar University; Kazi SM Khasrul Alam Quddusi, professor, Chittagong University; Golam Rahman, former chief information commissioner; Nazma Shaheen, professor, Dhaka University; Md Kamal Uddin, professor, Dhaka University; Md Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan, professor, Dhaka University; Md Mizanur Rahman, professor, Dhaka University; Md Rahmat Ullah, professor, Dhaka University; Md Saiduzzaman, professor, Rajshahi University; Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, prominent writer; Sarker Ali Akkas, professor, Jagannath University; Prof Harun-or-Rashid, former vice-chancellor, National University; Prof Dr Jahurul Alam, academician and researcher; Prof Dr Kazi Deen Mohammad; Prof Dr Salimur Rahmabn, former chairman, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University; Prof Dr Sufia Rahman, former adviser, caretaker government; Syed Manzoorul Islam, professor, Dhaka University; Ashok Kumar Biswas, former secretary; A A M S Arefin Siddique, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University; Akhtari Momtaj, former secretary; Anisur Rahman, former senior secretary; Abdur Rashid, former judge; Abu Alam Shahid Khan, former secretary; Abu Bakar Siddiqui, former judge; Abul Hasem, lawyer; Uzzawal Bikash Dutta, former secretary; AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury, former judge; Shah Md Khasruzzaman, senior lawyer of Supreme Court; M Hasan Imam, former District and Sessions judge; SM Abdul Wahab (freedom fighter), former joint secretary; SM Harun-Or-rashid, former special acting officer (Grade-I); Air Commander Ishfaqe Islam Chowdhury, treasurer of Asia

Pacific University; Air Commandar Shafique Elahi, registrar of East West University; Kazi Golam Mostafa, director of KB Enterprise Mymensingh; Kazi Rowshan Akter, former senior secretary; Kazi Riazul Haque, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission; Kazi Habibul Awal, former senior secretary; Kamrun Nahar, former secretary; Krishibid Iqbal Bahar, former additional IGP; Krishibid AKM Saidul Haque Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University; Krishibid Wares Kabir, former executive chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council; Krishibid Md Afzal, former professor, BSMMU; Krishibid Prof Nitish Chandra Debnath, former vice-chancellor of Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Science University; Krishibid Prof Md Monzurul Alam, former professor of Bangladesh Agricultural University; Krishibid Mir Shahidul Islam, former additional IGP; Krishibid Md Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, former professor BAU; Krishibid Md Nurul Islam, former secretary; Mukhlesur Rahman, former additional IGP; Khan Md Abdul Mannan, former session judge; Khandakar Mizanur Rahman, former joint secretary; Khandakar Mohammad Asaduzzaman, former secretary; Khandakar Hasan Shahriar, advocate, Gazi Md Mohsin, advocate, Geeteera Safiya Choudhury, chairman of Adcomm Ltd, Sohul Hossain, former election commissioner, Jalal Ahmed, former additional secretary; Gen Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, former army chief, Apurup Chowdhury, former secretary; Ashoke Madhab Roy, former secretary, Abdullah Shahadat Khan, lawyer; Abdul Malek Mia, former secretary; Abdul Matin, chairperson of EDAB; Abdul Halim, lawyer; Abu Sayeed Khan, journalist and writer; Abdul Malek, former senior information secretary; Abus Samad, former senior secretary; Abul Kalam Azad, former principal secretary, Ashraf Ali, who lives abroad, Ikram Ahmed, former chairman of PSC; Illias Kanchan, chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai; Israil Hossain, former additional secretary, AAM Moniruzzaman, lawyer; AHM Sadiqul Haq, former chairman of land reform board, AKM Shamsul Islam, former registrar general; AFM Ismail Chowdhury, chairman of international peace and solidarity

foundation; ALM Abdur Rahman, former secretary; AKM Shahidul Haque, former IGP; Ejajur Rassel, lawyer, MK Rahman, former additional attorney general; M Janibul Haq, former additional secretary; M Shakhawat Hussain, former election commissioner; MA Hannan, former ambassador, M Nazim Uddin Al-Azad, former minister, M Mosaddek Hossain, managing director of Unimed Unihealth Group, SM Rezaul Karim, lawyer; SM Harun-ur-Rashid, former director general of BTV; SM Abdul Wahab, former joint secretary, Kalachand Mandal, former additional secretary; Jyoti Bikash Borua, freelance consultant; Zillar Rahman, former secretary, Maj Gen (ret'd) Jamil D Ahsan; Jesmin Tuli, former secretary; Johurul Alam, former professor; M Shamsur Ali, educationist; Tofail Ahmed, local government expert; M Nasir Uddin, Tarik-ul-Islam, former secretary; Nazibur Rahman, former principal secretary, Firoyza Aktar, poet; Foyez Ahmed Bhuiyan, former additional secretary; Brig Gen (ret'd) Saidur Rahman Khan; Belayet Hossain, former district judge, Mahbub Hossain, former additional IGP, Mikail Shipar, former secretary, Mesbaul Alam, former senior secretary; Abdul Mazid, former district judge, Abu Bakar Siddiqui Khan, lawyer; Abul Kashem; former joint secretary; Md Yusuf, former additional secretary; Janibul Haque, former additional secretary; Dalil Uddin, member, Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority; Nasir Uddin Ahmed, former secretary; Mustafizur Rahman, former additional secretary; Md Rafiuzzaman, tourism expert and travel agent; Shahjahan Ali Mollah, former secretary; Sirajul Islam, former senior secretary; Mustafizur Rahman, former secretary; Mostafa Kamal, former secretary; Mostafa Kamal Uddin, former senior secretary; Md Abdul Mobarak, former election commissioner; Md Abdul Karim, former principal secretary; Md Altaf Hossain, former district and sessions judge; Md Jamil Khan, Supreme Court lawyer; Md Jasim Uddin, FBCCI president; Md Majibur Rahman, tax consultant; Majibur Rahman Mujib, who lives abroad; Md Safiul Azam, former district and sessions judge; Md Iqbal Sobabhan, journalist; Md Mahfuzur Rahman,

former additional secretary; Akbar Hossain Mridha, former district and sessions judge; Anisur Rahman, former senior secretary; Anwarul Islam Shikder, former secretary; Ansar Ali Khan, former secretary; Aftab Uddin, district and sessions judge; Abdul Majid, former district and sessions judge; Md Abdul Hai, former district and sessions judge; Abdul Motalib Miah, secretary of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Barguna; Abdus Samad, former district and sessions judge; Abul Hashem, lawyer; Md Aminul Islam Bulu, convener, Janaswartha Raksha Jatiya Committee; Md Alamgir, former senior secretary; Md Iqbal Hossain, CACC; Idris Miah, former secretary; Wasuzzaman Akandh, former director, Department of Agricultural Extension; Kamal Uddin Talukder, former secretary; Kuddus Khan, former secretary; Golam Mostafa, lawyer; Nur-ur-Rahman, former secretary, Nurul Nabi Talukder, former secretary; Nurul Islam Chowdhury, lawyer; Md Nurul Huda, former district and sessions judge; Mhabubur Rahman Dulal; Manjur Kader Khan, former DIG; Shamsul Arefin Arif, consultant; Shahjahan Miah, former additional secretary; Md Shahiduzzaman, former secretary; Humayun Khalid, former secretary; Rawnak Mahmud, former secretary; Roqsana Quader, former additional secretary; Shyamal Kanti Ghosh, former secretary; Shamsun Nahar Begum, former district and sessions judge; Shahdat Hossain, president, ICB; Sheikh Bashiruddin, managing director, Akij Group; Swapan Kumar Sarker, rights activist; Brig Gen (ret'd) Saidur Rahman Khan, Sayeed Mahemen Baksh Kallol, Supreme Court lawyer; Shakhawat Khan, country director of UAE-based financing firm; Sirajul Haque Khan, former secretary; Selima Khatun, former special assistant to PM; Syed Enayet Hossain, former district and sessions judge; Syed JR Modassir Hossain, former chief justice; Helal Uddin Ahmed, former secretary; Helal Kabir Chowdhury, editorial consultant; Hossain Shaheed Ahmad, former senior district judge; Dr Atiur Rahman, economist; Dr Anwara Begum, former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Dr Afroza Parveen, former joint secretary; Dr Abdullah Al Maruf, professor of Dhaka University; Dr Ahsan Mansur,

economist; Dr AKM Akhtarul Kabir, lawyer of Supreme Court; Dr AKM Abul Kashem, senior district and sessions judge; Dr Joty Prokash Dutta, professor (LPR) of Chittagong University; Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, former senior secretary; Dr Dalem Chandra Barman; Dr Tasneem Siddiqi, professor of Political Science at Dhaka University; Dr Tofail Ahmed, local government expert; Dr Nazma Shaheen, professor of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science at Dhaka University; Dr Nazrul Islam Al Maruf Al Madani, principal of Mohakhali Darul Ulum Hossainia Madrasa Banani; Dr Binayak Sen, director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS); Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shujan; Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder, former secretary; Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, teacher; Dr Md Shajahan, lawyer of Supreme Court; Dr Mohammad Abdul Majid, former secretary and former chairman of NBR; Dr Mohammad Zakaria, former additional secretary; Dr Mohammad Zakaria, former secretary; Dr Mohammad Farasuddin, former governor; Dr Muhammed Sadique, former chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Dr Md Abdul Alim, senior director of Election Programme, Dhaka; Dr Md Shajahan, retired senior district and sessions judge; Dr Md Sultan Mahmud, pro-vice-chancellor of University of Asia Pacific; Dr Shahdeen Malik, advocate of Supreme Court; Dr Saiful Islam Dildar, secretary general of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission; Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Dr Nazmun Nahar, former child specialist and director general of Birdem Hospital; Dr Sarwar Ali, former chairman of Bangladesh Medical Association; Dr Mohammad Nasimul Islam, doctor; Dr Md Siraj Doula, former joint secretary; Dr HM Moniruzzaman, lawyer; Dr Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, former secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association; Devan Md Shafiullah, district and sessions judge; Prof Dr Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, former professor of Dhaka University; Prof Dr SM Anwara Begum, former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Prof Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, former VC of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur; Prof Dr

Farida Adib Khanom, former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Prof Dr Abdul Awal, retired professor of SUST; Prof Dr Manju, academician and researcher; Prof Nasrin Ahmed, former pro-VC of Dhaka University; Prashanta Kumar Das, bank executive; Prof Sadeka Halim, former information commissioner; Fauzia Moslem; Brig Gen (ret'd) Selim Mahmud Chowdhury, former army officer; Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan, former vice chairman of BTRC; Brig Gen (ret'd) Md Refayet Ullah, former dean of BUP; Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdul Al-Azahar, former army officer; Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdus Sobhan Sadeq, former army officer; Abu Bakar, former judge; Abu Bakar Siddique, former judge; Nazmun Ara Sultana, former judge; Borhan Uddin, former judge; Moinul Islam Chowdhury, former judge; Musa Khaled, former judge; Syed Mahmud Hossain, former chief justice; Bibi Russel, fashion designer; Biswas Lutfar Rahman, former joint secretary; SM Anwara Begum, professor of Jagannath University; Abu Sayeed Khan, journalist; Abdul Malek Mia, former secretary; Kabir Ahmed; former president of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Mahmudul Haq, former brigadier general; Ansar Ali Khan, former additional secretary; Fazlul Karim, former deputy secretary; Sarwar Hossain, former additional secretary; Bheem Charan Roy, former additional secretary; Shamsur Kabir Chowdhury, Majharul Haq Khandokar, juris doctor (JD); Krishna Devnath, former judge; Rashida Sultana, district judge; Monira Khan, former FEMA president; Abu Naser Md Ilias, former major general; ANM Muniruzzaman, former major general; Salehuazaman, former major general and managing director of Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory; Abu Naser Md Ilias, former major general; Abdul Bari, former major general; Mounul Islam, former chairman of REB; Maj Gen Md Masud Rezwani; Maj Gen Mohammad Al Shikdar; Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam; Maj Gen Shakhawat Hossain; Harun-Ar-Rashid, former army chief; Abul Kashem, former joint secretary; Momtaj Uddin Ahmed, former judge; Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, former cabinet secretary; Justice Monsurul Haque

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Time to explore our own gas

Relying on imports will only burden the consumers

WE are concerned by the government's negligence towards gas exploration and our overdependence on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG), which have led to the present gas crisis. According to experts, Bangladesh's gas exploration efforts almost stopped after the Bibiyana gas field was explored in 1999. While the demand for gas increased over the years, the government took no notable initiatives to dig new wells or explore offshore gas reserves. Moreover, many of the existing gas fields have not been maintained or repaired as needed. Instead, the government started importing expensive LNG to meet the domestic demand. As a result, the gas prices increased at the consumer end over the years, despite the subsidies provided by the government.

As the gas crisis has become acute in many areas of the country, and the industries dependent on gas are struggling to continue their operations, the government's strategies to solve the shortage appear counterintuitive. Its plan to import LNG at a higher price is concerning—particularly because the burden will fall on the consumers. Unfortunately, the government is already planning to increase gas prices to reduce its subsidy burden.

Now the question is: Why burden the consumers with high gas prices, when you can explore your own gas reserves, extract gas from there, and supply it to the consumers at cheaper rates?

Being one of the world's largest deltas, Bangladesh is supposed to be a gas-rich country. Yet, the vast plains in the coastal areas of the country remain unexplored for gas reserves. The maritime boundary dispute we had with Myanmar was solved in 2012, but we still did not initiate exploration for offshore gas sources. While a multi-client survey to explore gas in the sea has been in the talks since 2015, it is yet to be done. The Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) drilled only one well in the last two years, even though they have the capacity to drill three to four exploration wells in a year. It hasn't taken any big initiative to conduct seismic surveys in the new areas either.

The unwillingness and inefficiency of the authorities concerned in exploring new gas fields is very clear here. Unless the government addresses these issues, solving the gas crisis will become difficult in the future. The government can, of course, import LNG—which is 24 times costlier than locally produced gas—as a stopgap solution, particularly for the sectors where no immediate alternative is available. But for the medium and long terms, there is no alternative to exploring gas reserves in the country.

Good news from Mongla Port

Let this be an example of positive development

THE news comes as a breath of fresh air that the second largest seaport of Bangladesh, the Mongla Port, has been seeing a lot of activity recently, with ships from foreign countries coming at regular intervals. A special report in our business section says that the port has made a strong comeback, making it a major gateway for Bangladesh's overseas trade once again. No doubt, this would boost our export trade, thereby the economy as a whole. Senior officials are of the opinion that the port will see even more activities once the Padma Bridge becomes fully functional.

It is encouraging to note that the port has registered 17 percent annual average growth in ship-handling since 2012, while the volume of cargo-handling has grown by 19 percent over the past decade. Our report says that arrivals of ships have increased at Mongla Port as the economic growth has increased domestic demand. The credit for the steady growth in business goes to the completion of dredging at the outer bar of a nearly 140-kilometre channel. This resulted in the improved navigability of vessels that required a higher draft.

In a bid to keep the port running in full steam, the Mongla Port Authority is in the process of buying a good number of equipment and machineries to handle cargoes under a Tk-433 crore project. Furthermore, the port authority is set to purchase six vessels to handle ocean-going ships under another project involving Tk 767 crore.

We are told that at the moment, the port has 25 berthing facilities, including five jetties. But experts say that it needs to increase the draft at the jetty to enable the entry of vessels of more than seven metres of draft. Understandably, this problem is likely to be solved with the dredging at the inner bar of the Pashur channel. Once done, it will allow ships with more than nine metres' draft to use the jetty.

We believe that the full potential of the Mongla Port is yet to be exploited. With all the development projects in hand completed within the near future, the port, we hope, will be able to get more business and contribute to our economic progress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Don't make water costlier

I've been reading news reports about the Dhaka Wasa wanting to raise water tariff by 20 percent. In the area where I live, I don't get 24-hour water supply, and I'm already paying a lot of money for it. Why should I pay even more? Will the increased tariff ensure that I will get uninterrupted water supply? I don't think so. Don't put this extra burden on us. People like us are already struggling to make ends meet; we don't need to suffer more.

Rehnuma Akand, Jurain

Let's not consign our RTI law to cold storage

Shamsul Bari and Ruhi Naz are chairman and RTI coordinator, respectively, of the Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB).

SHAMSUL BARI and RUHI NAZ

THE title of our column today is inspired by an editorial in *Prothom Alo*, a popular Bangla national daily in Bangladesh, published on February 5, 2022. Titled "Right to Information: Don't send the law into a cold storage," it raised concern about the use of exemption clauses in the RTI law by a public authority to deny information sought by a citizen.

It is reassuring that such an issue was raised by a widely read national daily, bringing into focus one of the most important laws of the land, which has largely been neglected both by the media and the civil society in general. Such neglect has contributed to the failure of the law to attract many users, despite its immense potential in monitoring government work. The reasons for such a failure are not far to seek. Users of the law often encounter many hurdles, as identified in these columns before. The editorial in question hit upon another—perhaps more formidable—barrier. It is of a more recent origin and relates to the increasing number of RTI requests for information that the authorities concerned find too sensitive to disclose and hence resort to using the exemption clauses.

The story begins with a citizen asking the police authorities for statistics on the number of cases registered in the country every year since the enactment of the Digital Security Act (DSA), 2018, and the number of people arrested and indicted under the law. The request was denied both at the primary and appeal stages, citing a few exemption clauses in the RTI Act. Subsequently, the applicant registered a complaint with the Information Commission, which heard both sides on January 11, and set February 22 for the announcement of its decision.

While we await that decision, a quick recapitulation of the three exemption clauses stated under Section 7 of the RTI Act is in order. Clause 7 (f) permits denial of disclosing information if such disclosure would "obstruct the enforcement of law or incite any offence." Clause 7 (g) allows denial if such disclosure would "endanger public security or impede the due judicial process of a pending case." And Clause 7 (m) allows denial if such disclosure would "affect any investigation process of an offence and the arrest and prosecution of the offender."

We leave it up to the readers to decide if these exemption clauses apply to the given case. Based on the information

obtained from news reports, it is difficult to understand how disclosure of mere statistics may lead to the obstruction of justice and increase of offence. Moreover, we don't know how the police authorities justified their use of the exemption clauses.

This case provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the subject of

absolute. Some are qualified by what is known as the "public interest override," meaning some exempted information can nevertheless be disclosed if public interest for disclosure overrides the interest of the state to keep them secret. The RTI Act in Bangladesh does not specifically include such a provision, but it may be subsumed to be inherent



ILLUSTRATION: COLLECTED

Unless we find a way to ensure that exemption clauses are properly applied, there is a danger that the cynical view held by many about the RTI Act—that if a public authority wishes to refuse an RTI request, it is able to do so without much difficulty—will indeed be confirmed.

exemption clauses generally, and the rationale behind their inclusion in the RTI Act. The exemptions make it clear that the rights of individual citizens recognised in the law are not absolute and are circumscribed by the collective rights of others. They recognise the need for balance between citizens' rights to monitor the work of the government and, at the same time, the legitimate right of the government to undertake measures to protect public interest. The harmonisation of the two, often conflicting, interests is paramount to preserving the principles and efficacy of participatory democracy.

There is, thus, little controversy about the need for limiting the citizens' right to information in relation to certain critical issues of governance. No one would challenge the state's need to protect any information affecting Bangladesh's sovereignty, integrity and security from unauthorised disclosure. Equally sacrosanct are the protection of personal information of individuals and the need for upholding the laws of the land and protecting due process. It is not difficult, therefore, to understand the decision of an authority to deny disclosure of any information that clearly falls within the purview of the exemptions. The problem arises if they are not so clear.

In some countries, not all items listed as exempt from disclosure are considered

within the objectives of the law.

What is more important for us is to focus on the proper interpretation of the existing exemption clauses, and ensure that they are not applied inappropriately. There is a clear need for vigilance in this regard. Because we have no such vigilance now in the country, there are instances where information-seekers find themselves in a quandary when the Information Commission itself concurs with the denial of information by the authorities concerned. Since the Information Commission's decisions are final and cannot be challenged in the courts, except in regard to the law's application, the matter normally ends there. Very few have the means to file a writ petition with the High Court to obtain a directive from it under Section 102 of the constitution. And among the few that are filed, many are not followed up properly. Such a state of affairs doesn't augur well for the fate of the RTI regime in the country.

Unless we find a way to ensure that exemption clauses are properly applied, there is a danger that the cynical view held by many about the RTI Act—that if a public authority wishes to refuse an RTI request, it is able to do so without much difficulty—will indeed be confirmed. And that would be tantamount to consigning the RTI Act to a cold storage.

What is at the core of the Ukraine crisis?



Mahadev Ghosh is a student, columnist and independent researcher.

MAHADEV GHOSH

MANY may remember the dramatic call between US President Ronald Reagan and his Soviet Union counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987. "Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall," President Reagan said, referring to the Berlin Wall, which had separated West and East Berlin since 1961. Thirty-two years since the end of the Cold War, here we are again, with the Russian advancement into Ukraine feared to be imminent. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) has been aiding Ukrainian efforts to protect its sovereignty, but that too has seen mixed response from allies such as France and Germany. Could these developments presage a geopolitical disaster? Will Ukraine be annexed? Will the "defenders of democracy" really intervene? With both sides sticking to their guns, it is difficult to find justifications for these rather emotionally-charged developments—the Russian threat of an invasion, or a Nato expansion at the cost of risking war. So why are they still doing it?

Actors in the Ukrainian drama are taking action that produces tangible costs for an intangible benefit. Daniel Markey, a senior research professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University, explains this with the human need to be perceived as superior which, he says, applies to states as well. He underlined the role of "prestige motives"

in the origins of wars, contrasting the neo-realistic analysis of foreign policy. Psychological reasoning in explaining foreign policy is not new. D Larson was credited in Yuen Khong's "Analogies at War" for highlighting the influence of psychological concepts in foreign policy decisions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's rise to power was fuelled by his well-documented disdain for weak leadership responsible for what he believes to be the "disintegration of historical Russia." His views on Ukraine have been thoroughly clarified in his nine-page article from last year, where he blamed the West for "...[applying] divide and rule," and how Ukraine was being turned into "a springboard against Russia... [requiring the need] for the 'anti-Russia' concept which we will never accept."

The dissolution of the USSR was a devastating blow to Soviet pride. With the lowering of the red banner went nearly half its population and its glorious ownership of a sixth of the Earth's land. A 2018 Levada Centre poll showed that 66 percent of Russians regretted the fall of the USSR. China's rise relegated Russia to the back seat of international relations, where their only relevance was militaristic and belligerent acts. Many may have loved them; the West may have hated them. But the Russians cannot bear becoming the subject of indifference.

Since the dissolution and the subsequent decline of Russia's economy, Putin's takeover from Boris Yeltsin yielded favourable results, taking its GDP to unseen heights. But what also saw new "heights" were corruption, lack of freedom and democratic backsliding. The crackdowns worsened after Putin faced his greatest opposition: Alexei Navalny.

Putin's approval rating, according to the Levada Centre, was always above

62 percent, but reached 89 percent during the EU/US sanctions following the annexation of Crimea. However, with the birth of a strong opposition coupled with protests, his trustworthiness in 2018 was only 39 percent, with some blaming him for all of Russia's problems. The protection of his power in his country is predicated on another glory, which—topped with his deep-seated dream of a greater Russia—provides sufficient resolve. Success in Crimea proves means and credibility. The farcical negotiations with Nato provide sufficient cover of diplomacy.

France and Germany's conciliatory tone is well-founded, but the US cannot afford to look weak—nor can it afford a fight. The disaster in Afghanistan was debilitating enough for the Democrats, a party which cannot afford to have Trump back. The US cannot let Ukraine go undefended as it will severely harm its credibility with its allies as well. Deterrence theory has been long prescribed as the principal pillar of US foreign policy. Reputation is central to the deterrence theory, as stated by Jonathan Mercer, as threats need to be credible—a mixture of resolve, capability and interests. He also emphasised the reputation of loyalty, which the US claims to be of paramount importance. Kurds and Afghans would surely disagree.

Failing to stop the Russian advancement will give leeway to other states, such as China in the South China Sea. In a metaphorical chess breakdown with Nato and Russia on the opposite sides, the board is Ukraine. But it has real people with real needs, with 64 percent wanting to join Nato, according to a poll by UNIAN, a Ukrainian news agency. The real victims in this game will continue to be the Ukrainian citizens.

A 2018 Levada Centre poll showed that 66 percent of Russians regretted the fall of the USSR. China's rise relegated Russia to the back seat of international relations, where their only relevance was militaristic and belligerent acts.

The CEC is gone, long live the CEC!



OF MAGIC & MADNESS

BADIUZZAMAN BAY

Badiuzzaman Bay is an assistant editor at The Daily Star.

LET me begin with the story of a thought experiment. I did this experiment with a concept known as perspective-taking. In it, you try to understand things from another person's point of view. You put yourself in their shoes and see their life through their eyes. So, in my little experiment—out of curiosity, and because everyone deserves a little love on Valentine's Day—I put myself in the shoes of our now-retired chief election commissioner.

Scenario 1: At the end of his incredibly controversial term at the helm of the most scrutinised public office in the country, the CEC may think, with the benefit of hindsight, that he was dealt a bad hand. After all, no other CEC had to put up with the third consecutive term of a political government, not least one bent on gaining legitimacy after coming off an uncontested election. He was fated to command a leaky boat. What's remarkable is not that it sank, but that he was on it while it did.

Scenario 2: The CEC can blame his luck for not having a compliant quartet for associates. The blowback he suffered for every mistake he made, for every electoral fraud and violence, for every time he looked the other way while his intervention was sought, would have hurt a lot less if one of his commissioners hadn't blown the trumpet at every opportunity.

Scenario 3: He set a bar below which no CEC can or should aspire to go—something to teach the class of wannabe commissioners. It's a lesson in teaching a lesson, but he is seldom credited for this didactic role.

Scenario 4: The CEC may feel that his real power was vastly overestimated, despite what the constitution says. After all, a constitution is only as effective as the executive branch allows it to be.

Scenario 5: The CEC's sense of humour is criminally underrated. Imagine all the times we mistook his deadpan expression for a lack of humour as he defended the integrity of his office against all evidence. We thought he was being serious, and we chided him for that. Joke's on us.

Or imagine his subtlety when he said, "Often, it is seen that someone who extorts money from hawkers in Gulistan later becomes a leader. One day he can be a parliamentarian too." As I speculated elsewhere: Gulistan here is a metaphor for the entire country. The crook in his little parable represents a cross section of our leaders who can do anything to reach or retain the high seats of power. Could the CEC reveal more without risking saying more?

But perhaps I'm getting ahead of myself. Perhaps he meant none of these, and he has none of the above scenarios playing out in his head. Far from having post-retirement blues, he may feel content. After all, as he suggested in his last media briefing, the success of a CEC should be determined by whether he has conducted all the elections planned, which he did. Merit of the elections be damned.

Incidentally, February 14, 2022 was the last day for our dear departed Election Commission. The stars may not have aligned for this otherwise auspicious day of love and reunion to mark their departure, but it sure brought a certain measure of relief knowing that they are gone. However, them moving out means the next batch of commissioners moving in. The seat of the CEC will not remain

vacant for long.

What kind of a CEC will we get next? Will he be cut from the same cloth as the likes of KM Nurul Huda and Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, or will he be worthy of his office? Can he do his job even if he wants to? Can the search committee find the most motivated candidates?

scrutinising and selecting anyone from outside." (Prothom Alo, January 23, 2022).

I won't go into a lengthy discussion about this process, or the performances of the past search committees. We have had a prodigious pile of diatribes accumulating over the years, and yet no one bothered. The banality of the effort, just as the futility of our whole democratic/electoral exercise, cannot be resolved overnight.

What I find interesting is how the public is reacting to it. After news came out that about 350 names had been submitted for the posts of CEC and four other election commissioners—in other words, about 70 applications for each post—one Facebook user commented that the commissioner nomination process is now "more competitive than the BCS exam." It's hard to disagree. We're told that some of the candidates submitted their own names to the search committee. Some are reportedly lobbying for the post to the Cabinet Division.

This would be—to rephrase a Stephen Hawking quote—tragic if it weren't funny. What we needed was a sincere effort to have fearless defenders of democracy brought to the Election Commission. What we needed was to create a conducive environment for them to hold free and fair elections by restructuring the electoral process. Instead, what we are getting is a glance into a new generation of candidates inspired by the missionary zeal of KM Nurul Huda and Co.

You don't need a thought experiment to understand their motive.



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLAB CHAKROBORTY

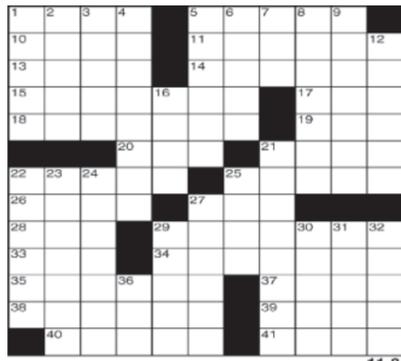
According to retired Justice Abdul Matin of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, who served in several such search committees, the chairman or members of the committee tasked with finding eligible candidates can do very little. Despite their efforts, what happens in the end is that "the Cabinet Division hands over a few envelopes with biographies of some people of the government's choosing. There is no opportunity for

CORRIGENDUM

The headline of an interview of Mahub Talukdar published by The Daily Star on February 14, 2022 had a typographical error. The correct headline is, "My agenda has been to upload democracy." We sincerely apologise for this mistake.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scissors sound
 - 5 Trades
 - 10 Volcano flow
 - 11 "Phooey!"
 - 13 Smell
 - 14 Feel bad about
 - 15 Castle defense
 - 17 "Roses — red"
 - 18 Guile
 - 19 Game cube
 - 20 Make a choice
 - 21 Trend determiner
 - 22 Easy —
 - 25 Grows, as the moon
 - 26 Herring's cousin
 - 27 Golf goal
- DOWN**
- 1 Feeds the pigs
 - 2 Tennis star
 - 3 Tusk material
 - 4 Unduly suspicious
 - 5 Most tender
 - 6 Sharpens
 - 7 Bol. neighbor
 - 8
 - 9 Like surgical tools
 - 12 Hardens
 - 16 Le Pew of cartoons
 - 21 Trajectory shape
 - 22 Fall flowers
 - 23 Get a cut of a moral
 - 24 Tale with a moral
 - 25 Balmy
 - 27 Kitchen knives
 - 29 — Noster
 - 30 City of sin
 - 31 Chilled
 - 32 Red Square name
 - 36 Gardner of film



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



BEFOR BAWNER



BARBYRINKS & SCOTT



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Line Director
Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS
BMRC Bhaban (1st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900
E-mail: uhc@ld.dghs.gov.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the manufacturer/wholesaler/supplier for supply of furniture & others for emergency duty doctor's room of Upazila Health Complexes (UHC). As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION				
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division.			
2 Agency	Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW.			
3 Procuring Entity	Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS.			
4 Procuring Entity Code	224330400			
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6 Invitation for	Supply of Furniture & others for emergency duty doctor's room of Upazila Health Complexes.			
7 Invitation for offer Ref. No	UHC/Proc./GOB/Furniture (Emer. duty doctor's room)-89/2021-22/910			
8 Date	14.02.2022			
KEY INFORMATION				
9 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Dev.)			
11 Developments Partners	None			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/Program Code	224330400			
13 Project/Program Name	UHC			
14 Tender Package No	UHC/G-GD-4/2021-22			
15 Offer Package Name	Furniture & others for emergency duty doctor's room of UHC.			
16 Tender Publication Date	15.02.2022			
17 Tender Last Selling Date	27.02.2022 at 5.00 pm			
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	28.02.2022 at 12 pm			
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	28.02.2022 at 2 pm			
20 Name and address of the Office				
a) Selling of Tender Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. c) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
b) Receiving of Tender Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. c) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
c) Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban, (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21 Eligibility of Tenderer	As stated in TDS			
22 Brief Description of Goods	Supply of Furniture & others (09 items) for emergency duty doctor's room of 100 UHCs			
23 Price of Tender Documents Taka	TK. 5,000 (Five Thousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable).			
24 No	Identification & Name	Location	Tender Security Amounts in BDT	Completion time (in weeks)
Lot-1 & Lot-2	UHC/G-GD-4/2021-22	UHC office, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.	Tk. 3,00,000 (Three Lacs) for Lot-1 & Tk. 2,00,000 (Two Lacs) for Lot-2 only by Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in Prescribed format in favour of Line Director, UHC, DGHS.	12 (Twelve) weeks from date of signing the contract.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL				
25 Name of Official Inviting Offer	Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman			
26 Designation of Official Inviting Offer	Line Director, UHC, DGHS.			
27 Address of Official Inviting Offer	BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
28 Contact details of Official Inviting Offer	BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900			

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.

(Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman)
Line Director
Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS
BMRC Bhaban (1st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

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www.taxeszone-narayanganj.gov.bd
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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ লিখিত পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি।

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২৮ জুলাই ২০১৯ইং তারিখে দৈনিক বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন এবং The Daily Star পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির আলোকে কর অঞ্চল-নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর শূন্য পদের বিপরীতে আবেদনকারীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৫-০২-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ শুক্রবার সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকায় ইভেন মহিলা কলেজ, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

উক্ত লিখিত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের নিমিত্তে টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর Download link-
<http://taxnar.teletalk.com.bd/admitcard/index.php> হতে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীদের স্ব-স্ব মোবাইল নম্বরে ইতোমধ্যে টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিঃ কর্তৃক এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে কেন্দ্রের নাম ও ঠিকানা প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। লিখিত পরীক্ষার কক্ষ ভিত্তিক আসন বিন্যাস ও প্রয়োজনীয় নির্দেশনাসমূহ কর অঞ্চল-নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.taxeszone-narayanganj.gov.bd) এ পরীক্ষার ন্যূনতম ২৪ ঘণ্টা পূর্বে পাওয়া যাবে।

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সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)
কর অঞ্চল-নারায়ণগঞ্জ
ও
সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন/পদোন্নতি কমিটি
কর অঞ্চল-নারায়ণগঞ্জ
ফোনঃ ৭৬৪৬২৬২

জিডি-২৯৪

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Bangladesh Krishi Bank
Head Office
83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Estate & Engineering Department
Phone: 02223384539; E-mail: dgmengineering@krishibank.org.bd
HO/EED-2(201)/2021-22/678 Date: 13/02/2022

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl	Tender ID, Tender Package and Reference No.	Name of tender	Tender documents last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time	Tender method
01	661510, 47/2021-2022, Reference No. HO/EED-2(201)/2021-22/678 Dated: 13/02/2022	Supply & Installation of 3D Acrylic Plastic Sign with LED at Front Side of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.	Date: 15-03-2022 Time: 16:00	Date: 16-03-2022 Time: 14:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sd/-
Md. Anowarul Azim Khan
Deputy General Manager
GD-299

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
District Primary Education Office
Patuakhali
<http://dpe.patuakhali.gov.bd>
Date: 13.02.2022

Memo No. জেপ্রাশিঅ/পটুয়া/329

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2021-22 (OTM)

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

Sl. No.	Name of scheme	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date & time	Tender/ proposal submission closing date & time	Remarks
1.	Goods, Supply of Furniture for Selected Schools of Patuakhali Sadar, Mirjagonj & Dumki Upazila in Patuakhali District under NBIDGPS-1 Project (FY-2021-2022)	640776	e-Tender NBIDGPS-1/ G1.0171	08-Mar-2022 17:00	09-Mar-2022 12:30	OTM
2.	Goods, Supply of Furniture for Selected Schools of Bauphal, Dashmina, Galachipa, Kalapara & Rangabali Upazila in Patuakhali District under NBIDGPS-1 Project (FY-2021-2022)	640814	e-Tender NBIDGPS-1/ G1.0172	08-Mar-2022 17:00	09-Mar-2022 12:30	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading Tender/Proposal Document to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to abovementioned date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Signed-13-02-2022
Mollah Baktiar Rahman
District Primary Education Officer
Patuakhali
Ph: 02-478835640
Email: dpeopatua@gmail.com

GD-290

Padma Oil Company Limited
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

Corrigendum Notice

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

This is for information of all concerned that due to some unavoidable circumstances following amendments of serial number 19, 20 and 21 of the tender notice published in "The Daily Star" dated 19/01/2022, "The Daily Amadar Somony" dated 19/01/2022, "The Daily Jugantor" dated 19/01/2022, The Daily Somokal, dated 18/01/2022 and website "POCL", "BPC", "CPTU" shall be amended as follows.

Sl. Nos.	Particular information	Existing	Amended
19	Tender last selling date	23/02/2022 up to 1400 Hrs	13/03/2022 up to 1400 Hrs
20	Tender closing date and time	Date (dd/mm/yyyy) 24/02/2022 Time 1400 Hrs	Date (dd/mm/yyyy) 14/03/2022 Time 1400 Hrs
21	Tender opening date and time	24/02/2022 1530 Hrs	14/03/2022 1530 Hrs

All other terms and conditions of the Tender Notice shall be remain unchanged.

C. M. Ziaul Hassan
DGM (Engineering & Planning)

GD-300 "সবাই মিলে গড়বে দেশ, দুর্নীতিমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ।"

THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD.
GAZIPUR.
Web site : www.spctl.org.bd

LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL e-TENDER.

Electronic tenders (e-tenders) are hereby invited from the competent local/international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the following items for The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL), Gazipur as per under noted schedule. e-Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specifications will be available at web: etender.spctl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. It is to mention here that this is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on e-Tender <https://spcbletender.bb.org.bd>. For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

Sl. No.	Names of the items	Nature of e-Tenders	Date of publishing e-Tenders	Last dates and time for submission of e-Tender	Dates & time for opening of e-Tender	Value/set of e-Tender Schedule (non-refundable)
1.	Supply of 10(ten) Pcs. English Vertical/Convex Numbering Box for Numbering Machine	Local/ International e-tender	15.02.2022	22.03.2022 upto 11.00 A.M	22.03.2022 at 11.15 A.M	Tk. 500.00
2.	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01(one) no. Cheque Book Wire Stitching & Spine Taping Machine.	International e-tender	15.02.2022	22.03.2022 upto 11.00 A.M	22.03.2022 at 11.15 A.M	Tk. 2,000.00
3.	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01(one) no. Sheet Fed Rotary Numbering Machine.	International e-tender	15.02.2022	22.03.2022 upto 11.00 A.M	22.03.2022 at 11.15 A.M	Tk. 2,000.00

Bidder may collect e-tender schedule from the aforementioned website. Earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur alongwith the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of a separate Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at SPCBL's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. In the case of international tender, Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given as earnest money from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to be submitted as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at the above website. Offer(s) will be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer against each item alongwith earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

(Rashid Ahmed)
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)
Phone: 88-02-9205103. GD- 291

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়
ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-৫, ময়মনসিংহ

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২০২২ (OTM)

স্মারক নং-ইভাঃ পূঃ-৫, ময়মনসিংহ/সেটেনা-২০২২(টেকার)/১৮৬ তারিখঃ ১৪/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ

"The Public Procurement Act" - 2006 & "The Public Procurement Regulation" - 2008" ও তদীয় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২১-২০২২খ্রিঃ অর্থ বছরে ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-৫, ময়মনসিংহের নারী ব্যারাক নির্মাণ কাজ জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতায় নিম্নলিখিত হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং.	কাজের নাম	পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য অফারতথ্য	দরপত্র জমানাতের পরিমাণ	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
১.	ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-৫, ময়মনসিংহ, ভরাডোবা পুলিশ লাইনের জন্য নারী ব্যারাক নির্মাণ কাজ	০১ (এক)টি	১০০০/-	৭৫,০০০/=	কার্যাদেশ মোতাবেক

সময় অবশিষ্ট ও কার্যার্থেঃ

ক. ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বগ্রামিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক অতিঃ আইজিপি এর কার্যালয়, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ, হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, উত্তরা, ঢাকা। ডিআইজি, ময়মনসিংহ রেঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়। পুলিশ সুপার, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-২, গাজীপুর এবং পুলিশ সুপার, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-৫, ভরাডোবা, ভালুকা, ময়মনসিংহ এর কার্যালয় হইতে প্রক্রিয়াক্রমে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর থেকে ০১-০২-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা/সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

খ. সর্বক্ষেত্রে প্রচলিত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ও বিধিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

গ. দরপত্র সিডিউলে অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বিস্তারিতভাবে বর্ণনা করা হবে।

ঘ. দরপত্রসমূহ সিডিউলে বর্ণিত সকল শর্তাবলী অবশ্যই পালন করতে হবে।

ঙ. নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর সিডিউল বিরোধ এবং দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

চ. কোন কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র খোলার দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও নিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।

ছ. সকল কাজের ক্ষেত্রে প্রকৃত অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

২০. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দরগ্রহণ করতে বাধ্য নহেন।

মোঃ মিজানুর রহমান
বিপি-৭৯০৬১১০৭৪১
পুলিশ সুপার
ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-৫, ময়মনসিংহ
০১৩০২-১২১১০০
E-mail: dip5@police.gov.bd

জিডি-২৯২

What to WATCH

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
Sporting vs Man City
Live from 02:00 am (Wednesday)

TEN 2
UEFA Champions League

PSG vs Real Madrid
Live from 02:00 am (Wednesday)

STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPL
Manchester United vs Brighton
Live from 02:15 am (Wednesday)

day)
SONY SIX
Australia vs Sri Lanka
3rd T20I
Live from 02:10 pm

'Commentary a good option for future'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal yesterday said that commentary could be a good option for him in future when he hangs up his bat after making an impromptu appearance as a commentator during a match of the Bangladesh Premier League in Mirpur yesterday.

Tamim, whose team Minister Group Dhaka exited from the group stage, did not let pass the opportunity to take up the mic when asked by the broadcasters.

"Feeling really good after commenting for the very first time," the left-handed batsman said during his brief commentary stint.

"No plans regarding commentary at the moment, but it could definitely be a good option for future," Tamim added.

The highest run-getter of this edition of BPL, Tamim has a reputation as a good speaker and a good leader. However, he admitted he felt a little nervous when he first picked up the mic in the commentary box.



Fortune Barishal successfully defended a middling total against Comilla Victorians to make the final after Chattogram Challengers knocked out Khulna Tigers in an exciting day of action in the BPL in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Barishal in final; Ctg stay alive

ABDULLAH AL MEHIDI

Two pulsating games, each with their own themes and surprises in store, played out yesterday in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) and at the end of it all, Shakib Al Hasan's Fortune Barishal were smiling, through to the final of the BPL on February 18 after defending a middling total and thwarting two-time winners Comilla Victorians in the first qualifier with a 10-run win.

The conquered Victorians will go on to play the second qualifier on February 16 against Chattogram Challengers, who overcame Khulna Tigers by seven runs in the day match in a nervy eliminator.

Both games had been on knife's edge at certain points and both victors were on the backfoot in their respective matches. Barishal, sent in to bat, found opener Munim Shahriar on song yet again during

a 30-ball 44, laced with a few gutsy blows. Munim departed with the score on 84 for two inside the 10 overs before Barishal fumbled, with skipper Shakib running himself out. Barishal never recovered from that point, managing just 143 for eight in the end. Liton Das and Mahmudul Hasan Joy gave Comilla a flying start with 50 in just seven overs before Barishal started pulling things back, first squeezing the runs through some economical Dwayne Bravo overs.

Shakib was efficient with his changes, bringing in Mehedi Hasan Rana and Shofiqul Islam, the two turning the game with three wickets - those of Liton, Joy and Imrul Kayes - in quick succession. Some fantastic death bowling then saw Barishal defend 32 in final three overs, Rana and Shofiqul ending with two for 15 and two for 16 respectively.

Earlier, Chattogram overcame their captaincy shuffles and general chaos in a close victory. Without Will Jacks, out with food poisoning, it looked dismal when they lost four wickets in 10 overs after being sent to bat. An unbeaten 40-ball 89 from Chadwick Walton, during a record 115-run stand with Mehedi Hasan Miraz, saw them reach 189 for five. Khulna's Andre Fletcher then began making the score look small with an unbeaten 80 while Mushfiqur Rahim and Yasir Ali played assertive knocks but in a gripping last over, Miraz offset his own blues by defending 16 runs, giving away just eight.

Mushfiqur, yet to get his hand on a BPL trophy, felt that bowling let them down. "I am feeling bad for my team. Since we were runners-up last time, thought we could make the final" he said at the post-match press conference.

Wholesale changes for Afghan ODI series

SPORTS REPORTER

The Minhajul Abedin-led selection panel made wholesale change to the ODI squad for the three-match home series against Afghanistan, starting from February 23 in Chattogram.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 15-member squad, where as many as seven players from the 16-member ODI series against Zimbabwe in July last year.

SQUAD: Tamim Iqbal (captain), Liton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad, Afif Hossain, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Ebadot Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Yasir Ali Chowdhury and Mahmudul Hasan Joy.

OUT: Naim Sheikh, Mosaddek Hossain, Mohammad Mithun, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Taijul Islam, Mohammad Saifuddin and Rubel Hossain.

IN: Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Ebadot Hossain and Nasum Ahmed.

COMEBACK: Najmul Hossain Shanto made a comeback alongside uncapped all-rounder Yasir Ali Rabbi.

A stalemate despite two wonder goals

SPORTS REPORTER

The Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi staged two superbly struck goals but eventually Mohammedan Sporting Club and Chittagong Abahani played out a 1-1 draw yesterday.

Mohammedan went ahead in the 27th minute, courtesy of an unbelievable strike from Souleymane Diabate, who had now scored three on the trot for the Black and Whites. Three minutes after resumption, Abahani equalised through Kamrul Islam, who somehow found the back of the net from a direct corner kick.

Meanwhile at Munshiganj, the day's other match between Uttar Baridhara and Swadhinata Krira Sangha too had ended in a draw, a goalless one in this case.



All focus on Mbappe as PSG face Real

AFP, Paris

As Paris Saint-Germain prepare to face Real Madrid in the Champions League, the French club hope a victory in the tie could yet help convince Kylian Mbappe to stay rather than move to the Spanish capital.

The clock continues to tick down on the World Cup-winning striker's contract in Paris which expires in June, five years after he joined his hometown team from Monaco in a 180 million-euro (\$204m) deal.

It is understood PSG turned down an equivalent offer from Real last August to keep Mbappe for at least one more season and team him up in attack with Lionel Messi and Neymar.

That seemed to prove money is no object for the Qatar-owned club, but it appears that all the money in the world may not be enough to convince Mbappe, now 23, to stay at the Parc des Princes.

Real's pursuit of the France star goes back to when he was a young teenager and they invited him and his parents to take in a game at the Santiago Bernabeu, having Zinedine Zidane meet him at their

training ground.

He opted to sign for Monaco then, and he chose PSG in 2017 despite again being linked with Real, yet an eventual move to Madrid has always seemed inevitable.

In Paris, they are clinging to the hope Mbappe could change his mind if Mauricio Pochettino's team beat Madrid in their Champions League last 16 tie, with the first leg at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday to be followed by the return in Spain on March 9.

It is a pivotal moment for PSG. This season has simply confirmed that, while a 34-year-old Messi is on the wane and Neymar remains plagued by injury, Mbappe represents the future.

A loss to Real, followed by Mbappe confirming his departure would feel like a humiliation for a club still chasing elusive Champions League glory, 11 years on from the Qatar Sports Investments takeover.

Meanwhile, regardless of the outcome of this tie, Madrid need a new talisman. Karim Benzema is 34 and Luka Modric will soon be 37, while Gareth Bale and Eden Hazard have been increasingly sidelined

under Carlo Ancelotti.

City's latest 'diamond' Cancelo key to CL pursuit

Manchester City's quest to win the Champions League resumes this week with a homecoming for three of their most consistent players this season in a trip to Sporting Lisbon.

Joao Cancelo, Ruben Dias and Bernardo Silva all began their careers on the other side of the Lisbon divide with Benfica before following the familiar path abroad for the best Portuguese talent.

Cancelo made just one Portuguese league appearance before the first step on a journey that at 27 has already taken him to Spain, Italy and England when he moved to Valencia in 2014.

But he looks set to play his prime years in Manchester after extending his City contract to 2027 earlier this month.

City look well set to win a fourth Premier League title in five years and second in Cancelo's three seasons at the club. But the Champions League has continued to prove elusive despite the billions poured in by the club's Abu Dhabi owners over the past decade.



Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association

BAFFA Board of Directors heartily congratulates The Daily Star on their 31st Founding Anniversary.

The newly elected Board of Directors at BAFFA for the term 2021-2023



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Boi mela begins today

Following health rules mandatory

DIPAN NANDY

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela begins today with preparations still unfinished till yesterday afternoon.

It will be inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and open to the public from 8:00am till 9:00pm.

However, the scenes yesterday at the Bangla Academy premises and Suhrawardy Udyan showed a lack of preparations for the book fair.

The brick path leading to the fairground was incomplete, while the entrances were still unnoticeable. Many publishing houses did not finish setting up their stalls and the little mag corner was empty.

Mazharul Islam, chief executive of Anyapokash, told The Daily Star that this year's fair, unlike other years, is beginning

SEE PAGE 6 COL 8



A man paints a sign with the words 'boi mela', which begins today. As preparations for the book fair remained unfinished till yesterday afternoon, people were in a rush to set up the fairgrounds in time for the inauguration, to be virtually done by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this morning. The photo was taken at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

UN discusses cases from Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances at its recently concluded session scrutinised 17 cases from nine countries, including Bangladesh.

These cases, sent to the group for urgent response since September 29, 2021, were examined under its "urgent action procedure" category, which requires immediate attention.

The other countries include Azerbaijan, Egypt, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, and Saudi Arabia, according to a recent press release by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Office also reviewed 727 cases from 23 countries, including Bangladesh, said the release.

Its previous annual report had said there are 76 unresolved cases from Bangladesh so far.

The group recently concluded its 126th session between February 7 and February 11 in Geneva.

It also reviewed responses from various governments to prompt intervention letters, general allegations and urgent appeals.

The experts also met relatives of disappeared persons, non-government organisations, state representatives and other stakeholders, said the release.

It also discussed prospective visits to Cyprus and Kenya this year to take action against such cases there.

Since 2013, the working group has been conveying its interest to visit Bangladesh, but to no avail.

Star HEALTHLINE

Pneumonia in kids PREVALENCE, PREVENTION

STAR HEALTH DESK

Pneumonia is a respiratory infection usually caused by a virus, bacteria or fungi.

It is a leading cause of death in Bangladeshi children – causing 13 percent of deaths among children under five, according to Unicef.

Pneumonia is more prevalent in winter because of more indoor air pollution, people tending to remain indoors and being in close contact.

The infection makes the lungs fill with fluid, making breathing difficult. On the other hand, a healthy child's lung fills with air when they breathe.

Children whose immune systems are immature, like newborns, or weakened by undernourishment, or diseases like HIV, are more vulnerable to pneumonia.

A 2020 forecast by Johns Hopkins University shows that, during the next decade, over 100,000 children under the age of five could die from pneumonia in Bangladesh. The forecast also

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 Instant hand sanitizer
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RAISING FERTILISER PRICES

Govt in spot of bother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday said the government is in a fix over increasing fertiliser prices to manage a huge amount of subsidy.

"We are well aware that a rise in fertiliser prices would have ripple effect on the economy. It will cause further sufferings to the farmers, increase production cost and ultimately, food prices as well. But at the same time this huge subsidy will hamper the development works," he told reporters at his Secretariat office.

"The subsidy allocation for fertilisers was Tk 9,500 crore for the 2021-22 fiscal year. But we have spent Tk 19,000 crore, and by the end this fiscal year, we will need Tk 28,000 crore if we are to sell fertiliser to the farmers at the current price."

He further said government high-ups have been working on how to manage the subsidy burden due to a two/threefold rise in imported fertiliser prices.

The prime minister is concerned about it, he said, adding, "The finance ministry is putting pressure in this regard as they are struggling with the budget," he said.

According to finance ministry officials, a decision is expected by March when the current budget is to be finalised.

The agriculture minister said the import cost of the widely used urea fertiliser has increased to Tk 96 per kg this fiscal, which was Tk 32 in the last.

The government is selling urea at Tk 16 per kg to the farmers at a subsidised price. He also said the government is providing subsidy on TSP, MOP and DAP fertilisers.

The demand for fertiliser this fiscal year is 57.5 lakh tonnes, of which urea accounted for the highest – 26 lakh tonnes – followed by DAP with 16 lakh tonnes, according to the agriculture ministry.

FERTILISER	IMPORT PRICE/KG (2020-21)	IMPORT PRICE/KG (2021-22)	PRICE AT FARMERS' LEVEL (PER KG)
Urea	Tk 32	Tk 96	Tk 16
TSP	Tk 33	Tk 70	Tk 22
MOP	Tk 23	Tk 54	Tk 15
DAP	Tk 37	Tk 93	Tk 16

Of the total annual demand for urea, state-owned factories provide around 8.77 lakh tonnes while the rest are imported.

Razzaque said they were spending the additional money from the block allocation in the budget.

Asked whether they are planning to reduce the subsidy, he said, "We are thinking about it. We are also monitoring the international market price of fertiliser."

The minister said they were taking inputs from intellectuals, civil society members, and economists on how to overcome it.

"We are also expecting people's opinion through media."

Quazi Shahabuddin, former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, suggested that the government could increase the subsidy by trimming the revenue budget.

"At the same time, the government can slightly increase the price of fertiliser. But it should not be more than five percent."

COVID SHOTS

No papers needed for children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on, children aged between 12 and 17 will get Covid-19 vaccines without any documents, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

"We have 10 crore doses of vaccines in stock, but many have not taken vaccines yet ... so the children aged 12 [and above] will get vaccines without any birth certificates. They have to only provide name, age and mobile phone number [for on-the-spot registration]," he said.

The minister was speaking before he inaugurated kidney dialysis beds and an oxygen generation plant at the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Starting from November 1 last year, around 1.45 crore schoolchildren from this age group out of around 1.5 crore have received the first dose of vaccine till Sunday, according to the

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LANGUAGE MOVEMENT IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Communist Party's role

SHAHIDULLAH KAISER

On January 27, 1952, Khwaja Nazimuddin, addressing an open session of the Muslim League Council, said only Urdu would be the state language of Pakistan. Waves of protest began, and the [Communist] party realised that a mass movement could be waged around the resuscitation of the language question.

The All Party State Language Action Committee declared a general strike for February 21, 1952. But on the afternoon of February 20, section 144 was imposed in Dhaka city. On the same afternoon, Action Committee met at the Awami League office in Nawabpur. Violation of section 144 became the focal point of the discussion.

Toaha, Oli Ahad, Dewan Mahbub Ali and Samad were informed initially through Taqiullah to press for violation of section 144. But they were told to accept the majority's decision if they failed to persuade others. After some initial discussions with others, it was understood that the Awami League and other members outside the party in the Action Committee were not willing to violate section 144.

In an emergency meeting, the [Communist]

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HINDU INHERITANCE LAW

HC questions 'discriminatory' rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the rules of a customary law that deprives Hindu females or daughters of inheriting their deceased father's properties.

The court issued a rule asking the government to explain why the relevant rules of the Usage of Dayabhaga School of Thought of Hindu Religion should not be declared unconstitutional.

In the rule, the court asked the authorities concerned with the government to show causes why they should not be directed to measures to remove inequality and discrimination between the Hindu male and female to inherit properties.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman issued the rule following a writ petition filed by one Anannya Das Gupta challenging the constitutionality of customary law – the Usage of Dayabhaga School of Thought of Hindu Religion – that has deprived her of her father's properties.

Secretaries at the ministries of law; cabinet division and religious affairs; Hindu religious welfare trust, third joint district judge's court of Dhaka, Anirban Das Gupta, brother of petitioner Anannya Das Gupta and her mother Rakhi Das Gupta have been made respondents to the rule, Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar told The Daily Star.

Writ petitioner's lawyer Khairul Alam Chowdhury told The Daily

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Locals and green activists observe Sundarbans Day by apologising to the mangrove forest for deforestation, poaching, and pollution. The activists held the programme next to the forest in Gangmari area of Mongla yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED