



We have been left alone to defend our state. Who is ready to fight alongside us? I don't see anyone.

Ukraine President
Volodymyr Zelensky

The Daily Star

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TO KNOW

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BATTLE ON FOR KYIV

- West announces more sanctions but no troops to defend Ukraine
- Biden vows to make Putin 'pariah'; Xi opens possibility of 'top-level' talks
- UN says invasion could drive 5 million Ukrainians to flee abroad



AGENCIES

Ukrainian forces yesterday fought off Russian troops in the capital Kyiv on the second day of an invasion that has claimed dozens of lives, as the EU approved sanctions targeting President Vladimir Putin.

Small arms fire and explosions were heard in the city's northern district of Obolonsky as what appeared to be an advance party of Russia's invasion force left a trail of destruction. Fear of bombardment forced many residents flee their homes and taking shelter in the city's subway system.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has defied Western warnings to unleash a full-scale invasion on Thursday that displaced at least 100,000 people and prompted condemnation from around the world.

Following pre-dawn blasts in Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky recalled Nazi Germany's 1941 invasion and praised his people for "demonstrating heroism" as Russian forces advanced towards the capital.

The president called on Europeans with "combat experience" to take arms and defend Ukraine, saying the West was too slow to help his country.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov meanwhile said Moscow wanted to "free Ukraine from oppression" and denied there had been any strikes on civilian targets.

He said Moscow was ready to talk if Ukraine's armed forces "lay down their arms", adding that "nobody intends to occupy Ukraine".

Later in the day, Putin called on the Ukrainian army to overthrow the government whose leaders he described as "terrorists" and "a gang of drug addicts and neo-Nazis".

Putin also accused "Ukrainian nationalists" of

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A woman walks around the wreckage of an unidentified aircraft that crashed into a house in a residential area of Kyiv yesterday, after Russia launched a massive military operation against Ukraine.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Nightmare on a day of joy

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

For weeks, Mehedi Hasan Mohon and Tania Khatun had been planning to make the first birthday of their only daughter a memorable one. The couple bought a pair of diamond stud earrings for her and were about to throw a party at their home in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The child, Lilia Sizda, turned one yesterday, but the day which was supposed to be of celebrations morphed into a struggle to survive.

"We've been in this car, so close to each other, for around 30 hours. We're fleeing the war, we're fleeing for our lives," Mohon told The Daily Star as they approached the Poland border near Kovel yesterday afternoon.

"We've left everything behind, we couldn't even take the

earrings ...," he said.

The family left their home in the Ukraine capital after Russian forces launched a military assault which prompted thousands of people to scramble towards the borders with neighbouring countries.

In a blue France-made Logan car, Mohon started off along with six others -- his wife Tania, Lilia, and his friend Abdul Awal, Awal's wife and two children -- and drove for around 900 kilometres. They stopped only to refuel and use the washroom.

The streets were largely deserted and no restaurant could be found open on the way.

Before leaving home, they took a few suitcases and packed them with clothes and packets of dry foods, but the food was running out fast.

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Lilia Sizda, who turned 1 yesterday.

BANGLADESHIS IN UKRAINE Looking for ways to border

PORIMOL PALMA

A curfew was in force between 11:00pm Thursday and 6:00am yesterday (Ukraine local time) in the southern Ukrainian port city of Odessa as there were threats of attacks from the Russian forces. An eerie calm reigned over the city, with its residents staying indoors.

Things were not looking good for Bangladeshi medical student Rizve Hasan and his four flat mates in a 17-storey building in Odessa. They were unnerved by security issues and had almost no sleep for the night.

"Around 4:00am, there was a city alert, meaning we all had to go to the basement of the building for safety," Rizve told this correspondent over the phone yesterday.

He said they all frantically rushed to the basement and spent nearly two hours. It was really quite frightening.

"But finally another security alert was issued that meant there were no threats of attacks. We then returned to our flat," said Rizve, an MBBS final year student at the Odessa National Medical University.

He said there were some 500 Bangladeshis in Odessa and many of them already started moving towards Polish borders.

The student said he was also trying to rent a car or

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Tigers roar to series victory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspired by batting brilliance from Liton Das and Mushfiqur Rahim, Bangladesh secured a thumping 88-run victory over Afghanistan in the second ODI in Chattogram yesterday to seal the three-match ODI series 2-0 with a game in hand.

The win also saw the Tigers roar to the top of the ICC ODI Super League table. With 10 wins from 14 matches, Bangladesh now sit top of the Super League, which will determine qualification for the 50-over World Cup in 2023, above second-placed England.

It was also Bangladesh's 11th win in the last 12 ODIs at home that also ensured the Tigers' sixth consecutive bilateral home ODI series victory.

The thumping win at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium was set in motion by a record 202-run third-wicket stand between Liton and Mushfiqur, helping Bangladesh post a mammoth 306 for four -- their highest total against Afghanistan in ODIs.

Liton smashed a 126-ball 136, his fifth ODI ton, while Mushfiqur scored a 93-ball 86. Liton also set the record for taking the least number of innings (49) to reach five ODI centuries among Bangladeshi batters.

Their efforts were complemented by

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Bangladesh batter Liton Das is embraced by Mushfiqur Rahim after the former smashed his fifth ODI ton during their second ODI against Afghanistan in Chattogram yesterday. The Liton-Mushfiqur duo stitched together a record 202-run third-wicket stand to help Bangladesh win the game by 88 runs and seal the three-match series 2-0.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Karbari, his 4 sons hacked to death in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A village elder, locally known as Karbari, and his four sons were hacked to death at a remote Mro neighbourhood on a hill in Galengya area of Ruma, Bandarban, on Thursday night.

The victims are Lockrui Mro Karbari, 60, and his sons Runtui Mro, 35, Rengi Mro, 30, Menwai Mro, 25, and Ringrao Mro, 20, said Additional Police Superintendent Ashok Kumar Paul.

A police team reached the spot and recovered the bodies, he said.

Locals said some residents of remote Abui Para, 15, suddenly attacked Lakrui and his sons with sharp weapons around 10:00pm on Thursday.

"We have reports that the family had a dispute with certain villagers," the officer added.

Uhla Ching Marma, chairman of Ruma Upazila Parishad, said, "Some of the villagers had been falling sick for the last few weeks and they suspected that Karbari and his sons were casting spells on them. That could be the reason why they attacked them."

Bangladesh keen to engage more with Asean

Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Terming Bangladesh a geographically contiguous neighbour of the Asean, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her country's keen interest in strengthening institutional engagements with the important regional organisation.

She sought a more pro-active support from the Asean to ensure an "early, safe and dignified" repatriation of the displaced Rohingyas whom Bangladesh temporarily sheltered purely on humanitarian grounds.

The PM said this in her message to President of the Philippines Rodrigo Roa Duterte on the occasion of the 50 years of diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and the Philippines, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

President Duterte said, "Bangladesh, having transitioned to one of the most successful economies in the world, will play a greater role in the South Asian region and beyond."

The two leaders vowed to further strengthen the shared journey of the two friendly countries in the next 50 years and beyond.

Hasina recalled with gratitude the early recognition the government of the Philippines accorded to an independent Bangladesh on February 24, 1972.

Both the leaders praised the strong, cooperative and friendly relations that have been nurtured between the two friendly countries in the last five decades, including trade, investment, education, tourism, cultural exchange and people-to-people contacts.



Three volunteers dressed up as cartoon characters entertain children at the "Child Corner" of the Amar Ekushey Bô Mela in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. This year's first "Children's Hour" of the fair made the children's visit more pleasant as they had a fun day out.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

COVID RECOVERY

WB approves \$300m loan for Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank approved a \$300m loan for Bangladesh yesterday aiming to support the country's urban local government institutions in facing the coronavirus pandemic and its future shocks.

The funding, under a programme titled The Local Government Covid-19 Response and Recovery Project, targets to benefit about 40 million urban residents, read a press release of The World Bank.

Some 329 municipalities and 10 city corporations in all eight divisions – Barishal, Chattogram, Dhaka, Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Sylhet – will have the provision to receive funds bi-annually.

Aided by the funding, the eligible urban local bodies will install community hand-washing stations and toilets; and improve sanitation in municipality-owned or operated markets, burial grounds, and public offices.

The project will help the residents have better access to municipality-operated health clinics and facilitate vaccine registrations for disadvantaged people, and conduct awareness programmes on

Covid-19 protocols, vaccines, and climate risks.

Besides, the project will support labour-intensive public works to restore the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people, who were most affected by the Covid-19

"The Covid-19 pandemic had hit hard the poor people in urban areas, caused income losses and disrupted basic service delivery. But the city corporations and the municipalities can play a critical role in helping the urban poor recover from the pandemic as well as get cities prepared to handle future shocks."

restrictions and lockdowns.

It will create 1.5 million days of temporary work as well as employment for 10,000 women under the public work scheme.

"The Covid-19 pandemic had hit hard

the poor people in urban areas, caused income losses and disrupted basic service delivery. But the city corporations and the municipalities can play a critical role in helping the urban poor recover from the pandemic as well as get cities prepared to handle future shocks," said Mercy Tembon, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

"This project will help the cities and towns to build back better as they recover from the pandemic and prepare for future shocks, including climate change, disasters, and disease outbreaks," she added.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed the number of urban poor up to 27 million," said Shenhua Wang, World Bank Senior Urban Development Specialist and Task Team Leader for the project.

"The project will carry out labour-intensive public works and operations and maintenance schemes that in one hand will ensure water supply and sanitation, drainage, and other critical services reach low-income areas, slums, and areas exposed to high disease outbreak and disaster risks and in other hand create jobs for the poor urban people," said Shenhua Wang.

Battle on for Kyiv

FROM PAGE 1

deploying heavy weapons in residential areas of major cities to provoke the Russian military, a claim that could fuel fears Moscow is creating pretexts for justifying civilian casualties.

Meanwhile China's foreign ministry yesterday said Putin, during a phone call, told his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that Russia is willing to hold high level talks with Ukraine.

Putin told Xi that the United States and Nato had long ignored Russia's legitimate security concerns, repeatedly reneged on their commitments, and continued to expand military deployment eastward, challenging Russia's strategic bottom line, according to a statement on the Chinese foreign ministry website.

Russia has demanded that Ukraine to drop its ambition to join Nato.

Ukraine said 137 people, including soldiers and civilians, have been killed since Russia began its air and ground assault on Thursday.

While the United States moved to impose sanctions on Russian elites and banks, it stressed that American forces would not fight in Ukraine. Nato also said it would not send forces to Ukraine.

Among the highest-profile strategic developments on Thursday, Ukraine said Russian forces had seized the Chernobyl nuclear power plant – prompting concern from

international nuclear watchdogs. Russia said Thursday it had destroyed over 70 Ukrainian military targets, including 11 airfields.

Western intelligence confirmed Moscow had established "complete air superiority" over Ukraine.

Weeks of diplomacy failed to deter Putin, who massed over 150,000 troops on Ukraine's borders.

Western allies had initially imposed some sanctions on Russia in an effort to stop Putin from invading, then followed through on Thursday with vows to heavily punish Russia economically.

US President Joe Biden announced export controls against Russia, alongside sanctions on Russian elites he called "corrupt billionaires", and banks.

The EU also moved to impose "massive" sanctions on Russia's energy and finance sectors on Thursday. EU officials yesterday said the bloc had agreed go even further by freezing European assets linked to Putin and Lavrov personally.

There was also a raft of sanctions in the cultural and sporting worlds, with UEFA deciding that Paris will host this season's Champions League final instead of Saint Petersburg. Formula One also said it was cancelling the Russian Grand Prix while remaining World Cup skiing events were scrapped by the sport's governing body FIS.

Nightmare on a day of joy

FROM PAGE 1

"It's been a dreadful journey. We started for the Poland border around 2:00pm on Thursday [Ukraine time] and are still six kilometres off the border. We've been stuck in the same place for the last four hours. The traffic is terrible here," Mohon told this correspondent on FaceTime.

He sent two pictures showing vehicles in long queues. "It may take another four to five hours to cross the border," he said.

Mohan, who is from Jashore, was also facing trouble in using the internet. He lost the connection

several times while talking to this newspaper. At one point, he started sending voice messages.

"It's good news that we're close to the border and are apparently safe now. We've heard Poland is allowing in people with passports and vehicle documents."

Asked whether they will try to come to Bangladesh later, he said, "Honestly, [I] don't know what we will do. We need to go to Poland first. We desperately want the war to stop."

His friend Abdul Awal said, "Although we lost all our belongings, we're happy that we have survived."

Asked where will they

stay in Poland, he said, "We'll decide that once we reach there."

Asked whether any other Bangladeshis were joining them, he said, "We're yet to hear about anyone crossing the border right now. Some 10 to 12 people have contacted us over phone and said they were on their way to the border. The journey might take around 20 hours."

Although some Bangladeshis like Mohon and Awal left Kyiv, many others stayed back.

The Daily Star talked to three such Bangladeshis.

Faruk Ahmed is one of them.

The 58-year-old along

Looking for ways to border

FROM PAGE 1

get a vehicle so he could travel to a Polish border as the European country opened border for Bangladeshis.

The Bangladesh embassy in Poland contacted Rizve yesterday and he joined the embassy's WhatsApp group.

"The embassy said it would try to arrange my trip to the Polish border. Alternatively, I may also arrange it. I am looking for a better option," he said.

According to Bangladesh expatriates in Ukraine, there are some 2,000-2,500 Bangladeshis in the country and many of them were traveling to Polish and Romanian borders for safety.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh embassy in Poland's Warsaw, which

also oversees the country's diplomatic relations with Ukraine, in a statement yesterday said Bangladeshi expatriates in Ukraine would be allowed to enter Poland without visas.

The statement said valid passport holders will be able to enter Poland. Those without a passport will be allowed to cross the border with a travel pass, which would be issued at the border. Every Bangladeshi should bring two copies of passport sized coloured photos with them.

A delegation of the embassy was rushing to Poland-Ukraine border at the soonest to assist Bangladeshis wishing to enter Poland from Ukraine, the statement added.

The embassy also advised the expatriate Bangladeshis living in

remote areas of Ukraine to monitor the situation and leave for the border, as there will be extra traffic jams along the way due to isolated bomb blasts inside Ukraine and shortage of fuel.

In another development, the Romanian government has declared that it will allow Bangladeshis, now stranded in Ukraine, in and they can stay for two days each.

"Within that period, the Bangladesh embassy in Bucharest will arrange their repatriation to Bangladesh," State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrar Alam said in a post on his verified Facebook page yesterday.

The Bangladesh embassy in Warsaw has advised the Bangladeshis living in South and South-western

regions of Ukraine to move towards the Romanian border.

Sultana Laila Hossain, Bangladesh ambassador to Poland, said they will arrange accommodation for the Bangladeshis on an urgent basis.

Based on the situation, the expatriates can be evacuated from Poland to Bangladesh or they can go back to Ukraine if the situation improves, she told The Daily Star.

She said she was in talks with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine so that the Bangladeshis, who were in detention centers for overstaying visas, can be repatriated by the IOM.

"We are also in contact with the Ukrainian authorities to make this happen," Sultana said.

Cleaner held with 36 gold bars at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials detained a cleaner of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh with 36 gold bars, weighing over 4kg, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday morning.

Md Suruzzaman was held when he was trying to get the bars out of the airport inside his pocket, said Riazul Islam, deputy commissioner of Customs House.

The gold would be worth around Tk 3 crore, he said.

An inbound passenger might have smuggled the bars to the country and handed those over to the cleaner, customs officials said.

A case was filed against Suruzzaman with the Airport Police Station.

Newborn rescued in Lalmonirhat identified

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The newborn baby rescued from beside a roadside dustbin at Puran Bazar in Lalmonirhat town on Valentine's Day has been identified.

On Thursday night, police arrested three people, including the child's mother, in the town's Sahebpura area in a case filed with Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station over the incident.

Shaha Alam, officer-in-charge of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star that they rescued the baby girl after getting a call on 999.

The child was then treated at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. When the child became stable, she was sent to Rajshahi Shishumoni Nibas, a government shelter for the lost and abandoned kids, on February 23 as per the rules, the OC said.

The arrestees confessed to their involvement during the primary interrogation, he said.

Following court orders, further steps will be taken. Many couples have applied to adopt the child, the police official added.

Man crushed under train wheels

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man was crushed under the wheels of a train in Madarganj village of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Sohrab Ali, 40, was from the same upazila.

Quoting locals, Md Akhtaruzzaman, Thakurgaon Railway Station master, said the accident took place when Sohrab was crossing Parbatipur-Panchagarh rail lines around 8:00am.

Elderly woman found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 70-year-old woman was found dead in her house in Manikganj municipal area yesterday.

Amena Begum was a resident of Bandutia village. Her son Firoz, 30, has recently returned home from South Africa. He often misbehaved with her for money to buy drugs, said Firoz's cousin Shahidur Rahman Yunus.

Yunus said they noticed smoke billowing out of the house around 12:30am and called Firoz, but he did not respond. Later, they asked police who broke open the door and found the body, he added.

Abdur Rauf Sarkar, OC of Manikganj Sadar Police Station, said the cause of the death would be known after getting the autopsy report.

Tigers roar to series victory

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impressive bowling from Taskin Ahmed and Shakib Al Hasan to bundle out Afghanistan for just 218 in 45.1 overs.

Chasing the mammoth target, Afghanistan lost three early wickets and were reeling at 34 for three after 9.1 overs. However, even though the visitors never seemed to be in total control of the game, they did raise hopes and kept themselves in the game as Najibullah Zadran and Rahmat Shah

stitched together an 89-run fourth-wicket stand.

Just when the Afghans were starting to look a bit ominous, Taskin removed both Zadran (54 off 61) and Rahmat (52 off 71) in quick succession to once again sway the momentum towards the Tigers. Taskin finished with figures of two for 31 in 10 overs, two of which were maidens.

Shakib also impressed with ball in hand, returning figures of two for 38 in 10 overs.

Bangladesh loses 7b

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agricultural and other informal labourers work in uncovered environments and have to endure extreme heat exposure. They will quickly become dehydrated and heat stress conditions such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps will increase which will reduce their working hours," said Saiful.

Again, in Bangladesh humidity also contributes to heat stress.

"We have seen in several studies that under current water evaporation conditions a person cannot stay in one place for more than six hours due to heat and humidity if the temperature exceeds 35 degrees Celsius.

"During the recent heat waves, the mean temperature of our country exceeded this limit quite often. And, there is no doubt that such conditions will decrease working hours considerably," added Saiful.

Saiful suggested several adaptive measures to mitigate productivity loss.

"We need to increase

sheds and green spots fitted with drinking water sources in the urban areas where people will be able to take rest during hotter days. We need to subsidise agriculture so that farmers can employ labourers in two shifts particularly during the sowing and harvesting seasons," he said.

"We also need to bring all our citizens under universal health insurance coverage so that they can access quality healthcare anywhere anytime which will encourage them to work even under difficult conditions," Saiful added.

Nation pays

FROM PAGE 12

the carnage case filed later.

On November 5, 2013, a Dhaka court sentenced 148 BDR members and two civilians to death, 160 to life in prison, and 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers, to rigorous imprisonment.

The court acquitted 278, but the prosecutors later appealed against the acquittal of 69.



Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, which stands as a tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement, is still buzzing with crowds three days after February 21. People from all walks of life were seen taking a stroll through the monument site on the weekend, maybe taking a bit of the proud history with them as well. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Malaysia sees investment opportunities in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

There is huge potential for Malaysian investment in Bangladesh, especially in palm oil, rubber and timber industries, as the demand for such commodities has increased in Bangladesh in recent times, Malaysian Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said.

Bangladesh's rising market of 180 million people and growing housing and construction industries are a good opportunity for Malaysia to invest, the minister said at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Zuraida arrived on February 23, after visiting India, to see the potentials of boosting bilateral trade and investments.

"Compared to last December, palm oil import from Malaysia to Bangladesh has increased by 113 percent. Similarly, import volume of other products like timber and rubber has also gone up."

Bilateral trade between the two countries is more than \$2 billion.

The minister held meetings with the prime minister, commerce minister, finance minister, business community. After returning to Malaysia, she will meet Malaysian investors and convince them that Bangladesh is a lucrative investment destination.

'Govt relying on repressive laws to gag voices'

Says CPB president at party's 12th congress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the Digital Security Act (DSA) a "repressive law", Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim yesterday said the government is formulating such laws to gag the people's voices.

"The ruling party has lost its public support. Instead of depending on people, it is now relying on bureaucracy and the state machinery to keep its hold on power," Selim said.

"The government is retaining power forcibly to continue its collective plundering and avert punishment for its misdeeds," he added.

He said this at the inauguration of CPB's 12th congress yesterday, at Kazi Bashir Auditorium in the capital's Gulistan.

Selim called upon left-leaning and progressive political parties, persons and forces to unite to get over personal interest and create a larger platform to bring a change and ensure peace, security and rights of people.

"We revived democracy through bloodshed against the military. But democracy is now seized. Election has become a farce, and people's right to vote has been taken away," he said.

The country is now dealing with four dangers – communalism, imperialism, plundering and undemocratic practices – said the CPB president.

"It is time to work with a specific agenda to put left democratic forces in power as an alternative," he said.

CPB adviser Manzurul Ahsan Khan said the country fought in the Liberation War over voting rights.

"The ruling Awami League has grabbed all power. Its absolute power has given birth to

absolute corruption," he said.

To sort out the crisis, citizens will have to fight for the right to vote first. A greater united movement of CPB and other like-minded political parties will have to be formed to face the crisis, he said.

CPB adviser Shahidullah Chowdhury said CPB is a party for working-class people. "Developing CPB as a party for working-class people should be the aim of the 12th congress," he said.

Underscoring the need for creating unity among left-leaning parties, CPB general

The ruling party has lost its public support. Instead of depending on people, it is now relying on bureaucracy and the state machinery to keep its hold on power.

MUJAHIDUL ISLAM SELIM
CPB President

secretary Mohammad Shah Alam said like the ruling parties, the larger political parties of the country not only follow capitalism but have also created amity with fundamentalists like Jamaat-e-Islami.

The session was inaugurated by hoisting the national and CPB flags. CPB leaders and activists started gathering at the programme grounds since early morning.

Representatives of several countries sent messages on the eve of the congress, where a total of 229 party veterans were awarded for their contributions.

Australia to recruit IT professionals from country

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Australia will recruit IT professionals from Bangladesh, and a deal has been signed between two companies of the respective countries in this regard.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Bangladesh's state-owned recruiting agency – Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd (BOESL) – and Australian company Sterning – on Thursday.

BOESL Managing Director Billal Hossain and Sterning Operation Director Paul Egan signed the deal via an online ceremony.

Under the MoU, to be effective for three years, Sterning will arrange jobs for Bangladeshis in the IT sector for its client companies in Australia, Bangladesh embassy in Canberra said in a statement yesterday.

From the Bangladeshi end, BOESL will arrange the supply of these professionals.

BOESL Executive Manager Mahabubur Rahman, Bangladesh Consul General in Sydney Khandker Masudul Alam, Bangladesh Embassy in Canberra Counsellor (Labour) Md Salahuddin and Sterning Founder and CEO Joseph Merz were

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Aiming to develop trade, communication

Info minister holds talks with Assam CM, governor

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said he had successful discussions with state leaders of Assam on how to develop trade and communication with the neighbouring Indian state.

"Successful discussions were held on raising trade along with road, rail, river and air connectivity between the north-eastern bordering state and Bangladesh," he said.

Dr Hasan said this following two separate meetings with Assam Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswas Sarma and Governor Jagdish Mukhi at the Chief Minister's office and Raj Bhaban, respectively, on Thursday afternoon.

During the meeting, Governor Jagdish and the minister discussed raising trade, cultural activities and communication, aiming to accelerate close relations between Bangladesh and Assam. At the same time, they underscored the need for afforestation to maintain balance between the ever-increasing industrialisation and the environment.

The Assam governor also expressed interest in organising a folk festival in Gawhati, considering the proposal of Bangladesh lawmaker and singer Mamta Begum, who was present during the meeting.

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'Truth yet to be uncovered' Says Mirza Fakhrul about BDR mutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a conspiracy behind withholding the investigation report of the BDR mutiny, alleged BNP yesterday.

"It [BDR mutiny] was not just a rebellion; there was a far-reaching conspiracy behind it. The main reason for this was to break the morale of the army and that was their main objective," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"We have not yet received a proper investigation report on who was really behind the revolt, nor has the report of the army's investigation been released," he said.

He said this after paying homage to the victims of the carnage at the capital's Banani army graveyard in the morning.

"Today, even after so many years of our misfortune, we have not been able to find out the truth. Who was behind it, and why did it happen? We think there is a conspiracy behind the fact that the investigation report is not being published," said the BNP leader.

Fakhrul said February 25 is a very sad and terrible day for the whole nation, as 57 army officials were killed on the day through the BDR mutiny.

"Our national security system completely collapsed through this incident," he said.

Fakhrul expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in the BDR mutiny and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

He along with party leaders and former army officials went to the graveyard and placed wreaths at the monument.

PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 26

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:15	12:45	4:30	6:05	7:30
Jamaat	5:50	1:15	4:45	6:10	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

A time just for children

Shishu Prahor held at Boi Mela

DIPAN NANDY

As per tradition, "Shishu Prahor" was set to be held on the first Friday of Amar Ekushey Boi Mela. But due to the pandemic, it was held yesterday instead, on the 10th day of the fair. The fair ground was packed with children of all ages, who visited with their parents.

Among these enthusiastic visitors, ten-year-old Ayushi Tarunima had visited the fair with her mother Tasnim Afroz, who said she came to the fair on the holiday mainly for her daughter. Ayushi had bought her favourite rhyme book, which she was proudly carrying around.

Another young book enthusiast, Ayaz Binte Rahman (8), visited the fair with his father Ashutosh Rahman all the way from Rampura. Ayaz said he liked ghost stories and informed that he too was working on a ghost story book that he was drawing himself. This is why he bought a ghost storybook for inspiration.

Azad, manager of Shishu Mela stall

at Shishu Chattar, said, "Our sales have increased a lot today, as compared to other days. The children are going to different stalls to buy their favourite books."

Talking to this correspondent, popular science-fiction writer and novelist Muhammed Zafar Iqbal said when a child grows up, their own preferences will branch out. There is no point in forcing children to read a specific genre as long as the child develops the habit of reading.

According to Bangla Academy, hundreds of new books were published at the fair yesterday. Among them were Snehashis Roy's "Sadhu o Soshaner Upokotha" (Danar Moray), Samyasthee Bhowmik's "Amra Shorbonam" (Anyaprokash), Abu Ali's "Sharebazarer Shohojpath" (Jyotiprokash), Saif Ibne Rafique's "Corporate Chagolta Goru Hote Chai" (Antivirus Publication), and Suraiya Parvin's "Judhobondi Shoishob" (Koly Publications). Shishu Prahor will be held again today from 11:00am to 1:00pm.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

During Shishu Prahor, a segment traditionally held at the book fair for children, a young reader was seen attentively going through the pages of a picture book. He flips through the pages with his one free-hand, while the other daintily grasps onto the books that'll accompany him home. Many children of different ages, like this little one right here, visited the fair in search of their favourite reads yesterday.

Woman's body found in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police yesterday recovered a woman's body from the roadside in Savar's Ashulia, on the outskirts of Dhaka.

The body of the woman, aged around 34 years, was found in a sack on the southwest side of Rangamati Bridge in Ashulia's Shimulia union around 1:00pm yesterday, said Delowar Hossain, Ashulia Police Station's SI.

Police assume that she died three or four days ago, as the body was partially decomposed, said the SI.

Police recovered the body after being informed by locals. The identity of the victim and cause of death could not be known immediately.

The body is being sent for an autopsy, added Delowar.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

The Surma does not evoke the same awe as it used to. As endless piles of garbage keep flowing into the river, it is almost becoming unnavigable, while its water is near-unusable. This puts livelihoods that depend on the river under immense uncertainty. This photo was taken yesterday from Sylhet's Kazir Bazar area.

Engineering Division

Khulna University, Khulna.
www.ku.ac.bd

Tender No: KU/ENGG/311/2007-২৬৩ Date: 24/02/2022

e-Tender Notice No. 04/2021-22

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

Tender ID No.	Name of the works	Tender Closing and Opening date & time
663183	Repair, Renovation & Painting Works at Shahid Buddhijibi Dr. Govinda Chandra Dev Residence Building at Khulna University, Khulna	13-Mar-2022, 3:30PM

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.
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The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on e-GP system.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Abdur Razzaque)
Chief Engineer
Khulna University, Khulna
E-mail: chiefengineer@ku.ac.bd
Tel: 0247-7734157

GD-371

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
“খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের
অবকাঠামো ও একাডেমিক কার্যক্রম
সংশোধন” প্রকল্প।
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০৩, বাংলাদেশ।

Office of The Project Director
“Expansion of Infrastructure and
Academic Activities of Khulna University
of Engineering & Technology”
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh
Administrative Building (3rd Floor), Tel: (PABX) +88041-769468-75 Ext. 8248;
Fax: +88041-774403; Email: pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd

Memo No.: KUET/EIAA/2022/02/675 Date: 24/02/2022

E-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online Tender Notice Publication date	Online Tender Closing date
01	639957	KUET/EIAA/2021-2022/DW-7/L&L	Construction of Lake and Landscape	24-Feb-2022	10-Mar-2022

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no online/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 last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Dr. Md. Julfikar Hossain)
Project Director
Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh.

GD-372

বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
(বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)
www.btri.gov.bd
E-mail: director@btri@gmail.com

“বেশী বেশী চা পান করুন,
স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন।”

শ্রীমঙ্গল-৩২১০, মৌলভীবাজার।

“বেশী বেশী লিকার চা পানে
ক্যালোরি, হৃদরোগ হার মানে।”

সিএফএম মেশিনের চেইন ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার অবস্থান	বিটিআরআই, পানো ও উপজেলা-শ্রীমঙ্গল, জেলা-মৌলভীবাজার।
৫	আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	সিএফএম মেশিনের চেইন ক্রয়
৬	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)
৭	দরপত্র নং	বিটিআরআই/২/দরপ/৮-২৯৩, তারিখঃ ২৪/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৮	অর্জের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব খাত হতে।
৯	দরপত্র পিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	২৭/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ হতে ১৩/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থানঃ বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২-০৩ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২-১০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১২	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণক, ভাট নিবন্ধনকরণ সনদ পত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, এনুয়াল টার্নওভার ও লিকুইড এসেট এর তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৩	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচ শত) টাকা প্রতিটি।
১৪	পত্রের পরিচিতি	সরবরাহের স্থান
	সিএফএম মেশিনের চেইন	বিটিআরআই, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার
১৫	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির অর্থ	১২০০০/- (বারো হাজার) টাকা
১৬	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা	ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী, পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। ফোনঃ-০৮৬২৬-৭১২২৫; ইমেইলঃ director@btri@gmail.com
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্র সম্ভবত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অথবা বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী
পরিচালক।

জিডি-৩৭৪

Australia

FROM PAGE 3
present at the event.
BOESL MD Billal Hossain said the new MoU has opened the gate to Australia for Bangladeshi IT professionals.
“Through this, we have only initiated arranging jobs for the IT sector. We are contacting more companies so Bangladeshis in other sectors can also get jobs in Australia,” he said.

Sterning CEO Joseph Merz said Australia has huge shortage of IT professionals, and Bangladesh can help meet the demand.

Regular

FROM PAGE 12
conclusively prove regular meat-eating increased the risk of cancer.

Smoking and body fat could also help explain the differences found, they said.

OTHER FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Those who eat lesser amounts of meat had a nine percent lower risk of developing bowel cancer than regular meat-eaters.

Vegetarian women were 18 percent less likely to develop postmenopausal breast cancer than those who ate meat regularly.

Vegetarian men have a 31 percent lower risk of prostate cancer while among male pescatarians it is 20 percent lower.

“The results ... suggest that specific dietary behaviours such as low meat [and] vegetarian or pescatarian diets can have an impact on reducing the risk of certain cancers; in this case bowel, breast and prostate,” The Guardian quoted Dr Giota Mitrou, director of research and innovation at World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF), which co-funded the study with Cancer Research UK.

Dhaka came

FROM PAGE 12
opened fire on the processions, and many protesters were killed. Shafiqur Rahman was shot dead on the day.

A leaflet was published on the same day condemning police firing. Abdul Matin signed the leaflet. Protesters burned down the Jubilee Press. The Morning News used to be published from that press. The movement of February 21 was basically a student movement. It turned into a mass movement the next day.

The residents of Old Dhaka, who had earlier been against the language movement, actively participated in the movement this time. Dhaka city came to a standstill due to the ongoing strike.

Ahmed Raliqu was a student of Dhaka Medical College during the language movement. He actively participated in the movement.

Source: Bhasha Andolon Shatchallish theke Baanna (Ed. Mostofa Kamal, Bangladesh Co-operative Book Society Ltd, 1987)

Translated by
Shamsuddoza Sajen

Evidence points

FROM PAGE 5
first ran over the seven brothers and another sister, before turning back and running over them once again. However, this was not mentioned in the FIR, the parishad leader claimed.

Rana said Santosh Shil, a paternal uncle of the brothers, provided this information to the parishad leaders during a visit to the family's house.

Rana also questioned who and under whose instigation was the case filed under Road Transport Act. He alleged that before the accident took place on February 8, miscreants had attacked the victims' house on January 28 over constructing a temple at

the premises of their house. He said the attackers physically assaulted Suresh Shil and his two sons Champak and Plabon. Suresh died two days later in the aftermath of the attacks.

Rana also mentioned that after the family's relative Ujjwal Shil posted a news item over the issue on social media, asking “Was it an accident or a pre-planned murder?”, he received a threat in the form of an audio clip from a social media profile.

“We think there is a connection between all these things,” Rana told the conference. “We hope the officials will investigate properly, taking all of this into consideration.”

Aiming to develop

FROM PAGE 3
Earlier, the minister held a meeting with Assam's chief minister.

During the meeting, they discussed capacity building of Chattogram port, which included improving navigability to increase waterway trade.

Resumption of air connectivity between Dhaka and Gawhati and Dhaka and Cox's Bazar via Agartala also came up

during the meeting.

To increase connectivity with Assam, the minister said a discussion was held on how to link Bangladesh with the traditional railway network of Assam and development of road connectivity.

The minister has been visiting the Indian states of Tripura and Assam since February 23. The visit will end today.

Why is CMCH paying

FROM PAGE 5
mutton, Tk 270 for rui fish, Tk 265 for mrigal fish, Tk 170 for pangasius fish and Tk 170 for nilotica fish.

In Contrast, Rahad Enterprise offered Tk 320 for chicken, Tk 938 for mutton, Tk 308 for rui, Tk 292 for mrigal, Tk 195 for pangasius, and Tk 195 for nilotica. According to ACC report, Rahad Enterprise is a member of the syndicate, and the prices mentioned in the tender were higher than those in the local market.

Mohammed Ismail, a meat seller at Sholoshahar CDA Karnaphuli Market, said they were recently selling one kilo of dressed broiler chicken for Tk 240 to 250.

Sumon Mia, owner of Nadia Meat in the city's Muradpur area, said they were selling dressed mutton for Tk 850 per kilo.

All the traders said prices are even lower for anyone buying in bulk.

Abul Kashem, a Chattogram representative of Hasan Enterprise, acknowledged that they somehow missed providing the original copy of the bank statement with other documents.

“There is a provision in the PPR [public procurement reform] act

to give time for documents, but authorities did not grant that,” Kashem said.

Contacted, Mohammad Hasan Kabir, owner of Rahad Enterprise, said, “The hospital authorities have given us the work order after verifying the [price] list.”

Asked about the high prices, he said, “We have set the prices after considering aspects like market situation and profits.”

He also refuted the allegation of manipulation.

Gazi Mohammad Zakir Hossain, chairperson of the tender evaluation committee and professor of the hospital's urology department, said, “It's true that Hasan Enterprise had provided the lowest price. But they had a problem with bank documents, which are essential.”

CMCH Director Brig Gen Shamim Ahsan told The Daily Star that he was not aware of any irregularities. “If we find any anomalies in the tender process, we will take necessary actions against those involved.”

Office Rent
Modern office in Dhanmondi of about 2000 sq. ft on first floor of 2-storied building available.
Contact # 017 265 02 473

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization Promoting South-South Cooperation

Re- Advertisement for Three Years' External Audit

PPD is an international Intergovernmental Alliance of 27 developing countries headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh, looking for appointing an Internationally Accredited Chartered Accounting Firm based in Bangladesh to conduct Three Years' External Audit (2018-2020) of PPD, commencing before end of March 2022.

The interested firms are requested to submit Expression of Interest (Eoi) with financial proposals in sealed envelope to PPD Secretariat at the following address **on or before 12th March, 2022**.

Audit Firms which have already submitted, are not concerned with this announcement.

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Plot- 17 B & C, Block- F, Agargaon Administrative Zone, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka- 1207
E-mail: partners@ppdsec.org CC to population1@mefwd.gov.bd
For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), please visit our website: <http://www.partners-popdev.org/>

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur
Website: www.fec.ac.bd

Ref No.: FEC/Tender/OTM/2021-2022/OS/01 Date: 24.02.2022

“Invitation for Tenders for Supply of Manpower by Outsourcing”

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education, Technical & Madrasah Education Division.
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education
3	Procuring Entity Name	Principal, Faridpur Engineering College.
4	Procuring Entity District	Faridpur
5	Invitation for	Supply of Manpower by Outsourcing.
6	Invitation Ref No	FEC/Tender/OTM/2021-2022/OS/01, Date: 24.02.2022
7	Procurement Method	OTM
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
9	Description of Tenders	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur wants to hire One (01) Carpenter, One (01) Plumber, One (01) Pump Operator, One (01) Caretaker, Two (02) Chefs, One (01) Gardener, Four (04) Office Sohayoks, Two (02) Cleaners, & One (01) Book Sorter by OTM for the time duration April 2022 to March 2023.
10	Tender Package No.	FEC/2021-2022/OS-01
11	Tender Package Name	Outsourcing
12	Tender Publication Date	26.02.2022 (Selling Date & Time: 27.02.2022, During Office Hour)
13	Tender Last Selling Date	19.03.2022
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	20.03.2022 Time: 12:00 PM
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	20.03.2022 Time: 12:30 PM
16	Address of Selling Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
17	Address of Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
18	Address of Opening Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
19	Eligibility of Tenderer with some terms & conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have to submit the attested copy of the trade license of the running year, Updated Income Tax and VAT registration certificate, Bank Solvency Certificate i.e., line of credit, Bank Draft/Pay-Order (Main Copy) of Tender Security. Tenderers shall have to submit the Office location plan, architectural plan of office approved by City Corporation/Municipality. Tenderers shall have a valid and updated license from the Department of Inspection of Factories & Establishments. Eligible Staffs should have the age limit of 18 to 60 years. The gross salary will be fixed according to the Outsourcing Policy 2018. Staffs have to work after the scheduled time (if necessary) without any benefits. In case of any damages/losses due to negligence/incompetence of an employee, the manpower supplier shall have to compensate for that. VAT/Tax will be deducted as per prevailing rules. Any of both the parties can cancel the contract with a prior notice of 1 (one) month. Only physically and mentally sound applicants will be treated eligible for the mentioned post. The supplier will be obligated to replace an employee in case of any incompetence. Other eligibilities are specified in TD.
20	Brief Description of Manpower & Services	As Per Schedule
21	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	1000.00 Tk. (One Thousand Taka Only), Un-refundable. Must submit the purchasing slip of Tender Document with Tender Document.
22	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Tk. 75,000/- (Seventy-Five Thousand Tk. Only)
23	Completion Time in Weeks / Months	Must supply manpower within two weeks after the contract agreement.
24	Type of Man Power Supply	As Per Schedule
25	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Engr. Md. Mizanur Rahman
26	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Principal (Additional Charge)
27	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
28	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 0631-66304, 66305, Email: principal.fec@gmail.com , principal@fec.ac.bd , Website: www.fec.ac.bd
29	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

(Prof. Dr. Engr. Md. Mizanur Rahman)
Principal (Additional Charge)
Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur

GD-373



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

The Surma does not evoke the same awe as it used to. As endless piles of garbage keep flowing into the river, it is almost becoming unnavigable, while its water is near-unusable. This puts livelihoods that depend on the river under immense uncertainty. This photo was taken yesterday from Sylhet's Kazir Bazar area.

Engineering Division

Khulna University, Khulna.
www.ku.ac.bd

Tender No: KU/ENGG/311/2007-২৬৩ Date: 24/02/2022

e-Tender Notice No. 04/2021-22

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

Tender ID No.	Name of the works	Tender Closing and Opening date & time
663183	Repair, Renovation & Painting Works at Shahid Buddhijibi Dr. Govinda Chandra Dev Residence Building at Khulna University, Khulna	13-Mar-2022, 3:30PM

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The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on e-GP system.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Abdur Razzaque)
Chief Engineer
Khulna University, Khulna
E-mail: chiefengineer@ku.ac.bd
Tel: 0247-7734157

GD-371

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
“খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অবকাঠামো ও একাডেমিক কার্যক্রম সম্প্রসারণ” প্রকল্প।
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০৩, বাংলাদেশ।

Office of The Project Director
“Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology”
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh
Administrative Building (3rd Floor), Tel: (PABX) +88041-769468-75 Ext. 8248;
Fax: +88041-774403; Email: pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd

Memo No.: KUET/EIAA/2022/02/675 Date: 24/02/2022

E-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online Tender Notice Publication date	Online Tender Closing date
01	639957	KUET/EIAA/2021-2022/DW-7/L&L	Construction of Lake and Landscape	24-Feb-2022	10-Mar-2022

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no online/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 last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Dr. Md. Julfikar Hossain)
Project Director
Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh.

GD-372

বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
(বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)
www.btri.gov.bd
E-mail: director@btri@gmail.com

“বেশী বেশী চা পান করুন, স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন।”

“বেশী বেশী লিকার চা পানো ক্যালোর, হৃদরোগ হার মানে।”

সিএফএম মেশিনের চেইন ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার নাম	বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার অবস্থান	বিটিআরআই, পানো ও উপজেলা-শ্রীমঙ্গল, জেলা-মৌলভীবাজার।
৫	আবেদনকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	সিএফএম মেশিনের চেইন ক্রয়
৬	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)
৭	দরপত্র নং	বিটিআরআই/২/দরপ/৮-২৯৩, তারিখঃ ২৪/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৮	অর্জের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব খাত হতে।
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিজ্ঞপ্তির তারিখ ও স্থান	২৭/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ হতে ১৩/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থানঃ বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২-১০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১২	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ প্রমাণক, ভাট নিবন্ধনকরণ সনদ পত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, এনুয়াল টার্নওভার ও লিকুইড এসেট এর তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৩	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচ শত) টাকা প্রতিটি।
১৪	পত্রের পরিচিতি	সরবরাহের স্থান
	সিএফএম মেশিনের চেইন	বিটিআরআই, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার
১৫	টেন্ডার সিডিউলটির অর্থ	ফেরত যোগ্য হিসেবে সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন তরফি লিফট ব্যাংক হতে পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট অনুকূলে ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা	ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী, পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। ফোনঃ-০৮৬২৬-৭১২২৫; ইমেইলঃ director@btri@gmail.com
১৭	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্র সম্ভবত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অথবা বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী
পরিচালক।

জিডি-৩৭৪

Australia

FROM PAGE 3
present at the event.
BOESL MD Billal Hossain said the new MoU has opened the gate to Australia for Bangladeshi IT professionals.
“Through this, we have only initiated arranging jobs for the IT sector. We are contacting more companies so Bangladeshis in other sectors can also get jobs in Australia,” he said.

Sterning CEO Joseph Merz said Australia has huge shortage of IT professionals, and Bangladesh can help meet the demand.

Regular

FROM PAGE 12
conclusively prove regular meat-eating increased the risk of cancer.

Smoking and body fat could also help explain the differences found, they said.

OTHER FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Those who eat lesser amounts of meat had a nine percent lower risk of developing bowel cancer than regular meat-eaters.

Vegetarian women were 18 percent less likely to develop postmenopausal breast cancer than those who ate meat regularly.

Vegetarian men have a 31 percent lower risk of prostate cancer while among male pescatarians it is 20 percent lower.

“The results ... suggest that specific dietary behaviours such as low meat [and] vegetarian or pescatarian diets can have an impact on reducing the risk of certain cancers; in this case bowel, breast and prostate,” The Guardian quoted Dr Giota Mitrou, director of research and innovation at World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF), which co-funded the study with Cancer Research UK.

Dhaka came

FROM PAGE 12
opened fire on the processions, and many protesters were killed. Shafiqur Rahman was shot dead on the day.

A leaflet was published on the same day condemning police firing. Abdul Matin signed the leaflet. Protesters burned down the Jubilee Press. The Morning News used to be published from that press. The movement of February 21 was basically a student movement. It turned into a mass movement the next day.

The residents of Old Dhaka, who had earlier been against the language movement, actively participated in the movement this time. Dhaka city came to a standstill due to the ongoing strike.

Ahmed Raliqu was a student of Dhaka Medical College during the language movement. He actively participated in the movement.

Source: Bhasha Andolon Shatchallish theke Baanna (Ed. Mostofa Kamal, Bangladesh Co-operative Book Society Ltd, 1987)

Translated by
Shamsuddoza Sajen

Evidence points

FROM PAGE 5
first ran over the seven brothers and another sister, before turning back and running over them once again. However, this was not mentioned in the FIR, the parishad leader claimed.

Rana said Santosh Shil, a paternal uncle of the brothers, provided this information to the parishad leaders during a visit to the family's house.

Rana also questioned who and under whose instigation was the case filed under Road Transport Act. He alleged that before the accident took place on February 8, miscreants had attacked the victims' house on January 28 over constructing a temple at

the premises of their house. He said the attackers physically assaulted Suresh Shil and his two sons Champak and Plabon. Suresh died two days later in the aftermath of the attacks.

Rana also mentioned that after the family's relative Ujjwal Shil posted a news item over the issue on social media, asking “Was it an accident or a pre-planned murder?”, he received a threat in the form of an audio clip from a social media profile.

“We think there is a connection between all these things,” Rana told the conference. “We hope the officials will investigate properly, taking all of this into consideration.”

Aiming to develop

FROM PAGE 3
Earlier, the minister held a meeting with Assam's chief minister.

During the meeting, they discussed capacity building of Chattogram port, which included improving navigability to increase waterway trade.

Resumption of air connectivity between Dhaka and Gawhati and Dhaka and Cox's Bazar via Agartala also came up

during the meeting.

To increase connectivity with Assam, the minister said a discussion was held on how to link Bangladesh with the traditional railway network of Assam and development of road connectivity.

The minister has been visiting the Indian states of Tripura and Assam since February 23. The visit will end today.

Why is CMCH paying

FROM PAGE 5
mutton, Tk 270 for rui fish, Tk 265 for mrigal fish, Tk 170 for pangasius fish and Tk 170 for nilotica fish.

In Contrast, Rahad Enterprise offered Tk 320 for chicken, Tk 938 for mutton, Tk 308 for rui, Tk 292 for mrigal, Tk 195 for pangasius, and Tk 195 for nilotica. According to ACC report, Rahad Enterprise is a member of the syndicate, and the prices mentioned in the tender were higher than those in the local market.

Mohammed Ismail, a meat seller at Sholoshahar CDA Karnaphuli Market, said they were recently selling one kilo of dressed broiler chicken for Tk 240 to 250.

Sumon Mia, owner of Nadia Meat in the city's Muradpur area, said they were selling dressed mutton for Tk 850 per kilo.

All the traders said prices are even lower for anyone buying in bulk.

Abul Kashem, a Chattogram representative of Hasan Enterprise, acknowledged that they somehow missed providing the original copy of the bank statement with other documents.

“There is a provision in the PPR [public procurement reform] act

to give time for documents, but authorities did not grant that,” Kashem said.

Contacted, Mohammad Hasan Kabir, owner of Rahad Enterprise, said, “The hospital authorities have given us the work order after verifying the [price] list.”

Asked about the high prices, he said, “We have set the prices after considering aspects like market situation and profits.”

He also refuted the allegation of manipulation.

Gazi Mohammad Zakir Hossain, chairperson of the tender evaluation committee and professor of the hospital's urology department, said, “It's true that Hasan Enterprise had provided the lowest price. But they had a problem with bank documents, which are essential.”

CMCH Director Brig Gen Shamim Ahsan told The Daily Star that he was not aware of any irregularities. “If we find any anomalies in the tender process, we will take necessary actions against those involved.”

Office Rent
Modern office in Dhanmondi of about 2000 sq. ft on first floor of 2-storied building available.
Contact # 017 265 02 473

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization Promoting South-South Cooperation

Re- Advertisement for Three Years' External Audit

PPD is an international Intergovernmental Alliance of 27 developing countries headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh, looking for appointing an Internationally Accredited Chartered Accounting Firm based in Bangladesh to conduct Three Years' External Audit (2018-2020) of PPD, commencing before end of March 2022.

The interested firms are requested to submit Expression of Interest (Eoi) with financial proposals in sealed envelope to PPD Secretariat at the following address **on or before 12th March, 2022**.

Audit Firms which have already submitted, are not concerned with this announcement.

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Plot- 17 B & C, Block- F, Agargaon Administrative Zone, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka- 1207
E-mail: partners@ppdsec.org CC to population1@mefwd.gov.bd
For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), please visit our website: <http://www.partners-popdev.org/>

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur
Website: www.fec.ac.bd

Ref No.: FEC/Tender/OTM/2021-2022/OS/01 Date: 24.02.2022

“Invitation for Tenders for Supply of Manpower by Outsourcing”

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education, Technical & Madrasah Education Division.
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education
3	Procuring Entity Name	Principal, Faridpur Engineering College.
4	Procuring Entity District	Faridpur
5	Invitation for	Supply of Manpower by Outsourcing.
6	Invitation Ref No	FEC/Tender/OTM/2021-2022/OS/01, Date: 24.02.2022
7	Procurement Method	OTM
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
9	Description of Tenders	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur wants to hire One (01) Carpenter, One (01) Plumber, One (01) Pump Operator, One (01) Caretaker, Two (02) Chefs, One (01) Gardener, Four (04) Office Sohaysoks, Two (02) Cleaners, & One (01) Book Sorter by OTM for the time duration April 2022 to March 2023.
10	Tender Package No.	FEC/2021-2022/OS-01
11	Tender Package Name	Outsourcing
12	Tender Publication Date	26.02.2022 (Selling Date & Time: 27.02.2022, During Office Hour)
13	Tender Last Selling Date	19.03.2022
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	20.03.2022 Time: 12:00 PM
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	20.03.2022 Time: 12:30 PM
16	Address of Selling Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
17	Address of Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
18	Address of Opening Tender Document	Office of the Principal, Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
19	Eligibility of Tenderer with some terms & conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have to submit the attested copy of the trade license of the running year, Updated Income Tax and VAT registration certificate, Bank Solvency Certificate i.e., line of credit, Bank Draft/Pay-Order (Main Copy) of Tender Security. Tenderers shall have to submit the Office location plan, architectural plan of office approved by City Corporation/Municipality. Tenderers shall have a valid and updated license from the Department of Inspection of Factories & Establishments. Eligible Staffs should have the age limit of 18 to 60 years. The gross salary will be fixed according to the Outsourcing Policy 2018. Staffs have to work after the scheduled time (if necessary) without any benefits. In case of any damages/losses due to negligence/incompetence of an employee, the manpower supplier shall have to compensate for that. VAT/Tax will be deducted as per prevailing rules. Any of both the parties can cancel the contract with a prior notice of 1 (one) month. Only physically and mentally sound applicants will be treated eligible for the mentioned post. The supplier will be obligated to replace an employee in case of any incompetence. Other eligibilities are specified in TD.
20	Brief Description of Manpower & Services	As Per Schedule
21	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	1000.00 Tk. (One Thousand Taka Only), Un-refundable. Must submit the purchasing slip of Tender Document with Tender Document.
22	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Tk. 75,000/- (Seventy-Five Thousand Tk. Only)
23	Completion Time in Weeks / Months	Must supply manpower within two weeks after the contract agreement.
24	Type of Man Power Supply	As Per Schedule
25	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Engr. Md. Mizanur Rahman
26	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Principal (Additional Charge)
27	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur.
28	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 0631-66304, 66305, Email: principal.fec@gmail.com , principal@fec.ac.bd , Website: www.fec.ac.bd
29	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

(Prof. Dr. Engr. Md. Mizanur Rahman)
Principal (Additional Charge)
Faridpur Engineering College, Faridpur

GD-373



KYIV UNDER ATTACK

Ukrainian National Guard servicemen take positions in central Kyiv; bodies of Russian servicemen wearing Ukrainian service uniform lie inside and beside a vehicle after Ukrainian forces foiled their attempt to infiltrate in the capital; and a woman with a child walks in front of a damaged residential building at Koshytsa Street, a suburb of Kyiv, where a military shell allegedly hit. These photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS



Ukraine ‘left alone’ to fight Russia

Says Zelensky, vows to stay in country despite being the ‘number one target’

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine's president said Friday his country had been left on its own to fight Russia after the Kremlin launched a large-scale invasion.

“We have been left alone to defend our state,” Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address to the nation after midnight.

“Who is ready to fight alongside us? I don't see anyone. Who is ready to give Ukraine a guarantee of Nato membership? Everyone is afraid,” he added.

Zelensky also said that Russian “sabotage groups” had entered the capital Kyiv, and urged the city's citizens to remain vigilant and observe a curfew.

The president added that he and his family remained in Ukraine, despite Russia identifying him as “target number one”.

“They want to destroy Ukraine politically by taking down the head of state,” Zelensky said.

Wearing military fatigues, he accuses European leaders of taking insufficient action to slow the Russian advance.

“The columns of tanks and the air strikes are very similar to what Europe saw a long time ago, during WW2 - something about which it said “never again,” he says.

“But here it is, again. Now, in 2022. 75 years after WW2 ended.”

Zelensky adds it isn't too late to stop Russian “aggression” if European leaders act swiftly, and calls on citizens across the EU to protest and force their governments into more decisive action.

European Union leaders agreed at an emergency summit Thursday what they said was a sweeping package of economic sanctions that would have “massive and severe consequences” on Russia. But they stopped short of cutting Russia off from the global SWIFT banking system after economic powerhouse Germany pushed back at calls for the tough move from other member states.



‘Pariah’ Putin mocks global isolation

AFP, Moscow

Russia's invasion of Ukraine risks making President Vladimir Putin an international pariah, but he does not fear such isolation – quite the contrary, experts say.

The attack on Thursday led the United States and its allies to agree on a “devastating” sanctions package against Russia, after Nato, EU and G7 leaders condemned the invasion and vowed to hold Moscow accountable.

“Putin is now recognised as THE most imminent threat to our system of Western liberal market democracy,” said Timothy Ash, an emerging markets strategist at BlueBay Asset Management.

Western leaders “feel totally let down and threatened by Putin”, who has marked himself out as “the number one pariah” of the West, he added in a note to clients.

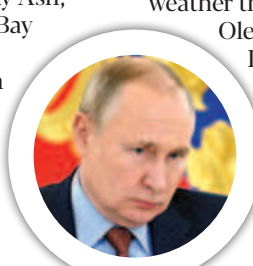
The result, said Comfort Ero, president and CEO of the International Crisis Group think-tank, is that Russia “is likely to find itself in unprecedented political and economic isolation for a long time”.

Russia was already targeted with rounds of sanctions after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and after the poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny in 2020.

But no measure seemed to have any effect on the Russian president, other than increasing his intransigence.

“For a year and a half the Kremlin has actively prepared for the fact that the West will impose the most severe sanctions possible,” Tatiana Stanovaya, founder of the R.Politik analysis firm, told AFP.

For Putin, “sanctions don't have the aim of preventing Russian aggression but of curbing Russia's development,” she said, adding that



Moscow expects a long confrontation with the West.

Among possible further measures, Washington and Brussels could cut Russia off from SWIFT, the global financial messaging system used to move money around the world, although US President Joe Biden noted on Thursday that is not a step much of Europe yet “wishes to take”.

Russia has prepared itself, particularly by growing its foreign exchange reserves, which total about \$640 billion.

“Abundant currency reserves, the soaring price of oil and a low debt-to-GDP ratio will help Russia weather the immediate hit of the sanctions,” said Oleg Ignatov, a Russia expert with the International Crisis Group.

“But in the longer-term, they will compound the country's economic stagnation.”

Russia is one of the world's leading producers of crude, which soared to levels not seen since 2014 after the invasion began.

The Kremlin says it has foreseen such developments. “In order that this emotional period be as temporary as possible, all necessary measures have been taken,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

He also downplayed the diplomatic impact. “Of course we could have problems with a number of states. But we were having problems with these states even before,” Peskov said.

Isolated diplomatically and economically from the West, Putin could turn elsewhere, such as China or Iran. Both of those countries have so far seemed hesitant to condemn Russia.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan was visiting Moscow on Thursday.

Beijing said it understands Moscow's “reasonable concerns on security issues” over Ukraine, while Tehran said “the Ukraine crisis is rooted in Nato's provocations.”

INVASION OF UKRAINE DEVELOPMENTS

AGENCIES

KYIV UNDER ATTACK

Gunfire has been heard in central Kyiv and there are reports of heavy fighting in the city's northern suburbs after Ukraine said it expected a Russian armoured attack on the capital and its outskirts. The defence ministry urged citizens to resist when Russian forces entered Kyiv, telling residents to inform authorities of all troop movements, and “make molotov cocktails and neutralise the enemy”. Explosions rocked Kyiv in the early hours in preparations for the Russian advance, with Ukraine claiming it had shot down a Russian military aircraft flying over the capital. Officials said a tower block had been set on fire.

RUSSIAN MILITARY GAINS

Russia has “eliminated” Ukraine's air defences and has complete air superiority but Ukraine is putting up stiff resistance, according to a senior Western intelligence officer.

However British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said Russian army failed to deliver on the first day of its invasion. Moscow's defence ministry said its military has destroyed over 70 Ukrainian military targets, including 11 airfields. Earlier

Russian forces captured Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Moscow also claimed to take Gostomel airfield and key Hostomel airfield near Kyiv.

SANCTIONS BUT NO TROOPS

EU leaders agree to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine with “severe” sanctions targeting its financial, energy and transport sectors. US President Joe Biden had earlier announced new sanctions on Russia, including freezing assets of major banks and cutting off high-tech exports to the country. He says excluding Moscow from the SWIFT international banking system is also an “option”. Biden says he will not send US troops but will “defend every inch of Nato territory”.

ANTI-WAR PROTESTS AND ARRESTS

Anti-war protests have attracted thousands of people in cities across

Russia, with local authorities swiftly cracking down on the unsanctioned rallies. Police had made at least 1,702 arrests in 53 Russian cities. Protests against the Russian aggression have been held around the globe demanding

end of war.

SIGNS OF DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION

China's foreign ministry said Putin told his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in a call that Russia is willing to hold high level talks with Ukraine. China has refused to call Russia's action in Ukraine an “invasion” or criticise Moscow despite intensifying assaults from Russia's military. Putin also held talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emanuel Macron, who called for cessation of hostilities. However Putin got support from Iran and Myanmar leaders who said the offensive was justified against western aggression.

5M TO FLEE ABROAD: UN

Fuel, cash and medical supplies are running low in parts of Ukraine after Russia's invasion, which could drive

up to 5 million people to flee abroad, UN aid agencies said. At least 100,000 people are uprooted in Ukraine after fleeing their homes since Russia launched its assault on Thursday, while several thousand have already crossed into neighbouring

countries including Moldova, Romania and Poland, UN refugee agency spokesperson Shabia Mantoo said.



Covid cases continue retreat, except in Asia

AFP, Paris

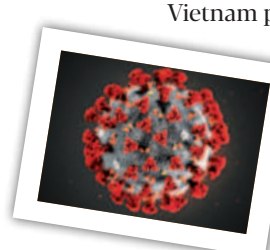
The Covid-19 pandemic continued its strong retreat this week around the world, with the number of cases cut by half since their peak a month ago.

But in Asia the number of cases remained stubbornly high, increasing by a fifth.

The average number of global daily cases dropped for the fourth week in row, by 16 percent to 1.66 million, according to an AFP tally to Thursday.

Over a month the decrease in cases is more spectacular: they have been cut by half since they soared to peaks of 3.37 million in the week of January 21, due to the highly contagious Omicron variant.

There were 39 percent fewer cases in the Middle East, 37 percent fewer in the United States-Canada zone, down 24 percent in both Africa and the Latin America-Caribbean zone, a fifth fewer in Europe and 12 percent less in Oceania.



Hong Kong saw the biggest increase in new cases this week, with the number increasing by 331 percent compared to the previous week, prompting it to toughen its testing and social distancing requirements.

New Zealand followed with 187 percent more, South Korea with 85 percent more, Vietnam plus 71 percent, while cases were up 36 percent in Singapore.

Germany overtook Russia to record the highest number of new cases, with an average of 164,600 infections a day, which was still a drop of nine percent. Russia had 155,400 new cases, a drop of 17 percent, while South Korea took third place with 121,900, an increase of 85 percent.

The number of Covid-linked deaths continued its decline, dropping by 10 percent globally, to 9,348 per day.

The US again mourned the most deaths over the week, with an average of 1,905 per day, followed by Brazil (784) and Russia (772).



Members of the Israeli security forces chase a Palestinian protester during clashes following a demonstration to commemorate the 1994 Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, in the centre of the West Bank town of Hebron, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Seven dies in Sumatra quake

AFP, Padang

Seven people died and dozens more were injured when a 6.2-magnitude earthquake rocked Indonesia's Sumatra island yesterday, with residents shuttling loved ones to safety as buildings crumbled around them.

The quake came just minutes after a less violent tremor, as terrified residents had begun evacuating their houses.

The quake hit the island's north at a depth of 12 kilometres, about 70 km from the town of Bukitingggi in West Sumatra province, according to the United States Geological Survey.

The quake was felt in the neighbouring provinces of Riau and North Sumatra and as far away as Malaysia and Singapore.

No tsunami warning has been issued.

THE FATHER OF THE NATION through graphic novels

‘Mujib’ is a groundbreaking work of art for children and adults

“The challenge was in finding references for the people in Bangabandhu’s life whom we knew nothing about. In such cases, we gathered as much information as we could from the Internet and anecdotes. We used our imagination, and created a balance between fact and fiction. The Prime Minister provided us with feedback herself. Our job was to keep the facts right while making the characters believable.”

SHABABA IQBAL

As I sifted through the pages of “Mujib”, the graphic novel series depicting the Father of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s life, I could not help but think of how many generations of children could have benefited from this remarkable portrayal of the Father of the Nation.

The series, based on the unfinished memoirs of Bangabandhu, is now available at Ekushey Boi Mela. It has been translated to English and Japanese.

Published by CRI under the initiative of Radwan Mujib Siddiq, Trustee, CRI, and grandson of Bangabandhu, and Nasrul Hamid, State Minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources, the series is the first of its kind in the country to sketch the life of a political figure in the form of comics.

Each of the 10 episodes of the novel features a handful of interesting events of Bangabandhu’s life.

The series features intense portrayals of his unwavering stance for his ideals, imprisoned times, hunger strike and release from jail, followed by victory in provincial elections and the historic six-points movement.

A dedicated creative team of artists, editors, and scriptwriters worked on “Mujib” over a period of seven years, starting from 2015.

“Growing up, I read graphic novels about Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther

“Now, through this series, I hope the younger and future generations are inspired by the courage and honesty of our hero, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,” says Tanmoy.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had personally overseen and noted many changes in the novels. PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CRI

dilemmas, regrets, and bond with his family.

“Although his heroic characteristics are evident in the stories, they are never over-the-top. Mujib, as a protagonist, is very relatable,” adds Siddiq Ahmed, the scriptwriter of the novels.

In keeping the narration light and breezy for kids and young adults, the stories in “Mujib” do not lose their authenticity, as well as their historical and political messages.

“CRI gave us access to plenty of resources, including the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and photo archives,” shares Tanmoy.

“The challenge was in finding references for the people in Bangabandhu’s life whom we knew nothing about. In such cases, we gathered as much information as we could from the Internet and anecdotes. We used our imagination, and created a balance between fact and fiction. The Prime Minister

provided us with feedback herself. Our job was to keep the facts straight while making the characters believable.”

Shibu Kumer Shill, the editor of “Mujib”, explains that the subject matter lends itself very well to the format of graphic novels, as they wanted to bring history into focus in a simple, yet exciting way.

“It is wonderful to see that 7-year old children who read the first issue of the series are now waiting outside the Boi Mela stalls for the last instalment, as 14-year-olds. They have grown up with these novels,” he adds.

All 10 instalments of the series are available in the fair at stall 735 of Centre for Research and Information (CRI). Visitors with student ID cards can purchase the entire set for BDT 750, and a single instalment for BDT 100 only. Baatighar is the official distributor of the series, and it is also available on Rokomari.com.



Sean Penn in Ukraine for his documentary on Russian invasion

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Two-time Oscar-winning actor and filmmaker Sean Penn is currently in Ukraine to work on a documentary about the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis. The project is being produced by Vice Studios production in association with Vice World News and Endeavor Content.

Sean was spotted attending a government press conference in Ukraine’s capital Kyiv on Thursday, after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered military operation in the neighbouring country.

An official confirmed Sean’s visit in a report published in Hollywood Reporter.

“Sean Penn is among those who support Ukraine in Ukraine today. Our country is grateful to him for such a show of courage and honesty,” reads part of the statement.

Anushka Sharma practices bowling during preparations for ‘Chakda Xpress’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Anushka Sharma is set to portray the role of Jhulan Goswami in her biopic, “Chakda Xpress” a Netflix original film. The actress has been preparing herself to transform into the character, as she practices bowling. In a recent post on Instagram, she was captured bowling at the nets.

Anushka is working hard for getting into the role, as Jhulan holds a record for the highest number of wickets taken in Women’s One Day International cricket.

The Prosit Roy directorial is produced by Anushka Sharma and her brother Karnesh Sharma’s Clean Slate Filmz.



‘The Batman’ to release in Bangladesh before US

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Much anticipated Warner Bros Pictures film “The Batman” will be released in the USA on March 4 internationally. However, the reboot, directed by Matt Reeves will have an advance release in Bangladesh on March 3. It will be screened on all outlets of STAR Cineplex.

STAR Cineplex has already opened their counters for “The Batman” lovers for advanced tickets.

In mid-October the trailer for the film was released, unveiling the look of Robert Pattinson portraying the protagonist, creating excitement amongst the fans.

Sheena Chohan’s ‘Fame Game’

SHABABA IQBAL

A former Miss Universe participant, Indian actress Sheena Chohan has worked in six films, including Mostofa Sarwar Farooki’s “Pipra Bidda” (Ant Story).

A passionate humanitarian, Sheena is the only Indian actress to receive the prestigious Human Rights Hero Award at the United Nations in New York for her work enlightening more than 36 million people about their human rights. She is the South Asian Ambassador for the not-for-profit organisation, United for Human Rights. Most recently, she was featured in the Netflix series, “The Fame Game”, starring Madhuri Dixit.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, she opens up about her passion for acting, humanitarian work, and more.

How was the experience of working with Madhuri Dixit in ‘The Fame Game’?

Madhuri Dixit plays a famous actress on the show, and I play her PR

manager. It was an unusual situation because I was acting alongside a real superstar, who was playing a character so similar to her own self. Often on a set, you have to use your imagination to stay in the moment for scenes. But on this show, I did not have to imagine much. I felt as though the scenes were taking place in real life. Madhuri Dixit is an inspiration.

You are an advocate of human rights education and awareness. What drives you towards this cause?

As a child, I witnessed that my mother was denied her basic rights — she was not allowed to pursue her passions in fashion designing and acting. In fact, she was not allowed to

have any job at all, just because she is a woman. This prompted me to seek out an education in human rights.

I get to live my dream on film sets and travel the world, but when I do, I am aware of the people who don’t have such opportunities. I have an equal drive for acting and promoting human rights. This year, I hope to spread awareness of basic rights and equality amongst one billion people across South Asia, and make human rights education mandatory in the region.

Tell us about your podcast, ‘Born Free and Equal’, where you brought together 30 of Hindi cinema’s biggest names on one platform to communicate the 30

I get to live my dream on film sets and travel the world, but when I do, I am aware of the people who don’t have such opportunities.

rights from the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

We got to speak about subjects like the Right to Education with Sonakshi Sinha, the Right to Food and Shelter with Sonu Sood, and the Right to a Free and Fair World with Raveena Tandon. The podcast offered both practical information on how human rights apply to our daily lives, and motivational stories from the stars about how they have used those rights.

On the acting front, what are your upcoming projects?

I am working on acclaimed director Bappaditya Bandyopadhyay’s film, “Justice” and also on the Disney+ Hotstar comedy drama series, “Lockdown Mein Breakdown”.



Russia’s aggression must be stopped

But its security concerns cannot be ignored

THE one thing we have feared since the recent rise in tensions between Nato and Russia over Ukraine has unfortunately happened. Russian President Vladimir Putin declared war in a pre-dawn televised address, after which Moscow mounted an assault by land, sea and air on Ukraine. At the time of writing this editorial on Friday evening, Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky reported 137 Ukrainians being killed on the first day of the Russian invasion, while Russian forces captured the former nuclear power plant in Chernobyl and the Hostomel airport in the Kyiv region. Meanwhile, gunfire is ringing through the streets of Kyiv as Russian tanks entered the capital on Friday. The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor has hinted that his court may investigate the possibility of war crimes within Ukraine. We would like to firstly express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine and, as ever, condemn the war initiated by Russia. What the world is watching unfold—and which is being referred to as the worst since World War II—is an abrupt and unnecessary attack by Russia in the face of only a perceived threat from the West. It is the height of injustice and illogicality that Ukrainian lives should be lost owing to conflicts between Russia and the Nato members.

While President Putin has tried to justify his move by claiming he had no other options left, we cannot help but be doubtful of such a statement. Had all avenues of resolution through dialogue been exhausted? Had the existing dialogue between parties involved, including the West, truly reached a dead end? Even then, is hostile invasion of innocent people truly ever the only option left?

While we condemn Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, we cannot say that the West has no responsibility in bringing the situation to this state. The gradual expansion of Nato, first in 1999 and second in 2008, were swallowed by Russia, who unambiguously asserted that any attempt to incorporate Georgia and Ukraine into the alliance would be the last straw. The West obviously did not take Russia seriously. Just as the US has its own sensitivities about security issues—would it allow anti-Western military alliance to have members close to the US border?—so does Russia, and they cannot be ignored.

Now that the situation has turned into a war, its effects will inevitably spill over to the rest of the world, including Bangladesh, as prices of essentials will rise further and the global supply chain will be dealt a blow. However, the first priority is to save the Ukrainians from the Russian invasion. While we call for an immediate end to hostilities in Ukraine, we also hope that dialogue and negotiations will win. We do not want a war in Europe.

Why did BCL attack protest on gang rape?

Doing so puts their motive into question

IF a group of unruly men were to swoop down on students demanding justice for the gang rape of one of their classmates, what would it say about the men in question? At the very least, it would imply that they condone the rape—or worse, that they themselves were directly involved in the very act. We are thus at a loss as to why a group of men allegedly affiliated with Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party, would attack the protesting students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) in Gopalganj if they had nothing to do with the rape incident.

According to reports, on Wednesday evening, a group of seven or eight men attacked a BSMRSTU student and her friend, took them to an under-construction building, raped her and tortured her companion. On Thursday morning, several hundred students laid siege to the Gopalganj sadar police station, demanding punishment for the suspects. Students, requesting anonymity, told our correspondent that a group of BCL men had started hurling brickbats at the students at around 5pm. In the ensuing clash between the two groups, at least 30 protesters were injured.

It would be redundant to point out that the gang rape itself, which took place in the town of Gopalganj, is highly disturbing. We are outraged that, despite the ever-climbing statistics—according to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, at least 1,235 women reported they had been raped, and 179 gang-raped, in 2021—the government has done little to make the cities, towns and the country at large safer for women and girls, beyond cosmetic changes and empty promises. It is now an established fact that a major reason for the escalating violence against women in Bangladesh is the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators. Time and again, we have seen how the administration goes out of their way to protect the perpetrators, especially those who have some form of affiliation with the ruling party, and how the justice system, too, ultimately fails the survivor(s) as a result.

We have repeatedly called upon the government to ensure that it ends the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators, and to take stern action against the members of the ruling party who are implicated in such cases. It must investigate whether the BCL members were, in fact, involved in the attack on the protesting students, and if so, what possible justification the BCL members would have to do so, if not to protect the perpetrators. We understand that police have picked up three youths for questioning—two of whom were cleaners and whose colleagues staged a demonstration in the town claiming their innocence and demanding their release. We implore the authorities to conduct a fair investigation to find the real culprits.

Save us from the brunt of price hikes



BLOWIN’ IN THE WIND

Dr Shamsad Mortuza is the pro-vice chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

THERE was a time, not long ago, when Bangla news editors would use the phrase “like the price of water” to connote the low cost of an item. Even last year, raw cowhide during the Qurbani Eid was sold for the lowly “price of water.” Aggrieved dairy producers are often heard of throwing away their products in protest of the parity found between milk and water. With the Dhaka Wasa increasing the water tariff 14 times over the last 13 years, the newspersons would have to look for a new analogy. How about using “like the price of a citizen—by extension, a human being,” then?

I wish water was the only pricey commodity. Gas, electricity, fuel and food items are all on a price enhancement frenzy. The cost of living has gone up, and the worth of life has come down. People die for trivial and avoidable reasons. They receive mercy packages in some news-making accident cases. The price tag is as low as the cost of a funeral.

According to a news report, a typical middle-class resident of Dhaka needs more than Tk 50,000 a month to meet the basic needs of a family of four. The sad reality is that the majority of Dhaka residents don’t make that amount on their own. To afford a berth in the concrete jungle that we call home, Dhaka residents must either live on household income, where they have partners or other members of their families share the expenses, or they must take up a second job or adopt spurious means simply to survive. The system is draining out our essential human attributes. I don’t have facts and figures to support my suspicion. But the dire state of the Bangladeshi middle class, which is struggling as living costs outpace their income, is a fact beyond suspicion.

The lines at the backs of the Open Market Sale (OMS) trucks snake through the city to hiss at the crisis. Although intended for the poor and low-income groups, the trucks selling products with controlled prices are now frequented by people from middle-income groups. They wait for hours to get everyday items such



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

as rice, flour, lentils, edible oil, and onions. The long queues for food items are symptomatic of inflation. It is probably indicative of the class of “new poor” atrophied by the unemployment and financial losses caused by Covid-19. I came across a meme recently that showed an oversized man with a hefty kitchen bag, from which fish and poultry items were poking out,

historically the costs of essentials rise to unfair levels due to a boost in demand. During the month of abstinence, we will manage to overindulge, allowing the businessmen to engage in “price gouging.” We will hear about government intervention, but with no effect. Middle-man will remain middle-man, extortionists will behave to prove their mettle. And the prices will soar higher to dehumanise the middle-class consumers. For sustainable growth, the motto of leaving no one behind is often chanted. But more and more, we are witnessing a forked growth in which the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting even poorer.

The policymakers must acknowledge the elephant in their AC room. For quick relief, bank deposits and lending rates need to be adjusted to control commodity prices. More incentives should be given not only to the production side of the agriculture sector, but its distribution side, too. We need the stringiest action against the syndicates who create artificial crises in the market. Import duties on fundamental goods need to be reduced. The government is already targeting the corporate sector for heftier taxes. Instead of creating fear, the number of taxpayers should be

I wish water was the only pricey commodity. Gas, electricity, fuel and food items are all on a price enhancement frenzy. The cost of living has gone up, and the worth of life has come down. The system is draining out our essential human attributes.

increased. If the long queue before the truck sale is any sign, there should be more government-regulated mega shops.

More importantly, we must not lose focus on population control and unemployment issues. And corruption, the core of all evil, needs to be checked. I left this issue for last because it is corruption that creates a vicious cycle of supply and demand. Most people are corrupt because they cannot make their ends meet. Imagine a city where 98 percent (according to a report) struggle to manage their everyday lives with their official income, and then imagine the consequences of discomfort. The answer is blowing in the wind.

DSA took away Mushtaq



Kamal Ahmed is an independent journalist and writes from the UK. His Twitter handle is @ahmedkal

KAMAL AHMED

WRITER Mushtaq Ahmed paid the ultimate price for his freedom of expression, and it’s a matter of shame for us all that it happened in the year of the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence. Ironically, the law that was applied against Mushtaq to accuse him of harming the image of the country for criticising the current state of affairs, the Digital Security Act (DSA), has itself earned global notoriety. Even in the most cautious diplomatic condemnation of the DSA, UN Human Rights High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet termed it an “ill-defined” piece of legislation “used to punish criticism of the government.” According to the European Union (EU), “some of its provisions risk going beyond the stated purpose of fighting digital crime.”

The defenders of human rights, however, were not so polite in expressing their outrage. Amnesty International said, “The Digital Security Act criminalises many forms of freedom of expression, and imposes heavy fines and prison sentences for (the) legitimate forms of dissent.” Another rights group, dedicated wholly to the issue of the freedom of expression, ARTICLE 19, observed in an analysis of the DSA that its “several provisions are in breach of international human rights law.” The Human Rights Watch (HRW) termed it “draconian” and called for scrapping it altogether.

Following widespread criticism, the government now accepts that “there have been some abuses of the DSA.” Admitting such misapplication of the dreaded act, the law minister told us that the police had been instructed not to arrest journalists

under this law, until an investigation was completed and a charge sheet finalised. How problematic the ministerial discretion has been in applying the law has already become clear, as a number of reports suggest the contrary. On February 18, 2022, police in Satkhira arrested Jahurul Haque, a local reporter, for his Facebook status that allegedly defamed a police officer. Another journalist, Azhar Mahmood, was sent to prison earlier this month in the northern district of Rangpur in a DSA case. According to Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a national monitoring group of human rights violations, as many as 1,134 cases were lodged last year against journalists and alleged government critics under the DSA, which was manifold higher than the previous years.

The so-called misapplication of the DSA by law enforcement agencies and activists of the ruling party is only one part of the potential hazard of the law. The other part lies with the justice system, where subjects of persecution by the executive branch of the government face almost wholesale denial of their rights to bail. There are several judicial precedents in the subcontinent on the rights of bail, which say this right could not be denied without exceptional guilt and risks, and criticising the government or exercising the right of the citizens to free expression is not a crime. But our trial courts and magistracies refrain from using their judicial discretion on affording bails to those against whom there are no criminal records and whose only offence is criticising or satirising people in power or their acts.

Mushtaq, however, was even more unlucky that he was denied bail by the higher court, too, which issued a *rule nisi* upon the government, and he died before the expiry of the time given for the government’s response.

A year has passed since Mushtaq died under the custody of the state, but many questions remain unanswered. Neither the government, nor the National

Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has investigated the allegations of foul play surrounding his case. One of his co-accused, cartoonist Ahmed Kishore, had alleged abduction, torture and being kept incommunicado in some mysterious detention centres for a few days before they were shown arrested, which could easily be classified as Enforced Disappearances. And the alleged perpetrators were members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). The investigation by the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), ordered by the trial court, which ruled out any such illegal act, is hardly a credible one as it lacked independence. Similarly, there was no independent investigation into the circumstances of Mushtaq’s death, while the official post-mortem report was rejected by most observers as not credible.

Mushtaq was not a political activist and did not belong to any political party. He was a writer and a brave entrepreneur. Like millions of other people on social media, he had simply expressed his views—obviously critical of the government—on various issues and exchanged views with his friends in groups; yet, he became a victim of gross injustice.

Research by Prof Ali Riaz on behalf of the think tank Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) shows that a large number of people implicated in criminal cases under the DSA are activists of the ruling party itself, subjected to harassment by their rivals within the party. Due to the rigid non-bailable provisions of the law and the flexibility of allowing anyone to lodge a complaint without being affected directly or indirectly, the DSA has become a weapon of choice for both the law enforcement agencies and the powerful people.

If we want to avoid any more tragedies like Mushtaq’s death in state custody, we need the DSA to be repealed at the earliest. Wasting time in the name of consultation with foreign experts to amend a discredited law serves no good purpose.

Like millions of other regular people on social media, Mushtaq has simply expressed his views—obviously critical of the government. Yet, he became a victim of gross injustice.

Is Ukraine a Metaverse Nightmare?



ANDREW SHENG

Andrew Sheng is adjunct professor at Tsinghua University, Beijing and the University of Malaya. He was formerly the chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission, Hong Kong.
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MOVING from a unipolar world to a multipolar world was always likely to be messy and risk-prone. But few saw how fast we moved from beating war drums to actual armed conflict between the Great Powers, the latest being in Ukraine. Are we on a march of folly to World War III, or have key players lost sight of reality?

Let's forget, World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945) were fought to keep down rising powers—Germany and later Japan. Russia and China suffered the most casualties in WWII, and both were allies against German Nazis and Japanese militarists. The United States became the real winner, but decided after WWII to contain communism in both the Soviet Union (USSR) and China. Fifty years ago, in 1972, US President Nixon set aside enmity against China, restored US-China relations, and in one strategic stroke, isolated the Soviet Union, leading to its collapse two decades later.

The great achievement during the Cold War was the avoidance of nuclear conflict, with the Cuban missile crisis being a live test of brinkmanship. Both sides climbed down when the USSR removed missiles from Cuba, and the US quietly removed missiles from Turkey. President Kennedy understood that grandstanding on moral issues should be restrained, because in a nuclear war, mutually assured destruction is madness.

After seven decades of peace, the Western media has been painting the multipolar world as a black-and-white conflict between good vs evil, democracy vs autocracy—without appreciating that the other side may have different points of view that need to be heard. By definition, a multipolar world means that liberal democracies will have to live with different ideologies and regimes.

Today, YouTube and the Web provide a wealth of alternative views than



mainstream media, such as CNN or BBC. Prof John Mearsheimer, author of the influential book *"The Tragedy of Great Power Politics,"* offers the insight that the Western expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) was the reason why Russia felt threatened. The more the Nato allies try to arm Ukraine, the more insecure Russia gets. In essence, Russia wants a buffer zone of neutral countries like Austria, which are not members of Nato, but that does not exclude trade with all sides.

Carnegie Moscow Center analyst Alexander Baunov described how "the two sides appear to be negotiating over different things. Russia is talking about its own security, while the West is focusing on Ukraine's." What he is describing are two sides that are each in their own social bubble or virtual reality (VR) Metaverse, deaf to the other side's views.

The term "Metaverse" came from a 1992 dystopian sci-fi novel titled "Snow Crash," where the Metaverse is the

▲
The real-life cost of war: People walk at the border crossing between Poland and Ukraine, in Medyka, Poland, on February 24, 2022.

PHOTO: REUTERS

virtual refuge from an anarchic world controlled by the Mafia. Today, Metaverse is an online virtual world where the user blends VR with the real, flesh-and-blood world through VR glasses and software augmented reality (AR). In other words, in Metaverse, your mind is colonised by whatever algorithm and virtual information that you get—real or fake news. Metaverse is escapism from reality, and will not help us solve real world problems, especially when we need to talk eyeball to eyeball.

The Metaverse designer is more interested in controlling or influencing our minds, feeding us what we want to hear or see, rather than what information we need to have to make good decisions. The risk is that we think VR conflict is costless, whereas real war has real flesh-and-blood costs.

In short, the more we look inward at our own Metaverse, the more we neglect the collective costs to the world as it lurches from peace to war. Surprisingly, I found the right-wing influential Fox commentator Tucker Carlson asking

better questions than CNN or BBC commentators. In his show *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, in the segment "How will this conflict affect you?" he asked bluntly why Americans should hate Putin and what the war will cost every American.

Carlson asked some really serious questions, even though his views are partisan—have the Democrats, with their moral concern to hate Putin, forgotten the big picture of war costs? First, would Americans be willing to go into a winter war with Russia? Second, would they pay much higher gas prices as oil prices have already hit above USD 100 per barrel? Although economic sanctions are applied, even Europe will not be willing to risk cutting off gas supplies from Russia, since Russia accounts for 35 percent of European gas supplies. Third, is Ukraine a real democracy? Carlson's 2018 book *"Ship of Fools: How a Selfish Ruling Class Is Bringing America to the Brink of Revolution"* is well worth reading to understand how conservative Americans think about elites who care about themselves more than society at large.

In sum, the decade of 2020s may face a tough period of escalating conflicts at local, regional and global levels, with proxy wars that disrupt each other's economies and social stability. If states fail, and poor and hungry people migrate at a larger scale, even more border conflicts are likely, since more will want to go to the richer countries in the North, such as Europe and America.

There is no ideal world where everyone is good and the other side is bad. In a multipolar world, there will be all kinds of people that we don't like, but we have to live with them. A negotiated peace is better than mutual destruction. In Metaverse, virtual life can be beautiful, moral and perfect, but the real world is lurching towards a collective nightmare. We should not kid ourselves that the Metaverse VR of self-deception is the real world. We either sleepwalk to war, or have the courage to opt for sustainable peace.

The real question is: Who is willing to climb down and eat the humble pie for the sake of peace?



Industrial Rainwater Harvesting - A Sustainable Approach to Water Management

BGMEA and WaterAid organised a roundtable titled 'Industrial Rainwater Harvesting - A Sustainable Approach to Water Management' on February 15, 2022. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.



Faruque Hassan, President, BGMEA
The ready-made garment industry of Bangladesh is committed to continue its efforts to minimise the environmental cost of production and reduce resource

consumption.

Bangladesh's RMG sector has made remarkable strides in the area of environmental sustainability, securing the leading position with the highest number of green garment factories in the world, and is making consistent efforts in that direction.

The green factories ensure thermal comfort of the workers and state-of-the-art hygiene, use daylight, have rainwater harvesting system and maintain indoor air quality as per the ASHRE standard that maximises workers' physical and mental health and productivity.

Bangladesh is blessed with monsoon rain, and rainwater is considered as green water. The potential of rainwater storage during the monsoon period has driven innovation in the apparel industry. We are actively encouraging factories to adopt rainwater harvesting, and have seen RMG manufacturing units prioritising rainwater.

BGMEA, as a progressive association, accepts the recommendation and shall be happy to launch Sustainable Water Management Cell in the new BGMEA office at Uttara. We will also observe rain day and organise rain convention for raising awareness and enhancing technical knowledge about sustainable water resource management.



Professor Dr Tanvir Ahmed, Director-ITN, BUET
The RMG sector generally uses groundwater for meeting its water needs. The process of removing salt from

groundwater is also time-consuming. On the other hand, rainwater is salt-free. Considering the rooftop catchment areas of the RMG factories, it is easily possible to make rainwater harvesting plants there. However, there are challenges for storing and preserving this water. If we raise awareness about the benefits of rainwater harvesting, and provide technical knowledge, then factory owners can implement rainwater harvesting systems in their factories.



Abdullah Al Maher, CEO and Head of Business, Fakir Fashion Limited
I would request for establishing a platform where all stakeholders can collaborate on making RMG and textile factories more sustainable. If we want to conserve groundwater then it is essential for the retailers, suppliers, and factories to share technology with each other, build awareness and focus on their R&D efforts.



Tanzida Islam, Programme Manager - Environment, H&M
H&M has been focusing on improving the infrastructure of its factories, and this is where we are emphasising rainwater harvesting. During our water audit, we noticed that around 0.2 million cubic metres of water were harvested from rainwater. We monitor water usage through our freshwater consumption KPI which is connected to our sustainability index. We incentivise factories to adopt such sustainable facilities through this mechanism.



Md Mahbubur Rahman, Senior Programme Manager - Environment and Climate Change, Embassy of Sweden
The existing water scarcity along with the deteriorating state of the climate needs the collaborative effort of all the stakeholders. In Bangladesh, textile

and garments consume a lot of water, and that's why we should be duly concerned about efficient usage of water resources. Our primary focus should be to make industries such as RMG and textile even more advanced and sustainable in the future.



Kazy Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, South Asia Regional Sustainability Manager, Lindex HK Ltd.
According to our studies, factories can fulfil 10 to 20 percent of their water needs through rainwater harvesting during the monsoon season. Keeping this in mind, we have planned and allocated funds to introduce rainwater harvesting in our 10 factories in the next two years.



Mohammad Zobair Hasan, Deputy Executive Director, Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP), and Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) - South Asia CSO Representative
Rainwater harvesting can be a possible option for us to achieve some of the SDG 6 targets. To do this, we have to encourage collaboration between factory owners, NGOs, and the media to create a massive awareness campaign on this issue. Political willingness would help address this issue in a holistic manner.



Abil Bin Amin, Bangladesh Country Manager, Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)
We formed an advisory group recently which focuses on climate change and its impact on businesses. ETI can play a role in disseminating the expertise and knowledge of the stakeholders to national and international communities.



Abrar Hossain Sayem, President, BAYLA
Many factory owners are interested in making their factories more sustainable, but they do not have adequate knowledge on how to do it. If they are provided information on the challenges and benefits of rainwater harvesting, they will be able to make sound decisions to support their production system as well as the environment. BAYLA can also help them in this regard! It is essential to promote rainwater harvesting among the youth so that they can become youth advocates for this sustainable practice.



Hasin Jahan, Country Director, WaterAid
A rainwater harvesting plant would cost around 65 lakh taka for a typical factory. In comparison to the exorbitant cost of building an apparel factory, this sum is insignificant. Dhaka WASA has declared that

it will increase commercial water prices by 40 percent soon. BEPZA also charges high price for water. If factories shift to using rainwater for meeting their water needs, it will help them significantly reduce costs over time. At the same time, it will contribute towards improving the environment in the country.

To address the issue of depleting groundwater level, rainwater should be everyone's business. Industries having ample space on the rooftop can be easily used for rainwater harvesting, and they can, thus, demonstrate sustainable solution towards solving the growing water needs for the businesses. Thanks to BGMEA for demonstrating a unique example to help protect our scarce water resources by encouraging the factory owners to adopt rainwater harvesting. WaterAid is committed to working with business entities and private sector to fast-track efforts towards water security and environment.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish Sustainable Water Management Cell at BGMEA. It will be a platform for stakeholders to collaborate on improving sustainability of RMG and textile factories. Initiate following activities:
 - Commission feasibility studies, and encourage factories to adopt rainwater harvesting facilities understanding the cost, benefits, and payback period.
 - Share technical know-how through

- providing training on rainwater harvesting and demonstrating the benefits to factory owners
- Raise awareness about the benefits of rainwater harvesting by celebrating rain day for mass people and rain convention for practitioners
- Engage young entrepreneurs and buyers in the promotion of rainwater harvesting
- International buyers should incentivise factories to adopt rainwater harvesting facilities.

Erwee turns it around

REUTERS

Two years after nearly quitting cricket while battling mental health issues, late-blooming opener Sarel Erwee savoured a brilliant maiden century on Friday to drag South Africa back into the Test series against New Zealand.

The 32-year-old lefthander's sparkling 108 on day one of the second Test at Hagley Oval helped the Proteas to a position of strength at 238 for three at stumps after captain Dean Elgar won the toss and sent his team in to bat. Read full story

"I was probably a phone call away from calling it quits," Erwee told reporters.

"But my parents kind of picked me up and (I) saw a sports performance psychologist and we worked through it daily.

"It was a hard slog, if I can call it that, to try to get motivated again, to kind of give my best after wanting to give up."

IPL from March 26

REUTERS, New Delhi

The entire 15th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be played in a bio-secure environment in the western state of Maharashtra from March 26, the organising Indian cricket board (BCCI) said on Friday.

Mumbai will host 55 matches in three stadiums in and around the city, while Pune will host the remaining 15 league games which means air travel will not be required for the league's 10 franchises.

"The venue for the playoff matches will be decided later," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement a day after the IPL governing council meeting.

The governing council considered air travel "a major threat for the spread of COVID 19 infection," he added.

The teams, divided into two groups, will play a total of 14 league matches each and the final is scheduled on May 29.



Liton Das scored a 126-ball 136, which made him the fastest to five ODI centuries among Bangladesh batters, during the second match of the three-match series against Afghanistan in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

LITON'S CLASS showcased again

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM CHATTOGRAM

An on-song Liton Das is always a treat to the eyes as the elegant right-hander mesmerises everyone with his batting skills. Following a lack of consistency early in his career, Liton has surely come of age as a batsman, having taken the next step in becoming a world-class act in recent times.

It speaks volumes to see the Afghanistan pacer Fareed Ahmad giving Liton a pat on the back after dismissing the right-hander, who had already smashed his fifth ODI ton.

The 27-year-old continued his purple patch, following his magnificent hundred in the second Test against New Zealand in Christchurch, and showed his class in the white-ball format.

The blunt numbers would show Liton scored 126 off 136 balls, featuring 16 fours and two sixes. But in terms of the manner of execution, it was unlike his typical style of play, where he tends to dominate the opposition from the get-go.

"I could have smashed a six or a four coming down the track but since it's a high-risk stroke, there is always a chance to lose my wicket," player-of-the-match Liton said during the post-match presentation yesterday.

The conversion rate of Liton also speaks for himself. With three fifties and four hundred prior to the second one-day, once the stylish batter reached his fourth

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH

306 for 4 in 50 overs (Liton 136, Mushfiqur 86, Shakib 20; Fareed 2-56, Rashid 1-54)

AFGHANISTAN

218 all out in 45.1 overs (Najibullah 54, Rahmat 52, Nabi 32; Taskin 2-31, Shakib 2-38)
Result: Bangladesh won by 88 runs
Player-of-the-match: Liton Das

ODI fifty, he was always eyeing another hundred.

"Obviously, there was a challenge in the pitch and they also bowled well. But the thing is, [it's about] how you plan the innings and how you think about your game," Liton said.

After missing out in the first ODI, dismissed for one by Fazalhaq Farooqi, Liton seems to have done his homework. He came up with a clear mindset yesterday, when the Afghan seamers, once again, were able to extract movement off the surface to test the Tigers.

Also, the manner in which he built his innings early on, demonstrating a lot of caution and patience, was in contrast to the past, where Liton often had the tendency to throw away his wicket.

"If I lose my wicket, then my team

is under pressure. And I think it's important for every batsman to change certain things on their own. I'm putting a high price-tag on my wicket and I hope I can continue this in the future too," Liton added. The right-hander kept his composure and scored 46 off 35 balls after the 20th over ended. And since then, his partnership with Mushfiqur Rahim started to blossom as Liton opened up with a couple of boundaries to leg spinner Rahmat Shah.

He reached his fifty off 65 balls, striking Mohammad Nabi a boundary in the 25th over. Liton was still aware of the importance of his presence at the crease for the hosts to pile up a big total.

However, Liton, batting on 87, had a stroke of luck in his favour as he was dropped at cover off Mujeeb Ur Rahman's bowling. But Liton-Mushfiqur's record 202-run third-wicket stand went on to lay the platform for the Tigers to post a winning total of 306 for four in fifty overs.

Moreover, the way Liton combined skill and grace to tackle someone like Rashid Khan with his late square-cut or the drives through covers, had stood out.

Liton achieved his century landmark in style, with an inside-out shot for a boundary over cover to Rashid.

Also, it had taken him 42 balls since scoring his fifty to reach his hundred off 107 balls, demonstrating the fine art of pacing the innings.

‘We batted to a good plan’

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Bangladesh had a far easier time with the bat in the second ODI yesterday as they clinched the three-match ODI series 2-0 with an 88-run win. The common theme between both matches were the two big partnerships.

While Afif Hossain and Mehedi Hasan Miraz had strung a 174-run unbroken stand to win the first ODI from an impossible scenario, it was Liton Das and Mushfiqur Rahim who came up with the vital match-winning partnership yesterday.

Just as the Afif-Miraz duo had kept the quality Afghan spinners Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Rahman at bay, Liton and Mushfiqur showed similar resolve in building momentum with their 202-run stand -- the highest third-wicket partnership for Bangladesh in ODIs.

Asked on the importance of that partnership, Liton said: "Partnership was really important because we know what kind of spinners they have. Me and Mushy bhai were discussing about carrying it as long as we can. Since we were set batters at the crease, the longer we can carry on, the easier it will be for batters at the latter part of the innings. Although the batters behind us did not have much time we were successful with our plan."

Liton, who struck a magnificent 136 off 126 deliveries, was able to play the spinners with ease as he went from strength to strength. More importantly for



Taskin Ahmed was impressive again with the ball, taking two wickets for 31 runs.

PHOTO: STAR

the duo, their plan was a success because it was based on their previous experience against the likes of Mujeeb and Rashid, considered to be the mystery spinners of world cricket. It gives further clues to Afif and Miraz's success in the first ODI.

"We played Mujeeb for the whole BPL and got an idea from there. We also played Rashid previously. Our plan was designed with that experience which is why our success rate is good. You have to play these bowlers to a plan. I think me and Mushy bhai batted to a good plan," he reiterated.

Fazalhaq Farooqi had dismantled Bangladesh top-order in the previous game and Liton wanted to see off his first spell.

"The other day, his bowling was very good. Today he didn't bowl badly either and got quite a bit of help from the wicket. My thinking was that I would have a Test batting approach against him for not just the first 10 overs but as long as he was bowling his spell. I know that after 15-16 overs, the weather changes and the wicket gets better and so I would be able to handle it."

‘Ukraine invasion makes tennis unimportant’

AFP, Acapulco

Daniil Medvedev, who has become only the third Russian to be crowned men's tennis world number one, said his sport was not important given his country's invasion of Ukraine.

The 26-year-old -- who will on Monday officially replace long-time number one Novak Djokovic after the Serb lost in the quarter-finals of the Dubai tournament -- said his head was full of emotions when he woke up to the news of his country's offensive on Thursday.

"At this stage, one understands that tennis is sometimes not so important," said Medvedev after winning his quarter-final in the Acapulco Open.

"I woke up (Thursday) with a lot of emotion swirling inside me."

Rafael Nadal -- who beat Medvedev to win a record 21st Grand Slam singles title in last month's Australian Open final -- said he could not believe wars were necessary in the 21st century.

"It is sombre news," said the Spaniard after he too won his quarter-final in Acapulco.

"I do not want to speak of who is guilty or of the problem itself, but it feels to me unbelievable that in this century we are living that there are wars.

"I cannot understand it. I hope that it will finish as soon as possible.

"The only thing I wish for, is there will be as few people affected and killed as possible."



Barcelona forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang executes a somersault following his goal, which sealed a 4-2 win on the night -- 5-3 on aggregate -- in their Round of 32 match of the UEFA Europa League against Napoli at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples on Thursday. "We dominated for 90 minutes and that's the first time we've done that since I became coach," Barcelona coach Xavi told reporters after the victory.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Familiar faces for AHF Cup Sports Reporter

Bangladesh coach Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurthy pinned hopes on old guns when picking a 20-member final squad for AHF Cup, beginning from March 11 in Indonesia.

The 28-member preliminary squad had three new faces -- goalkeeper Nuruzzaman Nayan, Raju Ahmed Tapu and Abed Uddin but none of them could secure a final place. The Malaysian coach also dropped Ashim Gope, Sarwar Morshed Shawon, Khaled Mahmud Rakin and Razib Das from the squad that played in the Asian Champions Trophy in December.

Bangladesh were drawn in Pool B along with Oman, Singapore, Indonesia and Iran while Group A features China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Bangladesh will play against Indonesia on March 11 before playing against Oman, Iran and Singapore on March 14, 15 and 17 respectively.



Could SHOOTING be the guiding light again?



ATIQUE ANAM

The reason for this premonition is simple: there will be no shooting event in Birmingham, the first time the discipline has been dropped from the roster of the multisport event for the Commonwealth of Nations. The decision by the games organisers has perhaps not hit any nation harder than it has hit Bangladesh, who boast all eight of their medals so far, including

medals are concerned. While Bangladesh's Niaz Murshed becoming the first Grand Master from the subcontinent in 1987 and Mosharrof Hossain winning a bronze medal in the Asian Games boxing the previous year had brightened the image of the country's sports, it was the gold medal won by Abdus Sattar and Ateequr Rahman in the Auckland Commonwealth Games in 1990 that truly put Bangladesh on the global sporting map. And when a teenaged Asif Hossain grabbed the gold

Shooting has been a beacon in the dark for Bangladesh in the Commonwealth Games, despite the fact that this expensive sport lags far behind in popularity and endorsement to sports such as cricket and football.

When the Bangladesh contingent leaves the Birmingham shores following the 22nd Commonwealth Games in the first week of August this year, it could very well be the first time since 1998 that the men in red and green would return empty handed.

» Shooting is the only discipline has won medals for Bangladesh from the Commonwealth Games. Starting from 1990 till 2018, barring 1994 and 1998, Bangladesh have won at least one medal in shooting from each edition.	Rahman and Abdus Sattar won a gold and a bronze medal in the 1990 Auckland Games, which were Bangladesh's first. Asif Hossain Khan, with one gold, one silver and one bronze medal, is Bangladesh's most successful shooter along with Abdullah Hel Baki,	who won two silver and one bronze medal.	Bangladesh in South Asian Games. Bangladesh have so far won 22 gold, 38 silver and 46 bronze medals from the regional sporting extravaganza, with 1990s being the most successful decade.
» Ateequr		» Medals in Commonwealth Games: Gold-2, Silver-4, Bronze-2.	» Medals in South Asian Games: Gold-22, Silver 38, Bronze-46.
		» Shooting has been the most prolific discipline when it comes to winning gold medals for	

two gold medals, from this one discipline. In other words, shooting has been a beacon in the dark for Bangladesh in the Commonwealth Games, despite the fact that this expensive sport lags far behind in popularity and endorsement to sports such as cricket and football. And shooting's success is not only not confined to the Commonwealth Games, in the South Asian Games – considered the most relevant and realistic multisport games where Bangladesh can compete – the sport with pistols and rifles lead the tally as far as gold medal in individual 10m air rifle event in 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games, the world was made to stand up and take notice. That is what the sport has given Bangladesh over the years in terms of sporting success, and that is exactly the biggest point of frustration, when one considers that the promise of something bigger could not be materialised, instead the sport is slowly but surely receding from the track of international success. There are many reasons behind the decay:

the expensive nature of the sport and the lack of sponsor interest is certainly one, but not the whole thing. Ever since the sport grabbed limelight within the country, there has been infighting over the ownership of success and the control of the federation, which helps yield quite a bit of clout in circles of power and prestige. Instead of nurturing the shooters with a vision for the future, the myopic plans of the authorities have only stunted the growth of the sport, so much so that we are lagging behind our regional competitors on many instances. The infighting in the federation and the consequent lack of sponsorship saw successful Danish rifle coach Klavs Christensen depart midway through his contract a couple of years ago. And performances of the shooters, especially the rifle shooters, dropped significantly since then. Not everything is lost yet though. This is a sport in which Bangladeshis have historically been good at and the lost ground could still be made up with a concerted effort and proper planning. A new Iranian rifle coach has been roped in as the federation looks to clean up its mess and move forward. Shooting was once thought to be a discipline with the promise of ending Bangladesh's Olympic medal hoodoo. Maybe at present context, the Olympics is a dream too far, but preparations should be afoot for the South Asian Games next year so that in time for the next Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, Bangladesh could be in a position to compete for medals.

‘Will do wonders if given enough international exposure’

The two-time Commonwealth Games silver medallist and Olympian Abdullah Hel Baki, a 10-meter air rifle shooter, talked to The Daily Star's Ashfaq Ul Mushfiq during an interview, in which he shared his views on the state of the game and the hindrances shooters face in the country. The excerpts are as follows:

DS: What's the current state of Shooting?
AB: Speaking from the perspective of scores, the current condition of shooting has improved compared to the past.
DS: Are shooters able to achieve as per potential?
AB: I can't say that all shooters have achieved according to their merit, especially considering we have six-seven shooters who achieve world-class scores in practice.
DS: What's stopping them from replicating their training scores into competition?
AB: It is difficult, a problem that I myself face alongside all other shooters. But I can't pin-point an underlying reason behind it.
DS: You are yet to win a gold medal despite shooting for a long time. Does that disappoint you?
AB: I was only .3 [score] away from winning gold in the Commonwealth Games. Although I do have a mixed gold medal from the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games, during the 10-meter mixed event alongside Disha [Syeda Hasan], plus I've won another mixed [event] gold in the SAFF games. So I can't say I haven't won any gold.

DS: Do our facilities match international standards?
AB: From the club level, I was lucky to have been given good shooting facilities [by Bangladesh Navy], which many other clubs may not provide. However, apart from maintaining regularity in training, involving training with international players more frequently would increase the local players' courage and confidence, which is something we lack, I think. Also, we need to participate in more international competitions to benefit from the experience.

DS: Could you shed some light on the main obstacles?
AB: The federation is trying very hard to minimize the limitations as much as possible. But I think the government, the Olympic Association and the other concerned authorities should all come forward in sync. Also, secured job opportunities and sponsors need to be provided for encouragement.

DS: Any talented shooters in the pipeline who caught your eye?
AB: Among many promising shooters, Rabbi Hasan Munna, Arnob, Shovon [Chowdhury], Yusuf Bhai, Robiul Islam Tomas are really good. Disha and Natasha alongside many new faces are showing a lot of promise and will do wonders if given enough international exposure.



‘We are walking backwards’

The year 1990 emerged as a dawn of a new era in Bangladesh's sports history when the first medal arrived at the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. A bronze was soon followed by the elusive gold, courtesy of shooters Abdus Sattar Nini and Ateequr Rahman. The latter had marched on to accumulate further glory in the SAFF Games of 1993 and 1995, bagging multiple gold medal triumphs. The Daily Star's Sabbir Hossain managed to catch

The money allocated for shooting by the government is not enough at all, with the price of equipment increasing day by day.

up with the legendary shooter during an interview, the excerpts of which are given below:
The Daily Star (DS): Could you describe the feeling of winning the first gold medal?
Ateequr Rahman (AR): I had won many medals at the national level before 1990. During that time, I had set a target to win a medal outside Bangladesh. There was such determination inside! In 1990, I participated in the Auckland Commonwealth Games, which was my first competition abroad. I can't express the feeling of seeing our flag flying high outside the country. The memory still gives me goosebumps.
DS: Following that feat, why hasn't it become a common phenomenon?
AR: When we played, we were given the latest quality equipment. That is not the case for present shooters. Most



of them don't have proper and enough international level ammunition to train for longer periods.
DS: What's your take on the present situation?
AR: The standard of shooting has gone up around the world. Unfortunately, we are walking backwards. We are lagging by the margin of around ten per cent when it comes to international standards.
DS: Has lack of funds always been an issue?
AR: The money allocated for shooting by the government is not enough at all, with the price of equipment increasing day by day. Our neighbouring country India has excelled in recent years because its government keeps providing a huge budget. Besides, we can't import ammunition regularly, due to many complexities, even after acquiring permission.
DS: How would you suggest extracting the best possible result, and with consistency?
AR: The federation (BSSF) needs to make a long-term plan regarding any event. You cannot just choose someone suddenly before an event, which we have seen on many occasions.

‘We are progressing, not regressing’

Former shooter Intekhabul Hamid has been at the helm of the BSSF for the past 10 years as secretary-general and he spoke to The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman about the discipline's past, present and future.
The Daily Star (DS): How busy are you with the BSSF activities?
Intekhabul Hamid (IH): We are now in a good shape. Recently we grabbed some medals from the ISSF Grand Prix in Indonesia. We have now resumed training camp in a bid to get more international medals.
DS: The ad-hoc committee was formed almost one-and-half years ago. What did the committee do for the development of shooting in that period?
IH: We signed a foreign coach. There are 16 events in shooting but we take part only in eight. We can increase opportunities to win medals by participating in other events. We have started 50m events to create opportunities to win medals.
DS: Are there any internal conflicts among BSSF officials like before?
IH: There was once conflict among officials but now it is zero.
DS: Does the BSSF have any future goals similar to what it had set ahead of the 2020 Olympics?
IH: Keeping the 2024 Olympics ahead, we have brought in an Iranian Rifle coach, who has the experience of helping many shooters win medals at the international level. Before the 2024 Olympics, there are also other events such as the Asian Games

and South Asian Games. We believe if the shooters do well in the pre-Olympic Games, then they will perform well at the Olympics. We have given the Iranian coach a target of bringing a medal from the Asian Games and we are working according to his recommendations.
DS: You have been involved with shooting for the past 10 years. What has been your experience?
IH: Shooting is going to be tougher after the changes in rules and regulations. Before there was a paper target and a



shooter could hit 10 out of 10, but then it became even more precise. But I agree that we could not progress at the pace that was expected and that happened because of financial constraints. Nevertheless, we are progressing, not regressing.
DS: Do you agree that lack of shooters in pipeline is one of the major reasons behind the failure?
IH: Yes, I agree. We have changed our

policy to strengthen the pipeline. If we can implement it, I believe it will be a big step towards development.
DS: Bangladesh once grabbed gold medals from the Commonwealth Games, but it can't even win gold in the South Asian Games now. Why?
IH: It is because of India, who have a Rs 150-crore budget per year for shooting whereas we get only Tk 15 lakh from the government. The level of Indian shooters is very high. It is not that they reached this level overnight. They came this far by investing a lot over the past 15 years. We once beat India regularly but they have gone beyond our reach. Our shooters can't compete against Olympic medallists from India in the South Asian Games. Actually, we need uninterrupted training round the year and consistent performances if we want to win a gold medal from the SA Games.
DS: You say the government provides only Tk 15 lakh per year but your monthly expenditures are about Tk 25 lakh. How do you manage the rest of the money?
IH: Now we need Tk 20 to 25 lakh per month and the deficit comes from sponsors and donors. If we don't increase the monthly expenditure to Tk 50 lakh, it will be hard to win international medals in future. If we can make an international venue capable of hosting the Asian Championships or World Cup in Bangladesh, then Bangladesh shooting will enter a new level and get the right momentum.



Nation pays homage to BDR carnage victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday mourned the death of 74 people, including 57 army officers, during the BDR carnage on February 25-26 in 2009.

Placing wreaths at the capital's Banani army graveyard, family members of the victims yesterday expressed disappointment that the verdict of the BDR carnage case was yet to be executed.

Representatives of the president and prime minister, the home minister, chiefs of three services, senior home secretary, BGB director general, and leaders of the Awami League and BNP paid their tributes at the graveyard.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters at the graveyard that the verdict would be executed properly.

The mutiny in 2009 shocked the nation. A total of 829 people, mostly BDR members, were accused in

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Nurunnahar, sister of BDR carnage victim Major Mominul Islam Sarkar, breaks down and weeps at the grave of her brother at the Military Graveyard in the capital's Banani yesterday, the 13th anniversary of the bloody mutiny. The massacre at the force's Pilkhana headquarters claimed the lives of 74 people, including 57 army officials.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GLOBAL WARMING

Bangladesh loses 7b working hours a year

New study finds huge labour loss due to climate change impacts

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Bangladesh is losing 7 billion working hours annually due to extreme heat exposure caused by global warming, a new study reveals.

If the global temperature increases by 1 degree Celsius, the country could lose approximately 21 billion working hours, said the study, conducted by researchers at Duke University in the US.

It estimates if the temperature rises by 2 or 4 degrees Celsius it can result in a loss of 31 or 57 billion work hours annually in the country.

The study also projected that an additional 1 degree Celsius global warming could occur by 2037 and another 2 degrees Celsius by 2051.

Luke Parsons, a climate researcher at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, and his colleagues published a peer-reviewed paper titled "Increased Labor Losses and Decreased Adaptation Potential in a Warmer World" based on their study in Nature Communications on December 14 last year where they presented these findings.

"As heat and humidity levels rise

throughout the day because of climate change, options for moving outdoor labour to cooler hours will dramatically shrink, leading to significant worldwide labour losses," said Luke Parsons, who led the study.

"Sadly, many countries and people most impacted by current and future labour losses are not responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions," said Parsons.

"Sadly, many countries and people most impacted by current and future labour losses are not responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions."

On a hot summer day in Dhaka, the study said, the temperature remains between 27 and 28 degrees Celsius.

At this temperature assuming a 12-hour workday, an average worker loses 10 minutes of working hours due to heat exposure every day.

At the current temperature, Bangladesh loses 254 hours of labour per person annually due to heat exposure.

The economic impact of such a huge loss of working hours is also staggering.

At the current temperature, the global economy is losing \$280 to \$311 billion per year due to heat-related productivity loss.

According to the researchers, most of this economic loss occurs in low- and middle-income tropical countries like Bangladesh where a large number of people are involved in manual labour involving agriculture and construction.

In terms of vulnerability to work hours and productivity loss due to global warming, Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country in South and Southeast Asia after India and China.

Dr AKM Saiful Islam, professor of Institute of Water and Flood Management at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, said the study is very much credible and alarming.

"We have already observed that several parts of urban areas like Dhaka and Chattogram turn into urban heat islands where average temperature becomes 2 to 3 degrees higher than the average temperature of the country," he said.

"Most of our workers such as

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Star HEALTHLINE

'Regular meat eaters MORE AT CANCER RISK'

STAR HEALTH DESK

Vegetarians have 14 percent lower risk of developing cancer than those who regularly eat meat, according to a new study by researchers from the University of Oxford.

The study concluded that specific dietary behaviours such as low meat, vegetarian or pescatarian (person who does not eat meat but does eat fish) diets can have an impact on reducing the risk of certain cancers, The Guardian reports.

An analysis of the data of 470,000 British people found that pescatarians had a 10 percent reduced risk, The Guardian reports quoting the research.

Compared to people who eat meat regularly (more than five times a week), those who consumed small amounts had a two percent lower risk of developing cancer, the study also found.

However, the authors made clear that their findings did not

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LANGUAGE MOVEMENT: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

AHMED RAFIQ

Medical College students started picketing in the early morning of February 21, 1952. Students of Nabakumar Institutions joined the picketers. At around 8:00-8:30am I went to Amtala.

Students attacked the car of Hasan Ali, who was then a minister, and brought Awlad Hossain, an MLA from Manikganj, to Medical College hostel and urged him to speak in favour of Bangla language in the assembly.

Students started coming out in groups of 10 following the Amtala meeting. Police immediately arrested them and picked them up in trucks. At one stage, the main gate of the Medical College

turned into the a centre of fighting between police and students. Police fired tear gas shells.

To save students from tear gas we distributed liquid paraffin-soaked cotton. Barkat was shot near the barracks. He succumbed to excessive bleeding. Rafiq, Jabbar and some others were also killed that day. Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish, Dhiren Dutta and some other MLAs boycotted the assembly session in protest of firing on students.

Next day, a gayebana janaza was held at the Medical College. Shere-Bangla Fazlul Huq attended the funeral prayer. He broke down in tears after the prayer. Police again

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

GANG-RAPE OF STUDENT Protest continues for second day at Gopalganj univ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University of Science and Technology in Gopalganj protested for the second day yesterday.

They continued their demonstration demanding justice for their fellow student who was gang-raped by a group of unidentified miscreants on Wednesday.

The students also condemned the attack that was carried out on the agitating BSMRSTU students on Thursday while they were demonstrating seeking punishment for those behind the attack.

As part of the demonstration, the students took position near the university's administrative building when BSMRSTU Vice-chancellor AQW Mahabub was holding a meeting inside the establishment with the high-ups of the university yesterday morning.

Coming out of the meeting, VC Mahabub assured students that he would take legal actions against those involved in the rape and the attack.

Later, around 2:30pm, the students held a press conference in front of the administration building and placed a four-point demand.

Their other demands include ensuring security to the students residing inside the campus and its adjacent areas.

In the afternoon, they staged a sit-in near the administrative building.

It started around 4:30pm and continued for around three hours.

Later, around 7:00pm, the students brought out a torch procession and marched different streets on the campus protesting the rape and the attack.

Earlier, on Wednesday night, a female student of BSMRSTU was gang-raped in the town.

The victim, along with one of her friends, was walking on a street in Nabinbagh area around 9:30pm when seven to eight unidentified men stopped them and took them to an under-construction building.

There, they raped the female student and tortured her friend.

On the next day, the university students came under attack during their demonstration over the rape at Ghonapara on Gopalganj-Khulna highway.

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists allegedly attacked them, leaving at least 30 injured during their protest.

The university's Proctor Raziur Rahman filed a case against seven to eight unidentified people with Kotwali Police Station in connection with the rape.

Manirul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they were investigating the case.

However, no case was filled till yesterday evening in connection with the attack on students.



People wait in a never ending queue to get jabbed against coronavirus at a vaccination centre in Savar's Bangladesh Institute of Health Management. On the weekend yesterday, many vaccination centres saw huge crowds as the deadline for taking the first Covid vaccine shot expires today.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



ILLUSTRATION: ANWAR SOHEL

What does it mean to “hurt” a religious sentiment?

ZYMA ISLAM

There's a fine line between combating hate speech and being intolerant of differences in opinions and viewpoints.

Section 28 of the Digital Security Act (DSA) 2018 prosecutes “hurting” and “provoking” religious sentiment through online activities.

The law was passed in 2018. But till date, not a single case filed under this section has been disposed of, no judgment has been delivered and no higher authority has decided just what it means to “hurt” a “religious sentiment”.

Between 2020 and 2021, the DSA Tracker, a project by Centre for Governance Studies has logged over 2,000 DSA cases filed against 1,530 people.

The data shows that over the past two years, at least 90 people were prosecuted for allegedly hurting “religious” sentiment online and provoking unrest. Of them, at least 55 belonged to the Hindu minority community.

PABITRA KUMAR ROY

In the case of Pabitra Kumar Roy, a headmaster from Lalmonirhat’s Taluk Shakhati High School, the offence was writing a social media post questioning animal sacrifice rituals during Eid-ul-Adha 2021.

The post, as mentioned in the First Information Report (FIR), and translated verbatim, is as follows, “To slaughter the beast inside one’s heart, is it not better to sit in prayer, than to slaughter beasts?”

This led to the revered schoolteacher, who has taught students since 1992, landing in jail for over a hundred days.

Pabitra’s wife Shukla Rani described how the events unfolded. “On the night of July 23, locals surrounded our home, creating a ruckus. It was probably around 8:00 or 9:00pm in the evening, I don’t remember correctly, it was all such a blur,” she narrated.

“The police came and said they’re taking my husband into custody for his safety. They initially took him to Lalmonirhat’s detective branch office,” she added.

From there, Pabitra was taken to court and then officially arrested the next day. A plant nursery owner Md Jahir Rahim filed the case against him. The complainant also runs a local human rights organisation.

“I do not know the complainant, and I have never seen him in my life,” said Shukla. Pabitra’s bail has been denied a total of three times, she said.

Meanwhile, as Pabitra awaits his bail, his mother passed away two weeks ago. Till her last breath, she eagerly longed to see her son one last time. “We could not tell her he’s in prison; we told her he is away on training,” Shukla said.

“When she was on her deathbed, she kept asking what kind of a son he is, choosing training over his dying mother,” lamented Shukla. “We also did not inform Pabitra that his mother was terminally ill. We only gave him the news after she passed away. He completed her last rites sitting inside prison.”

RUMA SARKAR

Ruma Sarkar, assistant professor at Old Dhaka’s Begum Badrunnessa Government Girls College, could never imagine she would get arrested and be kept in jail for over two months, all because of a Facebook live.

She went live with a poetry recital and said a few words protesting the attacks on Hindu temples during the Durga Puja festival last year.

After spending 61 days in jail, Ruma is finally out on bail. She narrated her ordeal to this correspondent.

At the time, a video of a man being hacked to death was making the rounds on Facebook. It was miscaptioned as footage of the killing of one Jatan Saha from Noakhali, who was beaten to death during a communal attack on the temples of the district’s Begumganj upazila.

The footage was actually of a separate incident of lynching from Dhaka, and

Battalion unit broke the doors down and took her to their headquarters for questioning. On October 21, a Dhaka court placed her on a two-day remand. She was soon sent to jail.

But further harassment awaited Ruma during the routine strip/cavity-search that jail authorities conduct while taking in new inmates. “I was not there on drug charges. I am a teacher. I would not be hiding drugs inside my clothes, but I too

I do not know where my son is, or what jail he is in. I am poor and illiterate, and I do not have the money to hire a lawyer.

Sujit Das, father of 17-year-old Suronjit Das who was arrested under DSA

was made to undergo the procedure,” said Ruma. “They even took off the red *teep* I wear... I told them that this is a symbol of me being a Hindu mother, but they did not listen.”

She was denied bail twice by the lower courts, before being released by the High Court.

“I am not at fault. I did not do anything wrong. I saw that the rights of my community to observe Durga Puja were being violated, and I protested,” Ruma insisted.

Although released from prison, the police has submitted a chargesheet, formally pressing charges against her.

She has been unable to go back to work ever since, while her children, whose education was interrupted during the two months their mother was not with them, have not been able to go back to school.

SURONJIT DAS

17-year-old teenager Suronjit Das was arrested during the same time as Ruma, during the Durga Puja mayhem, on similar charges.

As the FIR of the case filed against him states, the eleventh-grade student at Kutubdia Government College, had uploaded a Facebook post containing the hashtag “#saveBangaldeshiHindus” and “Thanks Hindu brothers”.

Out of nowhere, a 26-year-old man named Md Tasnim Hasan Hiru reacted to the post with a “haha” react, indicating amusement or derision at Suronjit’s pain.

Already grieving over the Durga Puja attacks, Suronjit snapped back at Hiru via a private message containing expletives, calling him the “adopted son of the Prophet”. Hiru shared a screenshot of the message on his Facebook and all hell broke loose.

On October 17, 2021, Suronjit went live on Facebook and sought forgiveness from the community, stating that he personally respects and loves the religion of Islam and that the words he said were a result of the grief and anger he felt at the time.

The matter could have ended there, but the locals still stormed the fishing village where Suronjit lives, causing the police to interfere, states the FIR.

“We immediately took Suronjit into custody,” it adds. Of note, the FIR also accused Hiru.

This was the last time Suronjit’s father Sujit Das, a sea fisherman, saw his son. “I do not know where my son is, or what jail he is in. I am poor and illiterate, and I do not have the money to hire a lawyer,” a miserable Sujit said.

“Suronjit’s mother has completely stopped eating out of worry for her son, and has developed gastrointestinal ulcers out of this stress,” he said.

Both the cases of Suronjit and Pabitra show a concerning pattern where locals harm, or attempt to harm a social media user, while law enforcers arrest the user “for his or her own safety”.

JHUMON DAS

Jhumon Das’ story follows a similar pattern. Hailing from Noagaon village in Sunamganj’s Shalla upazila, he too was arrested after posting a Facebook status. The post was targeted against Hefajat-e-Islam leader Mamunul Haque.

In response to Jhumon’s Facebook post, locals, including Hefajat men attacked his home, dragged his wife out from beneath her bed, where she was hiding, and tore her infant out of her arms.

Meanwhile, Jhumon was arrested and sent to jail, while the police echoed the same slogan of arresting him “for his own safety”.

His wife Sweetty Rani Das had told our correspondent, “Is expressing an opinion a worse crime than destroying homes?”

While Sujit does not know where his son is, the father of another 17-year-old, too, waits for his daughter.

Tenth-grader Dipti Rani Das -- a tenth grader from Parbatipur, Dinajpur -- has been in jail for over a year for allegedly hurting religious sentiments. After being denied bail a total of 6 times, she was released by the High Court on the seventh attempt a week back.

“However, the bail order has not reached the authorities yet. I do not know when my daughter will be released,” said Dilip Das. As of this story going to print, Dipti remains incarcerated.

Eminent lawyer Zi Khan Panna has represented Ruma, Jhumon, Dipti and more at the courts. Talking to The Daily Star, he said the law is being used disproportionately against the Hindu community.

“There’s a lot of hate speech being spread online against various communities and women by clerics and religious preachers, but they are not being prosecuted,” said Khan.

He mentioned the story of Rasraj, a poor angler, who’s still facing charges under DSA over the attack on the Hindu community in Nasirnagar of Brahmanbaria.

“A chargesheet has been submitted against him, although it has been proved that he cannot operate Facebook. Meanwhile, those who carried out the attacks on the community are out there enjoying their impunity,” he claimed.

In the case of Pabitra Kumar Roy, a headmaster from Lalmonirhat’s Taluk Shakhati High School, the offence was writing a social media post questioning animal sacrifice rituals during Eid-ul-Adha 2021. The post, as mentioned in the First Information Report (FIR), and translated verbatim, is as follows, “To slaughter the beast inside one’s heart, is it not better to sit in prayer, than to slaughter beasts?”



Ruma, like many others, believed the fake video and referred to it in her Facebook live, she claimed.

But in a case filed against her on October 19, Ramna police claimed that it was Ruma who was spreading the video on social media.

“The law enforcers came at midnight. I live alone with my two children, so I got scared and did not open the door,” described Ruma. “I kept asking them to come back in the morning, because my children would have to stay alone all night. I told them that I would not escape and asked them to lock me in from the outside to ensure that.”

But within two hours, the Rapid Action



LAW WATCH

Implementing UNGPs to hold the industries accountable for environmental damage

MOHAMMAD GOLAM SARWAR

Most importantly, the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) sets an overarching global standard of expected conduct for all business enterprises wherever they operate and requires business entities to take adequate measures to prevent, mitigate, and remediate adverse human rights impacts that include environmental pollution.

The economy of Bangladesh has seen tremendous growth in the recent past that helped the country graduate from LDC to middle income country. It is undeniable that business enterprises and industries have played significant role in achieving the milestone of LDC graduation. The other side of the coin is that business entities and industries have been causing excessive environmental pollution while threatening the sustainability of the emerging economic growth of the country. It is reported that industrial waste has a substantial impact on natural resources that lead to excessive air and water pollution while destroying aquatic and forest ecology. It is estimated that Bangladesh loses over \$6.5 billion amounting to 3.4% of its GDP due to environmental pollution every year.

The relevant study reports from the recent past have frequently indicated that Bangladesh has been named the world's most polluted country while Dhaka has been ranked as the worst livable city in the world. The capital city becomes unlivable due to rampant industrial pollution and unplanned urbanisation destroying the ecosystem. A large number of industries are located on the bank of the rivers which release tons of waste materials into the rivers every day. A study by the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) of Bangladesh revealed that 6,000 tons of liquid waste is dumped into the *Buriganga* river every day. All the city waste, industrial garbage, and toxic liquid are directly dumped into the rivers flowing around Dhaka which make them 'biologically dead rivers'. Due to such environmental pollution, Bangladesh is not only incurring huge economic losses (3.4 percent of its GDP) but also witnessing premature deaths amounting to 28 percent of all deaths in Bangladesh.

It is undeniable that companies contribute to society while employing people and producing products and services. However, we need to keep in mind that companies also make profits by exploiting natural resources, extracting raw materials that belong to the 'global commons'. It is argued that since companies contribute to environmental degradation, they cannot avoid responsibility to mitigate and prevent such degradation. In this regard, the Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) becomes significant. The CER encompasses legally or morally binding responsibility of a company for its social and environmental performance. It obligates the companies/industries to look beyond the short-term profitability and to undertake responsible business practices while considering the environmental impact of the corporate actions.

Additionally, the CER underscores the necessity of internalising environmental cost with the price of a product since every product has environmental implications. Such internalisation of environmental cost reflects company's commitment to integrate sustainable practices which help the company reduce costs of the products while improving company's reputation. In addition to reputation and new market opportunities, CER mitigates the financial costs associated with a failure to take environmental responsibility. The most significant feature of CER underlies the fact that it reduces the tension between economic growth by massive

industrialisation and environmental degradation due to such unplanned industrialisation.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 highlighted the role of business in achieving sustainable development while protecting environment. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development stressed on the necessity of internalising environmental costs through economic instruments while making the polluter responsible to bear the cost of pollution. Principle 16 provided guidance to formulate domestic legislation in the apportionment of the costs of pollution. It is argued that the polluter-pays principle along with its underlying features provides an outline which has significant normative influence in formulating not only domestic laws and but also international treaties concerning environmental accountability.

Most importantly, the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) sets an overarching global standard of expected conduct for all business enterprises wherever they operate and requires business entities to take adequate

The UNGPs provide human rights enabled complaint and remedial mechanism to redress grievances for environmental harms committed by corporate actors. Such human rights-based mechanism is considered effective to hold corporate actors accountable and to formulate rights-based domestic environmental legislation specifically targeting corporations.

measures to prevent, mitigate, and remediate adverse human rights impacts that include environmental pollution. The UNGPs provide human rights enabled complaint and remedial mechanism to redress grievances for environmental harms committed by corporate actors. Such human rights-based mechanism is considered effective to hold corporate actors accountable and to formulate rights-based domestic environmental legislation specifically targeting corporations. Since its adoption by the UN Human Rights Council, the UNGPs are gaining momentum that asserts to embed human rights due diligence into business decision-making.

The judiciary in different jurisdictions is also referring 'the respect, protect and remedy framework of UNGPs' in defining the responsibility of business enterprises in relation to their corporate action. For instance, recently, a Dutch Court while giving order in the *Shell case (Friends of the Earth Netherlands et al v Royal Dutch Shell PLC, 2021)* referred to 'the widespread international consensus that human rights offer protection against the impacts of dangerous climate change and that companies must respect human rights.'

It is useful to note that the proposed EU's Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence Law obligates the companies to act to ensure human rights and reduce environmental impacts in their supply chains. This draft law will set the standard for responsible business conduct in Europe and beyond. By virtue of this due diligence law, Bangladesh being the significant trade partner with the EU, will be required to respect not only human rights and labour rights, but also environmental rights in order to continue trade and investment relationship with EU.

In the context of Bangladesh, the Industrial Policy 2016 envisages undertaking measures for environment friendly industrial management. The policy refers that business organisations, NGOs and other social organisations will be encouraged to engage in protection of environment and management of industrial waste. The policy also states that in order to prevent environmental pollution at the industries, the establishment of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) will be encouraged. The Environment Conservation Act (ECA) 1995 attempts to regulate polluting industries while requiring environment clearance certificate (ECC) and undertaking environmental impact assessment (EIA). However, the Department of Environment, being responsible to issue ECC and EIA, with its limited human resources often fails to address the rampant environmental pollution caused by industries. It is quite frustrating that the provision of EIA is often manipulated to serve the interests of the big industries. Under the ECA 1995, the industries are under obligation to establish ETP considering the nature of the industry, however, in reality, very few industries are complying with the law. The big polluters remain largely unaccountable despite their constant contributions to environmental degradation.

Though the law and polices contain provisions (to a certain extent) to prevent industrial pollution, the accountability of the industries for causing environmental damage has not been reflected adequately in the practices. It is reported that Bangladeshi industries have remained below the elementary level of complying with the UNGPs. In this regard, the concept of environmental accountability in light of the UNGPs needs to be integrated into the relevant laws and policies. A separate complaint and remedial mechanism to redress grievances for corporate environmental harms should be established. Considering the limitations of the Department of Environment, a monitoring cell may be launched to assess and scrutinise the impact of industrial activities on environment. It is submitted that implementation of corporate environmental accountability shall not only facilitate the achievement of sustainable development but also shall address the forthcoming challenges of post LDC graduation of Bangladesh.

The writer, an Assistant Professor, teaches environmental law at the University of Dhaka.

BOOK REVIEW

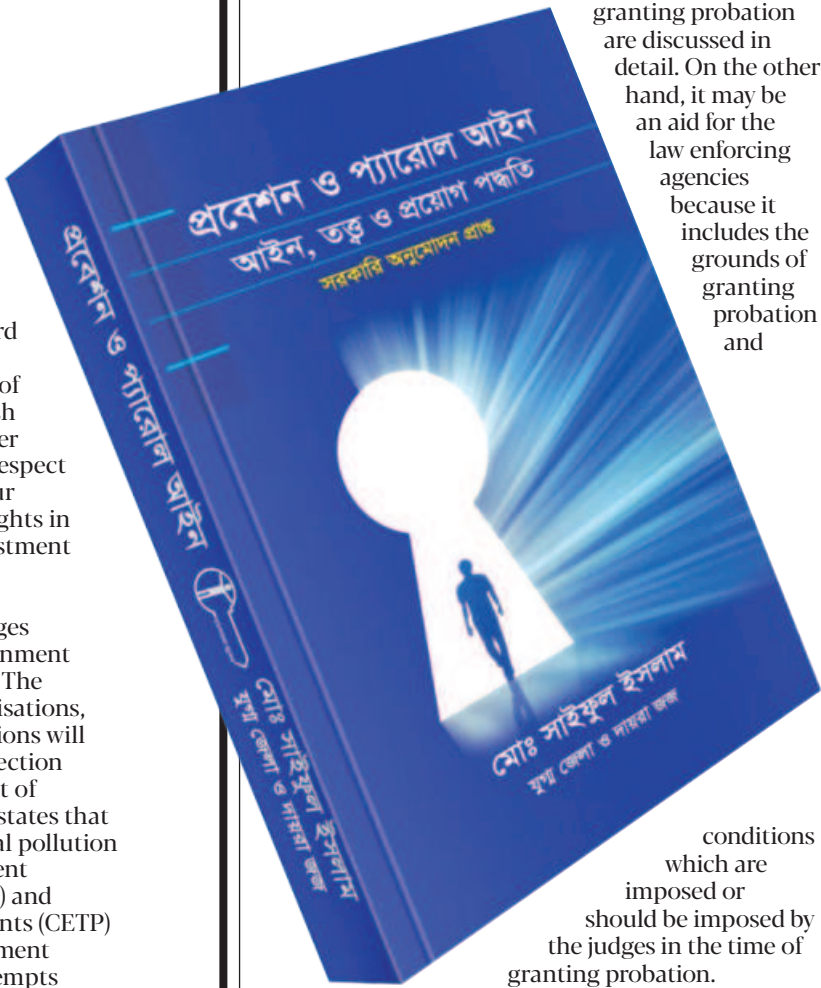
On the law of probation and parole

DR. SAYEEDA ANJU

Conditional discharge, probation, parole, furlough etc. are the alternatives to imprisonment for accused. Those can be availed depending on the gravity of the offence and the relevant circumstances as a reflection of reformatory theory of punishment. Some of the systems are incorporated in the statutory laws and some are practiced as per the relevant policies. The book *Probation O Parole Ain: Ain, Toatto O Proyoug Poddhati* (Trans. *The Law on Probation and Parole: Law, Theory and Methods of Application*), written by Joint District and Session Judge Md. Saiful Islam and published in November 2021, is mostly related with probation and parole laws, policies, relevant case laws and practice scenarios in Bangladesh. The book clarifies common misconceptions regarding probation and depicts the limitations of probation system. The author referred to international mechanisms and several handbooks concerning restorative justice in criminal matters. There is hardly any standard pattern followed in granting parole whether for humanitarian or political ground. Several examples of granting parole are identified by the author, which is really praiseworthy.

Probation cannot be granted as of right, it is rather a discretionary power of the court. There is no common pattern and uniformity in application of the provision for men, women and children. It is necessary to understand the law with the aid of other related laws and the book mentioned above may be a guide for the reader to apply the probation system to different situations in a homogenous manner. The book may even be of use as a textbook which includes the relevant laws of the country related to correction of offenders. Probation system, its elements, history, principles

and the legal basis of granting probation are discussed in detail. On the other hand, it may be an aid for the law enforcing agencies because it includes the grounds of granting probation and



conditions which are imposed or should be imposed by the judges in the time of granting probation.

There are laws in the country like the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960 and the Bangladesh Probation of Offenders Rules, 1971 but in post-independent era, these laws hardly have any application in Bangladesh. Recently after the directives of the Supreme Court were issued in 2019, judges all across Bangladesh have started to apply the provisions of these laws more often than before.

The innovative aspect of the book is that it includes samples of probation granting order for guilty plea, sample of granting probation for other reasons, sample of conditional discharge order, form of pre-sentence report, different forms of applying parole for the time being/short time, forms of granting parole etc. One positive aspect of the book is that it comprises different process maps of different stages to comprehend the system at a glance.

The book also discusses how the Ministry of Social Welfare assists the court to monitor whether the purpose for which the probation was granted are properly observed or achieved. The author points out the jurisdiction and the process of granting probation by lower judiciary to the apex court and also case references as examples. Most importantly, the book discusses the conditions for probation of children and adults separately. The reader will find the discussion on whether the modern conditions are consistent with the Tokyo Rule, 1990. It also sheds light on whether the terms of the bond can be changed and what will be the consequences if the terms are not met.

In Bangladesh, the laws relating to parole are not compiled yet. As imposing improvised and new conditions at the time of granting probation is debatable and draft Probation Act, 2017 is not passed yet, a book with huge reference and practical implication on probation was the demand of the time and being a judge, the attempt and effort of the author is really commendable.

The reviewer is a Professor of Law, University of Rajshahi.

Ulysses turns 100

In March 2021, having barely sketched the outline of his last two chapters, Joyce learnt heard from Harriet Weaver the refusal of the American publishers to bring out his book. On April 5, 1921, he went to rue Dupuytren and shared his despair with Sylvia Beach. “My book will never come out now,” he told her. On an impulse, Sylvia asked him if he would let “Shakespeare and Company” publish *Ulysses*. A jubilant Joyce gave his immediate consent.

OLIVIER LITVINE

In memory of Maurice Goldring

On Thursday, February 2, 1922, a young woman was pacing the platform of the Gare de Lyon while waiting for the express train from Dijon. At 7:00 am precisely, the train arrived, stopped slowly, the conductor got off, looking around for the young woman who rushed to him and took a package from his hands, holding it tight while running towards the boulevard below, where she hailed a cab, her heart pounding. Less than ten minutes later, she reached N° 9, rue de l'Université, tore up the stairs, rang a bell and gave some of the precious contents to the tall, lanky, and partially blind man who had opened the door. With a smile, he took hold of the object and made a gesture of thanks. He was turning forty on that day and this was his birthday present. He was James Joyce, the Irish author everyone was talking about. She was Sylvia Beach, the young American who ran the English lending library “Shakespeare and Company.” As for the object, it was one of the first two copies of *Ulysses*, a masterpiece of literary modernism, which had been eight years in the making and whose publication he owed precisely to Sylvia Beach. Without lingering, Sylvia took leave of James, jumped into a cab, got off at 12, rue de l'Odéon where she hastened to place the second copy in the window of her bookshop.

This was the happy conclusion of a publishing odyssey fraught with twists and turns, unique in its kind, an adventure which probably has no equivalent in literary history, on a par with this extraordinary book that is much talked about (and not always in a good way) but not widely read, his access being deemed too forbidding. Its publication was also an odyssey of sorts. In 1919, the English magazine “The Egoist,” edited by Harriet Weaver, had to stop the serial publication after five issues, following protests from printers and subscribers; in 1920, Margaret Anderson and Jane Heap, the editors of “The Little Review,” an avant-garde New York magazine, were condemned by the court for having published “obscene” material and ordered to stop the publication of *Ulysses*. Trieste-Zürich-Paris, 1914-1921. Ending on the mention of these three places and two dates related to its writing *Ulysses* is itself a novel whose “non-action” takes place in yet another place, Dublin, on a single day, June 16, 1904. Modeled on Homer's

inflections of Joyce's Irish voice and his total lack of affectation, and she was moved by the mixture of strength and fragility that emanated from his long and thin body. The next day, Joyce, his legendary ashplant stick in hand, pushed open the door of “Shakespeare and Company,” where he picked up his membership card and confided to Sylvia Beach the difficulties of getting *Ulysses* published.

He also told her about Harriet Weaver, who had published his *Portrait* in serial form in *The Egoist* and sent him his royalties along with large sums of money. A left-wing feminist, Harriet Weaver was the heir to a small family fortune that she had decided to spend to the promotion of Joyce's work, very much in keeping with her political ideals.

In March 2021, having barely sketched the outline of his last two chapters, Joyce learnt heard from Harriet Weaver the refusal of the American publishers to bring out his book. On April 5, 1921, he went to rue Dupuytren and shared his despair with Sylvia Beach. “My book will never come out now,” he told her. On an impulse, Sylvia asked him if he would let “Shakespeare and Company” publish *Ulysses*. A jubilant Joyce gave his immediate consent.

Despite no prior publishing or



communication experience, Sylvia Beach had taken upon herself the responsibility of publishing a contentious text that was still in progress. Her pluck, strength of conviction and ability to seize the opportunity by the forelock, turned this daughter of a Presbyterian minister into the extraordinary promoter of one of the most important books of all time.

A born organizer, she called upon the talents of the Anglo-American community in Paris and set up a formidable communication plan and an effective publication schedule. The first print run of 1,000 copies was entrusted to Maurice Darantière, who was already working with Adrienne Monnier and was based in Dijon. Expenses were to be covered by subscriptions, targeting primarily the Paris expatriate English-speaking community, as well as their wide network of acquaintances. Subscriptions soon began pouring in, mostly from Britain, but also from Europe and the United States. In Britain, the list of subscribers included Winston Churchill, Virginia Woolf, Arnold Bennett, Aldous and Julian Huxley, the Sitwell siblings, H.G. Wells, T.E. Lawrence and Yeats. In the USA, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams and John Quinn, the lawyer who had represented Margaret Anderson and Jane Heap, were among the subscribers. At night, Robert McAlmond, an American poet and short story writer living in Paris, would scour the cabarets in search of subscribers, and in the early hours of the morning drop the forms, some of them filled out in the shaky handwriting of people who would later be surprised to learn that they had committed themselves...

In this extraordinary display of enthusiasm and optimism, three people stick out like as many sore thumbs. George Bernard Shaw, whom Joyce held in low esteem, who refused to pay 150 francs “for a book like that.” Gertrude Stein and Alice Toklas, two Americans in Paris notorious known for their lack of interaction with the natives, who cancelled their membership of “Shakespeare and Company” as soon as the announcement of the upcoming publication of *Ulysses* became known.

McAlmond was part of the small army of “Beachians” who worked tirelessly on the publication of the Joyce's great work, along with Sylvia's sister Cyprian, Myrsyne and Hélène Moschos, young polyglot Frenchwomen of Greek origin, and several Cambodian students, including the heir to the throne.

The main concern was to establish the final text. As Joyce wrote by hand, with pencils bought at WH Smith, his texts had to be typed to be sent to Darantière. Several typists refused to type a text that was sometimes openly bawdy. The husband of one of them, who worked at the British Embassy in Paris, was so disgusted at what he had read that and threw half a dozen pages into the fire. Also, because Joyce kept adding text to text, Robert McAlmond, who was typing the last chapter, “Penelope” took it upon himself to rearrange in his own way some of Molly Bloom's thoughts. Surprisingly enough, Joyce did not object to the result.

In the meantime, on July 27, 1921, “Shakespeare and Company” moved to 12 rue de l'Odéon, virtually opposite Adrienne Monnier's bookshop, the two

places becoming one. The literary tout-Paris stopped by on rue de l'Odéon. Fascinated by Joyce, who has become his friend, Valéry Larbaud, the translator of Samuel Butler, planned to give a lecture on *Ulysses*, which made it necessary to translate some of its passages into French. He was assisted in this work by Léon-Paul Fargue, a great poet who had a perfect command of the “bawdy idiom,” and by a young music student, Jacques Benoist-Méchin, a close friend of Adrienne Monnier's, whose input was have a major impact on the text and influence future interpretations.

Joyce selected the excerpts to be translated, taken from “The Sirens” and “Penelope.” Though he was dazzled by Joyce's genius, Benoist-Méchin (a future collaborationist who had Sylvia Beach released from prison in 1943) pointed out to Joyce that concluding Molly Bloom's monologue with “...yes I will...” sounded somewhat too abrupt and authoritarian. He recommended ending the text with a “Yes” that would be more in keeping with the spirit of the text, the most positive word in any language testifying forcefully to the existence of a world beyond individual consciousness. As with McAlmond, Joyce eventually agreed with the suggestion, which has since illuminated the work in retrospect. It can be tentatively asserted that *Ulysses* is a collaborative work of sorts...

Held on December 7, 1921, Valéry Larbaud's lecture was a huge success. The 250-strong attendance gave Joyce a standing ovation as he appeared from behind a curtain at the end of the event.

Finally, on January 5, 1922, after Joyce had added about 20% new material to the original text, the final proofs were at last ready.

On Friday, January 6, to celebrate the event with dignity, Joyce invited Sylvia Beach and Adrienne Monnier for a celebratory meal at Ferrari's, his favourite Italian restaurant. It was agreed that the publication date would be February 2, Joyce's fortieth birthday, an auspicious date for someone who was deeply superstitious.

The next day, on Saturday, January 7, in Dublin, the Dáil Éireann, the Irish parliament, voted by a majority in favour of the Treaty that put an end to the Anglo-Irish war and established the independence of the Irish Free State, i.e., the island of Ireland minus the six northeastern counties, mostly Protestant, which remained a part of the United Kingdom and became the province of Northern Ireland. This double birth can be endlessly discussed – can it be seen as a mere historical coincidence, or is it the result of some necessary synchronicity? In any case, at the very moment his country joined the concert of free nations (and on the eve of a terrible civil war), Joyce was about to brought into the big wide world a novel that was not only to “forge the conscience of his race” but also and above all usher Irish literature in on the modernist scene. Incidentally, it was to give his “fans” the opportunity to celebrate “Bloomsday” every June 16th since 1954 (and the historic, rumbustious, pilgrimage organised by Flann O'Brien and Patrick Kavanagh), dressing up as the characters of the novel and acting out some its scenes while imbibing generous amounts of various liquid substances.

Before this literary earthquake occurred, the crucial and thorny issue of the color of the jacket remained to be settled. Joyce insisted that it should symbolize the Mediterranean Sea and match perfectly with blue of the Greek flag. Eventually, Darantière had to go all the way to Germany to find the right blue, which he had lithographed on white cardboard. *Ulysses* as an object had finally become a reality.

On the evening of February 2, 1922, the day of his fortieth birthday AND of the publication of his most successful book, James Joyce returned to Ferrari's with family and friends. Glasses were raised in the honour of Joyce and his novel, which he had placed religiously on the table. The evening ended at Café Weber, rue Royale, a little too sedately to Joyce's taste, who would have liked to celebrate all night long.

Yet another battle was about to begin, which Joyce had to fight to have *Ulysses* published in the United States (in 1933) and in Great Britain (in 1937). In the meantime, the various editions illegally brought in these two countries (sometimes “disguised” as Shakespeare's complete works), were confiscated, burned in public, but also, fortunately, avidly read. Strangely enough, *Ulysses* was never banned in the Irish Free State, on the grounds that it was never officially sold or smuggled there...

On the centenary of the publication of *Ulysses*, the author of these lines would like to make a humble request aimed to popularize the reading of *Ulysses*. In the same way as Anthony Burgess once published a *Shorter Finnegans Wake*, a selection of key passages linked by various summaries he himself penned, I strongly advocate the publication in French of “selected passages” of *Ulysses*, which would take after Burgess's work. *Ulysses* deserves to be rid of its mystical status of closed and sacred text. Now it is in the public domain, it is high time as many people as possible were given the opportunity of tasting the very substance of the text.

May I be forgiven for the somewhat daring shortcut that follows, but it seems to me that in 2022, one hundred years after the publication of *Ulysses* in Paris, the time for a Joycean #MeToo has come.

Yes

Olivier Litvine, associate professor of English, Joycean activist.



Jibanananda Das' “Ananto jibon jodi pai ami”

If I Get to Live Forever

TRANSLATED BY FAKRUL ALAM

If I get to live forever— then forever, I'll be all alone—
If I return to the paths of the world, I'll see green grass
Sprouting—will see yellow grass scattering— the sky
Whitening in the morning—like a tattered *munia* bird,
Breast blood-stained in the evening—again and again I'll see stars
And view a strange woman untying braided hair and leaving
Alas, her face devoid of traces of the setting sun's soft glow

If I get to live forever— forever, I'll walk the ways of the world
All alone. If I ever return to the world's pathways, I'll see
Trams, buses, dust. Innumerable slums and, broken bowls too—
Dark and dirty lanes; fights, people swearing; squinted eyes
Rotten prawns; I'll see a whole lot of things interminably
And yet all this time I won't get to meet you again—for eternity!

Fakrul Alam is an academic, a writer and a translator based at the University of Dhaka.



AUTUMN

ASAD LATIF

Be the autumn of my days.

I am done with summers gone and springs to come or other rains.

I'm the only season that remains.

While it lasts, walk with me up a tree-lined past where falling leaves garland the dusk and smell of me and change.

Please, but please, hold me in your sway.

Asad Latif is an editorial writer for *The Straits Times*, Singapore. He read History for his Master of Letters degree at Cambridge, where he was a Cheltenham Scholar. He was a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Centre, Honolulu, and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard. Among his books is *Celebrating Europe: An Asian Journey* (Singapore, 2012).

FACEBOOK ETIQUETTE

Top university launches new course for young professionals

“This press release writer should mention that this course would not have been possible without the guidance of Vice-chancellor Amak A Teldao, and his vision. When visibility is only 300 feet, he can see the moon at noon,” the press release said.

TSAI COFANT

One of the country’s most respected universities has launched a new course that the institution’s authorities say will arm young professionals with the requisite tools to impress in their new jobs.

The course, “Applied Oil Sciences”, will be run by the business department of Top University of Chapasthan (TUC) from the next semester, according to a press release issued yesterday by the university.

“The demands of the workplace are constantly changing, and Applied Oil Sciences is a cutting-edge course that will help students stay abreast of the latest trends. The course will place special emphasis on social media (mostly Facebook) etiquette, namely how to interact with superiors and gain their attention.

“This press release writer should mention that this course would not have been possible without the guidance of Vice-chancellor Amak A Teldao, and his vision. When visibility is only 300 feet, he can see the moon at noon,” the press release said.

A source, close to another source who stood outside the door when the TUC VC held the meeting regarding the new course, said, “It is important for bosses to feel that they are needed. That they are wanted and loved. A lot of the young professionals do not get this and instead make snarky remarks when their co-workers praise their bosses.

“They don’t understand how much pressure bosses endure on a daily basis. The top of the mountain is a lonely place. Bosses are tired of throwing others off cliffs and cutting the ropes of those trying to climb up. Metaphorically speaking, of course. That is why

when bosses see that those on the slopes below love them and sing songs about their wisdom and guidance, it makes the guilt easier to bear.”

A key component of the course, it was learnt, will be responding to Facebook statuses of superiors.

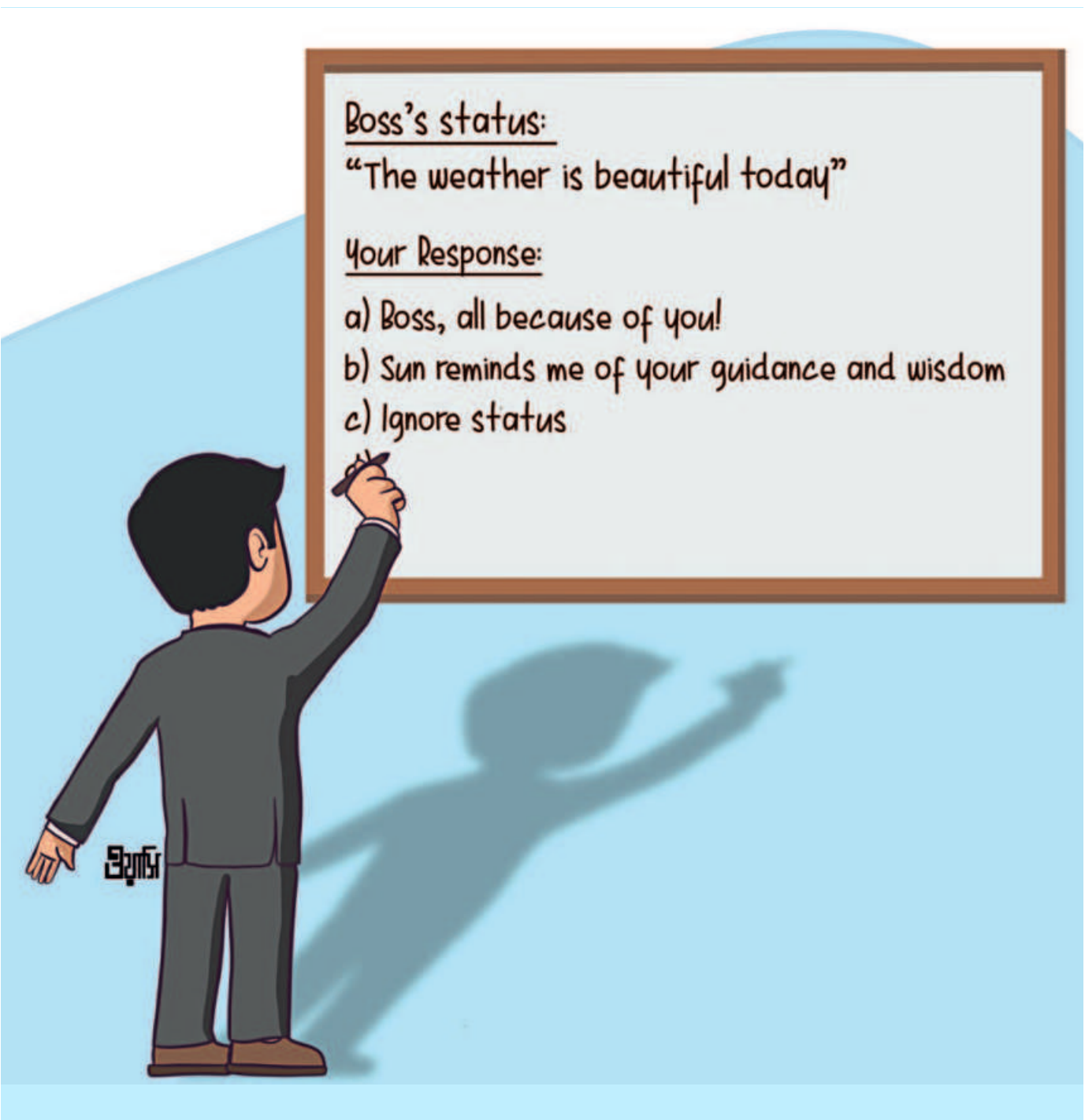
According to the outline, the course will include: strategies to respond to the boss’s statuses as fast as possible; the appropriate reactions to any status or comment from the boss and, most importantly, how to thank the boss for every and any event in employees’ lives – promotions, marriages, births, deaths, etc. – without making it seem like unnecessary flattery.

“Flattery has its place of course. This is an example of how the landscape is always changing. Bosses now also like to see that their employees are making the effort to flatter them,” the source said.

The course has already garnered a lot of interest among young professionals, with all seats rumoured to be filled up within a day of announcement of the course.

“We used to think that we should be grateful to ourselves and the hard work we do for getting to where we are in our professional lives,” said Ahmed Yakib, who enrolled for the course. “But I realise now that every professional achievement of mine was because of my boss.”

With enrolment reported to be almost full, TUC will host an FB event, “Telapalooza”, to choose five lucky candidates who will get the last seats. The live video will be hosted by the head of the business department, and the five best comments will be picked. The head of the business department will then copy the most pleasing of the five comments and paste it below VC Teldao’s latest status.



Apple introduces iLid for earphone users

I TECH MANI

Have you ever poured out your life story to someone for 26 minutes, only to notice that she has been listening to a podcast all that time?

Have you asked a co-worker an important question, only for that person not to answer and keep staring at the screen? Did you then quit your job out of anger and humiliation over being so summarily ignored? Did you then develop self-esteem issues as the bills kept piling up and you could not find another job?

Conversely, did you just get fired for not implementing that vital change to a presentation that your boss is sure he asked you to implement?

Well, for a measly \$450 Apple has the solution for you. Earphones, especially the true wireless ones that the company has made famous are getting smaller every year, and people can no longer notice if someone is just sitting there bobbing their head because they are a little off or whether they are listening to music.

The iLid solves that problem. Looking like almost any other over-ear headphone, the iLid sits comfortably on top of your head. After three years of testing, Apple has perfected the shape of the ear cups, which are massive and therefore can fit even Barack Obama’s ears.

“This is a solution unlike any other,” said Apple CEO Tim Shook. “It will boost productivity in the workplace by aiding in communication. Since our airpods are so small, and some of the inferior products of inferior competitors are small too, it is hard for others to notice that you may be listening to Apple Music. The iLid is the solution. We kept the price reasonable by making sure that the headphones... ahem... iLids don’t actually play music, which would have jacked up the price like the Apple Wheels, which actually roll and therefore cost \$700.”

Apple is also offering iJack, a wire extension for the iLids for an additional \$150 for those who want that retro look.



SELFIE MELA CONTEST



If you want your love of books and the written word to be held up for the world to see, Selfie Mela is the competition for you. It is all good taking pictures while visiting popular sites and fairs and then posting it on social media, but nothing says that you were there better than having it memorialised in print. Visit the fair this month and send in your entries to amiboiporina@selfiemela.com. You do not have to purchase books to enter the contest, just a selfie will do.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS