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Shakib's Fortune Barishal take on Imrul's Comilla Victorians

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STIMULUS FOR THE LAID-OFF

Only 0.5pc spent in a year

REJAU KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government spent only about 0.5 percent of a Tk 1,500 crore stimulus package unveiled in 2020 for laid off workers of export-oriented apparel and leather factories.

The labour and employment ministry launched the programme in October 2020 with money granted by the European Union and Germany.

Every worker who became unemployed amid the pandemic was supposed to get a monthly allowance of Tk 3,000 for three months unless they got a new job.

As of November last year, less than Tk 8 crore was spent from the fund, according to a finance ministry review. Officials, requesting anonymity, said no significant amount has been spent since November and the picture remains the same.

The reason behind the lacklustre performance is that the labour ministry has yet to finalise a list of workers eligible for the benefit, sources said.

Goutom Kumar, director general of the Department of Labour, said only the workers who were laid off from export-oriented garment and leather factories during the shutdown of the economy in 2020 and 2021 are eligible for the support.

It is difficult to find such workers, he said, adding that the workers of other sectors like transport should also be eligible.

Seven other stimulus schemes launched in 2020 have seen little progress.

The government released a total of 14 stimulus schemes of Tk 15,279 crore in 2020 and 2021. According to the finance ministry review of November last year, 60 percent of the money has been spent.

FOOD PROGRAMMES

In 2020, the government took up a Tk 2,500 crore scheme to distribute food among the poor people for free from April-June.

Less than one-third of the money was spent for what officials said was the lack of a list of people eligible for the benefit.

However, funds allocated for the Open Market Sales programme, which sells essential food items at lower prices, were properly utilised.

Another Tk 770 crore package to sell rice at Tk 10 a kg was also utilised properly.

CASH SUPPORT

In 2020, the government planned to give cash support to 50 lakh labourers, farmers, house staff, transport workers, and teachers of schools

➔ Tk 1,500cr Covid stimulus for laid-off workers

➔ Tk 8cr spent as officials lack data on beneficiaries

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



Vehicles, including garbage trucks of Dhaka South City Corporation, parked illegally next to a ramp of the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital's Sayedabad yesterday. The DSCC has space for parking on its office premises nearby but doesn't seem to be using it.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

IGP cancels Germany trip amid uproar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

IGP Benazir Ahmed has cancelled his trip to Germany planned for this month amid a controversy over the visit regarding "procurement of one lakh pieces of bedsheets and pillow covers for the force".

Md Kamruzzaman, assistant inspector general of police at the Police Headquarters, said this to The Daily Star yesterday.

"We wrote to the home ministry on Monday seeking cancellation of the government order [GO] as it mentioned pre-shipment inspection of bedsheets and pillow covers as the reason for the trip," he said.

On Wednesday, the PHQ in a press release sought to clarify the reason for the cancellation, but did not mention about its letter to the home ministry.

The release said false and misleading information was spread on social media recently stating that the inspector general of police would visit Germany to buy one lakh bedsheets from there for the police force.

"A quarter is trying to tarnish the image of the police force by spreading rumors on social media intentionally due to an inadvertent linguistic confusion created by the home ministry's order," it added.

On February 7, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

WATER PROJECT AWAITING REVISION

Officials 'not involved', yet they travelled abroad

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Three government officials toured abroad this month using funds from a water development board project in Cox's Bazar, although none of them was directly associated with the work.

The "experience sharing visit" took place at a time when the project

expired its tenure and is currently awaiting approval for revisions in its deadline and costs.

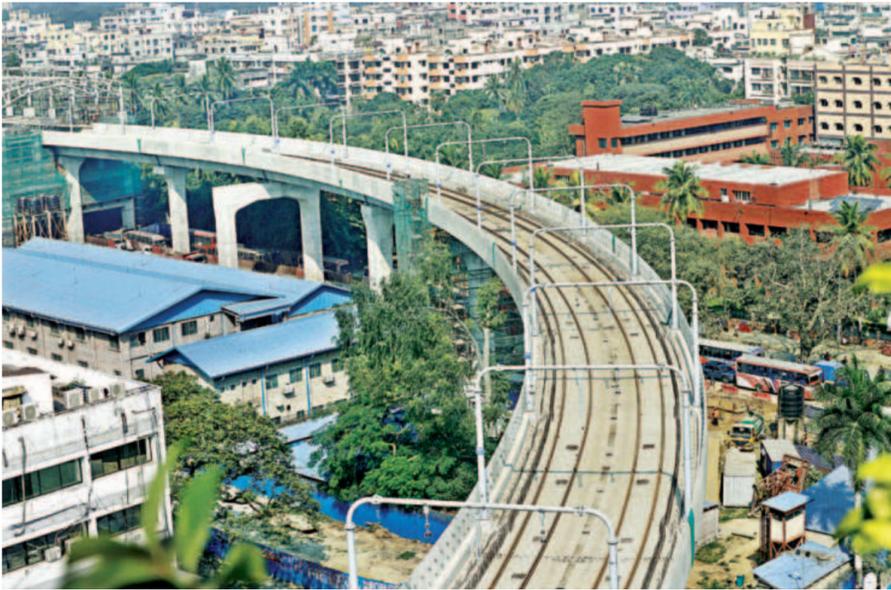
Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) took up the project four years ago to reconstruct a dyke spanning Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas. The work was supposed to be over by June last year.

After the deadline could not

be met, project officials sought additional time and a 349 percent raise in the costs, which were initially Tk 141 crore.

The planning ministry later formed a committee. Its members visited the project site and met the project officials on several occasions. Then on January 31, the Project Evaluation

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Metro rail authorities have started installing rail lines in the capital's Farmgate area. The trains are expected to be running commercially between Uttara and Agargaon from December. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Ensure pension for all above 60 PM directs authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to set up a universal pension scheme for people aged above 60 and also for those who worked in the informal sector.

The pension scheme was in the election manifesto of the ruling Awami League.

The PM gave the directive while witnessing a presentation on "Introduction of Universal Pension Scheme" at the Gono Bhaban, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, the Finance Division of the finance ministry in a press release yesterday said the PM instructed the division to enact a law on an urgent basis to introduce the scheme.

Finance Division Senior Secretary Abdur Rouf Talukder made the presentation on the strategic paper of the



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Secondary schools, colleges to reopen on February 22

Both vaccine doses required to attend class; primary schools may follow suit 2 weeks later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In-person classes will resume partially in secondary schools and colleges on February 22, and only students with two doses of Covid-19 vaccines will be allowed in classrooms.

The authorities hoped they would be able to resume in-person classes at primary schools within two weeks after February 22, as the Covid-19 infection rate is declining significantly.

In addition, universities will be able take their own decision regarding reopening as well.

"Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed strictly when in-person classes begin," Education Minister Dipu Moni said at a press conference at the Secretariat yesterday. Zakir Hossen, state minister for Primary and Mass Education also attended the conference.

Dipu Moni also said that students with only one dose of vaccine will have to attend online or TV classes, adding that she hopes they will all receive the second dose by February 22.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

WHERE SKY IS THE LIMIT



RK SQUARE
GULSHAN SOUTH AVENUE

© 16677

RK Square, at Gulshan South Avenue, developed its design on the pillars of employee wellbeing. As the city's future thriving business center, it will feature business centers of 4000 sqft, gym, sauna, infinity pool, food court, drop off point, separate entrance and exit, automated parking, sky deck at different levels, double glazed windows, and many other modern amenities. This is why, at RK Square, the sky is the limit.

RANGS
PROPERTIES
A RANCON COMPANY

QUESTIONING CHARACTER

Amendment to the provision on rape victims placed to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has prepared the draft of the amendment to a provision of the Evidence Act that allows questioning the character of rape victims in court.

During the hearing of a writ petition, Deputy Attorney General Samarendra Nath Biswas yesterday placed the draft copy before the High Court bench of Justice Farah Mahubb and Justice SM Maniruzzaman.

The bench fixed February 20 for hearing and passing an order.

On November 16, another HC bench wanted to know what steps the government has taken to repeal section 155(4) of the Evidence Act, 1872.

Section 155(4) of the act says, "When a man is prosecuted for rape or an attempt to ravish, it may be shown that the prosecutrix was of generally immoral character."

On November 14 last year, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Ain o Salish Kendra and Nari Pakkho submitted the petition.

It's not rocket science Govt cancels foreign trip of 30 officials wishing to 'learn silo building'

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The Planning Commission has turned down a proposal for allocating Tk 2.70 crore for foreign trips of 30 officials for training on building food warehouses across the country under a project of the food ministry.

Slamming the proposal at a meeting of the Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) on Tuesday, the commission said the trips were "unnecessary" and technologies were already available in the country for construction of such warehouses.

The food ministry earlier sent a project proposal to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) to build 196 food warehouses at a cost of Tk 693 crore.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Planning Commission member Begum Sharifa Khan said, "It's not rocket science. They should understand how the temperature is maintained in warehouses for preserving cereals."

Sharifa, who chaired the meeting, said they have directed the authorities to cut the proposals on foreign trips.

Currently, the country has six silos, 12 CSDs (Central Supply Depot) and 635 LSDs (Local Supply Depot) under the food department.



Visitors to Amar Ekushey Boi Mela resting on benches at the Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. On the first day -- February 15 -- the book fair saw only a few visitors, but the number has been increasing over the last two days. Publishers hope the sale of books will rise with the fair gaining momentum.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

Cases filed mostly out of political motivation

Speakers tell webinar; 9.25 percent complaints against journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists and citizens from various walks of society were victimised the most by the Digital Security Act 2018 for voicing their opinions on digital platforms, speakers said at a webinar yesterday.

According to a study of the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), who hosted the webinar, journalists were accused in 9.25 percent of all DSA cases from January 1, 2020, to January 30, 2022.

CGS Executive Director Zillur Rahman, who moderated the webinar, said the number of journalists arrested is disproportionately higher compared to the total number of arrestees.

The analysis also stated that most of the complaints were not filed by those affected directly and instead by politically motivated people.

The DSA has numerous issues, such as the punishment stipulated in the clauses being disproportionate to the crime and how no warrant is required to make arrests under the act, and is in need

of immediate reform, the speakers said.

CGS Chairman Monjur Ahmed Choudhury said Bangladesh's cyberspace is becoming a dangerous minefield, where people are wary of speaking their minds.

However, SM Rezaul Karim, minister of fisheries and livestock, opined the country needs such a law to prevent crimes occurring in the virtual world, adding the DSA is not making people fearful of posting their opinions online.

The minister stated that this act is the only one capable of deterring and punishing defamation on digital platforms and he himself was a victim of online harassment.

But he also agreed that the clauses being abused need to be investigated.

Shirin Akhter, lawmaker and the general secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said the DSA should not be abolished, but its loopholes need to be identified.

She said the cases have some non-bailable offences, which should be reformed.

"The DSA is not being used to

punish every government critic, and journalists should not be afraid of writing the truth."

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said the act's clauses are essentially divided into two parts--one is more technical and protects against computer-related offences such as hacking, while the second and more controversial part are the clauses that punish "speech offences".

He said the clauses related to speech offence need to be re-examined as the wordings are too vague and broad, making them prone to misinterpretation.

Jyotirmoy Barua said most of the cases under the DSA are being filed by third parties, not the claimants.

"However, this goes against the existing criminal law policy, where it is stated that defamation cases need to be filed by a claimant."

Zahirul Alam, Head of News of television channel NTV, and former DUCSU VP Nurul Haque Nur also spoke at the event titled "The Digital Security Act 2018: Who are the Real Victims?"

Ensure pension

FROM PAGE 1

"Universal Pension Scheme" before the PM.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Planning Minister MA Mannan, PM's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus, senior secretaries and secretaries concerned, among others, were present.

The PM gave directives to officials regarding the strategic paper prepared based on international experience, context of Bangladesh and its economic capacity, the release said.

Finance ministry sources said the World Bank provided financial assistance to conduct the preparatory

work on the scheme. A technical unit under the supervision of the Finance Division has been working now in this regard.

According to the strategic paper, a universal pension authority will be created, said sources.

The government plans to launch the scheme for workers and employees of the institutional sectors on a pilot basis initially, they added.

To implement the scheme, the government will create a fund with contributions from the institutions concerned and respective beneficiaries.

Secondary schools

FROM PAGE 1

The decision was taken following the recommendations of The National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19 and directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she said.

There are 1.28 crore students from grades six to 12. About 1.27 crore already have received the first vaccine dose and 34 lakh have received the second.

The minister added that the government also has plans to bring students aged below 12 under the vaccination campaign.

Once classes resume for 2022, SSC candidates will need to attend four classes

and students of grade 10 three classes a week. Students from grades eight and nine will attend three classes twice a week and sixth and seventh graders three classes once a week.

Educational institutions were shut from March 17, 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resumed partially on September 12 last year.

This was one of the longest school closures -- 543 days -- in the world.

Following a sharp rise in Covid transmission, the government again shut down all schools and colleges for two weeks from January 21. The closure was later extended till February 21.

Officials 'not involved'

FROM PAGE 1

Committee of the ministry prepared a revision proposal, stating that the BWDB should keep the costs under Tk 415.88 crore. It also recommended an extension of one year, said project officials.

The revision proposal waits to be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) for approval, they also said.

In such a situation, the water resources ministry issued an order on November 18 last year, saying Senior Secretary Kabir Bin Anwar of the ministry, his Personal Secretary SM Azharul Islam, and BWDB Superintendent Engineer for Sylhet Division Probrir Kumar Goshwami would travel to the UK and the USA on an "experience sharing visit".

They flew sometime before February 5 and have already returned.

The secretary took his wife and son along. According to the order, the costs for the two's visit would be borne by the secretary.

Of the three officials, only Probrir was associated with the project, project officials told The Daily Star a couple of days ago.

Probrir was one of the supervisors when he was the executive engineer of BWDB in Cox's Bazar. He was promoted last month and posted in Sylhet, they said.

Contacted, Probrir said, "It's true that the revision proposal is yet to get Ecneec

approval, but the project evaluation committee [of the planning ministry] has already completed the evaluation. I was working in Cox's Bazar when the government order was issued. I was involved in all three phases of the project, including planning, design and execution."

Replying to a question, he said, "It's not like that I won't use the experience I gathered from the visit elsewhere."

Kabir Bin Anwar claimed he only visited the UK.

Talking over the phone last night, he said they went to Birmingham [City] University's water resources related department where they attended training sessions and classes, and visited labs to learn how to maintain water quality and build harbours.

"We also attended a programme at the Bangladesh high commission in the UK. There, we sought investments for the government's Delta Plan campaign," he said.

Asked about using the project funds for their visit, he said, "In government projects, funds are set aside for such tours for experience gathering."

When queried if they could use the funds of a project that is awaiting approval of its revision, he said, "It's an ongoing project, which has already been passed ... Look into the matter properly."

Contacted for his comment over phone, Kabir's PSSM Azharul Islam

told these correspondents to meet him at his office on Sunday.

One of the project officials said sending three officials on the trip was nothing but a waste of public money. "What can a secretary, his PS, and a former executive engineer do for the project? Someone relevant should have been sent instead."

A planning ministry official, involved in the project evaluation, said, "Spending money from the funds of a project whose tenure has expired is against the financial disciplines."

State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam said, "Rules vary from project to project. I need to go through the relevant papers before making any comments here."

THE PROJECT
The project, titled "Rehabilitation of Polders 67/A, 67, 67/B and 68 on the Naf river for strengthening security along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Ukhiya and Teknaf, was initiated in 2018.

On January 23 that year, an Ecneec meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, approved the project at an estimated cost of Tk 141.65 crore and set June 2020 as the deadline.

Later, the ministry extended the time till June last year, according to a gazette from the water resources ministry.

The gazette, signed by Md Siddiqur Rahman, senior assistant chief of

planning division under the ministry, said the time was extended on the condition that the work must be completed within that deadline.

But it did not happen.

On May 25 last year, project officials proposed the planning ministry raise the costs to Tk 636.24 crore.

A member of a ministry team, which visited the project site, said there is a Pakistan-era dyke, which needs reconstruction.

"The dyke was widen with the project funds. Now some sluice gates need to be installed. They haven't spent the entire money," he said.

He also said the time and the costs should increase as project officials have to build additional structures for completing the work.

According to the project evaluation committee's recommendation, the project should include bituminous carpeting on the dam, more sluice gates, and acquiring 18 hectares of additional land.

Cox's Bazar BWDB Executive Engineer Tanjir Saif Ahmed said they would submit a proposal soon seeking a time extension till June next year.

He could not say anything about the progress in the project.

Probrir Kumar Goshwami claimed that they had already completed constructing 35km of the dyke. Construction of the rest 16km saw nearly 60 percent progress, he claimed further.

PM to hand over Ekushey Padak on Sunday

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over the Ekushey Padak-2022 to 24 eminent persons on Sunday on the occasion of the Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day.

Joining a programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium virtually from the Gono Bhaban, the PM will hand over the award, the second highest civilian award in Bangladesh.

On February 3, the government announced the names of 24 eminent persons for the award for their outstanding contributions to respective fields.

This year, two persons won the award in Language Movement category, four in Liberation War, seven in Shilpakala (art, music and dance), two in social service, two in language and literature, four in research and one each in journalism, science and technology, and education.

Minor girl raped in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

A sixth grader was raped allegedly by a youth in her house in Chattogram city Wednesday night.

Police were yet to arrest accused Dipu Das, 19. The girl was sent to Chattogram Medical Hospital for tests, said police.

Following the incident, the victim's mother filed a case against Dipu with Pahartali Police Station.

According to the case statement, the accused entered the house in Uttar Kattoli area when the girl was sleeping around 9:00pm and raped her. As the girl started screaming, the accused fled.

Indian girl held for trespassing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police detained an Indian girl from Panchagarh's Tentulia yesterday for entering Bangladesh illegally.

Khusnana, 17, from Uttar Dinajpur district of India's West Bengal, reached there after crossing the Mahananda river.

Quoting locals, Abu Sayem Mia, officer-in-charge of Tentulia Police Station, said the girl entered Bangladesh after developing a relationship with a Bangladeshi youth who was in India several years ago.

The OC added that they were trying to send the girl to India through Border Guard Bangladesh.

Road crash claims two lives in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed after a vehicle hit a motorcycle near Dhaka airport early yesterday.

The victims are Rafiqul Islam Sumon, 40, a ride-sharing biker, and his pillow rider Kajol Akhter, 35, a restaurant employee.

The two died on the spot after an unidentified vehicle hit the motorcycle around 3:00am, said Jewel Mia, sub-inspector of Airport Police Station.

Only 0.5pc

FROM PAGE 1

and madrasas that are not covered under the government's MPO scheme.

Each beneficiary was supposed to get a one-time Tk 2,500 from the Tk 1,258 crore fund. On paper, the officials could disburse Tk 879.58 crore among 34 lakh people. But in reality, about 30 lakh received the money, said finance ministry officials.

In 2021, the government allocated Tk 830 crore for the same 30 lakh individuals. Tk 775 crore was spent from the funds.

INCENTIVES FOR

HEALTH WORKERS

In July 2020, the Health Services Division of health ministry launched a Tk 138 crore programme to provide two months' worth of basic salary to health workers who directly treat Covid patients. Tk 130 crore was spent as of November and the programme is still continuing.

Another Tk 750 crore was allocated for families of government officials dying with symptoms of Covid-19. At least Tk 91 crore had to be spent from this fund.

IGP cancels

FROM PAGE 1

ministry issued the order sanctioning a nine-day visit to Germany anytime between February 2 and 28.

According to the order, the delegation would visit the European country to "participate in the Factory Acceptance Test [FAT]" relating to shipment of one lakh pieces of bedsheets with pillow covers (double).

The order drew criticism from different quarters.

Earlier, AIG Kamruzzaman had said the delegation, led by the IGP, was to visit Germany to assess the dye to be used in the bedsheets and pillow covers which would be produced locally.

As per the tender specification, the local company has to use quality dye from a European country and a team will travel there to assess the quality of that dye, he said.

"Since it involves a huge amount of money, the IGP sir himself will visit Germany to assess the

quality," he told The Daily Star previously.

The PHQ release said in fact police are not buying bedsheets with pillow covers from Germany which does not produce and export bedsheets. It is rather a country of heavy industries.

Stating that the IGP has no reason for going to Germany to buy bedsheets and pillow covers, the release said as per the Public Procurement Rules a government procurement official cannot purchase or collect public goods like personal items visiting any market or country. There is a government procurement process in this regard, it said.

The statement said Bangladesh Police always purchase bedsheets and pillow covers made by local manufacturers through local tenders. This year too, the police have taken steps to buy bedsheets and pillow covers made in Bangladesh through local tenders.

Pak struggles to quell violence on its Afghan border

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's military has stepped up operations along the Afghan border in recent weeks after a spate of militant attacks that has dashed any hope the frontier might see more peace and stability.



There's a book for everyone

DIPAN NANDY

Boi Mela is an open invitation to all. It's not just a mere book fair, rather it's a cultural phenomenon – where people of all ages spend the day with their loved ones, hopping from one book stall to another.

It's a festivity where children are introduced to their parent's favourite reads amidst their own preferences and adults get to reminisce their yesteryears, when they too visited the fair to get their hands on books written by their beloved writers.

And this year's congregation of book-lovers is no different.

Rabbi Hossain, who came to the fair from Bakshibazar, said, "I thought this time the fair will not take place. But I'm glad it did. I'm collecting catalogues of different publications for now, and I'll buy books later." Shakib and Rasna were buying books while standing in front of Seba Prakashani. They like Masud Rana and Tin Goyenda series.

Rasna said, "Coming to the fair, for me means buying books from Seba. I've bought three volumes of Masud Rana and Tin Goyenda."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Hailing from Tejgaon, when hawker Milon couldn't afford a space to set up shop, he didn't lose hope. For earning a living, he chose an innovative alternative -- a mobile shop for household items on a bicycle. For six years, Milon has been running his business, travelling from place to place on his trusty steed, and making sales worth Tk 2,000-2,500 -- on which his family of five survive. This photo was taken from Hatirjheel area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GANG-RAPE OF TEENAGER 3 including prime accused held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers yesterday detained three youths, including the prime accused, in a case filed over abduction and gang-rape of a teenager in Dhaka's Lalbagh area.

Based on the victim's complaint, a Rab team first detained prime accused Monir Hossain Shuvo (22), a third-year BBA student, from Lalbagh, said Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's media wing director, during a press briefing.

The other accused -- Al-Amin alias Billal and Sabuj -- were detained by police from Mugda, said Inspector (operations) Enamul Haque of Hazaribagh Police Station.

Quoting Shuvo, the Rab media director said he was introduced to the girl a month ago through a friend.

They met several times afterwards. They met on February 12 and stayed together till February 16, he said.

Shuvo denied the abduction and rape allegations.

During primary investigation, police got to know from the other two accused that Shuvo and Al-Amin raped the girl after sedating her, while Sabuj tortured her.

On Wednesday afternoon, she was dumped near Raju memorial sculpture at Dhaka University. A pedestrian rescued and took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the evening.

She is being treated at the hospital's one-stop crisis centre. Her medical test was conducted yesterday.

According to the victim, Shuvo used to make advances on her. When she refused his advances, Shuvo and Al-Amin picked her up on February 12 morning when she went out.

She was then taken to an unknown place where they, with two others, drugged and raped her in phases for four days, police told this correspondent, said quoting the victim.

Quoting her mother, Moktaruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Hazaribagh Police Station, said the girl came to Sadarghat from Patuakhali on February 12 when Shuvo received and took her to a friend's house, where they raped her.

The OC also mentioned that the family could not confirm whether the girl, aged around 18, was a school or college student.

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PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 18



| | Fazr | Juma | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Azan | 5-20 | 12-30 | 4-30 | 6-03 | 7-30 |
| Jamaat | 5-55 | 1-15 | 4-45 | 6-07 | 8-00 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Youth held for blackmailing over 100 women: Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab claimed to have arrested a youth on charge of blackmailing over 100 women by secretly recording videos of them in name of virtual medical tests for employment.

Al Fahad (19) was arrested from Dhaka's Norda area on Wednesday night after several victims complained to Rab, said Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's Legal and Media wing director.

During primary interrogation, Fahad admitted to the crime, he told a press briefing at Rab media centre yesterday.

He said Fahad ran advertisements for "lucrative jobs" on social media and charged

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Traffic gridlocks are so common in Dhaka, that they have become a characteristic of the city. Although roads are busier on Thursday, the last working day of the week, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani was completely blocked for hours yesterday as the construction of a U-loop, meant to ease vehicular movement, narrowed the width of the busy road.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

1 in 5 adult Rohingyas infected with hepatitis C

Finds study on refugees in Cox's Bazar

NILIMA JAHAN

A recent study on the prevalence of Hepatitis B and C virus among the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar has found that more than one in five Rohingya adults have hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

The study titled, "High Prevalence of Hepatitis B and C Virus Infections Among Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: A Growing Concern for the Refugees and the Host Communities", was published on the last week of January in Clinical Liver Disease, the journal of the American



There is an immediate need for well-organised studies to assess the causes and risk for viral transmission and the capacity of health systems in the camps to deliver preventive, care, and treatment services.

DR MOHAMMAD ALI
NLFB founder who led the study

Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

The study was conducted by the National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh (NLFB).

"The consequences of this high prevalence have been silently causing liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver failure," said Dr Mohammad Ali, a liver surgeon and NLFB founder who led the study.

According to the study, hepatitis C was found in 26 percent females and 18 percent males, while eight percent of pregnant female refugees were found to be HCV positive.

It also mentioned that HCV is 18 times higher among the Rohingya refugees than Bangladeshis.

NLFB conducted two studies on the prevalence of hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) among the Rohingya refugees.

PREVALENCE OF HCV, HBV AMONG ROHINGYA REFUGEES

| HCV | HBV |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 26pc among females | 5pc among females |
| 18pc among males | 9pc among males |
| 8pc among pregnant women | 3pc among pregnant women |

The first one was conducted on pregnant women in 2017 and the second on general Rohingya refugees in 2019 in Cox's Bazar.

A total of 300 pregnant refugees and 2,000 refugees in general in the camps, respectively, were tested during the study.

Apart from hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B was found in nine percent male, five percent female, and three percent pregnant female refugees.

Among all age groups, HCV was found in 11 percent of refugees, while the percentage of HBV was four percent.

According to Dr Ali, who is also the first liver transplant surgeon in Bangladesh, "HBV affected pregnant women unknowingly transmit the virus to their newborns, the most common mode of HBV transmission."

"The masses suffer silently with HBV and HCV in addition to their other health problems. They are also potential threats for the host community," he explained.

Dr Ali has been recognised as one of sixth hepatitis "elimination champions" last July by the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination, for making significant contributions toward ending the condition globally.

There is an immediate need for well-organised studies to assess the causes and risk for viral transmission and the capacity of health systems in the camps to deliver preventive, care, and treatment services, he stressed.

Be completely transparent Shujan urges search committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizens' platform Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) yesterday urged the search committee to work with full transparency by making public the names of the political parties and their proposed individuals for the roles of new chief election commissioners and other ECs respectively.

In a virtual press conference, Shujan came up with the call with a four-point demand to make the process of appointing the new election commissioners transparent. Shujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar read out a written statement in this regard.

"We thank the search committee for



We thank the search committee for publishing the proposed names for CEC and other ECs by different political parties. However, half disclosure doesn't ascertain full transparency.

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR
Shujan Secretary

publishing the proposed names for CEC and other ECs by different political parties. However, half disclosure doesn't ascertain full transparency," he said.

Eminent jurist Shahdin Malik said their key target is a fair election in the country, for which they want a competent EC, unlike previous ones.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said people's constitutional rights were curbed during the previous two elections, underlining the necessity to constitute the EC with much caution this time.

M Hafiz Uddin Khan, president of Shujan, said he believes that there is a necessity for a caretaker government. "I don't think the government would restore it but we can advance the mission to form an Election Commission with transparency."

TAQI MURDER 5 accused appear before court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj



Five accused in the murder case of teenager Tanwir Muhammad Taqi appeared before a Narayanganj court yesterday.

But Rab, the case's investigation agency, did not submit its probe report on the day. The accused are Rifat Bin Osman, Sultan Shawkat alias Bhromor, Yusuf Hossain Liton, Saleh Rahman Simanto and

Tayeuddin Ahmed Jacki. They are currently on bail. Senior Magistrate Nushrat Sahara Bithi fixed March 22 for the next hearing.

Prosecution lawyer Pradeep Kumar Ghosh said, "The court did not set any deadline for completing the case's investigation. That is why Rab keeps saying that it is still continuing the investigation."

Seventeen-year-old Taqi went missing on March 6, 2013. His body was found floating in the Shitalakkhya on March 8 that year. Eight prime accused are still on the run, and the rest five were arrested. Even after eight years, Rab is yet to submit the case's charge sheet.

Enhancing people-to- people ties Bangladesh-India friendship dialogue begins in Shimla

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue begins in Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh of India, today to improve the people-to-people connectivity and ignite the spirit of Liberation War as the two nations celebrate the 50 years of diplomatic relations.

Leading political figures, diplomats and civil society members from both the countries will participate in the 10th round of the dialogue aimed at deepening understanding of the bilateral relation, which was based on secularism, democracy and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Climate change holding back GDP, rice production

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change can reduce overall rice production by an average of 7.4 percent annually, while the country faces a loss of around 1.5 percent of GDP due to natural disasters and climate-related hazards, said speakers in a discussion yesterday.

The discussion was part of the virtual launching programme of "Climate and Disaster Risk Atlas", developed with the help of Asian Development Bank.

The project was implemented by Programming Division at Bangladesh Planning Commission, under supervision of Dr Nurun Nahar, the division's joint chief.

In her presentation, Dr Nahar said the atlas has 207 maps and shows impacts of 10 hazards like cyclones, droughts and floods in different regions.

Manmohan Parkash, deputy director general of ADB; Planning Minister Abdul Mannan; Dr Shamsul Alam, state minister of planning; and Kamrul Hasan, secretary at disaster management and relief ministry, spoke among others.

They said the atlas will help identify good projects that will be economically beneficial and assist in taking decisions for disaster risk mitigation.

It will also be a good guide for designing development projects.

In his speech, Edimon Ginting, country director of ADB Bangladesh, said climate change will be a key consideration in selecting projects to help Bangladesh.

Liping Zheng, advisor at ADB, introduced the project and delivered the closing remarks.

Dusty memoirs

FROM PAGE 5

after the shots were fired, Amir Ali, another person and I came back to Madhur Canteen and went straight to Capital Press. I wrote the leaflet, titled 'Fire on the orders of Minister Mofizuddin', proofed and got them printed. The press went all out to help us during those times. We went back to the university with almost 3,000 copies, and distributed them across Old Dhaka."

This correspondent

recently visited Capital Press, currently owned by Hanif Imam Khan Shaheen, youngest son of Ibrahim Khalil Khan. He said both his father and elder brother were involved in the movement.

"The Pakistan government issued warrants against them, after which they slowly had to curb their involvement." Though the press has lost its functionality, the family still holds on to it out of nostalgia and conviction.

Enhancing people

FROM PAGE 3

pluralism.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrir Alam will lead Bangladesh side, while India's State Minister for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh will lead Indian side at the dialogue jointly organised by Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies and India Foundation.

Awami League Presidium Member Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Cultural Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil, Deputy Minister for Education

Barrister Mohibul Hasan

Chowdhury, some other Awami League MPs, former foreign secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, former ambassador Tariq Karim, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta will also attend the dialogue.

This is a 1.5 level dialogue that involves both state and non-state actors.

"Its main objective is to enhance people to people cooperation," said Prof Atiur Rahman of development studies at Dhaka University and a researcher at Foundation for Regional Studies.

Youth held for blackmailing

FROM PAGE 3

Tk 350-500 as registration fee from interested individuals.

In the name of virtual medical test, due to the Covid-19 situation, he used to connect with female job seekers on video calls and talk to them pretending to be a woman, keeping his camera off.

Fahad stored photos and

video clips taken during the so-called "medical test" and later sent those to the women -- blackmailing them for money. He threatened to leak the photos and videos on social media, the Rab official said.

"Fahad has blackmailed over 100 women in last one and a half years," he said.

He used a number of fake IDs on social media

to engage in fraud and blackmailing. He first introduced himself as a top official of local and foreign organisations, and sometimes interviewed the job seekers as an admin officer.

He also pretended to be a doctor and recorded videos in the name of "virtual medical test", the Rab official said.

3 including

FROM PAGE 3

Family members of the victim filed the case with Lalbagh Police Station late last night, accusing the three arrestees, said MM Morshed, officer-in-charge of the police station. Asked about the delay in filing the case, the OC said it was delayed as they could not verify all the information provided by the victim about the time and place of the occurrence.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Community Participation and Development, in a press statement yesterday, condemned the incident.

FLAT SALE
An Exclusive apartment (South Facing) of 1545 sqft. with excellent finishing and high quality fitting and fixtures will be sold at Bashandhara R/A in Block-F, Dhaka.
Please Contact: 01730495868.

Stock lot Sale
100% Export Oriented Boys YD Short Sleeve Shirt. 4 Colors, Size range 5 to 16 Years, Total 8 Sizes. Fabrication 65% cotton 35% polyester poplin. Qty 2800 pcs. Very Attractive Price. Contact : Maitra - 01716802026

Flat for Sale at a Premium Location in Gulshan 1.

Specification

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2750 Square Feet | One Dining Room |
| Beside Gulshan Lake | One Servant Room with Attached bathroom |
| Four Bed Rooms | One Kitchen |
| Three Attached Bathroom | Two Garage Space |
| One Common Bathroom | Spacious Balcony |
| One Drawing Room | Spacious Lobby |
| One Living Room | |

CONTACT US:
+880 1713 045894

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Pirojpur PWD Division
District: Pirojpur
ee_perroj@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.7900.150.1.8.157 Date: 17-02-2022

e-Tender Notice
(Tender No. prj/pwd/D.C office thok-01, 02, 03/2021-22 and Nursing Thok-01, 02, 03, 04/2021-22)
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following works.

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Name of works | Procurement method | Tender last selling date & time | Tender last closing date & time | Tender opening date & time |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 | 647770 | Construction of internal drain of Pirojpur DC's office. | OTM | 03-Mar-2022 17:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm |
| 02 | 656616 | Construction of internal RCC road of Pirojpur DC's office | OTM | 03-Mar-2022 17:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm |
| 03 | 656619 | Renovation of three premises of Additional Deputy Commissioner and room of Nezarat Deputy Collector of Pirojpur district with modernization (interior design). | OTM | 03-Mar-2022 17:00PM | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm |
| 04 | 656620 | Renovation work including installation of Thai aluminum windows in the windows of Instructor Quarters of Pirojpur Nursing Institute | OTM | 03-Mar-2022 17:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm |
| 05 | 656621 | Laying of tiles in different rooms of Pirojpur Nursing Institute (Office Room, Computer Lab Room, Nursing Instructor Room, Nursing Instructor In Charge Room), Total 05. | OTM | 03-Mar-2022 17:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm |
| 06 | 656622 | Renovation work of Shaheed Minar of Pirojpur Nursing Institute. | OTM | 03-Mar-2022 17:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm |
| 07 | 656623 | Renovation work including laying of paving tiles on the inner road of Pirojpur Nursing Institute. | OTM | 03-Mar-2022 17:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm | 06-Mar-2022 12:00pm |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents form the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 06-Mar-2022 at 11:00am (ID-647770, 656616, 656619, 656621, 656622 & 656623). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

S.M. Towhidul Islam
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Pirojpur

GD-323

There's a book

FROM PAGE 3

"Readers have been coming in since day one, and sales haven't been bad either. However, we hope on Fridays and Saturdays both readership and sales will increase," said AKM Nasir Ahmed Selim, proprietor of Kakoli Prokashoni.

Almost all publishers like him are now awaiting the weekend. If the crowd increases, the sales increase - this is their expectation.

According to Bangla Academy, 41 new books were published on the third day of the fair. Among them are Nirmalendu Goon's "Ekushey February Bangabandhu Ebong Muktiyuddher Kabita" (Kothaparakash) and Al Masum's "Bhasan Char Shagore Nagar" (Agami).

Flat For Rent
A designer apartment of 1148 sq. ft with all modern facilities adjacent to Uttara Metro Rail Station of BTI Shophochura will be rented.
Contact - 01300890205.

FLAT FOR RENT
BARIDHARA DIPLOMATIC ZONE 3 (Three) BED, 2700 SFT, SOUTH EAST FACING, 1st FLOOR, MODERN INTERIOR DECORATION, FOREIGNERS PREFERABLE.
CONTACT: 0176685501

জমি বিক্রয়
ঢাকার ধান কেন্দ্র ১০০ ফুট মালিবাণ ভিআইটি রোডের সাথে ৫ (পাঁচ) কাঠা উত্তর পূর্বমুখী কর্তার বালিসিক জমি বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ:
ফোন : ০৯৬৬৬৭৬৪৪০০

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

পুট/জমি - ক্রয়/বিক্রয়
খানাপতি, কলাপান, উত্তর, পুরান, আমফানবন্দর, বঙ্গবন্ধু, রাজউকসকল (ট্রেডিং/জমি/মার্কেট) বিক্রয়ক্রয়র সাথে ক্রয়/বিক্রয় করি।
"AFFIX"
(Engineer Tusher)
01732561103, 01957557900

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন
সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
সুবর্ণ ভবন, এ/৪, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৬

স্মারক নং-৪১.০২.০০০০.০২০.৬৮.০৬৮.২০১৬ (অংশ-১). ২২

০৬ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৮
১৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২২

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশনের আওতাধীন 'প্রতিবন্ধী সেবা ও সাহায্য কেন্দ্র' শীর্ষক কর্মসূচির আওতায় নিম্নোক্ত পদসমূহে চলমান কর্মসূচির জন্য সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রতিটি পদের পার্শ্বে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি উল্লেখ করা হলোঃ

| ক্রমিক | পদের নাম | পদ সংখ্যা | | মাসিক বেতন-ভাতা (সাকুল্য) | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা | যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই (প্রতিবন্ধী ব্যক্তিদের জন্য জেলা কোটা প্রযোজ্য নেই) |
|--------|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | সাধারণ কোটায় | মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটায় | | | |
| ১. | খোরাপি সহকারী | ৪ | ৮ | ১৭,৬৫০/- (গ্রেড ১৩তম) | বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এইচএসসি/সমমানসহ Community Handicap and Disability Resource Person (CHDRP) কোর্সে সম্পন্ন হতে হবে। বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এসএসসি/সমমানসহ ডিপ্লোমা ইন ফিজিওথেরাপি কোর্সধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে কোন পর্যায়ে তৃতীয় শ্রেণী/বিভাগ (জিপিএ ২.৫ এর নিম্নে নহে) গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। | মানিকগঞ্জ, গোপালগঞ্জ, মাদারীপুর, টাঙ্গাইল, শয়মনসিংহ, জামালপুর, নেত্রকোণা, শেরপুর, চাঁদপুর, রাজশাহী, সিরাজগঞ্জ, নওগাঁ, নাটোর, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ, বগুড়া, রংপুর, গাইবান্ধা, লালমনিরহাট, নীলফামারী, পঞ্চগড়, ঠাকুরগাঁও, খুলনা, মাগুরা, নড়াইল, বাগেরহাট, সাতক্ষীরা, কুষ্টিয়া, মেহেরপুর, বরিশাল, ভোলা, কালকান্দি, পিরোজপুর, বরগুনা, পটুয়াখালী। |
| ২. | টেকনিশিয়ান-১ | ৩ | - | ১৭,৬৫০/- (গ্রেড ১৩তম) | বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এইচএসসি/সমমান পাশ। অডিওমেট্রি বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমা/ সার্টিফিকেট কোর্সধারী প্রার্থীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে কোন পর্যায়ে তৃতীয় শ্রেণী/বিভাগ (জিপিএ ২.৫ এর নিম্নে নহে) গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। | |
| ৩. | টেকনিশিয়ান-২ | ৩ | - | ১৭,৬৫০/- (গ্রেড ১৩তম) | বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে এইচএসসি/সমমান পাশ। অপটোমেট্রি বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমা/ সার্টিফিকেট কোর্সধারী প্রার্থীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে কোন পর্যায়ে তৃতীয় শ্রেণী/বিভাগ (জিপিএ ২.৫ এর নিম্নে নহে) গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। | |
| ৪. | অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক | ৫ | - | ১৫,৬৫০/- (গ্রেড ১৬তম) | স্নাতক/সমমান ডিগ্রিধারী। কম্পিউটার ডাটা এন্ট্রি, এমএসওয়ার্ড ও এক্সেল এ দক্ষতার সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে। | |
| ৫. | স্টাফ | ৫ | - | ১৪,৪৫০/- (গ্রেড ২০তম) | এসএসসি/সমমান পাশ। | মুন্সিগঞ্জ, ফরিদপুর, রাজবাড়ী, শরিয়তপুর, জামালপুর, নেত্রকোণা, বাপারবাড়ী, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ী, কুমিল্লা, খাগড়াছড়ি, রাঙ্গামাটি, রাজশাহী, সিরাজগঞ্জ, নওগাঁ, নাটোর, বগুড়া, রংপুর, দিনাজপুর, কুড়িগ্রাম, লালমনিরহাট, নীলফামারী, পঞ্চগড়, ঠাকুরগাঁও, খুলনা, ঝিনাইদহ, মাগুরা, নড়াইল, বাগেরহাট, সাতক্ষীরা, চুয়াডাঙ্গা, কুষ্টিয়া, মেহেরপুর, বরিশাল, ভোলা, কালকান্দি, পিরোজপুর, বরগুনা, পটুয়াখালী, হবিগঞ্জ। |
| ৬. | গার্ড | ৪ | - | ১৪,৪৫০/- (গ্রেড ২০তম) | এসএসসি/সমমান পাশ। | |

প্রার্থীদের জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশনের ওয়েবসাইট (www.jpuf.gov.bd) থেকে সরকার নির্ধারিত চাকরির আবেদন ফরম ডাউনলোড করে আবেদন করতে হবে।

শর্তাবলী:

- সকল পদে ৩১-০৩-২০২২ তারিখে বয়স ১৮ থেকে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং প্রতিবন্ধী ব্যক্তিদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা বা মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে তার প্রমাণক হিসেবে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সনদপত্র ১ম শ্রেণীর পেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে তার প্রমাণক হিসেবে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দার প্রমাণপত্র হিসেবে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (যদি থাকে) ১ম শ্রেণির পেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে;
- এতিম, প্রতিবন্ধী, ক্ষুদ্র-নৃ-গোষ্ঠী এবং আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা সদস্য প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- শূন্য পদ পূরণের কোটা সম্পর্কিত প্রচলিত সরকারি বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে প্রার্থীর নিজের নাম ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা সনদিত ১০ (দশ) টাকার অব্যবহৃত স্ট্যাম্পযুক্ত একট ৯" x ৪" সাইজের ফেরত খাম জমা দিতে হবে।
- সরকারি, আধাসরকারি বা স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরির প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে প্রথম শ্রেণীর পেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ৩(তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (যদি থাকে), নাগরিক সনদপত্র ও সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সনদপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র আগামী ৩১-০৩-২০২২ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ টার মধ্যে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন, সুবর্ণ ভবন, এ/৪, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৬ বরাবর পৌঁছাতে হবে। খামের উপর পদের নাম ও নিজ জেলার নাম লিখতে হবে। বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- নিয়োগের ব্যাপারে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। কোন প্রকার আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের কারণে কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ প্রদানে কিংবা সকল আবেদনকারীকে লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে আহ্বান জানাতে বাধ্য থাকবে না।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তির পদের পদসংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীকে কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়ন এলাকায় প্রতিবন্ধী ব্যক্তিদের উন্নয়নে অথবা কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশের যেকোন এলাকায় কাজ করতে হবে।
- আবেদনের সাথে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার অফেরৎযোগ্য পোস্টাল অর্ডার, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন, ঢাকা বরাবর প্রদান করতে হবে।
- দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের বিধি মোতাবেক মূলিলেখক নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদান করা হবে।
- শুধুমাত্র প্রাথমিকভাবে বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের লিখিত/ব্যবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আহ্বান করা হবে।
- একই প্রার্থী একাধিক পদে আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।
- নির্বাচিত হলে চাকরিতে যোগদানের পূর্বে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা মূল্যের ননজুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পে কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে চুক্তি সম্পাদন করতে হবে।
- আবেদনে প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য অসত্য/বৃটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ/ভ্রূষা প্রমাণিত হলে তার দরখাস্ত/নির্বাচন বা নিয়োগ সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য www.jpuf.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।
- নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টি.এ/ডি.এ প্রদান করা হবে না।

(প্রভাষ চন্দ্র রায়) ১৬/০২/২০২২
(যুগ্মসচিব),
পরিচালক (পেরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন)
ও সদস্য-সচিব
জনবল নিয়োগ কমিটি

GD-320

ROAD ACCIDENT
Ctg doctor succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Samina Akter, who was undergoing treatment in ICU at Chattogram Medical College Hospital following a road accident on Tuesday, succumbed to her injuries yesterday.

The 40-year-old was critically injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw hit a rickshaw carrying her at the city's Kazir Dewri.

Samina, mother of a son and a daughter, worked as a medical officer at Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital, said her niece Nanziba.



Capital Press stands as a worn-down establishment at the old town's Begumbazar, bearing the stories of the glorious and tumultuous times of the Language Movement.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CMP opens service centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) introduced "CMP Service Centre" in the port city's Agrabad yesterday morning.

CMP Commissioner Saleh Mohammad Tanvir inaugurated it in front of Sonali Bank Agrabad Corporate Branch of Kadamtali under Double Mooring Police Station.

At the centre, people of any police stations under CMP can file general diary (GD) for missing documents and mobiles and pay traffic fines from any traffic zones from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Documents of seized vehicles will also be delivered from the service centre.

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 six, we take you to Capital Press and Pioneer Press, the major publishing presses for the movement.

Dusty memoirs of history

A rusted Capital Press still stands, while Pioneer Press has been lost to time

DIPAN NANDY

Capital Press and Pioneer Press – two names that carry significant historical value when it comes to the Language Movement. All major publications of the movement saw light from these two presses in the old town. The first leaflet of the movement got printed from Capital Press, while the first bulletin got printed from Pioneer.

They weren't just mere presses. They were also places for secret meetings for activists and believers of the cause.

However, nothing much remains of these old establishments to tell the tales of



glory. Capital still stands at Begumbazar, all worn down. Pioneer, which stood on the opposite alley of "Sawgat" headquarters in the old town's Patuatuli, was abolished some seven years ago.

A rusty signboard makes it even harder to find Capital at present. It's situated at 50-51, Begumbazar of Old Dhaka, which comes right after crossing the central jail.

Despite all the wearing out, successors of Ibrahim Khalil Khan, owner of Capital

and an earnest supporter of the movement, have held the fort.

"Capital Press was a regular hangout place for poets and writers. The press helped form the Language Movement for what it was, and I was a regular presence at those sessions," reads a memoir written by AM Golam Mustafa, a veteran of the movement.

Poet and activist Hasan Hafizur Rahman was prompt in publishing the first leaflet from Capital, right after the shooting on February 21, 1952.

Reminiscing this memory in a Bangla Academy publication, he wrote, "Right

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'Real life Bajranghi Bhaijaan'

Bangladeshi youth, lost in India, reunites with family

STAR REPORT

Liton Bhumij's family in Bangladesh had begun to lose hope of finding the 25-year-old with special needs, when an activist found him at a tea garden in Assam's Cachar – years after Liton accidentally entered Indian territory in 2017.

Sujan Debroy, the activist, said his friends in Bangladesh had posted Liton's pictures and details on social media. After finding Liton, he did a Facebook live to trace his family. Sujan managed to get in touch with the family three years back. But paperwork got delayed due to the pandemic and Liton was eventually sent home on Tuesday, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

"It took time to communicate with the immigration officials of both countries and suddenly the pandemic struck," said Sujan. He said the Bangladesh high commission completed formalities for Liton's return last week but it still was not easy. Sujan said they somehow convinced him to accompany them to the Sutarkandi border, where Liton's family received him.

Liton's teary-eyed mother, Reena, and brother,



Liton's family received him at Sutarkandi along the India-Bangladesh border.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Milon, identified him in the presence of security forces from the two countries before deportation. She said three years back, someone showed her a video of her son in India when they had lost all hope. Sujan said, "It felt like the movie 'Bajranghi Bhaijaan' when so many people through social media got involved and we finally managed to send the person back."

A video of the reunion went viral on social media. He recognised his mother but did not call her "Ma" and instead addressed her as his mother-in-law. He referred to his brother as a friend. The family is seen in the video laughing over it.

Punish polluters, river grabbers
Demand green activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Green activists in Habiganj yesterday demanded proper investigation and punishment of those involved in grabbing rivers and causing industrial pollution.

The demands were made at a roundtable, organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at Habiganj Town Hall to address the issue of industrial pollution in Habiganj.

Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) founder Dr Nazrul Islam said factories, set up for gas exploration, are polluting environment while river pollution continues unabated.

Besides environmentalists, teachers from different universities, social and political leaders, journalists and people from different walks of life participated in the event.

Bapa President Sultana Kamal said awareness is the key to save the environment and Habiganj rivers.

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bapa, said in the last few years, many small and big industries have sprung up in the vast areas of Madhabpur and Sadar upazilas of Habiganj. Industrial wastes from those are causing serious environmental pollution.

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

Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.002.2021-1930 Date: 16/02/2022

e-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No: 35/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

| Sl. No. | Package No. | Name of Works | Tender/ Proposal ID No. | Document last selling/ download- ing Date and Time | Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time | Method of Tender |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | SupRB/Cum/ Maint/21-22/W-248 | (1) Minor Maintenance of 420.00m long PC Girder Bridge on Homna-Gouripur R&H road to Manikarchar GC (upto Katpatti bazar) Road at Ch. 2620m (Road ID: 419542006) under Homna Upazila; (2) Minor Maintenance of 140.75m long RCC Girder Bridge on Dulapur GC-Ramkrishnapur-Ramchandrapur GC Road at Ch. 300m (Road ID: 419542004) under Homna Upazila; (3) Minor Maintenance of 8.80m long RCC Box Culvert on Nangalkot-Doulkhar-Boxganj Road at Ch. 6950m (Road ID: 419872001) under Nangalkot Upazila, District: Cumilla. | 658742 | 08-03-2022 17:00 pm | 09-03-2022 13:00 pm | OTM |
| 2. | SupRB/Cum/ Maint/21-22/W-249 | (1) Major Maintenance of 31.70m long RCC Girder Bridge on Madabpur RHD-Daulatpur RHD via Purbodir West UP Road at Ch. 265m (Road ID: 419813005); (2) Major Maintenance of 14.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Panuarpool RHD-Eliotgonj GC Road at Ch. 13093m (Road ID: 419812004); (3) Major Maintenance of 9.50m long Box Culvert on Panuarpool RHD-Eliotgonj GC Road at Ch. 17631m (Road ID: 419812004); (4) Major Maintenance of 12.60m long RCC Girder Bridge on Metongar R&H-Sreekail-Ramchandrapur GC Road at Ch. 2200m (Road ID: 419812005) & (5) Major Maintenance of 7.60m long RCC Girder Bridge on Metongar R&H-Sreekail-Ramchandrapur GC Road at Ch. 3700m (Road ID: 419812005) under Muradnagar Upazila, District: Cumilla. | 658743 | 08-03-2022 17:00 pm | 09-03-2022 13:00 pm | OTM |
| 3. | SupRB/Cum/ Maint/21-22/W-250 | (1) Major Maintenance of 8.90m long RCC Girder Bridge on Shahebabad GC-Kongsanagar GC via Ramnagar bazar Road (Brahmanpara part) at Ch. 815m (Road ID: 419152007); (2) Major Maintenance of 6.10m long Box Culvert on Shahebabad GC-Kongsanagar GC via Ramnagar bazar Road (Brahmanpara part) at Ch. 1287m (Road ID: 419152007); (3) Major Maintenance of 21.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Shahebabad GC-Kongsanagar GC via Ramnagar bazar Road (Brahmanpara part) at Ch. 2300m (Old Ch. 2957m) (Road ID: 419152007) & (4) Major Maintenance of 19.90m long Box Culvert on Shahebabad GC-Kongsanagar GC via Ramnagar bazar Road (Brahmanpara part) at Ch. 5030m (Old Ch.5151m) (Road ID: 419152007) under Brahmanpara Upazila, District: Cumilla. | 658744 | 08-03-2022 17:00 pm | 09-03-2022 13:10 pm | OTM |
| 4. | SupRB/Cum/ Maint/21-22/W-251 | (1) Major Maintenance of 40.60m long RCC Girder Bridge on Batakandi GC- Raipur NHW via Masimpur GC Road (Titas part) at Ch. 1793m (Road ID: 419892001); (2) Major Maintenance of 63.16m long RCC Girder Bridge on Batakandi GC- Raipur NHW via Masimpur GC Road (Titas part) at Ch. 3566m (Road ID: 419892001); (3) Major Maintenance of 59.90m long RCC Girder Bridge on Batakandi GC- Raipur NHW via Masimpur GC Road (Titas part) at Ch. 4354m (Road ID: 419892001); (4) Major Maintenance of 40.40m long RCC Girder Bridge on Batakandi GC-Daudkandi GC Via Mohanpur Launchghat Road (Titas Upazila Portion)(From RHD#191) at Ch. 3444m (Road ID: 419892002) & (5) Major Maintenance of 40.40m long RCC Girder Bridge on Batakandi GC-Daudkandi GC Via Mohanpur Launchghat Road (Titas Upazila Portion)(From RHD#191) at Ch. 6950m (Road ID: 419892002) & (6) Major Maintenance of 63.40m long RCC Girder Bridge on Batakandi GC-Daudkandi GC Via Mohanpur Launchghat Road (Titas Upazila Portion)(From RHD#191) at Ch. 8255m (Road ID: 419892002) under Titas Upazila, District: Cumilla. | 658745 | 08-03-2022 17:00 pm | 09-03-2022 13:10 pm | OTM |

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Off-line/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 through online at any Branches of registered Bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd.

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E-mail: xen.cumilla@lged.gov.bd

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.37 Date: 16/02/2022

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Brief Description of Tender | Publication Date | Last Selling Date & Time | Opening Date |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 659645 | Spares for 6.6 KV Switchgear System | 13-Feb-2022 | 02-Mar-2022 15:30 PM | 03-Mar-2022 |
| 2 | 610269 | Supply of WTP Filters and Accessories and Related service. | 16-Feb-2022 | 10-Mar-2022 15:00 PM | 13-Mar-2022 |
| 3 | 656033 | Supply of Computer and Peripheral | 16-Feb-2022 | 07-Mar-2022 15:30 PM | 08-Mar-2022 |

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shafiqul Islam
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

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Manoj Kumar Pramanik as Sohel.



Afran Nisho as Rashed.



Azizul Hakim as Karim Sheikh.

Exploring the intriguing characters of REDRUM

"I play a father, who is deeply hurt by his own child," shares Azizul Hakim. "His protectiveness, patience, and far-sightedness make him more humane as the story unfolds."

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Vicky Zahed's first web film "Redrum" explores the old-school traits of a 'whodunit' through characters that are realistic and relatable. We can now meet these fascinating characters on Chorki.

The 'human lie detector' Rashed

Played by Afran Nisho, Rashed is a CID officer who can detect lies just upon observing one's body language and gestures. "Redrum" showcases two completely different personalities of this character. "Rashed has shades of grey. He is very calculative, sombre but there is also a mystery in his past waiting to be exposed," shares Nisho. "His lines, 'Manush Beshirbhag Kaaj Nijer Ichhar Biruddhe Kore', in response to Nila's reminder about his past, questions his truth."

In the beginning, Rashed is a rather flamboyant and curious college student. His naïveté is completely diminished in the latter phase, where he becomes a reserved and serious CID officer, investigating a murder for which everyone is a suspect.

The 'bold and dynamic' Nila

The complexities of simple and modest girl-next-door Nila are revealed as the story unfolds.

"Nila's complex nature makes her special," shares Mehazabien, who plays the role. "She believes in true love and can go to great lengths for her loved ones, which showcases her

strength and resilience."

"Redrum" being her first web film, Mehazabien also talks about elements that guided her choice for this role. "Nila is very bold and dynamic. She is the kind of character I was looking to play," she adds.

The 'undaunted lover' Sohel

Being a musician, Sohel is charming, artistic, and creative. "He loves unconditionally and can go to any extent for his love," says Manoj Kumar Pramanik, who plays the character.



Mehazabien as Nila.

Manoj enjoyed the psychological journey of Sohel. "His decisions are driven by passion and his actions and perceptions seem logical to him," he states. "He embraces his decisions fearlessly, discarding second opinions that echo social norms or standards."

The 'emotional and sweet' Lubna

Lubna, Rashed's love interest, is a character that everyone can relate to. "She is sweet, emotional, and sensitive," shares Sallha Khanam Nadia, who plays the character. "She is strong-headed when it comes to her passion for social work and journalism,

but also juggles between her hardships and happiness."

The 'loving but disappointed father' Karim Sheikh

Ex-army officer Karim Sheikh, played by Azizul Hakim, loves his daughter Nila and embraces single parenthood completely. He is uncompromisingly loyal to his social status.

"I play a father, who is deeply hurt by his own child," shares Azizul Hakim. "His



Sallha Khanam Nadia as Lubna.

protectiveness, patience, and far-sightedness make him more humane as the story unfolds."

The 'devoted sidekick' Ikram

Breaking out of his usual screen image, Nasir Uddin Khan will play Ikram, a dedicated CID officer.

"Ikram is very different from the characters I have played till date," mentions Nasir, who also shares that he learned dialogues in standard Bangla for the role. "He is devoted to his boss Rashed, and his admiration for his boss fuels his sincerity."



Nasir Uddin Khan as Ikram.

Final season of 'Peaky Blinders' out on Feb 27

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The acclaimed series "Peaky Blinders" is officially set to return for a sixth and final season on February 27.

The show follows the lives of the notorious Shelby family, a gang rising to prominence in post-war Birmingham.

A striking 41.7 feet high mural of the series' gang leader Tommy Shelby has been painted on the side of a building in Birmingham.

Accompanying the painting is the release date.

The image, commissioned by the BBC, was painted over seven days by street artist Akse, as per reports. Netflix airs "Peaky Blinders" outside of the UK.



'Team Possible' coming back!

Directed by Rahat Rahman, Bangladeshi sitcom 'Team Possible' held a unique place among the plethora of generic projects found on YouTube. The critically acclaimed series will make a comeback, as confirmed by the director on Facebook. "I bought a super-cheap mechanical keyboard to write the second season", he wrote.



ILLUSTRATION: ARTS BY RATS

ICU doctors' wellbeing ACC officials protest

FROM PAGE 12
to the large number of doctors getting infected received less preparation and supervision than usual. Their uncertainty created helplessness and hopelessness as the scaffolding of knowledge, competence and routine fell apart.

There were not just heroic endeavours of the lives saved, but the darker sides of work as well. Doctors contacting patients' families by phone to break the bad news about their loved ones having hours to live also have to witness gasping breaths while the patients succumb. While comforting the bereaved, they had to rush to provide services at the peak of infection. Bearing cumulative grief for the collective losses, they too need time to mourn.

Some coping up strategies could yield better performance and reduce the incidence of burnouts among ICU physicians:

- * Accepting all emotions of grief (shock, anger, bargaining and sadness).

- * Self-care and caring for each other to mitigate emotional turmoil.

- * Changing "patient first always" to "patient always, but safety first".

- * Building resilient behaviour through experience sharing from a past stressful event.

- * Engaging in mindfulness or exercise.

- * Fostering positive thoughts to establish positive emotions.

- * Being kind to each colleague in the ICU team.

The writer is a Specialist, General ICU, United Hospital Limited.

FROM PAGE 12
Talking to the media, ACC Secretary Mahub Hossain said the former DAD was sacked to protect the image of the ACC.

Sharif joined the ACC on October 12, 2014.

Meanwhile, Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday urged the ACC to dispel confusion over the removal of Sharif.

The firing sparked protest of ACC officials, which was an unprecedented, TIB in a press statement said.

"Sharif exposed the land acquisition syndicate which siphoned off public money, forgery in issuing NID cards and passports, irregularities in Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company. Question naturally arises whether Sharif was sacked

for his role in exposing the powerful," the statement read.

People need to know why he was fired this way, it said.

TIB in its statement urged ACC to clarify its position. "Such confusion and doubt over the removal of such an official will dishearten other officials and weaken their spirit in fighting corruption."

They brave queues, chaos

FROM PAGE 12
It was very difficult to make ends meet against the rising prices of essentials.

"I'm waiting in the queue after checking in to the office," she said, adding that she had been standing there for one and a-half hours.

"The number of products I will buy from here will only save me Tk 200. Even that is a lot," she further said.

A similar situation was

seen around 10:00am at Kazipara, with over 100 people waiting for a TCB truck.

Among them, Gulnaha Banu was carrying her three-year-old child.

"The truck arrives at different times each day. Some days the truck is so late and the line gets so long that you might end up finding very little to buy," she said.

Gulnaha said the truck

generally does not arrive before 12:00 noon.

Contacted, TCB's Senior Executive and Information Officer Humayun Kabir said about 100 trucks load the goods from two warehouses and starts for different destinations.

"This activity starts at 7:00am. It often takes 11:00am or even 12:00 noon for the last truck to start towards its destination," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Scheme on Improvement of Public Financial Services Delivery through Implementation of BACS and iBAS++
Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Shoheed Prokoushohi Bhaban (4th Floor), IEB, Ramna, Dhaka-1000
spfms.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

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

| S. No. | Tender/Proposal ID, Reference No. | Procurement nature, title | Type, method | Publishing date, closing date |
|--------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 662773, 07.00.0000.000.07.152. 21-1363 | Goods, Supply and Installation of Security Locker, Security Locker (Medium) and Password Box (Small) for BACS/iBAS++ | NCT, OTM | 17-Feb-2022 17:00:00, 06-Mar-2022 15:00:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd). The tender security to be deposited online through any registered bank to CPTU. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Nazma Mobarek
National Program Director (Additional Secretary)
SPFMS Program
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

GD-324

Role of transport

FROM PAGE 12
illiterate person among us, said, "We have not been in the battle of language so far. But what else to do when we are foreigners in this country."

Qureshi, who knew Bangla, became very angry and asked Moti Sardar, "What does it mean to be a foreigner in the country?" Moti Sardar replied, "Ask yourself."

We said there were no drivers, they were on strike. Moreover, it was very dangerous to take buses and taxis out on the road in that situation. Qureshi said the insurance companies would compensate for any such losses. But we said that our car was insured for

an accident, not for a riot or something like that. The meeting continued till 1 o'clock without a solution.

Moti Sardar had never done anything like that before. But this time he was convinced that the Punjabis were responsible for the whole situation in Dhaka.

Abdul Awal Bhuiyan was a representative of the Dhaka Paribahan Malik Samity during the Language Movement.

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

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajen

Experts slam draft

FROM PAGE 12
Mobile and civic journalism will face a blow if the policies come to effect without any amendment, Misbah added.

Discussions pointed out some similarities between sections of BTRC regulations with those of the DSA often abused to curtail freedom of

expression. Both of those prohibit digital and social media content on defamation, hurting religious sentiments, disrupting law and order, breaching government secrecy, jeopardising sovereignty and national image, hurting the spirit of the Liberation War and Father of the Nation.



'Can't just fly away'

Russia says military withdrawal will take time; US says Moscow sent 7,000 more troops instead of pulling back

Nato is the guarantee for security, that's what we want to achieve. This guarantee means for us that we won't lose our independence.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy admits little chance of joining Nato despite its ambition to do so, citing resistance within the alliance

"They claim Iran will produce the bomb in some time, absurd words that make no sense and they know it very well themselves."

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

"You don't want to be reckless and throw everything aside, but you've got to start inching towards that (normality)."

Top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci on Covid situation in the US

Any efforts to enhance the governance, systems, and financing of global health security can only succeed if they also enhance WHO's role.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as US proposed a new global pandemic prevention fund

AGENCIES

The Kremlin yesterday said that Russia's withdrawal of forces from around Ukraine's borders would take place over an extended period, after reports of Moscow's drawdown drew scepticism from Kyiv's allies.

Compounding the war fears, Russian-backed rebels and Ukrainian forces traded accusations yesterday that each had fired across the ceasefire line in eastern Ukraine.

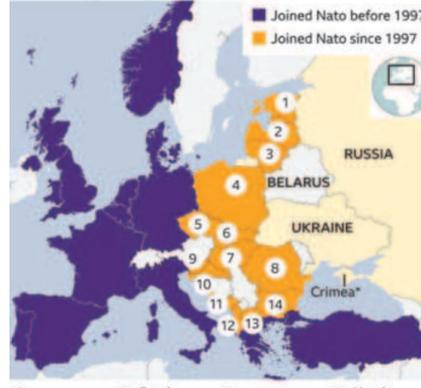
Western countries have repeatedly accused Russia of planning to use an incident in the rebel-held areas to justify an attack, while Moscow, for its part, has accused Kyiv of planning an escalation to try to recapture territory by force.

"This is a process that will take some time," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said, after Moscow had announced two separate pullbacks following drills that raised fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Western countries have accused Russia of building up more than 100,000 troops around ex-Soviet Ukraine and warned of crippling sanctions if Moscow escalates an ongoing separatist conflict there by moving in troops.

The Kremlin denies planning to invade and has

Nato's expansion since 1997



- 1 Estonia
- 2 Latvia
- 3 Lithuania
- 4 Poland
- 5 Czech Republic
- 6 Slovakia
- 7 Hungary
- 8 Romania
- 9 Slovenia
- 10 Croatia
- 11 Montenegro
- 12 Albania
- 13 North Macedonia
- 14 Bulgaria

UKRAINE TENSIONS

- » Russia announces more troops withdrawals, set to respond to US security proposals
- » Blame game as shelling breaks out in east Ukraine

said the troops are taking part in drills. It has also criticised Western officials for commenting on how Russia moves its army on its own territory.

"The defence ministry has reported that certain phases of the exercises are coming to an end, and as they do, military units are returning to permanent bases," Peskov said.

He added however that forces "can't just take to the air and all fly away," adding that on the drawdown the defence ministry "has a schedule".

The joint drills in Belarus -- which the US says involves some 30,000 Russian troops -- are set to end on Sunday.

After previously announced withdrawals earlier this week, the United States, Nato and Ukraine all said they had seen no evidence of a pullback.

The Russian defence ministry said units of the southern military district were returning to bases

from Moscow-annexed Crimea and that tank units of the western military district had departed on a military train for their bases 1,000 kilometres away.

It did not provide details on the specific amount of troops or equipment involved.

Russia's defence ministry released video it said showed more departing units. Maxar Technologies, a private US company that has been tracking the buildup, said satellite images showed that while Russia has pulled back some military equipment from near Ukraine, other hardware has arrived.

The new troops withdrawal announcements come as a senior White House official on Wednesday said Russian announcements of withdrawal were "false", accusing Moscow of increasing its presence on the border by "as many as 7,000 troops".

Russia has blamed the West for provoking the tensions, saying Washington and its European allies have for too long ignored Moscow's security concerns on its doorstep.

Putin has demanded that Ukraine be forever banned from fulfilling its hopes of joining Nato and for the alliance to roll back its deployments near Russia's borders.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday said that Moscow would send a reply to US proposals about European security later in the day.

A UN Security Council meeting is also set later yesterday to discuss the crisis.

Saudi army chief visits India for the first time

THE DAWN ONLINE

The Saudi Arabian army chief paid a "historic and landmark" first visit to India this week, according to a press release from the Indian Ministry of Defence.

Saudi Arabia Land Forces Commander Lieutenant General Fahd Bin Abdullah Mohammed Al-Mutair arrived in India on Monday and ended his three-day trip on Wednesday, according to the statement.

The press release noted it was the first-ever visit by a serving Royal Saudi Land Forces Commander to India and marked the "deepening bilateral defence cooperation" between the two countries, adding that it aimed to further bolster cooperation.

The Saudi chief met Indian Army Chief

Manoj Mukund Naravane in New Delhi on the second day of his visit and was presented a ceremonial guard of honour.

The two army chiefs later had "significant bilateral discussions" with the Indian general briefing his counterpart on security aspects, the Indian defence ministry said.

The Indian army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information also said the two "discussed ways to further enhance the bilateral defence cooperation".

The press release noted that the relationship between India and Saudi Arabia had been growing due to common interests of economic prosperity, eliminating terrorism and mitigating the effects of climate change.



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়, কৃষি ব্যাংক ভবন
৮-৩-৮৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০
আইসিটি সিস্টেমস্, কার্ড ও মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং বিভাগ
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৫৬৫৩

Email: dgmictsystem@krishibank.org.bd

No. BKB/HO/ICT(Systems)/Atm-17(Procurement)/2021-2022/3747 Dated: 16/02/2022

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

| Sl | Tender ID and Reference No. | Name of tender | Tender documents last selling date and time | Tender closing & opening date and time | Tender method |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| 01 | Tender ID: 661986, Reference No.: BKB/HO/ICT(Systems)/ATM-17(Procurement)/2021-2022/3695; Dated: 16/02/2022 | Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 05 (five) ATM at different branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank. | Date: 08-03-2022 Time: 17:00 | Date: 09-03-2022 Time: 15:00 | OTM |
| 02 | Tender ID: 662243, Reference No.: BKB/HO/ICT(Systems)/ATM-17/Online UPS/2021-2022/3696; Dated: 16/02/2022 | Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 05 (five) minimum 02 KVA True Online UPS at different branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank. | Date: 08-03-2022 Time: 17:00 | Date: 09-03-2022 Time: 14:30 | OTM |

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

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

Sd/-
Md. Manunur Rashid
Deputy General Manager (DGM)

GD-318

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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

INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the manufacturer/wholesaler/supplier for supply of Medicine for Emergency unit of Upazila Health Complexes (UHC).As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

| KEY INFORMATION | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division. | |
| 2 | Agency | Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW. | |
| 3 | Procuring Entity | Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS. | |
| 4 | Procuring Entity Code | 224330400 | |
| 5 | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka | |
| 6 | Invitation for | Supply of Medicine for Emergency Unit of Upazila Health Complexes. | |
| 7 | Invitation for offer Ref. No | UHC/Proc./GOB/Medicine-Emer. Unit(UHC)-7/2021-22/927 | |
| 8 | Date | 17.02.2022 | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | |
| 9 | Procurement Method | Open Tender Method (OTM) | |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | | |
| 10 | Budget and Source of Funds | GOB (Dev.) | |
| 11 | Developments Partners | None | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | |
| 12 | Project/Program Code | 224330400 | |
| 13 | Project/Program Name | UHC | |
| 14 | Tender Package No | UHC/G-GD-2/2021-22 | |
| 15 | Offer Package Name | Medicine for Emergency unit of UHC. | |
| 16 | Tender Publication Date | 18.02.2022 | |
| 17 | Tender Last Selling Date | 03.03.2022at 5.00 pm | |
| 18 | Tender Closing Date and Time | 06.03.2022at 12pm | |
| 19 | Tender Opening Date and Time | 06.03.2022at 2 pm | |
| 20 | Name and address of the Office | | |
| a) Selling of Tender Documents | | a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. c) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka. | |
| b) Receiving of Tender Documents | | a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. c) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka. | |
| c) Opening of Tender Documents | | Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban, (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. | |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | | |
| 21 | Eligibility of Tenderer | As stated in TDS | |
| 22 | Brief Description of Goods | Supply of Medicine (40 items) for Emergency unit of 400 UHCs | |
| 23 | Price of Tender Documents Taka | TK. 6,000 (Six Thousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable). | |
| 24 | No | Identification & Name | Location |
| | Single lot | UHC/ G-GD-2/2021-22 | UHC office, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. |
| | | Tender Security Amounts in BDT | Completion time (in weeks) |
| | | TK. 12,00,000.00 (Twelve lacs) only by Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in Prescribed format in favour of Line Director, UHC, DGHS. | 10 (Ten) weeks from date of signing the contract. |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL | | | |
| 25 | Name of Official Inviting Offer | Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman | |
| 26 | Designation of Official Inviting Offer | Line Director, UHC, DGHS. | |
| 27 | Address of Official Inviting Offer | BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. | |
| 28 | Contact details of Official Inviting Offer | BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900 | |

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

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

GD-322

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
Barishal Road Circle, Barishal
E-mail: sebarishalrhd@gmail.com

Invitation for Tender

| 1 | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division. | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | Agency | Roads & Highways Department. | | |
| 3 | Procuring entity name | Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barishal. | | |
| 4 | Procuring entity code | N/A. | | |
| 5 | Procuring entity district | Barishal. | | |
| 6 | Invitation for | Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based multi station monitoring of Modern Electronic/Computerized Toll (Government Revenue) Collection System Including ETC of 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at 12th km of Rajapur-Naikati-Bekutia-Pirojpur (Z-8702) Zila Road for 03 (three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2021-2022. | | |
| 7 | Invitation Ref. No. | 35.01.0651.171.99.37.2022.657 | | |
| 8 | Date | 16/02/2022. | | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | | |
| 9 | Procurement method | NCT, OTM. | | |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | | | |
| 10 | Budget and source of funds | Revenue Budget, GOB. | | |
| 11 | Development partners (if applicable) | N/A. | | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | | |
| 12 | Project/program code (if applicable) | N/A. | | |
| 13 | Project name (if applicable) | N/A. | | |
| 14 | Tender Package No. | 01/Tender/PSN/BCFB Toll/BRC/2021-2022. | | |
| 15 | Tender package name | Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based multi station monitoring of Modern Electronic/Computerized Toll (Government Revenue) Collection System Including ETC of 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at 12th km of Rajapur-Naikati-Bekutia-Pirojpur (Z-8702) Zila Road for 03 (three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2021-2022. | | |
| 16 | Tender publication date | 16/02/2022. | | |
| 17 | Tender last selling date | 21/03/2022 up to 05:00pm. | | |
| | | Date | Time | |
| 18 | Tender closing date and time | 22/03/2022 | 12:00pm | |
| 19 | Tender opening date and time | 22/03/2022 | 03:00pm | |
| 20 | Name & address of the office(s) | Address | | |
| Selling tender document (principal) | | Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur. | | |
| Selling tender document (others) | | Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barishal. | | |
| Receiving tender document | | (i) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barishal Zone, Barishal. (ii) Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barishal. (iii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barishal/Pirojpur. | | |
| Opening tender document | | Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barishal Zone, Barishal. | | |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | | | |
| 21 | Eligibility of tenderer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the Applicable Law. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. As per requirements specified in TDS & TOR. | | |
| 22 | Brief description of services | Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based multi station monitoring of Modern Electronic/Computerized Toll (Government Revenue) Collection System Including ETC. | | |
| 23 | Price of tender document (Tk) | Tk 4000.00 (four thousand) only. | | |
| 24 | Package No. | Identification of package | Location | Tender security amount (Tk) |
| | 01/Tender/PSN/BCFB Toll/BRC/2021-2022 | Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based multi station monitoring of Modern Electronic/Computerized Toll (Government Revenue) Collection System Including ETC. | Pirojpur | 29,00,000/- (twenty-nine lac) |
| | | Completion time in weeks/months | | |
| | | 36 (thirty-six) months | | |
| 25 The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings. This notice will be available on RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd and CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd . | | | | |

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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Why raise the prices of Ramadan essentials now?

Govt must take measures to keep the market stable before it spirals out of control

WE are worried to notice the upward trend of the prices of Ramadan essentials well ahead of the start of the holy month. According to a report in this daily on February 17, 2022, the prices of Ramadan essentials such as edible oil, chickpea, dried pea, date and sugar have already started to rise in the market, despite being well supplied. Traders and importers, however, are blaming the high costs of import for the hike. Reportedly, prices of all these commodities have increased in the global market due to lower production in the exporting countries, while the shipping costs have also increased.

According to data from the Chattogram Custom House, between December 2021 and January 2022, the import cost of palm oil, soybean oil, sugar, chickpea and other commodities have significantly increased. However, the data also shows that import of all these items has also increased during this time, except for the edible oil. For instance, between July 2021 and January 2022, about 144,000 tonnes of chickpea and around 305,000 tonnes of dried pea were imported. A year earlier, their imported quantities were 133,000 tonnes and 292,000 tonnes, respectively. The import of sugar also increased by 3.4 percent during this time. This means that there is an ample stock of these items in the wholesale market.

Because of the supplies, it is expected that wholesalers will sell their products at fair prices to the retailers, and retailers will not unnecessarily raise the prices during Ramadan. Because doing so would put an extra burden on people, especially those in the lower-income bracket, who already have their backs against the wall. Having failed to sustain their pre-pandemic income level, with lost jobs and steady source of income, many have been forced to compromise on their standard of living. The rising prices of daily essentials—such as rice, oil, lentils, vegetables, meat and fish—have already made their lives difficult. Now, if the prices rise again during Ramadan, how will they survive?

Therefore, it's time for the government to come up with some pro-people policies to help the low- and fixed-income people survive through this tough time. It needs to ensure market stability by establishing proper monitoring mechanisms. Fixing the prices of daily necessities and hanging up the price chart at every wholesale and retail market can prevent the traders from overcharging the consumers. The government also needs to make sure that unscrupulous syndicates cannot raise prices of food items by hoarding them before and during Ramadan. We believe it is definitely possible for a proactive government to prevent traders from unnecessarily increasing the prices of essentials.

Rid Old Dhaka of chemical warehouses

Bureaucratic foot-dragging is inexcusable when lives are at stake

THE spectre of death still haunts the streets of Old Dhaka, where many precious lives were lost in raging fires originating from some chemical warehouses. When you have a fire caused by highly flammable substances stored in residential houses, with families living on other floors, it is not an "accident"—it's a sure recipe for disaster. Unfortunately, this has been going on for long, and the high-level promise of relocation of chemical stores and plastic factories to a designated place after the Nimtoli fire—which killed at least 124 people on June 3, 2010—remains unmet even after all these years. A survey done in 2019 by Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) identified 1,924 chemical warehouses in Old Dhaka, with 98 percent being "moderately risky."

Clearly, Old Dhaka is sitting on a ticking time bomb. After the 2010 fire, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) drafted a plan on relocating the chemical warehouses. However, the BSCIC took eight years to take up the project. The decision was to shift chemical businesses to the city's outskirts in Keraniganj. However, after another devastating fire in Chawkbazar's Churihatata area in February 2019, which killed 71 people, the authorities decided to shift the project site to Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan area. Reportedly, it was scheduled to be completed by June this year, but it appears that the officials would need an extension of at least one more year.

Officials blame delays in selecting the relocation site and land acquisition for this situation. When contacted, the project director said that 70 percent of the project's 310-acre land development is complete. Other important work like the construction of a drainage system, boundary walls, fire station, a Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and two jetties have not started yet. Also, a separate relocation project for plastic industries, also in Munshiganj, has seen only 1.47 percent progress so far. This extremely slow pace of work is distressing, to say the least.

Meanwhile, the government had a plan to build two temporary sites in Tongi and Shyampur for the warehouses and factories, but it could not be executed either. We urge the government to realise the urgency of relocation on a permanent basis and expedite the work accordingly. There has been enough dilly-dallying with the experiment of temporary sites which, as an environmental expert said, is nothing but "a mockery with the lives of people." The BSCIC's shambling efforts and foot-dragging in executing the project are inexcusable. Old Dhaka residents deserve better.

The Search Committee's task is as moral as it is legal

Don't let a few weeks of your work be a curse on the nation



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

(I thank the Search Committee for inviting me, and apologise for not attending due to Covid-related complications.)

At the very outset, the government said there was not enough time to make a law for the formation of an Election Commission (EC), which is mandated by the Constitution of Bangladesh since its adoption in 1972. Then suddenly, the government declared that it had enough time to make such a law. Though it is called a law for the "Appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners" (original name is in Bangla, abbreviated translation is ours), what it actually does is spell out the formation of a "Search Committee," which will select and recommend to the president who, in his turn, will form the EC in consultation with the prime minister (The president is bound by the constitution to do so). How and why the "Search Committee" idea came to the fore when the need was for a law to form the Election Commission itself has never been satisfactorily explained.

On the face of it, the Search Committee is trying to find the right team to form the EC. But the underlying significance of their task is that they are laying the foundations for a free and fair parliamentary election to be held in less than two years—by December 2023.

However hard the ruling party supporters may try to whitewash the events surrounding the last general election, serious doubts persist about its authenticity. Because of faulty elections, the prestige of the elected members of parliament (MPs) took a nose dive—and with it the prestige of the parliament itself. This has also made our democracy questionable—to us as well as outside—and clouded our otherwise stunning success in other fields.

Here, we may recall that under the Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed-led Election Commission (February 2012 to February 2017), in the 2014 parliamentary election, 153 MPs out of 300 were elected unopposed. This meant that no election took place in more than half of the constituencies in Bangladesh, with the majority of voters not being able to cast their votes. Of equal significance is the fact that the uncontested seats formed the majority in the House and formed the new government—without getting a single vote. So, former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rakibuddin holds the dubious honour of presiding over perhaps the only election ever held in the world where the majority of voters could not cast their votes, and yet the election was certified as completely free and fair.

Over the years, the political parties' capacity to manipulate elections have grown. With the work of firms like Cambridge Analytica, in Donald Trump's election in 2016 (there must be many others who operate in the shadows and have not been exposed yet. We have no idea what Israel-produced surveillance software like Pegasus—which we are rumoured to have bought—can do), with their data crunching algorithms powerful enough to discern the deepest prejudices in the voters' subconscious and bring them into play in determining how a voter should cast his or her ballot, elections

have become more and more about subtle to crude manipulation of the masses, and not the making of an electoral mandate that it once was.

This is further exacerbated by the fact that ruling parties in most countries enjoy far greater advantage in manipulating elections than the opposition. Given its control over state media and their cosy relationships with the "friendly

manner that competition is rendered useless and removes the uncertainty. The removal of uncertainty is achieved through various measures, including constitutional changes and electoral changes, but it requires the election commission to become a tool that works in unison with other state apparatuses in favour of the incumbent."

In addition to the authoritarian nature



ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

media," the capacity of the parties in power to influence public opinion is a thousand times higher compared to their rivals. This they do in many ways: like inaugurating development projects or making extraordinary grants in electorally vulnerable areas before the elections or by instigating divisive ideologies and exploiting ethnic, religious, and racial fault lines to their advantage. With all major institutions of the state—bureaucracy, police, intelligence, local administration—mostly in their total control, and with an enormous source of funds, the ruling parties all over have reduced to a mockery what was meant to be the expression of "people's will."

Prof Ali Riaz, distinguished professor at Illinois State University in the US, in his highly readable column published in this daily on February 16, 2022, talks about hybrid political regimes—meaning political regimes that combine democratic and authoritarian traits—and how they conduct elections. He highlights that such regimes are of two distinct types: competitive electoral authoritarianism, and hegemonic electoral authoritarianism. The major differences between them, he says, is the way they conduct elections. In the former type, while the entire political process is highly repressive and the media are muzzled, the election does engender a type of "uncertainty" through some form—however rudimentary—of competition. But in the latter type, that "uncertainty" is removed. He quotes from an essay by Steven Levitsky and Lucan A Way titled "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," that in the hegemonic variety of hybrid regimes, "election manipulation is institutionalised in a

and tendencies of the present ruling party, the status of our elections has been further affected by the main opposition party's utter failure to reorganise itself and regain any place of consequence in the hearts and minds of our voters. BNP's leadership crisis in the form of Khaleda Zia's illness and Vice-Chairman Tareque Rahman's incompetence have further reduced the prospect of any serious challenge for the incumbent.

It is against this backdrop of globally shrinking democratic space, the rising tendency of ruling parties to manipulate elections, and Bangladesh's own prospect of graduating to the status of a developing country by 2026 (Covid pushed it back by two years from 2024), that the Search Committee is selecting possible candidates for an Election Commission that will conduct the next election within 22 months.

The last factor is important to remember. Graduating to the developing country status will definitely entail higher governance standards and insistence by the global community for more and more democratic practices in the coming years.

It is our hope that the Search Committee sees the totality of their task, and does not deal with it as a technical task of fulfilling certain criteria and legal niceties. Being only correct in procedures and not in substance will amount to missing the forest for a few trees. Far greater than the legal, there is an enormous moral task facing the learnt and experienced Search Committee. We hope they will not forget for a moment that their few weeks of work will either be a boon or a curse for our nation and democracy for the next five significant years.

Graduating to the developing country status will definitely entail higher governance standards and insistence by the global community for more and more democratic practices in the coming years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

Maintain speed limit to avoid road crashes

Road crashes have become an epidemic all over Bangladesh. Slow-moving vehicles have been banned on the highways. Dividers have been installed. Many bends on highways have been straightened out. There are laws in place, too. But even so, road crashes seem to keep happening every day. Five members of the same family were killed by a pickup vehicle while crossing the road on February 8 in Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar. Locals say the main reason for the crash was that the driver of the pickup van could not control its speed.

There is no reason to continue

to claim that the excessive loss of lives on our roads are mere accidents. Many irregularities take place on the road, such as competitive driving and drivers talking on the phone while driving. Experts say that not driving within the speed limit is also one of the major causes of road crashes. The speed limit for vehicles should be enforced by law to prevent road accidents. If proper measures are taken by authorities, it will be possible to reduce crashes and save lives.

Tarikul Islam
Dhaka Ahsania Mission



‘Society is evolving; we have to evolve with it’

Renowned novelist **Selina Hossain**, after retiring as the director of the Bangla Academy, has recently been reappointed as its chairperson. In a conversation with **Emran Mahfuz** of **The Daily Star**, she talks about the academy, the Ekushey Book Fair, society, culture and more.

You retired as a director of the Bangla Academy, then returned as its chairperson. How do you feel about this transition?

Bangla Academy is quite close to my heart. I am very delighted today. I joined the institution on July 2, 1970. Around the same time, I also got an interview call from the Public Service Commission to join the MC College in Sylhet. There, the salary would have been Tk 450. But I was waiting to get an offer from the Bangla Academy, which I did. As a research assistant, my salary was Tk 250, but the financial aspect was not a concern for me.

I have always tried to embody my beloved Bangla Academy. I developed my literary perspective after joining this institution. It became my preferred outlet for literary exercises, where I got a lot of opportunities to spend time writing and editing. This is how the academy gave me a sense of fulfilment.

How long have you been with the Bangla Academy?

Before retiring in 2004, I had worked there for 34 years. After receiving my postgraduate degree from Rajshahi University in 1968, I arrived in Dhaka the following year. I saw a newspaper advertisement and applied for the job at the academy.

Bangla Academy was founded with an objective to intellectually develop and uplift the nation. To what extent do you think this objective has been fulfilled?

Since its inception in 1955, the Bangla Academy has been working with this objective in mind. The academy's first initiative was the dictionary project. Once that was completed, Muhammad Shahidullah edited the *Ancholik Bhashar Abhidhan* (dictionary of regional dialects). He compiled words from different districts in it, which helped open up brand new avenues. Subsequent generations are now getting the opportunity of expanding their linguistic knowledge with these dictionaries.

When I was at Bangla Academy previously, I assumed the responsibility of editing Nazrul's work, with Prof Anisuzzaman working as the chief editor. Later on, I took on the responsibility of publishing the science encyclopaedia and biographical



Selina Hossain
FILE PHOTO:
COLLECTED

dictionary (*Charitabhidhan*).

A lot of literary works were published during your tenure, but the flow seems to have slowed down since then. Many legendary works still remain unpublished. What could be the reason behind this?

Many did not follow in my footsteps at Bangla Academy. In my years at the compilation sub-committee, I would never have allowed the funding to be returned to the ministry in June. My view was that the fund was allocated so that our writers, researchers and publishers could benefit from it. So why should it go back to the ministry? Hence, I would work all year round at formidable speed to ensure that the fund was used up before June. However, many do not hold the same point of view now, which is why the flow of publication has slowed down.

The Bangla Academy Awards generate a lot of interest as well as controversy. What is the authors selection criteria for the awards?

A committee is formed and nomination forms are sent to 30-35 people. They each nominate individuals and from there, the committee decides on its picks. The committee only elects deserving nominees from within the sphere of art and literature, and their choices are ubiquitously accepted by the academy. Bangla Academy is more than

a mere building; it is made up of people working together who are spiritually and intellectually connected.

A part of the Bangla Academy works dedicatedly for the Ekushey Book Fair for two to three months. Do you think relieving them of this task would ensure a higher amount of research and development from them—and for the academy, by extension?

No, a month or two is not that significant a length of time. The Ekushey Book Fair is a crucial part of our history and tradition, which we must put effort into. Individuals dedicated to the book fair belong to the relevant department, so they are merely fulfilling their duty. This does not hamper the academy's overall work. In fact, it inspires all of us and is a great way of ushering in new readers.

The book fair has strong ties with the month of February, but last year we could not maintain this synchronicity. What are your thoughts about organising the Ekushey Book Fair in February?

I am absolutely in favour of the book fair being held in February. But it is also a challenge to maintain health guidelines and hold the book fair amid the Covid pandemic. Besides, the need for the public to abide by health guidelines is not something that can be, or should be, ignored.

Last year, publishers participated in the Ekushey Book Fair and incurred losses. They asked for compensation, but the state's response was lukewarm. What are your thoughts on this?

Support from the state in this regard would have been ideal, and it is something which needs to increase in the future. The book fair is an essential part of the nation's art and literature sphere. It is the state's responsibility to support such initiatives, and it would have pleased me if they had done so last year.

During this online era, e-books are in vogue and the number of printed magazines and books are going down as well. What has been your observation regarding this?

We are seeing a variation among readers. It is inevitable, because different steps are being taken in different directions and as a whole, society is advancing. We

have to evolve to keep up with it.

Every year, you publish your own books. Have their sales increased or decreased?

The sales have increased a lot. I am happy with the readership of my books.

Libraries play a vital role in creating new readers. For the last 10 or 15 years, there has been a demand for higher salaries for librarians. Instead, the budget allocated for them has been curtailed.

Libraries not only create readers; they also enrich their minds. Supporting libraries is part of the government's moral duties. This can create a place for dispensing social values among the people, and avid readers can influence those around them to also take up reading. Thus, funds for libraries should not be curtailed, but should be distributed freely by the state in order to cultivate readers.

You have written novels on the Language Movement and the Liberation War. How far do you think we have advanced in terms of socio-cultural aspects?

We have come a long way. This advancement has enriched our world of art, literature and culture, and we have secured a distinct position in the global arena. The Bengali nation and Bangla speakers have also advanced accordingly.

During your tenure, three volumes of Abul Mansur Ahmad's complete works were published. What is your evaluation of his literature?

I liked Abul Mansur Ahmad's work very much. I was awestruck by how, through his writing, he transformed the natural state of society into a transparent and surreal space of knowledge, which aided our generation in bettering itself.

Whenever we discuss culture, people often point their fingers at women's attire. Does this mean that only women embody culture in their attire? Why is no one equally concerned about men's attire?

No, this is not right. Men and women need to uphold our culture collaboratively. We have to keep in mind that society will not advance by any individual's efforts alone.

This interview has been translated from Bangla by Mohammed Ishtiaque Khan.

Bangla Academy is more than a mere building; it is made up of people working together who are spiritually and intellectually connected.

If I am not for sale, what am I?



DEBRA EFROYMSON

Debra Efroymsen is the executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh, and author of "Beyond Apologies: Defining and Achieving an Economics of Wellbeing."

RECENTLY, I was chatting with a young friend. She mentioned that, with all the Covid lockdowns (she is in a country much harder hit than Bangladesh), she has learnt to do business online, selling herself as a yoga and meditation instructor. As the conversation continued, she explained that she was making more money doing online work than she previously had working for a major corporation, despite now putting in far fewer hours. "Everyone should learn to do this," she told me. "People think they need jobs, but this is actually a better way to make money." The trick, she explained, was to "learn to commodify yourself."

I confess, I was horrified. The idea that a bright young woman with many skills and talents would see herself as an object to be sold online was dispiriting and dehumanising. I also found her confidence that others could learn to do the same, and make good money that way, a bit delusional—her failure to recognise just how extremely exceptional she is.

Both issues are a problem. It is a problem that we assume that virtually everyone has a tiny entrepreneur inside of them, just waiting for an opportunity to reveal themselves.

It is also a problem that people, especially the youth, must now find ways to market themselves, not in terms of finding a regular job—which is growing ever harder in the gig economy—but in becoming something to sell online, like any other product.

More recently, I spoke with a young Bangladeshi man. I knew he enjoyed body-building; I assumed it was a passion of his. Well, perhaps it is, but as he explained, there are also possibilities of "selling himself" online as a fitness instructor. Like my other young friend, he saw no hope in the job market; the only way to earn money is to find a way to turn yourself into a desirable commodity.

Although it was an awfully long time ago, when I try to remember how I felt about the job market when I was in university or in my early 20s, it feels like the difference is huge and cannot simply be explained by my having been in the US rather than Bangladesh. After all, there, too, people are turning to other ways to earn a living, leaving traditional jobs.

Then again, perhaps the difference isn't as great as I would like to believe. I am from a generation that still believed in getting hired. We felt free to pursue degrees in the liberal arts or science—not just accounting and business. But—at least as women—we did feel the need, or at least the pressure, to package ourselves into something sufficiently attractive to appeal to both potential bosses and spouses. Our self-worth, as women, was too often defined by our outward appearance, not our inward traits, skills, talents, intelligence or abilities.

So yes, as a society, we have failed our young people in terms of creating job opportunities for them. Clearly many of them are finding ways to earn money in new ways by offering goods or services online. Perhaps all of this is natural and inevitable, especially in a world where we don't work to address inequality, where we fail to address the way that the very rich siphon off most of the wealth, and thus much of the population must struggle to get by.

But we also continue to fail our young people by sending the message that who you are is less important than how you look. And when the need to earn money

becomes an occasion for seeing yourself as something to offer up for sale, I cannot help but feel that our humanity is being chipped away.

It is also a problem that people, especially the youth, must now find ways to market themselves, not in terms of finding a regular job—which is growing ever harder in the gig economy—but in becoming something to sell online, like any other product.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj
www.debendracollege.gov.bd

Memo No. CEDP/GDC/2021-22/1157/167 Date: 17/02/2022

Corrigendum of e-Tender Notice
Original 04/2020-2021
Revised 04/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package which is published in 13-02-2022 is revised as follows:

| Sl. No. | Tender ID No. | Name of supply | Original | | Revised | |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Last date and time of tender security submission | Tender closing date & time | Last date and time of tender security submission | Tender closing date & time |
| 1. | 658530 | Renovation and Refurbishment with equipment of Central Auditorium at Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj | 28-Feb-2022 13:00 | 28-Feb-2022 14:00 | Same as Original | Same as Original |
| 2. | 659269 | Procurement of Fan, sound system and other electronic equipment for classroom, seminar, laboratories and online classroom studio at Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj | 28-Feb-2022 13:00 | 28-Feb-2022 14:00 | 28-Mar-2022 13:00 | 28-Mar-2022 14:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender (658530) documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 27-Feb-2022 16:00 and e-Tender (ID No. 659269) documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 27-Mar-2022 16:00.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-314

Can Barishal finish with a flourish?

SPORTS REPORTER

Comilla Victorians' batting depth versus Fortune Barishal's bowling variations cleverly managed by their wily skipper Shakib Al Hasan could well be the defining feature of the two sides set to contest the final of the eighth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) in Mirpur today.

Barishal are on a roll, coming into the final on a seven-match winning streak. They will be further boosted by the fact that they got the better of Comilla two times in three encounters in the competition already.

Their strength clearly lies in their bowling, with Shakib ever consistent and mystery Afghan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman offering variation, making Barishal one of the few BPL sides with the ability to defend modest totals. In fact, they defended 143 against Comilla in Qualifier 1 as they became the first team to advance to the final.

Another massive boon for Barishal has been Shakib's recent form. The champion all-rounder, who is usually impressive with the ball, has also been in red-hot form with the willow this season. The premier all-rounder has won a record five consecutive player-of-the-match awards for his all-round brilliance.

The tie today promises to be a real humdinger as Barishal's bowling variations will have to counter the batting depth of Imrul Kayes-led Comilla. The likes of Sunil Narine, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Liton Das, Faf du Plessis and Moeen Ali have all been amongst the runs and have come up with match-winning performances. And even if the orthodox batters fail, Narine seems to provide the lusty blows they require as he did when he smashed the fastest fifty in BPL history against Chattogram Challengers in their last game to power Comilla to the final.

Comilla will also be taking heart from the fact that they were the team who last beat Barishal, by 63 runs in one of their group stage matches.



Fortune Barishal wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan, who came to the captains' photo session with the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League trophy in absence of regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan yesterday, poses with Comilla Victorians captain Imrul Kayes. The two teams will meet in the final today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Shakib dominates discussion ahead of final

SPORTS REPORTER

Fortune Barishal captain Shakib Al Hasan and Comilla Victorians skipper Imrul Kayes were scheduled to attend a photo session with the BPL trophy on Wednesday ahead of the final, but following Shakib's failure to attend, two different explanations surfaced regarding his absence.

Conspicuous by absence is a term that goes well with Shakib. Previously, it was a Bangladesh team photo session before the ODI World Cup in England where Shakib's absence created an uproar. Nurul Hasan Sohan, who came to the event yesterday in Shakib's stead, said: "We had optional practice yesterday and we participated. Maybe he did gym today and that's why he couldn't come."

Team management sources however relayed earlier that Shakib had an upset stomach. It was learned that he did not want to practice today and the management was informed of his decision. "He's not feeling well and I don't ever push Shakib. He knows his game very well," Barishal coach Khaled Mahmud told the media yesterday following their practice session.

"He likes working on his game in individual practice so when he told me he wouldn't practice, I said 'no problem,'" Khaled added.

However, even without being there, Shakib was major focus of the final because of what he has done so far in this tournament through captaincy alone. "Barishal's strength is Shakib. We



have to play against Shakib's head. He's captaining really well and utilising his resources," Comilla coach Mohammad Salahuddin said.

He added that there were 'tricks' Shakib was using that cause make batters misinterpret the situation. Barishal have been able to defend middling scores this tournament with bowling changes keeping them in the game. In one match against Khulna Tigers, Shakib bowled eight overs in tandem with Mujeeb Ur Rahman on the trot to eat up the Powerplay and squeeze the runs.

In his side's last game, he banked on young pacers Mehedi Hasan Rana and Shofiqul Islam in critical stages after drying up the runs following Comilla's effective start in Powerplay in chase of just 144. Banking on Nazmul Hossain as a bowler also created surprise for opponents.

"The vibe I get from Shakib is that he is not indecisive when it comes to taking bold decisions. Many may be a little uneasy when taking bold decisions, but Shakib can take such decisions without hesitation and with a straight face," Shakib's long-time mentor and Barishal's batting coach Nazmul Abedeen Fahim told The Daily Star yesterday.

He has been able to keep his team calm but excited to do well. Along with the think-tank of Mahmud and Fahim, Shakib has been able to shine in a captaincy role. "Our dressing room environment is good and it helps us on the field," Sohan had said during the photo session.

Despite performing with the bat and ball and picking up a record five player-of-the-match awards on the trot, it is Shakib's captaincy which can make the difference in the final.

Despite Comilla's obvious strength and overall balance, they are still wary of what comes out of the Barishal captain's head. Barishal's team jersey unveiling was initially scheduled to take place in Barishal but pandemic complications saw the event held in Dhaka. Shakib relayed a message to the people of Barishal saying that he wants to win the trophy for them. Now he is just one step away from his goal.

Inter still dangerous, says Klopp

AGENCIES

Liverpool put one foot in the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday with a 2-0 win at Inter Milan which came after a hard-fought encounter at a bubbling San Siro.

Liverpool coach Juergen Klopp, however, insists their tie against Inter Milan is far from over and their 2-0 victory in the first leg in Italy is a "dangerous" scoreline for the return encounter.

Liverpool were not at their very best in the San Siro on Wednesday, but goals from Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah put the Premier League side in a commanding position, but not one they should feel too comfortable with ahead of next month's return leg.

"It is still dangerous," Klopp said. "It is only halftime. We don't feel like we are halfway through and can cruise. We will have to be ready for them again. Inter are a good side. I don't say 'job done, put your feet on the table' in the past so



why should I think different about it now? "They are a very physical team. They played real smart balls. They have this deep last line and in the beginning we did very well. I was not surprised — they are good. We know that. We have to be ready for the second half."

The result was harsh on Italian champions Inter, who dominated the contest in front of a passionate home crowd for long periods after the break and struck the woodwork through Hakan Calhanoglu in the 16th minute.

Coman rescues late draw for Bayern

REUTERS

Bayern Munich midfielder Kingsley Coman struck in the 90th minute to snatch a 1-1 draw at Salzburg in Wednesday's Champions League last-16 first leg.

It says a lot for Bayern's dominance of German and European football that the twin results of last Sunday's 4-2 defeat at Bochum and Wednesday's 1-1 Champions League round of 16 draw at Salzburg signalled their longest run without a win since April 2021.



The Austrian side took the lead midway through the first half with a goal on the counterattack from Chukwubuike Adamu.

But Frenchman Coman, who struck the winning goal for Bayern in the 2020 Champions League final, ensured the six-times winners left with a draw when he appeared at the far post to meet a Thomas Mueller header and tuck the ball into the net from close range.

Coman's equaliser meant Bayern have scored in 29 consecutive Champions League matches although Robert Lewandowski's record run of consecutive wins in the competition was halted.

The Polish striker had won his previous 22 Champions League games since Bayern's 3-1 loss against Liverpool in 2019, missing last season's quarter-final first-leg defeat to Paris St Germain through injury.

Kings mark history with victory

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bashundhara Kings Arena made its momentous debut a fitting one as hosts and holders Bashundhara Kings clinched an emphatic 3-0 win against Bangladesh Police while the Sylhet District Stadium witnessed a thrilling 3-3 draw between Rahmatganj MFS and title contenders Sheikh Jamal DC in the Bangladesh Premier League fixtures yesterday.

Robson Da Silva's brace with Eleta Kingsley's strike meant Kings had marked a piece of history in domestic football by becoming the country's first-ever outfit to host their professional football league encounter at their own venue, located in Dhaka's Bashundhara Residential Area.

Around two thousand spectators, who could hardly socially distance themselves at the gallery, showed up to witness the keen contest, which saw Police brilliantly hold Kings till 65 minutes. Tempers frayed afterwards when Police's Brazilian defender Danilo Augusto kicked the ball towards Kings' coach Oscar Bruzon, leading to scuffles. The referee remained busy as Police's Romanian coach Aristica Cioaba was cautioned and a bench player saw a red.

On the greenish and even surface, Kings enjoyed the lion's share of possession. Kings, missing two of their foreign players, adopted a high-line defence and kept

pressing for the opener. But the two-time champions could not rattle the backline of Police, who kept counteracting with long balls after foiling Kings' efforts.

Second half saw Bruzon implement a couple of key changes, sending Eleta Kingsley and Mahdi Yusuf Khan, who made the difference by contributing in all three goals in the span of 22 minutes.

Mahdi, in the 66th minute, first penetrated from the right flank and assisted a cut-back for Robson da Silva, who drove a powerful shot home. Robson struck again, this time with a penalty, when Mahdi was brought down by Danilo in the 75th minute.

Twelve minutes later, Mahdi impacted again, releasing a through-ball to the right for Kingsley, who sealed the win for the defending champions as Kings tallied nine points from four matches while Police were stuck on two points.

In the day's other match in Sylhet, Sunday Chizoba and Lancine Toure struck two late goals for the home team Rahmatganj in the dying minutes of the game to gain their first point in the league by denying a victory to Sheikh Jamal, who would be gutted to leave the field with a draw and to find themselves in table's second position, with a point below Kings in four matches, despite cruising into half time at 2-0, courtesy of Solomon King's brace.

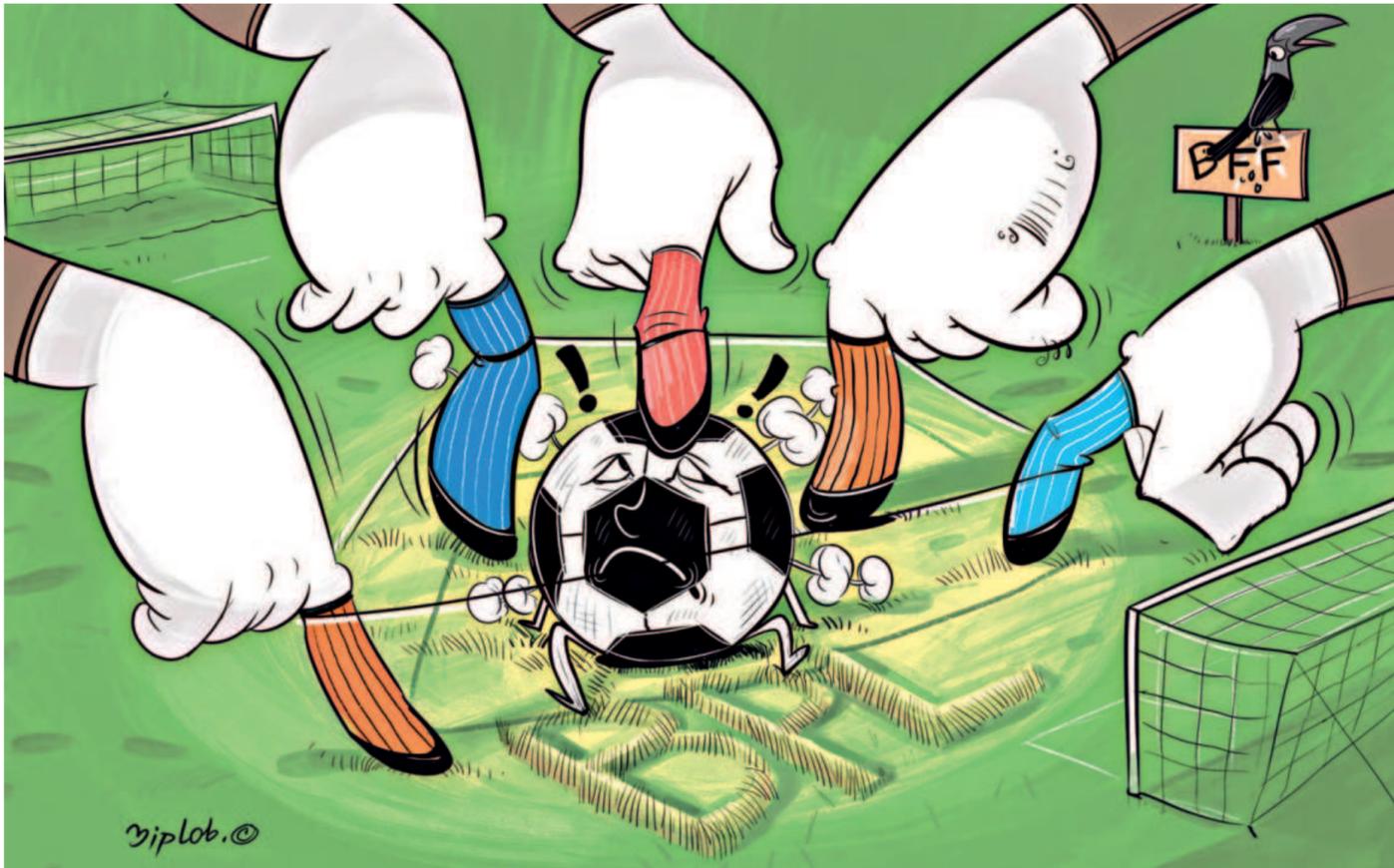
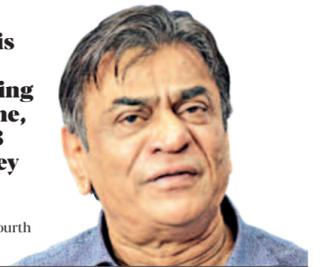


Robson Robinho (R) and Eleta Kingsley – the two goalscorers for Bashundhara Kings – celebrate during their 3-0 win over Bangladesh Police in a Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday. (Inset) Spectators enjoy the match, which saw the debut of the venue in the top-tier professional football of the country.

PHOTO: STAR

We have regularised football and made it year-round that is what I promised when I took charge. Players are now earning more money. Back at that time, footballers used to get Tk 2-3 lakhs per season each but they now earn Tk 60-70 lakhs.

Kazi Salahuddin told after being elected for the fourth consecutive term as the BFF boss in October 2020.



'Most clubs lacked the infrastructure'

Kazi Nabil Ahmed had been active in Bangladesh's football scene since 2004 before taking over as Abahani's acting director in charge in 2015 and being elected vice president of the Bangladesh Football Federation in 2016. He has also formed strong squads for the country's most successful club. Nabil spoke to The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman about the club's professionalism, activities and future plans.

DS: What challenges have Abahani faced since the introduction of the professional football league in 2007?

KNA: The main bar for all the clubs to professionalisation was that most clubs lacked the infrastructure to support the necessary requirements. Abahani were no exception, despite being much better than other clubs who don't even have their own clubhouse or field. We even have a gym. But I still feel we are not keeping pace with where we should be. In the coming days, we hope to get there.

DS: Despite being a limited company, why does Abahani depend on donations instead of finding a source of income?

KNA: As I said, the professionalisation of football or clubs is challenging. Although Abahani were the first club to become a commercial company and started the journey long ago, we only very recently started selling jerseys. We are discussing making merchandise and because people in Bangladesh are very interested in sports in general, and football especially, we

Changes that happen and the decisions that are taken are due to circumstances but that is not very helpful for any club.

are engaging new supporters on social networks.

DS: Although Abahani spends millions behind its senior team every season, why do they not have a youth team?

KNA: This will happen when the players provide a financial value for clubs, when different clubs can buy and sell players in the truest sense. Although the federation has arranged U-18 tournaments a few times, engagement has been very limited. I believe having it on a regular basis is going to help clubs intensify their efforts to form U-16, U-18 or age-group teams and strengthen the pipeline.

DS: Do you think players are being over-valued in the current transfer market?

KNA: I don't think that because the clubs are willing to pay those amounts. Players are commanding that in a free market. 12 or 13 clubs are competing at the highest level and there are only a limited number of very good players. So of course, there is competition to get them.

DS: Do you believe Abahani have become a professional side?

KNA: I will say Abahani is yet to transform itself into a truly professional club, but the journey is ongoing and I definitely think Abahani are on the path.

DS: When will fans be able to watch Abahani play league matches in its own home venue?

KNA: That is a challenge for every club. Only one club has taken steps towards creating their own home venue and I appreciate them. I believe we

need to do that and we are already holding talks to explore the possibilities and find out how we can do that. I hope it is going to happen soon.

DS: How satisfied are Abahani with the federation, for example in terms of postponement of the league or selection of venues?

KNA: Changes that happen and the decisions that are taken are due to circumstances but that is not very helpful for any club. All clubs expect long-term decisions and it is easier to plan if it can be based on long-term goals. Recently due to Covid-19, the decision was taken to hold the league in a central venue even though they had done a lot of work in order to make Sylhet our home venue.

DS: In India, they hold the Indian Super League on a fixed schedule but in Bangladesh the league is scheduled haphazardly. Can Abahani play some kind of role behind fixing a concrete timeframe for the Bangladesh Premier League?

KNA: Abahani wants a yearly plan taking into account the national team's engagements or national holidays and other issues. This is something other countries are doing. We urge the federation to work towards making fixtures that we play on the basis of a fixed calendar and schedule.

Is there any place for BPL in the world of professional football?

The league has improved a bit compared to the early editions of the competition but we need to be improved a lot when it comes to professionalism. We, players, are pleased to play BPL in every season but the clubs must improve in terms of professionalism. Four to five top clubs have been showing some signs towards professionalism but it would be really good if the rest of the clubs also show the same tendency.

Tapu Barman



ANISUR RAHMAN

Even in its 14th year, the Bangladesh Premier League is struggling to find its identity in the world of professional football. After being instructed to do so by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the Bangladesh Football Federation introduced a professional football league in 2007. The belief was that it would allow clubs to set new benchmarks on the field as well financially and in terms of infrastructure and administration. But objectives have not been met in the past 13 years and even the ongoing 14th Bangladesh Premier League is struggling to roll on smoothly following a dispute over venues two weeks after the league began. The Bangladesh Premier League still lacks a lot and the federation appears reluctant to meet the criteria of professionalism. So the most satisfactory aspect remains that the league is at least being held every season and the players are at least earning a living through the sport.

LEAGUE STANDARDS

Complaints about the organisation of the Bangladesh Premier League are rife, with organisers failing to settle on rules despite 13 years of experience. Among those are the number of participating teams, the number of teams to be relegated, the foreign players' quota and even the timetable. The constant shuffling of the rules even forced one club to

There are a lot of problems. I think overall professionalism has to be improved. We, the players, have nothing to do except playing in the way they are running the BPL right now.

Jamal Bhuiyan



seek, and receive, justice from the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The committee has even prolonged seasons to 10 months by interrupting the league, leaving clubs with no choice but to pay more to foreign players while also giving local players no room to breathe.

The standard of football, when measured by either the national team's results or club achievements in international tournaments, has not improved, but the league has become more competitive.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

Financial constraints have undoubtedly been a significant hindrance towards professionalism, but clubs in Bangladesh have never attempted to gain financial liberty

by merchandising their products or exploring other ventures. Instead, they continue to rely on donations from wealthy stakeholders and run their clubs on a season-by-season basis.

22 clubs have so far taken part in the professional football league since 2007, but the league had to be confined to Dhaka because Dhaka-based clubs were unwilling to play outside the capital, citing financial constraints. However, this has not stopped the wages of players from skyrocketing. The few top players, especially those in the national football team, secure contracts ranging between Tk 70 lakh and Tk 90 lakh per season. Other players can earn between Tk 10 lakh to Tk 30 lakh.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

While all the clubs have age-group or youth teams in line with their club licensing agreements, it appears to be only on paper. The clubs do not provide training or coaching around the year. It is not unusual for clubs to only bring in young players as needed, shaping them up for a month or two before the rare age-level tournament.

In terms of competitions, there is little interest from any concerned party in holding a regular league or tournaments that could give young players an ideal breeding ground. The Bangladesh Football Federation's own Under-18 Football Tournament has not been held since 2019.

'I think the league before was more organised'

AKM Maruful Haque, the only coach in Bangladesh with a UEFA A license, has watched the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) from the dugout for the past 13 years, with coaching stints at Mohammedan, Sheikh Russel, Sheikh Jamal, Arambagh, Chattagram Abahani and even the national team. The 51-year-old spoke to The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman about the professional football league and his experiences at different clubs.

The Daily Star (DS): How would you evaluate the BPL?

Maruful Haque (MH): I have been a part of the BPL since the beginning and I think the league before was more organised. Things including venues and fixtures were decided on well ahead of the start of the league but we don't see that now. On the other hand, we are seeing many good teams that had not been seen before. Now the title race is confined to four to five teams instead of just two teams, which used to be a regular phenomenon.

DS: How much of an impact do you think the BPL has had on the development of Bangladesh football?

MH: There are five to six components of developing football and the most



important is the highest-level football league of any country because it has an immense impact on development. I think players' performances fluctuate because of the way the Bangladesh Premier League is held. Due to that fluctuation in performance, the national team suffers at the international level. It is better to run the league smoothly and avail the FIFA window, but not allow 20-day breaks. An interrupted league also has a big impact on development.

DS: How much logistical support do you get from professional clubs in training camps?

MH: I will say I am lucky in regards to this aspect because I have received support from each club that I coached. I made it work because I know the socio-economic

status of the country and the clubs as well. So I always sought support with the club's ability in mind and I was never denied. For example, I wanted a drone, which can cost between Tk 60,000 to Tk 3 lakh. But I wanted a lower priced one and I got it. This time I demanded an interactive smartboard, which can also vary in cost but I got one suited to my needs. However, the coach must make the club understand why he needs specific

I wanted a drone, which can cost between Tk 60,000 to Tk 3 lakh. But I wanted a lower priced one and I got it.

support.

DS: Can you assess the quality of the players in the BPL?

MH: Players are unlucky because they do not get training either at the youth or grassroots level. That's why we get footballers who are not educated about football. At the beginning, I got players who had that education but were not hard workers. However, the current batch is hard-working but not well-equipped

with technical and tactical skills or knowledge.

DS: Does the country lack quality coaches?

MH: It is a mixed bag. I don't think enough local coaches are ready for top-flight football. Our coaches lack the ability for self-assessment. On the other hand, clubs sometimes bring in foreign coaches unnecessarily. If a quality foreign coach is roped in, that also helps local coaches learn. But in most cases, high-quality foreign coaches are not signed.

DS: Can you single out weak or strong points of the BPL?

MH: The weakest aspect is that BPL does not have a fixed timeframe or fixed format. Does the BPL follow the home and away format? There is also no fixed quota for foreign players. If it was fixed, clubs could fix their plans accordingly. The positive side is that the league has been very competitive for the past four to five years and a lot of players have come into the league. For instance, we didn't know who was going to play for newcomers Swadhinata KS before the start of the season but they are doing well on the pitch, like Uttar Baridhara last season.

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An elderly man gives in and sits in the middle of a long queue in front of an OMS truck in the capital's Mohammadpur Bus Stand area yesterday. It has now become common for people to stand in line for hours for these trucks as prices of daily essentials have been skyrocketing in markets. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

They brave queues, chaos

People throng TCB trucks to buy essentials at reasonable prices

MAMUNUR RASHID

The queues and chaos in front of TCB trucks have only been growing recently due to reduced earnings of low- and middle-income groups and price hikes.

In one such queue, some 200 people were waiting for their much-anticipated TCB truck on Manik Mia Avenue around 11:00am yesterday.

The trucks of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) offer daily commodities at a lower price.

Mujibur Rahman, who rents out four to five rickshaws for income, was one in the queue.

He said he was waiting in the line for two hours as he could not afford everyday essentials from retail markets.

"I will purchase 2 litres of oil, 2 kilogrammes of sugar and lentils each and 3 kilogrammes of onions," he added.

About the chaos there, he said, "The truck comes at 10:00am on one day and at 11:00am on another. It does not even show up on some days.

"Although it is troublesome, I still have to wait here as I do not have enough money to buy commodities from a grocer at a higher price."

Seeking anonymity, a woman who works at BTCL's (Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd) telephone exchange building, said

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Star HEALTHLINE

ICU DOCTORS' WELLBEING during pandemic

DR MEHNAZ FERDOUS

Even though each professional had to adapt to their new way of life, doctors had to adapt to the Covid-19 pandemic in an unprecedented manner. Response to the pandemic has been a challenge of huge magnitude that physicians have not faced perhaps in a lifetime. With wave after wave of Covid-19 hitting the globe, the pandemic appears like a marathon rather than a 100m sprint.

Pandemic's potential impact can be profound and long-lasting, especially given the triggers seen by ICU physicians daily. Witnessing suffering is not an alien concept to those working in the ICU, but the speed and scale of Covid-19 led to a constant sense of flux which created anxiety, exhaustion and inevitable burnouts.

Also, unrelenting fatigue, mental trauma and social stigma could result in a drop in performance. Junior doctors taking up more responsibilities due

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ACC officials protest firing of colleague

TIB asks if he was sacked for exposing the corrupt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday protested the termination of a deputy assistant director of the commission in Patuakhali.

On Wednesday, the ACC terminated Sharif Uddin under the section 54(2) of Anti-Corruption Commission (Servants) Service Rules-2008.

About 50 ACC officials formed a human chain in front of the ACC headquarters in the capital's Segunbagicha.

They said Sharif was a hardworking and skilled officer who filed 52 corruption cases while he was in Chattogram. Because of his stance against corruption, the corrupt threatened him with life, they said, adding that firing him with no room for self-defence was tantamount to supporting corruption.

Talking to the Daily Star, Sharif said he was a victim of injustice. "I responded to [queries of] departmental probes... To the best of my knowledge, some of the probe reports went in my favour," he said.

However, top ACC officials claimed that Sharif was engaged in various activities that violated ACC rules.

"There were three departmental proceedings and seven to eight allegations against him. On several occasions, the High Court expressed

discontent over his activities," said a top official.

In June last year, Sharif was transferred to Patuakhali from Chattogram. A human rights organisation had then filed a writ challenging the transfer order. The HC dropped the matter from the caustelist but a fake order stating that 'the High Court stayed his transfer' was circulated.

When the matter came to the fore, the HC asked the ACC to take action against Sharif.

The HC in December last year once again expressed its discontent when it came to its notice that Sharif did not deposit about Tk 94 lakh, seized from a surveyor of Cox's Bazar to the public exchequer.

Sharif said that he handed over Tk 94 lakh to his boss when joining the Patuakhali office. "It was evidence. We need to do inventory before submitting evidence to the court. During the pandemic, there was no official activity and it was not possible for me to write down serial numbers of the notes," he said.

Regarding the fake HC order, Sharif said he has no relation with the writ petitioner. "They filed it on their own."

Yesterday, at the human chain, his colleagues said they face various challenges and threats while carrying out duties. "We hope the ACC will take measures to address these," they said, seeking reinstatement of Sharif.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Experts slam draft policies on new media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed regulation and policy for social media and streaming services will be alarming for journalism and the free flow of information, experts said yesterday.

Since registration is being made mandatory to distribute content online, there is scope for scrutiny by intelligence agencies for the final approval for the licence, they said, adding that it will allow them to choose who to give a licence to.

The observations came at a virtual seminar organised on Draft Policy on Regulation of Digital Media, Social Media, and OTT Platforms 2021 last evening by the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust.

The ICT Division has formulated a draft called Over The Top Content-Based Service Providing and Operation Policy 2021 while the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) prepared another draft regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms.

"There is no need for such guidelines -- it is an unlawful exercise of power," said lawyer ZI Khan Panna, a human rights activist.

The guideline has been formulated to suppress progressive people, not the religious fanatics who spread hate online, he added.

Rights activists, as well as free thinkers, will face obstacles in getting the licence as intelligence agencies are given the authority to pick and choose, said Supreme Court Lawyer Hamidul Misbah.

"They will not choose the persons who talk against the ruling party or are not like-minded."

The policy will also harm small companies and individual content creators since the licence fee is fixed at Tk 5 lakh, he said, adding that the long procedures of getting a licence will create bottlenecks.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Role of transport workers

ABDUL AWAL BHUIYAN

I had about 10 taxis on the Dhaka-Narayanganj route. There was no strike on that route on the morning of February 21. At that time, I was in Narayanganj. The transport strike actually began in the evening, shortly after the shooting.

In the morning of February 22, some youths of Bangshal set fire to the office of 'Morning News'. They procured petrol from the stock of Dhaka transport owners. They did it spontaneously without any outside effort. When I was in Khoshmahal Restaurant, a procession was going down Nawabpur Road towards Sadarghat. At the junction of Bangshal Road and Nawabpur Road, near Nishat Cinema Hall, police tried to stop the procession. They opened fire on the procession in front of Khoshmahal restaurant, without firing any tear gas or charge truncheons. One died on the spot and several others were injured.

At 10:00am on February 23, District Magistrate Qureshi convened a meeting of transport owners at his office. All the major transport owners were present, including Lashkar, Moti Sardar and I.

The transportation system completely collapsed due to the successful strike. Qureshi wanted to end the strike with our help and resume normal travel. He threatened to cancel our licences and benefits if we did not comply.

Moti Sardar, who was probably the only

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

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A crimson sunbird perched on a Mandar tree branch for lunch from a flower at the Satchhari National Park in Habiganj's Chunarughat recently. Breeders in tropical southern Asia, the birds generally feed on nectar. PHOTO: REHANA BEGUM

