



**P7**  
**1.5 million fled war in Ukraine in 10 days: United Nations**



**B1**  
**Light commercial vehicle market share rises**



**P11**  
**Shakib not 'mentally prepared' for SA series**



**P9**  
**Revive the past glory of Bangladesh railway**



A man helps an elderly woman to run for cover after heavy shelling on the only escape route used by locals, while Russian troops advance towards the capital, in Irpin, near Kyiv, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Stop trying to halt offensive

**Putin tells Ukraine as diplomacy gathers pace; bid to evacuate residents from Mariupol fails again**

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said his campaign in Ukraine was going according to plan and would not end until Kyiv stopped fighting, as efforts to evacuate the heavily bombed city of Mariupol failed for a second day in a row.

He made the comments in a phone call with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, who appealed for a ceasefire in the conflict that the United Nations says has created the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War Two.

"It was underlined that the suspension of the special operation is only possible if Kyiv stops military operations and carries out well-known Russian demands," the Kremlin quoted Putin as saying.

Russian media said Putin also held almost two hours of talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, who has stayed in regular contact but, as with other

international efforts, has yet to persuade Moscow to call off a campaign now in an 11th day.

On Saturday Vladimir Putin threatened the existence of Ukrainian statehood.

"The current (Ukrainian) authorities must understand that if they continue to do what they are doing, they are putting in question the future of Ukrainian statehood," Putin said.

"And if this happens, they will be fully responsible."

Authorities in Mariupol had said yesterday they would make a second attempt to evacuate some of the 400,000 residents, after the Ukrainian coastal city endured days of shelling that has trapped people in without heat, power and water.

But the ceasefire plan collapsed, as it had on Saturday, with each side blaming the other for the failure.

Putin told Erdogan he was ready for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Sailors finally out of war zone

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Leaving behind the horrors of war, the 28 Bangladeshi crew members safely reached Bucharest, capital of Romania, yesterday after they were rescued from a ship attacked at a Ukrainian port on March 2.

The attack on the Banglar Samriddhi, owned by Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, left Third Engineer Hadisur Rahman dead.

The ship had been stranded at the Port of Olvia since February 23, a day before Russia began its invasion of Ukraine.

After the "missile" attack on the ship, some of the 28 crew members pleaded for help on social media, which prompted Bangladeshi authorities to step in. On March 3, the crew was evacuated from the ship and taken to a bunker in Nikolayev city in the south of Ukraine.

There, the Bangladesh embassy in Poland, with the help of a Bangladesh-origin Ukrainian businessman and Mahbub Alam, adviser to Bangladesh's honorary consul in Ukraine, provided food and other support to the crew.

But their journey to Romania was arduous, risky and uncomfortable. There was heavy traffic all the way to the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## A mission to save THE SPEECH

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

April 9, 1971. Amzad Ali Khondaker was moving a trunk out of the Secretariat building that housed the then office of Department of Films and Publications.

Only a handful of people knew that the young cameraman of DFP was on a life-threatening mission to save a treasure of history from destruction by the Pakistan occupation army.

Inside that iron box, he was carrying the video footage and audio tapes of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7 speech — a watershed in the nation's struggle for independence.

With the Pakistan military manning the Secretariat compound, Amzad knew this could cost him his life if he got caught.

He had already talked to a Bangalee police officer named Farid to help him out through Gate No 2. Still, he was tense about any last-minute complications.

Around 2:00pm, he boarded a two-stroke three-wheeler widely known as "baby taxi" with the trunk and reached Gate No 2. Farid assisted him in crossing the first major hurdle.

"I was in panic. But that could not stop me from going on that mission. We all were inspired by that monumental speech of Bangabandhu," Amzad said while recalling the day.

Getting out of the Secretariat, he breathed a sigh of relief though his job to take the films to safety was only half way

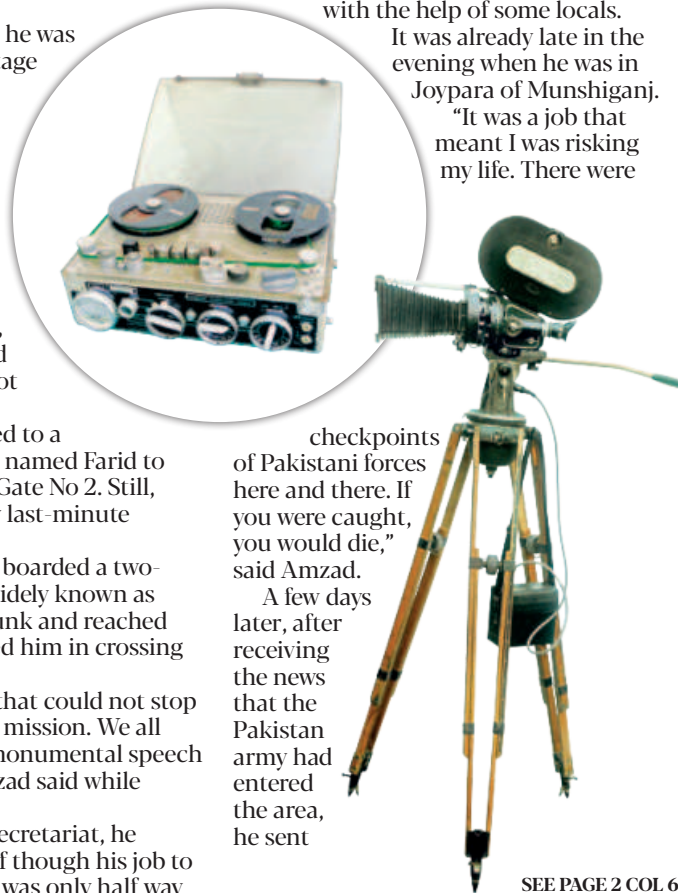
through.

"I took the road by the Curzon Hall to reach Swarighat via Chawkbazar. I crossed over the Buriganga to Jinjira by boat," said Amzad, a recipient of this year's Ekushey Padak, the second highest civilian award in Bangladesh.

He got on a bus to Bakhsnagar in Nawabganj. From Bakhsnagar, he walked for seven kilometres with the trunk carried by a horse, which he managed with the help of some locals.

It was already late in the evening when he was in Joypara of Munshiganj.

"It was a job that meant I was risking my life. There were



checkpoints of Pakistani forces here and there. If you were caught, you would die," said Amzad.

A few days later, after receiving the news that the Pakistan army had entered the area, he sent

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## In the driving seat in a man's world

NILIMA JAHAN

After her husband lost his job at a pharmacy in 2017, Leuza Akter Kristy's family plunged into a struggle to put food on the table.

An aspiring singer who would perform in shows occasionally, Leuza had to let go of her dream of a singing career to take care of her children.

The 34-year-old woman is also passionate about driving and bought her first car in 2007, which she would drive herself. But with the financial strains arising from the loss of her husband's job, she thought of selling the car to support her husband and children.

"But it [the car] was so dear to me that I eventually couldn't sell it. We even thought of giving it away to a rent-a-car service, but I was wary of my car getting damaged.

"A few days later, I learned that Uber started operations in Bangladesh a year ago and I immediately decided to make it my source of income as I knew driving. It was initially a challenge to convince my family as they were afraid of me driving around unknown people — knowing very well that Dhaka roads and transports are anything but safe for women.

"However, soon we all realised that if there is no food on the table, there was no point worrying about safety. They decided to let me give it a shot. I also took it as a test drive at the beginning but once I began, I started feeling the difference... I found it safe, it was time-saving, and I was earning enough to support my family."

Leuza joined in June 2017 as one of the few female Uber drivers in the country.

Since then, she has been supporting her two sons' education, her parents' medical treatment, looking after her family and job

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



LEUZA AKTER KRISTY



Workers of a plastic factory wash raw materials in the Buriganga as the chemical residue turns the water whitish. The river doesn't get a break from pollution as industrial and other waste are mindlessly dumped in its water.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## Horse-drawn plough piques interest

MD QUAMRUL ISLAM  
RUBAIYAT

In recent weeks, people have witnessed a curious sight unfolding in a farm in Dhondogaon area of Thakurgaon.

Two horses, and not two bullocks or buffaloes as has been the age-old custom, were tied to a yoke to plough the field.

Although the sight is an unusual one, this method of ploughing his potato field is proving to be a financially fruitful one for 45-year-old farmer Bhushan Barman.

This correspondent visited the village to see the farmer till the land with his horse-drawn plough near his house.

A smiling Bhushan said he bought the two horses from Panchagarh's Atwary Rush Mela about two and a half months ago for Tk 21,000.

He said it costs almost Tk 1 lakh to buy two medium-sized bullocks suitable for ploughing.

The cost to feed a pair of bullocks is higher, Bhushan said, adding that a horse-drawn plough is also much faster.

It is easy to plough one and a half acres of land in a day from 8:00am to 1:00pm, Bhushan said.

At present, after Bhushan ploughs his 50 decimals of land with his horses for late potato cultivation, he ploughs other farmers' lands for a fee. He has already ploughed about seven and a half acres of land and earned Tk 17,500.

He also has off-season plans for a horse-drawn carriage for rent.

Since the introduction of motorised farming equipment, however, the use of animals in this rigorous activity has been discouraged. District Livestock Officer Abul Kalam Azad said as employing horses in cultivating land is not common in the country, it is discouraged.

But Abu Hossain, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Thakurgaon, said traditional ploughs drawn with domestic animals are a good option for poor farmers.



**Bhushan Barman has become a local celebrity in the farming community in Dhondogaon area of Thakurgaon after successfully ploughing farmland using his horses. He bought the pair for only Tk 21,000 and was able to train them to pull the plough.**

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

# APBn arrests Mohib Ullah murder suspect

Detained chief commander of ARSA is believed to have issued the fatwa to assassinate the Rohingya leader

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Armed Police Battalion has arrested the chief commander of so-called Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Ulama branch), who issued the fatwa for the assassination of Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah.

Zokoria, 55, was arrested in Lambasia camp-1 of Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

APBn members held Zokoria after a four-month effort.

He went into hiding during a raid on the camp area after Mohib Ullah's assassination, confirmed SP Naimul Haque, commander of the 14th Armed Police Battalion, yesterday.

Zokoria had a rivalry with Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah. He is considered the top adviser to the Rohingya camp's perpetrators, said the official.

SP Naimul also said Zokoria came to Bangladesh from Myanmar in 2015. Later, he went back there again. As a refugee in 2016, he started living in the Lambasia area. Since 2020, he has been serving as the chief commander of the Ulama branch



MOHIB ULLAH

of so-called ARSA in the Kutupalong camp.

Legal procedure is underway against him, he added.

So far, 10 Rohingya men have been arrested in this case. Of them, two gave confessional statements of involvement in the murder before the court.

Commander of APBn-14 SP Naimul Haque said during primary interrogation of the accused, the suspect spoke of a total of 19 Rohingya miscreants being involved in the murder plan, "and of them,

five, including him, were members of the killing squad".

On September 29 last year, another arrestee Murshid called Mohib to the latter's office to discuss Rohingya repatriation issues and informed other members of the squad, said SP Naimul.

They fired four shots at Mohib Ullah, he said, adding that they fled the scene using a lane behind Mohib Ullah's house.

**Zokoria had a rivalry with Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah. He is considered as the top adviser to the perpetrators in the Rohingya camp.**

On September 30, police filed a case over Mohib Ullah's murder, following a complaint from his brother Habib Ullah.

On August 25, 2019, Mohib Ullah came to the limelight as a leader after holding an assembly of around five lakh Rohingyas.

## Bangladeshi shot dead near Kushtia border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead near Kushtia's Daulatpur border on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Liton Bishwas, 35, said Jabid Hasan, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station.

Quoting Liton's family, Pragpur Union Parishad Chairman Ashrafuzzaman claimed that India's Border Security Force opened fire at Liton and his companions near the Meghna border under India's Hogaalbaria Police Station.

Liton's body has been kept at the police station in India's Nadia district, OC Jabid Hasan said, adding that he received a phone call from the police station informing him of the death, as well as a photo of Liton's body.

Subedar Amjad Hossain, acting company commander of Pragpur Border Guard Bangladesh, said a formal letter was sent to India asking for more information.

**BARAPUKURIA GRAFT CASE**

## Charge framing against Khaleda adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned till April 26 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and six others in the Barapukuria coalmine graft case.

Judge (in-charge) Mohammad Nazrul Islam of the Special Judge's Court-2 of Dhaka passed the order after a petition seeking adjournment was filed on Khaleda's behalf, Masud Ahmed Talukder, one of her lawyers, told The Daily Star.

In the petition, Masud said Khaleda, who is now out of jail following an executive order of the government, is unwell and her appearance at the court was earlier exempted.

## 3 killed in B'baria accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Three men died when a tractor rammed their motorcycle on Saturday night in Brahmanbaria.

The accident occurred on the Dhaka-Agartala road in Chinair area of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila around 8:00pm, said Emranul Islam, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Nazel Mahmud Khan, 24, Nazim Bhuiyan, 24, and Enamul Islam, 26.

Nazel and Nazim were killed on the spot, the OC said. Enamul was sent to Dhaka with severe injuries and died there around 2:00am yesterday.

The driver of the tractor managed to flee, the OC added.

## KSA lifts Covid testing, quarantine protocols

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People landing in Saudi Arabia will no longer need to take Covid-19 PCR tests, the kingdom said on Saturday.

Also, it will no longer require travellers to undergo mandatory Covid-19 quarantine upon arrival, reports Saudi Gazette.

However, anyone arriving on visit visas will need insurance to cover costs of treatment in case of Covid infection.

It will also end social distancing in the two Holy Mosques and all other mosques, but worshipers still have to wear masks.

## Stop trying to halt

FROM PAGE 1

dialogue with Ukraine and foreign partners but any attempt to draw out negotiation would fail, a Kremlin statement said. Turkey said Erdogan had called for a ceasefire to ease humanitarian concerns.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett made a surprise visit to the Kremlin Saturday for three hours of talks – Putin's first face-to-face meeting with a foreign leader since the invasion began.

The Israeli leader later spoke with Zelenskiy.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said he is to launch an international "plan of action" to ensure Russia's invasion of Ukraine fails, including a flurry of diplomatic meetings next week.

Kyiv renewed its appeal to the West to toughen sanctions beyond existing efforts that have hammered Russia's economy. It also requested more weapons, including a plea for Russian-made planes, to help it repel Russian forces.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Washington was "very, very actively" considering how it could backfill aircraft for Poland, if Warsaw decided to supply its warplanes to Ukraine, speaking on a trip to neighbouring Moldova.

Putin says he wants a "demilitarised", "denazified" and neutral Ukraine and on Saturday likened Western sanctions "to a declaration of war".

Moscow calls the campaign it launched on

Feb 24 a "special military operation", saying it has no plans to occupy Ukraine, which was once part of the Soviet Union under Moscow's sway but which has now turned West seeking membership of Nato and the European Union.

"They're destroying us," Mariupol mayor Vadym Boychenko told Reuters in a video call, describing the plight of the city of 400,000. "They will not even give us an opportunity to count the wounded and the killed because the shelling does not stop." Read full story

Russia, which denies attacking civilian areas, has poured troops and equipment into Ukraine. A huge Russian convoy on a road north of Kyiv has made limited visible progress in recent days, although Russia's defence ministry released footage yesterday showing some tracked military vehicles on the move.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian rockets had destroyed the civilian airport of the central-western region capital of Vinnytsia yesterday. He also said Russia was preparing to bombard another southern city, Odessa.

The World Health Organization said there had been several attacks on Ukrainian healthcare facilities during the conflict. The attacks caused deaths and injuries, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a Twitter message, but gave no details.

## In the driving seat in a man's world

FROM PAGE 1

simultaneously, and inspiring other women to join Uber – many of whom have already followed her suit.

Although she initially feared negative responses, she realised that most of her passengers are pleasantly surprised to find her behind the wheel. Many of them even commented that women are better drivers, she said.

"Many men told me they felt safer [knowing I was the driver] when their wives took Uber. With a male driver, they would be nervous and either constantly be on the phone or track the location."

A religious man, however, once declined to board a car driven by a woman, she said.

"On the other hand, women get ecstatic to get me as their driver. Many even asked if there could be an option where female passengers would only get female drivers for them to feel safe and not be hounded by uncomfortable questions."

According to her, this independent profession enables her to move away from the conventional nine-to-five jobs.

"I can start work after finishing my household chores and giving time to my children. I start in the afternoon and drive till 2:00am. On days that I have other work, I can choose not to drive.

"And by driving three to four days a week, I can earn on average Tk 15,000. And if someone drives 12 hours at a stretch, they can easily

earn up to Tk 6,000 a day. Uber also has a special incentive for its female drivers that helps cover fuel expenses."

Leuza also said she has not yet had any bad experience with regard to her safety. "Both Uber and my family can track my whereabouts and know who is taking the ride."

According to her, this can be a great profession for women, especially in countries like Bangladesh, where there is an existing gender gap in employment and pay, while not all working environments are women-friendly.

"Landing a white-collar job is not always easy for women. Those who, like me, love driving and have a car can easily take up this as a profession – keeping in mind that no job is big or small... In many developed countries, even female doctors sometimes take up driving to make an extra buck between shifts. Why should it be embarrassing for us?"

Contacted, an Uber Bangladesh spokesperson told The Daily Star that Uber offers lucrative incentives for women driver-partners on their platform and has forged multiple partnerships to enable more women to earn through Uber.

"Our robust in-app safety features are built keeping in mind the safety of both riders and drivers, regardless of their gender... A driver-partner like Leuza Akter Kristy inspires all of us and we hope that she serves as a role model to many other women,

## A mission to save the speech

FROM PAGE 1

the cans of films and audio tapes to a further remote village called Karkosai.

Later, the materials were sent to India with the help of freedom fighters and Indian officials, and brought back to Bangladesh after the independence. Amzad resumed his job at DFP after the war and later became the chief cameraman of BTV.

He also played a key role in protecting the precious recording of the speech after the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu and his family members in 1975, when conspirators raided the DFP office.

With the help of some trusted colleagues, he replaced the film negative of the March 7 speech with a different one in the designated canister. The conspirators took away the canister thinking they got the right footage.

Amzad, now 79, said it was the then director of Film Division Mohebbur Rahman Khair, popularly known as Abul Khair, who planned everything – from shooting the historic speech to protecting it all the way.

Abul Khair, an acclaimed film and TV actor who passed away in 2001, had sent an eight-member team to shoot the historic speech Bangabandhu delivered at the mammoth rally on Race Course Maidan. Amzad was a member of that team.

They used German 35mm ARRI camera for filming the event and Nagra audio device for sound recording. Reflecting on that day,

## A mission to save the speech

FROM PAGE 1

the cans of films and audio tapes to a further remote village called Karkosai.

Later, the materials were sent to India with the help of freedom fighters and Indian officials, and brought back to Bangladesh after the independence.

Amzad resumed his job at DFP after the war and later became the chief cameraman of BTV.

He also played a key role in protecting the precious recording of the speech after the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu and his family members in 1975, when conspirators raided the DFP office.

With the help of some trusted colleagues, he replaced the film negative of the March 7 speech with a different one in the designated canister. The conspirators took away the canister thinking they got the right footage.

Amzad, now 79, said it was the then director of Film Division Mohebbur Rahman Khair, popularly known as Abul Khair, who planned everything – from shooting the historic speech to protecting it all the way.

Abul Khair, an acclaimed film and TV actor who passed away in 2001, had sent an eight-member team to shoot the historic speech Bangabandhu delivered at the mammoth rally on Race Course Maidan. Amzad was a member of that team.

They used German 35mm ARRI camera for filming the event and Nagra audio device for sound recording. Reflecting on that day,

Amzad said, "There were rumours that the stage might be blown up by a bomb. We were nervous ... but we were more concerned about recording Bangabandhu's speech properly."

He added, "We could not pay that much attention to the speech as we were involved in the shooting, but we were mesmerised by the way Bangabandhu issued clear-cut instructions throughout his address."

Abul Khair had been worrying about the fate of the recorded materials since March 25, when the Pakistan military started massacring unarmed Bangalees as part of one of the worst genocides in the world.

"He [Abul Khair] trusted me as one of his loyal junior colleagues. When he told me about the task, I just said I want to meet my father and seek his blessings," Amzad told The Daily Star.

SM Golam Kibria, the current director general of DFP, said they tried to recognise the persons behind recording Bangabandhu's historic speech and proposed Amzad's name for Ekushey Padak.

The 19-minute address of Bangabandhu set the tone for the Liberation War that would officially begin on March 26 and culminated with the Victory on December 16 after a bloody

nine-month war.

"The struggle this time is the struggle for our emancipation. The struggle this time is for independence," the Father of the Nation had roared to deliver a clarion call for independence.

The speech has been inducted into the book, "We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The

Speeches that Inspired History" by Jacob F Field, a collection of "extracts from the most rousing and inspirational wartime speeches of the last 2,500 years – Cicero to Churchill, Lincoln to Mao."

In 2017, Unesco inscribed it as a documentary heritage in the Memory of the World Register.

## China pushes 'direct' Russia-Ukraine negotiations as war rages

AFP, Beijing

Beijing urged direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine during a Saturday call between Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and his American counterpart Antony Blinken, as the war following Moscow's invasion entered a tenth day.





‘Form cell to keep soybean oil price under control’  
Petition seeks HC directive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday, seeking its directive on the government to set up a monitoring cell and control the price of soybean oil in the market.

Supreme Court lawyers Monir Hossain, Syed Mohidul Kabir and Mohammad Ullah submitted the petition as a public interest litigation based on a report published in The Daily Star on March 3 on soybean oil price hike.

In the petition, they prayed to the HC to order the government to take action through mobile court against those who are responsible for unusual price hike of the oil.

The HC may hold hearing on the petition today, petitioner Syed Mohidul Kabir told The Daily Star.

According to The Daily Star report, traders in their bid to make a quick buck are siphoning out soybean oil from sealed 5-litre containers and selling the cooking oil in loose form while others are hoarding the oil – driving the prices up in retail.

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

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



This year’s “Nirbhaya” Shahinur Akhter, Kohinoor Akter, Shantona Khisa, Shakila Islam and Hashi Begum pose with UNDP resident representative Sudipto Mukerjee after the award ceremony at the capital’s The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Brave, resilient, ‘Nirbhaya’

Star, UNDP recognise five women for climate action leadership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When Shakila Islam was only 12 years old, her family was hit by the super cyclone Sidr in Barishal.

Since then, she has been passionate about tackling climate crisis and its multisectoral impacts. As a youth, Shakila co-founded YouthNet for Climate Justice.

Now, the platform is a large coastal-based youth movement for climate advocacy.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day 2022, five women including Shakila were awarded as “Nirbhaya” (fearless) by The Daily Star and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh yesterday.

The others are Kohinoor Akter of

Chattogram, Hashi Begum of Barguna, Shahinur Akhter of Chandpur, and Shantona Khisa of Rangamati.

They were recognised for their “Leadership in Climate Action for Sustainable Future”. They received crests and certificates during a ceremony at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

“Women, children and elderly people are the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of global climate change. We are advocating so that women and other vulnerable groups of people can be protected from the adversity,” Shakila said.

This was the second edition of the “Nirbhaya” initiative. Last year, five women received similar recognition for their selfless initiatives amid the pandemic.

Shahinur Akhter (32) was raised by a

gypsy family in Chandpur after she was abandoned by her own family at the age of six.

Only being able to study up to fifth grade due to poverty, Shahinur now spends most of her monthly earning of Tk 5,000 from a sewing business on her two children’s education.

She is also a community leader in Chandpur municipality under UNDP initiative, and received her award for her contribution.

Like her, Kohinoor Akter (42) a mother of two, is an inspiration for thousands of women in Chattogram.

During the pandemic, Kohinoor established 374 hand-washing stations and distributed over 66,000 bars of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Govt plans to improve life of stranded Biharis  
Says PM

“We want to see a human being as a human being. May be they didn’t want to live here then, but where will they go now? Their next generations were born in this country. We have to do something for them.”



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government plans to provide a better life for stranded Biharis in the country on humanitarian grounds, although the previous generation had opted for Pakistani citizenship after Bangladesh’s independence.

“We want to see a human being as a human being. May be they didn’t want to live here then, but where will they go now? Their next generations were born in this country. We have to do something for them,” she said.

Hasina said this while addressing an inaugural programme of road infrastructure and drainage system construction and development (phase-1) of the newly created 18 wards of Dhaka North City Corporation.

The programme was held at Kanchkura High School field of ward 44 under DNCC while the PM joined it from Gono Bhaban.

Talking about stranded Biharis, Hasina said not only in Dhaka, Biharis are living in various areas of the country.

“They wanted to go to Pakistan and have Pakistani citizenship after Bangladesh’s independence. But Pakistan never accepted them,” she recalled.

“They are now living in Bangladesh with their children and grandchildren. The living conditions are inhumane -- in congested spaces at Geneva Camps,” she said.

“I want to arrange good accommodation for them and engage them in jobs that utilise their skills,” she said. She said this cannot be done in Dhaka, and a convenient place is needed where

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Coastal women bearing the brunt

Speakers tell webinar on climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change is making it increasingly harder for coastal women to ensure reproductive health and tackle early marriages and domestic violence.

The woes of coastal women were revealed in a webinar titled “Women Breaking the Bias for Climate Justice”, organised by ActionAid Bangladesh yesterday, ahead of International Women’s Day.

Taking part in the webinar, Josna Rani Mondol, a coastal woman from Satkhira’s Shyamnagar upazila, said even though the place of her people was surrounded by water, not a single drop was drinkable.

She said salinity has engulfed everything, from drinking water to crop production, disrupting their daily life. The crisis drives males of the families to go elsewhere in search of work, which makes girls more vulnerable to several issues.

“Salinity invades local ponds during storm surges. We are forced to use saline water for daily chores, which exposes us to many diseases. The treatment cost has also burdened our lives,” she explained.

Josna said they travel two to three miles to fetch drinking water, which hinders them from doing household chores like cooking and cleaning. This predicament also leads to domestic violence, as males quite often beat their wives for not cooking on time.

Eminent climate-change expert Prof Saleemul Huq said the impact of climate change on women and children is enormous. “I will

reveal the story of our women’s struggle in the next COP. No matter which country or city we live in, we all must take equal responsibility to fight climate change.”

From her experience, ActionAid Project Manager Taslima Akhter said after losing their homes to cyclones, many families desperately try to marry off their girls, due to security concerns.

Mahbuba Nasreen, pro vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Open University, said, “To fight the

- Salinity invading water bodies, exposing women to diseases
- After losing homes to cyclones, families try to marry off girls
- Many forced to live dangerously on embankments
- Women having to walk miles to get drinking water

impacts of climate change, we have to show examples of women’s resilience, which will enable us to adapt further.”

Eminent architect Marina Tabassum said, “We have to adopt a sustainable water-management policy, through which we will be able to hold water in many ways.”

Runa Khan, founder and executive director of Friendship, Nujulee Begum, protection lead at ActionAid, and Syeda Jafari Husain, consultant at World Bank Group, also spoke in the webinar, moderated by Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh.

Later, four women were awarded “Nasreen Smriti Padak” for contributions in their respective fields.



EMBRACE  
COMFORT  
NOW

Zone Flow

4 Directional Airflow

Inverter Technology  
up to 60%  
Electricity Saving

up to 7,600 tk  
Cash Discount

On GREEN INVERTER  
AIR CONDITIONER

Buy Now  
Pay Later

Free Installation  
\*Conditions apply

5  
Compressor  
Warranty

singerbd.com

**SINGER**  
Embrace Life Now



## PM flies to UAE today

FROM PAGE 12

of Bangladesh, especially its socio-economic development.

Momen said the UAE is a major labour market for Bangladesh, as well as a trade partner. The bilateral trade is \$2 billion, but the UAE exports goods worth about

\$1.5 billion. "So, we are eager to increase our exports."

Also, the UAE has a number of investment proposals in Bangladesh, which is something that the country wants.

The government in principle decided to award the UAE the work of a bay

terminal in Chattogram. The two countries will also organise Joint Business Forum to improve trade relations, he said.

Hasina will also lay the foundation stone of Bangladesh-English Private School's new campus at Ra Al Khaimah.

## PRI, Star sign MoU

CITY DESK

Policy Research Institute, a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organisation, recently signed a memorandum of understanding with The Daily Star on "Policy initiative for DFS in Bangladesh".

The MoU was signed on February 22 in Dhaka.

The initiative was taken to enable policy environment for strengthening digital financial service and ensure financial inclusion in Bangladesh. This is a 1.5 years collaboration project, led by Dr Bazlul Haque Khondker. Dr Ahsan H Mansur, executive director, PRI of Bangladesh; and Dr Khondker, director, PRI and professor, Department of Economics, DU, signed the MoU on behalf of PRI.

Shuvashish Roy, head of business of The Daily Star; and Rufaida Islam, its senior executive, were present on the occasion.

## Brave, resilient

FROM PAGE 3

soap to local people. Besides, she has been relentless at efforts to prevent child marriage and domestic violence.

Shantona Khisa (38), a karbari (traditional village head) at Ramharipara under Naniarchar upazila of Rangamati, is now working under two local networks, contributing to conserving natural forests and resources and protecting safe habitats for wildlife.

Meanwhile, with the aid of UNDP Bangladesh and support from local community leaders, Hashi Begum fought against ignorance, misinformation, and skepticism surrounding the dire reality of Covid-19, which made her a hero at her village Uttar Manoshitola in Barguna.

Addressing yesterday's ceremony, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said leadership skill requires courage, honesty, conscience, and the drive

to serve others.

He thanked the awardees for possessing such virtues.

On the impending threats of global climate change, he said the human civilisation has never faced such a challenge before.

There are many natural disasters that can be contained by combined efforts. However, climate change is a phenomenon that requires timely intervention, he added.

UNDP resident representative Sudipto Mukerjee assured that the

"Nirbhaya" initiative will continue to take place in the next year and beyond.

Sudipto called upon his colleagues in UNDP Bangladesh to arrange further felicitations for the awardees in their localities to amplify their achievements to inspire others.

Sharmin Islam, gender analyst, UNDP Bangladesh, said by launching the initiative, they wanted to bring forth the unheard success stories to inspire people.

after the deadline, the Tk 2659.33-crore project is facing uncertainty over funding.

ABR official, wishing not to be named, said Covid-19 has affected the tendering process, inspection and commission of projects as well.

## HC slams ACC for failure

FROM PAGE 12

affairs of CID in Dhaka.

Special superintendent of police, the financial crime of CID in Dhaka, has been made member secretary of the committee, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told the HC while placing the report on the formation of the committee.

Earlier on January 30, the HC ordered the ACC

and the CID to submit to this court by yesterday reports on the progress of the investigation into the allegations of money laundering against Bangladeshi nationals whose names were published in the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers.

The bench also directed the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) to submit before it by

yesterday the names of Bangladeshi individuals who deposited money in foreign banks, including those in Switzerland.

Lawyer Subir Nandi Das appeared as the writ petitioners, while lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan argued for ACC and DAG AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state during the hearing.

## Sailors finally out of war zone

FROM PAGE 1

Moldova border as thousands were trying to flee the war.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, one of the crew members said they were taken to the border from the bunker in a bus, and they heard gunshots while boarding.

The bus left around 8:15am (Ukraine time) on Saturday and reached the border on the Ukrainian side at 7:30pm. The Bangladeshis entered Moldova around 12:20am yesterday and reached the Moldova-Romania border around 5:30am. They crossed the Romanian border around an hour later and arrived at their hotel in Bucharest around 1:00pm.

"We crossed a total of 17 military checkpoints on way to the Moldova border," said the crew member, adding that they were escorted by Ukrainian soldiers in "risky" areas.

"All the checkpoints were being manned by Ukrainian military personnel. They helped us a lot," said the man, who wished to remain unnamed as he was not authorised to speak on the matter.

It took the crew members almost 12 hours to reach the border, where two minibuses, arranged by the Bangladeshi authorities, were waiting for

them. The vehicles carried them to the Romanian border where they were welcomed by local officials, who expressed sorrow at their plight and helped them cross the border quickly.

"Everything was arranged by the Bangladeshi authorities. We thank them for this," the crewman said over the phone.

"All of us are now safe, far from the battlefield. We will return to the country in good health soon," InshaAllah," Rukunuzzaman Razib, one of the Bangladeshis, wrote on Facebook.

Contacted, Daud Ali, Bangladesh ambassador to Romania, said it took a long time for the crew members to reach Romania due to heavy traffic as so many people were fleeing Ukraine.

The Bangladesh embassy in Romania arranged accommodation for the crew members and was working to arrange their air tickets so that they can fly home at the earliest, embassy officials said.

Till last night, it could not be known when they might arrive in Bangladesh.

The body of Hadisur Rahman was being kept in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the

government was collecting information on the five Bangladeshis, who recently posted a video on social media saying they were "used by Ukrainian soldiers as human shields".

So far, the government found that those five went to Russia and were planning to go somewhere else through Ukraine. Since they were undocumented, they were detained by Ukrainian soldiers and kept at a detention centre.

"We're trying to get more information. We'll try to bring them back once we get more information," the minister told a press conference at the State Guesthouse Padma.

Asked why Bangladesh abstained from voting at the UN General Assembly resolution that reprimanded Russia for invading Ukraine and demanded the war's end, Momen said the resolution was not meant to stop the war. "If you see the wording of the resolution, [you'll see] it is not to stop the war but to blame someone."

"We are for peace. We want peace. We don't want war. So, we said we are concerned about it [the war]. We expect the UN charter to be followed," he said.

He also said Bangladesh is in favour of dialogues and peaceful solutions to any problems.

## All things

FROM PAGE 5

as a culture. There's no one to tell us stories these days, and often, we aren't able to create them ourselves. Books play a very important role in this regard."

Alongside highlighting contributions of events like Ekushey Boi Mela and Dhaka Lit Fest in providing exposure to local bookstores, Amina Rahman also brought up the threats posed by

photocopied books. These "local copies" are cheaper, Rahman agrees, but they lack the opportunity for personal interaction with authors and artists.

In response, Luva Nahid suggested donation or exchange of personal collections of old books, shared with bookstores, libraries and literary events, so that those who cannot afford to buy them can still get access.

## Govt plans to

FROM PAGE 3

there are industries or scope of jobs for them.

She also said communication system in the country has improved a lot. "We are developing rail, road and air communications," she said.

Hasina said with her

personal initiative she identified 10-bigha of land in Gulshan area where a playground will be developed. "Nothing else, only playground," she said.

The PM again requested people to maintain austerity in using electricity and water.



**HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION**  
– Humanity & Inclusion  
Phone number: +88 02222284794; +88 02222292188;  
E-mail address: [logistics@bangladesh.hi.org](mailto:logistics@bangladesh.hi.org)

**Call for Interest – Vendor Enlistment**

Handicap International (HI) is hereby inviting a Call For Interest (CFI) to establish enlistment process with reputed suppliers or service providers to meet HI's programme requirements\*. Eligible vendors either can collect the Enlistment Document printed copy from HI Offices from:  
**DHAKA COUNTRY OFFICE:** House-3/A, Road-36, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.  
**KURIGRAM OFFICE:** Shafikun Villa, Chamra Gola, Velakopa Road, Municipality Ward no: 05, Kurigram Sadar, Bangladesh.  
**COX'S BAZAR OFFICE:** The Sayman Heritage Residence, Building-2 : Level-2, Baharchara, Cox'sBazar-4700  
**UKHIA OFFICE:** Malvita Para, Ukhlya, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.  
**TEKNAF OFFICE:** Khaiyuk Khali Para, Teknaf Municipality, Teknaf 4760, Bangladesh.  
or can download the electronic version through the link: <https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/handicap/handicap80.htm>  
**Last date for submission of application is on 28/03/2022 by 17h00.**

**TOILET/SALE**  
COMMERCIAL SPACE (Approx. 4252 sqft) National Plaza (4th floor) 109, Bir Uttom CR Dutta Road ( Sonargoon Road, Opposite to Sonargoon Hotel-attached to Noor Tower on the north).  
Contact : 01674493768, 01835-152035.

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
উত্তরা রূপায়ন সিটি মেজিস্টিক  
বিল্ডিং 4 এ 2595 বর্গফুট রেডি ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় হবে। মোবাইলঃ 01715-479029 D-27

**রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
**এম.ফিল. ও পিএইচ.ডি. প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনুষদভুক্ত বিভাগসমূহে ২০২২-২০২৩ শিক্ষাবর্ষে এম.ফিল. ও পিএইচ.ডি. প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। পূর্ণগুরুত্ব আবেদনপত্র ২৬/০৪/২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগে জমা দিতে হবে।  
ভর্তির যোগ্যতা ও বিজ্ঞারিত তথ্যসহ পূর্ণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং প্রাথমিক আবেদনপত্রের নমুনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট [www.ru.ac.bd](http://www.ru.ac.bd)-তে পাওয়া যাবে। এ সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগ থেকে নিজ দায়িত্বে জেনে নিতে হবে।  
**মোঃ আকতার হোসেন**  
উপ-রেজিস্ট্রার, একাডেমিক শাখা-২  
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
জিডি-৪৪৪

**বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ**  
প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ দুগ্ধ ভবন  
১৩৯-১৪০, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮  
[www.milkvita.org.bd](http://www.milkvita.org.bd)  
স্মারক নং ৪৭.৬৭.০০০০.০০২.৩৩.০০১.২২.৫৬  
তারিখঃ ৩রা মার্চ, ২০২২খ্রিঃ



**বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ (মিল্ক ইউনিয়ন)-এর বিশেষ সাধারণ সভা ও ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির নির্বাচন-২০২২ এর বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গত ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির সভার সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী সমবায় সমিতি আইন-২০০১ (সংশোধিত আইন-২০০২ ও ২০১৩) ও বিধিমালা-২০০৪ (সংশোধিত ২০২০) এর বিধি ১৪ এবং মিল্ক ইউনিয়নের উপ-আইন অনুসরণ করে বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ (মিল্ক ইউনিয়ন) এর বিশেষ সাধারণ সভা ও ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির নির্বাচন-২০২২ আগামী ১৩ই মে, ২০২২খ্রিঃ/৩০শে বৈশাখ, ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ, রোজ শুক্রবার, সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকায় মিল্ক ইউনিয়নের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে (দুগ্ধ ভবন, ১৩৯-১৪০, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮) অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।  
২। উক্ত বিশেষ সাধারণ সভা ও ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির নির্বাচন-২০২২ সমবায় সমিতি আইন-২০০১ (সংশোধিত আইন-২০০২ ও ২০১৩) সমবায় সমিতি বিধিমালা ২০০৪ (সংশোধিত ২০২০) এর বিধি ১৪ এবং মিল্ক ইউনিয়নের উপ-আইনের ধারা ১৬ মোতাবেক সদস্য সমিতিসমূহ হতে যোগ্য মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিকে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।  
৩। উল্লেখ্য যে, বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ (মিল্ক ইউনিয়ন) এর ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির নির্বাচন-২০২২ এর ভোটার তালিকা অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের [website: www.milkvita.org.bd](http://www.milkvita.org.bd) এ প্রকাশ করা হবে।  
স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
**মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম**  
(যুগ্ম সচিব)  
ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক  
মিল্ক ইউনিয়ন  
ডি-২৬

**STAY UPDATED WITH**  
**The Daily Star**  
@  
[thedailystar.net](http://thedailystar.net)  
or  
[/dailystarnews](https://t.me/dailystarnews)

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Director  
Kurmitola General Hospital  
Kurmitola, Dhaka.  
E-mail: [kurmitola500bed@hospi.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:kurmitola500bed@hospi.dghs.gov.bd)  
**INVITATION OF RE-TENDER**  
Memo No – KGH/Tender/2021-22/ 603  
Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from bonafide experienced Importers/Agent/Suppliers/Distributors to supply Medical Equipment for the FY 2021-2022 with necessary infrastructure and minimum five years operation as per PPR—2006 & 2008.  
Date: 06/03/2022  
Further information and guidelines are available in the website [www.cptu.gov.bd](http://www.cptu.gov.bd) & [www.kgh.gov.bd](http://www.kgh.gov.bd) and Kurmitola General Hospital during office time. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or whole of any or all tenders. (Memo no. KGH/Tender/2021-22/400, date: 12-02-22)  
GD-443

**সুজিববর্ষে স্বাস্থ্যসেবা**  
এসিমে যাবে অনেক দাপ

**Brigadier General Md Fazlul Kabir**  
Director  
Kurmitola General Hospital, Kurmitola, Dhaka .  
Phone : 35062384



## Three siblings sentenced to death for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced three siblings to death and another to life imprisonment in a case filed over the murder of a businessman in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar in 2016. The death row convicts are Abu Bakkar, Yunus Hossain and Ibrahim Mostafa. Mohammad Sohaib was

**The body of Nurul Huda was recovered from Ferryghat area in Chakaria upazila, Cox's Bazar on June 30, 2016. He was murdered over political rivalry.**

sentenced to life.

Judge AKM Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury delivered the verdict in presence of one of the convicts.

The rest are absconding. The court also acquitted one person as the charges brought against him could not be proved, public prosecutor Ayub Khan told The Daily Star.

According to the case statement, the body of Nurul Huda was recovered from Ferryghat area in Chakaria upazila, Cox's Bazar on June 30, 2016. He was murdered over political rivalry.

His son Mohammed Shahjahan later filed the case with Chakaria Police Station accusing five.

Police pressed charges in November 2016.

# A tale of never-ending deadlines

Railway asks for another 2-year extension for project supposed to finish in 2020; more projects face the same situation



### PROJECT IN QUESTION

Tk 1,799.11 cr project was supposed to be done by Jun 2020; project's deadline extended twice

If extension approved, the 2.5-yr project would take 6.5 yrs to finish; authorities still maintain costs will not increase

### OVERALL SITUATION

BR implementing 8 projects to procure, rehabilitate engines, coaches

Deadline of 6 projects already extended; another in limbo

Only one project, taken in 2020, is running according to deadline

### OFFICIALS' REASONING

Delay in contract signing main reason behind extensions

Covid-19 affected tendering process, inspection, commissioning of product

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In December 2017, Bangladesh Railway (BR) took up a project to procure 20 metre-gauge (MG) locomotives and 150 MG carriages to expand railway services and resolve the growing crisis of rail engines and coaches.

The Tk 1,799.11 crore project was supposed to be completed by June 2020. But, authorities had failed to even complete the signing of agreements with all vendors within that period, let alone complete the project.

Its deadline has already been extended twice, and now, the authorities have sought for two more years, sources said.

If approved, the project would take six and a half years to finish, instead of the stipulated two and a half years. There is a direct link between the time extension and cost escalation, but authorities still maintain that costs will not increase.

This is not an isolated case, however.

Currently, BR is implementing eight projects in connection with procurement and rehabilitation of engines or coaches.

Deadlines of six projects have already been extended, while another one, taken to renovate 21 MG locomotives, is failing to manage contractors even after floating

tenders thrice.

Only one project, taken in 2020, is running according to the deadline, shows documents. Normally, other infrastructure projects get delayed due to issues related to land acquisition or shifting utilities. But here, no such complexities were needed to be dealt with.

BR has taken up the projects to improve its capacity and meet the shortage of locomotives and carriages. For example, at least 175 out of 263 locomotives are past their 20-year economic lifespan, while 78 of them are more than 50 years old, shows BR data of August 2021.

### THE PROJECT IN QUESTION

In December 2017, Ecne approved a project to procure 20 MG locomotives and 150 MG carriages. Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of South Korea is giving Tk 1,414.67 crore, out of the total Tk 1,799.11 crore.

In March, 2019, BR inked a deal with Hyundai Rotem Company to buy 20 new MG locomotives for Tk 674.09 crore. Ten of the locomotives have started operation, while the other ones have reached Bangladesh, shows the project document.

In July, 2020, BR signed a contract with a South Korean joint-venture firm to procure 150 MG carriages at the cost of

Tk 658.31 crore, and it came into effect in October, 2020.

Under the contract, the firm -- Sung Shin RST and Posco International -- would supply the carriages within 30 months, after the contract comes into effect.

In this given situation, the project authorities on February 7 sought two more years to complete the project.

Project Director Mohammad Hassan Mansur could not be reached for comments, but a BR official said the delay in contract signing is the main reason behind seeking the extension.

### OTHER PROJECTS

BR took a project in November 2015 to purchase 250 coaches at a cost of Tk 1,374 crore, and it was supposed to be implemented within September 2015. But the latest deadline of the project is June.

Another project was taken in June 2018 to procure 40 locomotives and 1,125 wagons and luggage vans. Although deadline of the project was June 2021, authorities said they would require till June 2025 to complete the work.

In November 2015, it took a project to procure 10 MG locomotives, four accident-relief cranes and one set of locomotive simulators at the cost of Tk 733.61 crore.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## 800 litres of soybean oil hoarded!

Grocer fined Tk 50,000 for creating artificial crisis in Rajshahi

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

When a consumer went to buy soybean oil yesterday afternoon, a grocer at Hadi's intersection in Rajshahi city denied him.

However, Md Juwel (42), owner of M/s Shahabuddin Store, found himself in trouble as the customer was a plant by the Directorate of National Consumer Right Protection (DNCRP).

Denied the oil, the customer called the DNCRP officials who were waiting nearby along with police, who rushed in to challenge Juwel and raid his warehouse near the shop.

During the raid, the DNCRP officials, headed by assistant director Hasan Maruf, found 160 pieces of 5-litre bottles of soybean oil.

Using his magistracy power, Hasan Maruf formed a mobile court and heard accounts from several customers and the grocer himself.

Juwel told the court that the soybean oil bottles were stored for his preferred buyers.

"These bottles would be sold off in a moment if I took them to the shop," Md Juwel was heard telling the court in a video clip of the raid.

The mobile court found the grocer guilty of creating artificial crisis of soybean oil and fined him Tk 50,000. The court also warned him not to commit the similar crime again.

"No trader gets to conceal so much oil for preferred buyers," Hasan Maruf said.

"Denying oil to a consumer when the trader had it in stock is a serious offence," he told The Daily Star. "The prevailing crisis of oil has been occurring due to traders like Juwel," said Hasan Maruf.



PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAR 7



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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# All things book

Star Books holds discussion at Gulshan Society book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Curating books in Bangladesh is an especially rich endeavour, because we have two languages and our own publishing world. A proper bookstore would want to cover everyone and all of this," said Amina Rahman, managing director of Bookworm Bangladesh.

She made the remarks at a discussion session moderated by Daily Star Books at "Gulshan Society Book Fair 2" on Friday.

Held on March 4-5 at Gulshan Lake Park, the fair's second iteration included

stalls by many publishing houses, including Bookworm Bangladesh, Bengal Boi, University Press Limited, Baatighar and ULAB Press.

Moderated by Daily Star Books Editor Sarah Anjum Bari, the session put bookstores Bengal Boi and Bookworm Bangladesh in conversation.

Readers -- most being Bangladeshis -- want to know more about this country, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, said during the session. "Storytelling and listening to stories have disappeared

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Rafiur Rabbi, father of 17-year-old Tanwir Muhammad Taqi; family members; NCC mayor Selina Hayat Iy and many others offer prayers at the grave of Taqi yesterday morning, marking nine years of his murder. This photo was taken from Siraj Shah Astana graveyard in Bandar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

'He was self radicalised' Says CTTC after arresting expat in the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials claimed to have arrested a "self-radicalised" Bangladeshi who recently returned home from Bahrain.

Monir Hossain Razzak (40) was arrested from Dhaka's Fakirerpool on Saturday, Asaduzzaman, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CCTC) unit of DMP, told a press conference yesterday.

According to CTTC, Monir moved to Bahrain in 2007 as a construction

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



**Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission**

**Invitation for Tenders**



"মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার  
উন্নয়ন-অর্থায়নের উৎস হবে পুঁজিবাজার"

BSEC/Admin/41:44/2021-265 Date: 03 March 2022


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

Sl	Package No. & Tender ID	Name of goods	Procurement method	Tender security	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
1	Package No: bsec/egp-display/2021-22/g-006 & Tender ID: 663690	Supply of Conference room display with sound system at Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	2,75,000/-	21-Mar-2022 16:30	22-Mar-2022 14:30

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

**Kazi Md. Al Islam**  
Deputy Director (Admin)  
Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission

GD-442



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**


**District Primary Education Office**

**Bogura**

Email : [dpeobogura@gmail.com](mailto:dpeobogura@gmail.com)

Web : [www.dpe.bogura.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.bogura.gov.bd)

Phone : 05166073/02589902852, Mobile: 01711940962



"মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার  
উন্নয়ন-অর্থায়নের উৎস হবে পুঁজিবাজার"

Memo No. DPEO/BOG/2021-2022/403 Date: 02.03.2022

**e-Tender Notice No. 01/2021-2022**

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

Sl No	Package No & Tender ID	Name of work	Procurement Method	Tender Last selling (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
1.	Package No: e-Tender/Bogura/NBI DGPS-1/G1.0087 Tender ID: 641109	Furniture Supply for 77 Nos Class Room and 08 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 19 Nos of Govt. Primary School at different location of Bogura District.	OTM	22.03.2022 11:00	22.03.2022 15:00
2	Package No: e-Tender/Bogura/NBI DGPS-1/G1.0088 Tender ID: 645183	Furniture Supply for 106 Nos Class Room and 13 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 21 Nos of Govt. Primary School at different location of Bogura District.	OTM	22.03.2022 11:00	22.03.2022 15:00
3	Package No: e-Tender/Bogura/NBI DGPS-1/G1.0089 Tender ID: 645188	Furniture Supply for 82 Nos Class Room and 08 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 22 Nos of Govt. Primary School at different location of Bogura District.	OTM	22.03.2022 11:00	22.03.2022 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to as Mention in Table . Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(Tahmina Khatun)  
District Primary Education Officer  
Bogura.

GD-439



বিশেষ ক্রোড়পত্র

প্রকাশনা ও অঙ্গসজ্জা : চলচিত্র ও প্রকাশনা অধিদপ্তর (ডিএফপি) ■ সহযোগিতা : তথ্য অধিদপ্তর (পিআইডি) ■ তথ্য ও সম্প্রচার মন্ত্রণালয়



বাণী

‘ঐতিহাসিক ৭ই মার্চ’ উপলক্ষ্যে আমি ‘স্বাধীনতার মহান স্থপতি সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানকে গভীর শ্রদ্ধার সাথে শ্রদ্ধা করছি।

বাঙালি জাতির মুক্তিসঙ্গ্রাম ও স্বাধীনতার ইতিহাসে ৭ মার্চ একটি অশিষ্টরপণীয় দিন। ১৯৭১ সালের এ দিনে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান তৎকালীন রেসকোর্স ময়দানে বঙ্গবন্ধু যে কালজয়ী ভাষণ দিয়েছিলেন তার মধ্যেই নিহিত ছিল বাঙালির মুক্তির ডাক।

স্বাধীনতা বাঙালির শ্রেষ্ঠ অর্জন। তবে তা একদিনে অর্জিত হয়নি। মহান জাতি আন্দোলন থেকে ১৯৭১ এর চূড়ান্ত বিজয় অর্জনের দীর্ঘ বন্ধুর পথে বঙ্গবন্ধুর অপরিণীত সাহস, সীমাহীন ত্যাগ-তিতিক্ষা, বলিষ্ঠ নেতৃত্ব এবং সচিক দিকনির্দেশনা জাতিকে কাজিত লক্ষ্যে পৌঁছে দেয়। ১৯৭০ এর সাধারণ নির্বাচনে আওয়ামী লীগ নিরদ্বন্দ্ব সৎযোগাধীনতা অর্জন করলেও পাকিস্তানি শাসকগোষ্ঠী ক্ষমতা হস্তান্তরে টালবাহানা শুরু করে। বঙ্গবন্ধুর নেতৃত্বে ১ মার্চ থেকে শুরু হয় অসহযোগ আন্দোলন। এরই ধারাবাহিকতায় ১৯৭১ সালের ৭ মার্চ বঙ্গবন্ধু তৎকালীন পাকিস্তানি শাসকগোষ্ঠীর রক্তচক্ষু উপেক্ষা করে অসীম সাহসিকতার সাথে রেসকোর্স ময়দানে লাঞ্ছনা জনতার উদ্দেশ্যে এক ঐতিহাসিক ভাষণ প্রদান করেন। অনন্য বাণীত্যা ও রাজনৈতিক প্রজ্ঞা ভাষার ওই ভাষণে বাঙালির আবেগ, স্বপ্ন ও আকাঙ্ক্ষাকে একসঙ্গে পৌঁছে বঙ্গবন্ধু বঙ্গবন্ধু ঘোষণা করেন, “এবারের সঙ্গ্রাম আমাদের মুক্তির সঙ্গ্রাম, এবারের সঙ্গ্রাম স্বাধীনতার সঙ্গ্রাম।” এ সঙ্গ্রামে জয়ী হওয়ার জন্য তিনি জনগণকে প্রত্যেক গ্রাম ও মহল্লা পর্যন্ত আওয়ামী লীগের নেতৃত্বে সঙ্গ্রাম পরিদ্ব গড়ে তুলতে এবং তাদের যা কিছু আছে তাই নিয়ে প্রস্তুত থাকতে আহ্বান জানান। ভাষণের শুরু দিকেই তিনি বাংলায় পাকিস্তানের ২৩ বছরের দুঃশাসনের ইতিহাসকে এদেশের মানুষের রক্তে বজ্রিত করার ইতিহাস হিসেবে উল্লেখ করেন। ‘স্বাধীনতা ও মুক্তি অর্জনের লক্ষ্যে কোটি বাঙালিকে উজ্জীবিত করতে তিনি বলেন, “মানে রাখা, রক্ত যখন দিয়েছি রক্ত আরো দেব। এদেশের মানুষকে মুক্ত করে ছাড়ব ইনশাআল্লাহ।” ঐতিহাসিক সেই ভাষণের ধারাবাহিকতায় ১৯৭১ সালের ২৬ মার্চ বঙ্গবন্ধু ঘোষণা করেন বাঙালি জাতির বহুকাঙ্ক্ষিত স্বাধীনতা। দীর্ঘ ন’মাস সশস্ত্র মুক্তিযুদ্ধের মাধ্যমে আমরা অর্জন করি স্বাধীন-সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশ।

বঙ্গবন্ধুর ৭ মার্চের ভাষণ পৃথিবীর কালজয়ী ভাষণগুলোর অন্যতম। পরাধীনতার শৃঙ্খল ভেঙ্গে মুক্তিকামী জনগণকে যুদ্ধে বাঁপিয়ে পড়তে ঐ ভাষণ ছিল এক মহামন্ত্র। একটি ভাষণ কীভাবে গোটা জাতিকে জাগিয়ে তোলে, স্বাধীনতার জন্য মুক্তিযুদ্ধে বাঁপিয়ে পড়তে উৎসাহিত করে বঙ্গবন্ধুর ৭ মার্চের ভাষণ তার অনন্য উদাহরণ। ইউনেস্কো বঙ্গবন্ধুর ৭ মার্চের ভাষণের গুরুত্ব উপলব্ধি করে ২০১৭ সালের ৩০ অক্টোবর এ ভাষণকে World’s Documentary Heritage-এর মর্যাদা দিয়ে Memory of the World International Register-এ অন্তর্ভুক্ত করেছে। বাঙালি হিসেবে এটি আমাদের বড়ো অর্জন। এ ভাষণের কারণে বিশ্বখ্যাত নিউজটিক ম্যাগাজিন ১৯৭১ সালের ৫ এপ্রিল সংখ্যায় বঙ্গবন্ধুকে “Poet of Politics” হিসেবে অভিহিত করে। বঙ্গবন্ধুর ৭ মার্চের ঐতিহাসিক ভাষণ কেবল আমাদের নয় বিশ্বব্যাপী স্বাধীনতাকামী মানুষের জন্যও প্রেরণার চিরন্তন উৎস হয়ে থাকবে।

স্বাধীন-সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশকে একটি সুখী-সমৃদ্ধ ‘সোনার বাংলা’য় পরিণত করাই ছিল বঙ্গবন্ধুর আজীবনের লালিত স্বপ্ন। মহান এ নেতার সে স্বপ্ন পূরণে আমাদের অব্যাহত প্রচেষ্টা চলিয়ে যেতে হবে। অনেক চড়াই-উতরাই পেরিয়ে বাংলাদেশ আজ উন্নয়নশীল দেশের কাতারে। বাংলাদেশকে ২০৪১ সালে উন্নত-সমৃদ্ধ দেশে পরিণত করতে প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা ‘রূপকল্প ২০৪১’ ঘোষণা করেছেন। এসব কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়নে আমি দলমত নির্বিশেষে সকলকে নিজ নিজ অবদান থেকে অবদান রাখার আহ্বান জানাই।

জয় বাংলা।

খোদা হাফেজ, বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

মোঃ আবদুল হামিদ



বিশ্ব প্রামাণ্য ঐতিহ্য  
ঐতিহাসিক ৭ই মার্চের ভাষণ



জন আহত হন। প্রতিরোধের বহিষ্কা তখনই উথলে উঠেছে। ৪ মার্চ সেনাবাহিনীর গুলিতে খুলনার ছয়জন নিহত ও ২২ জন আহত হন। ৫ মার্চ টাঙতে পাকিস্তানিদের গুলিতে চারজন নিহত এবং ২৫ জন আহত হন। খুলনার দুজন ও রাজশাহীতে একজন নিহত হন। ৬ মার্চ ঢাকাসহ সারাদেশে হরতাল চলাকালে সেনাবাহিনী ও জনতার মুখোমুখি সংঘর্ষ ঘটে। এদিন ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার থেকে ৩৪১ জন কারাবন্দি পলায়নকারে গুলিতে সাতজন নিহত ও ৩০ জন আহত হন। সত্মসময়ের পূর্বভাস এভাবেই পাওয়া যায়। আর এই শহিদদের হত্যার বিরোধে দাবিতে তখন উৎকর্ষিত শেখ মুজিব। ৭ মার্চের ভাষণেও বলেছেন শহিদদের রক্ত মাড়িয়ে তিনি অধিবেশনে যোগ দিতে পালেন না।

পরেলা মার্চ অধিবেশন স্থগিত ঘোষণার পর বলসে ওঠা বাংলাদেশের চারদিকে শুধু বিদ্রোহ আর বিদ্রোহ। ২৩ বছরের শৃঙ্খল তেড়ে স্বাধীন সত্ত্বার জাগরণ ঘটছে তখন দিকে দিকে।

সেনারা মার্চ বঙ্গবন্ধুর আহ্বানে স্বতঃস্ফূর্ত হরতাল পালন করা হয় এবং তাঁরই নির্দেশে ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কলাভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত ছাত্র সমাবেশে স্বাধীন বাংলার মানচিত্রখচিত পতাকা উত্তোলিত হয়। তেসরা মার্চের পল্টন ময়দানের জনসভা থেকে বঙ্গবন্ধু জানিয়েছিলেন যে, ছয় মার্চের মধ্যে যদি ইয়াহিয়া সরকার দাবি না মেনে নেয়, তবে ৭ মার্চ তিনি অব্যাহত কর্মপন্থা ঘোষণা করবেন। এই ঘোষণার আলোকে সাড়ে সাত কোটি বাঙালি উজ্জীবিত হয়ে উঠে স্বাধীনতার অভিযাত্রা শুরু করে। মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের আন্তর্জাতিক সম্প্রদায়ও উদ্যম হয়েছিল যে, সাতই মার্চ বঙ্গবন্ধু কী ঘোষণা দেন। তারপরেও পাকিস্তানি শাসকদের পক্ষে থেকে নময়ী মনোভাবের বহিঃপ্রকাশ ঘটেনি। কেবল ২৫ মার্চ ইয়াহিয়া সংসদ অধিবেশনের তারিখ ঘোষণা করে। ইয়াহিয়ার এই ঘোষণা ও জুলফিকার আলী ভুট্টোর বিতর্কিত বক্তব্য-বিতৃপ্তিতে ফুঁসে উঠেছিল বাংলাদেশ অগ্নিবরা মার্চের প্রথম দিন থেকেই।

একই সঙ্গে সেনানিবাসে নোদাঙ্গম বুদ্ধি এবং যুদ্ধহেদী প্রবণতা এবং ছানে ছানে নিরস্ত্র বাঙালি হত্যার প্রবণতার পরিষ্টিত হয়ে উঠে ক্রমশ বিস্ফোরণমুখ। এরই প্রেক্ষাপটে বঙ্গবন্ধুর পূর্বঘোষিত জনসভা সমিধিক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এবং তাৎপর্যমণ্ডিত হয়ে ওঠে। আর বিদ্রোহী বাংলা ক্রমশ দুর্বিনীত হয়ে ওঠে। চোঁটা মার্চ রেডিও পাকিস্তান ঢাকার নাম থেকে পাকিস্তান শব্দ মুছে যায়। ম্যা নামকরণ হয় ঢাকা বেতার কেন্দ্র। টেলিভিশনের নাম হয় ঢাকা টেলিভিশন কেন্দ্র। এ দুই গণমাধ্যম থেকে প্রচারিত হতে থাকে স্বাধীনতার সঙ্গীত গান, নাটকসহ জন-উদ্দীপনামূলক নানা অনুষ্ঠান। শেখ মুজিবের নির্দেশ অক্ষরে অক্ষরে পালনে সচেষ্ট বাঙালি জাতি মুক্তি অর্জনের ইম্পাত কঠিন সপথের দৃঢ়তায় সমস্ত হয়ে ওঠার প্রেরণায় প্রশিক্ষিত হতে থাকে নানা উদ্যম। অসহযোগ আন্দোলন বাঙালিকে প্রাণিত করেছে দুর্ময়ীয়া প্রতিরোধের বহুকাঠিন্য সাহসে। গণসভাগুলি তেলে আসতে থাকে সারা দেশ থেকে। প্রতিবাদে ডাকা, প্রতিরোধের আন্তর জ্বলতে থাকে বাঙালির মনে। অনেক বক্তদান কা বাঙালিকে তখন ভাষণে রূপায়। সাড়ে সাত কোটি গ্রাণ এক হয়ে তখন শত্রুমনদের জন্য প্রস্তুত পর্বে নিম্মু ছিল। ৭ মার্চের ভাষণ কোনো আকস্মিক বিঘ্ন ছিল না। এই ভাষণের আগে জানুয়ারি ও ফেব্রুয়ারিতে বিভিন্ন সমাবেশে রক্তত্যাগ বঙ্গবন্ধু জাতিকে ক্রমশ স্বাধীনতার পক্ষে উজ্জীবিত করে তুলেছিলেন। চোখে আঙুল দিয়ে দেখিয়ে দিয়েছিলেন পাকিস্তানি সামরিক শাসকদের স্বভাব এবং তা উপড়ে ফেলার জন্য করণীয় ও নির্ধারণ করে দিয়েছিলেন। পাকিস্তানি শাসকগোষ্ঠী তেতের তেতের যে গভীর যত্নসূচী চাচ্ছিল, তা আঁচ করতে পেরে একাত্তরের একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারিতে শহিদ মিনারে পুষ্পমালা অর্পণের পর শপথবাণী উচ্চারণ করে বঙ্গবন্ধু বলেছিলেন, “বাঙালিকে দাবিয়ে রাখার শক্তি পৃথিবীতে করাও নেই। যারা সাড়ে সাত কোটি বাঙালির বাধিকারের দাবি বানচালের জন্য বাঙালিকে ভিবারি বানিয়ে জীবিতাস করে রাখছে, তাদের উদ্দেশ্য যে কোনো মূল্যে ব্যর্থ করে দেওয়া হবে।” সেদিন অফ্রা ভারাক্রান্ত কঠে এমনও বলেছিলেন, “সামনে আমাদের কঠিন দিন। আমি হয়তো আপনাদের মাঝে না-ও থাকতে পারি। মানুষকে মরতেই হয়। জানি না আবার কবে আপনাদের সামনে এসে দাঁড়াতে পারব। তাই আজ আমি আপনাদের এবং বাংলার মানুষকে ডেকে বলছি—রম ত্যাগের জন্য প্রস্তুত হোন। বাংলার মানুষ যেন শোষিত না হয়। লাঞ্চিত, অপমানিত না হয়।...বীর শহিদদের রক্ত শুদ্ধ আছা আজ দুয়ারে দুয়ারে ফিরছে—বাঙালি তোমরা কাপুরুষ হইও না। চরম তারের বিনিময়ে হলেও স্বাধিকার আদায় করো। বাংলার মানুষের প্রতি আহ্বান—প্রস্তুত হোন, স্বাধিকার আমার আদায় করবই।” দৃঢ়তায় তিনি আবছা করে কাজটি সত্ত্বরে পেরাই করেছেন। একাত্তরের ১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি বাংলা আওয়ামী লীগের প্রাথমিক সভা আন্দোলনের ‘স্বরণসভায় উদ্বোধনী’ অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি শেখ মুজিব বলেন, “এই প্রথমবারের মতো বাঙালি জাতি একতাবদ্ধ হয়েছে। নিজেদের দাবিতে বাঙালিরা আজ একতাবদ্ধ।” বঙ্গবন্ধুর নির্ভরতা ছিল জনগণের ওপর। যে জনগণকে তিনি ছিলে ছিলে স্বাধিকার ও স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনের জন্য প্রস্তুত করেছেন। বলেছেনও একাত্তরের ২৯ জানুয়ারি সংবাদ সম্মেলনে, গত ২৩ বছর বাংলাদেশকে শাসন ও শোষণ করা হয়েছে।

সেই পরিষ্টিত অব্যাহত রাখার উদ্দেশ্যে সনাতন যজ্ঞসূত্র আজও চলছে। তবে ভরসা হচ্ছে, দেশবাসী আজ সম্পূর্ণ সচেতন ও জাগত এবং যজ্ঞসূত্রজালকে ছিন্নাঙ্গ করে কার্যে স্বাধীনদের স্বতম করার ক্ষমতা দেশবাসী রাখে। ২৪ জানুয়ারি পূর্ববাংলার সৎগীতমণ্ডী-সমাজের সংবর্ধনার জবাবে বঙ্গবন্ধু বলেছিলেন, “যদিও জনগণ প্রাথমিকভাবে বিজয়ী হয়েছে; তবুও বিপদের আশঙ্কা এখনো দূরীকৃত হয়নি। পথ এখনো কুঁকড়াবর্ণী এবং অনিশ্চিত।

...মানে রাখা, রক্ত যখন দিয়েছি রক্ত আরো দেব। চরম সঙ্গ্রামের প্রয়োজন দেখা দিতে পারে। সেদিনের জন্য প্রস্তুত হোন।” এর আগে ৪ জানুয়ারি ছাত্রলীগের ২৩তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকীতে দীর্ঘ ভাষণে তিনি উচ্চারণ করেছিলেন দিকনির্দেশনামেও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অনেক কথা। বলেছিলেন, “দেশে যদি বিপ্লবের প্রয়োজন দেখা দেয়, তবে সে বিপ্লবের ডাক আমিই দেব।” এমনটাও বলেছিলেন, “জনগণের স্বাধীনতার রক্ত ভোগ নিশ্চিত করার জন্য আওয়ামী লীগ শেষ পর্যন্ত লড়ে যাবে।” ৭ মার্চের আগের ভাষণ, বিবৃতি পর্যালোচনা করলে স্পষ্ট হয়, ওইসব ভাষণের উপসংহার তিনি টেনেছিলেন ৭ মার্চের ভাষণে। একাত্তরের ৭ মার্চ রেসকোর্স ময়দানের জনসভায় লাইটসের, তীর-ধনুক নিয়ে এসেছিলেন যারা স্বাধীনতার মন্ত্র বুকে বেঁধে, মহাদান্যকে ঘোষণা শোনার জন্য—তারা জানতেন, কঠিন লড়াই ছাড়া স্বাধীনতা আসবে না। জনসভার গুণব দিয়ে পাকিস্তানি বিদায় প্রদক্ষিণ দেখে তাতে শঙ্ক মেনা আছে তেবে কেউ কেউ লাঠি ছুড়ে মেরেছিল। মনোহারা বিবি একজন মহিলা বাইছিলেন—মরি হারানো হয়, দুঃখের সীমা নাই, সোনার বাংলা শূন্য হইল পরাধীনতা।

বঙ্গবন্ধু ৭ মার্চ কেন সরাসরি স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করেননি, এমন প্রশ্ন করা হয়েছিল বাহাঙ্গের গোড়াতেই। ডেভিড ফ্রেণ্ডের সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎকারে বঙ্গবন্ধু এই প্রশ্নের উত্তর নিজেই দিয়েছিলেন। বঙ্গবন্ধু চেয়েছিলেন আপাতত পাকিস্তানিদের কাছ থেকে আসুক। প্রথম বুদ্ধিহীনতার দুরদর্শী রাজনীতিক বঙ্গবন্ধু তাই স্বাধীনতার কথা পরোক্ষভাবে বললেও সরাসরি স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করেননি। যদিও তরতন তবে পাকিস্তানিরা বিশ্বের কাছে প্রমাণ করতে পারত যে, শেখ মুজিব বিজ্ঞহীনবাদী। তিনি পাকিস্তানিদের এ সুযোগে নেননি। আর পাকিস্তানিরা ছোট্টো বিনাম, টাংকে নিয়ে প্রস্তুতই ছিল। যদি সরাসরি স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করা হয়। তবে লাঞ্ছা লাঞ্ছা লোকের সমাবেশে হায়েনার মতো বাঁপিয়ে পড়ত। ডেভিড ফ্রেণ্ড জিজ্ঞেস করেছিলেন, “৭ মার্চ রেসকোর্স ময়দানেই কি বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করতে চেয়েছিলেন?” জবাবে বঙ্গবন্ধু বলেন, “আমি জানতাম, কী ঘটতে



বাণী

আজ বাঙালি জাতির জীবনে এক অশিষ্টরপণীয় দিন। বাঙালি জাতির অশিষ্টবাদিত নেতা, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭১ সালের এই দিনে ঐতিহাসিক রেসকোর্স ময়দান বর্তমানে শহিদ সোহরাওয়ার্দী উদ্যানে দাঁড়িয়ে বঙ্গবন্ধু রচনা করেছিলেন ১৮ মিনিটের এক মহাকাব্য। গভ বন্ধর আমরা এই মহাভাষণের সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী এবং আমাদের স্বাধীনতার সূবর্ণজয়ন্তী উদযাপন করছি। এ বছর আমরা ভাষা-আন্দোলনের ৭০ বছর এবং মুক্তিবর্ষ উদযাপন করছি। এমনই এক মাহেন্দ্রক্ষণে আমি গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় প্রণমেই ‘স্বরণ করছি সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানকে। কৃতজ্ঞচিত্তে শ্রদ্ধা করছি জাতীয় চার নেতা, মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে ৩০ লাখ শহিদ, দু’লাখ সশস্ত্রযোদ্ধা মা-বোন এবং অগণিত বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাকে- যাদের মহান আত্মত্যাগের বিনিময়ে অর্জন করেছি স্বাধীন সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশ।

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব এবং বাংলাদেশ সম্পর্কে শব্দ। পূর্ব বাংলার মানুষের নান্য অধিকার আদায় এবং পৃথিবীর মানচিত্রে তাঁদের জন্য একটি স্বাধীন ভূখণ্ড প্রতিষ্ঠার লক্ষ্যে জাতির পিতা পাকিস্তানিদের বিরুদ্ধে দীর্ঘ ২৪ বছর লড়াই-সঙ্গ্রাম করেছেন, জেল-জুখুম-অত্যাচার সহ্য করেছেন এবং সশস্ত্র আন্দোলনে নেতৃত্ব দিয়েছেন। একবার তিনিই ছিলেন হাজার বছরের শোষিত-বঞ্চিত বাঙালিদের মধ্যে সবচেয়ে বলিষ্ঠ কণ্ঠস্বর। বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবের নেতৃত্বে আওয়ামী লীগ ‘৭০-এর নির্বাচনে একক সংযোগাধীনতা লাভ করে। কিন্তু, পাকিস্তানিরা আওয়ামী লীগের হাতে দেশ পরিচালনার দায়িত্ব অর্পণ না করে নানা টালবাহানা শুরু করে। বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব বাংলাদেশের সর্বত্রের মানুষকে দিয়ে পাকিস্তানি শাসকদের বিরুদ্ধে অসহযোগ আন্দোলনের ডাক দেন। ৭ই মার্চের ভাষণের মাধ্যমে তিনি আমাদের “স্বাধীনতা” নামের এক অকবচ্যী ক্রান এবং সঙ্গ্রামের মাধ্যমে শৃঙ্খলমুক্তির পথ দেখান। শুধু তাই নয়, তিনি বীর বাঙালিদের বহুশত্রুবাণী বিজয়কে উজ্জীবিত করেন আমাদের শেখ মুজিব শব্দে- ‘জয় বাংলা’ প্রোগ্রামে। রাজনীতির কালজয়ী কবি বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব এই ভাষণের মাধ্যমে দেশের শাসনভার জনগণের হাতেই তুলে দেন, ক্ষমতাকে কি করে নিয়ন্ত্রিতভাবে সকলের কল্যাণে ব্যবহার করতে হয় তাও বুঝিয়ে দেন, বিঘ্নের দেন আহ্বারকামূলক কিংবা প্রতিরোধক সমরনীতি, যুদ্ধকালীন সরকার ব্যবস্থা এবং অর্থনীতি। সেই কর্মপন্থা বহুদিনের ৭ কোটি বাঙালির হৃদয়কে বিদ্যুৎ গতিতে আবিষ্কার করেছিল; একটি ব্রিটিশ পত্রিকা বঙ্গবন্ধু ভবনে ১০-ভাউনে ব্রিটিশের সঙ্গে তুলনা করেছিল, এমনকি ঢাকায় ব্রিটিশের বাসভবনে বাঙালি বাবুর্চি ইয়াহিয়া বানের জন্য রান্না বন্ধ করে দিয়েছিল। ২৫শে মার্চ পর্যন্ত দেশের প্রতিটি মানুষ ইয়াহিয়ার শাসনকে অস্বীকার করে শেখ মুজিবের নির্দেশ অক্ষরে অক্ষরে পালন করেছিল। সেই ভাষণে পাকিস্তানি শাসক তাঁকে ক্ষেত্রভার করে। ক্ষেত্রভার হওয়ার পূর্বেই তিনি আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করেন। বাংলার দামল ছেলেরা নয় মাস যুদ্ধ করে পাকিস্তানিদের বাংলার মাটিতে পরাস্ত করে ১৬ই ডিসেম্বর স্বাধীনতার দাম সূর্য ছিনিয়ে আনে। বাংলাদেশের প্রথম রাষ্ট্রপতি বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব পাকিস্তানে বন্দিদশা থেকে মুক্তি পেরে ১৯৭২ সালের ১০ই জানুয়ারি দেশে ফিরে আসেন এবং তাঁর স্বপ্নের স্বাধীন বাংলাদেশে পুনর্গঠনে আনিয়েছেন। মাত্র সাতই দিন বহুরেই তিনি যুদ্ধবিধ্বস্ত দেশটিকে একটি উন্নয়নশীল দেশে রূপান্তরিত করেন। দুর্ভাগ্য, ‘৭৫-এর ১৫ই আগস্ট জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানকে সরিবারে হত্যার মধ্য দিয়ে ‘৭৫-এর পরাজিত শত্রুদের এদেশীয়া সোঁদরা তাদের পরাজয়ের প্রতিফলন দেয়। মুজিব বিহীন বাংলাদেশে কারাগারিহীন সৌকার মতো হত্যা-কৃ-মৃত্যুহরের দোলাচলে দীর্ঘ ২১টি বছর ভাসতে থাকে।

১৯৯৬ সালে আওয়ামী লীগ রাষ্ট্র পরিচালনার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণের পর যুনি মোস্তাক-জিয়ার অনীত দায়িত্বকাল ব্যতীত করে এবং জাতির পিতা হত্যাঘটকের বিচার শুরু করে। পরবর্তীতে আমরা ২০০৯ সাল থেকে পূর্ণর পূর্ণর তিন দশা সরকার গঠন করে জাতির পিতার অনশ্রু দেশের সার্বিক উন্নয়নে আনিয়েছেন। জাতির পিতা হত্যার বিচারের রায় কার্যকর হতে দেখা দিয়ে দেশে আইনের শাসন প্রতিষ্ঠা করি; ফলে জাতি টানিটুক হয়। আমরা সংবিধান (পেপলস সোসালিস্ট) আইন, ২০১১ প্রণয়ন করে ঐতিহাসিক ৭ই মার্চের ভাষণকে সংবিধানের ১৫০(২) অনুচ্ছেদের পঞ্চম ভাগটিকে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করি। ২০১৩ সালে Jacob F. Field প্রকাশিত ২৫০০ বছরের বিশ্বসভা যুদ্ধকালীন ভাষণের সংকলন ‘We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The Speeches That Inspired History’-এ এই ভাষণ অন্যতম হিসেবে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়। জাতিসংঘের ইউনেস্কো ২০১৭ সালের ৩০শে অক্টোবর এ ভাষণকে বিশ্ব-ঐতিহ্য দলিল হিসেবে স্বীকৃতি প্রদান করে। শুধু তাই নয়, ইউনেস্কো মনে করে এ ভাষণটির মাধ্যমে জাতির পিতা একরাত্তরেই বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করেছিলেন। জাতির পিতার ঐতিহাসিক ৭ই মার্চের ভাষণের বিশ্ববীকৃতি আজ বাঙালি জাতির জন্য এক বিরল সম্মান ও গৌরবের স্মারক। ‘৭৫ থেকে ‘৯৬ সাল পর্যন্ত এদেশে এই ভাষণ প্রচার নিষিদ্ধ ছিল, যেমনটা করেছিল পাকিস্তানের সামরিক শাসকগোষ্ঠী- তারাও সেদিন রাষ্ট্রীয় গণমাধ্যমে এ ভাষণ প্রচার করতে সোঁদ। কিন্তু সত্য সর্বদাই অনিচ্ছা। তাই, নিষিদ্ধিত-নিষাধিত বাঙালিদের মুক্তি এই মহাজয় শুধু বাংলাদেশ নয়, বিশ্বজুড়ে সমাদৃত হচ্ছে, অনুপ্রেরণা দিয়ে যাচ্ছে। আমাদের সরকারের গৃহীত উদ্যোগের ফলে বিশ্বে বাংলাদেশ আজ উন্নয়নের রোল মডেল হিসেবে স্বীকৃতি লাভ করেছে। আমি সকলকে জাতির পিতার মহান আদর্শ অনুসরণ করে তাঁর স্বপ্নের সোনার বাংলাদেশে বিনির্মাণে প্রতী হওয়ার আহ্বান জানাই।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু  
বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।  
শেখ হাসিনা

৭ই মার্চ  
তারিক সুজাত

১. একটি কঠোর হাজার বছর জাগে সাত কোটি গ্রাণে অজ্ঞেয় আলোর রেখা খুলে দিলো পথ মুক্তি ও সঙ্গ্রামের একটি কঠোর শিকল ভাঙার গান বোবা ইতিহাসে অমৃত আঘাতে শোণিত ওদ্ধার— ‘রক্ত যখন দিয়েছি রক্ত আরো দেবো’ একটি কঠোর লাভলের ফলা পলিমাটির ঝাণ কাননে কুসুম দুর্গখিনী বর্ণমালা মসলিন ধোঁয়া নরম আঙুলে রক্তজবার ডাক সেই থেকে আমি শিখেছি মন্ত্র— ‘দাবায়ে রাখতে পারবা না’	২. কঠোর তোমার কবের কারকরব শান্ত দুপুরে মুক্তির হালখাতা! এসেছিলে যেই পথে সেখানে ফিরবে আমি রোদের রুমাল নেড়ে সেই মাঠে ফিরি যেখানে আমার দেশ শোণিত শপথের আঁকে গাঢ় সবুজের বুকে রক্তবর্ণ তিলা। লক্ষ কঠোর তোমার কঠোর জাগে হাজার বছর ফেরে চর্যাপদের পথে কবির কঠোর জয় বাংলায় ধ্বনি জান্না নিছি উজ্জীন পতাকায় ৭ই মার্চ তুমি পিতার আঙুল-ছোঁয়া অজ্ঞেয় আকাশ ৭ই মার্চ তুমি আমার জন্মতিথি আমি বাঙালি, আমি বাংলাদেশ!
---	---

যাচ্ছে। আমি জনসভায় ঘোষণা করি যে, স্বাধীনতা ও মুক্তির এটিই মোক্ষম সময়। ‘ফ্রন্ট আবার প্রস্তুত করেন, “সেদিন যদি আপন বন্ধনে, ‘আমি আজ বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করছি’, তাহলে কী হতো?’ জবাবে বঙ্গবন্ধু বলেছিলেন, ‘ওইদিনই সুনির্দিষ্টভাবে আমি তা বলতে চাইনি। কেননা তাতে তারা বিশ্বাসে এ কথা বলার সুযোগ তে যে, শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করেছে, অতএব অক্রমণ করা ব্যতীত আমাদের উদ্যম ছিল না। আমি চেয়েছিলাম, অকাত্তর তাদের কাছ থেকে আসুক, আমার জনগণ সে আঘাত মোকাবিলা জন্য প্রস্তুত ছিল।’

ইতিহাস বলে, বাংলাদেশ কার্যত স্বাধীন হয়েছে ৫ মার্চ। সেদিন বাংলাদেশের কর্তৃত্ব চলে আসে বঙ্গবন্ধুর হাতে, ওই তারিখের পর ইয়াহিয়া-হাই করেছেন, বাংলাদেশের মানুষ যে কাজকে একটি সার্বভৌম দেশের বিরুদ্ধে আনিয়ে বিবেচনাই দেখেছিল। বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা ছিল না কোনো বিজিতাবাদী আন্দোলন। ...৭ মার্চ সম্পর্কে স্বয়ং বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭৫ সালের ২৬ মার্চ সোহরাওয়ার্দী উদ্যানে জনসমাবেশে বলেছেন, ‘বাংলার মানুষকে আমি ডাক দিয়েছিলাম। ৭ মার্চ আমি তাদের প্রস্তুত করে দিয়েছিলাম। যখন দেখলাম আক্রমণ শুরু হয়ে গেছে, সেই মুহুর্তে আমি ডাক দিয়েছিলাম— আর নয় মোকাবিলা করে। বাংলাদেশে তখন সশস্ত্রদায়ের উত্থাত করতে হবে। বাংলাদেশের সাড়ে সাত কোটি মানুষকে দাবিয়ে রাখতে পারবা না।’

‘স্বাধীনতা ও মুক্তি শব্দ দুটি বঙ্গবন্ধুর খুব প্রিয় ছিল। তাই ৭ মার্চের ভাষণে তিনি মাঝখানে একবার চলেছিলেন, এবারের সঙ্গ্রাম আমার মুক্তির সঙ্গ্রাম, বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার সঙ্গ্রাম।’ আবার শেষে সন্দর্ভ বলেছেন, ‘এবারের সঙ্গ্রাম আমাদের মুক্তির সঙ্গ্রাম। এবারের সঙ্গ্রাম স্বাধীনতার সঙ্গ্রাম।’ জাতি স্বাধীনতা পেয়েছে, চরমে মুক্তির সঙ্গ্রাম। এই সঙ্গ্রাম থেকে বাঙালিকে বঙ্গবন্ধুর ভাষণ, ‘কেউ দাবায়ে রাখতে পারবা না।’

লেখক : মহাপরিচালক, বেস ইনস্টিটিউট বাংলাদেশ (পিআইডি) ও একুশে পল্লীর সাংবাদিক



BBC World  
News taken off  
air in Russia

AFP, London

The BBC yesterday said that its World News television channel has been taken off the air in Russia as Moscow clamps down further on foreign media during its war in Ukraine.

BBC World News presenter Victoria Derbyshire first announced the suspension to viewers outside Russia on Sunday.

"BBC World News, the channel you are watching if you are outside the UK right now, and which is the BBC's global television news channel, has just been taken off air in Russia," she said.

The BBC said on Friday that it was halting its journalists' work in Russia after lawmakers moved to impose harsh jail terms for publishing "fake news" about the army as part of efforts to muffle dissent over Ukraine invasion.



People attend a protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, at Parliament Square in London, Britain, yesterday. Tens of thousands demonstrated in cities from Paris to New York in support of Ukraine, demanding an end to war.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ukraine Europe's 'fastest  
growing refugee' crisis: UN

AFP, Geneva

The number of people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine has topped 1.5 million, making it Europe's fastest growing refugee crisis since World War II, the United Nations said yesterday.

"More than 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine have crossed into neighbouring countries in 10 days," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grande tweeted.

The UN described the outflow as "the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II". On Saturday it had reported that nearly 1.37 million refugees had fled.

The director-general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, also expressed grave concern at the

worsening humanitarian situation.

"@WHO has confirmed several attacks on health care in #Ukraine, causing multiple deaths and injuries. Additional reports are being investigated," Tedros tweeted.

"Attacks on healthcare facilities or workers breach medical neutrality and are violations of international humanitarian law," UN officials said they expected the wave of refugees to intensify further as the Russian army pressed its offensive, particularly toward the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

Since Russia invaded on February 24, a total of 922,400 people have fled Ukraine to Poland, Polish border guards said yesterday. Hungary, Moldova, Romanian and Slovakia have also seen Ukrainian refugees arrive.

Kyiv digs in  
for battle

Fighting flares nearby as  
Russian forces advance

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukrainian soldiers bolstered defences around Kyiv yesterday, digging trenches, blocking roads and liaising with civil defence units as Russian forces bombarded the surrounding areas and attacked towns and villages nearby.

While the armed forces and civilian volunteers dug in, thousands of people continued to try to flee the city of 3.4 million as fears of a full assault spread.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 and has concentrated its heaviest attacks on the south and east of the country, besieging cities including Mariupol and Kharkiv with artillery fire and air strikes and causing extensive damage and casualties.

Kyiv has been spared the worst of the fighting so far, but intense battles have raged in surrounding towns and villages and Russia's defence ministry released footage yesterday of some of its tracked military vehicles on the move near the capital.

Video provided by Ukraine's armed forces taken on Saturday in the Kyiv region, showed Ukrainian efforts to defend the capital, with piles of sandbags and concrete slabs laid across a main road, while Ukrainian soldiers carefully checked passing cars. A smaller road was blocked by metal "hedgehog" anti-tank barriers, and machine gun positions had been erected. Molotov cocktails were lined up on the side of the road, as civilians vowed to join the battle to protect Kyiv.

"We are equipped 100%," said an unidentified soldier in the footage. "Positions are prepared, we've fitted them out and we are simply waiting to meet them here ... Victory will be ours."



### Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Directorate of Planning and Development

#### Corrigendum in International Tender

Corrigendum to the tender notice published in "The Daily Star" and "The Daily Jugantor" on 20th January, 2022 for Supply, Installation/Testing and Commissioning of i) UTM ii) Pressure Calibrator iii) Video Non-Contact Extensometer & various lab equipments for Strength of Materials Laboratory and 300kN UNIVERSAL TESTING MACHINE FOR GEOTEXTILE for the Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory for the Dept. of Civil Engineering, BUET, Dhaka.

Ref. No. P&D/FP(S-3)-01/21/CE-01/Cap/International Tender DR-55 Date: 06 Mar 2022

Tender Package No.: GD-01 & GD-02

Change in Notice			
Sl No.	Particulars	Existing	Amendment
1.	Evaluation	Lot Wise Evaluation	Item Wise Evaluation Item 1 and 4 must be quoted as a single lot
2.	Tender security amount	Pay Order/Bank Draft. GD-01: BDT 7,00,000.00 (Seven Lac) & GD-02: BDT 4,00,000.00 (Four Lac)	Pay Order/Bank Draft 2.5-3.00% of Quoted Amount in favor of "Comptroller, BUET"
3.	Performance security	Pay Order/Bank Draft	Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee
4.	Tender last selling date	06.03.2022 (during office hours)	27.03.2022 (during office hours)
5.	Tender closing date and time	07.03.2022 at 2.30pm (BST)	28.03.2022 at 2.30pm (BST)
6.	Tender opening date and time	07.03.2022 at 3.00pm (BST), Tender shall be opened in presence of tenderers/tenderer's authorized representative (if any).	28.03.2022 at 3.00pm (BST), Tender shall be opened in presence of tenderers/tenderer's authorized representative (if any).

Director  
Directorate of Planning and Development  
BUET, Dhaka

GD-445

### Padma Oil Company Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

International Tender for "Works for Engineering Inspection for Healthiness Certification of Storage Tanks of Main Installation of Padma Oil Company Limited (POCL), Meghna Petroleum Limited (MPL) & Jamuna Oil Company Limited (JOCL) at Chattogram, Depots of POCL & MPL at Godenail and Depots of MPL & JOCL at Fatulla, Bangladesh".

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring entity name	Padma Oil Company Limited.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Chattogram.
6	Invitation for	Tender Works Single Lot
7	Invitation Ref No.	PO/CDPLHC/POCL-MPL-JOCL/F-850/P-118/21-22
8	Date	02/03/2022
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement method	ICT Single Stage Two Envelope
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget and source of funds	Own Source of Three Oil Marketing Companies (POCL, MPL & JOCL).
11	Development partner (if applicable)	None.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Project name	"Works for Engineering Inspection for Healthiness Certification of Storage Tanks of Main Installation of Padma Oil Company Limited (POCL), Meghna Petroleum Limited (MPL) & Jamuna Oil Company Limited (JOCL) at Chattogram, Depots of POCL & MPL at Godenail and Depots of MPL & JOCL at Fatulla, Bangladesh".
14	Tender Package No.	N/A.
15	Tender package name	N/A.
16	Invitation for Tender Ref No.	PO/CDPLHC/POCL-MPL-JOCL/F-850/P-118/21-22
17	Tender publication date	02/03/2022
18	Tender last selling date	17/04/2022
19	Tender closing date and time	Date (dd/mm/yyyy) Time 18/04/2022 1100 hrs 18/04/2022 1200 hrs
20	Tender opening date and time	Date (dd/mm/yyyy) Time 18/04/2022 1100 hrs 18/04/2022 1200 hrs
21	-Name & address of the office(s) -Selling tender document (principal) -Selling tender document (others) -Receiving tender document -Opening tender document	Address(s) a) Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram. b) BGM (Dhaka)'s Office, 10th Floor, BTMC Bhawan, Dhaka. N/A. Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram. Head Office, BPC, BSC Bhawan, Saltgola Road, Chattogram. Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram.
22	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Place Date Time POCL's Head Office 06-04-22 1100 hrs
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
23	Eligibility of tenderer	Open to eligible tenderers having following qualification criterion: a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the engineering inspection for healthiness certification of pressure vessels, piping and tankage in the refining and/or petrochemical industry as prime contractor shall be 10 years. The tenderer shall have international accreditation/authorization for engineering inspection and in service verification like ISO 9001:2015 or equivalent copy of such certificate shall be enclosed with the technical offer. b) The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor in inspection works of at least 1 (one) contract(s) of engineering inspection for healthiness certification of pressure vessels, piping and tankage in the refining and/or petrochemical industry successfully completed within the last 10 (ten) years, each with a value of at least BDT 35.00 (thirty-five) million or USD 0.40 (zero point four zero) million. c) The required average annual turnover shall be greater than Tk 180 (one eighty) million or USD 2.07 (two point zero seven) million over the last 5 years or best 5 years in the last 10 years. d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderers shall be Tk 45 (forty-five) million or USD 0.52 (zero point five two) million. e) The minimum capacity shall be: Tk 45 (forty-five) million or USD 0.52 (zero point five two) million.
24	Brief description of work:	Fitness for services assessment to determine the adequacy of the flawed structure of 17 Nos. of oil storage tanks for continued service without imminent failure. Flaws, deterioration, or other conditions (for example, change of service, corrosion greater than the original corrosion allowance) that might adversely affect the performance or structural integrity of the shell of the tanks shall be evaluated and a determination made regarding suitability for intended service.
25	Brief description of related services	None.
26	Tender document price	BDT 5000.00 per tender schedule (non-refundable).
27	Location and estimated date of completion of works	Chattogram, Godenail & Fatullah, October 2022.
28	Type of payment for tender price	On cash payment.
29	Type of payment for security amount	As per tender schedule.
<b>LOT INFORMATION</b>		
30	Lot No.	Identification of lot Location Tender security amount in Taka Completion time in months
	N/A	N/A Chattogram, Godenail & Fatullah. USD 20,000.00 (twenty thousand) or BDT 17,50,000.00 (seventeen lac fifty thousand) Four months
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
31	Name of official inviting tender	Ms. Aminul Haque.
32	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Projects).
33	Address of official inviting tender	Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
34	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: +88 031621399. Fax: 88031618312, E-mail: aminul36@yahoo.com
35	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

GD- 441

"সবাই মিলে গড়বে দেশ, সুশীলবৃত্ত বাংলাদেশ"

WAR IN UKRAINE  
Developments

**FIERCE BATTLES**  
Ukraine's military says it is fighting "fierce battles" with Russian forces on the edge of the southern city of Mykolaiv, which controls the road to the country's biggest port Odessa in the west. President Volodymyr Zelensky warns that Russia is preparing to bombard the historic city near the Romanian and Moldovan borders. Dozens of civilians are being killed in the battle for Chernihiv in the north, with those who remain in the city living in craters or among the ruins.

**AIRPORT DESTROYED**  
A barrage of Russian missiles destroy Vinnytsia airport in central Ukraine, Zelensky says.

**POLISH JETS DEAL**  
The United States says it is working on a deal with Poland to supply Ukraine with fighter jets that its pilots are trained to fly. Zelensky had pleaded with former Warsaw Pact countries in eastern Europe to give Ukraine Russian-made warplanes.

**RUSSIA LIMITS FOOD SALES**  
Russian shops are told to limit sales of essential foodstuffs to counter black market speculation as Western sanctions bite.

**2,500 HELD AT RUSSIA PROTESTS**  
More than 2,500 people are held across Russia after new protests against the war in Ukraine.

**VISA AND MASTERCARD BAN**  
Credit card giants Visa and Mastercard refuse to do business with Moscow over the invasion of Ukraine but Russian banks say they will use China's UnionPay system.

**PEACE PROSPECTS 'NOT GREAT'**  
Israel's premier Naftali Bennett says the chances of stopping fighting were "not great", after Kyiv had asked Israel to launch a dialogue with Moscow.

French President Emmanuel Macron and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan hold separate telephone talks with Putin.

### ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

#### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites **Two Envelope System** International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material on C&F© Dhaka By Air/Chittagong by Sea Basis:-

S/L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/RM/SEM/ 74/2021-2022 dated 06/03/2022	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: ( Specification as per tender schedule ):</b> 01. Potassium Chloride BP 02. Lactic Acid BP 03. Mebendazole BP 04. Chloramphenicol (Sterile Mic.)BP	Tk. 1250.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 15.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 31/03/2022 At 11.00AM Opening : 31/03/2022 at 11.15 AM
02.	IMP/RM/SEM/ 75/2021-2022 dated 06/03/2022	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: ( Specification as per tender schedule ):</b> 01. Pethidine HCl BP 02. Microcrystalline Cellulose BP ( Avicel PH 101) 03. Lactose BP 04. Diazepam BP 05. Folic Acid BP 06. Orange Oil BP 07. Essence of Orange Sweet ph. Gr.	Tk. 2,000/set Equivalent to US\$ 23.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 04/04/2022 At 11.00AM Opening : 04/04/2022 at 11.15 AM
03.	IMP/RM/SEM/ 76/2021-2022 dated 06/03/2022	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: ( Specification as per tender schedule ):</b> 01. Chloramphenicol BP 02. Chlorpheniramine Mcleate BP 03. Banana Flavour Powder Ph. Gr. 04. Cetyl Alcohol BP 05. Ferrous Fumarate BP 06. Film Coating Material Yellow Ph. Gr./ wincoat WT-MP-1143/Spraycel SC MB3125 (yellow) Ph. Gr. or equivalent 07. Flim Coating Material Green Ph. Gr. ( Wincoat WT-MP-03060 or equivalent	Tk. 1500/set Equivalent to US\$ 17.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 05/04/2022 At 11.00AM Opening : 05/04/2022 at 11.15 AM
04.	IMP/RM/SEM/ 77/2021-2022 dated 06/03/2022	<b>Pharmaceutical Raw Materials: ( Specification as per tender schedule ):</b> 01. Azithromycin Dihydrate Compacted USP	Tk. 4,000/set Equivalent to US\$ 46.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 06/04/2022 At 11.00AM Opening : 06/04/2022 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days ( except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of " Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tendets without assigning any reason Whatsoever.

**N.B: This Information is also available at our Website: [www.edcl.gov.bd](http://www.edcl.gov.bd)**

( 11 x 4 col.)

**General Manager  
Procurement  
For : Managing Director.**



# Out of reach, out of control

## Govt must take stern action to control edible oil prices

IT'S alarming that amid skyrocketing prices of daily essentials, yet another problem—a crisis of edible oil, particularly soybean oil—has now emerged, with retailers and wholesalers allegedly stocking it up to create an artificial crisis, and refiners slowing down delivery. According to a report by this daily, many consumers are returning empty-handed from local stores and kitchen markets. In the absence of effective monitoring, both retail and wholesale stores are exploiting the situation by either citing a lack of oil supply or selling them at exorbitant prices. As a result, not only are government-fixed prices being ignored, but low-income customers are being disproportionately affected as well.

The timing of this couldn't be worse, as consumers are being drowned under unusually high prices for almost all essential commodities. It was only the other day that we commented on the morbid scenes of people, many from the so-called middle-income backgrounds, running after state-run TCB trucks or jostling for position in front of them to buy commodities at lower prices. The edible oil crisis, we're told, has reached a point that the poor, frustrated by high prices, are going for loose (unbottled) oil in small quantities, but that too is becoming scarce. On Saturday, loose soybean oil was barely available in Dhaka's kitchen markets, while the price of a five-litre bottle was as high as Tk 830, although the government-fixed rate is Tk 795.

Bangladesh has to depend on the international market to meet 90 percent of its edible oil demand, making the role of importers and refiners hugely important. Insiders say the present crisis is the result of a stocking tendency within the supply chain after the refiners demanded that the commerce ministry increase the price of edible oil to Tk 180 per litre from March 1—up by Tk 12 from the government-fixed price. Some have cited high import costs and duties as well as supply concerns in the middle of the Russia-Ukraine war. The government didn't entertain their demand for hikes, according to the commerce minister, and as a result an unscrupulous group is manipulating the market.

The government plans to ban the sales of loose soybean oil after May 31, and palm oil after December 31 this year. This is a good move and should have been done earlier, as loose edible oil can not only be a tool of manipulation, but is often heavily adulterated, causing various health complications. But it is nowhere near enough. The government must initiate stronger interventions to check irregularities and make oil available within the reach of ordinary customers. It must ensure fair price adjustment in light of international prices, and punish errant traders and importers who try to exploit the situation as well as its lax oversight of kitchen markets.

# From garbage to fashion!

## An amazing way to beat plastic pollution

IT is pretty amazing that Bangladesh is on its way to becoming a major source of recycled yarn and fabrics made from plastic bottles. Reportedly, some Bangladeshi companies have already set up plants investing hundreds of crores of taka to make flakes from waste plastic bottles, which will be used to make yarn and fabrics. Recycled yarns are used to make some high value-added garment items such as jerseys, jackets, quilts, padding and outerwear. It is a growing global trend now to make yarn from recycled plastic bottles, as Western consumers are becoming increasingly conscious about saving the environment from plastic pollution. As the demand for such garment products is increasing worldwide, Bangladesh can take this opportunity to become a major producer of yarn and fabric made from plastic.

Reportedly, international retailers and brands are asking suppliers to add 25-30 percent of the raw material made from plastic to the finished garment items. Bangladeshi companies mostly import these recycled yarns from China. But the price of the yarn has increased a lot in the international market, which has led some Bangladeshi companies to plan for producing their own plastic flakes and yarns.

It is good to know that already seven local mills have set up plants to produce flakes from waste plastic bottles. While some of them have already started their production, they are struggling to get the required raw material for production. The problem is that plastic waste and bottles are usually collected in an informal way. If this process could be formalised and incentivised, the collection would definitely increase. Also, the seabed of the Bay of Bengal could be explored to extract plastic bottles currently polluting its waters.

Being the 10th most plastic-polluting country in the world (according to the Earth Day Network, 2018), it should be our priority to invest more in setting up recycling facilities. The National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management has set a target of recycling 50 percent of plastic by 2025. In order to fulfil that target, more companies should come forward to make plastic flakes to be used to make garment products. Besides, recycled plastic can be used to produce many day-to-day household products. While reducing our consumption of plastic is very important, it is equally vital to reuse and recycle them. And we believe that more Bangladeshi companies will come forward to set up recycling plants to beat plastic pollution in the country.

### HISTORIC MARCH 7

# Setting a nation on the march



**BLOWIN' IN THE WIND**  
Dr Shamsad Mortuza is the pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

IT is common for modern day leaders to use teleprompters, in which words are projected onto transparent beam-splitter mirrors, making their speeches appear impromptu and spontaneous. Bangabandhu, too, had a teleprompter, but his was made not of characters in pixels, but of the real-life characters sitting in front of him. His people in the audience were the words and the world of his speech. They appeared in millions on March 7, 1971, on the grounds of what is now known as Suhrawardy Udyan, like the words on a page waiting with a collective aspiration for freedom and for the talismanic touch that would set words into action. Theirs was the energy and passion that got articulated through the voice of one leader. The historic speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 7, 1971 set a nation on the march.

In 18 minutes, Bangabandhu prepared his countrymen for the ultimate struggle that they would have to endure for their freedom. He chose each of his words carefully, knowing that one wrong word would present him as a secessionist before the world, giving the scheming Pakistani rulers the opportunity to ignore the faint hope of democratic process altogether. The landslide victory in the 1970 general election that gave Bangabandhu the endorsement of his people to form the government in Pakistan would mean nothing, and his opponents could present him as (what Bhutto called) a "rebel rouser," invoking immediate military action. He chose each of his words carefully, knowing that the one million people sitting in front of him had had enough of the oppression in the hands of West Pakistan rulers. Frustrated by the machination of the leaders of West Pakistan and angered by their colonialism, they were ready to erupt in action. Bangabandhu could read the words and the world before him as if he was the only one who could see the invisible teleprompter.

Before the rally, his associates told him of the mob sentiment that would not be pacified by anything short of the unilateral declaration of independence. The Awami League had won an absolute majority of 160 seats, while its opponent Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had won only 81 seats in the first general elections since the independence of Pakistan in 1947. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was set to be the prime minister of Pakistan. The National Assembly, however, was not inaugurated as the military dictator Gen Yahya Khan and the PPP Chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto did not want a party from East Pakistan heading the federal government. Not to mention, the affluent aristocratic class of Pakistan had little to no respect for a man of the people as their leader. It was up to



▲ **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the then Ramna Race Course Maidan on March 7, 1971.**

PHOTO: ARCHIVES

**Such great speeches are rooted in history as they carry the memory of human experiences. They are not located at any given time, but to the entire humanity.**

Bangabandhu to expose the hypocrisy of Pakistani rulers who had started acting like a colonial power to subjugate its own people. The stakes were really high at the height of the Cold War, when the world was divided into two camps. The strategic interest of the US and China in Pakistan and the strong tie between the Soviet Union and India made the unrest in East Pakistan a global affair. The speech drew attention of the international media, who speculated that Sheikh Mujib would make a unilateral declaration of independence from Pakistan. Bangabandhu, however, was aware of the failures of such declarations in Rhodesia and Nigeria.

Thus, on March 7, 1971, Bangabandhu stood on the juncture of history. His plight was similar to Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Martin Luther King, Jr and Nelson Mandela, who are all known for delivering path-breaking speeches. Such great speeches are rooted in history as they carry the memory of human experiences. They are not located at any given time, but to the entire humanity. No wonder, Unesco recognised and recorded the speech as a world documentary heritage in 2017. In a video message congratulating the people of Bangladesh for their first ever inscription on the register of Unesco's Memory of the World, the then Unesco chief Irina Bokova explained why Bangabandhu's speech merited the honour. She referred to the first sentence of the speech, in which he stated the "heavy heart" with which he appeared before his people. Bokova observed that Bangabandhu was "conscious of the weight of his call. He stood before history with a deeply emotional summons for justice, emancipation, freedom and human dignity."

A close reading of the text shows the tonal rise and fall that Bangabandhu used as well as the mixture of formal and informal registers that he applied to coax, cajole, and convince his intended audience. He empowered his audience by saying that "you know it all. You understand it all." In doing so, he instantly created a bond of familiarity between him and the people. He appears like a healer with empathy as he carries out the diagnosis of the social illness that affects his people, before making a prognosis. The demands that

he made showed his keenness to keep the democratic process alive. He mentioned four conditions for joining the National Assembly: i) The immediate lifting of martial law; ii) The immediate withdrawal of all military personnel to their barracks; iii) The immediate transfer of power to the elected representatives; and iv) A proper inquiry into the loss of life during the conflict.

He also warned his opponents of the consequences if his demands were not met. More importantly, he announced a civil disobedience movement in the province, calling for "every house to turn into a fortress." He ended his speech famously proclaiming, "The struggle this time, is a struggle for our liberty. The struggle this time, is a struggle for our independence."

The Pakistan secret service, covering the event, reported to the headquarters, "The clever Sheikh Mujib got away with declaring independence, we kept looking." Many have raised questions as to why Bangabandhu did not declare a unilateral declaration of independence on March 7. Major Siddiq Salik, posted in charge of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in Dhaka in 1971, offered three reasons: i) Yahya requested Sheikh Mujib not to carry on with the dialogue over the National Assembly; ii) the then US ambassador to Pakistan visited him a day before, underscoring that he would not get any of their support; and iii) The threat from a certain Pakistani GOC that he would muster up all his military might to "kill the traitors and raze Dhaka to the ground." Bangabandhu did not yield to the pressure. He concentrated on his own convictions to decide on his course of actions.

People close to Bangabandhu have all confirmed how uncharacteristically quiet he was before the delivery of the speech. He was calm and reflective. His wife comforted him saying, "You say what you believe in." When driving to the venue, he told his driver to avoid the usual route to the Race Course field from his Dhanmondi residence. The driver asked him, "Do you know what you will be saying today?" Bangabandhu answered, "I will say whatever Allah makes me say."

And he went on to say, "I shall free the people of the land, InshaAllah."

The rest is history.

# Due diligence laws must be a shared burden



**Mostafiz Uddin** is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

WE recently saw the announcement of new supply chain "due diligence" laws by the European Union (EU), which are aimed at making multinational businesses accountable for social and environmental transgressions in supply chains. The idea of such laws has been on the cards for some considerable time, and they have huge implications for RMG supply chains.

For many years, fashion retailers have been accused of outsourcing poor environmental and social practices to Asia. It is claimed that they are turning a blind eye to supply chain issues, whether it is poor treatment of workers, forced labour or damage to the environment. The reason such issues are so pertinent to the RMG industry is that it is the one industry which, perhaps more than any other, has been outsourced from the West to Asia.

What do these laws mean and how will they affect garment suppliers? The official draft suggests that to comply with the EU's proposed corporate due diligence laws, companies would need to meet a number of criteria. These include integrating due diligence into their sustainability policies; identifying actual or potential adverse human rights and

**Let's also use this opportunity for fashion suppliers to enter an open dialogue, where we all discuss exactly what the new laws will mean, and which party will be responsible for ensuring that no one falls foul of the new regulations.**

environmental impacts; preventing or mitigating potential impacts; bringing to an end or minimising the actual impacts; establishing and maintaining a complaint procedure; monitoring the effectiveness of the due diligence policy and measures; and publicly communicating on due diligence.

How much of a difference will such laws make, and how will they impact garment suppliers? Well, fashion retailers already carry out a significant level of due diligence on their suppliers. There has been a huge increase in environmental and social auditing in recent years. Fashion retailers use these audits as a kind of insurance tool to maintain standards throughout the supply chains. However, there is no legal requirement to carry out such audits, and there is very little stopping a retailer from working with whomever supplier it wishes. The big worry for fashion retailers is illegal subcontracting, which still goes on in some supply chains and means that retailers end up with supply chain blind spots.

The broad point is that the current model as far as due diligence is concerned is a voluntary one. Fashion brands and retailers follow it to a large extent because the reputational risk of not doing so is simply too great.

But with the proposed EU laws coming into effect, supply chain due diligence will turn mandatory from voluntary. In many ways, I support this as it will go some way towards levelling the playing field for our customers, and potential suppliers. In order to avoid falling foul of the due diligence laws, retailers may choose to work mainly with the "best in class"

suppliers to mitigate their outsourcing risks. This, in turn, would reward the suppliers who have invested heavily in social and environmental governance issues. In theory, social and environmental standards could be raised right across the board.

My concern, however, is that the burden of following due diligence will fall almost entirely on the suppliers. I worry that it could mean more audits, more box-ticking, and increased costs for RMG factories. As suppliers, we already face a huge burden where audits are concerned, and these are costly, time-consuming and, in many cases, repetitive. Experience tells us that retailers will pass costs and responsibilities down the supply chains wherever possible. We have already seen this with voluntary agreements, and there is no reason to think any differently if due diligence regulations become legally binding.

In light of all this, if the due diligence laws are introduced in the European Union, I think it would be an opportune time for both suppliers and customers to sit down and decide how we are all going to follow the new guidelines. It is in all our interests to sing from the same hymn sheet on this issue.

In summary, then, yes, let's have new laws around due diligence, and let's shift away from these issues being handled through a voluntary approach. But let's also use this opportunity for fashion suppliers to enter an open dialogue, where we all discuss exactly what the new laws will mean, and which party will be responsible for ensuring that no one falls foul of the new regulations.

I talk of cooperation and partnership a lot and on this issue, it is more important than ever. We need to work together on this.



**WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO**  
**[dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).**



LIBERATION WAR IN RETROSPECT: CONVERSATION AMONG SOME KEY FUNCTIONARIES

# Guerrilla operations

The number of guerrillas and the supply of weapons increased substantially from October. The signing of the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty in August also inspired them. The growing strength of the guerrillas so unnerved the Pakistani soldiers that they became victims of “military blindness.”

TRANSLATED BY MUMTAZ IQBAL

**AK KHANDKER:** Around June-July of 1971, those of us involved in the Liberation War were a bit frustrated. But in mid-August, our naval commandos conducted successful attacks on shipping at the Chittagong and Chalna ports. This was a completely different kind of operation and brought international attention to our war as it was extensively covered and widely discussed in international media and other fora. This helped lift the morale of the freedom fighters. In May, training of these commandos started near the bank of the Bhagirathi River. The chief of the training camp and instructors were all from the Indian navy. Colonel Osmany, a few others and I knew the purpose behind raising this force.

From October onwards, guerrilla activities intensified inside Bangladesh. Their effectiveness can be gauged from the response of the Pakistan army. The bodies of Pakistani soldiers killed in action used to be airlifted to West Pakistan via Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). All armed forces have an inescapable obligation to ensure that the dead bodies of soldiers, certainly of officers and other ranks, are delivered to their families by whatever means. But later, especially from October onwards, the dramatic increase in the number of Pakistani casualties made it impossible to airlift all the deceased soldiers to the west wing.

The Pakistani public also raised the question that if things are normal, then why are there so many casualties? These factors led to the discontinuation of the practice of sending the dead bodies back

in international media. But before October, our overall situation was not very promising. Apart from the naval commando operations, we did not achieve any significant success during that period.

Our sector commanders had to carry out multiple responsibilities simultaneously. First, they were under pressure to attack the enemy. Second, there was the difficult task of raising brigades. Third, training new guerrillas and arranging for their infiltration inside Bangladesh. Assuming 75 per cent of the 20,000 trained youths graduating each month had to infiltrate the country, this added up to a figure of 15,000. Add to this the fact that guerrillas who had returned wanted to join operations again. Considering the large number of guerrillas involved, it was not easy for the sector commanders to choose specific targets, draw up operational plans, arm the guerrillas, and arrange for their infiltration.

**AK KHANDKER:** Even if our brigades were one-third the size of conventional units, they had many non-commissioned officers (NCOs) – senior sergeants, havildars, and subedars. There were also a few

In such cases, I would discuss the matter with Prime Minister Tajuddin and get his decision. The political leadership had to approve the attack and demolition of such important establishments. A military commander cannot and should not take this decision on his own unless he has no choice and has to decide on the spot.

It was through this process of consultation that we used to move forward. However, the Bangladesh high command never had a war plan or tactical strategy in the conventional sense.

**MUYEEDUL HASAN:** Delhi considered the problem relating to the return of the refugees as the biggest danger. India did not have the capacity to bear the burden of refugees indefinitely. This problem had to be solved within a definite time frame. In winter, snowfall blocked the passes in India’s northeast frontier. This made a Chinese attack impossible then. So winter was the appropriate time to fight and defeat Pakistan. This would lead to the return of the refugees. India formulated its strategic and tactical plans of war based on this premise.

conduct cross-border operations. The reason behind this activity was to force the Pakistani high command to redeploy its soldiers, who were mainly concentrated in a few heavily fortified cantonments and strong points, in small groups scattered throughout the 1,400 miles frontier.

The Pakistanis fell into this trap. Their soldiers were divided into small units and lost their cohesion and coordination since they were not united. The movement of the Pakistani soldiers to the border resulted in a kind of vacuum inside the country.

The guerrillas and freedom fighters exploited this opportunity, entering the country in large numbers. Their daring operations increased and deepened the feelings of uncertainty of the Pakistanis. They lost the ability to move their forces from one frontier post to another due to “military blindness,” as already mentioned by AK Khandker. The Islamabad junta thought that they could compensate for the probable loss of the eastern province by occupying a slice of Kashmir.

That is why they had stationed the bulk of their military strength in West Pakistan. With the remaining resources, it was just impossible to maintain sufficient force throughout the cantonments, district towns, important communication centres and Bangladesh’s border simultaneously. The escalation of guerrilla activities from the end of October started to shatter the confidence of Pakistani troops rapidly.

Whenever Indian forces found that a particular tactic or plan could not be implemented, they modified it and developed something new. For example, the fierce fighting at Hilli convinced them that they could not expect to easily overcome Pakistani resistance in other places. At that time, DP Dhar was in Calcutta. He had hinted to me around November 17 that they had modified their war plan slightly. This now envisaged bypassing the enemy’s strong points while advancing towards Dhaka using alternative routes.

This was a major tactical change that yielded positive benefits swiftly. When full-scale war broke out, the Indian troops at first were able to advance rapidly towards Dhaka. Nevertheless, they ran into some difficulties. For example, after capturing Jashore, the Indian forces advanced towards Hardinge Bridge but another group was diverted towards Khulna through Jhenaidah. This was a questionable decision since neither Khulna nor Chalna was a major tactical target. The main objective was Dhaka. In that case, why was only one brigade deployed along the quickest route to Dhaka, namely from Tura, Meghalaya.

General Nagra’s forces reached the outskirts of Dhaka quickly through Kamalpur, north of Mymensingh. There too only one brigade deployed. Thus, Indian military planning also had some shortcomings.

But overall, India’s military plan was carefully thought out and crafted. During its implementation, the plan was evaluated and modified appropriately in the light of experience and actual circumstances.

**SR MIRZA:** Indian war strategy was carefully thought out and planned. Many military experts consider that the 1971 war was one of the biggest and best-planned in the history of

warfare. The Indians were able to rally domestic and international opinion successfully to their cause that materially helped them implement their war plan.

**AK KHANDKER:** At one stage of the Liberation War, the Indian army shelled and destroyed several border outposts and frontier fortifications. This forced the Pakistanis to move their troops towards the frontier zone. Taking advantage of this movement, many guerrillas were able to infiltrate Bangladesh.

The Indians had another advantage. They knew that only a squadron of fighter planes was based in Dhaka. Fighting a war without a strong air force is difficult, if not impossible, irrespective of the competence of the commanding general. Airpower is a very flexible instrument of war. The field guns and tanks have limited flexibility; for example, they can get stuck in mud and cannot easily cross rivers, making airpower truly effective.

Aircrafts can reach any place at any time quickly. When the Dhaka airport was destroyed within two days of the outbreak of war on December 4, the Pakistanis had very little to carry on the fight. Waging war without airpower or air support is impossible. The Indian forces fully exploited this opportunity.

There were two reasons for Indian success. The first was the formulation of a well thought-out and effective war plan. This was only natural since the Indian armed forces were very well organised. The second was that the Pakistani commanders fell into the trap set by the Indians. Till the very end, they were fixated on the idea that the Indians assisted by the freedom fighters were intent on establishing a liberated zone inside East Pakistan.

This would be designated as the capital of Bangladesh and thus attract attention worldwide. Hostage to this assessment, the Pakistanis strung out the bulk of their troops in small packets along the frontier area to prevent the establishment of such a zone by the guerrillas or India. At one time we also toyed with this concept but later abandoned it. The Pakistanis, however, swallowed this bait.

Thereafter, when the first elements of the Indian Army neared the outskirts of Dhaka through Tangail, moving from east to west, preliminary negotiations that started around December 9 or 10 concluded with the surrender of the Pakistani forces on December 16. So, when you ask me whether or not we had a war plan, the answer is that we did have and that was to conduct guerrilla warfare. With proper implementation of this plan, we would have been even more successful than we were.

*AK Khandaker was the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Bangladesh Armed Forces during the Liberation War.*

*Muyeedul Hasan was a Special Assistant to Tajuddin Ahmad, the Prime Minister of the Bangladesh Government-in-exile. He is also the author of Muldhara ’71.*

*SR Mirza was the Director General of Juba Shibir during the Liberation War.*

*This is an abridged version of Chapter 5 of the book “Muktijuddher Purbapari” (Prothoma, 2009). The complete translation of the book will be published in 2022 by The University Press Limited (UPL).*



A K Khandaker



Muyeedul Hasan



S R Mirza

junior officers such as lieutenants and captains. In several cases, the NCOs assumed a leadership role. They went inside Bangladesh with the guerrillas and carried out their duties with utmost devotion.

The number of guerrillas and the supply of weapons increased substantially from October. The signing of the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty in August also inspired them. The growing strength of the guerrillas so unnerved the Pakistani soldiers that they became victims of “military blindness.” If I cannot move from one place or outpost to another, the constrained mobility is a serious weakness because I will not know the conditions in another locality, and I will be deprived of useful intelligence.

So, where a border outpost, cantonment, or strongpoint used to send ten soldiers on patrol, they now sent 20 soldiers and as guerrilla attacks gradually intensified, the enemy forces could not move out from their positions at all. They were constantly in fear of being ambushed by the guerrillas and freedom fighters. Unable to move and gather intelligence, the Pakistani forces lost the will to fight and started fleeing. While entering Jashore, the Indian forces did not even have to fight. The Pakistanis abandoned the cantonment, leaving behind a considerable number of arms and ammunition. Serious combat took place in only a few places such as Hilli, Sylhet, and Bhairab. In most instances, the Pakistanis fled to save their lives.

Indian military officers and civilians would regularly discuss whether certain targets, especially large ones like Adamjee Jute Mills, should be attacked and destroyed.

India’s grand strategy comprised several steps. The first was to enhance her security profile against the possibility of a Chinese attack by concluding a treaty with the Soviet Union. Second, since it was very likely that India would have to go to war with Pakistan to solve the refugee problem, Gandhi visited Moscow in September to discuss with Soviet leaders and secure their support.

Thereafter, Indians provided greater assistance to our irregular forces and applied greater pressure to send more fighters inside Bangladesh. When they realised that this pressure was not yielding the desired results in accordance with their grand strategy, India directed her armed forces to conduct military operations along the border from mid-October. In several areas, the Indians fought the Pakistanis directly. Wherever possible, they involved our guerrillas as in the actions at Belonia and Salda Nadi. Here, the Bangladesh and Indian forces together fought the Pakistanis. The battles were quite big.

Tajuddin Ahmed had informed Major General BN Sarkar in September that since he would be very busy and so, unless necessary, Sarkar should from then onwards send his routine reports to me. The sector commanders were provided with radio facilities at various stages during the war. This was done to improve communication between sector commanders and their Indian counterparts. In some sectors, such as that headed by Major Ghaffar, communication between the two armies was good. Our troops there fought splendidly.

From the second week of October, Indian troops started to



Book Cover of Muktijuddher Purbapari

to Pakistan. This decision clearly shows the growing strength of our resistance at the time. Pakistanis nearly everywhere in Bangladesh suffered heavily from these attacks and their morale was eroded. In my opinion, this was the brightest moment of the Liberation War.

**MUYEEDUL HASAN:** The amount of damage inflicted by the guerrillas upon the Pakistanis was covered



Guerrillas in action.  
PHOTO: SHAFIQUEL ISLAM SWAPAN



## SPORT

What to  
WATCH

## STAR SPORTS 1

EPL  
Tottenham vs Everton  
Live from 02:00 am  
(Tuesday)

## SONY SIX

Pakistan vs Australia  
1st Test, Day 4  
Live from 11:00 am

## ‘Hope I live to reach 100’

REUTERS

Four months after 97-year-old amateur Leonid Stanislavskyi's dreams came true when he played with 21-times Grand Slam champion Rafa Nadal, the Ukrainian is enduring his worst nightmare in Kharkiv as Russian forces bomb the city.

Stanislavskyi, who holds the Guinness World Record as the world's oldest tennis player, also had dreams of playing Swiss great Roger Federer but now he has only one simple wish – survival.

“I hope I live to reach 100. I have to survive this frightening situation,” he told Reuters.

“The war started on (February) 24th. From the 24th till now I have practically not gone out. I've stayed at home... I have supplies, the fridge is full. I'm sitting at home, not going anywhere,” he said.

“My daughter Tanya is in Poland, she wants to take me there. But I decided to stay here. I have bad hearing so I sleep at night and don't hear anything. Last night there were



bombings, in the morning there were air-raid sirens again.”

Stanislavskyi survived the Second World War, when he was an engineer who helped build Soviet warplanes to fight the Nazis.

“I never thought that I would have to live through another, more frightening war where people from both sides are dying – mothers are losing their children, wives are losing their sons and their husbands,” he added.

“What is this? What good is it? In the 21st century there can't be war. The war needs to be stopped, an agreement has to be reached.”

For Stanislavskyi, an end to the conflict would also mean the chance to resume playing tennis – and possibly to appear at the next seniors World Championships, in Florida next month.



**Shakhb Al Hasan unveils the jersey of Mohammedan Sporting Club for the upcoming Dhaka Premier League as his teammates Mahmudullah Riyad, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Taskin Ahmed alongside the directors of the club look on during a programme at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Mushfiqur was announced as the captain of the side.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## ‘It would be akin to cheating the team’

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Shakhb Al Hasan continued to keep the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in limbo regarding his availability for international commitments, saying in his latest salvo last night that he was neither mentally nor physically prepared for the upcoming tour of South Africa.

“I felt like a passenger in a car [in the just-concluded series against Afghanistan], which I never want to be. I did not enjoy my performances, either in ODIs or T20Is. I tried but it didn't work out. I don't think it would be right for me to play in South Africa in this state of mind. I said this to Jalal [Yunus] bhai and I think he will think about it. I will also think about it and then a decision should be taken,” Shakhb told reporters at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport prior to his departure for Dubai.

“I believe that if I play with such a mental and physical condition, it will ultimately hamper the team's performance. It would be sad if I failed to meet my expectations or the expectations of my fans. It would be like cheating my teammates if I stay as only a passenger,” Shakhb continued.

Shakhb was supposed to join the team, slated to depart for South Africa on March 11, directly from Dubai, but he repeatedly told reporters he desperately need a break.

“Yes, I was agreed to play the series and that's why my name was included in the



squad but after the Afghanistan series I felt that I needed a break. In my current state of mind, it would be like cheating my team and my country if I play the series.”

He admitted that there would have been no guarantees that he would perform well had he gone with sound mind and body. But in this current situation, he said it would be like betraying his team. “I don't want to deprive my team,” he said.

Shakhb repeatedly said that playing would be akin to cheating his teammates, the country and himself. He also demanded a long term plan from the BCB regarding his international commitments instead of deciding on a series-by-series basis given that he is a player approaching the fag end of a long career. He added that there might be the possibility of him

playing only the Tests and skipping the ODIs or some other arrangement of that nature, but could not confirm before discussions.

“What I read in media is that I asked for a six-month break from Tests before the IPL auction, which is not true. I wanted to focus more on white-ball cricket with the next World Cup in mind. We have two World Cups. I think we can achieve big things there. That's why I wanted to focus more on white-ball cricket. That doesn't mean I will not play Test cricket. But I need a proper plan at this stage of my career,” he said.

When contacted, BCB cricket operations committee chairman Jalal Yunus said: “He rang me up today and spoke about mental fatigue. He was not motivated to play so his performances were not up to the mark in the last series. But he did not say he would not play in the South Africa series. He said that he need a break and he misses his family. I just told him to talk with me again after two days. That's it.”

The first ODI will be played in Centurion on March 18. The second and third ODIs are scheduled for March 20 and 23 in Johannesburg and Centurion respectively. The opening Test will be played on March 31 while the final Test is scheduled for April 8.

The ODI and the Test series will be part of the ICC ODI Super League and World Test Championship respectively.

## Siddikur showing form ahead of Chattogram Open

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman showed some sign of form with a 14-under-par score in the International Series Thailand, which concluded yesterday.

The 37-year-old golfer could only finish tied for 41st, but his scores of 67, 70, 65 and 72 gave some encouraging vibe ahead of the Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open, which will get underway at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club on Wednesday.

In fact, Siddikur looked set to secure his first top-10 finish on the Asian Tour in three years after the third round, but a disappointing final round, where he went par for the course, pulled him back long way down the leaderboard.

The two-time Asian Tour winner eventually finished 12 shots behind winner Sihwan Kim of the USA with an aggregate score of 14-under-par (274) at the Black Mountain Golf Club on Sunday.

The effort saw Siddikur pocket 9045 dollars, which will improve his Order of Merit standing and give him encouragement ahead of the PGTI event in Chattogram where competition will come the PGTI players from India and Bangladesh. After the Chattogram Open, Siddikur will head to Delhi to play in the inaugural DGC Open, to be played at the Delhi Golf Club from March 24 to 27.



## Rebooted hockey aspire glory

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national hockey team intend to emulate the fast-paced and high-intensity playing style of world's hockey giants with the title of the upcoming AHF Cup in sight, scheduled to get underway on March 11 in Jakarta.

The national team are scheduled to leave for Indonesia tonight to take part in the 10-team tournament from which top three teams advance to the Asia Cup while the top five qualify for the Asian Games.

“We want to become champions but go match by match. In last 15 days, we watched the matches of Belgium, India and other countries,” captain Sarwar Hossain told the media yesterday.

“We also tried to implement that formation [of India's and Belgium's] in our lone practice match against BKSP. Now we are looking forward to implementing that in the AHF Cup,” informed Sarwar.

After unveiling the jersey during a photo session event in Dhaka yesterday, Bangladesh Malaysian coach Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurthy told the media that he is satisfied with the overall preparation.

“The boys trained well in the last three weeks and we had three sessions including one video session every day,” informed Krishnamurthy while adding that he is not too aware of his immediate opponents.

“Obliviously, China and Oman are higher-ranked sides than Bangladesh but we don't know about China, Oman, Sri Lanka and Indonesia because all of participating teams were out of international engagement for a long time.”

## Abahani claim second, Sheikh Jamal go third

SPORTS REPORTER

A stoppage-time strike from Daniel Colindres helped title contenders Abahani come from a goal down to beat Saif SC 2-1 in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

A return to winning ways saw Abahani climb to second place with 16 points from seven matches, two behind leaders Bashundhara Kings and point more than third-placed Sheikh Jamal, who yesterday handed a 2-1 defeat to Chittagong Abahani in Munshiganj to remain the only unbeaten side.

At the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, lightweights Uttar Baridhara Club came from two goals down to stun big-budget Sheikh Russel 3-2. The triumph saw them climb to eighth, leaving Sheikh Russel at ninth position with only five points from seven matches.

In Sylhet, Abahani looked a bit dejected on the back of a 3-2 defeat to Chittagong Abahani in their previous match and lacked urgency, with the visitors dominating from the beginning.

The Sky Blues play was strewn with passing errors, which cost possession and

ceded control to Saif SC, who looked much better in terms of launching attacks.

After a barren first half, Saif SC took a deserved lead through Emery Bayisenge, who headed home a Jamal Bhuiyan free-kick from the top of the six-year box in the 69th minute.

But they could keep the lead for only six minutes as Brazilian forward Dorielton Gomes, coming on after Abahani conceded the lead, levelled by nodding home a corner kick from Daniel Colindres.

Colindres himself converted a penalty from the spot in the final minute of the three minutes of added time to deliver a fifth victory in seven matches for Abahani.

In Munshiganj, Sheikh Jamal and Chittagong Abahani waged an intense battle before Sheikh Jamal emerged victorious after Ctg Abahani Afghan forward Omid Propalzay squandered a penalty. Gambian forward Solomon King

hit a brace in the 29th and 68th minutes to put Sheikh Jamal in an advantageous position before Nigerian forward Ebimobowei Thankgod reduced the margin in the 83rd minute but it was not enough to avert Chittagong Abahani's first defeat in seven matches.



**All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja starred with bat and ball to lead India to a crushing innings-and-222-run victory over Sri Lanka inside three days of the first Test on Sunday. Jadeja hit an unbeaten 175 in India's 574-8 declared and then claimed a match tally of nine wickets with his left-arm spin in Mohali. One more wicket and the left-armed would've had himself in the elite club of scoring a century and taking 10 wickets – a club where only Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Shakhb Al Hasan belong.**

PHOTO: AFP





## PM flies to UAE today

### MoUs on renewable energy, AI likely

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is leaving for the United Arab Emirates today on a five-day visit.

"We already have a very good relationship with the UAE. We want to further improve it. We also want to increase our export to the Gulf nation," said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

He said the UAE would be a very important place in the future. So, it is important for Bangladesh to improve the relationship to maintain the labour market, economic relationship, and draw investment.

Bangladesh is eager for a direct shipping service with the UAE, he said at a press conference at the state guesthouse Padma yesterday.

The PM will discuss potential cooperation on renewable energy, climate change, sustainable development, ICT and artificial intelligence, which will improve Bangladesh's capacity for the fourth industrial revolution.

Four to five MoUs on these issues are expected to be signed during the five-day visit.

Hasina is visiting the UAE at the invitation of Dubai's ruler and UAE Vice-President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to attend the Dubai Expo 2022, which is being organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

She will visit the Bangladesh pavilion. It will be an occasion to showcase the achievements

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



This aerial photograph taken yesterday shows buses parked in a disorganised manner near Sylhet central bus station while the station's development work is going on in Kadamtali area of the city.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## BRINGING MONEY LAUNDERERS TO BOOK

# HC slams ACC for failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has blasted the Anti-Corruption Commission once again for its failure in bringing money launderers to book.

"The commission is very powerful. It can summon anyone, freeze bank accounts, prevent someone from going abroad and conduct probe into corruption allegations," observed the court.

"It is unfortunate if it fails to stop money laundering," it then said.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman made the statements yesterday while hearing a writ petition and a suo motu rule involving this issue.

The court also observed that the money launderers are the enemy of the country

and all corruption must be eradicated from the country at any cost.

"Please, comply with our directives to prevent money laundering. The people of Bangladesh are brilliant and hard-working.

**"The commission is very powerful. It can summon anyone, freeze bank accounts, prevent someone from going abroad and conduct probe into corruption allegations."**

If corruption can be eradicated, the golden Bangla, dreamed by Bangabandhu, can be established," Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder told the ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan.

The HC bench ordered the six-member committee, formed by the criminal investigation department (CID) of police, to probe the money laundering, including a representative from the national board of revenue (NBR).

The committee has been directed to submit a progress report to this court by April 10.

The CID constituted the committee on February 15 led by deputy inspector general (DIG), organised crime of CID) in Dhaka.

Other members of the committee are additional DIG, the central crime of CID in Dhaka, additional DIG of CID in Dhaka and Mymensingh, representatives from ACC and Bangladesh Intelligence Unit (BFIU) and special superintendent of police, legal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 114 Rohingyas reach Aceh by sea

REUTERS, Bireuen

A boat carrying more than one hundred Rohingya refugees, including dozens of children, landed on the coast of Indonesia's westernmost province Aceh early yesterday, police said.

The vessel, which sailed from a Rohingya camp in Bangladesh, arrived shortly after 3:00 am on a beach in Bireun district.

It was carrying 114 people, including 58 men, 21 women and 35 children aged under 15 years old, police said.

"We will conduct a general health check up and Covid-19 rapid antigen tests for these foreigners," local police chief Mike Hardy Wirapraja told AFP.

He said they would later be transferred to neighbouring Lhokseumawe district which has a shelter for refugees.

Police found out about the arrival after some local fishermen reported that a boat filled with Rohingya people had landed on the beach.

The boat appeared to be in good condition and the refugees had sufficient food and supplies during the journey.

It is the second arrival by the persecuted minority in Muslim-majority Indonesia in the recent months.

## Four bullet-hit bodies found in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four bullet-hit bodies were found in Gherao Mukh area of Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila yesterday morning.

Their identities could not be known immediately, but police primarily suspect they were members of an armed group called "Mogh Liberation Party".

"Around 11:00am, we came to know that four bullet-hit bodies were found in Gherao Mukh area. On information, police recovered the bodies," said Ashok Kumar Paul, additional superintendent of Bandarban police.

"We are trying to know the details," he said. SP Jerin Akther told The Daily Star, "We primarily suspect the deceased were members of Mogh Liberation Party."

## View that could change physics forever

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Supermassive black holes at the center of many galaxies might look more like pancakes than doughnuts, pancakes smoking as the black holes at their center burn their inner edges.

That's how Université de la Côte d'Azur astronomer Romain Petrov described the findings of his colleagues in a new paper published Wednesday in Nature. It's a finding that confirms, and extends, a long-held theory about active galactic nuclei, the extremely bright centers of some galaxies believed to be driven by supermassive black holes and could have implications for how we understand our own existence.

"The co-evolution between the black hole and the host galaxy — what was first, the black hole or the galaxy? — has a strong impact on the evolution of the galaxy, including the formation of stars in that galaxy," Petrov said. "A link in the chain of events that lead to the existence of people that can discuss these issues."

Dr. Petrov and his colleagues used the Multi-AperTure mid-Infrared SpectroScopic Experiment (MATISSE) instrument and the Very Large Telescope in Chile to make new observations of the galaxy Messier 77, a barred spiral galaxy about 47 million light-years from Earth.

Messier 77 is one of the easiest to observe galaxies with an active galactic nucleus and was the basis for what is known as the Unified Model of Active Galactic Nuclei. This torus forms as matter spirals inward to feed the central black hole, the material whirling and compressing and releasing the energy that makes active galactic nuclei "active."



## Cash flow jammed to steal from ATMs

### 8 of a third party security agency held for embezzling Tk 3 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested eight members of a security agency including the mastermind of the racket involved in the swindling of about Tk 3 crore from 231 ATM booths of a private bank.

The arrestees are technical crew and cash loaders of Garda Shield Security Services, the third party that manages the bank's ATM booths.

The racket, which has about 15 members, used to make way with Tk 60,000 to 1 lakh a day from eight to ten ATM booths, Khandaker Al Moin, Rab media wing director, told a press conference yesterday.

The bank authorities noticed a Tk 3 crore mismatch in their balance sheets in the last nine months, which prompted them to turn to the law enforcement agency.

Members of the racket deliberately jammed the cash flow from ATMs for 19 consecutive 1,000 taka notes or another fixed amount while placing the money in the loading tray.

When clients command a certain amount of withdrawal from ATMs, they don't get the money and consequently complain to the bank authorities.

What happens is the money goes in the ATM's purse bin. On paper, the technical crew are supposed to hand over the cash to the bank. But they pocket the money themselves, Moin said.

In the primary investigation, Rab did not find any involvement of the bank or the security service company. But both parties were not careful in checking the anomaly.

Moin added that the security agency filed a case against the arrestees.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়

কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকা

৯, তোপখানা রোড (৩য় তলা), সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

Website: [www.taxzone11dhaka.gov.bd](http://www.taxzone11dhaka.gov.bd)

২০২২-২০২৩ কর বৎসরের জন্য অগ্রিম

আয়করের ৩য় কিস্তি প্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকার অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন সম্মানিত করদাতাদের জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৬৪ ধারা মোতাবেক যে সকল করদাতার সর্বশেষ নিরূপিত আয় ৬,০০,০০০/- টাকার বেশী তাঁদের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদান বাধ্যতামূলক। আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৬৫/৬৬ ধারা অনুযায়ী সর্বশেষ নির্ধারিত (সাধারণ অথবা সার্বজনীন স্বনির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে) আয়ের ভিত্তিতে ২০২২-২০২৩ করবর্ষের অগ্রিম আয়করের ৩য় কিস্তি ১৫/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিশোধের বাধ্যবাধকতা রয়েছে।

যথাসময়ে অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ করদাতাগণ এর ক্ষেত্রে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৭০/৭৩ ধারা অনুযায়ী সরল সুদ এবং ১২৫ ধারা অনুযায়ী জরিমানা আরোপের বিধান রয়েছে। সকল সম্মানিত করদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সরল সুদ ও জরিমানা এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে যথাসময়ে ২০২২-২০২৩ করবর্ষের ৩য় কিস্তির অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব আইনগত আপনার সহযোগিতা কামনা করি।

অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের কোডঃ	কোম্পানি করদাতার জন্য	১-১১৪১-০০৯০-০১০১
	কোম্পানি ব্যতীত অন্যান্য করদাতার জন্য	১-১১৪১-০০৯০-০১১১

পরামর্শের জন্য অনুগ্রহপূর্বক যোগাযোগ করুনঃ

টেলিফোনঃ ০২-৯৫১ ৪৮৩২ (সদর দপ্তর প্রশাসন, কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকা)

০২-৭১১ ৭৩৭৬ (সদর দপ্তর প্রায়োগিক, কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকা)

স্বপন কুমার রায়

কর কমিশনার

কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকা

ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৮৮০৮৭

Email: [taxeszone11@gmail.com](mailto:taxeszone11@gmail.com)

জিডি-৪৪০