

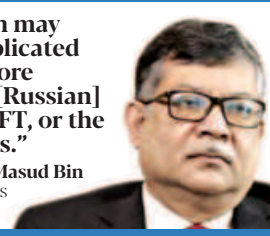


"How does this end? Somebody in Russia has to step up to the plate... and take this guy out."
 US Senator Lindsey Graham calls for Putin's assassination

The Daily Star

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW SECOND EDITION

"The situation may become complicated if there are more sanctions on [Russian] banks or SWIFT, or the big companies."
 Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen on projects involving Russia



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ATTACK ON NUKE POWER PLANT

The West horrified

Kyiv accuses Kremlin of 'nuclear terror'; more civilian casualties as Russia intensifies strikes

AGENCIES

Ukraine accused the Kremlin of "nuclear terror" and the West expressed horror yesterday, after Europe's largest nuclear power plant was attacked and taken over by invading Russian forces.

Blasts lit up the night sky as the plant at Zaporizhzhia came under shell fire, while Russian troops advanced in southern Ukraine and bombarded several cities elsewhere.

Ukrainian firefighters said they were prevented from accessing the site initially, before they were able to douse a blaze at a training facility on the site.

The six reactors at Zaporizhzhia, which can power enough energy for four million homes, were apparently undamaged and international monitors reported no spike in radiation.

The attack killed three Ukrainian soldiers, according to Kyiv's nuclear operator Energoatom, and was slammed in Washington, London and other Western capitals as utterly irresponsible.

"We survived a night that could have stopped the story, the history of Ukraine, the history of Europe," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

An explosion at Zaporizhzhia would have equalled "six Chernobyls", he said, referring to the plant in Ukraine

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Ukrainian service members walk near a school building destroyed by shelling in Zhytomyr, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

28 STRANDED SAILORS

To be evacuated thru' Romania

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Efforts are under way to evacuate the 28 rescued crewmen through Romania, said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

The crewmen are now in a safe place in Ukraine, he told journalists at the foreign ministry yesterday.

The body of deceased third engineer Hadisur Rahman will also be repatriated, he said.

Rahman was killed on Wednesday in a missile or bomb attack on the state-owned vessel Banglar Samridhhi, which has been stranded at the Ukrainian port of Olvia since February 23.

The other 28 on board were rescued with the help of Bangladeshis in Ukraine and the authorities of Olvia port, said a press note from the Bangladesh embassy in Warsaw.

Asked if it could be ascertained which party attacked the ship, Momen said Bangladesh sought to know if from the Russian authorities.

"Russia has condoned the death, but they said they did not do it [attack]. It is very difficult to determine who did it in the fog of war. But Russia said they would let us know exactly what happened."

Quizzed if the Ukrainian authorities have been

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Even jail stay not free

Some prisoners forced to pay staff, inmates for 'better services'

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Arrested for marijuana possession, rickshaw puller Abdul Kuddus landed in Dhaka Central Jail in October 2020.

While he was in quarantine for the first 14 days and in "poor" living condition, some of the prisoners told him his life in jail would be "much better" if he paid them Tk 2,500. They settled for Tk 700 after Abdul informed them what he does for a living.

The money was paid, and Abdul was sent to a ward on the third floor of the jail's "Rupsha" building. After that, he had to pay the ward's in-charge Tk 500 and the food supplier Tk 100 every month for more than a year before he was freed late last year. The money, sent by his wife, a domestic help, made its way inside the prison with the help of some jail guards.

"Whoever pays such money gets

better treatment inside. They get slightly better food, spots to sleep and relatively cleaner washrooms," Abdul told The Daily Star a couple of days ago. "Those who can't pay, keep languishing in the severely cramped conditions of the jail. Their food is bad, and they hardly have enough space to sleep."

Number of jails **68**
 Capacity **42,538** inmates
 Now staying **83,626**

The situation is more or less similar in other prisons, The Daily Star has learnt after talking to at least a dozen people who have got out of the prisons recently.

There is a nexus between some prisoners and prison guards in each jail and it is responsible for such irregularities, they said, adding that the nexus takes money from

inmates, assuring them of better treatment in jail.

Sources at the Department of Prisons said the 68 jails across the country can accommodate 42,538 inmates in total, but there were 83,626 prisoners as of February 24.

As per the jail code, each inmate should get at least 36sqft of space for themselves. But there is one jail -- in Cox's Bazar -- which accommodates inmates six times its capacity, the sources said.

A jail ward is usually around 30-foot long and 20-foot wide. Half that space is designated for 10 prisoners who bribe the nexus while the other half is shared by around 30 prisoners who don't, said a man who was released recently.

"When we couldn't pay them any money, we were forced to sleep in front of the toilet," the man also said, adding that he started paying Tk 400 monthly only to get some

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



SHANE KEITH WARNE (1969-2022)

The spin stops

SAKEB SUBHAN

For some time yesterday, the cricket world stopped spinning.

Disbelief gripped even the most casual cricket fan as one of cricket's most transcendent personalities, arguably its greatest bowler, and inarguably the best leg-spinner, breathed his last.

Australian legend Shane Warne passed away in Thailand last night of a suspected heart attack.

He was 52. Warne tweeted condolences for the death of great Australian cricketer Rodney Marsh just 12 hours

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Volunteers dressed up as characters of *Sisimpur* amuse children at the "Children's Corner" of the Amar Ekushey Boli Mela in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. The fair has dedicated Shishu Prohor (children's hour from 11:00am to 1:00pm on weekends) to make their visit more pleasant. Story on page 3

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PAKISTAN SHIA MOSQUE ATTACK

56 dead, 194 hurt

AFP, Peshawar

At least 56 people were killed and 194 wounded yesterday by a suicide bomb at a Shia mosque in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar, the deadliest attack in the country since 2018.

The blast tore through the Kocha Risaldar area of the city moments before Friday prayers were to start, shattering the interior and showering the streets with broken glass.

It came on the first day of a cricket Test match in Rawalpindi -- around 190 kilometres to the east -- between Pakistan and Australia, who have not toured the country in nearly a quarter of a century because of security concerns.

Muhammad Asim Khan, a spokesman for Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, said the death toll had climbed to 56, the deadliest since a July 2018 blast -- claimed by the local chapter of the Islamic State group -- killed 149 people at an election rally.

He said 50 of the 194 wounded were in "critical condition". No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Muhammad Ali Saif, a spokesman for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government, told AFP the blast was a "suicide attack" and numerous witnesses recounted the moment of detonation.

Ali Asghar saw a man enter the mosque before Friday prayers and open "fire with a

pistol", picking out the worshippers "one-by-one".

He "then blew himself up", Asghar said. "I saw a man firing at two policemen before he entered the mosque. Seconds later I heard a big bang," said another witness, Zahid Khan.

The head of Peshawar's bomb disposal unit, Rab Nawaz Khan, told AFP the attacker detonated five to eight kilograms (two to four pounds) of "highly explosive TNT" packed with ball bearings to amplify the damage.

An AFP reporter saw body parts strewn at the blast site, where desperate family members were held back by police.

Peshawar police chief Muhammad Ijaz Khan told AFP two attackers were involved. He said two police officers were shot at the entrance of the mosque.

"One policeman died on the spot while the other was critically injured," he said.

Muhammad Asim Khan, the spokesman for Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, said "we have declared an emergency at the hospitals and more injured are being brought".

A spokesman for Prime Minister Imran Khan's office said he "strongly condemned" the attack.

Sunni majority Pakistan has recently been battling a resurgence of its domestic chapter of the Taliban, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

BSC put Banglar Samriddhi in harm's way Claims mariners' body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation showed sheer negligence by allowing Banglar Samriddhi to sail to a war zone in Ukraine, claimed leaders of Bangladesh Merchant Marine Officers' Association yesterday.

They also demanded a high-level committee be formed to investigate negligence, if any, on the part of BSC. The attack on the ship caused the death of a Bangladeshi mariner and damage to the state-owned vessel.

Addressing a press conference at its office in Chattogram, BMMOA General Secretary Shakawat Hossain said the vessel's sailing to a war zone could have been avoided and it seems that BSC, the vessel's operating company, showed sheer negligence in this regard.

Who in the BSC gave the vessel permission to go to the war zone?

Its Vice-President Mahbubur Rahman was present.

It is questionable why the vessel entered the Ukrainian port limits on February 22 although the area was declared a war zone by Joint War Committee, a non-government administrative body, on February 15, Shakawat said while reading out a statement.

"We think the decision of sending the vessel to the area even after it was declared a war zone was wrong," he said.

Mentioning the war risk clause of BIMCO (Baltic and International maritime Council), Shakawat said according to the Charter-Party (CP) rules, any ship owning company can issue embargos on the sailing of its ship to a war or piracy-prone region.

Who in the BSC gave the vessel permission to go to the war zone? he asked.

He alleged that no steps were seen immediately to evacuate the sailors after the ship got stranded in the war-torn zone.

The BMMOA leader urged the government to declare late mariner Hadsur Rahman a national hero and demanded bringing back of his body.

In a briefing on Thursday, BSC Executive Director (Commercial) Pijush Dutta said they had to allow the ship to go to the Ukrainian port to abide by the Charter-Party agreement.

"If our [the ship's] insurer gives permission to the ship to go anywhere by taking war risk premium, we have to allow the sailing according to the Charter-Party (CP) agreement."

CP is a document containing all the terms and conditions of the contract between shipowner and a charterer.



A blanket of dust covers the Tongi Bazar bus stop area in Gazipur as part of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway is dug up for implementing a development project. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Time to end Covid-19 policies: IMF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to end the easy policy measures it ushered in to soften the blow of the global coronavirus pandemic, closely monitoring the bank asset quality and inflation, and stand ready to normalise its monetary policy, said the International Monetary Fund.

The Washington-based multilateral agency made the observation at the conclusion of its 2021 article IV consultation with Bangladesh.

During an Article IV consultation, an IMF team of economists visits a country to assess economic and financial developments and discuss the country's economic and financial policies with government and central bank officials.

The team had called in to Bangladesh in December last year and placed their report on the visit before the IMF executive board last week.

"The authorities reacted quickly and decisively to address the economic fallout of the pandemic," the IMF said.

Entering the crisis with macroeconomic stability, the authorities announced support packages equivalent to 6 percent

of GDP with space from curtailing non-priority current spending and suspending low-priority capital projects.

The prompt and decisive policy response to the pandemic has facilitated a faster recovery.

But the time has come to end the Covid-19 policies – although in an orderly manner.

The pandemic has increased the

The caps on interest rates need to be phased out to improve credit allocation.

existing vulnerabilities in the banking sector that could impair medium-term growth, the IMF said.

The caps on interest rates need to be phased out to improve credit allocation.

The multilateral agency stressed the need to strengthen banking regulation and supervision, improve corporate governance and reform legal systems to stem the flow of high default loans, particularly in the state-owned commercial banks.

They urged the authorities to implement the recommendations of the 2021 safeguards assessment and to further strengthen the AML/CFT

framework.

The IMF welcomed the completion of the audits related to COVID-19 spending and urged the authorities to publish them without further delay.

Noting that reserves coverage is adequate, they emphasised the need to safeguard reserves and cautioned against using them for non-monetary purposes.

Growth is expected to pick up to 6.6 percent this fiscal year supported by a robust rebound in exports, continued implementation of the stimulus packages and accommodative monetary and fiscal policies.

On the other hand, inflation is projected to rise to 5.9 percent in fiscal 2021-22 driven by higher international commodity prices, it said.

The mission noted the risks, including the uncertain path of the pandemic, low vaccination rates and vulnerabilities to climate change.

The IMG emphasised that continuing with sound macroeconomic policies, modernising policy frameworks and addressing structural impediments will be key to successfully graduate from the least-developed country status.

To be evacuated

FROM PAGE 1

asked about the matter, Momen said: "They are now busy protecting their land – they can't respond to Bangladesh's queries."

The sailors rescued from the vessel are in a bunker, said Khairunnesa, the mother of Mohammad Omor Faruk Tuhin, the chief engineer of Banglar Samriddhi, at a press briefing arranged by the Bangladesh Merchant Marine Officers' Association (BMMOA) at its office yesterday.

She could speak with her son several times since the vessel got stranded at the inner channel of the Ukrainian port of Olvia, but for the last two days, they could not speak due to poor network on the vessel following the missile attack.

In the last two days, her son managed to send her voice messages and the last message she received was at 9 am yesterday.

A group of Bangladeshi business persons in Ukraine got in touch with BMMOA President Anam Chowdhury offering to help with the evacuation of the sailors, said Md Shakawat Hossain, the association's general secretary, at the press briefing.

The BMMOA connected with the shipping and director-general of the department of shipping, who then set the wheels in motion for the rescue act.

The group coordinated with the shipping and foreign ministries, the Prime Minister's Office as well as the associated offices in Ukraine and Russia and arranged the evacuation of the sailors along with the body of the deceased sailor from the damaged ship by a

tugboat and took them to a bunker in the shore.

They are also arranging for the safe passage of the sailors to another country, Hossain added.

In another development, the Bangladesh government is now fearing disruptions in financial transactions for Russia-funded projects for the sanctions on the Soviet nation by the US, the UK, the EU and the Group of Seven nations.

"The situation may be complicated if there are more sanctions on Russian banks or SWIFT or the big companies," Momen said yesterday.

One of the major projects being implemented with Russian funding is the Rooppur nuclear power plant.

Asked if the project will be affected, Momen said it is not clear yet as the sanctions are still in their initial days.

"At this moment, we are not facing any problem. Everything will depend on the situation in the coming days."

Woman killed

FROM PAGE 12

Noapotong UP Chairman Chanu Mong Marma said, "Villagers of Aluche Para went looking for Chuiramong in the forest as she had not returned home till evening and found her dead near a creek.

"Around a week ago Chuirongma had given her farm house to the woodcutters who were from Tanchangya community to stay," he said, demanding immediate arrest of the culprits.

Even jail stay not free

FROM PAGE 1

"decent" space to sleep.

Those failing to bribe the nexus are sometimes not allowed to use the washrooms when needed. At times, some are forced to give foot massage to convicts and the wards in-charge, several inmates said.

All prisoners get inadequate and low-quality food. The quality dips when they don't pay the bribe, they also said.

"You will have to pay Tk 200 if you want to have a proper dinner or lunch with fish or meat," said an inmate.

Jail officials said they give Khichuri or bread with vegetables or sweets in the morning; rice, lentils and vegetables for lunch; and rice, fish or meat and lentil for dinner.

For comments, The Daily Star tried to reach IG Prisons Brig Gen ASM Anisul Haque over phone repeatedly over the last two weeks. He neither responded to the phone calls nor texted back.

These correspondents went to his office, but he refused to talk on the matter.

Additional IG prisons Col Abrar Hossain and DIG Dhaka Division Touhidul Islam also did not receive phone calls from The Daily Star.

JAIL SITUATION

The Cox's Bazar district jail is among the most congested prisons in the country, accommodating at least 4,508 inmates against its capacity of 830, as of February 27.

Forty inmates were using one washroom. Inmates

also don't have enough water to bathe properly.

As his attention was drawn to the matter, Nesar Alam, superintendent of the jail, said they have taken steps to install two pumps which will supply 10,000 litres of water to the jail every hour. "We are making the arrangements so that prisoners can take a bath twice or even thrice a day. It's because they become exhausted from staying in the crowded conditions for a long time."

Chattogram Central Jail had 7,305 inmates against its capacity of 1,885, said sources at the Department of Prisons.

AKM Fazlul Hoque, deputy inspector general (DIG) of Chattogram division, said they have some limitations, but they were trying their best to ensure better facilities for inmates.

Similar conditions were found in Chapainawabganj and Natore jails – which were accommodating 1,011 and 1,012 inmates against their capacity of 175 and 200 respectively.

Superintendent Abul Kalam Azad said the number of inmates at Sherpur district jail was four times its capacity to accommodate 100.

As many as 10,174 inmates were in the Dhaka Central Jail. It is almost double its capacity.

Asked about the different irregularities there, Senior Jail Superintendent Subhash Chandra Ghosh admitted they have some "inadequacies". He said there might have been some "bad people", including staffers, inside

the jail.

"But we have a strong vigilance, and if anyone is found doing anything illegal, stern action will be taken against them," he said.

Contacted on February 27, Sayed Belal Hossain, additional secretary (jail wing) of the home ministry, said they have already taken multiple projects to increase the jails' capacity. New buildings have been built in a number of jails in districts.

Sources at those prisons, however, said only those paying the bribes were being allowed to stay in the new buildings.

[Our correspondents in Chattogram, Rajshahi, and Mymensingh contributed to this report.]

The spin stops

FROM PAGE 1

before his own death.

Warne's death plunged the cricket world into mourning.

Despite retiring from international cricket as the then highest Test wicket-taker 15 years ago, Warne continues to be close to cricket lovers' hearts.

Twitter was lit up by hundreds of tweets within minutes as people ranging from former and current cricketers such as Viv Richards, Brian Lara, Sachin Tendulkar, Shoaib Akhtar, Wasim Akram, Kevin Pietersen, Adam Gilchrist, Mustafizur Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahim, Virat Kohli, and football legend Gary Lineker to media personalities such as Stephen Fry and Piers

The West horrified

FROM PAGE 1

that was the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986.

"Russian tank commanders knew what they were firing at," Zelensky alleged, adding: "The terrorist state now resorted to nuclear terror."

For its part, Moscow said the attack on Zaporizhzhia was staged by "Ukrainian sabotage groups with the participation of foreign mercenaries".

After phoning Zelensky during the night, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson demanded an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

He accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of "reckless actions" that "could now directly

threaten the safety of all of Europe", and pressed anew for a ceasefire.

Putin, however, has been unrepentant about an offensive that has cast Russia into the economic, sporting and cultural equivalent of exile to Siberia, reports AFP.

Russia has intensified strikes across the country during the nine days of conflict, with fresh reports of civilian casualties and devastating damage, particularly in southern areas near Kherson, the first city to fall to Moscow's troops.

In a second round of talks held Thursday, Moscow agreed to a Ukrainian request for humanitarian corridors to allow terrified residents to

flee.

But there was no clarity on how the corridors would work, and no sign of any move towards a ceasefire.

The port city of Mariupol, east of Kherson, is cut off without water or electricity in the depths of winter.

Mariupol's deputy mayor Sergei Orlov told BBC radio that its humanitarian situation was "terrible", after 40 hours of continuous shelling including on schools and hospitals.

In the northern city of Chernihiv, 33 people died Thursday when Russian forces hit residential areas, including schools and a high-rise apartment block, according to local officials.

DUAA to honour 100 posthumously

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Alumni Association is going to accord posthumous honours to 100 dignitaries to celebrate 100 years of the university.

They will be awarded at the DUAA's get-together held at the central playground of Dhaka University on March 12.

DUAA is observing the centenary with the theme: "Dhaka University Alumni in the Progress of Bangladesh", reads a press release.

Motiul Islam, oldest living student of the university, will be present as the chief guest at the inaugural session presided over by DUAA President AK Azad.

Members are requested to collect their security passes and other materials from the Alumni Floor of the Senate Building between 10:00am and 7:00pm by March 10, the release added.

Swechhasebak League leader in jail for mugging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A Swechhasebak League leader on Thursday landed in jail on charge of snatching money.

Sirajul Islam Robin is the joint secretary of Rangpur district Swechhasebak League.

Citing the case statement, Akhtaruzzaman Pradhan, officer-in-charge of Tajhat Police Station, said Nazmul Shakib, of Alamnagar Khamarpara area of Rangpur city, was going home after withdrawing Tk 50,000 from an ATM booth. Sirajul along with some cohorts forcibly took Shakib to Rangpur Carmichael College campus and took Tk 54,000 from him on February 26, the OC added.

France lifts Covid-19 restrictions on Bangladesh

BSS, *Dhaka*

France has lifted restrictions on Bangladesh and decided to consider it a "Green" listed country with regards to Covid-19.

The French Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Interior said the decision came into effect from Thursday, a handout said here yesterday.

By dint of the latest decision by the French government, travellers from Bangladesh who got vaccinated with vaccines of BioNTech-Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca (Vaxevria/Covishield), and Johnson & Johnson will no more be required to have tests to arrive in France and depart from France.

A proof of a complete vaccination schedule will be sufficient to arrive in France from Bangladesh.

For unvaccinated travellers from Bangladesh, the obligation to present a negative test (RT-PCR) to travel to France will remain effective.

KU teacher sent to jail

UNB, *Khulna*

A Khulna court on Thursday sent a lecturer of Khulna University in a case filed over torturing his wife for dowry.

The court rejected the bail petition of Sadhan Chandra Swarnakar, a teacher of the environmental sciences department.

On January 31, Puja Swarnakar, the accused's wife, lodged the case with the court alleging that her husband tortured her for dowry.

Although the most

'A friendship deeply valued'
PM on Bangladesh-Sri Lanka bilateral cooperation



BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said multi-sectoral bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will be further strengthened in future.

"In recent years, our bilateral cooperation has widened, and I believe it will grow even more through multi-sectoral cooperation, particularly in agriculture, trade, shipping, people-to-people ties, and tourism," she said.

The PM said this in a video message for a virtual event marking the golden jubilee of Sri Lanka's recognition of Bangladesh.

The PM recalled the Sri Lankan prime minister's visit to Bangladesh -- to join the twin celebrations of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence last year -- with gratitude.

"We deeply value Sri Lanka's partnership in our incredible journey towards the attainment of socio-economic emancipation," she said.

In the message, the PM wished good health, happiness, peace, and prosperity for her Sri Lankan counterpart and for the people of Sri Lanka.



Right next to Begum Rokeya Sarani's divider at the Mirpur-10 roundabout, no fewer than 100 garbage vans stand in a queue -- which stretches up to at least 200 yards -- hindering traffic movement and spreading a foul stench throughout the area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

MIRPUR-10

Roundabout turns into garbage-van stand

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Amidst the chaos that is Dhaka, Mirpur-10 stands almost as a perfect representation of the city's frenzy, albeit with a bizarre aesthetic of its own.

On one corner, there are furniture and hardware shops, and on the other are hospitals. Then come the shopping complexes, street vendors and restaurants.

However, this diverse landscape is not free from the complexities that surround Dhaka, one of them being waste management.

Right next to Begum Rokeya Sarani's divider at the Mirpur-10 roundabout, no fewer than 100 garbage vans stand in a

queue -- which stretches up to 200 yards -- hindering traffic movement and spreading a foul stench throughout the area.

The vans start to arrive around 10:00am and stay there pretty much the entire day.

According to garbage collector Rustom Ali, the issue comes down to the timing of when the vans collect garbage from households and when city corporation trucks pick it up from them.

This process continues till midnight -- making the traffic situation even worse.

Earlier, the city corporation allowed the vans used to make two trips, one in the morning and another in the evening. However, that directive changed after a Dhaka North City Corporation garbage

truck hit a motorbike in Panthapath last year. Since then, the official timing shifted solely to evening shifts.

Despite the directive, the situation is still as chaotic as ever.

"The city corporation told us to collect waste in the afternoon and evening, but most people dump waste in the morning and don't want to keep it there the entire day. Since we charge them Tk 100 per month, we have to listen to them -- and hence, we collect the waste in the morning," Rustom said.

What adds to the crisis is the absence of permanent secondary transfer station (STS).

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

No mandatory dope tests at the moment

Necessary rules still not enacted, as lab facilities insufficient

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The government move to make dope tests mandatory for all public and private recruitment as well as university admissions will take some time to implement, as necessary rules of the narcotics act are yet to be enacted, due to lack of sufficient test facilities.

A draft of the rules has already been formulated, and once the rules are enacted, even a salesperson of a shop will require a negative dope test result to get a job, while aircraft pilots will also require negative result certificate to get licence.

- Move taken to curb drug abuse
- DNC has undertaken project to build 22 testing labs across country
- Tk 156.57-crore project finalised
- DNC testing 60 to 70 people maximum at Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre
- Police already testing recruits, other members suspected to be addicted to drugs

The move is being taken to curb drug abuse, said an official of Narcotics Control Department (DNC).

The draft dope test rules, formulated in light of Narcotics Control Act 2018 (Amended 2020), had been sent to the law ministry for vetting.

The ministry, however, returned it to the home ministry a couple of months ago, suggesting to increase lab facilities first before enacting rules, said the DNC officer, who is involved in drafting the rules.

Following the law ministry's observation, DNC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 5



	Fajr	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 one returned EMPTY HANDED

'Shishu Prohor' sees flock of young readers

DIPAN NANDY

After the entrance of the fair was opened at 11:00am for "Shishu Prohor" (Children's Hour) on the second last Friday of this year's Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, the fair saw an increasing number of sales -- continuing till the closure at 9:00pm. The fair ground was flooded with a sea of book-lovers, none of whom seemed to return empty handed.

During "Shishu Prohor", Halum, Tuktuki and Ikri of the popular cartoon series "Sisimpur" were a delight for the children as always.

Almost all the children were seen immersed in new books. Four-year-old Azzan's eyes were set on the book his parents got him, instead of the path ahead.

Little Abanti got a colourful book for herself from the Sisimpur stall, which she likes to call the

"Halum and Ikri stall".

"A special day for children at the book fair is really a wonderful thing. Children have more agency here, and can enjoy the time according to their wish," said Nazmul Ibne Fahim, Abanti's father.



Lipi Khandaker, a mother, said, "The way the children are getting acquainted with books from an early age with special segments like the 'Shishu Prohor', will help them develop their creativity."

Imran Hasan, sales officer of Shishubela Prakashan, said that sales are relatively better this time.

Parents are handing over all sorts of great books on various subjects to their children.

Meanwhile, Daily Star Books is at the fair with books for readers of different tastes.

Asik Mir, who is in charge of the stall, said people are coming from all parts of the capital every day to get books of their choice. However, sales on Fridays are always better compared to other days.

According to Rabin Ahsan, proprietor of Shraavan Publications, sales are expected to increase with each passing day now.

A discussion programme titled "Remember: Gaziul Haque and Sikandar Abu Jafar" was held on the fair's main stage yesterday. Secretary of cultural affairs ministry Md Abul Mansur presided over the function, which was followed by a cultural programme in the evening.



Amar Ekushey Boi Mela saw an increasing number of sales on its 18th day, also the second last Friday of the fair. What helped accelerate the sales was the "Shishu Prohor" organised for children. The venue was flooded with a sea of book-lovers, none of whom returned empty-handed.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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MOVE IN THIS FALL

Good

FROM PAGE 12
 important during period. However, using soap or vaginal hygiene products are not recommended as they may cause irritation and rashes. Discarding used sanitary napkins properly is a very important step of menstrual hygiene. It ensures prevention of bacteria and infection spread.

If you are using a period cup, which is gaining popularity increasingly due to its sustainability, please follow the instructions of how to clean it properly before and after use. Also make sure to use a good product.

In case of tampons, make sure to not leave it in for too long to avoid infection as well as toxic shock syndrome (TSS).

You should also try to make healthy food choices during period. Drink plenty of water, eat more fruits and vegetables and less fried

and oily foods. Caffeine intake and smoking should be avoided during period. Light exercises are also recommended.

Two 'Al-Badr'

FROM PAGE 12
 Kohinur later went to Pakistan. From there, he moved to Japan with a Pakistani passport. After returning to Bangladesh in 1990s, he started living in Dhaka. The ACC official said Alamgir, who hails from Chatutia village in Gopalpur, was involved in mass killings by the Pakistani occupation army as one of its local collaborators.

Meanwhile, Gopalpur upazila Muktiyoddhya Sangsad brought out a procession and staged a rally in the municipality town on Thursday night after the arrest of the two. It demanded capital punishment for the arrestees.

No mandatory dope

FROM PAGE 3
 has undertaken a project to build 22 dope testing labs all over the country. Three of the labs will be in Dhaka. DNC has finalised a Tk 156.57-crore project and has already sent papers to the planning commission for approval to build labs and recruit around 110 staffers, mainly chemists and lab technicians, said another DNC official, wishing anonymity.

Currently, DNC has 1,853 staffers. DNC is currently conducting dope tests at its Central Drug Addiction Treatment Centre in the capital's Teigaon, with a daily capacity of testing 60 to 70 people. The project will be implemented as soon as possible, said DNC Director General Md Abdus Sabur Mondal. Police have already initiated the process of

testing all recruits and other members suspected to be addicted to drugs.

In the last two years, 106 members of DMP have lost jobs for failing the dope test, said a top DMP official.

Ishrat Chowdhury, additional secretary (narcotics wing) of home ministry's Security Service Division, said rules regarding dope tests are yet to be formulated.

Replying to a query, she said there is no legal bar for any organisation to conduct tests, although there are no rules.

She said when the rules are finalised, a circular will be issued making dope tests mandatory for all.

Dr Farid Hossain Miah, director (hospitals and clinics) of Directorate General of Health Services, thinks testing such a huge number of people will not be a problem, once the rules are enacted.

Roundabout

FROM PAGE 3
 The nearest one is at Taltola, which is still around 2 kilometres away and is already overloaded

with waste from nearby areas.

Due to the lack of STSs and operational garbage trucks during the day, the garbage-filled vans are kept next to the main road's dividers.

"Imagine selling fruits next to garbage vans. People do not want to come here to purchase," said Mohammad Hasan, a fruit vendor. "The situation worsened since November last year."

"We are losing business because of the garbage vans," he added.

Anisur Rahman, a building caretaker at East Shewrapara, said, "We keep the household waste from each flats in a large drum in front of the building. If

the workers do not collect the waste, then it creates a problem too, as we don't want to keep it there the whole day."

Acknowledging the problem, DNCC chief waste management officer Commodore Shariful Islam said, "We have stopped collecting waste during daytime since the accident. We know this is creating a lot of issues."

"If the vans collect waste from the buildings in the evening, it will solve the problems to a great extent," he said.

"We need an STS for the area and are currently looking for space to make one. It's a difficult and time-consuming process," he added.

Tales that need

FROM PAGE 5
 Kumar Pandey had a political trail since the anti-British movement. He was jailed for 15 days during the Language Movement and for a month during the 1965 India-Pakistan war.

Birendranath Sarker had pleaded the case of the Tebhaga movement leader Ila Mitra, and worked for Press Trust of India (PTI). He was also the founding president of Rajshahi Press Club.

KILLING OF BIRENDRANATH
 Lawyer Ankur Sen chronicled the killing.

In 1971, Ankur Sen, then 18, was Sarker's neighbour. His father Goura Mohon Sen was an assistant (muhuri) to Sarker. Sarker lived alone in his two-storey house at Sasitola.

At 10:45pm, Sarker and two of his companions -- Barendra Museum curator Shachin Shidhanta and lawyer Ronesh Moitra -- were with him when the Pakistan military knocked on his door. Shidhanta and Moitra fled to Sen's house.

"I saw his [Sarker's] motionless body on the blood stained bed."

THE UNSUNG HEROES
 Despite their sacrifices, authorities barely took any initiative to protect the duo's legacy. Although there's a road named after Suresh Pandey, not much was done in memory of Birendranath Sarker, family members said.

Suresh's son Shoven said a memorial museum was established at Birendranath's house with his belongings after the war and a classroom of Munnujan Government Primary School was named after Pandey in the early 2000s.

They haven't been enlisted as martyrs yet.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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স্মারক নম্বর: ০৫.৪৬.৩৬০০.০০৪.০১.১০২.২০২২-

তারিখ: ২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

হবিগঞ্জ জেলায় উপজেলাসমূহের ৭৮ (আটাত্তর) টি ইউনিয়ন পরিষদে কর্মরত গ্রাম পুলিশ (দফাদার ও মহল্লাদার) দের পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি (তফসিল 'খ') সরবরাহ প্রাপ্তির নিমিত্ত PPR, 2008 (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) অনুসরণে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান (তফসিল "ক") করা যাচ্ছে। ১ম পর্যায়ের সিডিউল ২য় পর্যায়ের ব্যবহার করা যাবে না। ১ম পর্যায়ের যোগ্য ও কাঙ্ক্ষিত দরদাতা পাওয়া না গেলে ২য় পর্যায়ের জন্য দরপত্র বিক্রয় উন্মুক্ত থাকবে। একইভাবে ২য় পর্যায়ের যোগ্য ও কাঙ্ক্ষিত দরদাতা পাওয়া না গেলে ৩য় পর্যায়ের জন্য দরপত্র বিক্রয় উন্মুক্ত থাকবে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যোগ্যতা ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউল ফরমে সংযুক্ত থাকবে।

তফসিল "ক"

ক্রঃ	বিবরণ	বিত্তারিত তথ্য (তফসিল "ক")
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	জেলা প্রশাসক, হবিগঞ্জ।
০৩	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরে হবিগঞ্জ জেলায় ৭৮ (আটাত্তর) টি ইউনিয়ন পরিষদে কর্মরত গ্রাম পুলিশ (দফাদার ও মহল্লাদার)দের পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ।
০৪	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র	স্মারক নম্বর: ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০১৮.০২.০০১.১৭(অংশ-১)-৪৩৬, তারিখ-২৯.১০.২০২১ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ।
০৫	সম্পন্ন পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
০৬	সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), সিলেট। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), হবিগঞ্জ। গ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, হবিগঞ্জ।
০৭	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১ম পর্যায়: ২০.০৩.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ (অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত) ২য় পর্যায়: ০৩.০৪.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ (অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত) ৩য় পর্যায়: ১৭.০৪.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ (অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত)
০৮	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১ম পর্যায়: ২৭.০৩.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ, বেলা-১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ২য় পর্যায়: ০৭.০৪.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ, বেলা-১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ৩য় পর্যায়: ২১.০৪.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ, বেলা-১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
০৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের স্থান	ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), সিলেট। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), হবিগঞ্জ। গ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, হবিগঞ্জ।
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১ম পর্যায়: ২৭.০৩.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ, বিকাল ০৩:০০ ঘটিকা জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, হবিগঞ্জ। দরপত্রদাতার সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) ২য় পর্যায়: ০৭.০৪.২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ, বিকাল ০৩:০০ ঘটিকা জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, হবিগঞ্জ। দরপত্রদাতার সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)
১১	দরপত্র সিডিউলের ক্রয়মূল্য	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অক্ষরলেখযোগ্য)
১২	পোশাক সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের মেয়াদকাল	পোশাক সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের মেয়াদকাল কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির পর ৪৫ (পঁয়তাল্লিশ) দিন।
১৩	বায়নার/জামানতের টাকা	দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত মূল্যের ১০% টাকা জামানত হিসাবে "জেলা প্রশাসক, হবিগঞ্জ" এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৪	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রাদি ও নমুনা দাখিল করতে হবে।	ক) দরপত্র দাতার সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১(এক) কপি, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের কপি, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের কপি, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন কপি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক প্রদত্ত হালনাগাদ আর্থিক সচ্ছলতার [কমপক্ষে ২০ (বিশ) লক্ষ টাকার ব্যাংক ভারদায়/স্থিতি] প্রত্যয়নপত্র, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র [প্রকৃত পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ২০ (বিশ) লক্ষ বা তদুর্ধ্ব টাকার গ্রাম পুলিশদের পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি অথবা সমাজতীয় মালামাল সরবরাহ করেছেন মর্মে গত ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ০১(এক) টি একক কার্যাদেশসহ অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র] দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং দরপত্র মূল্যায়নকালে মূল সনদপত্রসমূহ প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। খ) দরপত্রের সাথে প্রত্যেকটি সরঞ্জামাদির নমুনা অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৫	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত মূল্য অংকে ও কথায় স্পষ্টভাবে লিখতে হবে। দরপত্রে কোনো প্রকার কাটা-ছেঁড়া, ঘষা-মাছা বা ফুইড ইত্যাদি ব্যবহার করা হলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। খ) গৃহীত দরপত্রদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ০৭ (সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে নিজ খরচে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা মূল্যের নন-জুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পে জেলা প্রশাসক, হবিগঞ্জ কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্তাবলী সন্নিবিষ্ট চুক্তিপত্র সম্পাদন করতে হবে। গ) দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কার্যক্রম PPA, 2006 ও PPR, 2008 (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) অনুসরণসহ ব্যক্তিগত আর্থিক বিধি-বিধান অনুযায়ী করা হবে। ঘ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য এবং শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত থাকবে। এছাড়া উক্ত শর্তাবলী ও পোশাকের কাপড়ের নমুনা নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসের স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা (স্মারক নম্বর-২১৩) হতে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। ঙ) মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদির দর/গণপত্র মান যাচাই-বাছাই পূর্বক সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে। চ) মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। ছ) কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোনো দরপত্র আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল এবং চাহিদা অনুযায়ী দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদির সংখ্যা কম-বেশি/সমস্বয়/যে কোন ধরনের পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্তন করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

তফসিল "খ"

ক্রঃ	গ্রাম পুলিশদের জন্য পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদির নাম	পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদির বিবরণ ও পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
০১	জামা	দুইটি (০২) জামা, (জামা ১টি ফুল, ১টি হাফ) নীল রং	দফাদার:
০২	প্যান্ট	দুইটি (০২) প্যান্ট, খাকি রং	৬৮ (আটষাট) জন
০৩	সোজার ব্যাচ	টোকিনারের জন্য লাঙ্গ রং এর সোজার ব্যাচ, ইউনিয়ন কমান্ডার/দফাদারের জন্য সোজার ব্যাচে কালো কাপড়ের রিবন ২টি করে।	মহল্লাদার: ৬২৪ (ছয়শত চকিশ জন); পুরুষ ৫৩৯ জন এবং মহিলা ৮৫ জন। মোট পুরুষ ৬০৭ জন এবং মোট মহিলা ৮৫ জন। সর্বমোট ৬৯২ জন।
০৪	বেস্ট	প্রত্যেকের ০১(এক) টি করে।	নি. প্র.
০৫	শাড়ি (মহিলা পুলিশের ন্যায়)	মহিলা পুলিশের ন্যায় গ্রাম পুলিশের পোশাক সরঞ্জামাদি	জনবল এবং বরাদ্দের ভিত্তিতে পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির সংখ্যা কম-বেশি হতে পারে।
০৬	শীতের জামা	পুরুষ গ্রাম পুলিশদের জন্য ০১ (এক) টি করে জ্যাকেট। মহিলা গ্রাম পুলিশদের জন্য ০১(এক) টি করে কাটিগান।	
০৭	কাপড়ের জুতা	প্রত্যেকের জন্য উন্নতমানের কাপড়ের জুতা ১ জোড়া করে	
০৮	ছাতা	প্রত্যেকের জন্য ০১ টি করে ছাতা (গ্রাম পুলিশ মনোমালমতসহ)	
০৯	বাঁশী ও লাঠি	প্রত্যেকের ০১(এক) টি করে লায়নার বাঁশী ও বেতের লাঠি	

দরপত্রের নিয়ম ও শর্তাবলী

০১. দরপত্র অবশ্যই সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং খামের উপর "দফাদার ও মহল্লাদারদের পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের দরপত্র" উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে।
০২. নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে এবং দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত মূল্য অংকে ও কথায় স্পষ্টভাবে লিখতে হবে। দরপত্রে কোনো প্রকার কাটা/ছেঁড়া, ঘষা-মাছা বা ফুইড ইত্যাদি ব্যবহার করা হলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দরপত্রের নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে সিল, স্বাক্ষর ও তারিখ প্রদান করতে হবে এবং দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের প্রতি পুষ্টীয় দরপত্রদাতার স্বাক্ষর থাকতে হবে।
০৩. দরপত্রদাতা/দাতাগণকে দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত মূল্যের ১০% টাকা জামানত হিসাবে "জেলা প্রশাসক, হবিগঞ্জ" এর অনুকূলে যে কোনো তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করতে হবে। গৃহীত দরপত্রদাতার জামানতের ১০% টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বিল পরিশোধের ০৩ (তিন) মাস পর ফেরত দেওয়া হবে।
০৪. দরপত্রের সাথে প্রত্যেকটি সরঞ্জামাদির নমুনা অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। সফল দরপত্রদাতার দাখিলকৃত নমুনার সেট চূড়ান্ত বিল পরিশোধের ০৩ (তিন) মাস পর ফেরত দেওয়া হবে।
০৫. দরপত্র দাতার সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ (এক) কপি, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের কপি, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের কপি, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন কপি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক প্রদত্ত হালনাগাদ আর্থিক সচ্ছলতার [কমপক্ষে ২০ (বিশ) লক্ষ টাকার ব্যাংক ভারদায়/স্থিতি] প্রত্যয়নপত্র, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র [প্রকৃত পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ২০ (বিশ) লক্ষ বা তদুর্ধ্ব টাকার গ্রাম পুলিশদের পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি অথবা সমাজতীয় মালামাল সরবরাহ করেছেন মর্মে গত ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ০১(এক) টি একক কার্যাদেশসহ অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র] দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং দরপত্র মূল্যায়নকালে মূল সনদপত্রসমূহ প্রদর্শন করতে হবে (সকল সনদপত্রের কপি ১ম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে)।
০৬. দরপত্র দাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠান সরাসরি কোন অফিস কর্তৃক মামলা/কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় মর্মে অঙ্গীকারনামা দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্রদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠান সরাসরি কোন অফিস কর্তৃক মামলা/কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় মর্মে অঙ্গীকারনামা দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
০৭. দরপত্রদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ০৭ (সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে নিজ খরচে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা মূল্যের নন-জুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পে জেলা প্রশাসক, হবিগঞ্জ কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্তাবলী সন্নিবিষ্ট চুক্তিপত্র সম্পাদন করতে হবে।
০৮. সফল দরপত্র দাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির পর সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার এর কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগকরত গ্রাম পুলিশ প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে প্রত্যেক দফাদার ও মহল্লাদারদের পোশাক ও জুতার মাপ নিজ উদ্যোগে সঙ্গ্রহপূর্বক সঠিক মাপ অনুযায়ী পোশাক, জুতা ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করতে হবে।
০৯. ফুল প্যান্টের পিছনে ০১টি পকেট এবং স্বাভাবিক নিয়মে ০২টি পকেটসহ মোট ০৩টি পকেট দিতে হবে এবং ফুল শার্ট চাকনাসহ ০২টি পকেট ও উভয় কাঁরের উপর '৬ X ২' পরিমাপের ০১টি করে ফিতা দিতে হবে। ফুল প্যান্টের কোমরের ইটের লাইনিং এবং পকেট কালার ম্যাচিং গ্যাবারডিন কাপড়ের হতে হবে।
১০. সফল দরপত্র দাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ৪৫ (পঁয়তাল্লিশ) দিনের মধ্যে পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি নিজ খরচে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। প্রদর্শিত পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত হওয়ার পর নিজ খরচে (পৃথক পৃথক প্যাকেটে) সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়ে উপস্থিত হয়ে গ্রাম পুলিশ প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে দফাদার ও মহল্লাদারদের নাম অনুযায়ী গ্রাম পুলিশদেরকে সরবরাহকৃত মালামাল এর বিঘয়ে উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের নিকট হতে প্রত্যয়ন পত্রসহ চূড়ান্ত বিলের জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। আংশিক মালামাল গ্রহণ বা আংশিক বিল প্রদান করা হবে না। সরবরাহকৃত পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি ছোট/বড়/নমুনা সরঞ্জামাদির সাথে মিল না থাকিলে/যে কোন ধরনের অসঙ্গতি হলে প্রয়োজন অনুসারে পরিবর্তন করে ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে সঠিক মাপ/মান মোতাবেক পুনরায় সরবরাহ করতে হবে।
১১. দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদির পরিমাণ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত পরিমাণের কম বা বেশী অথবা যে কোন পরিবর্তন হতে পারে। গৃহীত মূল্যে নির্দিষ্ট সংখ্যক পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করতে বাধ্য থাকবেন। কোন আইটেম সম্পূর্ণ বা আংশিক পরিবর্তন/বাতিল দিলেও ঠিকাদার কোন আপত্তি করতে পারবেন না।
১২. নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে মালামাল সরবরাহ করতে ব্যর্থ হলে জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত করাসহ কার্যাদেশ বাতিলপূর্বক পরবর্তী সফল দরপত্র দাতার (অনুমোদিত দরে পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করতে সম্মত হলে) অনুকূলে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে অথবা পরবর্তী পর্যায়/পুনরায় দরপত্র কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে।
১৩. চূড়ান্ত বিল হতে বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাট ও আয়কর কর্তন করা হবে। এ ছাড়া সরকারি নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক অন্যান্য কর/ফি (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
১৪. দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা মূল্যায়ন কার্যক্রম PPA, 2006 ও PPR, 2008 (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) এবং অন্যান্য বিধি বিধান অনুসারে করা হবে এবং মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদির দর/গণপত্র মান যাচাই-বাছাই পূর্বক সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে। সর্বনিম্ন দরদাতার অনুকূলে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করতে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নহেন। মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। উল্লিখিত শর্ত/শর্তসমূহ লঙ্ঘন করলে দরপত্র/কার্যাদেশ বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
১৫. কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোনো দরপত্র আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল এবং চাহিদা অনুযায়ী দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির সংখ্যা কম-বেশি/সমস্বয়/যে কোন ধরনের পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্তন করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(ইশরাফ আহান)

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY
 BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, (BRAC JGPSPH) invites applications for the position of **Research Coordinator** for the project named "A Media Experiment to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence". Besides experience in managing surveys and field staff in developing countries is strongly preferred.
Education: Bachelor's degree in economics, public policy, or other quantitative social science disciplines (Master's degree preferred)
Experience: as a survey expert or in managing surveys and field staff in developing countries is preferred.
Salary: Negotiable | **Job Location:** BRAC JGPSPH, Head Office, Mohakhali
 Suitable Individuals are interested in applying for this consultancy must submit their CV along with cover letter to HR, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University through email: recruitment.sph@bracu.ac.bd by March 09, 2022.

Invitation to submit proposals for two (2) Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

1) RFP No. LRPS-9173531: Installation & Maintenance of Electronic Access Control System at UNICEF Cox's Bazar Field Office under Long Term Arrangement (LTA)

2) RFP No. LRPS-9173533: Assessment, design, installation, and maintenance of central fire alarm system for UNICEF Cox's Bazar Field Office and Warehouse under Long Term Arrangement (LTA)

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above required services under one contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"

Site Visit and Pre-bid Meeting Date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP.**

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Wednesday, 23 March 2022; Time: 11:00 Hrs.**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org.bd

unicef for every child

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2022-9173530

Request for Proposal (RFP): Installation, commissioning and maintenance of Central Medical Gas Pipeline System by manifold in 60 Upazila Health Complexes of Bangladesh to improve oxygen supply for hypoxemia management of COVID patients

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"

Pre-bid Meeting Date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP.**

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Monday, 21 March 2022; Time: 11:00 Hrs**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org.bd

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World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. RFP/BAN/2022/007: Development of a "Monitoring and Evaluation framework and Baseline report of mental health services in four selected districts of Bangladesh".

Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 20 March 2022**

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Country Office for Bangladesh, House SW 1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

CITY

Appoint local experts for energy policy

Demand Bapa, BEN STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should enact new energy policy by incorporating local experts, said two green organisations yesterday. The demand was placed during a press conference organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

"Even after 50 years of independence, why will we prepare our development plan through foreign experts? We demand a stop to appointing consultants and taking foreign prescriptions," said Dr Nazrul Islam, founder of BEN.

The press conference was held to unveil final proposals of an annual conference held on February 11-12 on "Energy, climate and sustainable development".

At the conference, they demanded construction of an environment-friendly road from Teesta to Kurigram, demolishing the flyover.

Sixty papers were presented at the two-day event, of which 18 were written by foreigners or expatriates.

Bapa General Secretary Sharif Jamil presented proposals there.



Birendranath Sarker's home.



Suresh Pandey's home at present.

Tales that need to be told

50 years since independence, still no recognition for Rajshahi's heroes

ANWAR ALI

It was a dark summer night of April 2, 1971. Everyone was tucked away in their homes because of the ongoing curfew. On that silent night, a twenty-one year old Shoven Kumar Roy went to bed early, unaware that life, as he knew it, wouldn't be the same anymore.

Around 11:15pm, Roy woke up as if he felt a jolt. He had heard the rumblings of a jeep pulling over at their two-storey residence in Rajshahi town's Fudkipara.

From the jeep a Pakistani soldier with a rifle stepped out, shouting -- "Where is



Birendranath Sarker



Suresh Pandey

gate, in fear of aggravating the soldier's temper.

Roy, his brother and mother followed closely. Their hearts were racing as they watched Pandey converse with the soldier.

The conversation was short, and the soldier told him to go back inside, as if nothing happened.

But as soon as he turned, a bullet pierced through his head, tearing out his eye from the socket. In one loud thump, Pandey's lifeless body fell to the ground, right before his family.

Roy's mother started to wail, but the grief evaporated and gave way to duty as soon as she saw her sons' expressionless faces. She rushed to wrap a muffler around her husband's head and gave him his last sip of water. Roy, bereft of any emotion, watched as his father took his last breath.

Soon enough, Roy learnt that local Razakars helped the Pakistan army locate their house.

He also learned that Birendranath Sarker was killed at his Sasitola house, only half an hour before Suresh Pandey's murder. Sarker was a lawyer, a journalist and a footballer, well known in the neighbourhood.

Both Pandey and Sarker were targeted since they had strongholds in their communities, said Ruhul Amin Pramanik, a freedom fighter and writer.

The deaths sent ripples of terror across Rajshahi and its surrounding districts, making hundreds of people flee to India and back to villages, Pramanik said.

"None of us could imagine the horror we witnessed," said Roy, now 72, describing his experience to The Daily Star.

According to researchers, Suresh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Pandey?" -- in his native tongue.

Panicked, his father, Suresh Kumar Pandey, the then vice chairman of Rajshahi Municipality, rushed to open the



With schools being closed on Friday, these kids seem to be relishing the gifts of seasonal change, throwing dry leaves at each other for play. New leaves have greeted the barren trees, signaling a ray of hope and delight, which seems to have transposed onto the children's spirits. This photo was taken in Ishal city's Horinafulia area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

'Bangladesh Day' marked at Kolkata Book Fair

BSS, Dhaka

"Bangladesh Day" has been celebrated for two days at the 45th Kolkata International Book Fair.

The celebrations started on Thursday. People from all walks of life, including writers, readers and publishers from West Bengal, have enthusiastically participated in the cultural programme organised at SBI Auditorium for the observance of Bangladesh Day.

Several seminars on Bangabandhu, the Liberation War and Bangladesh were also arranged on the occasion. Commemorating the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, various programmes were organised this year.

The book fair started on February 28 and will continue till March 13. Bangladesh is the focal theme country for the fair's 45th edition.

CHERA DWIP Torn apart by tourists

MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

Defying the government's directives, a large number of tourists regularly visit Chera Dwip, the southernmost island of Bangladesh.

Such rampant visits of tourists pose immense risk of environmental degradation on the island, an extension of St Martin's Island under Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila.

Locals and environmentalists said while visiting the island, tourists indiscriminately dump waste on its shores and adjacent waters, leading to great environmental pollution.

Normally, tourists visit St Martin's Island by taking ships from Teknaf. After they reach St Martin's Island, a group of unscrupulous boaters offers the tourists trips to the beautiful Chera Dwip.

Locals alleged that this illegal practice is going on right under the nose of the authorities, due to a lack of surveillance from their part.

This is made all the more unfortunate as recently the prime minister has issued a 13-point directive to protect St Martin's Island.

Following the directive, local upazila administration took up various measures to remove waste and illegal structures from the island.

The directive also imposed an embargo on tourists' visit to Chera Dwip. But it remains grossly unimplemented.

As a result the island's biodiversity and eco-system is slowly reaching the verge of ruin. Locals and environmentalists said if this continues, the island will be in great danger soon enough.

However, St Martin's Island union parishad chairman Mujibur Rahman recently told the media he was yet to get any directives over imposing the ban on visiting Chera Dwip.

"I will start a campaign to stop visits to Chera Dwip after getting necessary documents regarding the ban," he said.

Contacted, Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Parvez Chowdhury said, "I have held meetings with boat owners. They assured me to not carry tourists to Chera Dwip. If any boat violates the rule, we will take action against them."

Asked, Azaharul Islam, assistant director of Department of Environment, who is in charge of St Martin's Island, said, "Visits will stop, if the boaters agree to stop carrying them."

Ctg RMG factory catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire broke out on the fifth floor of the seven-storey factory building of Saj Fashion Limited in Chattogram EPZ area yesterday.

The fire raged on for nearly two hours and damaged several machineries and multiple pieces of office equipment of the company, said Newton Das, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters in Agrabad.

According to Newton, no one was reported to be injured, as the factory was closed at the time of the incident. Only a few staffers were working inside at that time, he said.

"The fire broke out around 12:10pm," informed the deputy assistant director.

"Fire fighters from Agrabad, Bayezid, Kalurghat and Boalkhali fire stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze two hours later," he added.

Fire officials said they are yet to ascertain the cause of the fire or the extent of damage it caused.

A committee will be formed to probe the issue, informed the officials.

1 killed, 2 hurt as truck hits motorbike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A motorcyclist was killed and two of his pillion passengers were injured, as a truck hit their bike in Dinajpur yesterday.

The truck hit the motorbike from behind at a level crossing on Dinajpur-Gobindaganj road in Birampur upazila, as the trucker lost control over the vehicle while he was in a race with another truck, said police.

Md Azizur Rahman (58) from Begumpur village in Birampur died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said Suman Mohanta, officer-in-charge of Birampur Police Station.

Police seized the truck.

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১২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন
উত্তরা, ঢাকা

তারিখ: ০৩/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

The Public Procurement Act-2006 & The Public Procurement Rules-2008 ও ৩য় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের আর ব্যাটালিয়নের নিম্নলিখিত কাজের বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরকারি কর্মকর্তার নির্বাচনের নিম্ন শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীমাবদ্ধকৃত খাতে পৃথক পৃথকভাবে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

০১।	মহাপালাক/বিভাগ	১২ অর্থ বিভাগ/অধিনায়ক/বিভাগ/বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ বিভাগ।			
০২।	সহকারী	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
০৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনারী প্রধান	অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার), ১২ অর্থ পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, সেক্টর-১০, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।			
০৪।	কি কাজের দরপত্র আহ্বান	ক্রমিক নং-১৫ মোতাবেক।			
০৫।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নং	এপিবি(১২)/রেশা-২০২২/১৬৭৪।			
০৬।	তারিখ	তারিখ: ০৩/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ।			
০৭।	কাজের বিবরণ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
০৮।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
০৯।	বাজেট ও আর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব খাত।			
১০।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়া প্রকাশের তারিখ	০৩-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ।			
১১।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২০-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।			
১২।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৩-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১৩।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৩-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১৪।	অধিনায়কের নাম ও ঠিকানা	অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার), ১২ অর্থ পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, বাটী-০৩, রোড-০৩, সেক্টর-১০, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।			
১৫।	দরপত্র তত্ত্বাবধায়ক/সিটিউন বিজ্ঞপ্তিকারী	০১। ডিআইজি এপিবিবি, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা। ০২। অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার), ১২ অর্থ পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, সেক্টর-১০, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।			
১৬।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী অফিস ও দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার), ১২ অর্থ পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, সেক্টর-১০, উত্তরা, ঢাকা'র কার্যালয়।			
১৭।	দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য	ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, খ) টিআইএন নম্বর উল্লেখ্য হালনাগাদের আচরণ পরিপোষের সনদপত্র, গ) জাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, ঘ) নারিকেল/জোড়ার পরিচালকের সনদপত্র, ঙ) অফিসি বস্তুসম্পন্ন সনদপত্র ও PG-2 অনুযায়ী দরপত্র সিটিউনে অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী উল্লেখ থাকবে।			
১৮।	বিবরণ				
ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অনেকেরমতো)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
০১	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টারের বিক্রয়/সেবার কার্যক্রম	১২,০০০/- টাকার, কম/বেশি	৭৪০/-	৪০,০০০/-	২০২১-২২ অর্থ সালে ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার (২০২২ হতে জু/২০২২ পর্যন্ত)
০২	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টারের ৪র্থ পলিগার্মেন্টে প্যাকেজিং/কম্পিউটার/ইন্টারনেট/সফটওয়্যার/হার্ডওয়্যার/সেবার কার্যক্রম	৬,০০০/- টাকার, কম/বেশি	৭৪০/-	১৫,০০০/-	২০২১-২২ অর্থ সালে ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার (২০২২ হতে জু/২০২২ পর্যন্ত)
দরপত্র সম্পাদনারী/বিভাগ					
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোহাম্মদ আহাম্মদ।			
২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার)।			
২১।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	১২ অর্থ পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, বাটী-০৩, রোড-০৩, সেক্টর-১০, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।			
২২।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	☎️০২-৫৫০৯২০৭৭ ☎️০২-৫৫০৯২০৭৩ Email-co12ap@police.gov.bd			
২৩।	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	I) বাজি বা প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা স্বাভাবিকভাবে থাকবে। II) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। III) দরপত্র উন্মুক্তভাবে কেবল অফিসের পরিধায়ে বিক্রয়/সেবার কার্যক্রম হবে। IV) The Public Procurement Act-2006 & Regulation-2008 ও ৩য় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী অবশ্যই মানতে হবে। V) কোন কাজে নির্দেশিত ব্যক্তিদের কর্তৃত্ব সম্পূর্ণ না হলেও দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবে।			
মোহাম্মদ আহাম্মদ ফোন: ১০১০০৯২০৭৩ অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার) ১২ অর্থ পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন উত্তরা, ঢাকা ☎️০২-৫৫০৯২০৭৭ ☎️০২-৫৫০৯২০৭৩ Email-co12ap@police.gov.bd					

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Restricts media

AFP, Moscow
Russian lawmakers yesterday moved to impose harsh jail terms for publishing "fake news" about the army, which a senior lawmaker said will apply to foreigners too, as Moscow moves to muffle dissent over its invasion of Ukraine.
The new legislation sets out jail terms of varying lengths and fines against people who publish "knowingly false information" about the military.
"If the fakes led to serious consequences, (the legislation) threatens imprisonment of up to 15



A child runs towards his father after fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the border checkpoint in Medyka, Poland, yesterday. More than 1.2 million people have fled Ukraine into neighbouring countries since Russia launched its full-scale invasion on February 24. The EU is setting up humanitarian hubs to help Ukraine in eastern member countries. PHOTO: REUTERS

'We are not part of this'
Nato rejects calls for no-fly zone over Ukraine; Zelensky
urges Russians to protest over nuke plant attack

AGENCIES
Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg yesterday said the alliance would not impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine after calls from Kyiv to help stop Russia's bombardments.
"The only way to implement a no-fly zone is to send Nato fighter planes into Ukraine's airspace, and then impose that no-fly zone by shooting down Russian planes," Stoltenberg said after an urgent meeting with Nato foreign ministers.
"If we did that, we'll end up with something that could end in a full-fledged war in Europe, involving many more countries and causing much more human suffering. So that's the reason why we make this painful decision."
Nato members have rushed thousands of troops to eastern Europe to bolster the alliance's flank closest to Russia and are sending weapons to help Ukraine defend itself.
"We will continue to do what it takes to protect and defend every inch of Nato territory. Nato is a defensive alliance. Our core task is to keep our 30 nations safe," Stoltenberg said.
"We are not part of this conflict and we have a responsibility to ensure it does not escalate and spread beyond Ukraine."
The stance by the US-led bloc comes despite appeals from Ukraine's leadership to help halt

indiscriminate bombing against cities around the country, reports AFP.
Stoltenberg warned that "the days to come are likely to be worse, with more death, more suffering, and more destruction as Russian armed forces bring in heavier weaponry and continue their attacks across the country."
Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba addressed the alliance via videolink from Kyiv.
He tweeted afterwards: "My message: act now before it's too late. Don't let (Russian President Vladimir) Putin turn Ukraine into Syria. We are ready to fight. We will continue fighting. But we need partners to help us with concrete, resolute and swift actions, now."
Meanwhile, President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday appealed to Russians to stage protests over Russian forces' seizure of the largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine, reports Reuters.
"Russian people, I want to appeal to you: how is this possible? After all we fought together in 1986 against the Chernobyl catastrophe," he said in a televised address, evoking memories of the world's worst nuclear disaster.
"You have to ... take to the streets and say that you want to live, you want to live on earth without radioactive contamination. Radiation does not know where Moscow is, radiation does not know where the borders of your country are."



WAR CRIMES PROBE
ICC faces
'myriad challenges'

REUTERS, Amsterdam
Images of cluster bombs and artillery strikes on Ukrainian cities this week have prompted the world's top war crimes prosecutor to launch an investigation, with the support of dozens of nations opposed to Russia's invasion.
Karim Khan, a British lawyer named as the chief prosecutor of the ICC last year, said the crisis in Ukraine is a chance to demonstrate that those committing war crimes would be held to account.
Khan had dispatched an advance team of investigators and lawyers to the region.
Noting that his office is overstretched as it conducts 16 cases and trials worldwide, Khan himself acknowledged that the Ukraine investigation represents "myriad challenges, opportunities and difficulties".
"We need everything," he said.

RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE
Developments

AGENCIES
NUCLEAR PLANT SHELLED, TAKEN
A fire at Europe's biggest nuclear power station at Zaporizhzhia is put out after Ukraine accuses Russia of "nuclear terror" in shelling the plant. Russian troops later take the reactors, which generate 40 percent of Ukraine's electricity, after firefighters say they were prevented from reaching the blaze for hours.
33 KILLED IN NORTHERN CITY
Thirty three people are killed as Russian forces hit residential areas, including schools, in the northern city of Chernihiv, the local governor says.



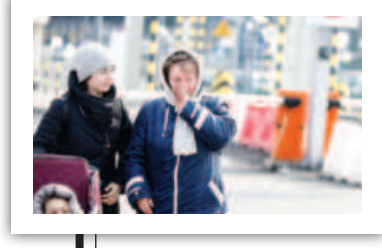
BELARUSIAN FORCES WON'T TAKE PART IN WAR
Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko said yesterday that the Belarusian armed forces were not taking part and would not take part in Russia's military operation in Ukraine. A

close Russian ally, Lukashenko said he spoke to President Vladimir Putin at length by telephone yesterday. Russia has used Belarusian territory to carry out a multi-pronged invasion of Ukraine.
HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS AGREED
Russia and Ukraine agree to create humanitarian corridors to evacuate civilians from as yet unspecified cities.



INVASION GOING 'TO PLAN': PUTIN
Russian President Vladimir Putin says Moscow's advance is going "according to plan".
'ASSASSINATE HIM'
Senior US Republican senator Lindsey Graham calls for "somebody in

Russia" to assassinate Putin.
ZELENSKY CALLS FOR PUTIN TALKS
Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky calls for direct talks with Putin as the "only way to stop the war".
RUSSIA'S BLACK SEA PUSH
Russian forces take the Black Sea port of Kherson as it appears Moscow is trying to cut Ukraine's entire access to the sea, with the besieged port of Mariupol in the east without water or power.



RUSSIANS HEAD FOR FINLAND
Russians pack trains out of the country to Finland, fearful that it is their last chance to escape the impact of swingeing Western sanctions.

LUKOIL CALLS FOR HALT
Sanctioned Russian oil giant Lukoil calls for a halt to fighting in Ukraine, one of the first major domestic firms to speak out against Moscow's invasion.
YANDEX ON ROPES
Russian tech giant Yandex warns it may default on its debt after it was suspended from trading on New York's digital stock exchange.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.
Memo No. 24.03.0000.103.11(7).110.22-43 Date: 03 March 2022

Corrigendum

Subject: Corrigendum to the Invitation for Bid (IFB) "For Development of R.R Textile Mills Site at Sitakundu, Chattogram, Bangladesh through Public Private Partnership (PPP)".

The following change is hereby made against the IFB issue dated 18 January 2022 on the above project:

Reference Section	Existing Clause	Revised Clause
Page 34, Clause 6.4.1	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 07 March 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 06 April 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be the part of IFB Document.

sd/-
Kazi Feroz Hossain
Project Director
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.
Memo No. 24.03.0000.103.06(5).110.22-44 Date: 03 March 2022

Corrigendum

Subject: Corrigendum to the Invitation for Bid (IFB) "For Development of Dost Textile Mills Site at Feni, Bangladesh through Public Private Partnership (PPP)".

The following change is hereby made against the IFB issue dated 18 January 2022 on the above project:

Reference Section	Existing Clause	Revised Clause
Page 34, Clause 6.4.1	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 07 March 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 06 April 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be the part of IFB Document.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.
Memo No. 24.03.0000.103.10(4).110.22-45 Date: 03 March 2022

Corrigendum

Subject: Corrigendum to the Invitation for Bid (IFB) "For Development of Rajshahi Textile Mills Site at Rajshahi, Bangladesh through Public Private Partnership (PPP)".

The following change is hereby made against the IFB issue dated 18 January 2022 on the above project:

Reference Section	Existing Clause	Revised Clause
Page 34, Clause 6.4.1	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 07 March 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 06 April 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be the part of IFB Document.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.
Memo No. 24.03.0000.103.73(4).110.22-46 Date: 03 March 2022

Corrigendum

Subject: Corrigendum to the Invitation for Bid (IFB) "For Development of Magura Textile Mills Site at Magura, Bangladesh through Public Private Partnership (PPP)".

The following change is hereby made against the IFB issue dated 18 January 2022 on the above project:

Reference Section	Existing Clause	Revised Clause
Page 34, Clause 6.4.1	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 07 March 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 06 April 2022, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11 above, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be the part of IFB Document.

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Firecracker explosion in India kills at least 11

AFP, Patna
At least 11 people died in eastern India after a massive explosion at a house where firecrackers were being made illegally, officials said yesterday.
The impact of the blast, which happened Thursday night, also destroyed four adjoining houses, and the sound was heard 15 kilometres (nine miles) away, said the local magistrate of Bhagalpur district in the eastern Bihar state.
"Eleven people have been

Govt planning

FROM PAGE 12
three classes every day. Eighth and ninth graders are having three classes twice a week and sixth and seventh graders three classes once a week.
In-person classes at all primary schools and kindergartens resumed on Wednesday. Classes are being held in two shifts. Students of classes 1 and 2 are attending classes in the first shift and the rest in the second.

New faces

FROM PAGE 12
According to CPB leaders, four presidium posts remained vacant and would be filled later.
Five outgoing presidium members of the party - Lakkhi Chakrabarty, Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandan, Aniruddha Das Anjan, Rafiquzzaman Layek and Abdullah Al Kafee Ratan - did not get any position in the new presidium.
They all, however, secured a place in the central committee.
Besides, Haider Akbar Khan Rono was not at the central leadership because of his health conditions.
The new CPB committee has 11 new faces including Kaberi Gayen, Aslam Khan, Manabendra Deb, Lucky Akter, Nimai Ganguly, Motalab Molla, Ainun Nahar Lipi and Abid Hossain.
Although the outgoing committee had six female members, the new one has 10.

She hired

FROM PAGE 12
advance and promised to give the rest of the money after the job is done," the officer said.
As per the plan, Shefali told her mother to take her to a waz mahfil around 6:00pm on February 10. Sohail accompanied them from CRC intersection on an auto-rickshaw. He gave Minara a soft drink laced with sedatives. They left the auto-rickshaw in Barma area and then took Minara, who had passed out by then, to the forest.
"Shefali hit her mother with a brick. Then she held her mother while Sohail slit her throat," the IO said.



TARGETING CELEBRITIES

just for clout is wrong

NAZIFA TUSHI

I have always wanted to work in films, and after “Ice-Cream”, I felt that I needed to dig deeper into the craft, and different shades of portraying a character realistically.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Starting with “Ice Cream” in 2016, Nazifa Tushi’s focus has always been films. She went on to feature in one of the most successful OTT projects last year, “Networker Baire”.

The joy-chorus turned into chaos when the cast suffered a deadly accident, leaving Tushi with a broken shoulder and a long recovery time. However, the actress is now back with Shihab Shaheen’s “Syndicate”.

We caught up with Tushi to know more about her recent endeavours, and upcoming projects.

You took a break after “Ice Cream”, despite being appreciated for your performance. Why did you stay away from the screen instantly after your debut?

I have always wanted to work in films, and after “Ice-Cream”, I felt that I needed to dig deeper into the craft, and different shades of portraying a character realistically. I was also busy with my studies during that time, but never stopped working on myself as an actor.

I came back with Mejbaur Rahman Sumon’s “Hawa”. With the emergence of OTT platforms, I started to explore this new medium, and have thoroughly enjoyed working here.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NAZIFA TUSHI

You will be seen in Shihab Shaheen’s web series “Syndicate”, with Afran Nisho and Tasnia Farin. How was your experience of working with them?

I was approached for “Syndicate” a while ago, but I was unsure if I could pull it off, as I had to visit India for surgery after the accident in Gulshan. The team of “Syndicate” was kind enough to wait for me, and finally, we managed to shoot for the production.

This is the first time I worked with Shihab Shaheen and Afran Nisho, and they

were very helpful. Farin is one of the nicest people I have known so far, and I loved the experience.

Being my first web series, “Syndicate” left me with loads of good memories, new sides to discover in this line of work, and amazing friends.

You were recently caught up in an incident at the Ekushey Boi Mela, that stirred up a lot of controversies. However, the video violated your personal space... Shooting a video without permission violates one’s privacy, and the incident we

‘Syndicate’ marks the first time I worked with Shihab Shaheen and Afran Nisho, and they were very helpful. Farin is one of the nicest people I have known so far, and I loved the experience.

are talking about was one such instance. I understand that we are public figures, but it is also unethical to only showcase parts of an incident for the sake of views.

That day, I had only demanded them to turn off the camera, but never said that I would not comply with them. Targeting celebrities just for clout is wrong.

What else are you looking forward to? I am already in talks for a few OTT projects and films. The viewers will know more when it’s the right time!

Excited to play Konkon Dashi: Mithila

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rafiath Rashid Mithila is all set to appear in Gias Uddin Selim’s government-granted film “Kajol Rekha”. Based on a 400-year-old Maimansingha Gitika, the actress will be seen donning the unique role of “Kokon Dashi”, for which the shooting will take place next month.

“Gias Uddin Selim wanted me to be part “Kajol Rekha” from a long time, and we spoke about it two years ago. When he asked me at that time about which role I wanted to play in the movie, I instantly told him that I wanted the role of Konkon Dashi, said Mithila.

“Kokon Dashi is quite a unique character. Her ambitions and her quick wit made her one of the most interesting characters in the film. She became known as ‘Kokon Dashi’, for being obsessed with konkon,” mentioned the actress.

“The 400 year old folklore tale is something that the Bengali has known for ages throughout their childhood. I feel truly blessed to be part of this movie,” added the actress.



Mithila with Gias Uddin Selim. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Aishwarya Rai returns to the silver screen after 4 years

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is soon going to be back on the silver screen. Recently, the actress shared the first look of her character in Mani Ratnam’s upcoming period drama “Ponniyin Selvan”.

In the picture, she was dressed in a red and gold saree and kept her hair tied in a side bun.

As per reports, the “Ae Dil Hai Mushkil” star will be playing dual roles, Nandini and Mandakini Devi, in the upcoming historical drama, which is based on the novel, “Ponniyin Selvan” (The Son Of Ponni)

The film will release in two parts, the first part will hit cinemas on September 30 this year.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

SERIES REVIEW

The Fame Game: Madhuri Dixit deserved a better OTT debut

SHABABA IQBAL

In recent years, not only did OTT platforms provide us with some fresh new talents, but also initiated comebacks of several popular Indian actresses of the 90s.

From Karisma Kapoor in “Mentalhood” to Sushmita Sen in “Aarya” and Raveena Tondon in “Aranyak”, Bollywood queens of the 90s served us with unconventional roles that grabbed our attention. So, by no surprise, much anticipation surrounded Madhuri Dixit’s debut web series, “The Fame Game”, released on Netflix on February 25.

Sri Rao, creator-writer of the eight-episode series, in an Instagram post ahead of the show’s release, stated that he created it for Dixit. “My intention was to give her a platform that would do justice to her talent as an actress, and introduce her to global audiences to be dazzled by her star power,” he wrote.

However, with each episode, we realise that the creator is too heavily reliant on that star power, while everything else in the filmmaking crumbles.

The show has an intriguing hook: Anamika Anand (Dixit), a Bollywood superstar, goes missing. The next day, her family is confused, the cops are called, and a media frenzy follows.



Much anticipation surrounded Madhuri Dixit’s debut web series, “The Fame Game”, released on Netflix on February 25.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED



Intercutting the present day with the six months leading up to the incident, the story reveals the truth of Anamika’s seemingly perfect life, delving into the complexity of her relationships with her teenage children, ambitious and pushy mother (Subasini Mulay), emasculated husband Nikhil (Sanjay Kapoor), and co-star Manisha Khanna (Manav

Kaul). As the police investigation furthers at a snail’s pace, the story unfolds lies, deceit, secrets, and tragic family bonds that have left the characters helpless in the present.

It is quite evident – right from the start – that “The Fame Game” is undecided about its tone.

It starts off as a thriller – with an amped up background score, the disappearance of

Anamika, the police investigation – but, in the subsequent episodes, the key investigator vanishes for long stretches, and we get subplots instead that point towards a domestic drama. The confusion among individual stories and unanswered questions fails to make the larger picture gripping enough.

Moreover, even though the show touches upon issues from mental health, to body shaming, nepotism, and the complexity of being a star kid to sexual orientation, it does so as vapid self-congratulatory exercises, rather than deep, nuanced portrayals.

As Anamika, Dixit does it all – she sings, dances, lights up the screen, gets wounded but recalibrates and comes out stronger, especially to protect her kids. The exploration of Anamika’s relationship with her children, who are experiencing their growing pains as star kids harbouring their own desires and ambitions, adds a sensitive touch.

Yet, from Dixit, the role demands nearly zero effort. There are flashbacks and flash-forwards that let her explore her acting range, but it is nothing we have not seen before.

As the police gauges suspects and digs into Anamika’s close ones, the suspense wears off soon too.

By the end, we are left feeling that even Dixit’s much-loved dance and eternal smile are not enough to salvage “The Fame Game”.

“

My intention was to give her a platform that would do justice to her talent as an actress, and introduce her to global audiences to be dazzled by her star power.

SRI RAO
creator-writer of the eight-episode series, wrote in an Instagram post.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Take the pressure off Dhaka and Chattogram

Time to develop secondary cities across Bangladesh

AS buildings soar higher and higher, traffic congestions get worse, air more suffocating, and public amenities spread thinner and thinner to accommodate an ever-increasing number of people, at what point do we say, enough is enough? Despite frequent discussions around the urgency of decentralisation, we have unfortunately done little to address the pressing challenges of unplanned, uncontrolled urbanisation, which poses a major threat to the citizens' standard of living, as well as to the country's GDP growth and sustainable development.

Over the last decade, Dhaka's population has grown by 50 percent, and it has come at a huge cost—between 6 and 10 percent of Bangladesh's GDP, according to a recent study. Experts warn that it will harm the country's future prospects further if measures are not taken to "get urbanisation right."

Dhaka is currently generating one-fifth of the country's GDP and almost half of its formal employment. Such unbalanced growth is simply not sustainable. We wholeheartedly agree with the experts that we must focus on developing secondary, medium-sized cities for balanced structural transformation. We need to move populations away from Dhaka and Chattogram, and create jobs, infrastructures, investment opportunities, public amenities and recreational facilities, and strengthen urban local government institutions to lead that process of change. The government must engage relevant stakeholders and come up with a workable yet ambitious plan to develop these cities and empower the city government accordingly.

As of now, local governments have little fiscal and administrative autonomy, and people's participation in the decision-making process of local governments is severely limited. There is no doubt that we need political commitment to change the status quo. But the question is: Is the government ready to make such a commitment?

It needs to, for its own sake, if not for the sake of its citizens. As economists and urban planners have been pointing out for years, failure to decentralise will have devastating impacts on economic growth in the near future, particularly as more people migrate to the major cities due to climate change. As the pandemic has exposed, unbalanced and intense concentration of the population in the cities can expose the citizens to higher risks of disease, climate impacts and natural shocks. The government needs to focus on developing urban centres in the country's northern part as part of its strategies on climate change litigation and adaptation. Infrastructures and road connectivity need to be improved in the region to bring a balance in urbanisation and trade diversification.

The promise of a playground

DSCC mayor must deliver on his pledge

WE welcome Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh's recent announcement that he would build a playground in every ward. Mayor Taposh has, no doubt, touched a very sensitive chord, as the residents of DSCC have been demanding open space for their children for a long time now. The need for children to go out in the sun and play with their peers was felt by parents even more intensely during the Covid-induced lockdowns. Doctors suggested sunlight and exercise for the young and old alike, but there are hardly any open spaces for either to walk or to play within the city. We appreciate that the DSCC mayor has put due emphasis on this significant aspect, and hope he is committed to going ahead with his plan.

With rapid, and often unplanned, urbanisation sprawling across our cities, open spaces where children could play freely have slowly been consumed by concrete structures or they have just been encroached by local influentials. While children do enjoy staying indoors and playing on digital devices instead, this is far from a healthy practice to encourage. Affluent neighbourhoods of the capital, barred off from the rest of it and much better organised, often have multiple playgrounds and parks dedicated to people of all ages. But this needs to be translated across Dhaka city, and eventually across all major cities in Bangladesh. Children need to be physically active and engage in play with their peers from different socio-economic backgrounds if they are to develop properly throughout the crucial few years of childhood.

Of course, we know of similar projects being delayed beyond comprehension. One such project is the five-acre land in the western corner of the National Parliament building, adjacent to the Mirpur Road, which, as this daily reported in December 2021, was supposed to be turned into a playground for children with special needs in 2011 as per the prime minister's announcement, but is still sitting idle. Thus, we urge the mayor to stick to his words and build a playing field in every ward, setting up playgrounds by recovering the corporation's land in Wards 42, 26 and 13, which have been under illegal occupation for years.

Powerful quarters who encroach on land meant for playgrounds must also be identified and held accountable by the authorities. These connected people often thwart every attempt of city corporation officials to recover the lands from their grip. The city corporation must not bow to such attempts anymore. Our children deserve to play freely under open skies—for their health and their future.

Book Fair: An Affair to Remember



BLOWN' IN THE WIND

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

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

"THE Book (*Le Livre*)" was an ambitious project of the 19th century French poet Stephane Mallarme. He thought of an extremely flexible structure for his "ideal book" that would both contain and reveal "all existing relations between everything." Simply put, he intended his book to be the sum of all other books and experiences. Hence, his project included the details of printing and production, presented as a spectacle. I think the same can be said of a book fair—particularly of *Amar Ekushey Boi Mela*.

A book fair is a happy meeting ground for writers, readers and book lovers, where they all come together to celebrate the written and published words. It offers a wonderful opportunity to discover new writers while acknowledging the old. The new experimental writers poke daringly like wild orchids through the foliage of the tree trunk of writers who define the orchard of classics. But what distinguishes Ekushey book fair from other international or regional book fairs is its sentimental attachments, its cultural heritage.

For the Bengalis, the site of the book fair lends itself to genuine nostalgia. Visiting the fairground after laying floral wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar on the Ekushey (February 21) morning is a ritual with which I grew up in Dhaka. The feeling of being with a crowd of shared interest was emotionally fulfilling and intellectually satisfying. As visitors, we were keen on listening to the intellectuals sharing their thoughts at the Nazrul *Mancha* under the famous banyan tree. During the anti-Ershad movement, there were many street performances and distribution of free chapbooks and lampoons that would spice up our jhalmuri or fuchka. The fair was a ground in which you either longed for or tried to avoid meeting familiar faces, depending on your companions. Displaying the books that I bought after an immense survey of the discounts available was a source of guilty pleasure, notwithstanding the scolding that awaited me from my mother, who would be worried about the accommodation of the new purchase.

Starting in 1972, in the last 50 years, the fair has become a habitus of our cultural marker. It had a modest start with the proprietor of Muktohdara publishing house, Chittaranjan Saha, taking the initiative. The Bangla Academy started formally hosting the fair from 1978, and in 1984 it was named after the martyrs of the Language Movement. The inauguration of the fair by the prime minister, and the conferral of Bangla Academy award for literature have added

further weights to this event.

In retrospect, it is hard to believe that the new variants of the coronavirus almost dampened this year's celebration. Last year, publishers incurred financial losses due to restricted mobility at the height of the pandemic. Casting all doubts aside, the fair has once again become a successful affair. If Facebook is any indicator, there are many new writers who have had their

the international literary fest in the Bangla Academy premises has introduced a different economic class to the fairground. The nature of the fair management has changed due to the osmosis process that took place between the national and the international events.

One focus of the fair should be in encouraging and enhancing visits by children to the event. Visiting the book fair



▲ **For the Bengalis, the site of Ekushey book fair lends itself to genuine nostalgia.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

first publications this year. It would be interesting to have academic research to find out how these pandemic-ridden closures have contributed to creativity and creation of new writers. Relatedly, one can also explore how the "what's on your mind" mode of social media has created a writerly space with a "friendly" audience. Normally, publishers or book/literary editors are the gatekeepers of any culture—they decide who is in and who is not. But on a digital platform, anyone can gauge the interest of their intended audience in their writings. I am not surprised that many of my Facebook friends have compiled their daily compositions to compose their creativity. The endorsements of their "friends" have emboldened them to publish. The hypertext is becoming a text, and eventually shoring up at the fairground. They are the wild orchids who do not need to be rooted in the soil of the old publication houses; they can find their sustenance from the air shared by their virtual readers.

The nature of the festival is, therefore, changing. It is much more democratic and participatory. For a long time, it was dominated by the middle-class civic society in general. To be particular, by the cultural middle class who buy books to read and preserve them at home. This group consisted of the writers, readers and publishers. The dynamics are changing. We have already seen that the holding of

gives children the opportunity to develop their reading preferences. This year, the fair will end on National Children's Day, the birthday of the father of the nation. Can we not have one day dedicated only to children or those accompanying children during the book fair? Different schools can be asked to arrange field trips on that given day.

At a book fair, we are spared the task of looking into every book shop in the city, or browsing through endless online catalogues to find the book that we do not know that we need or want. However, with the growing popularity of e-books and online portals, there could be a day when physical book fairs lose their current appeal. We might lose the chance of going to a fair to find all the bookstores in one place, and the people behind them.

The fear of losing touch with the physical fairground is not without any suspicion. The publishers wait throughout the year for Ekushey book fair. They hope that their investments will pay off during the month-long event. The survival of the publishers and authors depend largely on this fair. To minimise the investment risks, the fair should be spread all across the country; it should not be Dhaka-centric. A coordination at a national level is required to integrate the fair as part of our annual calendar. More importantly, steps are needed to find the right balance between the virtual and the physical.

Can we beat dysfunctional capitalism?



Eahsan Abedin is a student.

EAHSAN ABEDIN

WHOM should I blame when I see the rich and influential speed their expensive cars down the street, as if everything's perfectly fine, while my father, who has been working as an unpaid journalist for the past several months, struggles every day? Dysfunctional capitalism and unrepresentative democracy.

It's clear that capitalism has seen enormous progress over the last few decades. Although it has seen its fair share of positives, it also has major drawbacks. According to the Edelman Trust Barometer, in 2020, 56 percent of people globally believed capitalism is doing more harm than good while a record 83 percent of employees stated that they were fearful of losing their jobs. Capitalism has left numerous people behind, and political institutions have ignored them too. Distrust is fuelled by an increasing sense of systematic inequality and discrimination. The perception is that institutions and the global economy are serving the interests of the few over those of the majority.

Democracy remains an important political ideology designed to protect individual freedom, speech and choice. But the problem lies with the current "delivery system," which is still organised around age-old democratic elements. When political power is captured by the wealthy, the masses begin to distrust the government. Around the globe, voter engagement has declined over the past

decade. There is a growing "representative gap" in politics, with major parties becoming organised around heavily ideology-based policies and biased cultural debates. And while politicians continue to play this sort of identity politics globally, the age-old construct of democracy—one of the founding principles through which modern society was created—becomes "poisoned." While democracy fails to keep checks and balances, people's belief in the systems slowly diminishes, causing the rise of intense nationalism and, ultimately, making way for authoritarian-styled governance in power as people start to believe that is the only solution to real-world problems.

As public participation wanes, the democratic arena is further dominated by external groups with outlandish views, leading to the capture of more democratic processes. Funded by the wealthy minority, the ideas of a few try to engulf the many through their mandates. Politicians play a tug of war with the state itself, not caring about its economy, resources and most importantly, the people. Threatening free press, politicians resorting to the culture of lying with incentivised radical supporters pose a hazard to the face of democracy and capitalism. Research says that nearly half the population worldwide view government and media as divisive forces in society, completely contradictory to the noble cause for which these concepts originated and spread throughout modern humanity. Through disinformation and division, these two institutions continue to feed the cycle and exploit it for commercial and political gains.

Politicians say they spend billions behind infrastructure, security and development projects while they transfer millions of people's taxes to their own pockets. And while the economy plunges with high inequality, we continue the push for weapons and violence. In certain

circumstances, blaming everything on other countries, ethnicities and minorities is a petty way of knowingly fuelling conflict. Personally, it feels awful and extremely unhuman to see our species—soon to become inter-planetary—resort to such means for so-called happiness, growth and development, taking lives and destroying what humanity stands for.

Linking peace and security to sustainable and inclusive development is the way to go at this point. Levelling the playing field, empowering the youth, balancing competence with ethical behaviour can go a long way by spreading capital, creating start-ups and jobs. Business itself has to do enough to address societal problems. More importantly, business leadership must be handed to the people. It's high time we started to encourage an innovative and flexible outlook on policy-making instead of a strict, confining and even violent one. Showing the people that the system works, and giving them credible and honest information, is absolutely critical to breaking this system of distrust. Solutions over divisiveness, honesty and partnership can take us far in terms of building trust. It is not about the voices of the many over the few, because the few are not just wealthy elites running society or a tiny ethnicity fighting hard to keep their language alive, it is about everyone's inclusion in modern-day society. Otherwise, who knows what circumstances the tens of billions of human and other lives will have to go through a hundred years later.

Even though the middle-class is being thumbed down while the wealthy are getting wealthier each day, I wish to believe this planet can still become a better home for its inhabitants. Inequality, crony capitalism and flaws in governing systems will always persist, but without the will to be better, how can we ever change?

Even though the middle-class is being thumbed down while the wealthy are getting wealthier each day, I wish to believe this planet can still become a better home for its inhabitants.

Star

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2022, FALGUN 20, 1428 BS

SPORT

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

Bangladesh vs Afghanistan
Second T20I
Live from 3:00 pm
La Liga
Real Madrid vs Real Sociedad

Live from 2:00 am
(Sunday)

T SPORTS & SONY SIX
Pakistan vs Australia
First Test, Day 2
Live from 10:00 am
STAR SPORTS 1

India vs Sri Lanka

First Test, Day 2
Live from 10:00 am
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
EPL
Liverpool vs West Ham
Live from 11:30 pm

Donald Tigers' new pace bowling coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have taken onboard former South African paceman Allan Donald as the new pace bowling coach.

Cricket Operations chairman Jalal Yunus confirmed the news to The Daily Star on Friday evening.

Donald has been contracted till the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia.

"He has been contracted till the T20I World Cup in Australia," Jalal informed reporters.

Later the South African expressed his elation at being appointed as Bangladesh's pace bowling



coach, through a video message, posted by BCB.

"A very special day for me just to announce that I'll be joining the Bangladesh cricket team right from the start of the South Africa series, leading up to the T20 World Cup that will take place in Australia. I'm looking forward to working with the young and talented bunch of Bangladesh fast bowlers. I'm really looking forward to joining them before the first ODI against the Proteas," Donald said.

Bangladesh have been without a pace bowling coach since the New Zealand series after Ottis Gibson did not renew his contract with BCB.

Donald, who took 330 Test wickets during a career that spanned from 1992 to 2002, was nicknamed the 'White Lightning' during his playing days for his fierce pace and aggressive bowling.

His last coaching stint was for ITEC Knights, a first division domestic team in South Africa.

Bangladesh are scheduled to tour South Africa for three ODIs and two Tests with the opening fixture scheduled for March 18. It was learnt that Donald will begin his tenure with the Tigers from South Africa.



Goodbye, LEGEND

Will miss you Warnie. There was never a dull moment with you around, on or off the field.... Gone too young!

India great Sachin Tendulkar

I literally don't know how to sum up this situation. My friend is gone!! We have lost one of the Greatest Sportsmen of all time!

West Indies legend Brian Lara

I'm shocked and shattered. Simply can't believe I'm hearing this. Very very sad day for our cricket community. The biggest superstar of my generation gone.

Former Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis

I cannot process the passing of this great of our sport and also a person I got to know off the field. RIP #goat (greatest of all time). Greatest to turn the cricket ball.

India batsman Virat Kohli

Australian Legend. @ rajasthan-royals Legend. Was an honour to know you and work with you. This man is a LEGEND.

England all rounder Ben Stokes

A legend departs. Shane Warne, one of the greatest bowlers to have played the game.

Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal

AFP, Sydney

Australia cricket great Shane Warne, widely regarded as one of the best Test players of all time, has died of a suspected heart attack aged 52.

Warne -- a larger-than-life character whose tally of 708 Test wickets has only been surpassed by his rival and fellow spinner Muttiah Muralitharan -- could not be revived after being found unresponsive in his Thailand villa.

"It is with great sadness we advise that Shane Keith Warne passed away of a suspected heart attack in Koh Samui, Thailand today, Friday 4 March," said a statement from his management company.

"Shane was found unresponsive in his villa and despite the best efforts of medical staff, he could not be revived," it added.

"The family requests privacy at this time and will provide further details in due course." The announcement came just hours after the death was announced of fellow Australian great Rod Marsh, one of cricket's outstanding wicketkeepers.

Warne, credited with reviving the art of leg-spin, was part of a dominant Australian Test team and helped his country win the 1999 World Cup.

Named as one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Century, alongside Donald Bradman, Garfield Sobers, Jack Hobbs and Viv Richards, Warne's impact

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

IN TESTS

Matches **145**

Wickets **708**

BBM **12/128**

5W **37**

10W **10**

Runs scored **3154**

HS **99**

IN ODIS

Matches **194**

Wickets **293**

BBM **5/33**

5W **01**

10W **00**

Runs scored **1018**

HS **55**

was enormous.

The bowler became as well known for a colourful life away from cricket as he was for his exploits on the field.

Both he and Australia team-mate Mark Waugh were fined for accepting money from a bookmaker and Warne was suspended for 12 months after failing a drugs test on the eve of the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, having taken a diuretic.

The first bowler to take 700 Test wickets with an assortment of leg-breaks, googlies, flippers and his own "zooters", Warne retired from Australia duty following a 5-0 series win at home to arch-rivals England during the 2006/07 Ashes.

In addition to his international exploits, Warne also enjoyed a successful career with his Australian state side Victoria.

And while his private life effectively ruled him out of captaining Australia, for all his acknowledged tactical acumen, Warne did skipper English county Hampshire, where he helped nurture gifted England batsman Kevin Pietersen.

Warne continued to star on the Twenty20 franchise circuit, starring for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League and his home town Melbourne Stars in Australia's Big Bash League before retiring from playing altogether.

He subsequently became a highly regarded television commentator and pundit, renowned for his forthright opinions, who also did some team coaching and worked individually with current-day leg spinners.

Warne was divorced from wife Simone, with whom he had three children. He also had high-profile relationship with British actress Liz Hurley.



A great shot at welding motto

SPORTS REPORTER

A T20I series win beckons for Bangladesh as they face Afghanistan today in the second and final T20I in Mirpur, after winning the first match on Thursday. Bangladesh have never managed the feat against Afghanistan.

In 2018, they lost the T20I series at Dehradun 3-0 as the Tigers lagged behind in terms of finding winning mentality in tight situations in the format. They fared much better at home during a 2019 tri-nation series involving Zimbabwe, winning one and losing one against Afghanistan on their way to the final before sharing the series after the final in Mirpur was washed out.

This series presents opportunities for the Tigers to find their motto going forward in the format. The team's balance will depend upon whether the management will go towards a new way of playing in the format and since not many T20Is are on offer ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia, the think tank will like to test the side's capabilities ahead of the mega event, scheduled for October-November this year.

One of the big issues had been the problems at the top during the Powerplay, where Bangladesh have lost wickets regularly without taking advantage of the field settings. It would be interesting to see whether both Mohammad Naim and Munim Shahriar open again. The performance and the overall approach of the batting lineup, however, disappointed in the first T20I at Mirpur. It was only Liton Das's 44-ball 60 that helped Bangladesh to a challenging total.

Liton's ability to read the Afghan spinners out of the hand allowed him to score runs freely but the rest of the batters' roles were mired in confusion. The lower-middle order came into bat at a time when no one was set at the crease and there were too few deliveries to get in and accelerate.

Mushfiqur Rahim is likely to feature after he was declared fit to play yesterday, having sat out the first T20I due to an injury. The news would come as a relief to the Tigers as Mushfiqur, who is set to appear in his 100th T20I, has the ability to catch the tempo in the middle-overs early.

Spin coach Ranga Herath came for a press conference following

optional practice yesterday. Asked if he was happy that the bowling side of things had more clarity, he opined that batters will find their feet with more matches under their belt.

"In regards to selection, I believe when players are given more opportunities to play, they get more confidence. In terms of bowling unit, they are getting more opportunities. If batters get the same opportunity, they will deliver their best," Herath said, but Yasir Ali, who is coming to terms with international setup and covering ground, may well have to make way for Mushfiqur in the second T20I.

"This is a two-match series. If we want to win the series, we need to win the next game. I don't think we're resting anybody and will be going with our best eleven," Herath said.



West Indies win riveting opener

AFP, MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Host nation New Zealand lost the opening match of the Women's Cricket World Cup in dramatic fashion Friday when the West Indies claimed three wickets in the final over. New Zealand finished three runs short of the West Indies' total of 259 as Hayley Matthews' 119 powered the Caribbean women to a shock victory at Mount Maunganui's Bay Oval.

Kiwi captain Sophie Devine responded with a defiant 108 but Deandra Dottin took 2-2 in the final over and helped run out rookie Fran Jonas to claim a last-gasp win. The West Indies finished with 259-9, making a blistering start of 10 runs an over before the New Zealand attack pegged them back with a steady stream of wickets.

Matthews also took 2-41 with the ball in a player-of-the-match performance. Chedean Nation chipped in with 36 runs and captain Stafanie Taylor made 30, while Tahuhu was the best of the Kiwi bowlers with three for 57.

'I see a lot of professionalism here now'

It remains a firmly held belief that Bangladesh players' mindset leaped under former head coach Stuart Law's tenure, during which the Tigers reached the final of the Asia Cup in 2012. The former Australian cricketer, who is currently working as the interim coach of Afghanistan team, spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin in an exclusive interview, during which he shared his previous experience and his observations and suggestions regarding Bangladesh's journey in international cricket and more. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): What's your observation on Bangladesh team in this tour?

Stuart Law (SL): Look, they played well to win the ODI series and there is no taking away from that. The first game, you know, we didn't execute. Not taking anything away from the two youngsters Mehedi Miraz and Afif Hossain, as they both played beautifully and showed maturity beyond their years. When I was here over ten years back, you know, the quality of depth wasn't there as much but there were some quality players. But coming back in, I see a lot of professionalism here now and the way they play for each other is amazing.

DS: Obviously, you've seen the likes of Shakib, Tamim and Mushfiqur during your tenure but can you name some of the youngsters who impressed you this time around?

SL: I like Shoriful Islam, the big tall left-arm seamer. He bowls at good pace and

he swings the ball and he's got a good plan and he relentlessly bowled well at his line and length. Taskin Ahmed also, as when I saw him he was very young and he seems bigger, stronger and fitter now. Bangladesh cricket has always been reliant on left-arm spin but those two fast bowlers, six feet tall, who bowls over 140 kmph and it's great. You have the likes of Mustafizur with his tricks and I'm sure there are few others who could come in through as well. Liton Das wasn't around much when I was there and he just looks like a very easy on the eye batsman. Not only is he contributing but he is contributing consistently, which is what you ask from a player.

DS: What will be your suggestion for Bangladesh to improve in the Test and T20I format?

SL: I think the skill level is there. Probably, the only skill they need to work on is the ability to play under pressure and you only get that by playing international or competitive cricket. So, the more matches they play, they get to understand how to play that format. I remember being here, we didn't play a lot of cricket, as we played limited games throughout the year. And one thing that I wanted was to play more.

DS: Bangladesh will be playing the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year. Any suggestions for the Tigers for doing

well in Down Under? Bangladesh are still searching for those big hitters in this format.

SL: You still got to work on what you have. At the start of T20 cricket, people thought that the spinners might get smacked hard by the batters, but it's been the most effective way to control the run rates and take wickets in the Big Bash. I think there's an opportunity for Bangladesh to utilise spin and when it comes to batting, you got to post over 160 on the board consistently. To do that, it's not easy hitting the fastest bowlers over the head or through mid-wicket. I think for me, the batters need to use their brain and find ways to negotiate the extra pace and bounce on the surface.

DS: Any plans to return to Bangladesh?

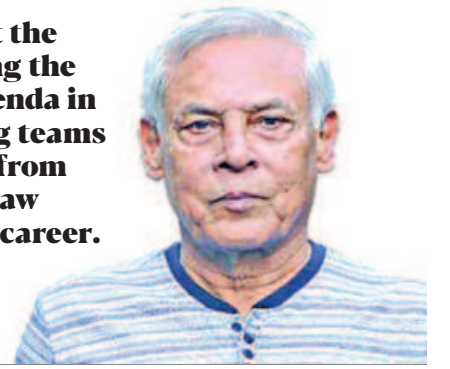
SL: To be honest, it's been a pleasure working with Afghanistan in the short stint. I don't know what comes next and who knows what the future brings.



SPORT

It seems to me that the referees are blowing the whistle with an agenda in some cases. The big teams are getting favour from the referees like I saw during my playing career.

GOLAM SARWAR TIPU, former captain and coach of national team



The harsh realities for REFEREES

'Refereeing here is more like a bizarre investment'

Former FIFA referee Mansur Azad is renowned for his track record of conducting matches with authority and without bias, irrespective of big teams present on the pitch. The intimidating figure, as far as local players and higher officials are concerned, shared his thoughts regarding the local refereeing scenario to *The Daily Star's* Ashfaq Ul Mushfiq during an interview. The excerpts are below:

DS: What's your take on the recent controversial refereeing decisions which hogged the spotlight in an unprecedented fashion?

Mansur Azad (MA): When someone participates in any sporting event, he has to accept that both winning and losing are part of the game. Of course, the referees make mistakes too. You see, when a player has a bad game, he is given a chance to rectify before the next game. So, referees should also be given proper time to work on their abilities and improve.

DS: Why are referees unanimously disinterested in conducting Saif Sporting Club's matches following national captain Jamal Bhuiyan's outburst?

MA: We have to view this from multiple contexts. First, you will see in international football, there exists more than five or six cameras to analyse any such occurrence. However, we have only one or two usually.

So, from the footage, if it's not visible that Jamal [Bhuiyan] had kicked the referee, it could be a false accusation. But you see, all four referees had sat together post-match to reassess their decisions taken throughout the match. Thus, when the match report states that Jamal Bhuiyan kicked the referee, it's not the referee who's only saying it, but rather, he's backed by the entire refereeing team along with the match commissioner.

DS: What factors influence refereeing decisions?

MA: I think it's the ground officials of the big teams who inflict most chaos. Even if the decisions go in their team's favour, they still shout and curse the referees in unspeakable language and the younger or the inexperienced referees may fall victim to it on occasions.

DS: Is it true that referees receive money or gifts from teams as incentives to give decisions in their favour?

MA: Most of the time they come as rumours or allegations from a losing side. However, I sincerely welcome investigations on football-refereeing. If one or two can be found out, it can bring a huge change.

DS: Do you think the salary of the referees is good enough to make a decent livelihood?

MA: Refereeing here is more like a bizarre investment. A referee has to pay for his own transportation, livelihood all throughout the season and forward the bill to the federation. It then takes one or two years for the federation to process and pay the referees, who are sometimes given 500 takas as honorarium but that's about it.

I know a referee who still hasn't received his due payment for the 2012-13 season, which led to him quitting the profession. This is just one of the thousand cases in Bangladesh.



It might be that the referees made some mistakes at the early stage of the season and now they are compensating for those mistakes. Now everyone feels referees are making mistakes intentionally.

Shafiqul Islam Manik, coach

Referees can make mistakes, but some mistakes do really look intentional. Referees also don't have consistency in making decisions on similar offences, which creates controversy.

Kamal Babu, coach

There have been some mistakes, but those are not intentional. We don't want foreign referees officiating here. However, there is a gap in quality between former referees and the current ones, which needs to be filled.

Azad Rahman, BFF's head of referees

ATIQUE ANAM

Incident 1: Police vs Bashundhara Kings, Independence Cup semifinal, BSSMKS, Dec 14, 2021.

Police FC were drawing 1-1 against Bashundhara Kings when their Afghan forward Amerdin Sharifi went through on goal on a long ball, but the assistant referee's flag went up. That was a decision which took everyone by surprise. Police went on to lose that match in extra time as their hopes of a maiden final appearance ended. Photo of Sharifi's hand gesture -- asking how much



money the refs received to blow the whistle against his side -- was widely circulated on social media.

Incident 2: Saif vs Sk Russel, league match, Kings Arena, Feb 13, 2022
Saif Sporting Club's centre-back Riyadul Hasan Rafi was in a slight tussle for ball control with opposition forward Mahbubur Rahman Jewel inside the box, with the latter taking a fall and the referee, Bituraj Barua, pointing to the spot. The spot-kick was converted, ending Saif's 100 per cent record after the first two matches. Replays, however, suggested there was minimal contact between the two players. Saif players surrounded the referee following the incident where things got a little out of control and the referee later claimed that Saif captain Jamal Bhuiyan had kicked him during the protests.

These are two of the many incidents which grabbed headlines, more prominently than results and performances, since the start of the football season in December last year. The title race has intensified tremendously in recent years and so have the controversies surrounding the fairness of decisions and questions over the standard of refereeing.

Refereeing decisions are a constant source of debate around the footballing world, and despite the availability of highly-trained match officials and the latest technologies at



disposal, including Video Assistant Referee (VAR), the top competitions in the world still get a fair amount of controversial decisions.

Just last week, Everton were denied a genuine penalty against Manchester City in a Premier League match, a decision which denied the Toffees a point, keeping them close to the relegation zone. However, the referees' chief later acknowledged that they got it wrong and apologised to Everton. Although the apology will not help Everton in their battle for survival, the admission still

Category	Number
FIFA ref	4 (1 female)
FIFA asst ref	8 (1 female)
National level ref	75+
Class One ref	175+
Class Two ref	750+
Class Three ref	5000+

implies that the mistake was unintentional and the process of reconciliation is on.

The reality in our football, though, is different. We hardly see referees or the referees' committee owning up to their mistakes or being held accountable for those. Although there is a process of evaluation and disciplining of referees in place here, the number of sanctions against referees is far too little compared to the number of apparent mistakes that are made on the pitch.

What lies at the heart of this malaise, though, is the desperate status of our referees: lack of remuneration and training along with constant pressure from different quarters -- all combining to make referees' job the least appealing and the most strenuous.

A top-category referee here gets around

Tk 5300 if he's conducting a Premier League match within the city, a remuneration which is far too little even when one considers just one aspect of his expense: the daily nutritional intake required to keep him fit for officiating.

A referee is not just the least paid person on the pitch, he is also the least respected too. He would be subject to physical assault and slur from the players, club officials and fans if his decisions go against them.

It is a culture of fear within which referees work, hence, a questionable blow of the whistle or a dubious raising of the offside flag does not necessarily indicate that the match official is biased.

Having said that, the possibility of being influenced by the clubs cannot be ruled out completely, especially since there is an overlap of club ownership and federation positions in our country.

What can definitely help here is the VAR, and the idea of having VAR in BPL has been floated by some of the high-ups in the federation. However, when one considers that the cost of installing VAR (Tk 8-9 cr) would far exceed the league's budget, especially when the league can't even lure a decent title sponsor, the assertion of having VAR does not just sound ludicrous but also seems like an eyewash.

The other suggestion that came from within the federation is having some foreign referees conduct crucial title-decisive matches. Then again, who gets to decide which matches are crucial and title-decisive matches? This is an argument that will certainly drive a wedge among the clubs,

PER MATCH HONORARIUM IN BPL	Amount
Referee from outside Dhaka:	Tk 8100
Referee from inside Dhaka:	Tk 5300
Assistant referee from outside Dhaka:	Tk 7900
Assistant referee from inside Dhaka:	Tk 5100
Fourth official from outside Dhaka:	Tk 7500
Fourth official from inside Dhaka:	Tk 4700

leading to more questions than answers.

Instead of investing in VAR or foreign referees, the suggestion should be to empower the local referees by improving their pay-scale, investing in their training and recruitment and making the profession a more appealing and respected one, so much so that the referees do not fall to the glare or the lure.

'Surrounding criticisms create pressure'

Apart from being the Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) senior vice-president, chairman of the professional league management committee and the finance committee, Abdus Salam Mursheedy is also playing a pivotal role in the country's football as the chairman of the BFF referees committee. *The Daily Star's* Anisur Rahman interviewed him to shed light on the recent disputes over the refereeing decisions in the domestic circuit. The excerpts are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): How do you view the ongoing debate over the refereeing decisions in top-flight football?

Abdus Salam Mursheedy (ASM): I'm happy to keep all tournaments rolling amidst severe limitations. We have successfully completed two very competitive tournaments while the Bangladesh Premier League is still ongoing. Although there

was no dispute over the referees in the Independent Cup, it all began from the Federation Cup.

However, we have been assigning the referees from our BPL pool while the experienced referees were appointed to conduct big matches. Besides, the performances of referees have been evaluated every day and the rectification process is facilitated by analysing the video footage. But since all of these have been happening behind the scenes, you don't know it.

DS: Why are the disputes over the refereeing decisions being discussed more than any other seasons?

ASM: Referees are also making mistakes in different leagues in Europe. This time around, there are a lot of title aspirant teams who are not getting their desired results and raising questions about the



standard of the referees. But I must admit, the referees have committed some errors but they are also rectifying themselves.

DS: What is the way to come out of this dispute?

ASM: We have limitations. If we can improve our current materials and create confidence among all, then it's possible to get out of such disputes. I think they aren't blowing the whistle badly but the surrounding criticisms create pressure for them.

DS: Is there any impact on the referees' job when the higher-ups of Bangladesh Football Federation criticise them?

ASM: If the responsible persons or the higher-ups of the federation talk about the referees' decisions, then the referees find themselves under a more nerve-racking situation.

CAP 10 OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

BSRM WINS THE BEST BRAND AWARD FOR THE 10TH TIME IN A ROW

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT **BSRM** building a safer nation

PADMA BRIDGE

Proud Construction Partner **SHAH CEMENT**

Two 'Al-Badr men' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police on Thursday night arrested two alleged Al-Badr men on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Moniruzzaman Kohinur, 71, was arrested at his Elephant Road home in Dhaka while Alamgir Hossain, 70, was picked up from his home in Tangail's Gopalpur upazila.

Matiur Rahman, deputy director of the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal, said police handed the arrestees to the tribunal.

"The duo is accused of crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The ACC was investigating into their alleged crimes.

Matiur said Kohinur from Gopalpur's Beradakuri village was the commander of Al-Badr in Tangail. He surrendered with the Pakistanis after the war. He was taken to India as a prisoner of war.

"Moniruzzaman

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A soldier stands guard inside a Shia mosque after a bomb blast in Peshawar, Pakistan yesterday. At least 56 people were killed and 194 wounded in the huge blast, a hospital official said.

PHOTO: AFP

New faces at CPB's helm



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) elected two new faces for the topmost party posts yesterday.

Shah Alam was elected as the party president while Ruhin Hossain Prince was the general secretary.

The changes came in the first meeting of the newly elected 43-member CPB central committee yesterday.

The central committee was formed during a four day congress that ended on Monday.

Mihir Ghosh was elected as assistant general secretary, the statement added.

After 30 years, the party did not keep Mujahidul Islam Selim at the helm. He had been elected either the president or the general secretary of CPB since 1993.

Mujahidul Islam Selim was made a member of the newly formed CPB central committee this time.

The outgoing president, general secretary and assistant general secretary -- Shamsuzzaman Selim, Shahin Rahman and Prof AN Rasheda -- were elected as presidium members.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Star HEALTHLINE

Good hygiene during MENSTRUATION

STAR HEALTH DESK

Menstrual hygiene is crucial for women's health. Lack of it may lead to serious problems like reproductive tract infections (RTI).

However, it is still largely ignored by many women around the world due to social taboo and superstitions attached with periods.

You may use a store-bought single-use sanitary napkin or a reusable cloth-napkin to absorb the blood. But always remember to change the product every six hours without an exception.

If you wear the same pad for around 8-10 hours during period, you can develop bacterial or fungal infections. Bacterial infection leads to increased risk of urinary tract infection.

Reusable cloth pads must be washed, dried and disinfected properly. Drying in the sun is recommended.

Washing yourself properly is extremely

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

FULL-FLEDGED CLASSES IN SCHOOLS

Govt planning to start it mid-March

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is planning to resume full-fledged classes at schools and colleges as 84 percent secondary students have already received two doses of Covid-19 vaccine and the daily positivity rate is on its way down.

The authorities say they are considering conducting classes at secondary schools in full swing from the middle of this month, after two years of full and partial closures.

Officials at the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) said it will be a challenging task for them to keep students threefeet apart in classrooms at secondary schools as the ratio of students to classrooms is too big.

Educational institutions were shut on March 17, 2020 due to the pandemic. Those were reopened partially on September 12 last year.

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

Following a sharp rise in the Covid transmission rate,

the government again shut all schools and colleges from January 21 for two weeks. The closure was later extended till February 21.

Classes resumed partially at secondary schools on February 22.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said full-fledged in-person classes at secondary schools might resume from the middle

"We hope that the rest of the students will get their second dose by the middle of this month."

of this month.

The minister was speaking to reporters after attending a programme in the capital.

DSHE Director General Prof Nehal Ahmed said they were planning to run schools in full swing as 98 percent students from classes 6 to 12 received the first Covid shot. About 84 percent of them received the second.

"We hope that the rest of

the students will get their second dose by the middle of this month," he said.

There are 1.28 crore students in classes six to 12 in about 20,850 schools.

Nehal said the declining Covid positivity rate was the other reason for resuming classes in full swing. Yesterday, the positivity rate was 3.20 percent.

Asked how they would keep students three feet apart in classrooms, the DSHE chief said there would be some problems in maintaining social distancing.

"We will talk with the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 to discuss the matter and other related issues."

He said they were also considering to continue classes following the current rule, meaning only students who received two Covid shots would be allowed to join classes in person.

Currently, SSC exams candidates are attending four classes and class-10 students

SEE PAGE 6 COL 8

Woman killed after 'rape' in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, city

Police on Thursday night recovered the body of a 45-year-old woman who was murdered after allegedly being raped in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila.

Chanu Mong Marma, chairman of Noapotong union, said yesterday that the victim was raped and murdered by some woodcutters who were staying at her farm house.

The body of the victim, Chuirongma Marma, was found around 8:00pm with stab wounds to her neck, said Md Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge of Rowangchhari Police Station.

He said police recovered the body and sent it to Bandarban Sadar hospital for autopsy, adding that they are primarily suspecting that the victim was raped before being murdered.

The victim's son filed a case with Rowangchhari Police Station yesterday.

The OC said police were trying to arrest the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

'Flower' formation spotted on Mars

CNN ONLINE

This may be the closest we will ever come to finding a flower on Mars.

During its ongoing investigation of Martian rocks in Gale Crater, the Curiosity rover stumbled on a tiny surprise. The rock artifact resembling a piece of coral or a flower, is smaller than a coin.

The Martian "flower" and the spherical pieces next to it were likely "made in the ancient past when minerals carried by water cemented the rock," according to Nasa.

Curiosity took an image of the rock arrangement on February 24 using the Mars Hand Lens Imager, a camera located on the robotic arm.

The find is similar to other small features Curiosity has spotted in the past, all of which were formed "when mineralizing fluids travelled through conduits in the rock," according to the agency. Previously, the Opportunity rover also spotted Martian "blueberries," little mineral spherules indicative of once watery soil on the red planet.

Each image Curiosity collects and shares of these features is helping researchers piece together the chronology of water's presence in the crater.



She hired hitman to kill her mother

Daughter, hitman confess

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A 57-year-old woman was recently killed by a man who was hired by her daughter to do the job in Gazipur's Sreepur area, police said after arresting the culprits.

On February 11, police recovered an unidentified body from a forest in Sreepur and a few days later, identified the victim as Minara Begum.

Three weeks after investigation, Sreepur police found that Shefali Begum, 35, a garment worker, had plotted her mother's murder. She hired her colleague Sohel Rana, 25, to kill her mother, according to Amzad Sheikh, sub-inspector of Sreepur Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case.

On Wednesday, police arrested Shefali and Sohel. Both gave confessional statements under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on Thursday, police said.

According to police, Minara had nine decimals of land and eight years ago, had made a will leaving the land to Shefali so that none could sell it as long as she was alive.

As Shefali was in need of money, she put pressure on her mother to sell the land and two cows. Minara did not agree and threw her daughter out of their house, which made Shefali angry and desperate, said Amzad.

"She hired Sohel for Tk 1 lakh. She paid him Tk 15,000 in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 8



A trader dismantling used car engines and gear boxes on a street in the capital's Dholaiakhil area. The parts taking up half of the road width is a common sight in the area and it often causes traffic jams. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Hyginex spray

Instant hand sanitizer

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited



RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

What is Putin's ENDGAME?



I think Putin's options are quite limited. Russia is now trapped in achieving some sort of victory in Ukraine.

AGENCIES

The Russian president is facing an unexpected level of resistance but remains determined to continue on a belligerent path.

As Russia's war on Ukraine continues with reports of hundreds killed, there are rising questions about what President Vladimir Putin is trying to achieve here.

Cristian Nitoiu, lecturer in Diplomacy and International Governance at Loughborough University London, told Al Jazeera, "The long-term goals of Russia following the end of the Cold War have been to recover the great power status of Soviet Union, to be seen as equal by the West and to be able to influence political developments in its smaller neighbours like Ukraine, Moldova or Kazakhstan."

Ukraine has been incorporating itself into the Western orbit of influence. Accordingly, placing a Russian-friendly government in

led by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, was retained in office and able to negotiate with the Russians, Gill added.

"There are no easy options for Putin, and it would certainly not be easy for any interim government installed by force of Russian arms," said Gill.

Russia still has not put all its cards on the table, John R Deni, research professor of joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational (JIIM) security studies at the US Army War College's Strategic Studies



Institute, told Al Jazeera.

"US officials have reported that somewhere between 50 and 70 per cent of available Russian forces have been committed so far, meaning there is still lots of nearby Russian military power left to commit.

To this point, it remains somewhat of a mystery what Putin would do with a nation the size of Ukraine.

Splitting up the country might be the most likely option. However, it is not without severe difficulties.

"Splitting Ukraine would require some entity to implement and enforce the split. While the Russian force might implement a split, I am not convinced Russia has the capacity and wherewithal to enforce it beyond the short run, given the Russian military forces arrayed at this point," said Deni.

"Nonetheless, a split – perhaps along the Dniepr River – remains a possibility," Deni added.

"I think Putin's options are quite limited.

Russia is now trapped in achieving some sort of victory in Ukraine," Nitoiu said.

"If Putin manages to install a puppet government, this will be a major blow to the West's commitment to liberal democracy and will set a dangerous precedent for interstate relations on the European continent," said Nitoiu.

Thomas Graham, who served as senior director for Russia on the National Security Council staff during the George W Bush administration, told Politico that if Putin does have an endgame, it is not clear to outsiders at this point. For the past several months, he has deliberately deceived people as to what his true intentions are.

Most recently, he suggested he would launch an operation to defend the separatist regions in Eastern Ukraine, and then he ordered a massive strike across the entire country. So, it is not clear what his territorial ambitions are. That said, he has declared that he will "demilitarise" and "denazify" Ukraine. That would seem to mean that at a minimum he wants to destroy Ukraine's military infrastructure and replace its government with a puppet regime.

Andrei Kolesnikov, a senior fellow and chair of the Russian Domestic Politics and Political Institutions Programme at the Carnegie Moscow Center in Moscow, Russia, told Politico that it is very difficult to determine what the endgame is for Putin.

One could assume that it would be enough for him to be listened to by the strongest leaders in the West. Or that Donbas and Luhansk would officially become his fiefdom. And all this against the background that he has suppressed civil society in his country, and the elites are afraid of him. But he probably needs a) the authorities in Kyiv under his control as a part of his "empire", and b) the world (or at least part of it) playing by his rules.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA, POLITICO

UKRAINE AT A GLANCE

1989-1990

In January 1990, more than 400,000 people join hands in a human chain stretching some 400 miles from the western city of Ivano-Frankivsk to Kyiv in an anti-communist protest. The Rada, the new Ukrainian parliament, votes to declare independence from the Soviet Union on July 16, 1990.

1991

The parliament declares independence a second time on August 24. In December, Ukrainians vote (92% to 8%) to make their independence official. The Soviet Union dissolves on December 26.

1992

Ukraine formally establishes relations with Nato but it does not join.

1994-2004

In 10 years as president, Leonid Kuchma helps transition Ukraine from a Soviet republic to a capitalist society.

2004

A presidential election pits Kuchma's hand-picked successor Viktor Yanukovich, supported by Putin, against popular pro-democracy leader Viktor Yushchenko. In the final months of the campaign, Yushchenko falls ill due to poisoning. Yanukovich wins the election amid accusations of rigging. Massive protests follow and the public outcry becomes known as the Orange Revolution. After a third vote, Yushchenko prevails.



2005

Yushchenko takes office as president, with Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister.

2008

Yushchenko and Tymoshenko formally request that Ukraine be granted a "membership action plan". US President Bush supports Ukraine's membership but France and Germany oppose after Russia voices displeasure.

2010

Yanukovich is elected president. He says Ukraine should be a "neutral state".

2011

Court finds Tymoshenko guilty of "abuse of power" and sentences her to seven years in prison.

NOV 2013-2014

Yanukovich announces that he will not get Ukraine into the EU free trade agreement citing pressure from Russia. Ahead of an impeachment vote, Yanukovich flees to Russia. Ukraine's parliament removes him and installs an interim government. It votes to free Tymoshenko.

With Russian troops in control of the peninsula, the Crimean parliament in March votes to secede from Ukraine and join Russia.

With some 40,000 Russian troops on Ukraine's eastern border in April, violence breaks out in Donbas. Russian-supported separatists declare independence from Ukraine as the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic.

Pro-West politician Petro Poroshenko is elected Ukraine's president in May.

Representatives from Russia, Ukraine, France, and Germany meet to sign the first Minsk agreement, a deal between Ukraine and Russia to stop the violence under a fragile ceasefire.

2015

The Minsk group meets again resulting in the Minsk II agreement.

2016-2017

As fighting in Donbas continues, Russia repeatedly strikes Ukraine in a series of cyberattacks, including a 2016 attack on Kyiv's power grid that causes a major blackout.

2019

In April, comedian Volodymyr Zelenskyy is elected president in a landslide. His early efforts to reach a solution to the violence are slowed by US President Trump, who briefly blocks US military aid to Ukraine and urges Zelenskyy to work with Putin.

2021

Russia sends about 100,000 troops to Ukraine's borders in April, ostensibly for military exercises. Zelenskyy urges Nato to put Ukraine on a timeline for membership. Satellite imagery shows in November a new build-up of Russian troops.

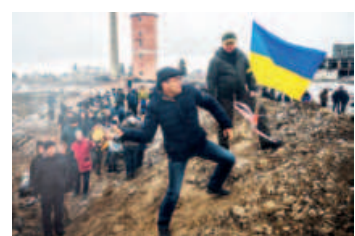
2022

On February 1, Putin denies planning an invasion and accuses the US of ignoring his country's security demands. Putin on February 21 recognises Donetsk and Luhansk as independent entities and then orders Russian troops to "maintain peace" there.

FEB 24, 2022

Russian forces invade Ukraine.

SOURCE: AGENCIES



Kyiv is most likely the main objective of the Kremlin, said Nitoiu.

The Russians would probably install at least an interim administration, said Graeme Gill, professor emeritus of government and international relations at the University of Sydney.

However, given the low likelihood of this being widely accepted among the Ukrainian population, Putin would have more success if the current government, perhaps stripped of some members but continuing to be

Both could've done better

TASNEEM TAYEB

Kyivan Rus, the first Slavic state, is considered the birthplace of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. In the 11th century, the vast territory of Kyivan Rus stretched from White Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south, and nurtured people of various ethnicities and cultures. Russia, Belarus, Ukraine all claim shared cultural heritage to the Kyivan Rus. The names of Belarus and Russia are also derived from the Slavic state.

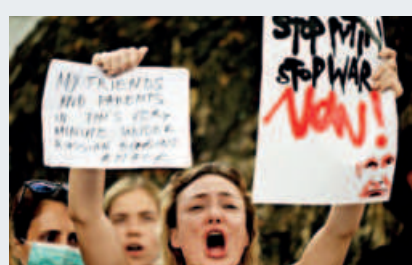
Over the centuries, Kyivan Rus has been at the receiving end of invasions, by the Mongols and by the western forces, including the Polish forces, with the lines of its fate being drawn and redrawn again by the invaders.

In 1991, with the break up of the Soviet Union, the fates of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia had finally been sealed. Or so it seemed at that time. But then 2014 happened, when Crimea had been annexed by Russia and Donetsk separatists had declared independence from Ukraine, leading to a prolonged conflict that has claimed the lives of more than 14,000 people so far. And now the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Eastern Ukraine was populated with people from Russia after the

death of millions of Ukrainians during the 1930s famine. The Russians there have a strong affinity with Russia. They are pro-Russian and often do not appreciate the pro-West sentiments of the western Ukrainians.

While Belarus—with its pro-Russian government in power, albeit unpopular—is secure in the knowledge that it has Russia's security support,



Ukraine, with public opinions divided over their approach towards Russia, and only "assured" by the West of its admission to Nato or the EU, has remained vulnerable on every front.

After the Cold War, Russia, feeling threatened by the growing influence of the West on the former Soviet Union states, has tried to put up a strong front as a major world power. This is why when Ukraine expressed its Nato and



EU admission ambitions, Russia did not sit quietly.

This invasion is as much about the existential threat of Russia as it is about Ukraine's. If Ukraine formally joins the Nato, then the Western security alliance—with its military might—will reach Russia's borders, a highly undesirable outcome for the country.

Pro-Russian Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is unpopular and in 2020 in the face of mass public protests had come under significant pressure to step down. It was only with Russia's proactive support that he could hold on to power.

Belarus is not a very strong ally. This is why Russia needs Ukraine as a neutral zone.

And Russia's main aim—it seems from this invasion—is a changeover of government in Ukraine to a regime that

is more sympathetic to the country and more resilient to the lures of the West—in short replicating the Belarusian arrangement.

But Russia cannot harbour such ambitions about its neighbours.

Ukraine—despite its historical affinities with Russia and the Kyivan Rus, is now a sovereign nation and Russia cannot dictate its policies. If Russia feels threatened then it needs to address its insecurity through other means. Intimidations, manipulations, invasions are not acceptable actions or reactions and must be dealt with the strongest possible measures.

Ukraine's integrity must be acknowledged and respected by Russia.

The West while supporting Ukraine in these trying times, should also work towards building a relationship of trust with Russia, where the country would not need "neutral", "buffer" states between itself and the West.

This madness must end, and all parties must work towards peace. The historic ties between Ukraine and Russia should be celebrated, rather than misused to create a rift and divide.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem_tayeb

LAW OPINION

The Ukraine crisis amid fractured international legal order - hypocrisy of powerful

It is not only Putin who violates international law. The US too refuses to be bound by international law. We well remember Bush's claim that 'the UN Charter is dead, and the US is not bound by international law'. This rejection of the international order has exposed its arrogant unilateralism in zealously guarding its authoritative militaristic and dogmatic patriotic behaviour.

MRAFIQUL ISLAM

The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine once again has solicited world attention to the international legal order that has repeatedly been fractured by powerful states in the post-cold war era. Obviously, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is illegal in international law and a clear violation of the peremptory norm of prohibition of force in international relations and non-intervention under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter. The West has reacted angrily and held Russia responsible for violating Ukraine's sovereignty in total disregard of international law and bombarded with sanctions. In an identical way Russia opposed and condemned the US and its allies' invasion of Iraq in 2003. The world is too familiar with the military posturing of powerful states imposing their vested interests despotically by sheer power.

These military adventures and reactions by powerful states exhibit the hallmark of cold war that has coerced and vandalised the international legal order, the bedrock of world peace and security.

The end of the cold war in the early 1990s offered a new world order with hopes to move from independence to interdependence and confrontation to collaboration. It created a new unipolar world with the US as the only superpower. The US was in a unique position to establish a peaceful world. Instead, the US opted to elevate itself to the status of an 'exceptional state', strengthened its alliance with other western and non-western states and pursued its so-called 'assertive multilateralism' to advance its foreign policy, strategic goals, and economic interests. It projected a self-perpetuating image of benevolent leader in international rule-making and standard-setting that were implemented selectively only to advance its strategic interests through military might, economic coercions, and veto power in the UN Security Council (SC). It continually exonerated itself from abiding by international legal principles it promotes for others. This unilateralism fragmented international law and weakened its regulatory authority to the extent that it can no longer ensure the peaceful co-existence of states, powerful and weak alike. This is how the US and its western allies pursued their version of a 'just world order' that was a major contributor to the downfall of the world order propelled by the rule of law.

The sovereign equality of states is meant to address global power imbalance, protect vulnerable small states from powerful states. This legal order is being routinely undermined by powerful states, which have introduced a pervasive tendency of reducing the international legal order subservient to their self-interest. Their asymmetric power has grown so exponentially that has rendered them more equal than others. Small states, which are not enamoured with their hierarchical power, are less sovereign and overwhelmed by predatory power, as

has happened in the invasion of Ukraine, 20 years after the invasion of Iraq. Is Putin's invasion different from the Iraqi invasion? Is Putin's recognition of the Ukrainian breakaway republics worse than the US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel? How would the West and its allies justify their violent occupation of Iraqi and Palestinian territories against Putin's forcible occupation of Ukraine? How would the former justify 53 US vetoes on SC resolutions criticising Israeli illegal occupation of Palestinian territory against Russian veto on SC resolution condemning Russian aggression on Ukraine. The chronology of manufactured wars against those states not submissive to the will of powerful states suggest that what Putin has started in Crimea and Ukraine, the West has already done that to destroy Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan

mass destruction (WMDs). These western leaders were never brought to justice for committing war crimes. Putin has regarded Ukraine's bid to join NATO a threat to Russian security and asked the West not to expand NATO to its backyard. Putin's demand is an interference with the independent decision-making of Ukraine. But the West and its allies have been pursuing the same policy to prevent Iran from developing alleged nuclear weapons that the West thinks would destabilise the power balance in the Middle East, where Israel is the only nuclear power. Iran has been bearing the full brunt of successive sanctions by the US and its allies to deny Iran its sovereign right that the US and other nuclear weapon states take for granted. No nuclear state has signed and/or ratified the Nuclear Weapons Prevention Treaty 2017.

frustrate the ICC. Bush enacted the American Service Members Protection Act 2002 prohibiting US cooperation with the ICC and allowing the President to use all means to release its nationals in ICC custody for committing ICC crimes. It concluded agreements with states under intimidation requiring them not to surrender to the ICC any US nationals guilty of the ICC crimes. It threatened to veto the renewal of the UN-led peacekeeping operations if its peacekeepers were not granted immunity from the ICC prosecution. It refused entry of the ICC prosecutor to investigate whether the US troops committed war crimes in Afghanistan.

This write-up highlights the credibility crisis of the West in resisting Putin's aggression. Notwithstanding worldwide antiwar demand for peace and security,



PHOTO: REUTERS

with absolute impunity in the post-cold war era.

It is not only Putin who violates international law. The US too refuses to be bound by international law. We well remember Bush's claim that 'the UN Charter is dead, and the US is not bound by international law' (The Observer, London, 14 July 2002, p 14). This rejection of the international order has exposed its arrogant unilateralism in zealously guarding its authoritative militaristic and dogmatic patriotic behaviour. Antiwar public demonstration around the World including in Russia has not deterred Putin in the same way unprecedented worldwide public demonstration failed to deter Bush, Blair, and Howard from attacking Iraq on the false pretext of possessing weapons of

NATO, a cold war leftover, remains the western military muscle to dominate the world through gunboat diplomacy. The proposed NATO membership of Ukraine has led Putin to attack, which NATO has termed 'reckless'. NATO has forgotten what massacre it had inflicted on Libya in 2011 as the mercenary of the West. The US claims that Putin is set to remove the present pro-West government of Ukraine by a pro-Russian government. This is precisely what the US and its allies did in Libya (and Iraq, attempted in vain in Syria) in violation of the SC resolution 1973 (2011). Putin has been branded as a war criminal to be brought to justice. Neither Russia nor the US are party to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The US did everything to

the post-cold war era is dominated by leaders with cold war confrontationist mindset, who think they alone can solve world problems by force. Consequently, the international legal order continues to eclipse under the shadow of power. The US and its allies first and now Putin have invented legitimacy of invasions through power yet opposing each other's invasion as illegal. This is how they have divided the world, swallowed international law, and vandalised the international order by provocative double-standards and shedding crocodile tears for legitimacy with veiled ulterior geostrategic and arms trading motives.

The writer is Emeritus Professor of Law, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

GLOBAL LAW UPDATE

Military Junta representing Myanmar at the ICJ

SAKHAWAT SAJJAT SEJAN

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has recommended *The Gambia v Myanmar* case hearing. It has approved the military junta government to represent the case on behalf of Myanmar. The representation has longterm effects and several implications, specially in the

On a different note, NUG had pleaded to withdraw the preliminary objections forwarded by Myanmar's defense lawyers in the first hearing. They were ready to accept the jurisdiction of the ICJ and Gambia as an applicant in this case. Their acceptance would expedite the proceeding. The ICJ lacked clairvoyance and brought complications to the future

Moreover, the agents of military junta are an unelected and illegal government, who has a long history of atrocities through murder, rape, arson etc.

right to movement and other fundamental rights were retained. Allegedly 6,00,000 Rohingyas reside in Rakhine without proper food, medicine, and different fundamental needs. At the same time, approximately 1,30,000 Rohingyas live in open-air detention camps. The military junta administration continuously denies humanitarian assistance to these Rohingyas of Central Rakhine by violating provisional measures.

The ICJ defended this major mistake by saying it has no permanent country representatives. Anybody can represent through the Minister of Foreign Affairs or Ambassador by communicating with Registrar at the ICJ. Article 42 of the ICJ Statute directs that agents shall represent a state through the assistance of counsels or advocates. But the ICJ also says a government must appoint the agent at the court. However, there is no intelligible interpretation of what government would refer to. We can understand government as legally elected or illegal military power for this discussion. According to the previous representations by different states at the ICJ, we might say the government would refer to legal governments. Also, there is no sign of legality in Myanmar's military junta as they have taken over power through illegal force by disrupting democracy.

So, any recognition by the ICJ as a UN organ will validate the demand for international recognition for the military junta in international forums. According to the ICJ, the military junta caused irreparable damage to the Rohingya rights. Their continuous denial of the Rohingya identity has later turned to clearance operations and eventually

irreparable damage to Rohingya rights. The military junta is insensitive and xenophobic towards ethnic and minority rights. Specially after the coup killing about 1500 citizens of Myanmar, they turned out to be more ferocious towards other ethnic races of Myanmar. So there remains a question; why the ICJ did not import the UN's idea of 'moral imperative' that the UNGA Credentials Committee exercised while approving Myanmar's NUG backed ambassador.

Moreover, the agents of military junta are an unelected and illegal government, who has a long history of atrocities through murder, rape, arson etc. Neither the citizens of Myanmar nor the Rohingyas residing at camps want military junta to represent Myanmar. Many Rohingyas and rights activists have requested the ICJ not to approve the military junta as the representative of Myanmar. There are several probable outcomes of this instance of the ICJ. Firstly, the military junta will claim recognition under the UNGA Credential Committee by resonating with the instance of the ICJ. Hence the overthrowing of democracy will be buried under political reality. Secondly, the repatriation of the Rohingyas might become a utopian dream. They will not consent to repatriation to a military-ruled country or their perpetrators. Lastly, in the wake of China and Russia's open support at the UN Security Council, Myanmar's military junta did not pay heed to the implementation of provisional measures ordered by the ICJ. Hence, it would undoubtedly disrupt the repatriation process even if it is ordered to implement.

The writer is a Lecturer in Law, Feni University.



context of the Rohingya repatriation. The instance of the ICJ by approving military junta agent at the court clashes with United Nations General Assembly's recognition of the National Unity Government (NUG), elected by the people of Myanmar.

procedure by approving military junta to represent the case. The ICJ set the fox to look after the geese. After the first hearing, the court asked to prevent genocidal violence against the Rohingyas. The military junta did not comply with the provisional measures forwarded, but the

A Conversation with Saikat Majumdar

INTERVIEWED BY SOHANA MANZOOR

A powerful voice in contemporary Indian writing, Saikat Majumdar delves into the socio-political complexities of modern-day India and often questions the long-standing traditions and rituals. In this exclusive interview with The Daily Star, the Ashoka University professor shares his thoughts on his most recent novel The Middle Finger (Simon & Schuster, Feb 2022).

DS. To some readers the title of your most recent novel *The Middle Finger* may sound controversial. But as I discovered while reading, it focuses on something very different. Why did you choose this title?

SM. I was drawn to the idea of retelling the Drona-Ekalavya myth in a contemporary university campus. The title comes from a medieval Jain retelling of that story recounted by Wendy Doniger in *The Hindus*.

In this version, it is Arjun who cheats Ekalavya of his thumb. Drona becomes angry with Arjun upon discovering this, and offers the blessing that a Bhil warrior will be able to shoot arrows without his thumb, using his index and middle finger. The last phrase, indicative of unexpected, disruptive strength, became the title of the novel.

DS. On a previous occasion, you mentioned that this book explores the "limits of the teacher-student relationship in terms of ethics, power, and intimacy." But in a teacher-student relationship, the former wields tremendous power and authority over the other. Is there really scope for intimacy here?

SM. A crucial question! Successful teaching or mentoring is the formation of an intimate relationship, perhaps more so with artistic education. Art forges an erotic connection. The professional relation that comes out of it is always an intensely personal one. Here, emotional intimacy is both life-giving and dangerous. To make it sexual or romantic is destructive, since the teacher and the student are in an uneven power relation. But deeply personalized forms of teacher-student relationship figure in the Indian Gurukul tradition, both in myth and reality – and in the gharana/parampara tradition of performing arts in South Asia. But not everything that sounds attractive in art, myth, or imagination, is desirable in reality.

DS. Education plays a key role in *The Middle Finger*. In all your earlier novels, especially *The Firebird* and *The Scent of God* as well, teaching and learning seem to be significant themes. Is there any particular reason behind this choice?

SM. The theme of education lingers over everything I write – fiction, nonfiction, criticism. While I have an institutionalized life as an educator, I feel a hidden part of me feels education to be a process of control that yokes human beings to the dominant order. I guess my writing life seeks to treat education in all its paradoxes, its beauty, its possibilities, but also its deeply repressive function. I imagined *The Middle Finger*, with a poet and teacher as the protagonist, as caught right in the middle of this – the great power of learning to liberate and motivate people, but also as something commodified, branded and made unevenly available across society. Who gets access to knowledge? Who gets to stake a claim to the teacher? So much of it depends on who you are, and where you come from. Emphatically so in capitalist societies such

as the US, but also very much so within the more socialist higher education landscape of the subcontinent, where the inequities of religion, caste and class, I would say, are far more violent and deeply entrenched than the racial divisions in the US. Artistic education is even more complicated as who knows how to draw the line between talent and learning, identity and language, schooling and de-schooling. So yes,

one can only think of education as something whose greatest strengths are impossibly entangled with its most terrifying problems. For me, it is an eternally fascinating subject.

DS. *I found Megha*, the protagonist of *The Middle Finger*, to be a fascinating and engaging character. As a South Asian woman and academic, I could definitely relate to her. At the same time, I could not help wondering why you chose a female protagonist?

I think I feel more comfortable imagining women in positions of power than imagining men there. It might be a kind of wish-fulfilment – I think academia, like many other professional spheres, need many more women in positions of leadership. The structure of abuse revealed by the academic #MeToo movement points to this need.

SM. I think I feel more comfortable imagining women in positions of power than imagining men there. It might be a kind of wish-fulfilment – I think academia, like many other professional spheres, need many more women in positions of leadership. The structure of abuse revealed by the academic #MeToo movement points to this need. While I wanted to create a Drona figure in a contemporary college campus, I wanted her to be a woman. Also, I did not realize it at the time of writing, but I unconsciously created the reality of two women getting entangled in quotidian domestic labor, setting up a home that was a men-free zone. The idea of intimate female friendship without any male presence anywhere draws me powerfully – I think there is much to admire in these friendships. Female characters have always played key roles in my fiction, but this was my first time writing with a female protagonist.

DS. Critics have often called your language lyrical and evocative. Thematically, however, you portray conflicts arising from the clash of different cultures, classes, and education levels. What makes you pull at two opposite strings?

SM. Conflict is lyrical too, isn't it? Conflict lies at the root of art – be it conflict in plot, character, language, emotion, anything. An ethical conflict lies

at the soul of Megha's poetry – does she have the right to articulate a certain kind of pain? Does one have to experience certain kinds of suffering directly to own the right of their representation? Teaching, learning, mentorship, everything is ridden with conflicts. Who gets access to the teacher, to elite knowledge? And we know intimacy is the most riddled with conflicts – our greatest conflicts are with our intimate ones. *That being said*, of all my novels, *The Middle Finger* is the most divided between cultures, locations, ethnicity, class, sexuality – my previous novels were more uniformly rooted in single cultures. But that is the nature of this protagonist – she is more of a migrant and a traveler, more free and rootless, as it were.

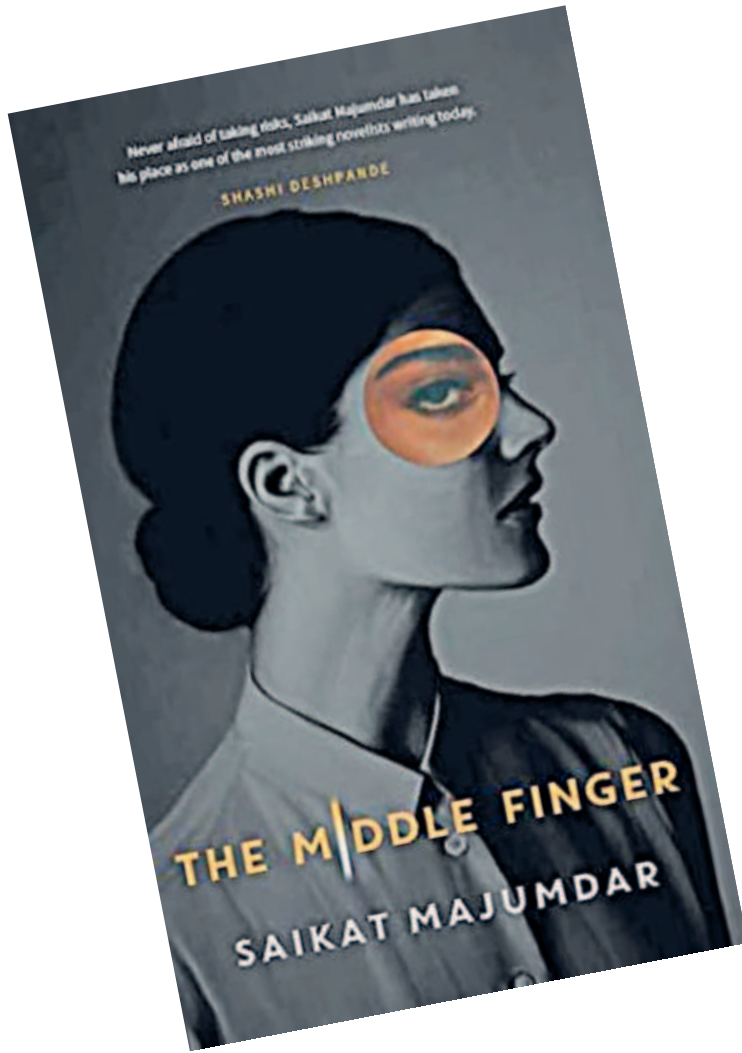
DS. Just out of curiosity: how do you name your characters? Do you think of the story first, or the characters first?

SM. Often my characters have names that mean something relevant to their role and nature – especially characters from the subcontinent. With this novel, I wanted names that sound ordinary, and yet not entirely forgettable. I try to avoid excessively unusual or striking names. I definitely think of characters first, usually characters rooted in a particular place/atmosphere, a conflict in/around them, a character with an innate and interesting tension. What the characters do, where life takes them – which often spins beyond authorial control – becomes the story. I don't really care much about the story, it's the lives of the characters that matters the most. However, this novel was a little different as the myth gave me a path to follow – some of which I ended up ignoring in favor of the demands of local and contemporary reality.

Q. 7. Of all the books you have written, do you have a favourite? If someone asks you to select one of your books as suggested reading, which one would you choose and why?

I think I found my fictional voice with *The Firebird*, *Play House*, and that novel draws on some deeply personal elements of my own life, so that's a particular favorite. But *The Middle Finger* also draws together my abiding concerns as a writer, teacher, student, migrant, and asks questions about creativity and mentorship that are very close to me, so I'm keen to see how readers respond to it.

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The Garden of Eden

“Just get down to the launch ghat and tell any rickshawala, ‘take me to Munshaf Quarter.’ You’ll be here. Everyone knows Munshaf quarter, it’s opposite to the D. C.’s office cum residence.”

RIFAT MAHBUB

My Facebook messenger tinkled a couple of times. All good on a Saturday morning. After all, while Facebook is a swirling fog of people's achievements – someone got married, had a baby, passed a degree, landed a dream job, published a book, the messenger option offers some personal space sharing.

First one was a typical family chat – too long a trail. I could catch all of it over a phone call, so I left it there.

The second one: a photo of a dilapidated house – yellow algae in colour, barren in shape and clearly uninhabited. The sender is a brother from the USA. The messenger bubble appeared, know this place?

A haunted house, and he was asking whether I knew the place. I live in London, and throughout the pandemic, the only place I visited was the Windsor Legoland. I don't go to the so-called English heritage sites, from where this house seemed to crop up. Yes, I could remember, William Wordsworth's house in Lake District was like that, but they kept it well, even built a little museum in it.

Na, I replied in a typical pseudo code.

Hmm, I thought so. The text bubble appeared.

Just a child then. He continued.

Now, I can't remember when I was a child for a very long time. I can't often remember which year I left school and college to be an adult. So I kept quiet, but of course, the 'seen' sign was clear. Messenger's random notification signs always baffle me: 'sent' (grey), 'seen' (blue), and then 'replied' (the text turns blue). In the eras of letters, if we did not receive a reply, we would like to assume that the letters were lost. It made us feel good about ourselves. But now everything is bare and naked. Your email was sent, but you never got a response; your message was seen but not being replied. Google says, 'it means that the person is ignoring you.' But that was not the case here. I didn't know what to reply, so I kept quiet.

I'm actually in BD right now. The bubble, thankfully, moved.

I went to Munshigonj yesterday, he continued.

Conversations these days are normally fragmented. I finally can make sense of

Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

I see, I typed hastily to express my eagerness.

And this was your house, the reply came.

The false bubble circled before the text appeared: remember Munshaf Quarter, where we all lived?

Now I could connect 'nothing with nothing.' This was a photo of a house we used to live in nearly thirty-five years ago in Munshigonj. But this cannot be true. Ours was a ... I hastily wrote, do you have more photos?

Four photos appeared:

One was a pond with explosively green water. I was not sure whether it was the untreated algae or the digital colour effect.

Another was a road running beside the pond. A crumbling wall stubbornly stood on the other side of the road, clearly a lost battle against time.

The third one was a close shot of a house with coconut or betel nut tree (I can't now differentiate). But all I could clearly see was some shabby washouts dangling in a rope tied between two trees.

The Final one captured the pond and its surrounding – the crumbling wall, a couple of dilapidated houses, trees and washouts.

Very bad condition, the bubble moved.

Nobody lives, some caretakers only. They are destroying ... I turned my mobile wi-fi off to leave the chat altogether, abruptly.

Munshaf Quarter.

“Just get down to the launch ghat and tell any rickshawala, ‘take me to Munshaf Quarter.’ You’ll be here. Everyone knows Munshaf quarter, it’s opposite to the D. C.’s office cum residence.” That was how my father would instruct any of his friends in Dhaka if they wished to visit Munshigonj for a day or two. In those days, vacations did not mean Cox's Bazar, Khagrachari, Penang or Bali. Most people used to go to their grandparents' grammer bari. But you know the catch we had? We used to live in a mufashal called Munshigonj, and our dada-r bari was in Dhaka. So, we could take a reverse journey to the centre, and our chachas (real and my father's friends) would visit us in Munshigonj on many Fridays.

Munshaf Quarter. The heart of

Munshigonj's civil service – even as someone slightly older than a toddler, I knew the ranks of the detached one-storey houses: the first one was sub-judge chacha's, after that magistrate chacha, then other magistrate chacha, then our own, our opposite was another sub-judge chacha, and the road ended with a big name: district judge chacha. Strange how we now think that kids these days are very smart just because they know the names of Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk. I even knew the positions, not only names.

When we lived, we just lived. But now I reimagine its history. May be in the 19th century, Hindu Babus used to live here



to manage this once Hindu-dominated community, close to then Dacca (now our Dhaka), the Centre of East Bengal. Or maybe from the mid-20th century, newly educated Muslims took over and lived in Munshaf quarter and walked to their offices with their Hindu counterparts. Or could its history be traced back to the lost time of Muslim rulers in Bengal? Maybe there were documents in a shabby public library where we had to go with our father to attend some events. Those were dreary hours as men would just talk and talk. In the end, a dampened shingara with balushai would make us forget our pain!

The houses were sprawling and lavish. Each house had two beds of land at the front and one at the back. It had a servant quarter. But oh, the challenge! The lavatory was a walk away from the house. The house only had a bathroom (literally) with a ground urinal where one could pee but not poop. But we were used to it. If we had to poop at night, our mother would carry a torch or a hurricane accompanying us.

Each winter, we used to have a gardening competition among the neighbours. Ours would often be the winner because our father really had green fingers. Scarlet rose, mild cosmos, sensual dahlia, alert sunflower, velvety chondromollika – my vocabulary of flowers in Bangla and English started and ended there. I now know there was another reason why our garden was the top. We were an exception in that little community: my father was not a government bureaucrat. He was a government college teacher. I don't know how we started staying in that posh place, because my father's colleague used to live in other parts of this semi town. We sisters were para-berani girls. Part of our responsibility was to get to know the incoming families, or to spread the news that another magistrate chacha would leave Munshigonj. We did not go anywhere. Not until 1988, when the nearby pond raged with the devastating flood and our house became an extension of that once quiet and benign pond. Not until my mother started thinking that Dhaka would be better for our education. Not until I turned 7 and still was as unruly, uncontrollable and unwashed as I used to be at 4.

Our garden would look like the Garden of Eden because we never had a gardener. We used to garden ourselves. We wanted to be the winner to belittle the government gardener who used to mow the grasses and planted the seeds for our neighbours.

Munshaf Quarter, my only Garden of Eden, is now a damaged, decaying, dystopian reality. Is that how Harappa and Mohenjodaro also became lost cities?

Rifat Mahbub works as a research programme manager (Social Care) at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), England, and lives in London.

'Relatively civilised, white' journo wants passports abolished; says skin colour enough verification

STARS HOLLOW CORRESPONDENT

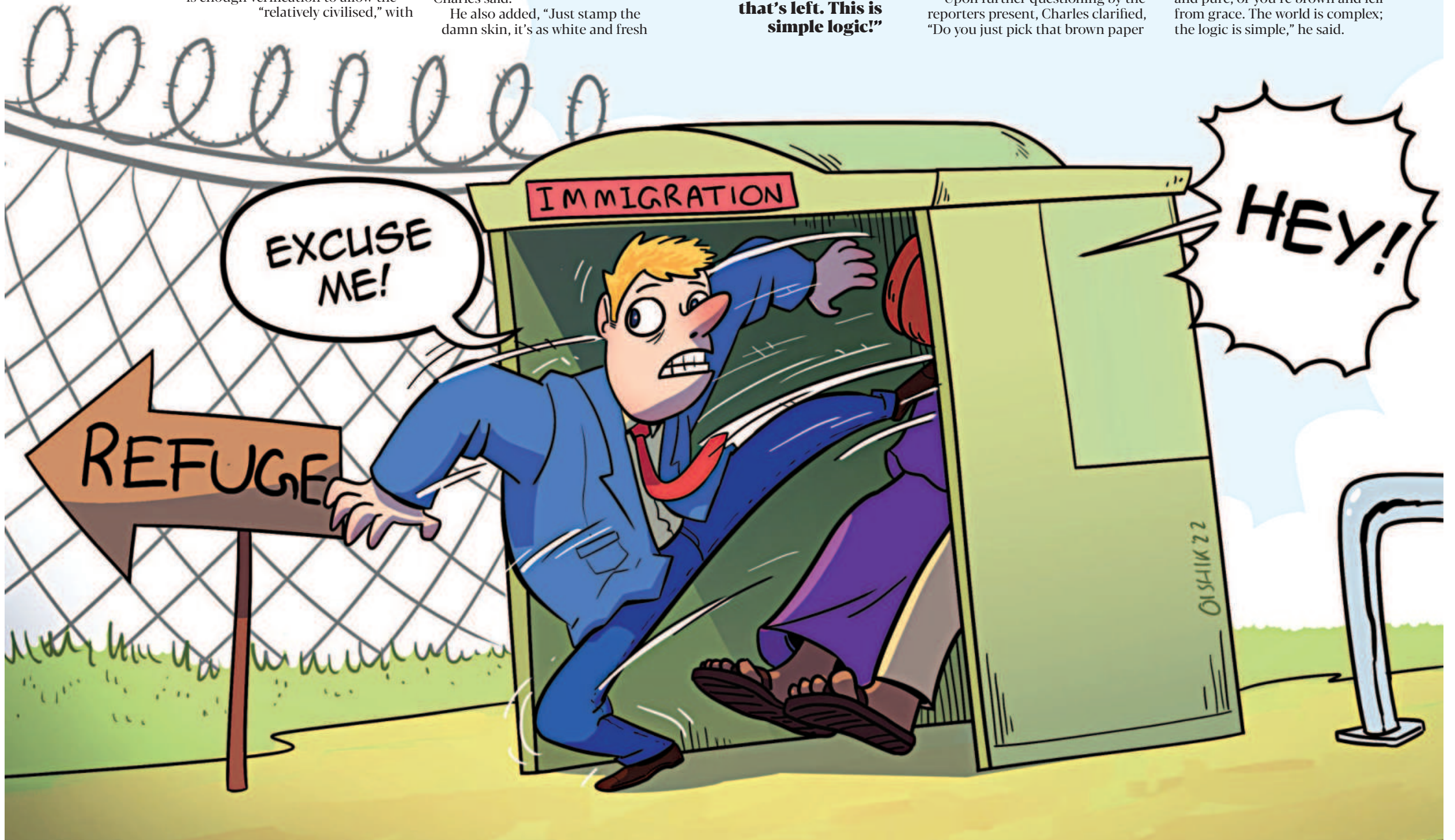
The CBS-BS Senior Foreign Correspondent, who claimed Iraq and Afghanistan are not civilised and can expect to be in wars, Charles Gate, called on world leaders to abolish passports saying skin colour is enough verification to allow the "relatively civilised," with

brown eyes and blue hair, to enter. The comments came while Charles Gate was speaking to reporters about his recent comments on a Friday CBS-BS broadcast. "If a fresh piece of paper falls to the ground, what happens? It turns brown! It's not fresh anymore," Charles said. He also added, "Just stamp the damn skin, it's as white and fresh

"Do you just pick that brown paper up from the ground and go home? No! You save as many fresh, white pages that's left. This is simple logic!"

as any verification papers. It's white, it has no criminal record! You are all journalists here; you must have wondered why Western passports have more value than other countries? Add 2 + 2, you'll get why. Just imagine the short immigration queues!" Upon further questioning by the reporters present, Charles clarified, "Do you just pick that brown paper

up from the ground and go home? No! You save as many fresh, white pages that's left. This is simple logic! This is what we have to do now, and not think about who or what we didn't save in Kabul. "World leaders should open their eyes to the truth: Either you're white and pure, or you're brown and fell from grace. The world is complex; the logic is simple," he said.



OBVIOUSLY LOUD CURRY TRAITS

A student, also a mad fan of Syed Mujtaba Ali's famous short story "Roshogolla" prepares to leave the country for higher studies, complete with the essentials. A vibrant assortment of deshi snacks, masala, nimki, naru and other famous early 2000s (yes even the millennium is a nostalgia piece now) memorabilia, makes up the content of the suitcase. The student is also now Instagram famous as the "Girl carrying Bangladeshi snacks to the most countries". You can follow her to know more on @asholbangali

PHOTO: SATIREDAY FOLDER

A humane war by Putin, not wanting to put-out anyone

SATIREDAY DESK

The following is a note sent to Satireday by Russian President Vladimir Putin. We did not ask for it, but his mail entered our inbox anyway. We are running it because Putin has always been to journalists what he has been to bare-chested horseback riding – killing it!

My reputation in the West is lamentable, but let's just look at the facts here. How many wars have I waged? Have I gone into Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria? Shut up, fact-checkers!

Okay, I promised the man in the mirror that I wouldn't lose my composure. Other than the fact that there is a man living in my bathroom mirror, life is pretty good, so there is no reason to be angry.

The point of this note is that not only is life good, but I am good. Has any other ruler done what I did? Listen, we are all pretty much the same – Bush, Obama, Trump, Biden, me. We all get a hankering for some bombing.

But you know where I am different? My war, or liberation exercise, is against a white, majority Christian country. I could have full on launched an offensive against a middle-eastern country, but because I care about the humanity of war, I chose Ukraine. I told residents of that country

to leave their homes, why? Because when white mixes with white, you still get white. That is why Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania will welcome them with open arms.

These people are intelligent, they are educated people. This is not the refugee wave we have been used to, people we were not sure about their identity, people with unclear pasts, who could have been even terrorists.

So, remember, I have waged a humane war, unlike my more celebrated Western counterparts. My name may be Putin, but I don't want to put anyone out.

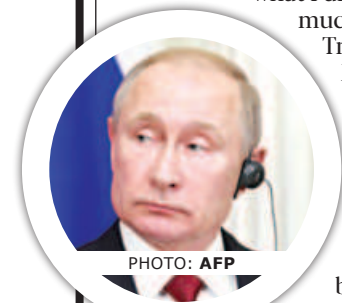


PHOTO: AFP