

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Bangladeshi dies in attack on ship

Vessel was stranded in Ukrainian port Olvia since Feb 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Bangladeshi sailor was killed after the vessel Banglar Samriddhi, which remains stranded at a port in Ukraine, came under a "missile" attack yesterday.

The deceased, Hadisur Rahman, was the third engineer of the Bangladeshi flag carrying ship.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) owns the vessel.

Confirming the incident, BSC Managing Director Commodore Suman Mahmud told The Daily Star late last night the ill-fated sailor was killed in "a missile attack" on the ship's bridge at 9:25pm.

The other crew members managed to douse the blaze that ensued and they are safe, he said.

The vessel reached the outer anchorage of Ukrainian port Olvia on February 23 to load ball clay.

But due to delay in getting the port clearance, the ship failed to leave the port and it got stranded as the port's operations halted after the Russian invasion.

Late last night, three video clips have been making the rounds in social media.

One of them is apparently of crew members of Banglar Samriddhi trying to douse the fire in the bridge.

Another clip, which apparently was taken by a Ukrainian from the shore, shows a ship with its bridge on fire. Smoke was seen spewing out.

The third clip, apparently filmed with a handheld device, shows the bridge of a ship going up in flames.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the authenticity of the clips.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



A civilian is being trained to throw Molotov cocktails to defend the city, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Zhytomyr, Ukraine on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGLADESHI STUDENTS Odyssey out of Kharkiv

MOHAMMED ISHTIAQUE KHAN

Right after Russia launched its attack on Ukraine, Bangladeshi medical student Fabiha Binte Mahbub was bunkered up in an underground subway station in the city of Kharkiv.

She is a fourth-year student of Kharkiv National Medical University.

The city -- Ukraine's second largest -- is located in the country's north-east. It is roughly a thousand kilometres from the Polish border.

The Russian military has been shelling Kharkiv since February 24, and the death toll is at several dozens, including an Indian medical student.

Fabiha spent the first day and a half of the Russian offence holed up underground. "The attack began at dawn. I woke up to the sound of intense shelling and found my bed shaking. I called my friends, and started crying ... It [the shelling] just wouldn't stop," she described.

Even though it quietened after a while, the Russians restarted the offence in the afternoon again.

"This time they were targeting missiles and mortar shells. From there on, the situation went downhill ... I cannot describe in words how terrifying it is to be stuck in a bunker while the sky outside flashes with the light from explosions. At one point, we lost track of time."

When the shelling thinned out on the second day, Fabiha and her friends emerged from the underground bunker to restock food supplies. "Within 10 minutes of coming back home for supplies, the shelling began again. We ran back to the bunker with just the clothes on our back. That is when we realised the situation would just keep getting worse, and we must find an escape route."

Fabiha and three of her friends decided to head towards the Polish border -- but

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Invasion intensifies

Russian troops capture Ukraine's port city Kherson, pound cities in north, east; Biden vows Putin will 'pay a price'

AGENCIES

Russian forces said they had captured a port on the Black Sea yesterday as Russian and Ukrainian troops battled for another city and US President Joe Biden vowed to make his Russian counterpart "pay a price" for the invasion.

The Russian army said it had taken control of Kherson, as its troops

advanced and pounded cities across northern, southern and eastern Ukraine, defying sanctions and international isolation.

Russian paratroopers also landed in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-biggest city, triggering clashes in the streets, Ukrainian forces said.

The emergency services said four people were killed in the city and there was now "mass shelling and bombing"

in the centre.

In a video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces wanted to "erase our country, erase us all".

Ukraine said more than 350 civilians, including 14 children, have been killed in the conflict and the International Criminal Court has opened a war crimes investigation

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



Twelve labourers carry a huge log on their heads up a steep incline on the Buriganga in Kamrangirchar. The log, which is to go to a sawmill, arrived at Baribashal ghat on a vessel recently. A slip by one of the workers could result in casualties. A crane could have made this job a lot easier and safer.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SALARY UPGRADE

Strike disrupts work of dist, upazila admin

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Administrative activities at different government offices at district and upazila levels are being disrupted as a section of staffers have been abstaining from work for two days demanding upgradation of their salary grades.

The staffers, who mainly carry out paperwork in the offices of the district deputy commissioners, upazila nirbahi officers and upazila assistant commissioners (land), also staged sit-ins on their office premises under the banners of the Bangladesh Divisional Commissioner Office Staff Association and Bangladesh Collectorate Assistant Association.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Soybean oil traders out profiteering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders in their bid to make a quick buck are siphoning out soybean oil from sealed 5-litre containers and selling the cooking oil in loose form while others are hoarding the oil driving the prices up in retail.

As edible oil has become expensive in the international market in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, dishonest traders have started creating an artificial crisis here.

Prices of edible oil have shot up and gone beyond the government's fixed rates at retail, and the consumers as always are paying the price.

Yesterday, a litre of loose soybean oil was going for Tk 175 per litre, 22 percent higher than the government's fixed rate of Tk 143, according to market prices data compiled by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Interestingly, the 5-litre containers

were selling for Tk 830, still 4.4 percent higher than the government fixed rate of Tk 795, and the per litre cost was about Tk 10 cheaper than loose soybean oil.

This prompted retailers to start selling oil of the containers in loose form.

They also sold bottled super palm oil at higher than the government determined rates yesterday.

A section of traders is hoarding bottled soybean oil claiming supply shortage to make huge profits in the coming weeks, when they expect the prices to go up even further.

A shopkeeper at Krishi Market in Dhaka's Mohammadpur refused to sell 5-litre containers of the cooking oil to this correspondent on March 1 even though several containers were seen stacked in the store.

Yesterday at a media briefing, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said government agencies have

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

TAKE YOUR DREAMS BEYOND THE BORDERS

STUDY IN INDIA EDUCATION MEET 2022: BANGLADESH

DHAKA
DATE: 4TH & 5TH MARCH 2022
TIME: 10 AM - 5 PM
VENUE: RENAISSANCE DHAKA GULSHAN HOTEL, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

CHITTAGONG
DATE: 7TH MARCH 2022
TIME: 10 AM - 5 PM
VENUE: RADISSON BLU CHATTOGRAM BAY VIEW, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

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55 BNP men injured in police action

STAR REPORT

At least 55 BNP leaders and activists were injured as police baton-charged a procession in Savar and ruling party men attacked another BNP procession in Patuakhali yesterday.

Two police personnel were also injured in a clash in Savar. Police officials in both districts said BNP had not taken permission for the processions.

On February 24, BNP announced an 11-day countrywide programme, including demonstrations, to protest the price hike of daily essentials. There were demonstrations in all 64 districts yesterday.

Patuakhali BNP tried to hold a pre-scheduled rally around 10:30am in front of the district party office on College Road, but eyewitnesses said Awami League men swooped on them before the rally began.

They said the two sides clashed when BNP leaders and activists tried to resist. Police charged baton and lobbed tear gas to bring the situation under control.

District BNP Member-Secretary Snehangshu Sarkar Kutty alleged that at least 25 BNP leaders and activists, including Sadar Upazila BNP President Kazi Mahub and district Chhatra Dal President Shafiul Bashar Ujjwal, were injured in the incident.

Patuakhali district Awami League General Secretary Abdul Mannan denied that AL men were involved, claiming that the clash was due to internal conflict of the BNP.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Patuakhali Police Station, said additional police were deployed at different points in the town to avoid further clashes.

In Savar, at least 30 BNP men were injured and three were detained after police baton-charged on a procession.

After a rally at the residence of Dewan Mohammad Salauddin, Dhaka district president of BNP, in Savar's Pakiza area around 11:00am, BNP activists brought out a procession on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

When it reached Rajalakh Farm area, police barred them. At one stage, the protesters tried to defy the police barricade and police charged baton on them, leaving many protesters injured.

Shariful Alam, Dhaka district BNP's assistant joint-general secretary and former BNP-backed MP Salauddin Babu's personal secretary, told The Daily Star that police suddenly charged baton on their procession leaving 30 leaders and activists injured.

Kazi Moynul Islam, OC of Savar Model Police Station, said BNP men brought out a procession without permission and when police barred them, they hurled brick chips and two police members were injured.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Young children in Mohammadpur Government Primary School having fun as they return where they belong -- in school playing with their friends. After a closure due to the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, primary schools resumed in-person classes yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Russia keen on funding three rail projects

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

RZD International, a subsidiary of Russian Railways, has expressed interest to finance three proposed railway projects, including the much-talked-about high-speed rail line on the Dhaka-Chattogram corridor.

The company wants to finance and construct the project as well as those entailing the construction of the Panchagarh-Banglabandha rail line and conversion of the Tongi-Bhairab Bazar-Akhaura track into a broad-gauge double line.

The offer was made on Tuesday by the Russian company's local representatives, who met with officials of the railways ministry and Bangladesh Railway at the capital's Rail Bhaban, officials involved with the proceedings told The Daily Star yesterday.

RZD International was advised to come through the Economic Relations Division, which deals with foreign investment-related projects.

The development comes after BR sought Russian funding for five railway projects and placed a formal proposal at the third meeting of the Bangladesh-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Scientific, Economic and Technical Cooperation (BR-IGC) held

in December last year.

However, the high-speed rail is the only project that exists in both the BR and the company's proposals.

If the deal goes through, it would be Russia's first investment in Bangladesh's railways sector. At present, Russia is funding the Rooppur nuclear power plant project.

RUSSIAN PROPOSAL
RZD International's first approach to BR was made in March last year and

If the deal goes through, it would be Russia's first investment in Bangladesh's railways sector.

its local representatives held several meetings over the issue and settled on the three projects.

And last month, Vladimir A Finov, the head of RZD International's representative office in India, wrote a letter to Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon.

Meinhardt Singapore and MGI Capital, the transaction advisory wing of Meinhardt Group, will work as RZD's associates in implementing the projects, according to the letter.

THREE PROJECTS

BR has already completed the feasibility study and detailed design of the high-speed railway project.

The estimated cost of the 224.64-kilometre-long rail route is \$11.1 billion (Tk 93,350.9 crore).

However, Sujon last year said the government would go slow in implementing the project as it would require huge investment.

BR is now carrying out the feasibility study for constructing a 48-km road between Panchagarh and Banglabandha Land Port, expected to boost regional connectivity.

As per the draft study report, the cost of the project would be about Tk 3,200 crore, sources said.

The existing line from Tongi via Bhairab to Akhaura is a metre-gauge double line and BR has already carried out a feasibility study to turn it into a dual-gauge line aiming to increase the capacity of the Dhaka-Chattogram rail corridor.

BR's Director-General Dharendra Nath Mazumder could not be reached over the phone, while Habibur Rahman, additional secretary of railways ministry, who led the ministry in absence of rail secretary at the meeting, declined to comment on the matter.

Woman raped with husband, children tied up at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A group of criminals raped a woman tying up her husband and children at her home in Bagerhat's Morrelganj upazila early yesterday.

According to the victim's husband, the criminals intruded into their house with lethal weapons around 4:00am yesterday.

"They first blindfolded and tied us up and then raped my wife and looted our belongings," he said.

They looted around two tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 5,500 in cash and a mobile phone.

Police sent the rape victim to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital for medical tests yesterday afternoon, and said they were preparing a case.

Prosecution concludes argument in Destiny money laundering case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution concluded arguments in a money laundering case against Destiny Group Managing Director Rafiqul Amin and 45 others yesterday.

ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam told the court that they undoubtedly proved the charges against Rafiqul Amin and others and demanded highest punishment for their offences.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka heard arguments and fixed today for arguments on behalf of Rafiqul Amin and others.

Court issues arrest warrant against Rizvi, 3 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed and three others in two cases filed over attacking policemen and vandalising vehicles in December 2019.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka issued the arrest warrant against Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, Mohammad Shahin, Delwar Hossain and Mohammad Rana.

The tribunal directed officer-in-charge of Hatirjheel Police Station to submit by May 19 the reports on implementation of the arrest warrants issued against them.

Police yet to arrest 2 involved in Bhairab factory worker's rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police are yet to arrest the two accused involved in a rape incident in Kishoreganj's Bhairab upazila on Monday.

The victim, a plastic factory worker in Bhairab, lodged a case accusing Shafiqul Islam, 38, and his cohort Abdul Hossain, 35, said police.

Contacted, Golam Mostafa, officer-in-charge of Bhairab Police Station, said soon after the incident, the accused fled the area.

Police are conducting drives to arrest them, he added.

Odyssey out of Kharkiv

FROM PAGE 1

The journey was bound to be risky. How does one cross a thousand kilometres in a country at war?

With an aim to head towards Lviv – a border city – they somehow made it to the railway station.

"As we queued outside to enter the station, the shelling began again and everybody made a mad dash towards the underground bunker."

With blasts just metres away, the crowds turned into a stampede. "I honestly thought we would get stomped to death," she said.

At least six Bangladeshis waited together on the rail platform but only four, including Fabiha, managed to board the train.

The others were first-year medical student Samiha, and second-year medical students Shifa and Yasser. The rest were forced to stay back at the station, unable to leave Kharkiv.

"The train could not hold the amount of people looking for a way out. But the authorities tried to ensure that people of all nationalities were able to board."

The 19-hour-long train journey was another endless nightmare.

"All the lights were switched off and the rail authorities told us not to have our GPS location or wifi on. Around us, there was a rain of missiles. Russian fighter jets are capable of detecting



FABIHA



SAMIHA



SHIFA



YASER

congregations of people and targeting their missiles accordingly. If we had our signals turned on, they would be able to locate the train," she explained.

Meanwhile, the authorities repeatedly urged all passengers to keep their window shut.

During a pit stop, everyone notices how the capital of Ukraine – Kyiv – had been ground to dust from attacks earlier in the day.

"The train usually

stops at this city for an hour. But this time, it was only for around 15 minutes. But even those few minutes seemed never-ending," said Fabiha.

With fear at their throats, the four Bangladeshis counted seconds till they could leave the frightful city of Kyiv.

The shelling started to thin out the further they moved from Kyiv. After they landed in the city of Lviv, the next part of the journey was on foot.

The four friends walked for six hours in the freezing cold to reach the Poland border. Ukrainian nationals living on the road helped the tired travellers with food and water.

"When we reached the border, we realised to our dismay that there were no Bangladeshi embassy officials," said Fabiha. Unable to contact any official, they took shelter in a school.

"Food comprised of a small amount of rice and vegetables, while we each got a thin blanket to beat the cold. Steaming hot tea and biscuits flowed aplenty."

They spent two nights at this shelter before crossing the border on February 28.

Once inside Poland, Egyptian embassy officials allowed the Bangladeshis to board their Warsaw-bound bus.

The four friends were, at last, safe. But they had their thoughts and worries with those they had to leave behind.

Soybean oil

FROM PAGE 1
discovered that a group of traders was selling loose oil taking it from sealed containers to make more profit.

They cannot manipulate the bottled oil prices as the prices are printed on the label, he said, warning them of stern actions.

The minister did not name the traders and companies found involved in price manipulation.

He said the government would not increase the edible oil price now and it would not allow sales of loose soybean oil in the country after May 31. For palm oil, the deadline is December 31.

Tipu said it was impossible to control quality and price of edible oil when it is sold in loose form.

Ghulam Rahman, president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said businesses are always opportunists.

"As the war has created concerns about prices and supply chain disruption, a section of traders is exploiting this."

"Commodities that are in the local market have been imported earlier and prices hike at this moment is unacceptable and unethical," he said.

Invasion intensifies

FROM PAGE 1

against Russia.

The UN said 836,000 people have fled since the conflict began seven days ago, including many students and migrant workers from Africa and the Middle East who had been living in Ukraine.

"We left everything there as they came and ruined our lives," said Svitlana Mostepanenko, a refugee registering in Prague.

In his first State of the Union address on Tuesday night, US President Joe Biden warned the sanctions campaign to cripple Russia's economy would escalate and its oligarchs were being targeted, reports AFP.

Russian troops rolled into Ukraine last week to achieve Putin's mission of overthrowing Zelensky's government and "denazifying" the pro-Western country.

But Ukrainian troops have fought back hard and prevented Russia from capturing the country's biggest cities.

Russian defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said

the deteriorating situation in Ukraine. It wanted to reach international waters fast but delay in getting clearance from the port made it impossible as all port operations were halted after Russia sent its troops into Ukraine.

There were food and water on the ship for at least 40 days.

Bangladeshi dies

FROM PAGE 1

Banglar Samridhi had 29 crew members, all Bangladeshis.

The 180-metre-long bulk carrier left Turkish port Ereğli on February 21 and reached the outer anchorage of Olvia.

After reaching the port, the ship cancelled its plans for loading the cargo due to

Strike disrupts work of dist, upazila admin

FROM PAGE 1

They threatened to continue demonstrations throughout this month unless the government changes their designation and upgrades their salary grade to 13 from 14 and 15.

About 12,500 staffers are staging the protest, said the association.

Officials said the protests were badly hampering administrative works.

"If the work abstention continues, activities at our offices will eventually come to a halt," a UNO in Dhaka division told The Daily Star, wishing not to be unnamed.

Kazi Moniruzzaman, secretary general of the staffers' association, said they have long been pressing for the demands, but to no avail.

He said office assistants join work under Grade-16 of the National Pay Scale-2015,

but only a few of them are promoted to Grade-10, which is equivalent to the salary scale of a second-class officer. This creates frustration among the staffers.

There are 20 grades under the National Pay Scale-2015. These grades are divided into four categories – 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Grades 1 to 9 fall under the 1st category, Grade-10 under the 2nd, Grade-11 to 16 under the 3rd and the rest under the 4th category.

Moniruzzaman said there is a discrepancy in the salary scales of 'tahsildar' and the staffers of the administrative section of the land offices, which irked them.

In January, the land ministry upgraded the salary scale of union land assistant officer (tahsildar) and union deputy land assistant officer (assistant

tahsildar) to Grades 11 and 12 from 16 and 17.

"Following the upgradation, a junior staffer becomes a senior in the same office [AC land]. The former senior staffers [in Grades 14 and 15] now have to call their juniors 'sir'. This is humiliating," said Moniruzzaman.

The association now demands a merger of Grades 14 and 15 with Grade 13 and the designation of the staffers be "administrative officer" and "assistant administrative officer".

On Tuesday, Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Shahidul Islam wrote to the senior secretary of the public administration ministry, informing it about the commotion among the staffers.

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the letter.

It says, "Though the staffers of different departments under the same pay grades have been promoted, those working at the district administration are yet to be promoted. They are working at the same level, but they are being paid under a lower grade."

"Due to the work abstention throughout the day, public service is being badly disrupted and a deadlock has been created."

The DC recommended upgrading their pay grades and changing their designations.

Speaking to this correspondent, another UNO said there are many public events in March and the strike was hampering preparations.

"Besides, haats and bazars are leased out this time of the year ahead of the Bengali New Year's Day [April 14].

DHAKA

BANGLA BOOKS IN BRAILLE A glimmer of light and hope

DIPAN NANDY

Twelve-year-old Namira has never seen light in her entire life. Nor has she seen colours, alphabets or the faces of her loved ones. However, her seemingly devoid-of-light life is still brighter than ever, for she has the power of books written in braille.

On the 16th day of the Boi Mela, Namira was spotted inside the stall of "Sporsho Braille Publication". Sporsho started its journey 14 years ago, aiming to make books available for visually impaired readers.

A book launching programme was organised at Bangla Academy's information centre, for the eight braille books published by Sporsho. The event was joined by writer and educationist Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. "I am reluctant to call them blind. They can do things that we can't. If we give them what they deserve, they will surpass us," he said.

Researcher Mofidul Haque said, "It's a great initiative, for it allows visually impaired readers the joy of reading."

"We only hope that other publishers will step in with similar initiatives and publish at least one book in braille. That will create more reading opportunities for visually impaired readers," said Nazia Jabin, founder of Sporsho.



On the 16th day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday, 12-year-old Namira was spotted inside the stall of "Sporsho Braille Publication". Namira has never seen light in her entire life, but her seemingly devoid-of-light life is still brighter than ever, for she has the power of books written in braille. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Four killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Four passengers died yesterday when a covered van collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Brahmanbaria's Bijoynagar upazila.

The deceased are Mursheda Begum (50), Dudu Mia (60), Md Farid, and Hosne Ara Begum, confirmed OC Shahjalal Alam of Khantihata Highway Police Station.

A Sylhet-bound covered van collided head-on with the auto-rickshaw around 6:45am, leaving two people dead. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital. Two of them died on the way.

Both vehicles were seized. However, drivers managed to flee, he added.

A playground for every ward Says Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said they will set up at least one playground in every ward of DSCC.

The mayor shared this while speaking at a press conference regarding the second "Dhaka Mayor Cup Inter-Ward Sports Competition 2022".

The tournament will be inaugurated on March 5 at Bir Shrestha Shahid Shipahi Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, said organisers.

Will strict measures work this time?

Authorities decide to ramp up drives against illegal, unfit vehicles

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With the number of road crashes on the rise, authorities have decided to take a tough stance against unfit and illegal vehicles across the country, aiming to improve the situation.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will write to district, civil and police administrations to intensify drives against unfit vehicles, and illegally operated three-wheelers like Nasimon and Karimon.

Authorities will also be directed to evict markets set up occupying parts of highways, as such establishments often cause congestion and road crashes.

All these decisions were taken at a stakeholder meeting BRTA convened yesterday at its headquarters in the capital.

However, authorities had taken similar decisions and conducted drives after major accidents, but those initiatives lost momentum after just a few days. As a result, such vehicles return to the roads again.

BRTA arranged the meeting with transport leaders, experts and police personnel, following recent major accidents. According to a police report, the number of accidents and fatalities rose by 30 percent last year, compared to 2020.

ACTION AGAINST DEFAULT VEHICLES
Action against vehicles without updated documents was one of the major agendas of yesterday's meeting.

BRTA data shows that at least 5.08 lakh registered vehicles, which are eligible for fitness tests, did not renew their documents till January this year.

The meeting's working paper mentioned that six members of a family in Cox's Bazar were killed in a recent road accident, and it was later found that the offending vehicle had no updated papers.

The Daily Star had found that the pickup



DECISIONS | THE SCENARIO

Intensify drives against unfit vehicles, illegal three-wheelers

Evict markets set up occupying parts of highways

Involve district-level units of road safety, regional transport committees

Number of accidents, fatalities rose by 30% last year, compared to 2020

5.08 lakh registered vehicles, which are eligible for fitness tests, did not renew their documents till January

Authorities had taken similar decisions and conducted drives after major accidents, but those initiatives lost momentum after just a few days. As a result, such vehicles return to the roads again.

that killed the six brothers on February 8 had no updated papers for the last three years, but was being driven all this time.

Like the pickup, many vehicles are being driven with no updated fitness, tax token and route permit across the country, reads the document.

Although BRTA's mobile courts and police carry out regular drives, operation of such vehicles could not be stopped fully, it reads.

BRTA spokesperson Mahub-e-Rabbani said the meeting decided to intensify drives against "default" vehicles and will increase monitoring in this regard.

Abul Kalam, a leader of Dhaka Road Transport Owners Association, who took part in the meeting, said BRTA will write to DCs and SPs to take action against "default" vehicles.

ACTION AGAINST THREE-WHEELERS
Action against illegal three-wheelers, including Nasimon and Karimon, was another important agenda.

The meeting document mentioned that these vehicles are not mechanically safe, and their slow speed increases risks of accidents on highways, roads meant for speedy vehicles. In recent times, such vehicles were involved in several road accidents, killing most of their passengers.

Rabbani, also director (road safety) of BRTA, said they will ask authorities concerned to take strong measures to stop their operation on highways.

The meeting also decided to involve the district-level units of road safety committee and regional transport committee in this regard, another participant of the meeting said.

Moving forward following ideals of Bangabandhu Says prime minister



PHOTO: PID

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her commitment to improving the living standard of people through socioeconomic development of the country.

"I am working for achieving a goal... I have to implement the ideals with which my father had made the country independent. That is my promise. In this position, I would say that I have to do it," she said while presiding over a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) held at the NEC conference room. She joined the meeting virtually from Gono Bhaban.

Referring to the development of Bangladesh in the last 13 years, Hasina said Bangladesh has already attained the status of a developing country, graduating from LDC.

"We will move forward as a developing country and become a developed one in the future."

Recalling the contribution of Bangabandhu in rebuilding the war-ravaged Bangladesh, Hasina said following the footsteps of the Father of the Nation, the government has taken massive development plans and is implementing those.

'No to war, peace in Ukraine' Bangladeshis, Ukrainians stage anti-war demo



PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis who live in Ukraine but are currently stuck in Bangladesh due to the Russian invasion of the country, staged a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding an end to the war.

Several Ukrainian nationals also took part in the demo.

They were seen gathering in front of the press club with posters that read "No to War -- Peace in Ukraine".

Gausul Islam Shahin, one of the protestors, said, "My family members are now in a dangerous situation in Ukraine. This is very concerning. We want peace; we don't want war."

#MyGoal campaign winners awarded

An initiative of UNDP, Star to raise awareness about SDGs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not only Faatiha Aayat is a writer, she is also a child rights activist and climate campaigner.

The US-based Bangladeshi recently recommended a 100 billion dollar fund from the developed nations -- to spend on Bangladesh's sustainable adaptation to climate change -- as an impacted country of climate change.

She made the recommendations in an essay she wrote as part of a competition titled, "My goal for a better future".

Faatiha won the first prize in the competition, jointly organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Daily Star to raise awareness on SDGs.

And she is only nine years old.

Yesterday, she was awarded in a ceremony at the capital's IDB Bhaban, UNDP's country office, along with two other awardees.

On behalf of her, her grandparents Mir Md Alamgir and Rashida Begum received the crest and Tk 6,000 as a token honorarium.

The other two awardees were -- Md Saiful Islam and Tanjila Ahmed. A total of 648 youths of different professions, with different personal goals, participated in the campaign.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of essay competition on SDG awareness, jointly organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Daily Star, were awarded at the capital's IDB Bhaban yesterday. A total of 648 youths of different professions, with different personal goals, participated in the campaign. From them, three were awarded.

PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 3



	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

No country for

FROM PAGE 5
of corridors, and electrocution."

This correspondent took a trip to the forest of Chakaria's Punnoogram, Lohagara upazila's Borohatiya and Jongol Sharaf Bhata in December last year to see the situation first-hand.

Power lines were seen aplenty in Punnoogram forest, with one found running behind the Punnoogram forest beat office. Inside the forest, there were thousands of acres of paddy field.

A dozen of illegal brick kilns are also operating within the periphery of the reserve forest.

The power lines come as a boon for grabbers, as they easily set up electric fences using galvanised wire to kill elephants.

Meanwhile, various fish farms and betel leaf gardens dominate Teknaf and Ukhiya forest, where

a significant number of elephants live.

In Boalkhali and Rangunia under Chattogram Forest Division (south), lemon garden and brick kilns were established throughout the elephant habitat.

Involvement of politically connected people were found behind all the encroachments.

Contacted, Molla Rezaul Karim, conservator of forest (wildlife and nature conservation), said they were seeking a gazette to secure 12 elephant corridors, proposing a project to conserve the flagship species.

"We also proposed to the relevant authorities the idea of forming a divisional elephant conservation committee and wrote a letter to the power division to eliminate power lines through the forest," he added.

Condemned

FROM PAGE 12

Two days later, another 40kg bomb was recovered from the college premises.

Asaduzzaman, also an additional commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said Azizul, who was a close associate of Mufti Hannan, was tasked with planting the bombs.

He fled to Dhaka from Gopalganj after the recovery of the bombs.

He had been using fake identities for 22 years and carried out militant activities, the police officer said.

Azizul joined Hujji through his teacher, a close associate of Mufti Hannan, in 1987 when he was studying in a Gazipur madrasa.

On April 12, 2017, Mufti Hannan was hanged at Kashimpur High Security Prison in a case over killing three people and injuring the then British high commissioner in Bangladesh and a dozen others in Sylhet.

139 deeds out

FROM PAGE 12

attorney general said citing relevant documents and papers.

Amin Uddin also told the HC that the writ petitioners should be fined for submitting such a misconceived petition, which is not acceptable.

They submitted writ petitions in November last year with the HC challenging different issues including the government's decision to not consider their deeds and the Chandpur deputy commissioner's action to assess the actual price of the land through a committee, Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hassan told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton is set to resume the hearing on the petitions today.

Contacted, the attorney general refused to make any comment.

Writ petitioners' lawyer Ajmalul Hossain could

not be reached for his comments.

DAG Kazi Mynul Hassan told The Daily Star that a section of influential people including Salim Khan, his family members and Jewel, arbitrarily inflated the price of the 62.5-acre land in Chandpur where the university is planned to be built.

The DC of Chandpur accurately assessed the price of the land through a committee, he said, adding that the government would have had to spend Tk 359 crore more than the actual price if it went by the deeds.

The writ petitioners have submitted multiple applications to the education ministry to set up the CSTU in the land for which they registered the deeds.

The DAG also said that, following the writ petitions, the HC in November last year issued two separate rules questioning the government's decisions of not considering the deeds.

Covid has taken severe mental health toll: WHO

AFP, Geneva

The Covid pandemic has taken a dire toll on mental health, the WHO said yesterday, indicating that cases of anxiety and depression had swelled by over 25 percent globally.

In a fresh scientific brief, the World Health Organization also found that the Covid-19 crisis had in many cases significantly impeded access to mental health services and raised concerns about increases in suicidal behaviour.

The brief, which was based on an umbrella review of a vast number of studies, determined that the world saw a 27.6-percent increase in cases of major depressive disorder in 2020 alone.

Labaid Cancer Hospital observes 1st anniversary

CITY DESK

Labaid Cancer Hospital and Super Speciality Centre observed its first founding anniversary through a special event yesterday, said a press release.

Dr Shucharita Ahmed, director of Labaid Group, was present as the chief guest at the event.

Shakif Shamim, managing director of the hospital, presided over the programme. Parisha Shamim, director of LabAid Group; Dr Parvin Akhtar Banu, senior consultant and advisor; and other senior consultants, consultants and all other senior officials of the hospital were also present on the occasion.

The programme was conducted by Prof Dr Md Ehteshamul Hoque, senior consultant, Radiation and Clinical Oncology.

A daylong complementary health check up was also organised for the family members of patients.

It's now official

FROM PAGE 12

The slogan, which translates as "Victory to Bengal", was not merely a political one, but a sign of commitment to the motherland and a symbol of national spirit and patriotism.

Historians said during the mass upsurge in January 1969, students under the banner of Sarbadaliya Chhatra Sangram Parishad (All Student Parties Resistance Council) started chanting "Joy Bangla" instead of "Pakistan Zindabad".

The slogan helped Bangladeshis unite and fight against the Pakistani regime.

According to The Indian

Express, this slogan was first used during anti-British movement. Anti-British hero Purnachandra Das, a schoolteacher from Madaripur, was imprisoned and tortured by British rulers for his anti-British movement.

National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam composed the poem "Purna Abhinandan" in 1922 upon a request from Kalipada Roychowdhury on the occasion of the release of Purnachandra Das. The poem mentioned "Joy Bangla".

The main theme of the poem was rebellion against colonialism, oppression and exploitation.

3 years chopped off

FROM PAGE 12

researchers quantify the likelihood of dying from diseases related to that factor at different ages in a population and calculate a "risk deleted" life expectancy -- that is, the length of life that would be expected if the factor were absent.

According to the World Health Organisation, air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year.

Pallavi Pant, senior scientist at Health Effects University's chemistry department, said, "It is an established fact that air pollution reduces people's life expectancy. The report has also shown us that checking outdoor air pollution is as important as curbing indoor pollution."

As his attention was drawn to the report, Prof

Abdus Salam of Dhaka University's chemistry department, said, "There was no permission for the BNP programme. The police have ensured the safety of the people and that the movement of vehicles is not disrupted."

[Our correspondents in Patuakhali, Savar and Munshiganj contributed to the report]

District BNP General Secretary Md Kamruzzaman Ratan alleged, "For the last three days, police have been harassing BNP leaders and activists by searching their

houses. Yet the leaders and activists have carried out the programme."

Abu Bakkar Siddique, OC of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station, said, "There was no permission for the BNP programme. The police have ensured the safety of the people and that the movement of vehicles is not disrupted."

55 BNP men injured

FROM PAGE 2
Police charged baton only in self defence, said the OC, adding that three BNP men were detained over the attack on police.

A case will be filed over the incident, he said.

In Munshiganj, a scuffle took place between BNP men and police as leaders and activists of district BNP staged a protest in Muktarpur Old Ferry Ghat area around 11:00am, ignoring police obstruction.

District BNP General Secretary Md Kamruzzaman Ratan alleged, "For the last three days, police have been harassing BNP leaders and activists by searching their

houses. Yet the leaders and activists have carried out the programme."

Abu Bakkar Siddique, OC of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station, said, "There was no permission for the BNP programme. The police have ensured the safety of the people and that the movement of vehicles is not disrupted."

[Our correspondents in Patuakhali, Savar and Munshiganj contributed to the report]

District BNP General Secretary Md Kamruzzaman Ratan alleged, "For the last three days, police have been harassing BNP leaders and activists by searching their

MyGoal

FROM PAGE 3
"We set water purifiers outside the mosques for people from low-income backgrounds, including women and children, who cannot afford to buy bottled mineral water," said Saiful, an IDLC Finance Limited official.

Tanjila virtually joined the event from Sylhet. Her goal was to implement free quality education for the poverty-stricken population of her area.

"We only have nine years to reach our goals. If everybody works collectively to reach the goals, it will not be impossible," said Sudipto Mukerjee, UNDP's resident representative, and chief guest at the event.

North South University
Center of excellence in higher education

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seeks applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following position:

Assistant Student Counselor (Female), Student Counselling Center : 1 (one) position

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience that we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview.

Academic Qualifications: Candidate must have Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology/ Educational Psychology from any reputed university or international institution with good academic background. Candidates having advanced degree with experience in adolescent and adult mental health, will be given preference.

Job Experience: Candidates should have at least 3 to 5 years of practical work experience in any large organizations/educational institutes/ hospital/ health care organization.

Job Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Providing counselling/ psychotherapy to NSU students and employees (students priority) to promote their psychological well-being and improve mental health status.
- Organize and conduct individual, group and family session online and in person.
- Organize and facilitate seminars / workshops.
- Proper documentation and reporting to the immediate authority.
- Perform administrative duties as assigned by the administrative authority.

Age: Ideally 28 - 35 years.

Monthly Salary: An attractive salary package, with Festival Bonuses, Group Insurance, Provident Fund, Gratuity and in-house medical services is on offer.

Other Terms and Conditions:

- Proficiency in English and good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Willingness to work in shifts, holidays and emergencies, if required.
- Ability to work in a team and under pressure.
- Third division/ class/ equivalent GPA of the candidates in any educational level will not be accepted.
- NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any application without giving any reason.

Candidates should apply from his/her own e-mail address with complete CV, photographs, copies of certificates, transcripts and other credentials by **02 April 2022**.

Director (Administration)
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Plot# 15, Block# B, Bashundhara, Dhaka - 1229
Email: nsuhr@northsouth.edu
Website: www.northsouth.edu

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Bangladesh National Museum
Shahbag, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 03-A-602/2021-2022/৩০৩০ Date: 02/03/2022

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender opening & closing date & time
01	668271	Different types of printing work of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 18:00:00
02	668266	Supplying of Projector for auditorium Section of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 20:00:00
03	668262	Supplying and installation of different type LED light and spare parts at Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium, Cineplex, BOT Conference room, Main Lobby & Nalinikanta Vattashali Exhibition Hall of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 18:00:00
04	665865	Painting of exterior walls of the palace building of Ahsan Manzil Museum.	16-Mar-2022 18:00:00
05	665649	Spare parts supply and installation works of VCB LT Switchgear of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 18:00:00
06	665646	Repair, renovation and painting of office room, verandah, store, and cargo lift staircase on 4th floor of main building of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 17:00:00
07	665636	Repair, renovation and maintenance of residential building of Ahsan Manzil Museum.	16-Mar-2022 17:00:00
08	665635	Repair, renovation of Public Toilet of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 17:00:00
09	665633	Repair, renovation, Development and painting of Boundary wall of Ahsan Manzil Museum.	16-Mar-2022 16:00:00
10	665632	Supplying of Sound Mixing Console for Auditorium Section of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 16:00:00
11	665631	Supply of Air Cooler and Related service at different places of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 16:00:00
12	664178	Supplying of Different type of Air Cooler Spare parts of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 13:00:00
13	663769	Repairing & painting of steel file cabinet, almirah, various type of furniture and others related work of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 13:00:00
14	663758	Supply and installation of IP camera, NVR and other related equipment at Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 13:00:00
15	663757	Supplying, fitting and fixing of tiles in bathroom & kitchen of residential building-3 of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 12:00:00
16	663734	Supplying, fitting and fixing of tiles in bathroom & kitchen of residential building-2 of Bangladesh National Museum.	16-Mar-2022 12:00:00
17	663717	Supply of computers and related accessories for Bangladesh National Museum and its branch Museums.	16-Mar-2022 12:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details please contact support desk contact numbers.

Gazi Md. Wali-ul-Hoque
Secretary
Bangladesh National Museum
Email: secretary@bnm.gov.bd
Phone: 02-223364796

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জমি সহ বাগান বিক্রয়
সিলেটের বালিয়া নদীর আঁরি ক্যান্টনমেন্ট এর কাছে ১৪৪ বিসেসলে এর জমি সহ বাগান বিক্রয়। বাগানটিতে ৭০০ টি কাঁচাল পাখ এবং কিছু কিছু পাখ আছে। সিলেট-জামালপুর মহাসড়ক থেকে ১ কিলোমিটার দক্ষিণ উপর। বাগান এর উপর উপর পাকা টিনের কুম্বা বাথরুম ও পানির সু-বাবস্থা আছে। শুধুমাত্র প্রকৃত জেতাগান মোবাইল ০১৭১৫-৯২৬৪০৪ ০১৭০৫-৬০৭১১১

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
— Alfred Lord Tennyson

20TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Remembrance of our founder Vice-President
This day in 2002, we lost our founder Vice-President Syed Md. Habibul Haque, whose effective guidance, vast knowledge with positive approach still influence our mission towards excellence.
He also served Crystal Insurance Co. Ltd. as the founding Managing Director and one of the Sponsor Directors. On this grief-stricken day we pray for the salvation and eternal peace for him and all other departed souls to be endowed with the divine blessings of the Almighty.

The Volunteers and Staff of
Serve the People.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges
Bridges Division
Bangladesh Bridge Authority
Construction of Bridge Over Paira River
Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212
www.bba.gov.bd

Invitation for Re-Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Bridges Division, Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges.				
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).				
3	Procuring entity name	Md. Tofazzel Hossain, Project Director, Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.				
4	Procuring entity code	Not available.				
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.				
6	Invitation for	Supply of 4 Nos. Motorcycle for the project of Construction of Bridge at 17th km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.				
7	Invitation Ref No.	50.01.0000.851.14.040.21-360				
8	Date	March 02, 2022				
KEY INFORMATION						
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).				
FUNDING INFORMATION						
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB.				
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	224310300				
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.				
14	Tender Package No.	1 (one).				
15	Tender package name	Supply of 4 Nos. Motorcycle for the project of Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.				
16	Tender publication date	Date: March 02, 2022				
17	Tender last selling date	Date: March 20, 2022 Time: During office hours				
18	Tender closing date and time	Date: March 21, 2022 Time: 03:00pm				
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: March 21, 2022 Time: 04:00pm				
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Selling tender document (principal) Accounts Section, Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka. Selling tender document (others) Not applicable. Receiving tender document Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, Room No. 303; New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka. Opening tender document Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, Room No. 303; New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER						
21	Eligibility of tenderer	i) General experience: The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the supply of goods as a supplier shall be 03 (three) years. ii) Specific experience: The minimum specific experience as supplier in supply of motorcycle of at least one (1) contract successfully completed within the last 10 (ten) years, with a value of at least Tk 3.75 (three lac seventy-five thousand Taka). iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be Tk 5.00 (five lac Taka).				
22	Brief description of works	Supply of Motorcycle.				
23	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.				
	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks
24	1	Supply of 4 Nos. Motorcycle for the Project of Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.	Dhaka	1,000.00	15,000.00 (fifteen thousand Taka only)	7 weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS						
25	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Tofazzel Hossain.				
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, For the Project of Construction of Bridge at 17th Km along Kochua-Betagi-Patuakhali-Lohalia-Kalaya Road (Z8052) Over Paira River.				
27	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.				
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 55040323				
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.					

Md. Tofazzel Hossain
Project Director
Construction of Bridge Over Paira River
Ph: +880255040323
E-mail: tofabbat@gmail.com

Unwelcome home for migratory birds

MINTU DESHWARA

Although flocks of birds could be seen roaming around the watchtower of Baikka Beel once upon a time, presently, the numbers have drastically reduced.

Experts say the count has been declining for the past 20 years, and it will continue to decline, thanks to pollution and other man-made problems.

Baikka beel fish sanctuary is a wetland in Sreemangal. In 2003, the land ministry declared it a protected wetland. Last year, 10,618 waterfowls were recorded in the census. However, it has come down to 3,230, informed ornithologist Enam Ul Haque, Bangladesh Bird Club founder.

Enam, who led the survey, said, "Road and house construction and fish farming have drastically increased around the beel. Fish and insect habitats are getting destroyed and birds are being deprived of food."

Minnat Ali, Bara Gangina Resource Management Organisation's secretary, said due to illegal settlement around the beel, birds pass through but don't stay.

Contacted, DFO Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said, "I was present during the census. The number is indeed lower. This may be due to the temperature being higher."



No country for ELEPHANTS

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, back from Cox's Bazar

As if it wasn't hard enough for elephants to survive in this country, in a tragic development, it was discovered that they are not just dying by electrocution. Shooting down the animals straight up has become seemingly rampant to protect encroached forest lands.

In Cox's Bazar, 18 elephants were shot down in the span of three years, from 2019 to 2021. The Daily Star found this grim picture after piecing together the three years' data. During this time, nine elephants were also killed by electrocution.

In the last 20 years, at least 153 elephants have died in the country, according to forest department's data and records by this newspaper. Experts say that forest encroachers' adoption of this lethal technique threatens to wipe out the gentle giants across the Cox's Bazar and Chattogram ranges within a generation.

Elephants were categorised as critically endangered by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) two decades ago, when its population in the country was assumed to be around 400.

By 2016, the number came down to just 268, according to IUCN's last study. The situation is particularly worrisome for Cox's Bazar and Chattogram ranges, where half of the country's elephant species live.

In these regions, power lines running through forests to power forest-adjacent villages as well as electric fences set up using these lines have led to the demise of numerous elephants, all to protect forest land that grabbers have encroached for agricultural purposes.

Cox's Bazar alone has a total of 28,542 forest encroachers, while

THE SCENARIO

18 elephants shot down, 9 electrocuted from 2019 to 2021
In last 20 yrs, at least 153 elephants have died

FOREST ENCROACHERS

Cox's Bazar: 28,542
Chattogram: 10,288



MAJOR REASONS BEHIND KILLINGS

- Grabbing
- Destruction of elephant corridors
- Electrocution
- 8 elephants, the highest, shot down in forest under Eidghar range office from 2018 to 2021
- 70 elephants died of electrocution in 20 yrs

HOTSPOTS OF DEATH

In Cox's Bazar: Bhumuriyaghona, Punnoogram, Rajghat, Fulchari, Khutakhali, Ghonarpara, Fasiakhali, Khuniyapalong, South Mitachara, Palongkhali, Kaissaghona, Hnila
In Chattogram: Borohatiya of Lohagara upazila, Boilchari of Banshkhali upazila

Chattogram has 10,288, according to the department's list of land grabbers.

Mohammad Abdul Aziz, professor of Jahangirnagar University's zoology department and member of Asian Elephant Specialist Group of South Asia, said lower-level officials are helpless in protecting elephants from the threat of forest grabbers. "Freeing the forest from grabbers, eliminating power lines running through the forest and stopping agricultural activities on encroached land require strong action from high-ups of the department. Without a sincere aim to conserve elephants, all efforts will fall flat."

In 2019, the forest department formed a four-member committee to investigate dead elephants found lying on paddy fields belonging to villagers, known as forest villagers, along the corridors of Cox's Bazar, which are used by elephant herds.

The committee found that many of the villagers were found killing elephants and encroaching the forest. As a solution, the committee recommended freeing the forest's corridors from these grabbers.

The "forest villagers system" was introduced in 1930. Villagers were supposed to help forest officials protect the greeneries and enjoy a minimum of 25 and maximum of 200 decimals of forest land in exchange for their cooperation.

But over the years, the protectors became detractors themselves, as the original forest villagers' progeny are the ones who are behind the rampant land-grabbing at the forests, found the committee.

The committee's chief, Jahir Uddin Akon, director (wildlife crime control unit) of the forest department, said, "We found three main reasons behind the elephant killings: grabbing, destruction

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Despite ban, crab hunting goes unabated

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Unauthorised fishing of mother crabs, especially during the ongoing breeding season in different rivers and canals in the coastal areas adjacent to the Sundarbans has been going on unabated.

Generally, crabs lay eggs near the Sundarbans region on a large scale during January and March but they end up as preys to fishermen before they release the eggs.

During a recent visit to the areas, including Nalian, Kalabogi, Sutorkhali, Banishanta, Laudob, Joimonirghol, Angthihara, Bedkashi, this correspondent found hundreds of fishers catching crabs and shrimps with nets and traps.

Huge quantities of mother crabs were seen at different markets, including Kalabogi, Nalian, Chalna Bazar, Batiaghata Bazar, Dumuria, Paikgachha, Koyra of Khulna, Joymonirghol, Chila Bazar, Foilarhat and Rampal, Mongla of Bagerhar and many other places in the region, despite a ban by the environment ministry.

Nilkanta Munda (53) of Uttar Bedkashi village of Koyra upazila, said, "I generally avoid catching crab during the ban period but sometimes I'm left with no other choice."

"Fishermen catch of 3-4kg crabs daily and each kg sells for Tk 200-500," he added.

Like Nilkanta, around 500 residents of Uttar and Dakkhin Bedkashi union depend on crab netting.

"I don't have other work besides crab and prawn fishing.

How can I feed my six-member family during these two months? I need extra money for educational expenses of my two school-going sons," said Sarati Mundar of the same village. "If we could get some incentive for these two months, we would've avoided crab fishing."

This correspondent met three forest staffers responsible for monitoring and conducting drives in different areas of the Sundarbans. They said due to lack of manpower, they cannot cover all the places for inspection. Seeking anonymity, one forest guard said it's impossible to keep locals from entering the Sundarbans.

Dilip Kumar Datta, professor of environmental sciences at Khulna University, said, "The majority of fishermen in the Sundarbans are crab fishermen. They should be encouraged not to catch the undersized crabs, required for conserving the ecology of Sundarbans."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Upazila Parishad
Nawabganj, Dhaka

Memo No. 46.02.2662.000.18.015.18-1813

e-Tender Notice-02/UPZ/Nawab/2021-22

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of scheme	Method of procurement	Amount of tender security (Taka)	Last selling date & time P.O and Doc. selling	Time for completion
1	666711	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ADP/2021-22/W-07	1. Improvement of near Bagmara Primary School side - Ho Taleb Member road by HBB work at Kotakopa union. 2. Improvement of stamping (Madhabpur Ibrahimpur Mour to Garbage) road by HBB work at Kotakopa union.	LTM	30000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	60 days
2	666710	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ADP/2021-22/W-06	1. Development of CC Road from Banukhal Chorasta to H/O Sarus Khan Road under Agla UP. 2. Improvement of CC Road from Bordonpara Hof Babu to Hof Mili Member Road under Bornoagar UP.	LTM	30000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	60 days
3	666709	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ADP/2021-22/W-05	1. Improvement of Road from Heleng High School to Azu house/Manirul to Forhad Gulerghat by Brick Flat Soling, Kotali UP. 2. Improvement of Road from Raygur Gucho Gram Tolazzol Kha house to Digomai GPS & Raysur Gucho Gram Tolazzol Kha house to Raysur Hafazia Madrasa by Brick Flat Soling, Kotali UP. 3. Improvement of Single Layer Brick Flat Soling of Agla Terthoghat to Kaluhati School Road, under Agla UP.	LTM	39000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	60 days
4	666708	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ADP/2021-22/W-04	1. Improvement of Brick Flat Soling Road on Nethikanda Bridge to Shyendpur Govt. Primary School Road under Bandura UP. 2. Improvement of Soling road on Shadpur Bas stand to Dhapari Bazar Road under Bandura UP. 3. Construction Tuknikanda Mosque Ojkhana and Toilet under Bornoagar UP.	LTM	39000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	60 days
5	666707	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ADP/2021-22/W-03	1. Improvement of Shollanagar Kawome house to Robin house road by Brick flat soling, Sholla UP. 2. Improvement of Bowder More Dakshin Shinghona main road to Graveyard road by Brick flat soling & Bis road repair, Sholla UP. 3. Improvement of CC Road from Agla Chokogata to Hof Masud Road under Agla UP.	LTM	54000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	60 days
6	666704	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ADP/2021-22/W-02	1. Improvement of Soling Road on Tasulla Khider house to Gozen house Road under Nayensree UP. 2. Repair of n Soling Road on (1) Khanepur School road and (2) Banglabazar Tashula School road under Nayensree UP. 3. Improvement of Soling Road on Shaila Nayensree Nutor Mosque Road Under Nayensree UP. 4. Improvement of Soling Road on Bilgopoly Shikim Ali house to Kirinji Golu Mondol house Road under Nayensree UP.	LTM	54000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	60 days
7	666698	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ADP/2021-22/W-01	1. Improvement of Soling Road on Shikarpara Mosque to Doctor Monir House Road under Shikarpara UP. 2. Construction of RCC Ghatia on Panijohori Chowdhury House & Bagarpara River under Shikarpara UP. 3. Construction of CC Road Khatihuru Tolazzol Shop to Doctor Borkul House road.	LTM	51000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	60 days
8	666692	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/UDF/2021-22/W-07	1. Construction of Azkhana at Azizpur Shorokpar Jame-Mosque under Jantrai UP. 2. Construction of CC road, Pipe drain and guide wall of Rahim Member house to River Ghat Mondir under Jantrai UP.	LTM	24000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
9	666691	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/UDF/2021-22/W-06	1. Construction of RCC Ghatia at 06 No. ward Harishkul (Manobendo Sir) Ichamoty at River Ghatia under Jantrai UP. 2. Construction of RCC Ghatia at Jantrai 1 No, ward Manik Bagary at Ichamoty River Ghatia under Jantrai UP.	LTM	27000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
10	666690	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/UDF/2021-22/W-05	1. Improvement of Modon Mohonpur Purtopara Graveyard road by Brick flat soling, Sholla UP. 2. Improvement of CC Road from Chorchoria Jama Mosque to Hof Moksad Road under Agla UP. 3. Improvement of Brick Flat Soling Road from Chorchoria Bridge to Betarpar Hof Road under Agla UP. 4. Improvement of Road from MIO Habib, Chorchoria to Hof Taksuker road under Agla UP. 5. Improvement of Road from H/O Habib, Chorchoria to Hof Taksuker Road under Agla UP.	LTM	36000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
11	666689	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/UDF/2021-22/W-04	1. Improvement from Sonahazra graveyard road by BFS at Galimpur UP. 2. Construction near Churan Bhuiyan Bari road by CC work at Churan UP. 3. Improvement from Churan Pali Biddul Office - Ho Abdullah Akanda by BFS at Churan UP. 4. Improvement of East Gopinpur Talpara Jama Mosque to GKD field road by CC work at Churan Union.	LTM	33000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
12	666688	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/UDF/2021-22/W-03	1. Improvement of CC road on Ali Khan house to Khatir Master house Road under Bandura UP. 2. Construction of RCC Ghatia at Natun Bandura Haldopara Sarbojini Boro Mondir under Bandura. 3. Construction of drain from Boro Nagor Jama Mosque - HO Shahid road at Kotakopa Union.	LTM	39000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
13	666687	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/UDF/2021-22/W-02	1. Construction of Boundary wall on Shikarpara High School under Shikarpara UP. 2. Construction for Protective Work Near Bakshnagar Jama Mosque under Bakshnagar UP. 3. Construction Star of Agla Chowkighat, Jonomogol Near School Field under Barab U.P.	LTM	33000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
14	666686	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/UDF/2021-22/W-01	1. Improvement of Soling Road on Daudpur Mosque Road under Shikarpara UP. 2. Construction of RCC Ghatia on Gayen Bari Ghat House in front of Sujapur Echamoli River under Shikarpara UP. 3. Improvement of Ulai mosque road by Brick flat soling, Sholla UP.	LTM	36000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
15	664680	INF-2019-20-302662-03	Construction of Drain for Jantrai Notun Bazar to Isamoti River (Part-02) at Nawabganj Upazila, Dist. Dhaka	OTM	42000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
16	664679	INF-2019-20-302662-02	Construction of Drain for Jantrai Notun Bazar to Isamoti River (Part-01) at Nawabganj Upazila, Dist. Dhaka	OTM	115000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days
17	664678	INF-2019-20-302662-01	Construction of Girls Washroom and Hygienic Corner at Nawabganj Pilot School and College in Dist. Dhaka	OTM	42000.00	20/03/2022 4:00:00pm	180 days

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is requested. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or (Email: ue.dhaka.nawabganj@ged.gov.bd) and Call to +088 01708-181355.

Md. Zulfikar Hoq Choudhury
Upazila Engineer
Nawabganj, Dhaka
Email: ue.dhaka.nawabganj@ged.gov.bd

Government of the people's Republic Bangladesh
Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
Shatho Bhaban, TB Gate, Mohakhali,
Dhaka-1212

Memo No.DGHS/HSM/e-GP/Pkg-5,6,7,8/2021-2022/313 Date:02.03.2022

e-Tender Notice No. 2/2021-22

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

SI No	Name of Goods	Tender Id	Package No	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling/Downloading Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing Date & Time	Remarks
01	Goods Procurement of OT Equipments for F.Y 2021-2022	661855	Pkg.-5	31 Mar-2022 12:00	31 Mar-2022 14:00	OTM
02	Goods Procurement of OT Equipments for F.Y 2021-2022	661856	Pkg.-6	03 APR-2022 12:00	03 APR-2022 14:00	OTM
03	Goods Procurement of OT Equipments for F.Y 2021-2022	661857	Pkg.-7	03 APR-2022 12:00	03 APR-2022 14:00	OTM
04	Goods Procurement of OT Equipments for F.Y 2021-2022	66158	Pkg.-8	03 APR-2022 12:00	03 APR-2022 14:00	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/ Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, Registration in the national e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for Tender-Proposal document to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Mazharul Hoque
02.03.2022
(Prof. Dr. Md. Mazharul Hoque)
Line Director
Hospital Services Management (HSM)
DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka
Phone: 02-55067150
Email: ihsml@ld.dghs.gov.bd

'I was paid 960 taka for my first acting job'

Fazlur Rahman Babu looks back on his journey

Fazlur Rahman Babu is selective about his roles in films, he looks for characters with potential. "I seek out projects where the story is the 'hero'", he shares.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Noted actor Fazlur Rahman Babu was honoured with the National Film Award for the fifth time, for his supporting role in "Bishwashundori". He has been persistently proving his acting prowess over the decades.

The actor received his first National Film Award for "Shankhonad", and later, for the movies, "Meyeti Ekhn Kothay Jabe", "Gohin Baluchar", and "Fagun Haway". He will be featured in Shyam Benegal's biopic of Bangabandhu.

"Awards inspire me to perform better," he shares.

The actor is selective about his roles in films, he looks for characters with potential. "I seek out projects where the story is the 'hero'", he shares.

Besides working on television, he is busy dubbing for the film "Bhangon". He is also done shooting for Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar's "Tungiparar Dushshahoshi Khoka" and M Shakhawat's government-granted film, "Birangona 71". He also wrapped up the first slot of the film, "Jamdani".

Looking back on his acting career, Fazlur Rahman Babu got nostalgic about working in theatre. He has been a member of the celebrated theatre troupe Aranyak Natyadal for many years.

"I still remember my first performance in the play 'Saat Purusher Rin'," says the artiste. "I feel proud to be a part of this group, which earned acclaim from people across the world."

His first acting job was a role in the 80s tele-fiction, "Mrityukudha", produced by Abu Zafar Siddique for BTB.

"I was paid 960 taka for that job," says the actor. "Apart from that, I acted in a stage play by German Cultural Centre, where I was honoured with BDT 200, during the same decade."

As an artiste, Fazlur Rahman Babu is concerned with being associated with projects that contain social messages, and reflect positivity. "We should have accountability in building good taste amongst viewers," he adds.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Who is Sabrina?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Hoichoi released the first look of their much-anticipated web original, "Sabrina", across social media recently.



Directed by Ashfaque Nipun, the eight-episode series features Mehazabien Chowdhury in the titular role.

Hoichoi will officially announce the entire cast of "Sabrina" on Women's Day (March 8), at A S Mahmud Hall, The Daily Star. Ashfaque Nipun and Haque Orsha will be present at the event, where a teaser of the series will be released.

Zayed Khan to remain GS of Film Artistes' Association

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for Zayed Khan for assuming the office of general secretary of Bangladesh Film Artistes' Association (BFAA).

The court declared cancellation of Zayed's candidacy, and declaring Nipun as general secretary of BFAA, "illegal".

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman delivered the verdict after holding hearing on a writ petition filed by Zayed, challenging the legality of the cancellation of his candidacy and declaring Nipun as GS of the association.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

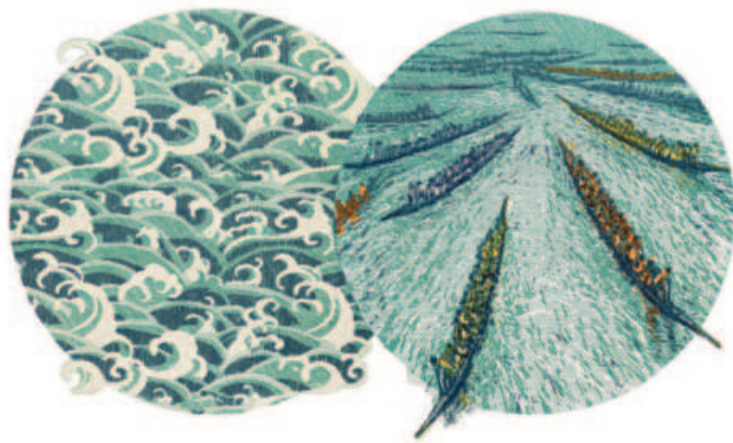
The court, in the verdict, said that the Election Appeal Board had taken the decision under the directive from the Ministry of Social Welfare, which is "illegal".

The Election Appellate Board cannot cancel the candidacy of a candidate, the HC observed.

Nipun's lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star that his client will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court very soon, challenging the HC verdict.

Embrace Friendship: Celebrating 50 Years of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship

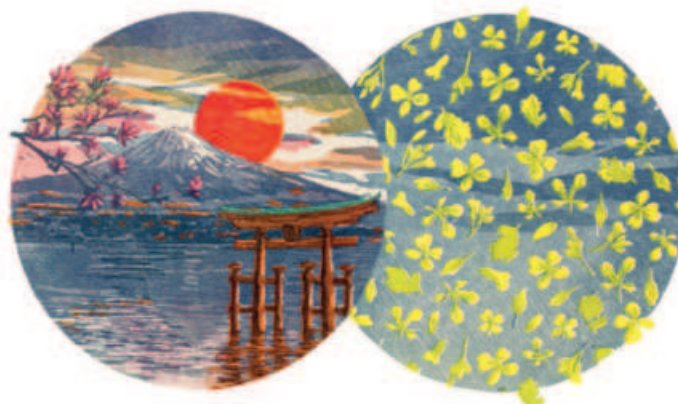
2022 marks 50 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh. Japan was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh as a sovereign nation soon after its independence. As a true and time-tested friend, Japan has been committed not only to the infrastructural and human development of Bangladesh, but also in the areas of education, art, and culture. To pay tribute to this glorious and harmonious friendship, Japan Tobacco International (JTI) Bangladesh commissioned twelve pieces of artworks by prominent artist Professor Anisuzzaman Anis.



The artworks were crafted using Japanese technique of woodcut printmaking; a laborious process where six to seven woodcut plates have been used to complete each final image or print. Each of the woodcut print contains Japanese and Bangladesh elements of culture, heritage, and landscape in two circular frames representing the union between the two countries. Each of the circles represent the individual countries and each month focuses on one significant occasion of one country complimented by one element of the other country. The union is embodied through landscapes, flora, architecture, and festivities to bring out parallelisms between Japanese and Bangladeshi traditions, philosophy, heritage, and culture. The picturesque depictions of nature and urbanity subtly portray tranquil themes which seamlessly encapsulate the interplay of the two nations. The theme for each month is further encompassed by a characteristic Japanese word with a complimentary quote in both English and Bangla.

The theme for January is 'new beginnings' — a dazzling red sun is depicted behind the

breathhtaking Mount Fuji, the tallest mountain in Japan or the 'Land of the Rising Sun'. To complement this symbol of grace and eminence, floating beside in its own circular frame is a shower of yellow mustard flowers, which can be seen in Bangladesh at the beginning of the month. In December—the glorious month of victory in Bangladesh—the artist has rendered a singularly tranquil image of the 'Jatiyo Smriti Shoudho', which was built to commemorate those who gave their lives in the 1971 War of Independence. In the adjacent frame, a loose cluster of waterborne lotus flowers symbolizes a celebration of the friendship shared by Bangladesh and Japan. Other months of the calendar similarly depict Japanese and Bangladesh cultural and traditional iconography, such as the 'Nouka Baich' in October, paying tribute to a traditional Bangladeshi dragon boat-style paddling sport. This is juxtaposed by a depiction of riverine waves recalling 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Hokusai and together this piece upholds the theme of unity and team spirit. With a focus on minimalism, the artworks inspire a sense of nostalgia and poetry. Professor Anisuzzaman Anis, creator of this series titled 'Embrace Friendship', is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Grand Prize at the 13th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2008. Anis has



been educated across the world at University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, Rabindra Bharati University in India, and Tama Art University in Japan. He concentrated on woodcut printmaking while he was in Japan. The expression of the union between Japan and Bangladesh thus seems to have found a perfect place in the work of a Bangladeshi artist whose education and influence are rooted in Japan. These artworks are showcased in an exhibition which has been curated and installed according to philosophy of 'wabi-sabi' — a traditional style of Japanese aesthetics encouraging authenticity and simplicity — in a selection of décor emphasizing earthy and natural elements and colors. Visitors of the exhibition will enjoy viewing these serene and emotive artworks in a tranquil environment consisting of open spaces designed according to the concept of 'seijaku'.

The exhibition titled "Embrace Friendship," was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. A. K Abdul Momen, MP, Honorable Foreign Minister of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, and His Excellency Ito Naoki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Bangladesh at Edge Gallery, Bay's Edgewater, Gulshan, Dhaka. The art exhibition is open to the public till Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Step into the exhibition and revel in the power of friendship. Let yourself slip into an energizing calm, as if you were inside a Japanese Zen Garden.

KYIV OUTSKIRTS Ukrainians hunt Russian saboteurs

AFP, Irpin

The Ukrainian special forces commander inspected the remains of a bridge his teams had blown up at the gates of Kyiv and explained his strategy for fighting Russian "saboteurs".

"We have our agents living with the locals," Spear unit commander Viktor Chelovan said. "If strangers come into our villages, people send us signals, call us, and we go out and take care of these saboteurs."

A fear of Russians disguised as locals is gradually gripping Ukraine. It crept into Kyiv when Russian paratroopers dropped into a local airfield on the northwestern edge



Firefighters work to contain a fire at the Economy Department building of Karazin Kharkiv National University, allegedly hit during recent shelling by Russia, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Moscow aims to 'erase us'

Says Ukraine's Zelensky on day seven of Russian invasion, tells Putin to 'just stop bombing' before more talks

AGENCIES

Russia is aiming to erase Ukraine, its history and people, President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video yesterday as the seventh day of Moscow's invasion of its neighbour started with heavy shelling of the Black Sea port of Mariupol.

Moscow switched to strikes on Ukrainian cities on Tuesday and appeared poised for an advance on Kyiv as the West tightened an economic noose around Russia in retaliation.

But Zelensky, unshaven and wearing a khaki T-shirt, said the West's response was not enough, calling for more international support, including backing Ukraine's bid to join the European Union.

"This is no time to be neutral," said

Zelensky, whose defiant and emotional tone in regular video addresses have offered his country support and leadership in the war, which he said killed nearly 6,000 Russian troops so far.

Referring to the Tuesday shelling in Kyiv next to Babyn Yar - the site of a World War Two massacre of tens of thousands of Jews by German occupation troops and Ukrainian auxiliaries - Zelensky said: "This strike proves that for many people in Russia our Kyiv is absolutely foreign."

"They don't know a thing about Kyiv,

about our history. But they all have orders to erase our history, erase our country, erase us all."

Setting out his conditions for further talks with Russia, Zelensky told Reuters and CNN in a joint interview: "It's necessary to at least stop bombing people, just stop the bombing and then sit down at the negotiating table."

Meanwhile, the United Nations General Assembly was set to reimpose Russia yesterday over its invasion of Ukraine and demand that Moscow stop fighting and withdraw its military forces, a move that aims to diplomatically isolate Russia at the world body.



INVASION OF UKRAINE Developments

AGENCIES

KHARKIV FIGHTING

Russian paratroopers land in Ukraine's second city amid heavy fighting. Ukrainian officials say a hospital has been attacked and the barracks of a flight school is on fire after an air strike. "There are practically no areas left in Kharkiv where an artillery shell has not yet hit," says Interior Minister official Anton Gerashchenko.



BIDEN BRANDS PUTIN 'DICTATOR'

US President Joe Biden brands Vladimir Putin a "dictator" in his annual State of the Union address as he bans Russian aircraft from US airspace with Moscow facing economic and diplomatic isolation.

CONVOY CONTINUES ITS ADVANCE

Russia steps up its bombing campaign and missile strikes as miles-long Russian military convoy continues its advance on Kyiv.

KHERSON: RUSSIA INSIDE CITY

Russian forces claim to have taken the besieged Black Sea city of Kherson in the south after its mayor admits the port and railway station are in Russian hands.

MARIUPOL WITHOUT POWER

Russia attacks leave Mariupol, another Black Sea port further to the west without electricity.

CIVILIANS FLEE

More than 836,000 people have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion, the UN's refugee agency says, with the number rising rapidly.



UN COURT TO HOLD WAR HEARINGS

The UN's International Court of Justice says it will hold public hearings on March 7 and 8 over Ukraine's allegations of "genocide" by Russia as the General Assembly votes on whether to order Russia to withdraw its troops.

INDEPENDENT MEDIA BLOCKED

Russia blocks an independent television channel and a liberal radio station, tightening a virtual media blackout on news of the war.

COMPANIES EXIT RUSSIA

A string of Western companies announce they are freezing or scaling back business with Russia, including Apple, three of the world's largest shipping companies and energy firms Eni, ExxonMobil and Boeing.

RACE FOR CASH

Russians race to withdraw cash after the introduction of capital controls and as the ruble hovers around record lows against the dollar.

of the city in the first hours of their invasion of Ukraine last Thursday.

The precise number who landed is unclear. But residents of the neighbouring village of Irpin have been reporting strange things in their woods ever since.

"We have people who look like locals shooting at other locals," said Irpin resident Levanchuk.

Mykola Beleskov of Kyiv's National Institute for Strategic Studies said Russia was "employing special forces of different kinds en masse" to try and capture the Ukrainian capital.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ বেতার
সদর দপ্তর
৩১/১, সৈয়দ মাহবুব মোর্শেদ সরণী
শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭

বাংলাদেশ বেতার, কালুরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রের "স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা কক্ষ" ও তৎসংলগ্ন স্থাপনা নান্দনিকীকরণের জন্য উন্মুক্ত ডিজাইন প্রতিযোগিতা আহ্বান

নং ১৫.৫৩.০০০০.৩২৮.৫১.০২৮.২১.৬৪০ তারিখঃ ০২-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ

বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার সাথে বাংলাদেশ বেতার, কালুরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্র নিবিড়ভাবে জড়িত। ১৯৭১ সালের ২৬ মার্চ বাংলাদেশ বেতার, কালুরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্র থেকে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এর পক্ষে এম এ হান্নান সর্বপ্রথম বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার ঘোষণা পাঠ করেন। তখন থেকে উচ্চশক্তি প্রেরণ কেন্দ্র-৪, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, কালুরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রটি স্বাধীন বাংলা বেতার কেন্দ্র নামে পরিচিতি লাভ করে। ইতিহাসের সাক্ষী হয়ে কেন্দ্রটিতে রয়ে গেছে স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা কক্ষ (আয়তন ১২০ বর্গফুট) এবং তদানীন্তন প্রেরণ কক্ষটি (আয়তন ২৯৭ বর্গফুট)। সময়ের প্রবাহে ইতিহাস ও ঐতিহ্যকে ধারণ, লালন ও সুরক্ষণের জন্য স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা কক্ষের সংস্কার, আধুনিকায়ন এবং সর্বসাধারণের কৌতূহল নিরসনের জন্য দুঃস্থিত করা প্রয়োজন।

সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ
বাংলাদেশ বেতার, কালুরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রের "স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা কক্ষ" ও তৎসংলগ্ন স্থাপনা নান্দনিকীকরণ।

অবস্থান	উচ্চশক্তি প্রেরণ কেন্দ্র-৪, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, কালুরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
পুরস্কার	প্রথম পুরস্কারঃ ৩,৫০,০০০.০০ টাকা দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কারঃ ১,৫০,০০০.০০ টাকা
জুরি বোর্ড	১. প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, বাংলাদেশ বেতার - সভাপতি ২. অতিরিক্ত মহাপরিচালক (অনুষ্ঠান) অথবা তাঁর উপযুক্ত প্রতিনিধি, বাংলাদেশ বেতার - সদস্য ৩. অতিরিক্ত মহাপরিচালক (বার্তা) অথবা তাঁর উপযুক্ত প্রতিনিধি, বাংলাদেশ বেতার - সদস্য ৪. প্রকল্প পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, শাহবাগ স্থানান্তর প্রকল্প - সদস্য ৫. সহযোগী অধ্যাপক বা তদূর্ক, চিত্রাঙ্কন বিভাগ, চারুকলা অনুষদ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় - সদস্য ৬. সহযোগী অধ্যাপক বা তদূর্ক, ডাক্ষর্য/মুদ্রশিল্প বিভাগ, চারুকলা অনুষদ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় - সদস্য ৭. সিনিয়র প্রকৌশলী, সংরক্ষণ অনুবিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ বেতার - সদস্য সচিব
ডিজাইন প্রস্তাব জমার যোগ্যতা	● নান্দনিক কাজে অভিজ্ঞ বাংলাদেশী ব্যক্তি/আর্টিস্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান ডিজাইন প্রস্তাবনা জমা দিতে পারবে। ● প্রস্তাবকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন নাম্বার এবং ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাম্বার থাকতে হবে। ● প্রস্তাবকারি ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান এর বিভিন্ন স্থাপনা বা প্রতিষ্ঠানে টেরাকোট্টা, টাইলস ম্যুরাল ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে নান্দনিক কাজের ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ● প্রতিষ্ঠানের মূল আর্টিস্ট/ব্যক্তি অবশ্যই ফাইন আর্টসে স্নাতকোত্তর যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে সহকারী দুইজন আর্টিস্ট ফাইন আর্টসে ন্যূনতম স্নাতক ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে। ● ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মূল আর্টিস্ট বা প্রতিষ্ঠান এর কাজের প্রোফাইল দাখিল করতে হবে। ● চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রতিযোগী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মূল্যায়ন কমিটি/জুরি বোর্ডের সুপারিশের আলোকে ডিজাইন পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্ধন করতে হতে পারে।
নিবন্ধন	ক. নিবন্ধন ফি ১০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা) খ. প্রতিযোগিতায় নিবন্ধনের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৩-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ
প্রশ্ন গ্রহণের ঠিকানা	সংরক্ষণ অনুবিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, ৩১/১, সৈয়দ মাহবুব মোর্শেদ সরণী, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা। ই-মেইলঃ semaintenancesection@yahoo.com
ডিজাইন জমাদানের সময়সূচীঃ	নির্বাচিত প্রতিযোগীদের প্রশ্ন গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ সময় ও তারিখঃ ২০-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ২:০০টা প্রশ্ন-সাবমিশন মিটিং-এর সময় ও তারিখঃ ২২-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:০০টা প্রি-সাবমিশন মিটিং-এর স্থানঃ বাংলাদেশ বেতারের প্রধান প্রকৌশলী মহোদয়ের সভা কক্ষ ডিজাইন জমাদানের সর্বশেষ সময় ও তারিখঃ ০৬-০৪-২০২২খ্রিঃ ডিজাইন জমাদানের স্থানঃ সংরক্ষণ অনুবিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, ৩১/১, সৈয়দ মাহবুব মোর্শেদ সরণী, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
যোগাযোগ	মোঃ মাহবুব রহমান, সিনিয়র প্রকৌশলী, সংরক্ষণ অনুবিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ বেতার, ৩১/১, সৈয়দ মাহবুব মোর্শেদ সরণী, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭। ফোনঃ ০২-৪৪৮১৩০২৮ ই-মেইলঃ semaintenancesection@yahoo.com
পূর্ণাঙ্গ নির্দেশিকা বাংলাদেশ বেতারের ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.betar.gov.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে।	

মোঃ মাহবুব রহমান
সিনিয়র প্রকৌশলী
মহাপরিচালকের পক্ষে

জিডি-৪১৭

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute
GPO Box No. 273, Chittagong-4000, Bangladesh

Re-Request for Expression of Interest (Firm)

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).			
2. Agency	: Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Chattogram.			
3. Procuring entity name	: Dr. Md. Ahsanur Rahman.			
4. Project/procuring entity code	: Not applicable.			
5. Procuring entity district	: Chattogram.			
6. Expression of Interest for selection of	: Firm.			
7. Re-EOI Ref No. & date	: 22.04.0000.14.98.01.22/397 Date: 2.3.2022			
KEY INFORMATION				
8. Procuring method	: QCBS			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9. Budget & source of fund	: GOB.			
10. Development partners (if applicable)	: Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
11. Project/programmed name (if applicable)	: Feasibility Study for Infrastructure Development and Enhancing Research Capacity of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute.			
12. Re-EOI closing date and time	: 20 March, 2022 at 12:00 Noon.			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT				
13. Brief description of assignment	: Preparing feasibility report according to prescribed format of NEC-ECNEC wing of Planning Ministry (Environment and Social). Consulting Services for the Preparation of land survey, Soil test, Master plan, details Architectural, Structural, Electrical, Mechanical design & drawing, HVAC design & drawing, Plumbing & Sanitation design for 1 No. 10-storied RCC Building with double basement 650 sqm per floor (approx.) at Chittagong, one 3-storied building with single basement 300 sqm per floor and 22 Nos. Field research station 300 sqm (approx.) at different district. Preparation of drawing, design and cost estimation of 10 nursery shade in different districts. Renovation works, Detail Engineering Assessment (DEA) works, Drainage system, Boundary wall, Retaining wall etc. Preparation of technical specification, cost and quantity estimates preparation, Tender documents preparation with necessary technical support from BFRI and finally preparation of DPP.			
14. Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	: The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria: Having more than 15 years working experience in Preparation of Feasibility Study Report, Architectural & Structural MEP, Fire Detection & Protection Design in Large Construction Project. Design and Supervision of large scale building, especially on minimum 10-storied RCC building designs with double basement in government/semi-government & autonomous organization. a) Technical manpower for Preparation of Feasibility Study Report, Architectural design, structural design, electrical design, Mechanical design, Firefighting and safety design, Social and environmental assessment report preparation. b) Sufficient financial capacity (At least average annual turnover more than 10 crore for last consecutive five years). c) Support Services (Office space, Supporting Staff, Logistics, Equipment) [Provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures; description of similar assignments; financial resources; availability of appropriate skills among staff; etc.)] d) Last 5 years audited balance sheet. e) The firm shall have ISO certification to ensure quality management of the Company.			
15. Other details	: Not applicable.			
16. Association with foreign firms is	: Not applicable.			
Ref No.	Phasing of services	Location	Indicative start date	Indicative completion date
			1st April, 2022	15th June, 2022
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
17. Name of official inviting Expressions of Interest	: Dr. Md. Ahsanur Rahman.			
18. Designation of official inviting Expression of Interest	: Divisional Officer.			
19. Address of official inviting Expression of Interest	: Forest Protection Division, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Sholoshahar, Chattogram.			
20. Contact details of official inviting Expression of Interest	: Phone: 02334481567 (Off.) Email: bappy43@yahoo.com			
21. The procuring entity reserves the right to delete/reject all EOIs.				

Dr. Md. Ahsanur Rahman
Divisional Officer
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute
Chattogram

GD-413

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

The debilitating delay in DU's expansion

The institution must be allowed to grow sustainably

WE are disappointed to learn that Dhaka University (DU) and 83 other organisations (social infrastructures, several schools, colleges and institutes) are yet to receive the land which the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) has committed to providing them, through temporary allotment papers, four years ago. Despite prior legal issues with the land and against High Court directives, Rajuk allotted 52 acres of land in Purbachal to DU so it could build a second campus there. In order to accommodate the university's growth—it currently has some 37,000 students, 1,992 teachers, 83 departments, 13 institutes, and 56 research centres and bureaus—it has been seeking to expand its infrastructure since the 1990s, with its plans being halted by changes in governments and aforementioned legal issues.

What is even more disheartening is that many chunks of DU's original campus (that is, about 57 acres) have reportedly been lost over the decades to different governments during the British period, Pakistan period and even in independent Bangladesh. No concrete actions have been taken by any government in the 85 years that the university has been trying to reclaim these lands, even though many promises have been made over the years. Speaking to our correspondent, the Rajuk chairman said the handover process was stalled as the case was still pending with the court.

We can't help but wonder if this is why the DU's masterplan to redo its campus with more high-rises came about last year. If so, it is understandable why the university authorities may have resorted to planning such a drastic transformation of the historic campus and its structures. However, as experts have cautioned in the past, if DU does go through with this masterplan, it risks disrupting the preservation of the history and natural environment of its campus.

Thus, Rajuk must be held accountable for going against the High Court directives and promising land to DU and 83 other organisations, given that it is now coming up blank when it's time to deliver on its commitments. More importantly, the government must recognise DU's need to expand, so that it's able to accommodate its students and faculties comfortably. We urge the authorities to expedite the university's mission of recovering its lands and parts that have been lost over the years. This can significantly solve DU's infrastructural issues in a way that would not harm the existing structures and environment of the campus.

First-of-its-kind health insurance for PWDs

Let it be accessible, hassle-free

THE government's decision to introduce health insurance for people with disabilities (PWDs) is, no doubt, a praiseworthy one. The insurance policy, named "Bangabandhu Suraksha Bima for Persons of Disabilities," will cater to people with autism, Down's syndrome, intellectual disability, and cerebral palsy. Reportedly, the initiative has been piloted in Dhaka city, Dhaka district and Sylhet district as the number of people with autism and other neurological disabilities is higher in Dhaka and Sylhet than in other districts.

A detailed report in this daily tells us that PWDs will not have to pay any fee for the insurance scheme; rather, their parents will have to pay a nominal premium, which will vary depending on their income. Parents whose monthly income is Tk 25,000 or less will have to bear 25 percent of the annual premium or Tk 125, while those whose monthly income is more than Tk 25,000 will have to bear the entire annual premium, which amounts to Tk 600.

People with disabilities aged 3 to 25 years can now sign up for the policy. Decisions for expansion will be taken by the authorities on the basis of the initial response. In this respect, we believe piloting a new project is always a good idea before jumping headlong into unknown territory. It is also a sensible move to initially bring 100,000 people under this programme in the first year, and expand it to include the visually impaired, speech-impaired and other categories of disabilities at later stages.

Health insurance for citizens with disabilities is a completely new and innovative idea in Bangladesh that will need careful handling right from the beginning. It must be ensured that the target group can access the services without having to experience unpleasant hassles. Feedback from relevant stakeholders will need to be incorporated to bolster the scheme.

The implementers will need to be prepared to set the best examples of interaction with people with disabilities and their parents/guardians. It goes without saying that a successful implementation of the pilot project will pave the way for bigger and better social welfare projects in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Schools should remain open

The surge of Omicron has finally declined and children are back in schools. In most countries, when Covid cases are on the rise, schools are one of the last establishments to be closed. The same should hold for Bangladesh. The classroom environment is crucial for the development of children. This is why authorities should do their best to keep schools open.

Halima Begum, Kalbanyapur, Dhaka

Will Dhaka Wasa and its MD ever be held to account?



Naznin Titih is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

NAZNIN TITIH

IN 2019, Taqsem A Khan, managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), faced huge public outrage for saying that the water supplied by Wasa was 100 percent drinkable. He made the claim at a press conference arranged to refute a number of allegations raised against his organisation by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). Taqsem said that the water Dhaka Wasa supplied to the city residents was good at the source, but that they might get contaminated in the pipelines, adding that they had undertaken projects to replace those pipelines. He then declared that people would be able to drink water straight from their taps by 2021.

More than two years later, a large part of Dhaka is still getting smelly, dirty and contaminated water. The water is not only unsafe to drink, but it's often completely unusable. Since Taqsem took charge of Dhaka Wasa 13 years ago, many projects have been initiated to improve Wasa's service, spending crores of taka, but the quality of its water at the consumer end has hardly improved, according to our reports.

The TIB did a year-long study titled "Dhaka Wasa: Challenges of Good Governance and Way Forward," and revealed their findings in April 2019. They surveyed 2,728 connections and service recipients of Wasa and found that 91 percent of Dhaka's population had to boil water to drink it. In the process, they burnt gas worth Tk 332 crore a year.

According to the study, nearly 45 percent of Dhaka Wasa consumers didn't get adequate supply of water, while about 35 percent complained of getting poor-quality water throughout the year. However, they did have to pay the increased water tariff every year. Reportedly, Dhaka Wasa has increased its water tariff 15 times since 2009. It has proposed to raise the water tariff by 20 percent again this year. If the proposal is approved, consumers will have to pay the increased price from July.

Naturally, such a ruthless proposal made by a state-run organisation has been met with widespread criticism. People questioned the rationale behind such a proposal at a time when inflation has hit us hard. In fact, people have started to question the honesty and integrity of the Dhaka Wasa MD, who is drawing a hefty amount for a salary every

In 2020, the responsibility of Dhaka's drainage management was handed over to its two city corporations because of Wasa's prolonged failure to eliminate waterlogging. It has also been revealed that Wasa's sewerage lines contaminated the Buriganga River.

Now, the Wasa MD, with his questionable track record, is trying to burden the consumers with another tariff hike. The justification he has given for this hike just doesn't hold water: He said Wasa needed to raise the water tariff as it couldn't continue its operation "through begging." The fact, however, is that Dhaka Wasa is already a profitable organisation. In the 2020-21 fiscal year, it logged in a profit of Tk 49.6 crore, while its retained earnings (the portion of a company's cumulative profit that is held and saved for future use, particularly for investment purposes) stood at a staggering Tk 892 crore, according to its audited financial report.

Therefore, there is clearly no logic behind raising the water tariff at a time when ordinary people already have their backs against the wall due to uncontrolled inflation, unemployment and the pandemic impacts. In fact, instead of burdening the consumers, what the Dhaka Wasa authorities should have done is try to improve their service quality by addressing the allegations of corruption and irregularities raised against them.

The TIB study mentioned above found that 62 percent of those seeking water and sewer connections from Wasa reported facing harassment and irregularities. The TIB said that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) should look into Wasa's corruption. Later, the ACC's investigations found that Wasa's consumers were not getting good service because of widespread corruption and delays in project implementation. The ACC clearly mentioned that Wasa kept extending deadlines and increasing the project costs to facilitate corruption, highlighting in its report the many ways in which corruption gripped the organisation.

It is, therefore, most unfortunate that after all the studies and investigations—not to mention a number of news reports revealing Wasa's irregularities over the years—no substantive action has been taken against Dhaka Wasa and its MD. We can't help but ask: Is Dhaka Wasa and its MD beyond accountability?

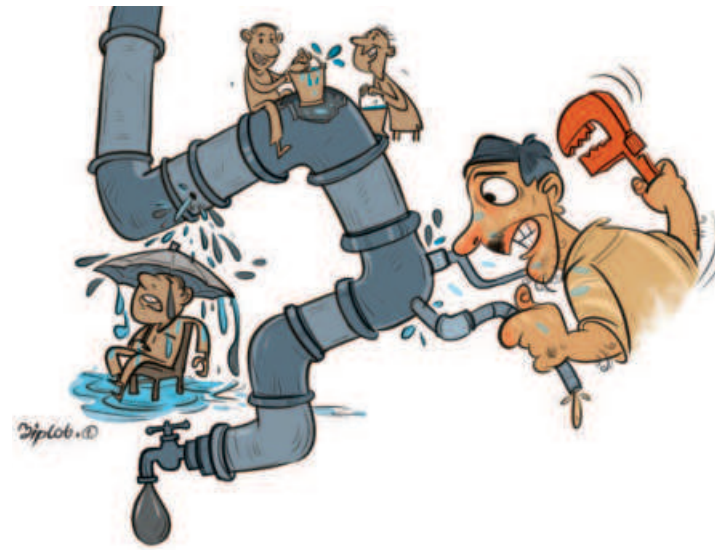


ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

There is no logic behind raising the water tariff at a time when ordinary people already have their backs against the wall due to uncontrolled inflation, unemployment and other pandemic impacts.

month. According to news reports, as the water tariff increased year after year, so did the Wasa MD's salary. During the past two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, when the water tariff was raised twice, Taqsem's salary was also raised by Tk 1.75 lakh. Currently, he gets a monthly salary of Tk 6.15 lakh—a whopping 421 percent raise in 12 years! We also learnt that the Dhaka Wasa officials received stimulus benefits of Tk 40 crore last year. The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) has rightly said that it's the Dhaka Wasa MD and officials who are actually getting the benefit of frequent water tariff hikes.

One of the many allegations that Taqsem has faced over the years is that he has been appointed and reappointed as the MD for six consecutive terms, reportedly in violation of Wasa's rules and regulations. TIB termed his appointment and repeated reappointments "questionable" and called for a neutral audit of his performance, which has not happened till date.

Under his leadership, Dhaka Wasa has failed not only to provide safe water to its consumers, but also solve the waterlogging problem in the city.

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

From Shock Therapy to Putin's War



Katharina Pistor, professor of comparative law at Columbia Law School, is the author of "The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality."

KATHARINA PISTOR

AS Russian tanks battle through Ukraine on the orders of an authoritarian president, it is worth noting that Ukrainians are not the only ones who crave democracy. Russians, too, have taken to the streets—at great personal risk—to protest Vladimir Putin's act of aggression. But they are fighting an uphill battle in a country that has never been given a chance to become democratic. When such an opportunity was available, it was subverted not by Putin and his kleptocratic milieu, but by the West. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union three decades ago, American economic advisers convinced Russia's leaders to focus on economic reforms and put democracy on the back burner—where Putin could easily extinguish it when the time came.

This is no trivial historical contingency. Had Russia become a democracy, there would have been no need to talk about Nato and its eastward expansion, no invasion of Ukraine, and no debates about whether the West owes Russia's civilisation greater respect.

Let's recount the sequence of events. In November 1991, the Russian Supreme Soviet (parliament) gave the then Russian President Boris Yeltsin extraordinary powers and a 13-month mandate to launch reforms. Then, in December 1991, the Soviet Union was officially dissolved by the Belovezh Accords. Surrounded by a small group of Russian reformers and Western advisers, Yeltsin used this unique historical moment to launch an unprecedented programme of economic "shock therapy." Prices were liberalised, borders were opened, and rapid privatisation began—all by presidential decree. Nobody in Yeltsin's circle paused to consider that the Russian citizens might first want a chance to develop a sound constitutional foundation for their country.

The reformers and their Western advisers simply decided—and then insisted—that market reforms should precede constitutional reforms. Only by moving fast would Russia be put on a path to economic prosperity, and the Communists be kept out of power for good. With radical market reforms, the Russian people would see tangible returns and become enamoured with democracy

the parliament refused to budge, and a deep political crisis ensued. In the end, the standoff was resolved by tanks, which Yeltsin called in to dissolve the Russian parliament in October 1993, leaving 147 people dead.

To be sure, many members of parliament were opponents of Yeltsin and his team, and perhaps wanted to turn the clock back. But it was Yeltsin who set a dangerous new precedent for how disputes over the country's future would be resolved. And Yeltsin and his team didn't stop there. They also rammed through a constitution that enshrined a powerful president with strong decree and veto powers, and with no serious checks and balances.

I still recall a revealing conversation that I, a student of Russia's reforms at the time, had with Dmitry Vasiliev, a top member of Yeltsin's privatisation team. When I pointed out the shortcomings of the draft constitution, he said they would simply fix it if the wrong person ascended to power. They never did, of course—nor could they have. Vasiliev's statement fully encapsulated how the economic reformers thought about constitutional democracy.

In December 1993, the new constitution was adopted through a referendum, which was held jointly with elections to the new parliament. Yeltsin's candidates suffered a stunning defeat, but with the president's new constitutional powers secured, the economic reforms continued. Yeltsin was then "re-elected" in 1996 through a manipulated process that had been planned in Davos and orchestrated by the newly minted Russian oligarchs. Three years later, Yeltsin made Putin the prime minister and anointed him as his successor.

Democratising Russia may always have been a long shot, given the country's history of centralised power. But it would have been worth a try. The ill-advised prioritisation of economic goals over democratic processes holds lessons well beyond Russia. By choosing capitalism over democracy as the foundation for the post-Cold War world, the West jeopardised stability, prosperity, and, as we now see again in Ukraine, peace and democracy—and not only in Eastern Europe.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin with US President George HW Bush and Mrs Bush in the South Grounds of the White House in Washington, DC, the US, in 1992.

PHOTO: DAVID VALDEZ/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

automatically. It was not to be. The Yeltsin presidency turned out to be an unmitigated disaster—economically, socially, legally, and politically. Overhauling a Soviet-style centrally planned economy in the space of just 13 months proved to be impossible. Price and trade liberalisation on their own did not create markets. That would have required legal institutions, but there was no time to establish them. Moreover, the shock therapy unleashed such severe and sudden social and economic disruptions that it turned the public against the reforms and the reformers. The Supreme Soviet refused to extend Yeltsin's extraordinary powers, and what happened next would set the stage for the rise of authoritarian presidentialism in Russia.

Yeltsin and his allies refused to give up. They declared the Russian Constitution of 1977 illegitimate, and Yeltsin proceeded to assume power unilaterally, while calling for a referendum to legitimise the move. But the constitutional court and

The emergence of global Bangla



SAYEMA KHATUN

Sayema Khatun, a Bangladeshi-American anthropologist, is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in the US, and the principal of Akhor Bangla School in Wisconsin.

Often feel a visceral pain just thinking about raising our children without having them read the treasure of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, and without feeling the immense joy of listening to "Thakurmar Jhuli," a collection of fairy tales by Dakshinranjan Mitra Majumdar, as well as works by Palli Kabi Jasimuddin, Hasan Raja or Lalon. *Ami ki bhulite pari*, the sacrifice and bloodbath of my brothers and sisters? How can I forget that, as a nation, we were born out of a long historical struggle to establish the due respect of our mother language, cultural distinction, and self-determination? The gradual loss of language, culture, and identity as a Bengali-American feels like a loss of self and surpasses the material benefit of immigration to the US, as millions of Bangla-speaking people here experience. I teach my child, born and raised in the US, "You are the one who will keep our legacy forward. Remember, our language and culture will live with you." I have no idea how this message will be translated into her life journey.

More than 2.5 million Bangla-speaking people consist only a tiny fraction of the huge mosaic of the US population, which is around 331.45 million, according to the 2020 census. The ever-growing population of Bengali immigrants in the US and around the world has emerged and evolved as a new cultural community, without living in a nation-state and still sharing a linguistic and cultural identity drifting from their country of origin—namely Bangladesh and India. Bangla is the seventh most spoken language in the world in terms of population, with nearly 265 million speakers in total, among whom around 228 million speak Bangla as their first language. The global cosmopolitans such as New York, London, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Toronto, Paris, Sydney, Berlin, and many other cities have been embracing Bangla as a second language as the Bangla-speaking diaspora communities have been growing and evolving for more than half a century now. This community, living in a new form of Bengali culture as a minority adapting to the new mainstream cultures hybridising their language and identity, faces the challenge to pass their legacy and language down to the new generation. Teaching children Bangla as a second language has become a great challenge for the families living beyond the border of Bangladesh and West Bengal of India. The Bengalis beyond the borders bring new elements into the global plural cosmo-culture, though; they are also evolving and transmuting themselves as the minority Bengalis without having the boundary of any nation-state.

In the US, the number of Bangladeshi immigrants began to grow in the 1970s, reaching from 57,000 to 1,88,000 during 2000-2015, whose first language is Bangla, and according to the 2006 census, the number of Indian Bengalis is 47,600. Both of the Bangla-speaking communities have been struggling to keep the language alive in their family and community lives as Bengali-Americans. These families have begun to establish Bangla language schools to keep the

language alive and are trying to keep their children grounded in their roots, while raising them as global Bengalis. This trend is now on the rise in all the cosmo-cities around the world, thriving especially since 2020 on the online platforms during Covid-19. Some of the Bangla schools have been running for three or four decades now, and new schools continue to emerge.

These Bangla schools have begun to consolidate their activities through collaboration, using the concept of *Milan Mela*, for example, supported by the Friends of Bangla School in the South Asia Center of the University of Pennsylvania. Last year, *Milan Mela* was organised as a coming together of 16 Bangla schools from around the US, with both West Bengal and Bangladeshi traditions to celebrate the Bangla language and Bengali identity, and to build a greater alliance for advancing the Bangla language, literature, and culture within the pluralistic society of America. This assembly is seeking to form a North American Bangla Association to negotiate identity and attain a recognition of Bangla as a second language in the institutional

Bangla is the seventh most spoken language in the world in terms of population, with nearly 265 million speakers in total, among whom around 228 million speak Bangla as their first language.

ILLUSTRATION:
KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD



form and American state policy. Keeping the education of Bangla at the heart of claiming the Bengali identity and building a community, this collective aspires to knit together the Bengali diaspora to secure a future for Bangla beyond Bangladesh and India.

Besides the interest of Bengali-Americans, Bangla has also been taught and researched in some major US universities as a foreign language, usually in the Asian and South Asian centres in the University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago, Yale University, University of Texas, Austin, Pennsylvania State University, University of California, Berkeley and University of Washington, for example, where curriculums for Bangla have been developed and offered each year. The community Bangla schools have begun to receive recognition as certified language schools that enable the students to get the freshman year credit, exempting the requirement for taking a foreign language course. As teaching elementary Bangla is not similar to teaching Bangla as a native tongue in Bangladesh or West

Bengal, these schools are often struggling with finding the contextual pedagogical approach, which must be methodologically different from the setting of the country of origin. Engaging with the curriculums already developed and available in the US universities and using those in the contextual situations might be effective to achieve the language skill in a pleasurable manner.

Currently, there are two major pedagogical approaches used in these community schools—namely, linguistic approach and cultural immersion/community learning approach—which have been further benefited with the opening of the floodgate of online teaching and learning platforms during the pandemic. The practical benefits in professional training and career advancement in some areas can be explored with Bangla language skills—as a medical and legal translator, research and diplomatic interpreter, and in the job posting in the missions and consulates in Bangladesh and India—not to mention the issue of bonding with the extended family

members back home.

Celebrating the pluralistic values as new immigrants in the US, I believe that language and communication play a vital role in the heart of the human experience that must be nurtured and developed with the vehicle of indigenous, immigrant, and world languages, as Bangla is in America. To educate our children to be bilingual or multilingual and encourage them to be linguistically and culturally prepared to be able to navigate an increasingly globalised world with confidence, courage and mutual admiration is our solemn duty. I believe we are bringing Bangla to the global stage and making it a global language through instilling the beauty of the language and the literature into children's hearts, and empowering ourselves by being the Bilingual Bengalis without a border. More centres of Bangla language and culture may emerge in the future—who knows? Thus we are possibly paving the way for many more Jhumpa Lahiris, Arundhati Roys, Zia Haider Rahmans, Monica Alis and Tahmima Anams to emerge out of this trajectory.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Lakshmipur
ee_lax@eedmoe.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. 35/EED/LAX/Project Code: (1250301-1250301109972-4111201 & 1250301-120001601-3258108)/
e-Tender/2021-22, Dt: 01/03/2022

Name of Project: 1. Construction/Extension of Academic Buildings to Selected Govt. & Non Govt. Educational Institutions. (S.L No-01)
2. Repair/Renovation of Govt. Educational Institutions. (SL No-02)

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works.

S.L No.	Name of the tender	Tender ID	Type method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	7016/SHED/2021-22-24 Vertical Extension 1st, 2nd & 3rd Floor of Existing Academic Building in/c Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification works at Dalal Bazar Fatema Girls High School under Sadar upazila in Lakshmipur District.	669203	NCT, OTM	15-Mar-2022 16:00	16-Mar-2022 12:00
2	Govt./Rep/SHED/18 Construction of Boundary wall with M.S Gate and Barbed wire at Residence of Headmaster at Lakshmipur Adarsha Samad Govt. School, Sadar, Lakshmipur.	669202	NCT, OTM	15-Mar-2022 16:00	16-Mar-2022 12:00

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

Md. Murad Hossain
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Lakshmipur

GD-406

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

INVITATION FOR TENDER
Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the manufacturer/wholesaler/supplier for supply of Medicine (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center. As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION				
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division.			
2 Agency	Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW.			
3 Procuring Entity	Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS.			
4 Procuring Entity Code	224330400			
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6 Invitation for	Supply of Medicine (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center.			
7 Invitation for offer Ref. No	UHC/Proc./RPA-GOB/Medicine (U.S.C)-13/2021-22/1000			
8 Date	01.03.2022			
KEY INFORMATION				
9 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and Source of Funds	RPA-GOB			
11 Developments Partners	None			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/Program Code	224330400			
13 Project/Program Name	UHC			
14 Tender Package No	UHC/R-GD-1/2021-22			
15 Offer Package Name	Medicine (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center.			
16 Tender Publication Date	02.03.2022			
17 Tender Last Selling Date	22.03.2022 at 5.00 pm			
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	23.03.2022 at 12 pm			
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	23.03.2022 at 2 pm			
20 Name and address of the Office				
a) Selling of Tender Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
b) Receiving of Tender Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
c) Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban, (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21 Eligibility of Tenderer	As stated in TDS			
22 Brief Description of Goods	Supply of Medicine-13 items (Non-EDCL) for Union Sub Center.			
23 Price of Tender Documents Taka	TK. 5,000 (Five Thousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable).			
24 No	Identification & Name	Location	Tender Security Amounts in BDT	Completion time (in weeks)
Single lot	UHC/ R-GD-1/2021-22	UHC office, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka.	TK. 8,00,000 (Eight lacs) only by Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in Prescribed format in favour of Line Director, UHC, DGHS.	10 (Ten) weeks from date of signing the contract.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL				
25 Name of Official Inviting Offer	Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman			
26 Designation of Official Inviting Offer	Line Director, UHC, DGHS.			
27 Address of Official Inviting Offer	BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
28 Contact details of Official Inviting Offer	BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900			

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

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

GD- 411

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Mapping the mangrove forest

The British East India Company took control over this region (including the Sundarbans) in 1757. By 1770, they started to convert the forest lands of the Sundarbans to agricultural land and started commercial logging. Some two hundred years ago, the Sundarbans comprised double than its current area, around 10,000 square km of which 60 percent lies in Bangladesh.

PINAKI ROY

Only a few people have both knowledge of and love for the Sundarbans.

Professor Monirul H Khan, author of *Sundarbans: The World Heritage* (Nympha Publications, 2021), who has been working on the home of the Bengal tiger for more than two decades, has both—immense knowledge about the mysterious mangrove forest and also love for it.

“The author-cum-photographer of this book has many years of experience working in the Sundarbans region and I consider him as an authority on the Sundarbans”, Professor Ainun Nishat, former Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, writes in her foreword for the book.

Professor Khan, a faculty of the Zoology department at Jahangirnagar University, has written the 362-page book using existing data on different aspects of the Sundarbans that are often not easily accessible. He makes use of 262 photographs and 20 artworks, almost all of the photos taken by the author himself. These images are not only beautiful, but are also valuable documentation of rare wildlife species and other forest dwellers, their livelihoods, and important cultural practices of the region.

All aspects of the Sundarbans—from its history to its biodiversity, from the people's professions to their cultures, and even the potential threats to conservation—are covered in the book.

Conversely, it is different from other literature on the Sundarbans that have been published so far, as it covers regions of the Sundarbans in both Bangladesh and India.

Referring to scientific research on fossil pollen, the author informs us that the mangrove species, Sundari (*Heritiera Fomes*), was a dominant tree genus in Kolkata about five thousands years ago.

The earliest reference to the Sundarbans, according to Professor Khan, can be traced back to the epic *Mahabharata* (around 300 BC to 300 AD), in which the eldest and second Pandava brothers, Yudhishtira and Bhima, visited Gangasagar (literary meaning “place where river Ganges met the sea”) during their pilgrimage.

Even today, thousands of Hindu pilgrims visit Sagor island in the Indian Sundarbans and Dubla Island in the Bangladesh

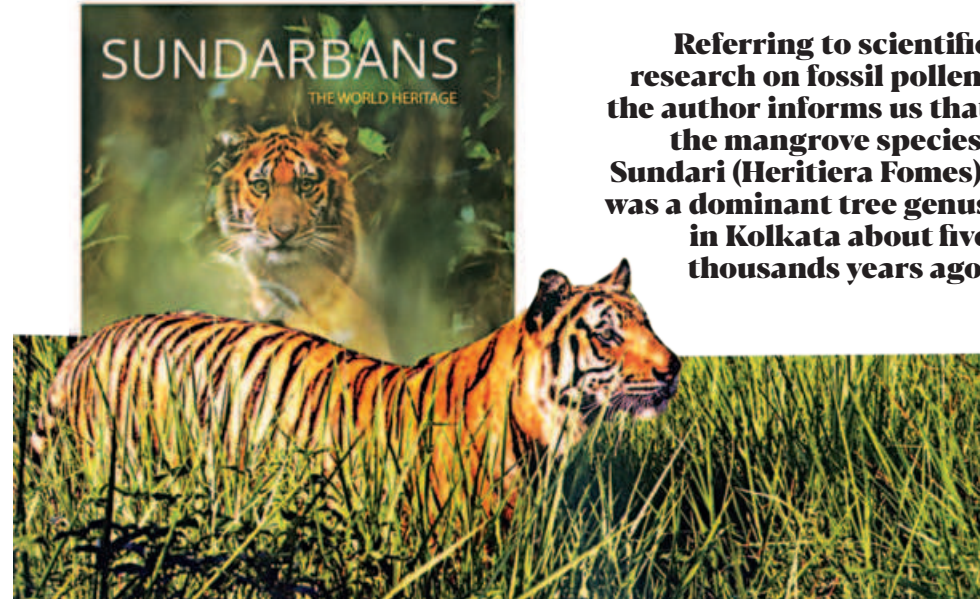
Sundarbans. Through his discussion of these rituals, the author shows how the culture, myths, and beliefs of the people of this region are evolving, centering the Sundarbans, from a very ancient time.

The British East India Company took control over this region (including the Sundarbans) in 1757. By 1770, they started to convert the forest lands of the Sundarbans to agricultural land and started commercial logging. Some

which literally means ‘maternal uncle’.

“There were [...] tigers in 11 districts out of 17 of the British Bengal till 1930”, the author writes. This large predator was so abundant and widespread that it was treated as a menace, and the government used to pay bounty for killing tigers.

Citing *Banglar Shikar Prani* by Satish Mitra, the author mentions Pachabdi Gazi, the last remaining hunter from the traditional hunter family from the



Referring to scientific research on fossil pollen, the author informs us that the mangrove species, Sundari (*Heritiera Fomes*), was a dominant tree genus in Kolkata about five thousands years ago.

two hundred years ago, the Sundarbans comprised double than its current area, around 10,000 square km of which 60 percent lies in Bangladesh. As the book's appendix reveals, 76 mangrove plants, 44 mammals, 374 birds, 68 reptiles, 16 amphibians, 380 fish and 82 crustaceans are to be found in these forests. The land and ecosystem serve as a natural barrier against cyclones and save millions of lives and agricultural fields in the north.

Apart from these discussions on how the forest came into existence and how it has survived destructive human practices, the book narrates valuable details, one of which are conservation efforts to save the big cats.

In the chapter titled “Iconic Tiger”, Professor Khan states, “Out of fear and respect, the local people call it ‘mama’,

Sundarbans region, who killed the last tigers on January 20, 1987. Gazi killed 57 tigers in his lifetime. Currently, the entire Sundarbans holds only around 210 tigers—the national animal of both India and Bangladesh.

“The book is a significant addition to our campaign for ‘Promoting Bangladesh’ and an exploration of the Sundarbans through the lens of ecological diversity, culture, and livelihoods”, Karunangshu Barua writes in his publisher's note for the book.

The book is available at the stall of Nympha Publications at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

Pinaki Roy is Chief Reporter, The Daily Star. Collage: Orchid Chakma

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Denise Mina's 'Rizzio'

A bloody slice of Scottish history

JAHN KAISSAR

In 2021, Polygon, an Edinburgh-based publisher, launched the Darkland Tales, a series of “dramatic fictional retellings of stories from history, myth and legend” written by Scotland's greatest contemporary writers. Denise Mina's novella *Rizzio* is the first in the series.

A tour de force of interwoven perspectives and psychological suspense, its action largely unfolding over the course of one fateful weekend, *Rizzio* dramatises the brutal assassination of David Rizzio, private secretary and friend to Mary, Queen of Scots, and its immediate aftermath.

On March 9, 1566, Edinburgh's Holyrood Palace, like the rest of Scotland, is replete with political intrigue and religious divisions. Parliament is in session, preparing to divest the heavily pregnant Queen's remaining rivals of their lands, powers, and titles. What Mary does not know is that there is a mob of conspirators, mainly Protestant nobles, who are brewing a murderous plot.



They plan to weaken Mary's power by murdering her right-hand man, Rizzio, on the premise that he is a papal spy. Even Lord Darnley, Mary's husband and king consort, sides with the treasonous nobles, hoping that his wife witnesses the bloody scene and miscarries her baby.

However, the coup does not go as smoothly as planned, and Mary must find a way to survive a treacherous political landscape.

Queen Mary's story, a story of murder, sex, religion, rivalries, and unsuitable lovers, has captured the imagination of numerous historians and writers. By focusing on Rizzio's assassination, an episode that is often overlooked in the queue of infamous events in Mary's life, Mina offers a new take on a bloodstained chapter of Scottish history. It is worth noting that *Rizzio* is written in current vernacular, attesting to the fact that we can only understand the past through the modern lens.

In the novella, Mina provides insights on themes such as misogyny, religious turmoil, and politics

of power. In an era dominated by men, Mary wears the crown. However, since she is not respected by the Protestant lords due to her gender, religion, and background, she becomes the victim of their political machinations. Despite witnessing Rizzio's gruesome murder and becoming a prisoner in her own palace, Mary manages to turn things around for herself. With her political astuteness and with the help of her allies, she outsmarts the power-hungry men and becomes a survivor. It should be noted that not all of the men

By focusing on Rizzio's assassination, an episode that is often overlooked in the queue of infamous events in Queen Mary's life, Mina offers a new take on a bloodstained chapter of Scottish history.

in the novella are greedy, dastardly, one-dimensional characters. Mina's portrayal of Mary's husband Darnley, for example, is at once contemptuous and sympathetic. On one hand, she describes him as a philanderer leading a life of debauchery despite his aspirations for the Crown Matrimonial. On the other hand, she recognizes his weaknesses—his gullibility and his fragile self-esteem—that initially cause him to betray Mary.

Mina also questions the belief that history is determined by men. Several times throughout the novella, the narrator refers to the major players in Rizzio's assassination—the Protestant nobles—as “The Great Men of History.” These are the men “who fill history books with their squabbles and claims and resentments...These men know they are great. They feel confident that they have just changed the course of history with their forcefulness and righteous vigour. They haven't”. These men are ultimately just self-important nobles, driven by personal gain rather than by higher motives they try to ascribe to their actions. As Mina thus demonstrates in the novella, sometimes it only takes a middle-aged woman with a piss pot to change the course of history.

Rizzio reads like a spare but searing historical account, drawing on the psychological riches and vivid details that only fiction can provide, yet creating a narrative so emotive and raw that it feels as if the author had lived through the events she presents. It is a must-read for those who are fond of historical fiction.

Jahn Kaiassar is a contributor. Reach her at jahinkaiassar@gmail.com.



THE SHELF

Books to better understand the Ukraine-Russia conflict

STAR BOOKS REPORT

UKRAINE'S MAIDAN, RUSSIA'S WAR: A CHRONICLE AND ANALYSIS OF THE REVOLUTION OF DIGNITY
Mychailo Wynnyckyj
Ibidem Press, 2019

Mychailo Wynnyckyj, associate professor of sociology at the National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, was a regular commentator and analyst for English-language media outlets during the 2013–2014 Maidan protests and during the early years of Russian aggression in the Crimea and Donbas. In this book, Wynnyckyj offers the history of the ongoing war between Ukraine's Maidan and Russia—a conflict that was sparked in 2014, when the government

attacked peaceful students and Ukrainians rallied against the corrupt Moscow-backed regime.

PUTIN'S PEOPLE: HOW THE KGB TOOK BACK RUSSIA AND THEN TOOK ON THE WEST

Catherine Belton
William Collins, 2020

Investigative journalist and former Moscow correspondent Catherine Belton begins the scope of this book from the fall of the Soviet regime, and unveils the story of Putin's and his KGB men's ascent to power. She taps into how Putin restructured the workings of the Kremlin “with a new generation of loyal oligarchs”, as a result of which Russia experienced a revamped economy, with greater reach into USA and Europe.

THE ROAD TO UNFREEDOM: RUSSIA, EUROPE, AMERICA

Timothy Snyder
Tim Duggan Books, 2019

Comprising a wide scope of research and personal reporting, Snyder, Levin Professor of History at Yale University, frames his analysis of Putin's Russia in his reliance on the philosophies of Russian-born Ilyin, who died in exile in Switzerland in 1954. Ilyin favoured Hitler and Mussolini, and proposed a Russian fascism that would dispel the effects of the 1917 Revolution. Snyder's retelling of contemporary events in Russia touch upon the role played by human and digital propaganda, and how Russia then attempted to export this policy across its borders.

ON OUR WAY HOME FROM THE REVOLUTION: REFLECTIONS ON UKRAINE

Sonya Bilocerkowycz
Mad Creek Books, 2019

A Fulbright grantee in Belarus, Sonya Bilocerkowycz, in her essays, writes of post-Soviet characters such as a Russian intelligence officer who found Osama bin Laden shortly after 9/11, a Ukrainian poet in conflict with Russian separatists, a relative who confronts Chernobyl, and more. As a member of the Ukrainian-American diaspora, she melds personal narrative with political analysis and commentary on Ukraine's history, culture, myths, tracing the trajectory of past revolutions to mull over the potential of future ones.



YOUR BOI MELA STORIES

NAZMUS SADAT

I had started reading books when I was in class three, and I inadvertently found lots of books for me in my father's bookshelf, which he had started buying from the year I was born. He was probably planning to give them to me at a much later date, but had I instantly become friends with those books.

After that, going to book fairs and buying books became a tradition for me. It started with going with my parents and I continued to do so with my relatives, friends, potential love interests, colleagues, and if no one was available, then all by myself. This year, however, was different.

On February 5, my father was diagnosed with stage III colon cancer. Between his surgery, my hectic office schedule, and a professional course, it was hard to find time to go to this year's Ekushey Boi Mela. But on February 20, I found an opportunity and went to the fair. I didn't have much time, so I went straight to buying books that were on my Goodreads “To Read” list. I bought *Mrityu-Khudha*, *Badhon-Hara*, *Kuhelika*, and *Shiuli-Mala* by our national poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam; *Cancer-er Satho Bosobas* by Jahanara Imam for my mother; and *New China 1952* by Bongobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for my father.

Afterwards, I started looking around a bit—not all the book stalls were open. The venue was full of beautiful people, even in this pandemic. I noticed that some people were reluctant to wear masks.

Everyone was looking through books for themselves or their loved ones. All the stalls and pavilions were decorated in their own unique way. In particular, the Katha Prakash pavilion caught my eyes. However, I felt the necessity for more information desks as, at times, it was difficult to find the desired bookstalls, but the overall experience was exhilarating as always.

Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2022 has truly created an ocean of books for book-lovers and spread positivity and joy during this difficult time.

Sadly, I had to rush back to the hospital soon after. And although I am not a kid anymore, I really hope I will be able to go with my father to the book fair next year.

To have your Boi Mela experience featured on *The Daily Star*, send us your story and your name to thedailystarbooks@gmail.com.



Young opener Munim Shahriar, who showcased his big-hitting ability in the recently concluded Bangladesh Premier League, smacks one down the ground during Bangladesh's practice session in Mirpur yesterday. Munim is expected to make his international debut today when Bangladesh take on Afghanistan in the first of two T20Is at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mash joins Ruggani

SPORTS REPORTER

The highlight of the first day of the two-day players' transfers of the Dhaka Premier League occurred when former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza signed for Legends of Rugganj yesterday.

At the eleventh hour last night, reports emanated that Prime Doleshwar would not be taking part in the prestigious tournament in this edition, which will see a return to its usual fifty-over format.

A total of 39 cricketers took part in the players' transfer yesterday.

However, Mashrafe, who featured for Sheikh Jamal DC the previous season, has been suffering from back pain since the Bangladesh Premier League, where he played for Minister Dhaka.

The 38 year old is expected to undergo treatment ahead of the DPL. "I have always done well in one-day format. I understand the game so it's easier for me," Mashrafe told the media yesterday.

"I have a slight issue with back pain and will go for treatment. I got injured during the BPL but I hope there won't be any problems once I complete my treatment."

Other star cricketers also confirmed where they would play.

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will again feature for Mohammedan while Mushfiqur Rahim will play for Abahani. Mahmudullah Riyad will represent Gazi Group and Tamim Iqbal was retained by Prime Bank Cricket Club.



Will positive approach be reflected at the top?

HIGHLIGHTS

**Bangladesh lost four out of six T20Is against Afghanistan.

**Bangladesh won the last T20I against Afghanistan by four wickets in Chattogram in 2019.

**With 138 runs in six matches, Bangladesh T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad is the highest run-getter among the players of the two sides when facing each other in T20Is. **Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan has the most number of wickets (12) in five T20Is against Bangladesh.



"Are you concerned regarding my place? Alhamdulillah, I am not in doubt. I think I am on the right track. Probably I need to hit some good balls and will be back on the right track. Maybe I didn't deliver in the ODIs but I will try to meet the expectations the team has from me."

BANGLADESH T20I CAPTAIN MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD.

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The T20 World Cup in UAE last year demonstrated that whatever the Bangladesh think-tank had planned going into the mega-event did not bear fruit or lacked in execution, culminating in the debacle.

Coming into the T20I series against Afghanistan, Bangladesh's focus turns to a lack of runs in the Powerplay. The batting unit as a whole must have showing aggression at the top of their list of priorities. There will also be focus on their choice of openers for the first T20I today as that could go a long way to delivering a message regarding the approach the team management needs in the format.

There was quite a bit of grass on the wicket at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, which should

provide something to pacers. Asked about his expectations of the wicket, skipper Mahmudullah Riyad seemed certain it would provide something for both batters and bowlers.

"I think it will be a good wicket and sporting wicket. The grass will help the bowlers and the batters as well. I think if you can spend some time at the crease, batters can have a good time here," Mahmudullah dictated. However, time spent at the crease will have to be paid for with runs, especially if Bangladesh are to make hay with a long batting line-up.

Afghanistan not only have world-class spinners, but also batters adept at playing their shots from very early on in the innings. An ODI mindset will not suffice. Bangladesh's average score in the Powerplay at the World Cup was 32.12 and, barring the games against Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka, they lost at least two wickets in the Powerplay. The scores did not improve in

the series that followed against Pakistan at home as the Tigers lost 3-0.

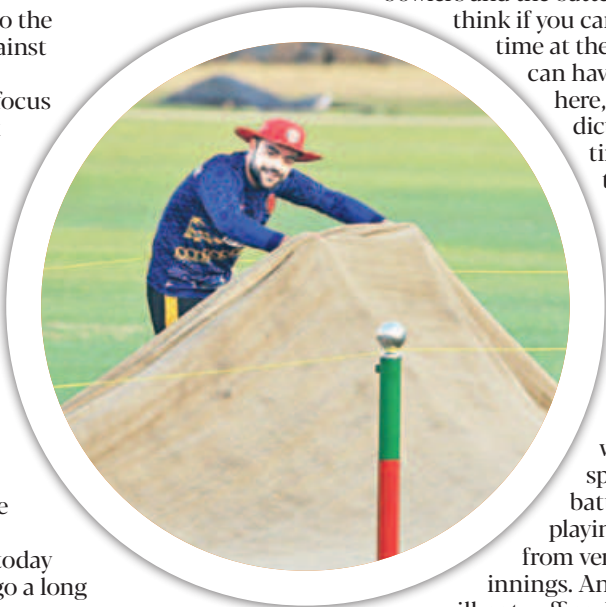
Mahmudullah was looking to get out of that Powerplay rut.

"Hopefully, we will be able to get out of it. With our team combination, we're good enough to make 40 to 45 runs in Powerplay. If we can do it, we're on the right track. We're discussing these things and working things out. Hopefully we will find a way," Riyad said, knowing the need for a new avenue.

One such option may well be on the way in the form of Munim Shahriar, selected on the basis of Powerplay displays in the recently-concluded BPL. He smashed the deliveries in the nets yesterday. "Munim has a good chance tomorrow but I can't say exactly because I saw the wicket today," Riyad said.

On the other end of the spectrum is Mohammad Naim. Despite being the top-scorer in T20Is last year, his position has come into question due to a lack of aggression and middling strike-rate.

"If you don't bat with intent in T20 cricket, you find yourself in a shell. Once you are in that shell, it's hard to get out. Whoever bats, whether at top-order or middle-order, has to remember the importance of batting with intent based on one's strength," Mahmudullah said of their approach. But in the choice between Munim and Naim, they will go a long way to sending a message about their modus operandi in T20Is going forward.



Australia on journey of discovery in Pakistan

REUTERS

Australia are on a journey of discovery as they tour Pakistan for the first time in a quarter of a century and will hope to emerge with a first away Test series win in six years.

Pat Cummins's side have not played a Test offshore since the outbreak of COVID-19 and many of the players are visiting the

South Asian nation for the first time.

Thirty-four-year-old spinner Nathan Lyon, one of the squad's most senior players, was 10 when the last Australian side toured in 1998 and won a three-match series 1-0.

"I'll say it's a totally different challenge to what we're used to at home," Lyon told reporters on Wednesday, two days before the first of three Tests gets underway in Rawalpindi.

"We haven't played an away Test since 2019 so it's going to be a big challenge for us but it's a young, exciting Australian Test squad that we have here at the moment."

"My mindset is every game we go into, we will look to win, not draw or lose. My mindset is to win 3-0 in Pakistan," Lyon added.

Though dominating Pakistan on home soil, Australia have not beaten them away since the 2002-03 series played in Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates.



Women's Cricket World Cup afoot amid Covid caution

AFP, Wellington

The Women's Cricket World Cup begins in New Zealand on Friday, with organisers keen to capitalise on growing interest in the women's game after overcoming a string of pandemic-related hurdles.

The eight-nation tournament was originally scheduled for early 2021 but had to be postponed until March this year after coronavirus-related travel restrictions made it impossible to get the teams into New Zealand.

Even now, overseas players have been required to undergo 10 days of isolation and must abide by strict "bubble" health protocols.

Crowds are also restricted as the host nation attempts to contain an outbreak of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, meaning spectators must congregate in "pods" of 100 dotted around venues.

While the spectre of positive tests among players hangs over the event, tournament chief executive Andrea Nelson said plans were in pace to cope with most contingencies. "We've had to deal with challenges the



Despite Fargana Hoque's 71, Bangladesh suffered a seven-run defeat against Pakistan in their last warm-up in Lincoln yesterday ahead of Women's Cricket World Cup.

PHOTO: AFP

whole way through on this event, and we've overcome them all so far, so I have no doubt we'll continue to do so," she said.

The 2017 tournament in England, won by the host nation, was viewed by 180 million worldwide but Nelson said the potential for women's cricket was even bigger, pointing to 2020 T20 Women's World Cup in Australia.

"We've got such a massive and growing audience for cricket -- the T20 Women's World Cup final was viewed by 1.1 billion people around the world, which dwarfs the men's Rugby World Cup by comparison," she said.

It will be the tournament's 12th edition, with six-time winners Australia entering as favourites followed by reigning champions England who have lifted the trophy four times.

New Zealand are the only other side to have won, when they last hosted the tournament in 2000, while India were beaten finalists in 2005 and 2017.

Pakistan, South Africa, the West Indies and Bangladesh round out the field, with the latter making their tournament debut.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms
1, Kawran Bazar, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor)
Dhaka-1215
www.roc.gov.bd

Memo No. 26.06.0000.029.07.001-21/369 Date: 02.03.2022

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID & Package No.	Name of goods	Publication date	Last selling and closing date & time
668497 RJSC.G-2020_21- PKG-05	Supply for System and Application Software;	03.03.2022; 10.00am;	20.03.2022; 01:00pm & 20.03.2022; 05:00pm

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

The Procurement entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or tenders.

Sd/-
Muhammad Shafiqul Islam
Assistant Registrar
Joint Stock Companies and Firms

GD-414



JOY BANGLA

It's now official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday issued a gazette notification making chanting "Joy Bangla" slogan mandatory during all government programmes.

According to the notification, constitutional post holders, officials and staffers of autonomous, statutory and all government offices at home and abroad will have to chant the slogan after their speeches in observation of all national days and other state and government programmes.

After daily assemblies at educational institutions, teachers and students will have to say "Joy Bangla". They have to do it at rallies and seminars as well.

On February 22, the cabinet approved "Joy Bangla" as the national slogan.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

CHANDPUR UNIV 139 deeds out of malafide intention

Attorney general tells HC over land acquisition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin yesterday told the High Court that 139 deeds were registered with malafide intentions to embezzle public money in the name of land acquisition for the proposed Chandpur Science and Technology University.

He said this while placing arguments on two separate writ petitions filed by Salim Khan, a local union parishad chairman in Chandpur, his family members and one Jewel.

The writ petitioners registered the deeds using fabricated documents with the price of the land hugely inflated, which is tantamount to fraudulence with the relevant law, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

3 YEARS CHOPPED OFF

Life expectancy in Bangladesh worse than in India, Pakistan, Bhutan due to air pollution, report shows

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Air pollution cuts the average life expectancy of a person in Bangladesh by almost three years, said a global report.

It is higher than in India, Pakistan, Bhutan, and Afghanistan. Nepal, with air pollution-linked life expectancy loss of 3.05 years, is the worst affected in this region, according to the report released yesterday by US-based organisations Health Effects Institute and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

The report, titled "State of Global Air 2020: How Does Air Pollution Affect Life Expectancy around the World", said air pollution's impact on life expectancy is the greatest in less-developed countries, where many suffer a double burden from high outdoor and indoor air pollution.

The worst affected countries

included Papua New Guinea (3.2yrs) and Niger (3.1yrs), said the report, prepared based on air quality data collected from across the world in 2019.

For Bangladesh, the life expectancy loss is 2.91 years, said the report, which added that 1.16 years is cut short by outdoor air pollution while 1.53 years by indoor air pollution.

At present, the average life expectancy of Bangladeshis is 72.6 years, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The current levels of air pollution have reduced the global life expectancy by one year and eight months on average, the report also said. "Air pollution reduces people's average life expectancy by almost as much as tobacco use does."

The poor air quality of Bangladesh often makes global headlines due to fossil fuel combustion, biomass burning, emissions from unfit vehicles,

brick kilns and massive development works.

The World Air Quality Report 2020, released in March last year, said the average annual PM 2.5 concentrations in the country was 77.1 micrograms per cubic metre, which was more than two times higher than the WHO recommendation.

A 100 percent of Bangladesh's population is in areas that exceed the annual WHO guideline for the least stringent interim target of 35 micrograms per cubic meter, it said.

Particulate matter (PM) is the sum of all solid and liquid particles suspended in air, many of which are hazardous. This complex mixture includes both organic and inorganic particles, such as dust, pollen, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets.

To estimate the impact of a particular factor on life expectancy,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



FILE PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



KOTALIPARA PLOT Condemned fugitive held after 22 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested a fugitive condemned to death in a case filed over the attempted murder of Sheikh Hasina in Gopalganj about 22 years ago.

A team of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit arrested Azizul Haque alias Shahnewaz alias Ruman from the capital's Khilkhet area Tuesday, CTTC chief Asaduzzaman told a press briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday.

On March 23 last year, a Dhaka tribunal sentenced Azizul and 13 members of the banned militant group Harkatul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) to death and ordered that they be executed "publicly" by firing squad.

The militants planted bombs on the premises of Sheikh Lutful Rahman Ideal College and near the helipad in Kotalipara where Hasina, who was then prime minister, was supposed to address a rally on July 22, 2000.

A sedition case was lodged against them for trying to kill Hasina, by planting the 76kg bomb which was found on July 21.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Nightmare in Narayanganj

Mother, pregnant daughter hacked to death at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A man yesterday hacked a pregnant woman and her mother to death at their home in Narayanganj city's Dalpotti area yesterday afternoon.

The victims are Ruma Chakraborty, 46, and her pregnant daughter Ritu Chakraborty, 22.

"It is heart-wrenching that a stranger shattered our dreams and ruined our family in a few minutes," said Ritu's father Ram Prashad.

"My daughter was seven-month pregnant. Our grandchild could not even see the light of a day," he lamented.

"I was supposed to take care of my daughter but now I am conducting her funeral. I cannot express my mental condition," he said.

Asked, he said he did not know the motive behind the murders.

Shah Zaman, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, said the person behind the murders was Zobayer.

Zobayer first knocked a flat's door. As none opened, he knocked the door of the victims' house around 3:00pm. He started hacking Ruma indiscriminately as she opened it. When Ritu approached nearer, he started hacking her too.

The duo died on the spot, he further said, adding that the criminal chased another female member of the family but she somehow managed to escape and started screaming, he said.

Hearing her scream, locals rushed to the spot and locked the building's main gate and informed the police.

Police then went there, arrested Zobayer and recovered the bodies.

During primary interrogation, Zobayer admitted that he killed the duo and said he intended to loot money and gold ornaments, said the OC.

Muhammad Zaidul Alam, superintendent of Narayanganj police, said Ram filed a murder case against Zobayer who was produced before a court that placed him on a three-day remand.

Meanwhile, locals suspected that there was a motive behind the murders.

Sankar Saha, general secretary of Nitaiganj Business Owners Association, asked, "There are multiple wealthy businessmen who reside in the area whereas the victims belonged to a middle-class family. If the killer wanted to loot only, then why did he attack the middle-class family instead of the rich ones?"

SK Farhad, resident medical officer of Narayanganj General Hospital, who conducted autopsies on the bodies, said the victims suffered multiple deep stabs and died for profuse bleeding.

চাকরি নিয়ে বিদেশে যেতে জমি বিক্রয় বা চড়া সুদে ধার করবেন কেন? যখন পাশে আছে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংক।

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প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
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আয়করের প্রবৃদ্ধি দেশ ও দেশের সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা
২য় ১২-তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন (৪র্থ তলা), সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অগ্রিম আয়করের ৩য় কিস্তি প্রদানের অনুরোধ

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার অধিক্ষেত্রীয় সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের (২০২২-২০২৩ কর বছরের জন্য প্রযোজ্য) ০৪ (চার) কিস্তিতে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়করের ৩য় কিস্তি প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৫ মার্চ, ২০২২। আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ৬৪ [Advance payment of tax] অনুযায়ী যে সকল করদাতার সর্বশেষ নিরূপিত আয় ০৬ (ছয়) লক্ষ টাকার বেশী তাহাদের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের বিধান প্রযোজ্য হইবে। এই শ্রেণিতে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে ৩য় কিস্তির অগ্রিম আয়কর ১৫ মার্চ ২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিশোধের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল। যে সমস্ত করদাতাগণ ১ম ও ২য় কিস্তি প্রদান করেননি সেফেদ্রে ৩য় কিস্তির সাথে ১ম ও ২য় কিস্তি একত্রে প্রদান করার অনুরোধ করা হইল।

করদাতা বিধি অনুসারে অগ্রিম কর যথাসময়ে প্রদান না করিলে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ৬৯ [Failure to pay installments of advance tax] অনুসারে খেলাপী করদাতা [Assessee in default] হিসাবে গণ্য করিবার এবং ধারা ৭৩ [Interest payable by the assessee of advance tax] অনুসারে সরল সুদ আরোপ করিবার বিধান রহিয়াছে। এছাড়া নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করা না হইলে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ১২৫ [Failure to pay advance tax] অনুসারে প্রদেয় করের সমপরিমাণ জরিমানা আরোপ করিবার বিধান রহিয়াছে।

প্রদেয় অগ্রিম কর, সম্মানিত করদাতা তাহার সংশ্লিষ্ট সার্কেলের উপ কর কমিশনার এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ক্রসড-চেক/চালানের মাধ্যমে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার নিম্নবর্ণিত হিসাব কোডে পরিশোধ করিবেনঃ

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার আয়কর জমার হিসাব কোড নিম্নরূপঃ
কোম্পানী করদাতার জন্য : **১-১১৪১-০০৩০-০১০১**
ব্যক্তি শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্য : **১-১১৪১-০০৩০-০১১১**

অধিকতর তথ্য ও অনুসন্ধানের জন্য যোগাযোগ :

১। অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদপ্তর-১ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৫৫০৭২	৪। যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদপ্তর-৪ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৫৫০৭৩
২। অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদপ্তর-২ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৫৫০৭৩	৫। উপ কর কমিশনার (সদর দপ্তর-প্রশাসন) ফোনঃ ০২-৪৮৩২২০৪০
৩। যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদপ্তর-৩ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৫৫০৪২	৬। উপ কর কমিশনার (সদর দপ্তর-টেকনিক্যাল) ফোনঃ ০২-৫৮৩১০০৮২

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা আশা করে যে, সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ নিধারিত তারিখে বা তাহার পূর্বে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধপূর্বক নাগরিক দায়িত্ব পালনে সচেষ্ট হইবেন।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব আধরণে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা আপনার সহযোগিতা প্রত্যাশা করে।

(আবু হান্নান দেলওয়ার হোসেন)
কর কমিশনার
কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা।