

Consumers paying for misdeeds of Wasa

Say speakers at CAB discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The consumers are paying for the extravagance, mismanagement and corruption of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, said speakers at a virtual discussion.

The Consumers Association Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday organised the discussion on the proposed hike in water, gas and electricity prices.

They questioned Dhaka Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan's Tk 6.15 lakh salary and the Tk 40 crore stimulus package that Wasa officials received last year.

Voktantho Editor Kazi Abdul Hannan, also the keynote speaker at the event, said, "Taqsem A Khan has received a 421 percent salary raise [making it around Tk 6.15 lakh from Tk 1.20 lakh] since 2009 and his organisation increased water tariff 14 times during his tenure."

Wasa authorities proposed the price hike mentioning their loss, but their revenue is now Tk 7,000 crore whereas it was Tk 700 crore earlier, he said.

Hannan said Wasa wants to increase the price by 20 percent but the reality is different.

CAB President Ghulam Rahman asked, "Do the staffers and officials, who make extra profit by putting the burden of excessive price on consumers, deserve a bonus?"

"My request to the political leaders is to be accountable to the people everywhere, and provide relief to people ensuring

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Land grabbers, including brick kiln owners, have encroached upon a long stretch of the Hori river in Khulna's Dumuria upazila, reducing the once 300-metre wide river into a canal. River-grabbing is one of the causes behind the perennial waterlogging in Bhabadaha region of Jashore. The photo was taken in Sholgotia of Dumuria yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

UNFIT VEHICLES 5 lakh still on the road

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

More than five lakh registered vehicles are now on the road without fitness clearance mainly due to poor monitoring by the authorities amid the pandemic.

Many unregistered vehicles are running without undergoing any fitness test.

Also, unlicensed drivers are at the wheel of at least 10 lakh registered vehicles, indicates latest data of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

All these are making the country's thoroughfares riskier as statistics show that the number of road crashes increased sharply in recent years.

At least 5,088 people were killed in 5,472 road accidents last year, said police.

The number of deaths and road crashes were 3,918 and 4,198 respectively in 2020, meaning the figures rose by 29.86 percent and 30.34 percent last year.

The police's figures, collected based on the First Information Report (FIR) and General Dairy (GD), are much lower than those of the road safety organisations'.

More than 50 lakh vehicles, including 35 lakh motorbikes, were registered with BRTA till last year.

According to existing rules, motorcycles don't need fitness clearance.

Also, new cars, SUVs and minibuses are not required to have it in the first five years. After that period, they have to have their fitness cleared once every two years.

As these three types of vehicles had to take fitness clearances annually before January 2020, the number of vehicles eligible for fitness test should have been lower now and the number of unfit vehicles should have been smaller.

However, BRTA data shows 5.08 lakh registered vehicles, which are eligible for fitness test, did not renew their documents till last month. The figure had never been so large previously, sources said.

The number of unfit vehicles was 4.79 lakh in July 2019, according to a BRTA report submitted to the High Court as per its directive.

The state-run BRTA's 2020-21 annual report said 6.75 lakh vehicles received fitness certificates in the last fiscal year. The number was 7.5 lakh in 2019-20 and 7.06 lakh in 2018-19.

An official of the government agency said around 2 lakh out of the 5.08 lakh vehicles are three-wheelers, which are used outside Dhaka. Besides, many of them are not operated.

BRTA offices across the country remained shut for a long time during the Covid-induced lockdown in the last two years, which contributed to the rise in the number of unfit vehicles, the official told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

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WATER TARIFF HIKE Wasa grabbing money?

AHSAN HABIB

Md Belal Hossain, a pensioner from Old Dhaka, was livid when he picked up the morning paper on Wednesday: he learnt that Wasa was pushing to hike the water tariff by up to 40 percent.

"Is this a joke that I will have to pay more for the smelly, yellow water that flows out of my tap?" a furious Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

Rarely does he get clear water, and even then, the water is not fit to put in the mouth: there is a foul smell.

"This is just not acceptable. On what basis is Wasa raising the price?" he said, while demanding better service quality.

Like Hossain, hundreds of thousands of city dwellers are indignantly questioning the rationale behind the tariff hike -- which would be Wasa's third in three years and 16th in 13 years -- despite failing to fulfil the pledge of providing safe drinking water to



the vast majority of the capital's two crore residents.

And when one combs through the annual reports, Wasa's bid to hike the tariff -- by 38.8 percent to Tk 21 per unit (1,000 litres) for residential use and by 31 percent to Tk 55 per unit -- seems like money-grabbing.

For instance, in fiscal 2020-21, the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority

(Wasa) logged in a profit of Tk 49.6 crore, up 7 percent year-on-year, according to its audited financial report.

In fiscal 2016-17, it was Tk 22.6 crore, meaning the state-owned organisation's profit has more than doubled in five years.

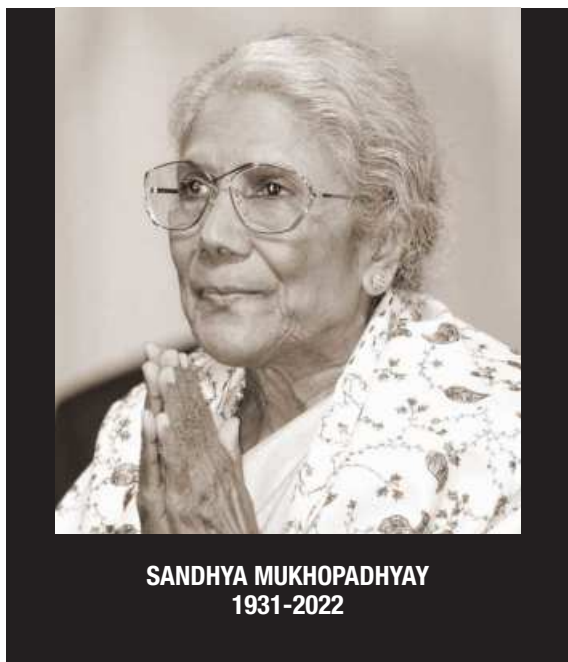
"I don't see any logic behind the price hike of water as it is making profits over the last several years and has huge retained earnings," said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Retained earnings are the portion of a company's cumulative profit that is held or retained and saved for future use, particularly for investment purposes. At the end of fiscal 2020-21, Dhaka Wasa's retained earnings stood at a staggering Tk 892 crore.

"Wasa could very well have dipped into its retained earnings instead of going for a tariff hike when the inflation is already on the up," he said.

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The sun comes down on Sandhya



SANDHYA MUKHOPADHYAY
1931-2022

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

"Ei poth jodi na sesh hoi..."

The voice in the Uttam Kumar-Suchitra Sen-starrer film "Saptapadi", which has kept Bengali music lovers spellbound for generations, has fallen forever silent.

Singing legend Sandhya Mukhopadhyay, the last of the Mohicans of Bengal's golden era of modern music, passed away at eastern Kolkata's Apollo Hospital yesterday evening after suffering a massive cardiac attack at the age of 90.

She is survived by daughter Soumi Sengupta and son-in-law.

Sandhya was admitted to hospital on the evening of January 27, a day after she fell in her bathroom. She was later diagnosed with Covid-19 infection.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "Sandhya'di" had recovered from Covid-19 but there was a sudden deterioration in her condition.

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Omera Lubricants MJL Bangladesh Limited

বাধাহীন যাত্রার নিশ্চয়তা

নতুন রূপে

Omera Ultra Heavy Duty 5W-40

আন্তর্জাতিক মান নতুন প্যাকেজিং সশয়ী মূল্য

Ex MP charge-sheeted in trader murder case

Probe finds involvement of 14 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker MA Awal was the mastermind behind the killing of trader Md Shahinuddin, a police probe found.

The murder in front of the victim's seven-year-old son in broad daylight in the capital's Pallabi on May 16 last year made national headlines.

After a probe for around nine months, Syed Ittekhhar Hossain, investigation officer and an inspector of the Detective Branch of police, submitted a charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on Monday, stating that the trader was killed under Awal's direction.

Besides the former Laxmipur-1 MP, 14 others were involved in the killing, the probe report said.

They are Sumon Bepary, Mohammad Taher, Golam Kibria Khan, Mohammad Murad, Titu Sheikh, Mohammad Rocky Talukder, Nur Mohammad Hasan, Mohammad Sharif, Iqbal Hossain, Tariqul Islam Imon, Tuhin Miah, Shafiqul Islam, Harunur Rashid and Ibrahim Sumon.

According to the charge sheet, Awal and Shahinuddin got locked into a conflict as the former lawmaker failed to grab the latter's land for a project in 2004.

Awal had drawn up a blueprint for the killing with Sumon and Taher in his Kalabagan office, it further said.

On May 16, Sumon and 12 others, whom he had hired for the murder, went to Mirpur 12 after asking Shahinuddin to meet them there to "settle the land dispute".

Around 4:00pm, Shahinuddin arrived at the spot with his son.

In front of the child, the group swooped on him and indiscriminately hacked him with sharp weapons, killing him on the spot.

According to the charge sheet, Sumon then called Awal on the phone and said, "Sir, finished."

MA Awal was arrested in the case on May 20 last year. After remand, he was sent to jail on May 26.

The IO had dropped names of 13 accused from the charges as their involvement was not found during the investigation.

He also appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against Shafiqul and Ibrahim as they were shown fugitives in the charge sheet.

During the investigation, Sumon, Rocky, Murad, Nur, Sharif and Iqbal gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

Two others accused – Monir and Manik – were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers.

The next hearing on the case is scheduled for February 17.



Passengers heading for Babubazar in Old Dhaka from Kamrangirchar take risky rides on an illegal battery-run three-wheeler and a rickshaw van. Use of such transport by commuters goes on unabated due to lax enforcement of law. The photo was taken at Babubazar end of Buriganga bridge-2 yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ANTIMICROBIAL API

Kirtankhola worst affected in the world

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The Kirtankhola river has the greatest excess of an antimicrobial API in the world, according to a global study that found levels of metronidazole in the river water to be more than 300 times the safe limit.

In an article titled "Pharmaceutical pollution of the world's rivers", the researchers said the findings are crucial for Bangladesh as environmental exposures of antimicrobial APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) may result in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) crises locally and globally.

Antimicrobial APIs come from antibiotics, according to the article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal on Monday.

Besides, the study indicated that the surveillance of pharmaceutical waste management in the country is lackluster, experts said.

Tapos Kormoker, one of the 127 researchers involved in the study, told The Daily Star yesterday that it will take another study to know the reason for the high concentration of metronidazole in the Kirtankhola. "The revelation indicates a very

dangerous situation. The germs will easily develop resistance against metronidazole at community level as the river water is consumed by many means," Dr Muniruddin Ahmed, professor of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology of Dhaka University, told this newspaper yesterday.

The Kirtankhola was one of the 258 urban-centric rivers that have been surveyed in 104 countries in all the continents, according to the article.

A total of 61 APIs was measured under the study.

Tapos Kormoker, a researcher from the energy management department at Patuakhali Science and Technology University, collected water samples from 10 points along 2.5km of the river near Barishal city to measure the API concentration in April 2018.

Of all the APIs measured, concentration of 60 were found within the safe limit.

"The higher concentration of metronidazole indicates that waste containing metronidazole APIs are being discharged into the river without treatment and waste of industries, where different types of chemicals are used, may be the main factor," Tapos said.

About other APIs, he said, "Around four years have passed since we measured the water. So, it is highly likely that most other APIs have also crossed the limit."

"Most probably, the water in other urban-centric rivers, especially the three rivers near Dhaka city, have become polluted with APIs." Metronidazole is an antibiotic and antiprotozoal medication used either alone or with other antibiotics to treat pelvic inflammatory disease, endocarditis, and bacterial vaginosis, according to the experts.

Prof Muniruddin Ahmed said, "The API pollution is not good at all and requires controlling. But the Directorate General of Drug Administration does not have much control over it."

According to DGDA officials, each pharmaceutical factory must treat their liquid waste through effluent treatment plants (ETPs) while solid waste has to be incinerated.

Md Ayub Hossain, a director and spokesperson of the DGDA, said, "No pharmaceutical company can operate a plant without an ETP. Besides, they must follow proper waste management procedures. We have regular surveillance in this regard."

The sun comes

FROM PAGE 1

Sandhya was put on vasopressor support as her blood pressure dropped, a hospital official said, adding, "She suffered a massive heart attack at around 7.30 PM [local time], following which she expired."

Termed Sandhya "Bharat Ratna and "Sur Samraggi", Mamata said the singer would be cremated with full state honours this evening.

The chief minister announced the singer's body would be kept at Kolkata's cultural landmark Rabindra Sadan today for her admirers to pay their last respects from 12:00pm before cremation.

Mamata said she would cut short her ongoing tour of north Bengal and reach Kolkata tomorrow evening to pay her last respects.

Cutting across borders, Sandhya had become the musical voice of an era of romance, where Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen ruled the matinee lights.

Born in Kolkata on October 4, 1931, she took music lessons from Santosh Kumar Basu, AT Kannan and Chinmoy Lahiri in late 1940s. But she began her formal training under Patiala Gharana under legendary Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. Under his tutelage, she mastered the art of Indian classical music and later sang over 1,000 songs throughout her career.

Sandhya won the national film award as Best Female Playback Singer

for her songs in the films "Jai Jayanti" (1972) and "Nishi Padma" in 1970. She received the Banga Bibhushan, the highest civilian honour in West Bengal, in 2011.

She recorded her first song in 1945 and her first Durga Puja number came out three years later. That was the year when she lent her voice to songs, written by Pabitra Mitra and composed by Sudhirlal Chakrabarty "Kaar banshi baaje", and "Keno tumi dure chole jaog."

"Ogo more geetimoy" was among the songs that helped her win over people in 1950.

Sandhya has sung for numerous Bengali and Hindi films and worked with leading music directors, including SD Burman, Madan Mohan, Naushad, Anil Biswas and Salil Chowdhury.

Her body of work was expansive – ranging from classical to modern. In the twilight of her life, she had expressed her desire to record more classical songs – a wish that remained unfulfilled.

Condoling her death, Hindustani classical maestro Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty said, "It was a personal loss for me. She was a mother figure for all of us. I still can't believe she is no more."

Yesteryears' actress Madhabi Mukherjee, whose movies Sandhya sang in, said, "I shared a special bond with her. She was at times like an elder sister and like a mother to me."

5 lakh still on the road

FROM PAGE 1

10.13 LAKH UNLICENSED DRIVERS

Till June 2021, BRTA issued 37.63 lakh driving licences against 47.76 lakh registered vehicles, indicating that 10.13 lakh vehicles are being run by unlicensed drivers.

The actual number of licensed drivers may be less than the number of licences issued because many people collect more than one – one for a motorbike or a light vehicle and another for a heavy vehicle, a BRTA official said.

Moreover, more than 10.20 lakh unregistered vehicles, including locally-made "Nasiman" and

"Kariman", are plying roads without undergoing any fitness test. Drivers of those do not have any licence either, said people involved in the transport sector.

SITUATION GETTING WORSE

Transport expert Prof Moazzem Hossain said there was a trend among drivers to run vehicles without a licence or with a fake one. Besides, many vehicle owners avoid fitness test for fear of hassle at the BRTA office.

The trend has grown now, resulting in the rise in the number of accidents mainly because of the BRTA's management incapability and a lack of

transparency, he said.

For example, BRTA provided a very limited number of digital licence cards to drivers over the last two years. It provided manual tokens to licence seekers and extended time for the delivery of licence cards several times, creating scope for using fake licences, Moazzem told The Daily Star on February 9.

When all these are making the roads riskier, plying of a huge number of unregistered three-wheelers and motorcycles on highways is causing the rise in road accidents, he said.

"As the government agencies are failing to

discharge their duties properly, the overall road safety situation is becoming more complicated now," said Moazzem, also a former director of Accident Research Institute at Buet.

Asked about the reason for the rise in unfit vehicles, BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder said they have ensured that owners have to take their vehicles to BRTA offices for fitness test.

Many owners may not bring their vehicles for fitness tests presuming that the vehicles would fail the test. This might have resulted in the rise in the number of unfit vehicles, he said.

Asked if the BRTA mobile courts were taking action against such vehicles, Nur Mohammad said the courts were taking action.

Enforcement of relevant laws mostly depends on police and if they play their due role, owners would be bound to have their vehicles tested, he told this newspaper on Thursday.

About alleged hassle at the BRTA offices, he said they have made fitness tests hassle-free as the date for a test is fixed online and a vehicle can be tested at any BRTA office.

Regarding the big gap between the numbers of registered vehicles and driving licences, the BRTA

chief said many licence holders own more than one vehicles and so the gap would not be that big.

He denied the allegation of use of fake licences by a large number of drivers.

The BRTA chairman, however, admitted that they have been suffering from manpower crisis for a long time. He said they had asked for some 2,300 employees, but the authorities concerned approved only 96 and the recruitment of them was still under process.

Moreover, the organisation's 110 posts out of the total 823 remains vacant now, shows a document.

(BSEC), who is also a financial analyst.

Seeing the financial report, the commissioner said the Wasa top boss's comments do not match with its financial report because the projects are yet to ready for use so their depreciation and interest cost do not count.

On the other hand, it is not using any subsidy except Tk 10 crore, the BSEC commissioner said.

"So, it is profitable now but once the ongoing projects are complete, it may incur a loss," he added.

AK Enamul Haque, an urban economist, however, has a win-win situation for both parties. Though its production cost is high, Wasa is counting profit because people are paying for more water than they use.

This is because of the

use of water pumps to pull water from the WASA supply line. The pumps keep the water metre ticking as normal even when the flow of water is faint.

While WASA has reduced the system loss markedly, the bill is still high for city dwellers, according to Haque, the dean of the faculty of business and economics at the East West University.

In 2010, the system loss was about 40 percent. Now, it is down to 5 percent, the annual report shows.

"If Dhaka Wasa raise the tariffs and at the same time, it can restrict the overbilling, then people will not be impacted. So, my point is the service provider should ensure the pressurised WASA pipeline to reduce the excess billing," he added.

Khairuzzaman can't be deported: Malaysia HC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian High Court yesterday barred the country's immigration department from deporting Mohamed Khairuzzaman, former Bangladeshi high commissioner to Malaysia.

Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan granted the order after holding a hearing of a habeas corpus plea, reported Free Malaysia Today.

Khairuzzaman was picked up by immigration authorities from his residence in Ampang on February 10.

The detention led to speculations in Dhaka about whether he could be investigated for his role in the killing of Bangladesh's four national leaders in jail in 1975.

DGHS plans to inoculate 1cr on Feb 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services plans to inoculate one crore people with the first jab in a special vaccination campaign on February 26.

The government will reach its vaccination target for the first dose through the special campaign, said Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the DGHS.

"We would urge everyone to take the vaccine," he told a press briefing.

The government has inoculated around 10.06 crore people with the first dose as of Monday.

Meanwhile, the DGHS yesterday reported 34 deaths from Covid-19 and 4,746 new cases of the coronavirus.

SINHA MURDER

Pradeep, Liakat seek acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemned convicts Pradeep Kumar Das and Liakat Ali yesterday filed three separate appeals with the High Court, seeking cancellation of their punishments and requesting acquittal.

The suspended police officers were convicted in the sensational murder case of Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan.

Pradeep and Liakat claimed in their appeal that they were innocent and the charges against them were faulty.

On January 31, Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ismail sentenced Pradeep and Liakat to death and six others to life in prison.

Fortify Rights wants arms embargo on Myanmar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Fortify Rights has urged ASEAN to support the establishment of a UN Security Council-mandated global embargo on the sale of weapons and military technology to Myanmar.

The Myanmar military massacred civilians, used human shields, and committed other atrocities in Karenni State in acts that may amount to war crimes, said Fortify Rights in a report published yesterday.

At least 61 civilians in Karenni State were murdered by the Myanmar military, it said.

The call comes ahead of ASEAN foreign ministers' annual retreat today.

Boi Mela kicks off

Spread our cultural activities, says PM inaugurating the biggest event for booklovers

DIPAN NANDY

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela kicked off yesterday afternoon amid much fanfare.

Though slated to run for 14 days, there were murmurs in the air about a month-long fair, after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina mentioned the possibility of extending it.

The PM virtually inaugurated the book fair at 4:30pm.

During her speech, she said, "As we started the fair behind schedule this time, I think we can continue it for a full month.

Besides, there is also a demand from publishers to extend its duration."

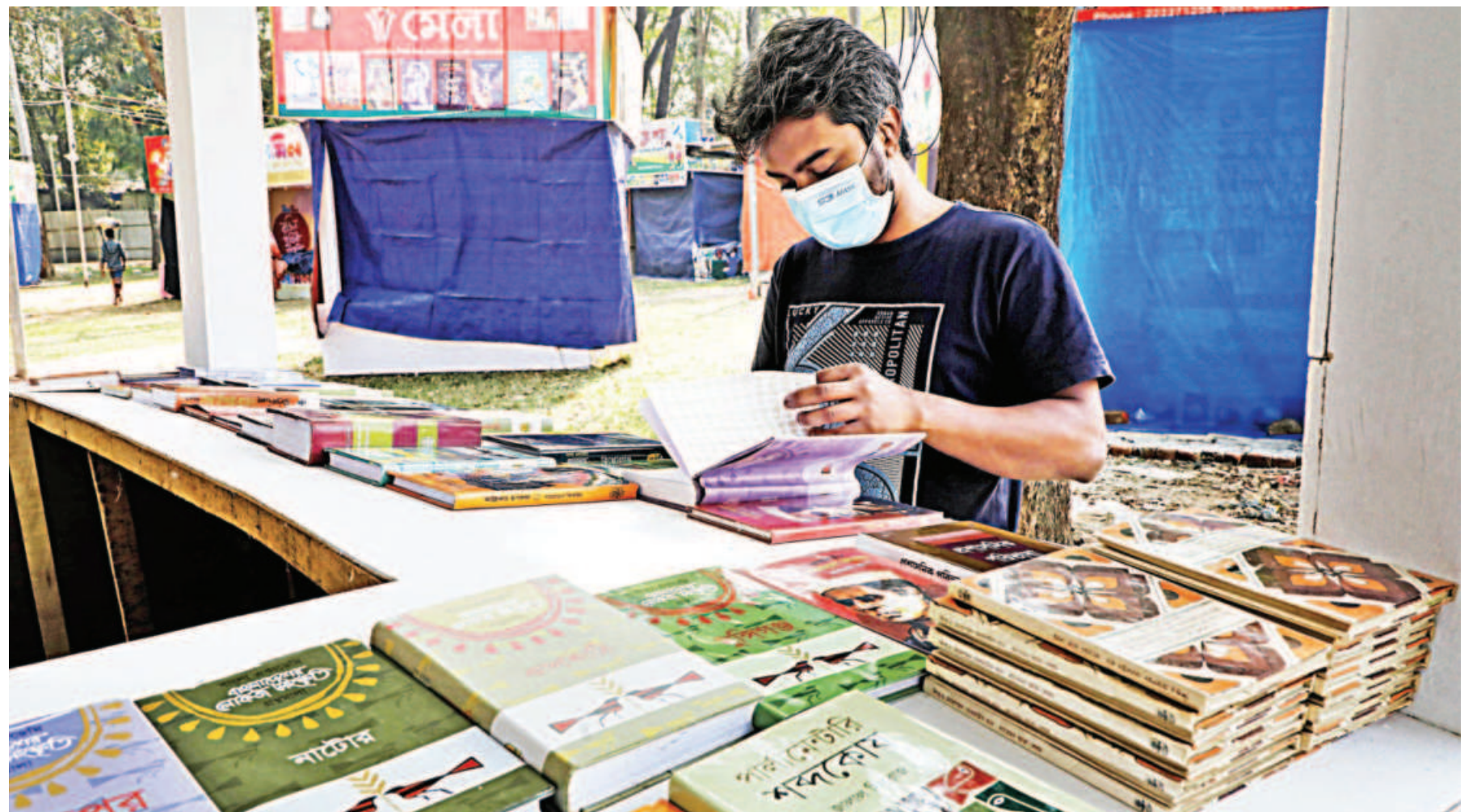
Noting that she shouldn't take the decision alone, she directed authorities concerned to consider this.

She also stressed the need for spreading the country's vibrant cultural activities like fairs and festivals to every district, to attract the young generation to Bangla language, literature, and culture.

At the opening ceremony, the PM distributed the Bangla Academy Sahitya Puroshkar 2021.

The recipients are Asad Mannan, Bimal Guha (poetry); Jharna Rahman, Bishwajit Chowdhury (literature); Aminur Rahman, Rafik-um-Munir Chowdhury

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There was a lot of uncertainty over whether this year's Boi Mela would even take place, given the unpredictability of the pandemic. But that the fair is finally being held, albeit curtailed to a two-week edition, brought relief to publishers and visitors alike, the latter of whom rushed to the fair grounds as soon as the gates opened at 3 in the afternoon yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Seven sued under DSA

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Seven people, including editor of a Bangla daily and chief editor of a news portal, have been sued under Digital Security Act on charge of publishing and circulating false, defamatory and offensive information.

They are Bangladesh Pratidin Editor Naem Nizam; its publisher Moynal Hossain Chowdhury; news portal Bangla Insider chief editor Syed Borhan Kabir; and admin, narrator, videomaker and technician of Facebook page Viral Protidin.

Barrister M Sarwar Hossain filed the case with the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka yesterday, court sources said.

On August 17 last year, Sarwar took part in the hearing of a no-confidence petition filed against the final report that cleared Bashundhara Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir from charges of abetting suicide of a college student.

After a hearing yesterday, Justice Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain recorded the complainant's statements and directed Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit a report before the tribunal by March 15, after investigating the case.

According to case documents, Naem Nizam and Moynal Hossain Chowdhury on

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'Find out top polluters'

HC directs authorities to prepare action plan to curb air pollution in 4 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know the major sources of air pollution in the country and the government's action plan to curb it.

In response to a petition, the court directed the government to identify and make a list of the activities mainly responsible for air pollution.

It asked the authorities to prepare a time-bound mitigation plan for setting up air quality monitoring systems at appropriate places and introduce a system to prevent people's exposure to unhealthy air.

The officials have also been directed to develop an action plan about switching to alternate of burnt bricks and to submit a report to the HC in four months, said petitioner's lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan.

The HC also issued a rule in this regard.

Secretaries concerned of the ministries of cabinet division; local government and rural development; forest, environment and climate change; industries; housing and public works; health and family planning; road, transport and bridges; finance; mayors of DNCC and DSCC; director-general of DoE; chairperson of Rajuk; chief engineer of RHD; chairman of BRTA; and DoE director (monitoring and enforcement), have been made respondents to the directives

and rules.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice SM Moniruzzaman issued the directives and rule, following the petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association. The organisation

the virtual hearing.

Multiple studies conducted by CAPS identified that brick kilns, environmentally uncompliant industries, digging for development work, emission from unfit vehicles, transboundary

HC DIRECTIVES

- Identify major sources of pollution
- Prepare a time-bound mitigation plan
- Set up air quality monitoring systems
- Develop action plan on switching to burnt brick alternatives

said Dhaka was almost at the top of air pollution in the world at the beginning of 2022 and its residents have inhaled clean air for only 38 days in the last six years, according to a study conducted by Stamford University's Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS), from 2016 to 2021.

Different countries have issued urgent health alerts to protect their people from hazardous air quality. However, Bangladesh took no such initiative yet, although 1.53 lakh people die every year due to air pollution. Rizwana Hasan appeared for Bela while DAG Samarendranath Biswas represented the state during

pollution and construction sites are contributing largely to deteriorate air quality.

Tejgaon topped in air quality deterioration in Dhaka, while Gazipur ranked first among districts, according to the study.

Development works outdo other sources of pollution as brick kilns and unfit vehicles used to occupy the most and second most contributor of air pollution. The air quality falls far below national standard level. The permissible limit of Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) is 15 micrograms, while Dhaka dwellers inhale the highest 70 micrograms and lowest 50 micrograms- both are well below the standard level.

It will only reduce the aspirants' options

Says Samajtantrik Chhatra Front on scrapping 'D' unit entry tests at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front's Dhaka University chapter yesterday demanded cancellation of the university's decision to scrap "D" unit admission tests under the social sciences faculty.

Leaders of the left-leaning student organisation during a press conference at Madhur Canteen at DU said the university authorities have taken the decision ignoring the recommendation of 16 departments of the faculty.

The decision will reduce opportunities for admission aspirants.

On February 7, DU general admission committee decided to cancel the D unit admission test to reduce pressure on aspirants. The decision is supposed to be implemented from the academic year of 2021-2022.

DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Akhteruzzaman said this issue had been in discussion since last year.

"Some teachers disagreed with the decision but we went ahead anyway following a democratic process in our forum. We want to reduce exam pressure on aspirants."

Rubana Huq new VC of AUW

STAR REPORT

The trustee board of Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chattogram appointed Rubana Huq as the new vice chancellor of the university.

Huq, who gained prominence as the first female president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), has been a trustee of AUW and was recently elected as vice chairperson of the board.

A published poet, she earned her PhD in literature from India's Jadavpur University, according to an AUW statement. She was instrumental in

launching AUW's Pathways for Promise programme, which enables exceptionally talented workers from Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) factories to enrol at AUW.

In announcing Huq's appointment, Education Minister Dipu Moni, chair of the AUW trustee board, said, "In Dr Rubana Huq, the trustees found an exemplary leader and administrator to lead AUW to its next stage of development."

While accepting the appointment, Huq said, "To me, AUW has always been a symbol of creativity and ingenuity. The institution's unassailable commitment to both scholarship and education, the calibre of the faculty, and the spirit of the students from all over Asia make AUW unique."

Huq succeeds noted political scientist Professor Nirmala Rao, who was VC for five years.

ONLINE TICKETING

Railway hires new operator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 15 years, Bangladesh Railway has changed its vendor for its ticketing services, which often comes under fire for mismanagement.

BR yesterday hired a joint-venture firm led by Shohoz Limited to deal with its ticketing services for the next five years. Synesis IT Ltd and Vincen consultancy pvt ltd are partners in the firm.

Sardar Shahadat Ali, additional director general (operations) of BR, and Maliha M Quadir, managing director of Shohoz, signed the contract at the capital's Rail Bhaban.

The new vendor is slated to start work from the 22nd working day of the contract, upon successful handover from the present vendor.

"We will deploy our solution within 18 months. In the meantime, we will use the current vendor's solutions, both hardware and software, which actually belongs to the railway," Maliha told The Daily Star last night.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said ticketing is one of BR's most contested issues, with allegations of black marketing tickets rife over the years. He said fixing this has been one of the major initiatives he undertook after taking charge of the ministry in 2019. Whereas current vendor Computer Network System or CNS Ltd gets around Tk 3 as service charge per ticket, the new vendor is set to get Tk 0.25 per ticket.

CNS Ltd has been providing the service since 2007, when BR first started selling train tickets online. Currently, BR sells 50 percent of its total tickets for intercity trains online. Meanwhile, though Shohoz Limited came out as the successful bidder, CNS has filed a case with the High Court, which forced BR to continue with CNS as long as the case was pending, Sujan said. The case has been resolved now.

National Film Awards announced



Anwara Begum



Raisul Islam Asad

STAR REPORT

The Ministry of Information yesterday announced the recipients of the National Film Awards 2020.

The awards recognise the valuable contributions of artistes in Bangladeshi films.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to renowned artistes Anwara Begum and Raisul Islam Asad for the year 2020, for their contribution to the Bangladeshi film industry.

"Gor (The Grave)", produced by Gazi Rakayet and Faridur Reza Sagar, and "Bishwoshundori", produced by Anjan Chowdhury, received the "Best Film" award. In addition, Rakayet received the "Best Film Director" recognition.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Traffic lights are typically meant to direct vehicles on the street. However, in case of this broken one in Paltan, it seems the only purpose it has left to serve is to direct passersby, who need a fresh haircut, to the right direction by holding the precarious sign in place. This photo was taken from Zero Point yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 16

	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

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the interested Contractors for Construction of and Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Detection & Alarm System and Fire Protection System of 14 Story Anjuman JR Tower with 3- Basement at 42, Kakrail, Dhaka. Interested Contractors may collect eligibility criteria, scope of work and other information from Project Director Office, Anjuman JR Tower project. Tender Schedule may be purchased from the office of the Project Director by paying a sum of Tk. 10,000/- only in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favor of President, Anjuman Muftidul Islam. Last date of purchase of Tender is 16.03.2022 up to 5 PM. Tender documents shall be sold only to those Contractors who have the documentary evidence of the eligibility criteria fixed by the Authority.

Project Director
Anjuman JR Tower Project

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

গুলশান ১ এ ৩৪০০ বর্গফুটের ১টি লাক্সারিয়ারাস রেডী ফ্ল্যাট ২টি পার্কিং সহ জরুরী প্রয়োজনে বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগ করুন- মোবাইল: ০১৭১০০৬২৩৮

Seven sued

FROM PAGE 3
September 7 and 8 last year published two reports on the complainant in Bangladesh Pratinidin willingly, which contained false, defamatory, offensive and objectionable information. Syed Borhan Kabir on September 8 that year published a report about the complainant in his online portal, containing the same information. Meanwhile, eight videos with similar information about the complainant, were published and circulated by the Facebook page.

Boi Mela

FROM PAGE 3
(translation); Sadhana Ahmed (drama); Rafikur Rashid (children's literature); Panna Kaiser (Liberation War-related research); Harun-ur-Rashid (Bangabandhu-related research); Shubhagata Chowdhury (science fiction/environmental science); Sufia Khatun, Haider Akbar Khan Rano (autobiography/travelogue); Aminur Rahman Sultan (folklore) and Hosenuddin Hossain (essay/research). Each awardee received a cheque for Tk 3 lakh, a crest, and a certificate, reports BSS.

Meanwhile, Khan Mahbub, executive director of Academic and Creative Publishers Association, said, "We, the publishers, are happy that the prime minister has expressed interest in running the fair for a month."

Bangla Academy DG Muhammad Nurul Huda said, "We will discuss it among ourselves. If the conditions are favourable, we will try to make it possible."

Publishers said many visitors chose not to buy books on the first day, although many were seen compiling lists for future purchase.

However, this is not to say the sales were bad, said Jakir Hossen, manager of Prothoma.

Novelist Imtiaz Shamim said, "This is how it is on the first day. People come and look at the titles. It's a good sign." Meanwhile, more than 50 publishers were yet to set up pavilions and stalls as of yesterday evening.

Shaheed Minar for the visually impaired

STAR REPORT

Fresh Cement has taken an initiative to build a Shaheed Minar for the visually impaired people in ahead of International Mother Language Day.

The Shaheed Minar was being built at Kalyani Inclusive School in Mirpur with the help of renowned architects.

When people from all walks of life pay respects to the martyrs on that day, the visually impaired are usually left out as there's no special arrangement for them, Fresh Cement said in a press release.

After a year

FROM PAGE 5

Chattogram, said mayoral candidates are seen making many pledges, but CCC may not have the mandate to fulfil them.

Meanwhile, city dwellers also expressed their dissatisfaction over the mayor's work.

Munir Hossain, resident of West Bakalia Phooltola area, said drains and canals were blocked by polythene and garbage, but CCC staffers did not bother to

clean them.

However, CCC Deputy Chief Conservancy Officer Morshedul Alam Chowdhury said workers do clean drains and canals, but irresponsible residents repeatedly dump waste in them.

Mayor Rezaul is not in the country right now. The Daily Star, however, contacted him around a week ago, when he said he was trying to fulfil all the pledges.

Prof Qumrul Ahsan new VC of UAP

CITY DESK

Prof Qumrul Ahsan has been appointed as the vice chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP).



Before joining UAP, he was the professor of mechanical and production engineering department at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology.

Previously, he held the position of professor at the University of Teknikal Malaysia (UTeM).

National Film

FROM PAGE 3

"Bangabandhu Rajnoitk Jibon o Bangladesher Obbhuyod" by Syed Ashique Rahman won "Best Documentary", while "Aarong", directed

by Jannatul Ferdous, won "Best Short Film".

Siam Ahmed and Deepanwita Martin

received "Best Actor in a Lead Role" awards in male and female categories.

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বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর দায়িত্বকালীন পুরাতন গাড়ী (পাঁচ) টি পুরাতন গাড়ী (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) বিক্রির জন্য আহবান ক্রেতাদের নিকট থেকে মূল্যকর বামে পুরাতন দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। অফিস লোকালীন বিক্রয়যোগ্য গাড়ীসমূহ যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে পরিদর্শন করা যাবে। গাড়ীর বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল অফারযোগ্য নম্বর ২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকার বিনিময়ে জেত্রায়ী ২৮, ২০২২ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ১৯৫, মতিশিল বা/এ টাকার সেনা কল্যাণ ভবনের ৫ম তলায় অবস্থিত বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সামান্য সেবা বিভাগ হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এক্ষেত্রে, ১ (এক) বা একাধিক গাড়ী ক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগে সংরক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে জেত্রায়ী ২৮, ২০২২ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একই দিন বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাদের সামনে যেই কেহ উপস্থিত থাকবে। দরপত্র গোপন হবে। ব্যাংক কর্তৃক কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র প্রত্যাহার করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রম নং	নিবন্ধন নং	ব্র্যান্ড/প্রকার	ধরণ	সিলি	নিবন্ধনের তারিখ	সংরক্ষিত মূল্য (মূল্য ও আয়কর সহ)
০১	ঢাকা মেট্রো-১৭-৮০২৭	টয়োটা করোলা জি	কার	১৫০০	২৭/১০/২০০৫	৬,৮০,০০০/-
০২	ঢাকা মেট্রো-১১-৯২৮৪	টয়োটা করোলা	কার	১৩০০	২৬/১১/২০০২	৬,৮০,০০০/-
০৩	ঢাকা মেট্রো-৮-৫৪-০১২৮	টয়োটা লাইটটেল	মাইক্রো	১৮০০	২০/০২/২০০০	৭,০০,০০০/-
০৪	ঢাকা মেট্রো-৮-৫৪-১০৪০	টয়োটা হাইসেল	মাইক্রো	২০০০	২৯/০২/২০০৪	৭,০০,০০০/-
০৫	ঢাকা মেট্রো-৮-৫৪-৫১১৭	মিতসুবিশি এল-৩০০	মাইক্রো	২০০০	১৬/০৬/২০১১	৮,৯০,০০০/-

সহকারী মহাব্যবস্থাপক
সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

e-Zone
Servicing Change Managers

E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions. E-Zone HRM Limited has a formal agreement with one of the United Nations agency to provide outsourcing services under a third party contract.

E-Zone HRM Limited is now seeking applications for a UN Organization from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following vacancies under third party outsourcing contract modality. For detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.

Title: Development of Strategy for Drowning Prevention in Bangladesh

Duty Station: Dhaka, Contract Duration: 06 Months.
Number of Vacancies: 1(One), Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.
Last Date of Application: **22nd February, 2022**

<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un83.html>

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY GAZIPUR

Ref. No. ENGG17-0/00232/2021(6)/1/2326 Date: 14-Feb-2022

e-Tender Notice

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No., Ref No. & Date	Name of Work	Publishing & Last Selling Date	Closing and Opening Date & Time
1	Tender ID: 658179 Package No: EGP-NU-2022-003 Ref No: ENGG17-0/00225/2020(3)/1/2327 Date: 14-Feb-2022	Supply of Certificate Related Goods (Paper 120 gsm) for Controller of Exam Department at National University, Bangladesh	14-Feb-2022 & 28-Feb-2022	Date: 02-Mar-2022 Time: 14:00
2	Tender ID: 657740 Package No: EGP-NU-2022-004 Ref No: ENGG17-0/00225/2020(2)/1/2328 Date: 14-Feb-2022	Supply of Exam Goods (Hessian Bag, Jute twine, Lock) for Controller of Exam Department at National University, Bangladesh	14-Feb-2022 & 07-Mar-2022	Date: 08-Mar-2022 Time: 14:00

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

(Md. Abu Hanif)
Director (Additional Charge)
Engineering Department
National University, Gazipur
Phone: 02996691534

GD-306

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Inspector General
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka

Invitation for e-Tender

Memo No. 44.01.0000.029.07.91.21-291 Date: 15 February 2022

For financial year 2021-2022, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

SN	Description	Tender ID No.	Tendering Method	Online Tender Notice Publication Date & Time	Online Tender Closing Date & Time
1	Silver Fox Fabric (For SPBn)	662570	OTM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	03-Mar-2022 12:00
2	Web Belt (For SPBn)	662631	OTM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	03-Mar-2022 12:00
3	Web Belt (Black/White/Oliver)	662626	OSTETM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	20-Mar-2022 12:00
4	TC Twill Dark Blue Fabric	662623	OSTETM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	20-Mar-2022 12:00
5	TC Twill Combat Fabric	662617	OSTETM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	20-Mar-2022 12:00
6	TC Plain Deep Grey Fabric	649485	OSTETM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	20-Mar-2022 12:00
7	Underwear (For Male)	633125	OSTETM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	20-Mar-2022 12:00
8	Underwear (For Female)	633376	OSTETM	15-Feb-2022 22:00	20-Mar-2022 12:00

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

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

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

(Mohammad Ataul Kibria)
BP-6898020799
Addl. DIG (Logistics)
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
Phone & Fax: 02223387001
E-mail: addidigsupp@police.gov.bd

GD-307

Trust Bank
Head Office, Shadhinata Tower, Bir Srestha Shaheed Jahangir Gate Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206

TENDER NOTICE

- TBL intends to procure 8000 units of NFC enabled EMV VISA Credit Card and 100000 units of Trust Proprietary Defense Debit Card through open tender. Sealed technical & financial bids are invited separately for each tender by TBL from suitably reputed and qualified firms/companies.
- Tender Schedule with details will be available on TBL website <https://www.tbld.com/tender>

Note: TBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders, in part or full.

Purchase & Procurement Division

5th Death Anniversary

The 5th Death Anniversary of Mrs. Kohinoor Dastgir, w/o of former Ambassador Major General Quazi Golam Dastgir, KAAO, psc, will be observed on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for her. D-31

পরিচালক (প ও উ) এর কার্যালয় যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ফোনঃ ০২-৪২১৪২১৬৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৪২১৪২১৬৬ যশোর।

Director of Planning, Development and Works, JUST

No. JUST/ICT Cell/61/01(21)-07 Date: 14/02/2022

Invitation for E-GP (OTM) Tender

Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method for Lab Equipment	
Tender ID 660378	JUST/ICT Cell/61/1(21)-07 Date:14/02/2022	Tender Published 16/02/22 at 10.00 AM
Tender ID 660380	JUST/GC/34(21)-169 Date:14/02/2022	Tender Published 16/02/22 at 10.00 AM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP system.

(Paritosh Kumar Biswas)
Director
Planning, Development and Works, JUST, Jashore.

GD-303

FORUM
congratulates their very own
Dr. Rubana Huq
Poet, Business Leader and first female President of BGMEA on becoming the **Vice Chancellor** of Asian University for Women.

We wish AUW all the very best under her outstanding leadership.

FORUM
সেবা সততা সাহস সমৃদ্ধি



Hope for the newborns
90 couples show interest to adopt two abandoned infants

STAR REPORT

At least 90 couples from across the country have expressed their interest to adopt two newborn babies found abandoned in Lalmonirhat and Chattogram.

For the baby rescued from Lalmonirhat, at least forty couples from different parts of the country have applied to adopt the newborn, expressing their interest over phone to Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station on Monday, confirmed OC Shah Alam.

The newborn is undergoing treatment at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. The OC said investigations are on to identify her real parents. They will submit a report to the court, which will make the final decision.

Someone left the newborn on the road next to a dustbin at Puranbazar on Monday morning. Police rescued the child and admitted her to the hospital.

In Chattogram, at least 50 couples have shown interest to adopt the newborn rescued from the city's Anwara Health Complex on Monday.

They have made written requests to adopt the child, said Anwara UNO Sheikh Jobaer Ahmed. The baby is currently undergoing treatment in the same hospital and is doing well.

According to hospital sources, a woman gave birth to the child at the health complex on Sunday and left the newborn.

They don't know what historic grounds they stand on

5/1, Becharam Dewri now just another semi-commercial space



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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 four, we take you to 5/1, Becharam Dewri, a stronghold of the movement's Old Town chapter.

DIPAN NANDY

Becharam Dewri. The name itself comes with the fragrance of various kinds of biriyani, all of which taste different too.

But the area takes up a different kind of significance when discussed as part of the Language Movement's history, and it all started with one building: 5/1, Becharam Dewri. The home of AKM Golam Mostafa and Golam Mortuza, 5/1, Becharam Dewri was a refuge for the movement's organisers. Over time, it became a bastion of the movement's Old Town chapter too.

According to MR Mahub's "Ekushey'r Sharok", numerous important meetings of the movement were held here. Back in 1947-48, most people around the Old Town were against the movement, but even in such an adverse climate 5/1, Becharam Dewri continued to house revolutionary activities.

Recalling memories of those times, AKM Golam Mostafa wrote, "Our 5/1, Becharam Dewri was at the centre of discussions



related to the movement. Numerous secret meetings were organised here, while it also sheltered many pro-movement activists of Old Dhaka. After a point, important figures of the time started visiting us – Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mawlana Bhashani and Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish, all of them came here from time to time."

In a 2015 interview, Language Movement veteran Muhammad Takiullah said, "I've been there many times. Both Golam Mortuza and Mostafa were old acquaintances. From 1948-1952, this was the unofficial office of the movement."

Language veteran Dr Ahmed Rafiq also had a lot to say about the building. "Golam Mortuza was quite despondent over how their residence and Old Dhaka's contributions to the movement were

never spotlighted. He'd often lament and say "us Dhakaiyas had a role to play, but it remained neglected by writers and historians."

"In '52, especially after February 21, the newspapers didn't recount their roles, nor was the addresses of the martyrs highlighted. Researchers and historians of the new generation should come forward to compile these details of the movement."

Today, 5/1, Becharam Dewri houses four shops – a biriyani house and three hardware stores – while some rentees live on its first floor. Despite circling it a couple of times, this correspondent could not find any plaques, signs or memorials retelling its glory days.

Dulal Mostafa, son of AKM Golam Mostafa and current owner of the house, told The Daily Star, "These premises were significant for the Language Movement. But due to circumstances, we could not keep it for ourselves. Those who are renting and using it today do not know what historic grounds they stand on."

Golam Mortuza was quite despondent over how their residence and Old Dhaka's contributions to the movement were never spotlighted. He'd often lament and say "us Dhakaiyas had a role to play, but it remained neglected by writers and historians."

Dr Ahmed Rafiq
Language Movement veteran

850 lives saved by 2

Quick-witted locals save Banalata Express from disaster

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

In something of a miraculous development, the Dhaka bound inter-city train Banalata Express narrowly escaped an accident in Charghat upazila of Rajshahi yesterday morning.

The train was carrying 850 passengers, railway officials said.

The accident was prevented thanks to two locals – Ziaur Rahman and Hablu Miah. Around 7:30am, they found a crack on the railway track in Ramchandrapur village between Arani and Nandangachhi railway stations, railway sources said. Seeing that the train was rushing in, they immediately hoisted their red towels (gamchha) to alert the driver of impending doom.

Seeing the signal, the train immediately ground to a halt, saving many lives in the process. After this, railway authorities started an emergency repair work.

Following two hours of suspension, train communication resumed around 9:30am.

The incident occurred merely four days after a similar situation in Arani area of the neighbouring Bagha upazila.

On the day, a temporary railway gateman detected a large crack on the track and saved a train carrying 300 passengers from accident by hoisting red flag.

Talking to The Daily Star, West Zone General Manager of Bangladesh Railway Ashim Kumar Talukder said the railway tracks on which the cracks were found are more than 50 years old.

"Yesterday's crack appeared as the gap between the slippers was bigger than required," the GM said, adding that the track was repaired only a few years ago.

Meanwhile, the two incidents have left their marks on the neighbourhood, as locals said they have been gripped with panic as faults on the track are being found almost every week for the last two months. They said it is fortunate that the faults are being found ahead of time, but a fatal accident could take place any time.

Saiful Islam, a social worker from Charghat, said, "Even though these tracks see 32 trains every day, it hasn't been repaired in recent years." "The tracks are developing all these cracks due to this high pressure of trains," he said.

Railway GM Ashim Kumar Talukder said they have already sent proposals to set-up new tracks and install concrete slippers on the tracks.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division Lakshmipur
Phone: 01730-782657
e-mail: eelakshmipur@gmail.com
Memo No.: 35.01.5100.441.05.007.2022-159 Date: 14/02/2022

e-Tender Notice (LTM)
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal in Bangladesh (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following work mentioned in the table below:-

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of Works	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	658405, eGP-12/LRD/EE/Officebuilding/LTM/2021-2022	Different type of repair and maintenance work with fitting fixing of Thai Aluminium, Sanitary, Tiles and painting work at Lakshmipur division office building, Inspection Banglow, Sub-Division Office building Lakshmipur and Ramganj, Lakshmipur office compound Mosque under Lakshmipur road division during the year 2021-2022.	01-Mar-2022 17:00	02-Mar-2022 12:30

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

(Tuhin Al Mamun)
ID No. 602230
Executive Engineer (c.c), RHD
Road Division, Lakshmipur
GD-306

After a year in office, what did the Ctg mayor achieve?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One year has passed since Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury took charge, but most of his prioritised pledges are yet to be fulfilled.

In his manifesto, Rezaul, who was an Awami League candidate, made 37 pledges, which he would fulfil, if voted mayor. He assumed office on February 15, 2021.

The pledges include addressing waterlogging, traffic congestion and mosquito menace; evicting illegal occupation from canals, drains and footpaths; improving garbage management and health services; and ensuring adequate LED lights for roads.

This correspondent talked to some prominent citizens to evaluate the mayor's activities in the last one year.

Contacted, Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Vice President Nazer Hossain said a year is not enough to judge the mayor, who has been elected for a five-year tenure.

Even then, there are some failings, he said. "For example, three people, including a university student, died after falling into drains recently, but CCC failed to handle the issue properly. Instead of taking steps to build retaining walls or slabs around open drains, the mayor blamed CDA [Chatogram Development Authority] for the accidents."

BNP Chattogram city unit president Dr Shahadat Hossain, who was Rezaul's main rival in the CCC polls, said "We have seen CCC and CDA blaming one another for waterlogging and accidents in open drains."

"The mayor has failed to take proper initiatives to fulfil his pledges," he said. Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, convener of Public Health Rights Protection Committee,



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সড়ক পরিবহন ও সেতু মন্ত্রণালয়
সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ
ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ নগর ভবন ১৪ তলা, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা-১০০০
ওয়েব সাইট: www.dtca.gov.bd

নম্বর ৩৫.০২.০০০০.০০৯.৬১.০০৩.১৭(পার্শ্ব-১) ১৫ তারিখঃ ১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২ খ্রিঃ

অকেজো জীপ গাড়ি নিলাম/বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডিটিসিএ) এর অকেজো ঘোষিত জীপ গাড়ি নং ঢাকা-মেট্রো-১-১১-৪৮-২৮ যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে নিম্নোক্ত বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক, অস্বামী ক্রেতা/কর্মী এর নিকট হতে নিলামেরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	অকেজো ঘোষিত গাড়ির টেভার বিক্রয়	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র সিডিউল দরপত্রের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী ও অংশকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় স্থান
১।	প্রথম টেভার (১ম রাউন্ড)	০২/০৩/২০২২ খ্রিঃ অফিস সময়	০৩/০৩/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), ডিটিসিএ এর কার্যালয়, লেভেল-১২, কক্ষ-১৩৩৭, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ নগর ভবন, ঢাকা।	০৩/০৩/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা
২।	দ্বিতীয় টেভার (২য় রাউন্ড)	২০/০৩/২০২২ খ্রিঃ অফিস সময়	২১/০৩/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), ডিটিসিএ এর কার্যালয়, লেভেল-১২, কক্ষ-১৩৩৭, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ নগর ভবন, ঢাকা।	২১/০৩/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা
৩।	তৃতীয় টেভার (৩য় রাউন্ড)	০৩/০৪/২০২২ খ্রিঃ অফিস সময়	০৪/০৪/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), ডিটিসিএ এর কার্যালয়, লেভেল-১২, কক্ষ-১৩৩৭, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ নগর ভবন, ঢাকা।	০৪/০৪/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা

দরপত্রের শর্তাবলীঃ
১। দরপত্রের প্রতিসেট সিডিউল মূল্য ৫০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফিসেরযোগ্য)। যে কোন অসম্মিলিত ব্যাংক পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে "নির্ধারিত পরিচালক, ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডিটিসিএ)" এর অফিসে জমা দিতে হবে। বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে।
২। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত গাড়ি প্রথম টেভারে বিক্রয় না হলে ধারাবাহিকভাবে পরবর্তী টেভারে (তারিখে) বিক্রয় করা হবে।
৩। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতক্রমে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমত সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(এস. এম. রেজাউল করিম)
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GD-301

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়
পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
তারিখঃ ১৫/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ।

স্মারক নং-পিটিসি/নোয়া/রেশন/৩৭০

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- রেশন-০৪/২০২১-২০২২

নিম্নোক্ত শর্তাবলী ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ এবং তদাধীন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর বিধান মোতাবেক ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার অর্থাৎ (এপ্রিল, মে ও জুন/২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) মন্ত্র ডাল ও সয়াবিন তৈল ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	বিভাগ	বিস্তারিত
০১।	ময়দান	জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ, স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২।	সংস্থা	পুলিশ বিভাগ।
০৩।	ক্রয়কারী/সমগ্রকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
০৪।	ক্রয়কারী/সমগ্রকারী সত্তার জেলা	নোয়াখালী জেলা।
০৫।	যে কাজ/ক্রয় এবং যে সময়ের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সনের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার অর্থাৎ (এপ্রিল, মে ও জুন/২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) মন্ত্র ডাল ও সয়াবিন তৈল ক্রয়। মন্ত্র ডাল ও কেরি ৫০০ গ্রাম, ৫ কেরি ৫০০ গ্রাম এবং ৪ কেরি উন্মুক্তভাবে বহু পলিপ্যাকে প্যাকেটজাত করে সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে। পরিমাণ মন্ত্র ডাল ৩৮০০ কেজি এবং সয়াবিন তৈল (বোতলজাত) ৩৬০০ লিটার।
০৬।	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত।
০৭।	দরপত্রদাতা/যোগানদার/সরবরাহ কারীর যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ এবং রেশন সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ পত্র।
০৮।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের প্রাপ্তির স্থান	১। কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী। ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, লক্ষ্মীপুর জেলা।
০৯।	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ০৭/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান, শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী। তারিখঃ ০৮/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী। তারিখঃ ০৮/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ	তারিখঃ ০৮/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১৩।	সিডিউল বিক্রয় মূল্য	প্রতিসেট = ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফিসেরযোগ্য)।
১৪।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
১৫।	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত মোট	১। মন্ত্র ডাল = ৫০,০০০/- টাকা ২। সয়াবিন তৈল = ৫০,০০০/- টাকা।
১৬।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১। পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ এবং তদাধীন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর সকল বিধি বিধান দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী হিসেবে গণ্য করা হইবে। ২। ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতক্রমে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন। ৩। দরপত্র সিডিউল অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বর্ণিত রহিয়াছে। ৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।

এস এম রোহান উদ্দিন
পিপি-৬৬৯৫০০৯৭৩১
কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি)
পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
ফোন- ০৩২১-৬১০৯০, ফ্যাক্স- ০৩২১-৬১৮৩০।

জিডি-৩০৫



The atmospheric music also perfectly encapsulated this grand cinematic world of delusion for the live audience.

MOHUA MOULI

For the past five years, Open Space Theatre (OST) has been an important catalyst in creating a new sub-culture of theatre-goers from all walks of life.

Hence, it was no surprise that their latest and newest production, of Arsenic & Old Lace had two sold-out shows the very first day on February 11, at Bangladesh Mohila Samity. With their rendition of American playwright Joseph Kesselring's 1939 classic, OST showcased the best of fascinating genre of dark comedy.

The plot centers around two sisters, their three nephews and their deranged and murderous activities. The two aunts, Martha and Abby Brewster were played by S. Rahman and the founder of OST herself, Tisha Mahjabeen Chowdhury.

The scene opened with the sisters conversing with Reverend Harper, played by Iftakhar Mahi,

about their mentally unstable nephew Teddy Brewster, played by Raihan Ahmed Dip. Two officers, played by Auvishkeh Bhadra, and Zakaria Khan Rony, soon enter the chat to raise concerns about Teddy's activities. Their conversation unfolds to disclose how the late patriarch of the family was a mad doctor, who performed dangerous experiments on people that would lead to countless deaths.

We then meet Mortimer Brewster, played by the director of the show M Arifur Rahman, the eldest nephew. After a delightful encounter with his lovely girlfriend Elaine, played by Ummay Marium, Mortimer has a chance encounter with a corpse hiding under a window seat.

The plot continues to thicken once he finds out that his sweet and charitable aunts have been the ones behind this murder.

This sets him off on a quest to save his beloved aunts from

indictment.

The shining stars of the show were the comically villainous duo, Jonathan and Dr. Einstein, played by A S M Mosabbir Tanim and Hadi Akash. Their entrance into the dimly lit stage was the perfect foreshadowing for the twists and turns that would soon bring us to the edge of our seats.

Another standout was Officer O'Hara, played by Tahmid Suprav, who entertained the audience with live music during his performance, creating a truly immersive atmosphere for the spectators.

The show ended with the hilarious antics of Police Lt. Rooney, played by Sharif M Tarik, while the sisters find another plausible victim in Mr. Witherspoon played by Johayer Mahtab Khan.

The show's narrative style beautifully stitched together every scene, with strong emphasis on making the delivery

feel natural. "I encourage our actors to add their own instinctive improvisations to bring more relevance to the script," said M Arifur Rahman about his adaptation.

The set design was the impeccable execution of Tisha Mahjabeen Chowdhury, "Since the genre is dark comedy, vibrant pops of colors were incorporated throughout the set to make the set look more visually striking", she said. The lighting, done by Dhiman Chandra Barman, breathed life into the set.

The atmospheric music also perfectly encapsulated this grand cinematic world of delusion for the live audience.

While the curtain fell on this show, the actors thanked its audience and reminded them to find things to laugh about, even during the darkest of times. Is there a better way to do that to watch dark comedy live on stage?

UNCHARTED hits Star Cineplex tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Directed by Ruben Fleischer, the film, "Uncharted", based on the popular series of action-adventure video games of the same name, releases at Star Cineplex tomorrow. Tom Holland will play the film's protagonist Nathan Drake, with Mark Wahlberg taking on the role of Drake's sidekick and mentor Victor Sullivan. The movie, which is a prequel to the games, will show the meeting of Drake and Sullivan, along with their early adventures together.



Kabir Suman collaborates with Asif Akbar for International Mother Language Day

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Marking International Mother Language Day (February 21), eminent Indian singer-songwriter and composer Kabir Suman penned and composed the song "Ekushey February Daak", which has been voiced by popular Bangladeshi singer Asif Akbar.

Asif has collaborated with the veteran musician in five other songs, including "Amar Ekar Noy", "Syriar Chhele", and "Lukono Manik". He mentioned that Kabir Suman made the new track keeping him in mind.

Under the banner of ARB Entertainment, the music for "Ekushey February Daak" is arranged by Ujjal Sinha.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

COUNTRYWIDE

UP member Bobita's fame counterproductive

Several photographs of the newly-elected UP member working as a labourer go viral on social media

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

When many public representatives draw flak because of their negative activities, some stand apart setting an example to others. Bobita Khatun, a newly-elected member of Mulgram Union Parishad in Pabna's Chatmohar upazila, has attracted the attention of the netizens.

Her photographs, in which she was seen working as a day labourer, have gone viral on social media. However, her sudden rise to fame has proven to be counterproductive as the UP chairman has insisted that she not continue her work being a local representative.

Bobita Khatun, a worker under Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Programme (RERMP) under the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED),

had been earning Tk 250 a day over the last few years and she continued her work even after winning the election held on November 28 last year.

"I belong to a poor family. My husband left me and my son over a decade ago. Since then I have been working as a day labourer to survive with my son," Bobita said.

"After being elected a member, I continued my work; recently some of my photos went viral on social media and few reports were published highlighting my work," she said adding, that "as the UP chairman has asked me to discontinue my work, I have stopped working as a day labourer from the begging of this month. However, I am now struggling to survive."

"I contested the UP elections borrowing around Tk two lakh

from different organisations. I spent the money for election campaigns and now I have to repay the loan but I don't know how," she said.

Asked why she contested the elections borrowing money, Bobita said she did so to fulfil her late mother's dream to work for the poor people.

"As a poor woman, I know how others like me survive in society. I will try my best to work for the people in my area," she also said.

Contacted, Mulgram UP Chairman Md Rashidul Islam Bokul said, "As a UP member she has some duties, therefore, I have asked her to leave her work as a labourer."

The chairman said as a UP member she will get TK 3500 as allowance and they have assured her of help.



Mulgram UP member Bobita Khatun (holding basket) wants to sustain her family working as a day labourer besides serving the people of her locality in Pabna's Chatmohar upazila. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ukraine crisis Political parties have time

FROM PAGE 12

situation, reports UNB.

Moscow sought to portray the troop movements it announced yesterday as proof that Western talk of war had been both false and hysterical.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, at the latest Western diplomatic mission to defuse the crisis, began talks with President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin.

A medieval

FROM PAGE 12

informed everyone that shots were fired and stretchers must be taken out. Around 40 stretchers were brought out.

When I returned to the area, the medical college hospital looked like a medieval battlefield.

Tarkbagish, Khairat Hossain and Anwara Begum came out of the assembly first.

Meanwhile, Akram Khan asked Abul Kalam Shamsuddin how much he gets paid as an MLA. Kalam said he get paid 250 rupees.

Akram then said said, "I will increase your salary by 300 rupees from today if you resign."

Akram Khan did this as he was angry at the firing on students and for opposing the Nurul Amin government.

MR Akhtar Mukul was a university student during the language movement.

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

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajen

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The Business Standard, were present at the meeting.

The committee earlier held talks in three phases with civil society members, election experts, media personalities and eminent citizens to hear their views on the formation of the EC.

The six-member search

committee was formed

on February 5. It asked 39 registered political parties the following day to submit their nominations for the EC posts. Out of the 39 parties, 24 responded.

The Cabinet Division on Monday published the 322 names proposed by political parties, professional bodies

and individuals.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam yesterday said, "The committee will start holding formal meetings tomorrow and then will decide how to shorten the list."

The committee has 15 work days to finalise the names.

Why kazi's daughters

FROM PAGE 12

for discriminating the daughters of registrars.

Secretaries to the law and public administration ministries are respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice SM Maniruzzaaman issued the rule following a writ

petition filed by six rights organisations including Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Ain O Salish Kendra.

The organisations mentioned in the petition that the provision in the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Rules, 2009, is discriminatory and

contradictory to the constitution.

Lawyers ZI Khan Panna, Sara Hossain, Sharmin Akhter and Shahinuzzaman appeared for the petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Samarendranath Biswas represented the state during the virtual hearing of the petition yesterday.

8 more held for Khagaria polls

FROM PAGE 12

Rab, Nasir is a company employee in the port city. Wearing maroon scarfs and green-red masks, the gang, led by Nasir, opened fire. After the incident, he went into hiding in Bandarban, the Rab official said.

Absar is the manager of an association in Dhaka. He went to Satkania before the election. He coordinated the armed men during the violence. After the incident, he returned to Dhaka, the

official said.

Morshed is a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver. Arrestee Jasim, a painter, carried a sack filled with cartridges. Mintu is a driver who carried the outsiders to Khagoria in a microbus, said the Rab official.

Rab said Korban is a security guard who abetted the criminals by providing them with lethal weapons and other firearms. Ismail is a land broker.

THREE STILL AT LARGE Three more criminals who were seen wielding

firearms in photos run by media outlets were still on the run. They are: Kamrul Alam Azad, Md Ezhar and Md Shakhawat.

With the eight arrestees, 10 suspects have been arrested.

Shots were fired when supporters of Awami League chairman candidate Aktar Hossain and independent candidate Jasim Uddin clashed in two polling centres during the UP elections, forcing the authorities to suspend voting there.

Consumers paying

FROM PAGE 1

accountability and transparency."

About the increase in gas price, Hannan said a 50 percent price hike was proposed by all the profit-oriented organisations.

"They are already

benefitting after the matching of CNG price and with the price of purchased LNG [Liquefied Natural Gas] from the spot market. They still have proposed a 117 percent price hike."

Prof Badrul Imam said

the price hike would not let the power, gas and water prices remain at a tolerable level for most people.

"Bangladesh is a gas-rich country. Instead of exploring gas, they are purchasing LNG which is not acceptable," he added.

Plastic, chemical pollution beyond planet's safe limit

AFP, Stockholm
The torrent of man-made chemical and plastic waste worldwide has massively exceeded limits safe for humanity or the planet, and production caps are urgently needed, scientists have concluded for the first time.

There are an estimated 350,000 different manufactured chemicals on the market and large volumes of them end up in the environment.
"The impacts that we're starting to see today are large enough to be impacting crucial functions of planet Earth and its systems", Bethanie Carney Almroth, co-author of a new study told AFP in an interview.

The study, by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, comes ahead of a UN meeting in Nairobi at the end of the month on tackling plastic pollution "from source to sea", UN Environment Programme head Inger Andersen said on Monday.

Chemicals and plastics are affecting biodiversity, piling additional stress on already stressed ecosystems.

Pesticides kill living organisms indiscriminately and plastics are ingested by living things.
"Some chemicals are interfering with hormone systems, disrupting growth, metabolism and reproduction in wildlife," Carney Almroth said.

While greater efforts are needed to prevent these substances being released into the environment, scientists are now pushing for more drastic solutions, such as production caps.

Recycling has so far yielded only mediocre results. Less than 10 percent of the world's plastic is currently recycled, even as production has doubled to 367 million tonnes since 2000.

Today, the total weight of plastic on Earth is now four times the biomass of all living animals, according to recent studies.



This handout video grab released by the Russian Defence Ministry yesterday, shows Russian tanks leaving for Russia after joint exercises of the armed forces of Russia and Belarus as part of an inspection of the Union State's Response Force, at a firing range near Brest. Russia yesterday said it was pulling back some of its forces near the Ukrainian border to their bases, in what could be the first major step towards de-escalation in weeks of crisis with the West.

PHOTO: AFP

UKRAINE CRISIS: WHO SAID WHAT

We've got Russian field hospitals being constructed near the border with Ukraine in Belarus, for what only can be construed as a preparation for an invasion.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

February 15, 2022, will go down in history as the day Western war propaganda failed. (They have been) Humiliated and destroyed without a single shot being fired.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

The time is now to defuse tensions and de-escalate actions on the ground. ... Abandoning diplomacy for confrontation is not a step over a line, it is a dive over a cliff.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres

There are signs from Moscow that diplomacy should continue, this gives grounds for cautious optimism. But so far, we have not seen any sign of de-escalation on the ground.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg

Myanmar junta won't attend Asean summit

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta on Monday said it would not attend an upcoming Asean summit after the bloc's "regrettable" exclusion of its top diplomat over a lack of progress in defusing post-coup violence. Asean invited Myanmar to send a "non-political representative" to this week's foreign ministers' meeting, citing a lack of progress on a consensus agreed last year to facilitate dialogue with opponents of the coup. The Southeast Asian country has been in turmoil since the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, with more than 1,500 civilians since killed in crackdowns on anti-junta protests, according to a local monitoring group.

COVID REGULATIONS PROTESTS
Trudeau invokes emergency powers

AFP, Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday invoked rarely used emergency powers to bring an end to trucker-led protests against Covid health rules, after police arrested 11 people with a "cache of firearms" blocking a border crossing with the United States. It marked only the second time in Canadian history such powers have been invoked in peacetime. The prime minister said the military would not be deployed at this stage, but that authorities would be granted more powers to arrest protesters and seize their trucks in order to clear blockades, as well as ban funding of the protests.



India's hijab dispute reaches UP

REUTERS, Lucknow

A dispute over restrictions on the wearing of the hijab by female students in a southern Indian state has now reached India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, with a group of youngsters asking a college to ban the head covering.

Authorities closed colleges in Karnataka in India's south last week after a new uniform policy barred students from wearing headscarves in classrooms, leading to protests by Muslim students and counter protests by Hindu students.

Muslims have criticised the ban as another way of marginalising a community that accounts for about 13 percent of Hindu-majority India's 1.35 billion people.

In Uttar Pradesh, in the country's north and bordering New Delhi, a group of more than two dozen young men reached the Dharma Samaj College in Aligarh district on Monday and handed a memorandum to its officials seeking a complete ban on the hijab within its compound.

They had saffron shawls around their necks - typically worn by Hindus - said the college's chief

proctor, Mukesh Bharadwaj, adding he did not recognise the people. Currently, religious garb is not allowed in classrooms, but can be worn elsewhere on campus.

Uttar Pradesh is ruled by a Hindu monk from PM Narendra Modi's party and is in the midst of a multi-phase election that ends next month. Hindu-Muslim disputes are often used for political gains in the state.

The hijab issue has already reached court in Karnataka. Hearings were scheduled to resume yesterday on whether the hijab should be allowed in class.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Upazilla Health Complex
Ram, Cox's bazaar
Tender Notice
Memo No-UHC/Ramu/MSR Tender/2021-22/594 Date: 15/02/2022
Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Procurement of MSR goods for Upazilla Health Complex Ramu, Cox's Bazar in the fiscal year 2021-22

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২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার ৬০ (পঁয়ষাটটি ইউনিয়ন পরিষদে কর্তৃত্ব (০২ জন দফতরসহ ৪৩৬ জন পুরুষ এবং ০৯ জন মহিলাসহ) ০৯০ (নৌশত নকশী) জন গ্রাম পুলিশের (দফতর ও মহল্লাসহ) "খ" তফসিলে বর্ণিত শোখার সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন একক সরকারস্বাক্ষরিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের দিকট হতে পিলাবারে ২০০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) এর নিয়মাদুসারে সীমাবদ্ধকৃত বামে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলীতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

Vital tasks ahead for the search committee

It should nominate persons of integrity who can withstand undue pressure

WE commend the search committee formed to nominate candidates for the next Election Commission (EC) for publishing the names that were submitted to them. The names of 322 individuals were published on the website of the Cabinet Division, although details of their endorsers were left out. Some major political parties have refrained from making any recommendations. Despite that, we have to acknowledge that this departure from the tradition of not disclosing names is the first step to what we hope would be a fruitful endeavour in finding the most suitable candidates to form the next EC.

The task for the committee now is to sift through the submissions, assess if the names of the best candidates came up, and finally propose 10 names to the president, who will pick five for the EC posts. We hope the identities of the 10 will be published too, with justifications provided for their nominations. However, there's no getting around the fact that in order for this process to be successful and accepted, it should be as representative as possible. That some opposition parties have boycotted this process of EC formation is, thus, troubling. If this is a sign of things to come, we may soon see a repeat of the acrimonious circumstances under which the last two highly controversial parliamentary elections were held.

It will be unwise to overestimate the power of a search committee in such a state of affairs. It has no control over whether all political parties will agree on the formation of the EC or an election-time government. But it has the vital task to roll the first dice and build confidence in the subsequent process, which it can do by ensuring that concerns raised by the boycotting parties are properly addressed.

A primary analysis of the names published shows that almost one-third of them are former bureaucrats. There are also former judges and military officials, academics, lawyers, and representatives of various other professions. While evaluating their eligibility, the committee should let us know what it is going to do to uphold the principles of integrity and neutrality. It should set, and subsequently publish, a clear guideline dictating the terms of acceptance and rejection. One criterion that we feel must be included is that no one with a past history of political allegiance, gainful engagement with the ruling party, or allegations of corruption and irregularity will be considered. The committee should also come clean about the endorsements of all political parties, so that the public can scrutinise them. Finally, it should hold public inquiries of the individuals being considered for the sake of transparency and confidence building.

All these are vital for making the nomination process a success, and for the search committee to avoid a credibility crisis.

No respite from illegal brick kilns

Illegal brick kilns in Brahmanbaria must be shut down

IT is alarming to know that at least 99 brick kilns in Brahmanbaria are operating illegally, posing serious threats to the environment and public health. A report by this daily states how these brick kilns have been set up beside bazaars, croplands, educational institutions and fruit gardens, and how their emissions are damaging seasonal crops. While the Department of Environment (DoE) claims that there are 181 brick kilns—some of them currently closed—in the nine upazilas of the district, the actual number is believed to be much higher.

Unfortunately, illegal operation of brick kilns is prevalent across many other districts in the country as well. For instance, two illegal brick kilns in Lalmonirhat, demolished by the DoE in February last year after protests from the local farmers, were found to have resumed their operations last month. The same happened in Barguna, where five demolished brick kilns began their operations again. Obviously, the Brick Making and Kiln Establishment (Control) Act, 2013 is not being enforced properly. Otherwise, so many brick kilns would not be able to operate without a licence, often flouting the rule of keeping a three-kilometre distance from residential or agricultural areas.

With Dhaka frequently being one of the cities with the worst air quality, are we pushing the rest of our country in the same direction?

Earlier this month, a team of experts presented pioneering research on the air quality of all 64 districts in the country (Brahmanbaria and Dhaka being among the 18 most polluted), citing brick kilns as a major polluter. They suggested shutting down the brick kilns as a short-term solution. But even before this study, it was a known fact how badly brick kilns were polluting our environment, with little intervention from the DoE.

We urge the government to take the threat posed by these brick kilns seriously. The DoE must recognise its crucial role in bringing down their number, and ensure that even those with a licence operate strictly within the bounds of the law. We can't continue to allow them to harm our environment, agricultural prospects and, most importantly, the health of our citizens.

Three legacies of the Election Commission



BLACK, WHITE AND GREY

Ali Riaz is a distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University in the US, and a non-resident senior fellow of the Atlantic Council.

ALI RIAZ

THE 12th Election Commission (EC) of Bangladesh, headed by KM Nurul Huda, completed its tenure on February 14, 2022. With its term coming to an end, some obvious questions arise: What legacy are the commission and the chief election commissioner (CEC) leaving behind? What are the lessons learnt from the past five years of this commission's activities? Assessment of the past is not only a matter of introspection, but can also help identify what impacts the past has on the future, and how it will shape

Notwithstanding the importance of the details of how a daytime election became a nocturnal exercise, we must understand that this reflected a larger issue. Ballot stuffing as a tactic of election manipulation is not new in Bangladesh and many other parts of the world; authoritarian regimes are adept in this regard, so are the hybrid regimes, which combine authoritarian and democratic traits. Hybrid regimes are of two categories: competitive electoral authoritarianism, and hegemonic electoral authoritarianism. Both require elections of some kind, because elections are the key to their legitimisation process. However, a major difference between these two categories is how the election is conducted. In competitive electoral authoritarianism, while the entire political process is highly repressive and the media are muzzled, the election does engender some form of uncertainty. Steven

and authoritarian regime survival," published in 2019, provides evidence in this regard.)

The EC of the past years has participated in the process of regime transformation from a competitive authoritarian system to a hegemonic electoral authoritarianism. Of course, the EC alone should not be credited for the transformation—instead a combination of political processes, a de facto one-party legislative body, and judiciary facilitated the process. But the EC's role was pivotal to the process. This was done through shattering public confidence in the electoral process, consequently hollowing out the electoral system altogether. The low voter turnout in subsequent elections demonstrated this phenomenon, while the EC cheerfully claimed that the elections were successful. This will remain the legacy of the Nurul Huda-led Election Commission, because it has shaped the subsequent behaviour of the incumbent



future trajectories. This has become more important in 2022, considering that the nation's politics is standing at a critical juncture. The coming days will determine the trajectory of the nation's politics—particularly its governance.

Undoubtedly, CEC Nurul Huda and his colleagues will join eight other election commissioners of the past 50 years who were derelict in their constitutional duties to ensure a free election, which would have allowed the citizens to exercise their right to vote freely and fairly. But this EC also earned an unprecedented "honour," being asked to be investigated. Forty-two noted citizens asked the president to form a judicial council to investigate this commission's "serious financial corruption and gross election-related misconduct." Although the president didn't heed their call, this will remain a part of the history of the institution.

Under this EC, an array of local elections has taken place, but we will remember very few of them in the coming years—many will be consigned to forgotten history. Success in a few local elections does not determine the legacy of any EC. The Election Commission in Bangladesh is judged by how it has conducted the parliamentary election. What nobody will forget is the *Jatiya Sangsad* (national parliament) election held in December 2018. The events surrounding the 2018 election, the election itself and the role of the EC are well known. Perhaps the best description was provided by the international media, particularly *The Economist*, as it called the election a "transparently fraudulent" process.

One of the defining features of the 2018 election was the ballot stuffing the night before Election Day, which CEC Nurul Huda seemed to have acknowledged in 2019, saying the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) can prevent stuffing ballot boxes. But now, years later, on his way out, he has either become a victim of selective amnesia or presumes that our collective memory is short-lived. He has questioned the veracity of it by saying he has not seen it and cannot be conclusive about it. Evidence abounds, yet that fact is not what drove the CEC in the past five years.

Despite pushback from the opposition parties, the Nurul Huda commission introduced EVMs in the local elections of Bangladesh during its tenure, even though the technology has been a matter of concern in many countries.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Under this EC, an array of local elections has taken place, but we will remember very few of them in the coming years—many will be consigned to forgotten history. Success in a few local elections does not determine the legacy of any EC. The Election Commission in Bangladesh is judged by how it has conducted the parliamentary election.

Levitsky and Lucan A Way, in a perceptive essay titled "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism" (2002), discussed the characteristics of these regimes and mentioned that in competitive authoritarian systems, "elections may generate considerable uncertainty." On the contrary, in hegemonic electoral authoritarianism elections, manipulation is institutionalised in a manner that competition is rendered useless and removes the uncertainty. The removal of uncertainty is achieved through various measures, including constitutional changes and electoral processes, but it requires the electoral commission to become a tool that works in unison with other state apparatuses in favour of the incumbent.

As such, it was not surprising to see what happened in Bangladesh in 2018. The election revealed how the law enforcement agencies, the ruling party and the local administration became one entity. This entire process was given legitimacy by the Election Commission—not by turning a blind eye or being a silent spectator due to a lack of power to stop it, but by being an active participant. The power vested on the commission under the existing laws was sufficient to stop this on the track, but the Nurul Huda commission deliberately decided to be a party to this endeavour.

One can argue that he was no different from his predecessor Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed. The 2014 election conducted under the leadership of Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed had similar characteristics. There is no denying that the 2014 election, held without the participation of the opposition and marred by large-scale irregularities, is also an example of the dereliction of constitutional duties. But the most important difference is the institutionalisation of a system of election which practically ensures a victory to the incumbent. Such institutionalisation is key to the survival of hegemonic electoral authoritarianism. (A study on elections in 262 authoritarian regimes between 1946 and 2010 by Michael Bernhard, Amanda B Edgell, and Staffan I Lindberg, titled "Institutionalising electoral uncertainty

and paved the future trajectory of the nation.

The second legacy of the EC is the introduction of EVMs in elections. This technology was touted by the EC before the parliamentary election in 2018 as a marker of progress and a tool to prevent vote-rigging. It was pushed back by various political parties in 2018, but gradually it has been introduced. The EVM technology has been a matter of concern in many countries, and many have abandoned the technology (Ali Riaz, "A Pointless Debate," *The Daily Star*, September 2, 2018). Additionally, the technology adopted by the EC does not have the Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system. As these machines are likely to continue to be used in future elections, the suspicions and controversy will only become louder. There are allegations that these machines are manipulable, and an absence of a paper trail means there is no way to challenge the accuracy of counting. Programming of the EVMs can be manipulated to skew the results in favour of a candidate.

The third legacy of the EC can also be described as an unintended consequence. The behaviour of the Nurul Huda commission has proven that an election commission appointed by a partisan government cannot hold a free and fair election under the same regime. It was proven in the 2014 election, but now it has become the incontrovertible truth. Those who expected after the 2014 election that a change in personnel in the EC would chart a different course acknowledge this—at times begrudgingly. The CEC and his colleagues evidently didn't want to send the message, but their actions have made the message loud and clear. It is neither the laws that guide the EC, nor who is at the helm, but the nature of the government at the time of election that decides whether the EC will be an effective institution or not. As the new EC appointment is now in process, this lesson is well to bear in mind. The incumbent government seems to have learnt the lesson well and is acting accordingly. The question is whether the opposition parties have also learnt it. If so, what will they do?

Young, dumb, and broke



SN RASUL

SN Rasul teaches English at North South University.

IN the Bollywood film *3 Idiots*, one of the characters, Chatur aka Silencer, mocks what he presumes to be the protagonist's profession thus (in loose translation)—“*Namaste Masterji*. What heights you've reached! You've become a schoolteacher in the village! A for apple, B for ball!”

Now, despite how on the nose the film can be, I've always felt that it more or less makes up for it with its sense of humour and heart. However, in this climactic scene, where Chatur, an annoying but amusing pseudo-antagonist, is about to get his comeuppance, the film is unable to hold on to what it has tried to teach us for the last two-and-a-half hours, with the protagonist repeating several times throughout, “Don't run after success. Run after excellence. Success will follow suit.”

The problem is that the comeuppance is only successful because the protagonist is not just a schoolteacher; he is primarily one of the world's leading inventors and scientists whom, as Silencer states, even “the Japanese are desperate to work with.” After all, how else could his success be validated, if not through the eyes of the developed world, without whose seal of approval a person's worth would find no legitimacy?

The film is not at fault for falling into its own trap. Like many of us, its ideals and values are in the right place: it wishes to show us that there is great pleasure in the very act of learning, and inspires us to question authority, to value those who differ from us, to pursue our passions. But, in the process, like us, it too cannot shed how it defines success: through validation from foreigners, through corporations which wish nothing more than to sell our ideas to the highest bidder, through humiliating the villain by beating him at his own game.

After all, what value can a mere schoolteacher hope to retain, teaching the alphabet in some remote corner of Ladakh? What validation will he or she receive from only the approving admiration of children—young, dumb, and broke as they are? What contribution to



Why can't we give the teachers of our children what they rightfully deserve—recognition and a good life?

FILE PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

society is brought from providing guidance to the so-called future of a nation as their eyes burn with hunger to experience new things, as their minds expand to learn not only “A for apple, B for ball,” but also discipline and manners, morality and truth, the ability to think and question and respond, to empathise with their fellow human beings?

We condescend to schoolteachers for teaching our children the alphabet without understanding that every single word, every sentence, every paragraph and essay that our children will one day go on to write will be derived from the combination of these mere letters. We give them the responsibility of teaching our children everything they need in order to become responsible members of society, upstanding citizens of the country, contributing cogs in the machine of our economy. And then we pay them neither with the respect nor the finances worthy of perhaps playing the most important role in our children's lives.

What ambitious and principled individual would dream of becoming a schoolteacher, then? There is no doubt that we revere our teachers and honour them for having been some of our biggest influences. And, sometimes, we come across young individuals who genuinely do wish to become schoolteachers, finding great pleasure and satisfaction in guiding children through what is indubitably their most formative years. But that is its nobility: to perhaps have the most important job in the world, but not to be

rewarded with gold or recognition, but in finding oneself in the memory of adults scattered across the country and the world.

Such unsung heroes are rare, though—not because of some moral bankruptcy in the new generation, but for the generations preceding who have failed to recognise the invaluable, uncountable contributions our schools make in the lives of children. This is evident in how, for example, during the earlier years of my schooling, up until about Grade 5, “teachers” were always women (and I think they still are).

Afterwards, when we had somewhat matured, deemed worthy of wielding pens which left permanent stains on our notebooks, could the men, the “sirs,” be bothered to interact with us.

(Experiences and mileage may vary.) It truly boggles the mind that, year on year, we create a budget that promises prosperity, but ignores the very ground on which prosperity is built, ignoring the very “A for apple, B for ball” Silencer was so eager to dismiss, ignoring perhaps the most overused axiom of our childhoods—“Education is the backbone of a nation”—spending much, much lower than the rest of our neighbours. It not only highlights our shallow definitions of success—big flats and even bigger flyovers—but also how our children have become the most marginalised members of our society, collateral damage on our journey towards prosperity, only for us to turn back and ask them to fulfil their duty to us.

If I may paraphrase a few words from a Kenyan proverb: The Earth has not been given to us by our children. It has been loaned to us by our children.

But not to worry: we have more or less ensured that most of our children—young, dumb and broke as they are—will grow up to be adults who will lack the capacity to understand that, along with their potential, the Earth has also been destroyed, that too by those who were tasked to protect them.

Locally led adaptation: We can lead the world

POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SALEEMUL HUQ



Saleemul Huq is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University Bangladesh.

THE Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) was set up with its headquarters in the Netherlands a couple of years ago, and has already developed into a major platform focusing on supporting countries to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. It has already set up regional centres in China and Africa, and is about to launch the regional centre for South Asia in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in conjunction with the government.

I have the privilege of being a senior adviser to the GCA, and am pleased that they have decided that their Dhaka office will become their global hub on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) to climate change, in recognition of Bangladesh's long experience in promoting LLA by both the government and the NGOs.

Let's look at how Bangladesh, in a whole-of-society manner, can truly become a global leader on LLA, and share that knowledge with other developing countries—especially the ones most vulnerable to the climate impacts.

The first lesson that Bangladesh can share with others is how to develop a national adaptation plan with a whole-of-society approach, which is essential for any plan to be effectively implemented. Bangladesh has a long history of planning for adaptation to climate change and incorporating those plans into national development programmes. The latest versions of this will be the Bangladesh National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCP), both of which will emphasise investment in LLA as a way to achieve transformational adaptation over the next decade.

The second major lesson is making top-down national plans while also investing in enabling bottom-up inputs from the vulnerable communities so that the plans are implemented without failure. So, there needs to be a paradigm shift: instead of looking at the vulnerable communities as mere targets or beneficiaries of support from the top, we need to take them as the agents of change themselves who know

best what needs to be done, and those who wish to support them must listen to them first. These ideas have been included in the eight principles of LLA, which has now been adopted by many governments, donor agencies and others. Now, these principles need to be put into practice. A major element here is capacity-building of young girls and boys, and putting women at the centre of LLA.

The third lesson is including knowledge partners in the exercise and planning for the long term—not just for short-term projects—to make LLA effective. This is essential because climate change is a science-based issue, in which the adaptation practitioners need to be continually provided with scientific information on the climate risks in each geographic location they work at, and at the same time, the experiential learning of the practitioners themselves must be recorded as they implement adaptation plans. Thus, the knowledge of climate impacts is an essential input to any adaptation plan, and the knowledge of adaptation will be its output. Hence engaging a knowledge partner such as a university or a research institute is essential, rather than simply hiring consultants who will leave once a project is over.

The final lesson is to design adaptation investment plans for long-term implementation, rather than focusing on short-term projects only. This requires a longer-term programmatic approach from the financiers. However, even if funding is provided to projects with limited duration, emphasis must be placed on what the projects will leave behind once they are over, rather than on what is done during project implementation. Thus, investment in adaptation to climate change should be seen as investment in long-term capacity-building.

If all the sectors in Bangladesh can join forces to make our own country more resilient and prosperous in spite of climate change, we can also share that knowledge with other countries through peer-to-peer exchange visits, as well as the annual Gobeshona Global Conference on Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience, organised by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). Bangladesh can indeed become the world leader in LLA if everyone concerned work together, effectively and with a whole-of-society approach.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষ

প্রশাসন শাখা

সেতু ভবন, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১২।

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তারিখ: ০১ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৮
১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের রাজস্বভূক্ত পদে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে জাতীয় বেতনকেল-২০১৫ অনুযায়ী জনবল নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিম্নে উল্লিখিত হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম, বেতনকেল (জাতীয় বেতন কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়সসীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতা	যে সব জেলার প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন
০১.	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর বেতন কেল: টাকা ১১০০০ - ২৬৫৯০ (গ্রেড-১৩)	১৪	৩০ বছর	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) কম্পিউটার টাইপিং-এ সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৩০ শব্দসহ সফটওয়্যার Standard Aptitude Test এ উত্তীর্ণ।	দিনাজপুর ও পিরোজপুর জেলা ব্যতীত অন্যান্য সকল জেলা।
০২.	স্টাটালিপি কার-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর বেতন কেল: টাকা ১১০০০ - ২৬৫৯০ (গ্রেড-১৩)	০৬	৩০ বছর	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অনানুষ্ঠিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী বা সমমানের সিভিলিয়ারে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; (গ) স্টাটালিপি সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ৫০ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৮০ শব্দ; এবং (ঘ) কম্পিউটার টাইপিং-এ সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৩০ শব্দ।	এতিম ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীরা জেলা কোটা বহির্ভূত।
০৩.	স্টাটালিপি কার-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর বেতন কেল: টাকা ১০২০০ - ২৪৬৮০ (গ্রেড-১৪)	১৬	৩০ বছর	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অনানুষ্ঠিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী বা সমমানের সিভিলিয়ারে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; (গ) স্টাটালিপি সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ৪৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৭০ শব্দ; এবং (ঘ) কম্পিউটার টাইপিং-এ সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৩০ শব্দ।	
০৪.	অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক বেতন কেল: টাকা ৯৩০০ - ২২৪৯০ (গ্রেড-১৬)	২৩	৩০ বছর	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অনানুষ্ঠিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী বা সমমানের সিভিলিয়ারে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ। (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার টাইপিং-এ সর্বনিম্ন গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২০ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ২০ শব্দ।	

- আবেদনের শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী:**
- ১৬ মার্চ ২০২২ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা অর্ধশত বছর হতে হবে। মুক্তিসোচ্চ/শ্রীমত মুক্তিসোচ্চকার পুর-স্মারক এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা অর্ধশত বছর। তবে মুক্তিসোচ্চ/শ্রীমত মুক্তিসোচ্চকার পুর-স্মারক পূর্ব-স্মারক মুক্তিসোচ্চকার ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা অর্ধশত বছর। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোনো প্রকার এফিডেভিট প্রদানযোগ্য হবে না।
 - মাননীয় সূত্রমাকের আর্থিক বিভাগের দায়েরকৃত সিভিল আপীল নং-৪৬০/২০১৭ (সিভিল রিভিউ পিটিশন-১৮১/২০১৮) এর দ্বারা অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের অধীন সমাজ প্রকল্প কর্মসূচির বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য। তবে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের অধীন সমাজ প্রকল্পের নিয়োগপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
 - সরকারি, আধাসরকারি ও স্বায়তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকুরীকৃত প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
 - নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের প্রচলিত বিধিবিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।
 - আবেদনকারী বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের ওয়েবসাইট www.bba.gov.bd তে প্রবেশ করে e-Recruitment Menu অথবা <https://eservice.bba.gov.bd/recruitment> এর মাধ্যমে আগামী ১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০টা হতে শুরু হবে ১৬ মার্চ ২০২২ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
 - আবেদনপত্রের প্রার্থীকে তার রঙিন ছবি (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০x৩০০ pixel) এবং পাক্ষর (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০x৩০০ pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে আপলোড করতে হবে। ছবি ও পাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ৫০ kb-এর মধ্যে হতে হবে।
 - নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পর প্রার্থী ছবি ও পাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Auto Generated Registration Card পাবেন। সফলভাবে আবেদন করার পর আবেদনকারীর মোবাইলে এসএমএস ও ইমেইলে (যদি সেটা যোগ্য থাকে) একটি User ID ও Password প্রেরণ করা হবে। উক্ত রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ডে ফি পরিশোধের নির্দেশনা দেয়া থাকবে। রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ডটি প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।
 - প্রার্থীকে সফলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করার ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে বিকাশের (bKash) মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রতিটি পদের জন্য ৩০০.০০ টাকা এবং অনলাইন ফি বাবদ ১২.০০ টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৩১২.০০ (তিনশত বায়ে) টাকা পরিশোধ করতে হবে। আবেদন করার ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে ফি পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হলে আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
 - User ID ও Password দিয়ে প্রার্থী নিজস্ব তথ্য উক্ত ওয়েবসাইটে লিখিত হতে পুনরায় করতে পারবেন।
 - বিকাশের মাধ্যমে টাকা জমাভানের প্রক্রিয়া:
১ম ধাপ: আবেদনের ওয়েবসাইটের e-Recruitment menu-এর ক্লিক করে লগইন অপশন 'Applicant Login' বাটনে ক্লিক করুন;
২য় ধাপ: User ID ও Password প্রদান করে Applicant Dashboard-এ প্রবেশ করুন;
৩য় ধাপ: 'Payment Information/Download Admit Card' মেনুতে ক্লিক করুন;
৪র্থ ধাপ: 'Pay with bKash' লিঙ্ক-এ ক্লিক করার পর একটি পপআপ উইন্ডো আসবে। পপআপ উইন্ডো এর 'your bKash Account number' টেক্সটবক্সে যে বিকাশ এ্যাকাউন্ট থেকে ফি পরিশোধ করা হবে সেটা প্রদান করুন;
৫ম ধাপ: বিকাশ এ্যাকাউন্ট প্রদান করার পর 'CONFIRM' বাটনে ক্লিক করুন;
৬ষ্ঠ ধাপ: বিকাশ থেকে একটি পোপান 'Verification Code' প্রদানকৃত বিকাশ এ্যাকাউন্টের নম্বরে এসএমএস প্রেরণ করা হবে। 'Verification Code' টি প্রদান করে 'CONFIRM' বাটনে ক্লিক করুন;
৭ম ধাপ: বিকাশ এ্যাকাউন্টের PIN নম্বরটি প্রদান করে 'CONFIRM' বাটনে ক্লিক করুন;
৮ম ধাপ: সফলভাবে ফি পরিশোধ হয়ে গেলে 'Transaction Successful Your Payment has been successfully completed...' মেসেজ দেখাবে এবং আবেদনকারী প্রবেশের ডাউনলোড ও প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করুন।
 - বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের Website এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল (Mobile) ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (কেবল যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) পরীক্ষার তারিখ, স্থান ও সময় জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে।
 - প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা যাচাই:
ক. প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য বা দাবিকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসুস্থপায় অবলম্বন করলে, সফটওয়্যার প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল প্রকার সন্দেহের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং সন্দেহজনক তথ্যসমূহ জমা দিতে হবে। ভুল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ হলে কোনো প্রার্থীর আবেদন বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
খ. জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক না হন কিংবা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নন এমন কোনো ব্যক্তিকে বিয়ে করেন বা করার জন্য প্রকৃতভাবে হন কিংবা কোনো মৌজদারি আদালত কর্তৃক নৈতিক স্থলভঙ্গিত অভিযোগে দণ্ডিত হন কিংবা কোনো সরকার বা স্বায়তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান বা স্থায়ী কর্তৃপক্ষের চাকরি হতে বরখাস্ত হয়ে থাকেন এবং উক্তরূপ বরখাস্তের পর দুই বছর অতিক্রান্ত না হয়ে থাকে, তবে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
গ. লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
 - কর্তৃপক্ষ পদের সংখ্যা/বৃদ্ধি/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।
 - নির্ধারিত প্রার্থীদের বেতন-ভাতা ও অন্যান্য সুযোগ-সুবিধা বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের কর্মচারী চাকুরী প্রধানমন্ত্রীর ২০২০ দ্বারা নিয়ন্ত্রিত হবে।
 - নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা ও নিবন্ধন সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
 - বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের Web Site: www.bba.gov.bd-তে পাওয়া যাবে। এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সম্পর্কিত কোনো সংশোধন, সংযোজন (যদি থাকে) বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের এর নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে; এবং
 - ই-রিজুটমেন্ট সংক্রান্ত যে কোন সমস্যা হলে কোনো সহায়তা: ০১৭০০৭১৩০১৮ (সকাল ০৮.০০ থেকে দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত), ০১৭০০৭১৩০২২ (দুপুর ১২.০১ থেকে বিকাল ০৪.০০টা পর্যন্ত) এবং ০১৭০০৭১৩০৯৯ (বিকাল ০৪.০১ থেকে রাত ১০.০০টা পর্যন্ত)।

শেখ ইপিটিয়াক আহমেদ
উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

জিডি-৩০২



IT'S A DIFFICULT PATH TO WALK

Pedestrians in peril as most footpaths remain occupied in port city

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

In Telipotti Road, footpaths were seen to be occupied by sanitary items shops in Chawkbazar, while in Fazlul Quader Road, they were taken over by medicine shops and street vendors in Chattogram Medical College Hospital area.

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Pedestrians in the port city cannot walk on footpaths for more than 200 yards at a stretch uninterrupted. The reason: illegal occupation by vendors, hawkers and shopkeepers.

This correspondent recently visited some of the main roads of the port city. In Nawab Sirajuddaula Road, steel almirah makers were seen spraying colours on their products on the footpath beside the Chawkbazar Post Office. Pedestrians were seen walking on the road avoiding the footpath.

Salma Akter, a resident of Chattogram College East Gate area, was seen crossing the road to avoid the spray paint.

"All the shops keep their materials on the footpath for which pedestrians have to walk in the middle of the road," she told this correspondent.

Mithu Rudra, a school teacher, said the illegal occupations have been going on for years but nobody did anything about it.

This correspondent found illegal occupations



took over those.

Flower shops had been occupying footpaths in Cheragi Pahar Intersection for years in Momin road. Upon complaints from locals, Shaibal Das Suman, Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) ward councillor of Ward 21, discussed the issue with representatives of flower traders' recently and convinced them to vacate the footpaths.

"I met with flower traders and requested them to shift the vases from the footpath to inside, and they agreed," said Suman.

Appreciating the councillor's initiative, Pampi Barua, a resident of Jamal Khan area, said, "Had the other councillors taken such initiatives to free footpaths in their respective areas, the sufferings of the residents would have stopped."

In Telipotti Road, footpaths were seen to be occupied by sanitary items shops in Chawkbazar, while in Fazlul Quader Road, they were taken over by medicine shops and street vendors in Chattogram Medical College Hospital area.

A restaurant is currently in operation

occupying a large portion of the footpath in front of Chevron Clinical Laboratory in Prabortak area.

"It's getting increasingly difficult to walk on the streets. The city corporation and traffic department should take steps to free the footpaths from illegal occupation," said Sajjad Hossain, a student of Chittagong University.

Contacted, Saleh Mohammed Tanvir, CMP commissioner, said CMP's traffic department conducted regular drives to free the roads from hawkers and vendors. He, however, said to conduct drives on footpaths and impose fines, police need a magistrate's authorisation.

The commissioner also mentioned that despite multiple drives by police, vendors and shop owners were still operating on the same spots from where they were evicted.

Contacted, CCC mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said he would take steps to free footpaths from illegal occupation.

"We will be stricter regarding the issue," he assured.

Tale of port city's own racer

NAIMUR RAHMAN

At only 18, Aiman Sadat journeyed all the way from Chattogram to Dubai, to participate in the NGK UAE Pro-Cup Championship held in Dubai Autodrome, a fully integrated and FIA sanctioned sports venue in United Arab Emirates.

In what was the first time participating in this championship, Aiman managed to place second in two categories of the competition.

In the Dubai Race, he drove a Gen-3 car when all other participants were driving much more advanced Gen-5 cars, which makes his success all the more deserving.

But this was not his first time he won an international trophy. His first taste of success came when he competed in the Volkswagen Ameo Cup, held in Chennai, and became the youngest champion in its history.

Outpacing many skilled drivers, he won the trophy on his first go, following the footsteps of his elder brother Allan, who stood runner-up at the Volkswagen Junior Ameo cup before.

"My elder brother and father are my main

Another trouble was finding practicing spaces in the port city. Initially, he trained using simulators because not just Chattogram, but the entire country does not have any ground for his purpose.

inspirations. We used to watch F1 together when I was younger. I always cheered for whichever car would come in first," Aiman recounted in a recent interview with The Daily Star.

But his journey was quite challenging. Alongside studies, he had to practice constantly as well as look for sponsors who would enable him to attend the competitions.

Another trouble was finding practicing spaces in the port city. Initially, he trained using simulators because not just Chattogram, but the entire country does not have any ground for his purpose. His on field practices had to be conducted abroad, which was a costly process.

But even this was made difficult as Covid-19 set in worldwide. Unable to attend or apply for any race, Aiman was kept in touch by his brother Allan, who gave him theoretical training about cars, race tracks, safety measures, racing protocols and strength training.

No racer is certain where they will be in five or 10 years, but Aiman told The Daily Star that he wants to keep getting better. He wants to keep his passion high and continue serving his country by bringing in international recognition through his success in the sport.



on at least six points of this road, including Dewan Bazar Didar Market area, Jainab Colony and Room Ghata areas.

In Didar Market area, furniture shops were seen to occupy the footpath, while in Jainab Colony, Room Ghata and Sub, groceries, bakery shops and street vendors

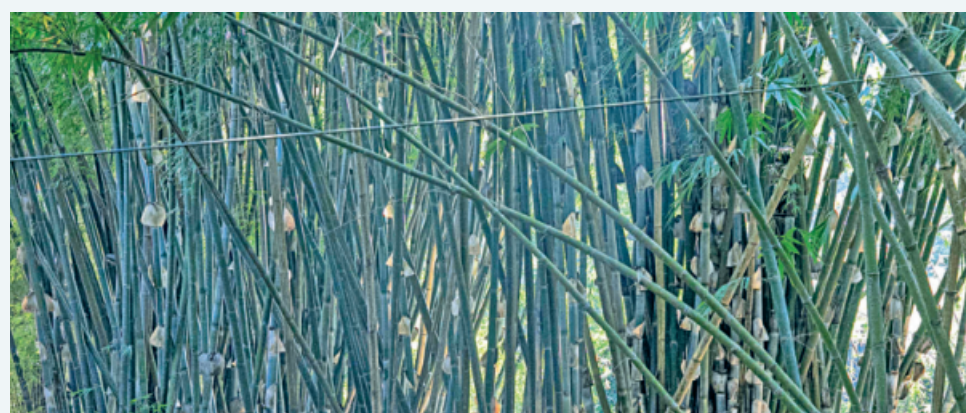
SIFAYET ULLAH

It's about 10 feet tall in height. At first sight, it may look like a wooden pitcher, but it's actually bamboo that came to Bangladesh's soil from Vietnam. This particular species of bamboo is called "Ghoti".

Like Ghoti, around 36 species of bamboo from home and abroad are being cultivated at the bamboo garden of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) in Sholashahar of the port city. Among them, 24 species are native while 12 were imported from China and Southeast Asian countries, said officials.

The bamboo garden was built on a five-acre land in 1973. Apart from conserving bamboo species, the park also functions as a bamboo plant management, seedling production, seed conservation and training centre.

During a recent visit to the BFRI garden, this correspondent noticed a signboard that contains the names of all 36 species of bamboos in the



museum, complete with their scientific names and origins. There are also nameplates in front of every species.

In the garden, some bamboos are thick, while others are twisted. All of them are distinct from each other in terms of their size and shape. There are "Kata", "Ora", small-sized "Mitinga", and "Mithia" bamboos -- 12-14 feet in height.

According to the global bamboo resource report published by the Food and

Agricultural Organization (FAO), Bangladesh stands eighth in the world in terms of bamboo varieties. Almost 10 lakh tonnes of green bamboo are used for different purposes across the country.

Recently, four new bamboo species were added to the collection, said Dr Md Mahbubur Rahman, lead researcher of the silviculture department at BFRI.

He said bamboo gene varieties are preserved at the institute as bamboo seedlings are

not readily available. A seedling is produced through cuttings of bamboo stalks and tissue culture, he said.

"At least 10,000 saplings are uprooted from this garden every year. The saplings are being used for creating gardens and forests in different parts of Bangladesh," he added.

Dr MA Gafur, former professor of the department of botany at Chittagong University, said the genetic diversity of indigenous varieties of bamboo is being preserved here. Of them, Bhudum, Muli and Baijjar have a lot of economic importance. The genetic diversity of these species are important not only for Bangladesh, but the world as well, he added.



An international bamboo garden!

BFRI centre hosts, preserves 36 species from home and abroad

Almost 10 lakh tonnes of green bamboo are used for different purposes across the country.

A gripping contest awaits

SPORTS REPORTER

The second Qualifier of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League is upon us as Comilla Victorians clash against Chattogram Challengers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The winner of this virtual semifinal will then go on to face Shakib Al Hasan's Fortune Barishal in the final.

Comilla had the edge over Chattogram twice in the group stage earlier as they won by comprehensive margins of nine wickets and 52 runs, respectively.

However, Chattogram, despite being surrounded by controversies, peaked at the right time as a unit. In the Eliminator, they overcame the absence of their in-form opener Will Jacks to beat Khulna Tigers by seven runs, courtesy of Chadwick Walton's unbeaten 89-run.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz also shone with his all-round performance in that game while Mrittunjoy Chowdhury has been a trump card for them with 14 wickets in seven games, which has placed the young left-arm quick among the top five wicket-takers.

"We are a young team and initially, we made some mistakes. But later, we realised and worked accordingly and eventually won three games in a row," Mrittunjoy told the media yesterday.

Comilla, on the other hand, get another shot at redemption after losing by ten runs in the first Qualifier despite restricting Barishal to a modest 143 runs.

Young opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy has been among the runs in the group stage. The Victorians can afford to bank on Fai Du Plessis and Moeen Ali, as the overseas players can be devastating on their day.

On bowling front, left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman is certain to lead the way. The 'Cutter Master', leading wicket-taker alongside Barishal's Dwayne Bravo with 17 scalps, will find able support in the spinning duo of Nahidul Islam and Tanvir Islam.



Italy's Sofia Goggia revealed she defied the pain barrier to ski her way to Olympic silver in the women's downhill Tuesday just three weeks after suffering a horror crash. The 2018 Olympic champion looked to be out of the Winter Games after being left on crutches with a knee injury after crashing at a World Cup race on home snow in Cortina d'Ampezzo in late January. Yet the 29-year-old produced a commanding display on the testing course at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre and admitted she emptied the tank in her bid for gold.

PHOTO: AFP

'Waiting on the sidelines was a blessing in disguise'

Following a promising Test debut last year, batter Yasir Ali Chowdhury struck his maiden fifty in New Zealand earlier this year and was rewarded with the inclusion in the Tigers ODI side for the upcoming three-match series against Afghanistan. The cricketer from Chattogram, who has been a consistent performer in the domestic circuit and is expecting to make his fifty-over debut, spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin about his batting among other aspects during an interview. The excerpts of the interview are below:

The Daily Star (DS): Despite being part of the national team set-up for over two years, you finally made your Test debut against Pakistan last year. Now, after getting into the ODI team for the upcoming Afghanistan series, how confident are you about making your ODI debut, which arrived earlier this time?

Yasir Ali (YA): To be honest, waiting on the sidelines for over two years to make my international debut was a blessing in disguise. Traveling with the team and taking catches while fielding as a substitute, actually gave me a good idea of the flavour of international cricket and helped me to adjust quickly. I have seen this before and went through tough phases. Tamim Iqbal bhai used to give me advice and later I became mentally strong. So, whether I'm able to make my ODI debut or

not, I will continue to improve and perform as a player and look forward to it.

DS: What will your challenges as a batter be when it comes to adapting from Test cricket to fifty-over format?

YA: I feel it's more challenging for a batter to adapt from ODI



to T20 format instead.

In T20 cricket, you hardly get enough time and have to go for shots right from the start of innings. On the other hand, shifting to the fifty-over format will be important for me being a batsman in the middle-order, where you have to build an innings. So I'm working on that aspect and confident about it if I get a chance in the playing eleven.

DS: You were in good touch during the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) and also displayed a sound technique. Do you believe you can play across all three

formats for Bangladesh?

YA: I really back my technique and believe I can represent Bangladesh in all three formats. Cricket is no longer a recreation or entertainment as it became a passion for me. In modern-day cricket, you have to adjust and adapt as a batsman and it's important to know how to shift the tempo of an innings.

DS: The maiden fifty in Christchurch against New Zealand in the second Test must have boosted your confidence.

YA: Definitely! It gave me a lot of confidence. Playing in New Zealand in such conditions, against some top-quality bowlers, was a great experience for me. I was playing just my third Test and it really gave me the confidence so early in my career. I think my experience from Test cricket will help me in the fifty-over format.

DS: Can you recall being concussed after receiving a blow on the head from Shaheen Afridi on your debut Test against Pakistan?

YA: Obviously, it came as a shock as I really wanted to bat. It was disappointing for me but at the same time, I'm also lucky because it could've been nasty too. I was batting well and was looking set with Liton Das at the other end. We really wanted to build up a partnership as it was vital for us. But whatever happens it happens for good.

NZ aim to break S Africa drought

AFP, Christchurch

New Zealand enter unfamiliar territory when the first Test against South Africa begins in Christchurch on Thursday, without batting greats Ross Taylor and Kane Williamson.

It has been 14 years since the hosts started a Test without either Taylor or Williamson – their top two all-time Test run scorers respectively – and they have the extra burden of trying to win a series against South Africa for the first time.

Taylor retired last month and Williamson is injured, leaving the Black Caps without the pair's steadying influence against a dynamic Proteas pace attack.



South Africa arrived on a high after completing a double of Test and one-day series wins at home against India.

The inaugural World Test champions begin the series as favourites, lying second in the ICC Test rankings, with South Africa fifth.

But they have never won a Test series against South Africa and have recorded only one home victory over the Proteas in 20 attempts.

'IPL auction no distraction from Windies series'

AFP, New Delhi

This week's multi-million-dollar Indian Premier League auction will not distract India's players from the T20 internationals against the West Indies, captain Rohit Sharma said Tuesday.

Sharma said he had asked the players to focus on the three-match series beginning at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday.

They will have gone through "ups and downs" at the auction, he told a virtual press conference ahead of the T20 series.

"It is an emotional feeling which team you are going to play for and all," he said.

"Yesterday I had a great meeting with the boys, I asked them to focus on the colour blue, which is most important," he added, referring to India's one-day uniform.

"All these guys are professionals, once they are in India colours nothing else matters."

The IPL – the world's most lucrative cricket tournament – should not overshadow international commitments, the 34-year-old said, adding they play in the competition for just two months in a year, compared to 10 months for India.

"So I just want to focus on what we do for Team India and that's what matters."

The second T20 will be played on Friday followed by the third and final game on Sunday.

Freedom of choice over Grand Slam for Djokovic

REUTERS

Novak Djokovic is prepared to miss the French Open and Wimbledon if COVID-19 vaccination becomes mandatory at the Grand Slams but he is not against inoculation, the world number one tennis player said.

Djokovic, who is unvaccinated, was barred from competing in this year's Australian Open, depriving the 34-year-old Serbian of the chance to become the most successful men's player of all time with 21 Grand Slam titles.

"I understand the consequences of my decision," Djokovic told the BBC, adding that he was prepared not to travel to Australia due to his unvaccinated status.

"I understand that not being vaccinated today, I am unable to travel to most of the tournaments at the moment. Yes, that is the price that I'm willing to pay."

A steely-eyed Djokovic said he hoped to compete for "many more years" but added that the freedom to choose what he wants to put into his body was more important to him than any title.



The Serbian, however, distanced himself from the anti-vaccination movement and said he was keeping an open mind about taking the jab.

"I was never against vaccination," he said, adding that he took vaccines as a child. "But I've always supported the freedom to choose what you put in your body."

"I understand that globally, everyone is trying to put a big effort into handling this virus and seeing, hopefully, an end soon to this virus."

Djokovic is set to return to competitive action at an ATP tournament in Dubai next week for the first time since his deportation from Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open.

Another win at Melbourne Park, where Djokovic has won nine titles, would have statistically made him the most successful men's player but instead it was his long-time rival Rafa Nadal who nudged ahead of him by lifting the trophy last month.

The Serbian said he was ready to sacrifice his shot at the milestone. Swiss Roger Federer has also won 20 major titles.



Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski tries to get the ball past wingback Omar Richards during a practice session at the team's training ground on Tuesday ahead of tonight's Champions League fixture away to Salzburg. Two more former European champions – Inter Milan and Liverpool – will face off at San Siro in the night's other game.

PHOTO: TWITTER

CAP 10 OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

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8 more held for Khagaria polls violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Rab in separate drives yesterday arrested eight more people who brandished firearms and sharp weapons during a clash over elections to Khagaria Union Parishad in Chattogram's Satkania on February 7.

At a press conference in the capital's Rab headquarters, Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, said the eight were picked up from Bandarban, Chattogram and the capital.

Five firearms and 42 bullets were also recovered, added the Rab official.

The arrestees are: Nasir Uddin, 31, Md Morshed, 26, Md Korban Ali, 37, Md Ismail, 55, Md Mintu, 26, Md Jasim, 24, Md Kayes, 22, and Nurul Absar, 33.

The Rab director said Kayes works at a private organisation in Chattogram city. He used to maintain connections with political leaders in Satkania.

He has a gang of 30 to 40 members. He rented firearms from different sources and handed those to his trusted aides for creating violence, Moin said.

According to the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Next to the plaque of Mayor Anisul Huq Road in the capital's Tejgaon area, the illegal truck stand has reared its head again. The late mayor was lauded for being able to clear the street of illegal parking. But now, hundreds of trucks block the road and parts of its pavement, inset, obstructing pedestrians and motorists.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



A medieval battlefield!

MR AKHTAR MUKUL

On the night of February 20, Zahedul Huq, Shelley, Gazi, Sultan, Mansur of Naogaon and I sat by the pond of Fazlul Haque Hall to discuss what can be done the next day.

I talked about how we have been tolerating silently and we should face the challenges.

Gazi supported me fully. Earlier, some students went to Jinjira and other places in preparation of the next day's strike.



On the morning of February 21, five to seven thousand students arrived at the university campus by 10:00am. Around 11:00am, police charged batons on them in front of Lalbagh Police Station.

At that time, a number of university teachers, including Dr Muhammad Shahidullah and Muzaffar

Ahmed Chowdhury, came to talk to the students.

By 1:30pm, there were no students on campus. They were either arrested or at the medical college.

Meanwhile, information about the Assembly Session starting soon started circulating.

Around 2:30-4:50pm, the then irrigation minister Hasan Ali arrived. Students stopped his jeep and punctured the tyres, after which police warned of opening fire.

Around 18:20 armed police officials entered the wooden gates of the medical college and opened fire around 3:10pm.

I ran straight to the emergency room and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Why kazi's daughters can't be kazis

HC questions marriage rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning a discriminatory provision regarding the appointment of marriage registrars.

According to the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Rules, 2009, only the sons of marriage registrars, popularly known as kazi, can be appointed as a Kazi on priority basis after the death of their father.

In the rule, the HC asked the government to explain in two weeks why this provision should not be declared unconstitutional and not be scrapped.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

RECOMMENDING NAMES FOR EC Political parties have time till Feb 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties that have yet to make their recommendations for forming the new election commission can still send the names of their nominees to the search committee by February 24.

The committee is likely to send a list of 10 names to President Abdul Hamid on February 24. The president will choose the new chief election commissioner and four election commissioners from the list.

The committee held meetings with senior journalists yesterday at the Supreme Court Judges Lounge and heard their opinions regarding the formation of the next EC.

The journalists suggested that the names on the final list be made public if the individuals named on the list agree.

They also suggested that

competent, courageous and honest individuals, including women and those from the minority communities be in the Election Commission.

"I said publishing the 322 names was not a right decision as many [of the individuals] were unaware," Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), told reporters after the meeting.

The time for political parties to send their recommendations has been extended and the search committee will consider if any political parties propose names, he said.

Bangladesh Pratidin Editor Naeem Nizam said before disclosing the final nominations, consent of the nominees must be taken.

Shykh Seraj, head of news at Channel i, and Inam Ahmed, editor of

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Ukraine crisis shows sign of de-escalation

Russia pulls back some troops; West seeks proof; Dhaka asks Bangladeshis to consider leaving

AGENCIES

Russia said yesterday some of its military units were returning to their bases after exercises near Ukraine and mocked repeated Western warnings about a looming invasion, but Nato said it had yet to see any sign of de-escalation on the ground.

Russia did not say how many units were being withdrawn, and how far, after a build-up of some 130,000 Russian troops to the north, east and south of Ukraine that has triggered one of the worst crises in relations with the West since the Cold War.

"We've always said the troops will return to their bases after the exercises are over. This is the case this time as well," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

Nato's chief welcomed signals from Russia in the past two days that it may be looking for a diplomatic solution but urged Moscow to demonstrate its will to act.



"There are signs from Moscow that diplomacy should continue...But so far we have not seen any sign of de-escalation on the ground from the Russian side," Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Kyiv would only believe that Russia was moving to de-escalate the situation if it saw for itself that Russian troops were being pulled back, reports Reuters.

Britain, which with the US has led the warnings of imminent action, reacted cautiously.

"The Russians have claimed that they have no plans for an invasion, but we will need to see a full scale removal of troops to show that is true," Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told LBC radio.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Embassy in Poland has said Bangladeshi nationals in Ukraine may consider leaving the country temporarily in view of the current

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Heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to Safwan Sobhan

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