

## P7 Covid-19 Pandemic

AFP tally shows over six million have died so far



## P10 Struggling to survive

Slow, painful death of Bain loom craft



## P11 'Need to put a full stop'

Says Khaled Mahmud



## B4 No to new carriers

New airlines not getting permission to operate



Ukrainian soldiers help an elderly woman to cross a destroyed bridge as she evacuates the city of Irpin, northwest of Kyiv, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Home beckons

Sailors return today, a week after attack on ship in Ukraine

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The 28 crew members of the ill-fated Bangladeshi ship are finally on their way home, having escaped death when the ship came under attack in Ukraine on March 2.

After a weeklong ordeal, they are expected to reach Dhaka around noon today.

The "missile" attack on "Banglar Samriddhi" claimed the life of one of their crewmates, Third Engineer Hadisur Rahman. They were rescued from the ship after around 21 long hours and took shelter in a bunker in the war-ravaged European country.

After two days, they reached Romania via Moldova and left for Bangladesh from Bucharest by a special flight last night.

Md Daud Ali, Bangladesh ambassador to Romania, told The Daily Star that all 28 crew members would fly from Romania by a special flight of Turkish Airlines.

"The crewmen will have a stopover at Istanbul and from there they will fly for Dhaka. Hopefully they will reach Dhaka by noon tomorrow [today]," he said.

Hadisur's body is still in Ukraine, and efforts are underway to bring the body home, he added.

Although relieved to be safe, the sailors are haunted by the shelling incident and the death of one of their fellow sailors.

This newspaper talked to one of the crew members who described the entire journey over phone yesterday from Romania.

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# US, UK ban Russian oil

Ukrainians flee besieged cities as war rages

AFP, Kyiv

US President Joe Biden yesterday banned imports of Russian oil to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine as desperate civilians fled besieged cities and fresh fighting raged.

Britain said it would also phase out Russian oil by the end of the year and the EU planned to slash gas imports by two-thirds, as Western sanctions finally began to target the economic lifeline for Russia's war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has pressed on despite unprecedented sanctions, although Moscow agreed set up "humanitarian corridors" from four Ukrainian cities on the 13th day of the conflict.

The number of refugees flooding across Ukraine's borders to escape towns devastated by shelling and air strikes passed two million, in Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II, the UN said.

Buses streamed out through an evacuation corridor from the northeastern city of Sumy -- where 21 people were killed in air strikes overnight -- while civilians on foot took an unofficial escape route out of the bombarded Kyiv suburb of Irpin.

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CHANDPUR UNIVERSITY

# Land scam by AL men 'may be true'

Dipu Moni says; the alleged fraud delaying the start of academic activities

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Uncertainty looms over the planned launching of academic activities at Chandpur Science and Technology University (CSTU) this year as the land acquisition process remains stalled over alleged price manipulation by some local ruling party men, reportedly close to Education Minister Dipu Moni.

The CSTU authorities had planned to begin academic activities on a limited scale in the existing buildings on the proposed land.

But as the local administration raised the issue that the government would lose Tk 360 crore due to the abnormally overpriced land, the matter is now pending with the High Court.

On Thursday, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told the court that 139 of the land deeds were registered with corrupt motives to

embezzle public money in the name of land acquisition for the university.

Contacted, CSTU Vice-Chancellor Nasim Akhtar said the university authorities wanted to enrol students from this year in five departments in the existing buildings.

"If the matter is not settled soon, the academic session will stumble and local Awami League men would have to shoulder the responsibility," he said early last month.

Dipu Moni on Monday told The Daily Star that the allegations of price manipulation were likely true, but did not go into detail.

Meanwhile, the VC on Sunday sent a letter to the education ministry, requesting it to allocate the estimated Tk 193.9 crore for the acquisition within 120 work days.

The alleged deception was unearthed by the Chandpur district administration which

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# Carbon user fee to cut emission by 12pc by 2030: IMF

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh could bring down carbon dioxide emission by 12 percent by 2030 by introducing a carbon user fee on the energy sector as it strives to transition to a low-carbon economy and build climate resilience, said the International Monetary Fund.

The country has targeted to bring down carbon dioxide by 6.73 percent in that timeframe.

The carbon fee can start from this year at \$3 per metric ton of carbon dioxide on the energy and the industrial processes and product use sectors and increase to \$25 per metric ton by 2030, said the Washington-based multilateral lender in its 'Selected Issues' paper on Bangladesh.

The paper was prepared by a staff team of the IMF as background documentation based on the information available as of February 15 for the periodic consultation with Bangladesh.

"This may be an opportune time for Bangladesh to align with interests and net-zero goals of its export consumers, donors and the private investors following the renewed pledges at COP26."

With the early adoption of carbon pricing, Bangladesh will provide a strong and credible signal to donors and investors on its commitment to a greener economy.

"The fee will be easily implementable," the IMF said.

The gradual increase in the fee will help firms to plan for decarbonising their production processes and improving energy efficiency, thereby reducing stranded assets, risks to competitiveness and job losses in the future.

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Smoke billowing out of the Madhurchhara Rohingya camp-5 in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila after a fire broke out there yesterday afternoon. The blaze killed a child and destroyed about 300 shanties. The cause of the fire could not be known immediately.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

FREE POLLS

# EC to hold talks with different quarters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly formed Election Commission is going to hold a series of talks with a cross-section of people, including leaders of political parties, to know their expectations from the commission.

During the talks with educationists, civil society members, election experts, media personalities and others, the EC would also seek their advice on how the polls, including 12th national election, can be held in a free and fair manner, Election Commissioner Md Alamgir told The Daily Star yesterday.

The dialogue would start on March 13 with sitting with educationists, he said.

The new Election Commission led by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal was formed on February 26.

EC officials said they

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## ‘Motherly affection will win people over’

PM tells Dubai Expo 2020

UNB, Dubai

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that people will continue to support her due to her motherly affection as a leader of the country. She made the remark at a high-level power panel titled “Redefining the Future for Women” held at the Women’s Pavilion in the Dubai Expo 2020 arranged to mark International Women’s Day. Hasina said she has won the support and trust of her people and that is her main strength. “People know that if I’m there, they’ll be benefited.” But this journey was not easy, she said, adding that almost her entire family was assassinated and only she and her sister survived. The PM said she faced repeated attempts on her life along with smear campaigns. “But I didn’t care. All I thought about was continuing my work for the people.” About the Bangladesh parliament with regard to women empowerment, she said now the Speaker, the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the House are all women. She said that when she formed the government in 1996 after the 21-year rule of military dictators, she found no women in power, adding that she took initiatives for the development and empowerment of women. She also tried to create job opportunities for them in the higher posts like the judiciary, police and other sectors. Describing the Father of the Nation as her mentor, the PM said she learned about the country and its problems from him. “I learned from my father, my mentor. I learned how to harbour compassion and love for the people and the country, as well as how to work for the poor.”



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a high-level panel discussion on “Redefining the Future for Women” at the south hall of the Dubai Exhibition Centre yesterday. The event was organised marking the International Women’s Day.

PHOTO: PMO

## ‘Please save us’

5 Bangladeshis in a Ukraine detention camp appeal to govt

ABU SADIQ

Five Bangladeshis, reportedly detained at a camp in the Ukrainian city of Zhuravychi, said they were not being given enough food, their phones were seized and they were being tortured.

They requested the Bangladesh government to take action so that they can leave the camp.

Yesterday morning, Riyad Malik, one of the five Bangladeshis, sent The Daily Star a 40-second-long audio message using another person’s phone.

On Saturday, the Bangladeshis told this newspaper that they were being held there to be used as “human shields”.

They posted a video message the day before on social media where they sought assistance from the government. Details of their sufferings were published in The Daily Star and other prominent media.

Using someone else’s phone, Malik yesterday managed to have a brief chat with The Daily Star. In a shaky voice, he said, “I’m using another detainee’s phone. We are being tortured. There is no food and water supply at the camp. Zhuravychi is now a full-fledged war front. The detention camp is under the control of the Ukrainian army. We can hear sounds of bombardment from every direction. If the

Russian forces attack the camp or drops bombs, all 120 detainees, including the five of us, will die. Is there anyone out there who can save us? Can’t the government save us? Can’t they free us? We don’t want to die...”

Regarding communications with the Bangladesh Embassy in Poland, Malik said, “We could establish communications but we feel that they are proceeding very slowly. We are not saying they are not working. But if the embassy or the government of Bangladesh does not take rapid action, we will not survive.”

Around 60 people, including two Bangladeshis, are stranded in another detention camp in Mykolaiv. One detainee is Jahirul Islam, while another requested not to be named.

On Monday, he said, “Our situation has not changed. As the power connection has been severed, the heating system is not working and we are suffering under extreme temperatures while there is also a water and food crisis. The Russian army is now controlling the city.”

He too alleged that the civilian detainees were being used as “human shields” by the Ukrainian army.

An official at the Bangladesh Embassy in Poland said they were trying to rescue all those detained.

## CO2 emissions from energy sector rises by 6 percent

AFP, Paris

Global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions rose by six percent in 2021 to a record 36.3 billion tonnes, their highest ever level, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.

“The increase in global CO2 emissions of over 2 billion tonnes was the largest in history in absolute terms, more than offsetting the previous year’s pandemic-induced decline,” it said.

It pointed to the widespread use of coal to power growth as the world economy rebounded from the Covid crisis.

The IEA said the rebound of global CO2 emissions above pre-pandemic levels was largely driven by China, where they increased by 750 million tonnes between 2019 and 2021.

## Truck kills child going to school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, DINAJPUR

A schoolboy was killed after a speeding truck hit him in Dinajpur’s Chirirbandar upazila yesterday, while a woman was killed in a separate road accident in Birampur upazila on Monday.

In Chirirbandar, Ashiqur Rahman, an 11-year-old sixth grader of Z Residential Model School, was on his way to school on a bicycle when a speeding truck ran over him in Ghugratoli area, leaving him dead on the spot, said Bazlur Rashid, OC of Chirirbandar Police Station.

In Birampur, Arati, 40, of Joypurhat, was killed when a speeding truck hit a van carrying her and her husband Sunil Baske on Monday on their way back home, police said.

## HC questions discriminations against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With respect to women on International Women’s Day, the High Court yesterday issued a suo moto rule questioning the discrimination against women in social status, jobs and inheritance.

It asked the government to explain in four weeks why inequality between sons and daughters, males and females in respect of social status, jobs and inheritance in all religions should not be declared illegal.

Cabinet Division secretary and secretaries to the ministries of law, women and children affairs, and religious affairs have been made respondents to the rule, Assistant Attorney General Md Zakir Hossain Masud told The Daily Star.

## MP ‘threatens’ female officer over late invite

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PABNA

Lawmaker Nadira Yeasmin Joly allegedly threatened to slap a district-level female officer over the phone for “inviting her late” to a Women’s Day programme at the Pabna DC office.

The allegation was made by district women’s affair officer Kaniz Airin Jahan.

After the incident went viral on social media, Nadira organised a press conference and denied the allegation saying it was made to “defame her”.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Kaniz said, “During the phone call on Monday, Nadira said, ‘You are a foul woman. You will be slapped all the way out of Pabna. You are [just] an officer, yet you are showing your command everywhere.’”

“I was in shock and expressed it at the programme but I did not make any official complaint.”

Asked, Nadira said she was not invited to the programme and had called the officer in this regard but to no avail.



Nadira Yeasmin

## Ex-minister’s brother

FROM PAGE 1

Mohtesam last year.

Following the arrest, police in a press release yesterday said, “Mohtesam amassed a lot of property at home and abroad with illegally earned money using his political influence and that of his brother’s.”

It also said the arrestee amassed the ill-gotten money as commission and bribes for helping people win tenders in government offices and getting jobs.

SM Miraj Al Mahmud, a CID inspector, filed the case with Kairul Police Station in Dhaka against former Faridpur AL leader Sajjad Hossain Barkat and his brother Imtiaz Hasan Rubel under the money laundering prevention act on June 26, 2020.

After probe, the CID submitted the charge sheet to a Dhaka court against Mohtesam, former minister Khandaker Mosharraf’s assistant personal secretary AHM Fuad, also an ex-convenor of Faridpur district Jubo League, Barkat, Rubel, and six others.

According to the probe report, Barkat and his brother Rubel amassed Tk 2,535.11 crore beyond their known sources of income.

The siblings amassed the wealth after winning contracts in different government departments in the district through manipulation since 2010. They were also allegedly involved in drug smuggling and land grabbing.

The two brothers had a nexus with Mohtesam and Fuad, and through an illegal syndicate the siblings manipulated all tenders of roads and highways, public works, and health departments, LGED ministry, BRTA, municipalities, zila

parishads, Water Development Board, and medical colleges.

They also illegally collected commission from haats (markets), district land registrars’ offices and extorted money from the transport sector, found the CID probe.

The other charge sheeted accused are: former Faridpur town Jubo League president Khandakar Nazmul Islam Levi, former general secretary of the unit Ashiqur Rahman Farhan, Faridpur district Swachchhasebak League General Secretary Fahad bin Wazed Fahim, former joint convenor of Faridpur town Jubo League Kamrul Hasan David, district Jubo League Joint Convenor Mohammad Ali Minar, and Faridpur town Jubo League Joint Convenor Tariqul Islam Nasim.

Of them, Barkat, Rubel, Fuad and Nasim are now behind bars while Levi and Farhan are on bail.

Barkat, Rubel, Farhan and Levi made confessional statements before magistrates about Mohtesam’s involvement in money laundering, said court sources.

All the accused but Mohtesam have been expelled from their respective organisations.

A district Jubo League leader, also a contractor, yesterday said anyone looking to secure a project contract had to give Mohtesam a commission of 10 to 15 percent of the total project cost.

“He was known in Faridpur as Mr 15 percent,” he told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

Contacted, Khandaker Mosharraf said if his brother is found involved in any crime, he would be punished as per law.

## Land scam by AL men ‘may be true’

FROM PAGE 1

found that 63,549 acres of land in Laxmipur Mouza no. 115, selected for the university, were heavily overpriced.

The Chandpur Deputy Commissioner’s office began the CSTU land acquisition in May 2021. The DC office estimates that at the artificially hiked rate, the government would have to pay about Tk 553 crore when the actual price of the land is about Tk 193 crore.

This unusually huge gap was discovered by comparing prices of the acquired and non-acquired lands in the same area. The estimate by the DC office is based on the immediate past 12 months’ average land price in the area.

For instance, a 0.99 acre of the proposed land was sold for Tk 23.75 lakh at Tk 24 lakh an acre in different times between May and July 2019. A year later, about 0.31 acre of that property was sold for Tk 1.24 crore, at around Tk 4 crore per acre, according to the land deeds. However, land prices beyond the acquisition area under the same mouza increased only slightly since 2019.

Some local ruling party men were allegedly behind this sharp increase in prices before the acquisition began.

Chairman of Laxmipur union Selim Khan, also the Awami League president of the union unit, and his family members bought about 14.46 acres of land for Tk 38.16 crore between June 2020 and April 2021, according to the deeds.

Besides, Chairman of Chandpur’s Faridganj

upazila Jahidul Islam purchased 1.73 acres at Tk 3.5 crore; Vice president of Chandpur Sadar upazila Ayub Ali Bepari bought about 1 acre at Tk 2.45 crore; Vice president of Chandpur District unit of Awami League Dr Jawadur Rahim Wadud, who is also brother of Education Minister Dipu Moni, purchased about 0.99 acre at Tk 2.71 crore and the minister’s Personal Officer Tutul Mazumder bought 0.4 acre for Tk 1.13 crore, the papers show.

All of them bought the land in one year from May 2020, and there are allegations that some land owners were paid much less than the amount mentioned in the land deeds.

There are also allegations that Selim Khan forced locals to sell their properties, but he refuted them.

Wishing to be unnamed, a labourer said Selim took about 45 decimals of his inherited farmland in exchange for 30 decimals of land in another area.

He was given a simple choice: either hand over the land willingly or lose it, the labourer said.

“We gave the land out of fear,” he said, adding that he was yet to get the 30 decimals of land that Selim had promised.

An official of the sub-registrar office of Chandpur Sadar upazila said in the last one year, no one but Selim Khan and his men could register lands in the particular area.

“Selim Khan has control over the sub-registrar office. People had to sell land to him or give him the power of attorney over their lands,” he said.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hassan also said that a section of influential individuals, including Salim Khan and his family members, inflated the price of the 62.5 acres of land in Chandpur where the university is planned to be built.

**PRE-FIXED** The proposal for acquiring the land came with pre-fixed Mouza and ledger (dag) numbers, according to a Chandpur DC office letter to the land ministry on November 16, 2021.

The CSTU VC, who had sent a letter to the DC office requesting it to acquire land for the university, said the education ministry gave the administration approval along with the specific ledger numbers.

“I have no part in this. You’ll see that the total land size is 62,549 acres; neither 63 acres nor 62 acres. It is only possible after calculation of the exact land volume in the ledgers,” he said.

Additional Secretary (development) of the Secondary and Higher Education Division Belayet Hossain Talukdar said, “That’s not correct. It is the DC office that keeps the land records.”

However, Selim Khan in a letter on January 17, 2021, requested the education minister to acquire 13.83 acres of land under ledger numbers 2132 2153; 2155, 2160-2185 and 2193-2199 for the university.

He sent the letter four months after the enactment of the CSTU Act on September 9, 2020.

On the same day, Dipu Moni forwarded the letter

to the education secretary with a note saying: “The two pieces of land are adjacent to each other. It may be good if the land can be acquired for the university. Take measures.”

Later, the land was earmarked for student dormitories.

Contacted, Selim Khan said he had bought the land by paying taxes and following legal procedures and did not force anyone to sell.

Asked why he had bought so much land in a short period at a hefty price, he said he would not comment on the matter because there was a writ petition pending before the court over the issue.

In late January, when different media reported foul play by local ruling party leaders close to the education minister over the land acquisition, Dipu Moni told a press conference that she has close political relations with Selim Khan.

“He [Selim] is president of Awami League’s Laxmipur union unit and chairman of the union... There are 20 chairmen in my constituency. As an MP, I stand by the chairmen in their joy and sorrow,” she said.

“I have good relations with them in the sense that they come to me for different administrative purposes and need my recommendations. I also attend their programmes regularly,” she added.

Jawadur Rahim, brother of the education minister, said he bought the land to build a hospital and a retirement home.

“I sold the land to Selim Khan considering the

conflict of interest as my sister is education minister,” he said, adding that he transferred the ownership on December 6, 2021.

Education minister’s Personal Officer Tutul said that he did not show the land in his wealth statement.

“I get a small amount in salary. It is not taxable. I bought the land borrowing money from my relatives,” he claimed.

On Monday, Dipu Moni told The Daily Star the allegations of price manipulation “may be true”.

“It is not possible [for me] to know everything about a person like where he buys his land,” she said over the phone, referring to the frenzy of large-scale land purchase by some AL men to make hefty sums through alleged deception.

The minister said there should be an impartial probe by a government agency to get to the bottom of the reported scam.

Regarding CSTU VC’s request for funds to complete the land acquisition, she said she already issued directives to release the estimated fund.

Contacted, Anti-Corruption Commission Commissioner Dr Md Mozammel Haque Khan said, “In many cases, we’ve seen foul play taking place before land acquisitions. Permanent structures are built overnight to pocket more money in compensation.”

Asked whether the ACC would probe the matter, he said, “Upon receiving specific allegations, we’ll look into whether they bought the land with

money beyond known sources of income... But it does not mean we’ll sit idle and wait for the allegations to be lodged,” he said.

National Board of Revenue Member (Audit, Intelligence and Investigation) Pradyut Kumar Sarkar said the board will launch an inquiry to find out whether the buyers evaded taxes and disclosed the ownership of the land in their tax returns.

## EC to hold

FROM PAGE 1

were planning to invite around 30 educationists for the dialogue including Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, DU Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, former DU Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, and writer and former Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, DU VC Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman, North South University VC Prof Atiqul Islam, DU Professor Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, Jahangirnagar University teachers Dilara Zaman and AL Masud Hasanuzzaman.

The EC is taking the steps to hold the dialogue when the BNP and several other political parties refrained from taking part in its formation process.

The parties did not join the dialogue with President Abdul Hamid on forming the search committee that recommended names to appoint the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.

They also did not proposed any names to the search committee for forming the next EC.





Discarded plastic collected from all over the city is brought to “galai” factories in Lalbagh and Kamrangirchar. Here, the plastic is burned and turned into lumps, which are then sold by the kilo. Most of the staffers at these factories are older women, who work for meagre sums of Tk 300-350 a day, without any safety gears. If they ever come into contact with the fire, they simply dip the affected area into a bucket of water. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Save Tetultala playground

Locals call upon PM  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Ward-17 in Dhanmondi under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday demanded the prime minister save their 50-year-old playground and keep it open for all.

Local police installed barbed-wire fences around Tetultala playground in January.

“There is no other place for our kids to play. We have been going to the field for the last 50 years. But on January 31, the local police station set up barbed wires to construct their new station on the field, and we heard that they purchased the land for Tk 28 crore,” said Syada Ratna, coordinator of Tetultala Math Rokkha Andolon, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

She said they do not know how the authority purchased land that has been used as an open space for decades.

Ratna said according to the law, changing characteristics of a playground, open space and waterbody is illegal.

At the conference, Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bapa, said in the proposed Detailed Area Plan, Tetultala playground is not earmarked as a playground. However, in sub-zone-17 (Dhanmondi, Zigatola, Kalabagan and Kathalbagan) they proposed keeping sufficient open space for the areas.

23 high-polluting tanneries to face music

Move to protect Dhaleshwari from Savar Tannery Estate’s untreated waste

RASHIDUL HASAN

Twenty-three tanneries that are causing high levels of pollution are set to be shut down, a parliamentary body said yesterday.

Meanwhile, utility services of seven tanneries have already been disconnected over environment pollution, stated the parliamentary standing committee on environment, forest and climate change ministry at a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

All of these tanneries operate under Savar Tannery Estate, which comprises around 120 tanneries.

“Braving various obstacles, we were able to take action against Savar Tannery Estate, shutting down several tanneries,” Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary watchdog, told reporters after the meeting.

“There will be no compromise on the issue of environmental pollution,” he added.

In 2003, the government took an initiative to build the BSCIC Tannery Industrial Estate on 200 acres in Savar’s Hemayetpur area, after moving all tanneries from the capital’s Hazaribagh to prevent pollution and protect the Buriganga river.

According to Department of Environment data, the central effluent treatment plant of the estate has the capacity to treat around 25,000 cubic metres of liquid waste every day.

But the tanners generate around 40,000.

That means 15,000 cubic metres of untreated waste are now being dumped into the Dhaleshwari river.

The estate also does not have the facility to treat solid waste, including heavy metals and chromium, which is also dumped into the Dhaleshwari.

Around 1.60 lakh cubic metres of solid waste have been dumped into the river

over the past three years.

In November, 2021, the environment ministry agreed to the watchdog’s recommendation to shut down Savar Tannery Industrial Estate immediately, as the estate has been running without the environmental clearance for the last 10 years and lacks facilities to treat its liquid waste.

parliamentary standing committee’s recommendation.

However, the JS body said they are not satisfied with the BSCIC’s reply.

Saber Chowdhury, also a ruling Awami League MP from Dhaka-9, yesterday said there are around 4,000 red-listed factories in the country, along with 3,000-4,000 illegal brick fields.



FILE PHOTO

Discharge from the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate goes directly into the Dhaleshwari.

The Jatiya Sangsad body said the estate will be able to go into operation again only after getting clearance, which is subject to meeting all necessary requirements.

On August 23 that year, the parliamentary body recommended shutting down the estate due to widespread pollution of the local environment.

On September 9, DoE served a show-cause notice on BSCIC.

It asked BSCIC to respond to why the site should not be shut down as per the

WOMEN’S AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENT

Meanwhile, Saber said they have recommended an award for women on the occasion of International Women’s Day from next year.

The award will be given to recognise their contribution in the environment sector, he said.

The ministry will formulate policies on how this will be done, Saber added.

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SHARIF’S DISMISSAL FROM ACC

HC to deliver order on March 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed March 13 for delivering its order on a petition that sought a directive to conduct an independent inquiry into the allegations and counter allegations over the termination of Anti-Corruption Commission official Md Sharif Uddin.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman fixed the date after concluding hearing on the petition.

The bench also asked the lawyers for the petitioners and ACC to submit relevant documents, if they want, before it by tomorrow.

Lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir appeared for the petitioners while lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan argued for ACC and Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state.

On February 23, 10 Supreme Court lawyers, led by Manir, submitted the petition to the HC seeking its directive on the authorities to conduct an independent inquiry into the reported allegations and counter allegations over the termination of Sharif Uddin from the service.



International Women’s Day comes and goes every year, but the condition of the country’s women seldom improve. Demanding an end to the various forms of gender-based violence and discrimination women are subjected to every day, Samajik Pratirodh Committee held a rally in front of Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

A nightmare far too long

Two years of living in the age of Covid

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Around 19.48 lakh confirmed cases and 29,096 deaths.

What began on March 8, 2020, continued to haunt the country for two long years. In the last two years, for what feels like a nightmare way too long, 6.29 million lives were claimed across the globe. The country, since then, has witnessed three waves of the Covid-19. With 74 percent of its population recently vaccinated, the fear and uncertainty have faded. No restrictions on movement are currently at play.

However, health officials, as well as public health experts, think that the threat is still looming like a recurring shadow.

In the past seven days till yesterday, the daily average number of fatalities caused by the virus was more than seven, with 446 reported cases.

“Omicron’s higher transmissibility has led to the final stage of the pandemic. However, chances are high that a new variant would cause a fresh spike,” Prof Ridwanur Rahman, a specialist on infectious disease, told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, Prof Rahman also thinks that any new variant will not be severe due to massive vaccine coverage. “If the virus stays with us like normal flu, we have to accept it and prepare for yearly vaccination.”

So far, the WHO has identified five variants of the virus as causes of concern. “Many are assuming that Omicron has less impact. The virus, on the other hand, is mutating,” said Prof Robed Amin, spokesperson of the DGHS, during an online briefing on Sunday.

**THE FIRST STRIKE**

“Today we are unable to say what we had been saying until now. We have found three patients...”

These were the words of the then IEDCR director Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora on March 8, after the first detection of Covid-19 cases in Bangladesh.

The announcement came 68 days after Wuhan Municipal Health Commission in China reported the first cases of Covid-19 to the WHO.

Since then, infections multiplied, the number of deaths increased with every passing day and the pandemic laid bare the vulnerability of the country’s healthcare system.

The country has so far witnessed five spikes in Covid-19 cases. The first one – caused by the Alpha variant – struck during May-June in 2020, while the second one during November-December the same year – caused by the Beta variant – was milder. The third one struck during March-April last year, but the fourth and the deadliest one occurred during July-August the same year – caused by the Delta variant. The fifth one was the least destructive during January-February this year, caused by Omicron variant.

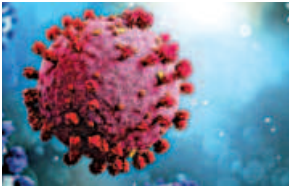
**DELTA: THE DEADLIEST EVER**

Despite lockdowns enforced on July 1 last year, Delta engrossed the country with its deadly grasp. On July 28, 16,230 people tested positive for Covid-19, making it the all-time highest.

The highest death toll was recorded on August 5 and 10, with 264 people perishing across the country. Hospitals were stretched to their limits, with around 85 percent of beds occupied. Oxygen demand rose to 210 tonnes a day, while the local production capacity was around 120 tonnes a day.

The latest spike, which also marked the third wave, was the fastest but caused fewer deaths.

Dr Abu Jamil Faisal, member of Epidemiology and Public Health Expert Committee at the DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday, “We have seen that the transmission had risen following stable situation earlier. So we’re not out of danger until the virus is eliminated from the world.”



Lab Test	13,546,950
Confirmed cases	1,947,702
Isolated	442,690
Recovered	1,846,884
Death	29,089
2nd doses administered	87,310,746

SOURCE: DGHS

NIKO GRAFT CASE

Khaleda’s hearing deferred till Apr 12

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and eight others in the Niko graft case till April 12.

Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the Special Judge’s Court-9 of Dhaka passed the order after a petition was filed with the court on behalf of Khaleda, seeking an adjournment.

Masud told the court they would complete the hearing on behalf of Khaleda on the next date.

Among the accused, Giasuddin Al Mamun is now in jail, while the rest are on bail. During the hearing, Giasuddin and two other accused were present. ACC filed the case in December 2007.

PRAYER TIMING MAR 9



	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



US-Bangla increases flight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Bangla Airlines has increased its flight on Dhaka-Chennai and Dhaka-Male route due to growing number of passengers.

From March 13, the

private airlines will operate weekly seven flights on Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka route instead of five.

On Dhaka-Male-Dhaka route, the airlines will operate weekly four flights instead of three, the airlines said in a press release.

23 high

FROM PAGE 3  
TIGER SANCTUARY IN CTG HILLS

The parliamentary committee has recommended the creation of a Bengal tiger sanctuary in the hilly regions of Chattogram. The committee asked to see if the ecosystem of the region is suitable for the tigers.

It was decided that the matter will be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the committee.

“Occasionally, Bengal tiger enters our borders from Myanmar and India. As a result, it’ll be a good thing if we could make the area suitable for their living,” Saber said.

The meeting recommended discouraging plastic production by increasing tax on local raw materials and presenting a list of unauthorised establishments in forest department land in next meeting of the committee.

Kainya

FROM PAGE 5  
of the Moulvibazar Ladies Club.

Poet and writer Akmol Hossain Nipu said, “Kainya is an exceptional haat that can play a big role in the development of women.”

“This is why it was encouraging to see them show up in numbers,” said Nipu.

Sensing the importance of the initiative, the upazila administration has taken up plans to highlight Kainya’s efforts at a larger scale to help achieve economic empowerment of the women in the Moulvibazar area.

Don’t worry

FROM PAGE 5

subsequent legal battles make grabbing land pretty easy. While officials mull over these issues, construction goes on in full swing.

DoE officials have said that in most cases, Chattogram Development Authority allows construction on condition of obtaining a “no objection certificate” (NOC) from DoE.

But building owners don’t seem to worry about that, and no amount of fines is deterring hill cutting and land grabbing.

DoE officials last year fined around 30 persons in Nasirabad area for razing Nagin Pahar and constructing residential buildings and tin-shed houses under the “Green Valley Housing” project.

But this action had no effect on projects in Arefin Nagar -- or the numerous other projects in Jungle Salimpur of Sitakunda, different parts of Bayezid Bostami, Lalkhan Bazar, South Khulshi, Nasirabad, Foy’s Lake, and Akbarshah, for that matter.

Talking to The Daily Star, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Ashraf Alam of Sitakunda Land Office said, “Some pieces of land were grabbed in Jungle Salimpur area, and the matter is now pending in court. We have nothing to do about right now.”

According to two recent studies conducted by Chittagong University and Bangladesh Agricultural University, Chattogram had around 200 large and small hills near the city and its adjacent areas. Over the last two decades, half of them have been razed for residential and commercial purposes.

Sabrina Islam’s death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Sabrina Islam Chowdhury, wife of Md Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Mercantile Bank Limited.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil followed by lunch for orphans will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque’s orphanage today, said a press release.

Marking the day, a doa and milad mahfil will also be held at her residence in Gulshan.

The family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Chaman Afroze passes away

CITY DESK

Chaman Afroze, eminent Rabintra song artiste, passed away on February 27.

She left behind three daughters, five grandsons and well wishers to mourn her dead, said a press release.

She was daughter of late Golam Azam Chowdhury and late Hosne Ara Chowdhury and wife of AGM Shamsul Kamal.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Satkhira  
www.lged.gov.bd  
Tel No. 0471-63413, Fax: 0471-62818  
Reference No. 46.02.8700.001.05.083.22.538  
Date: 08.03.2022  
e-Tender Notice No. 23/2021-22 (OTM)  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Schemes. (For LTM, only enlisted contractors of the Khulna Region, LGED are eligible. In that case, tenderer must be submitted updated tenderer's Enlistment Book of LGED.)  
SL No. Tender ID No. Package No. & Name of works Tender closing date & time  
1 663469 KDRIDP/Sat/W-170/2021-22 Improvement of Gobindakati Satrano Battola - Reui Bazar road by BC from Ch. 703.00-1703.00m under Sadar Upazila, Dist.- Satkhira. Road ID No. 287825021. 24-Mar-2022 12:30  
2 663467 KDRIDP/Sat/W-172/2021-22 Improvement of Tike-Shyamnagar road by BC from Ch. 00m-1920.00m under Debhata Upazila, Dist.- Satkhira. Road ID No. 287255045. Salvage Amount Tk. 6,75,728.00 (Fixed). 24-Mar-2022 12:30  
3 663468 KDRIDP/Sat/W-171/2021-22 Improvement of Nowapara UP - Badartala GC via Chandpur Atapur road by BC from Ch. 5440.00m - 9352.00m under Debhata Upazila, Dist.- Satkhira. Road ID No. 287253005. Salvage Amount Tk. 49,92,398.00 (Fixed). 31-Mar-2022 12:30  
4 663466 KDRIDP/Sat/W-28(a)/2021-22 Improvement of Dudly RHD-Ratonpur GC road by BC from Ch.00m - 4080.00m under Kaliganj Upazila, Dist.- Satkhira. Road ID No. 287472006. Salvage Amount Tk. 70,06,595.00 (Fixed). 31-Mar-2022 12:30  
5 663465 KDRIDP/Sat/W-29(a)/2021-22 Improvement of Raipur RHD - Numogar GC via Sirajpur Hat road by BC from Ch. 600m - 3390.00m under Kaliganj Upazila, Dist.- Satkhira. Road ID No. 287472005. Salvage Amount Tk. 43,11,073.00 (Fixed). 31-Mar-2022 12:30  
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 bank's branches up to 17.00pm, Date: 23-Mar-2022(1-2) 17.00pm, Date: 30-Mar-2022(3-5)  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).  
Narayan Chandra Sarker  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Satkhira  
E-mail: xen.satkhira@lged.gov.bd  
GD-464

TO-LET  
Rent for Bank, Insurance, Diagnostic Center, Hospital, Supermarket and Megamall But Priority for Bank. Per floor 1500 Square feet from Ground floor to 3rd floor. Baburhat, Madhabdi, Narsingdi. The said manchester of bangla located in the middle place of the Country's largest wholesale market for Cloth and Yarn. At the turn of the three lanes. Rent: Negotiable, **Mobile: 01712-277732.**

LIBERATION DOCFEST BANGLADESH 11-15 March, 2022  
অনলাইনে ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জাদুঘরে ছবি দেখতে রেজিস্ট্রেশন করুন  
রেজিস্ট্রেশন লিংক: http://liberationdocfestbd.org/  
আয়োজনে: মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জাদুঘর

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES  
H.S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH, PHONE-8901500-19, 8901640-54, www.biman-airlines.com  
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTIC SUPPORT DIRECTORATE  
REF: DACPF/INT'L TENDER/025/2021-2022 DATED: 08-MAR-2022  
INTERNATIONAL TENDER  
Sealed tender are hereby invited for supplying following items to Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.  
S/N TENDER NO. DESCRIPTION QTY  
01. DACPF/INT'L TENDER/ 025/2021-2022 DT. 08-MAR-2022 DISP. HEAD REST COVER (AS PER SPECIFICATION) 24,00,000 EA  
Tender schedule with detailed specifications, terms & conditions will be available at price of BDT 2,500.00 (BDT two thousand five hundred) only or equivalent US Dollar per set (non-refundable) from Manager Accounts, Cash & Banking, Balaka, Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka and from Biman's outstation in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai & London on cash payment during all working days up to 29-MAR-2022. A formal application in bidder's letterhead pad mentioning Tender Number and date shall be required for purchasing the Tender schedule. Tender schedule and other related information may also be viewed at Biman's website www.biman-airlines.com.  
Last date for submission of tender/offer is: 30-MAR-2022 at 1100 hrs (LT).  
Mohammad Shafinur Rahman Akand  
Assistant Manager (Procurement)  
GD-456

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh  
College Education Development Project (CEDP)  
IDG Sub-Project: Rajshahi College, Rajshahi  
e-mail: rajshahicollegebd@gmail.com, website: www.rc.gov.bd  
online news portal: rcbarta.com, Fax:0721-771511  
Memo No: 37.02.0000.CEDP/IDG/Rajshahi College/OTM/Goods/G-11 Date: 08/03/2022  
e-Tender Notice - 02/2021-2022  
e-Tender is invite in the National e-Gp System portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following package;  
SL Tender ID No. Description of Works Last Selling Date and time Closing Date and time Opening Date and time  
01 671533 Supply and Installation of Lab Equipment & Instruments for Science Departments of Rajshahi College 23/03/2022 16:00 24/03/2022 13:30 24/03/2022 14:30  
This is an on line tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Gp portal (https://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 23-Mar-2022 16:00  
Further information and guideline are available in the National e-Gp System portal and from e-Gp Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).  
Principal  
Rajshahi College, Rajshahi  
GD-467

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়  
পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম  
ই-মেইল: patiya@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd  
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি  
স্মারক নং: উঃস্বঃস্বঃ/পটি/২১-২২/১৭২৮ তারিখ: ০৫/০৩/২২ইং  
২০২১-২০২২ইং অর্থ বছরে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম এর এমএসআর মালামাল সরবরাহের জন্য এমএসআর ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীগণের নিকট হইতে সীলগালায়ুক্ত পৃথক পৃথক খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছেঃ  
১ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ : স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় (স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ)।  
২ সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান : উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম।  
৩ সম্ভ্রাহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ : উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম।  
৪ দরপত্র ক্রয় ও সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি : উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।  
৫ আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের সূত্র নং : উঃস্বঃস্বঃ/পটি/২১-২২/১৭২৮ তারিখ: ০৫/০৩/২২ইং  
৬ বাজেট/ভরবিবের উৎস : রাজস্ব বাজেট (জিওবি)।  
৭ দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম : ক) ঔষধপত্র (ইডিসিএল বহির্ভূত) খ) যন্ত্রপাতি গ) ক্যামিক্যাল/রিএজেন্ট ঘ) গজ, ব্যাভেজ, তুলা ইত্যাদি ঙ) লিনেন সামগ্রী চ) এমএসআর আসবাবপত্র  
৮ দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ৩১/০৩/২০২২ইং বিকাল ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।  
৯ প্রি-টেন্ডার মিটিং : ১৬/০৩/২০২২ইং সকাল ১১.০০টা।  
১০ দরপত্র জমাদানের তারিখ ও সময় : ০৩/০৪/২০২২ইং, দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।  
১১ দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ০৩/০৪/২০২২ইং, দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা, দরপত্রদাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।  
১২ দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান : উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম।  
১৩ দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান : উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম/পটিয়া থানা।  
১৪ দরপত্র সিডিউল এর মূল্য : গ্রুপ ক) ৭৫০/-, গ্রুপ খ) ৭৫০/-, গ্রুপ গ) ৪০০/-, গ্রুপ ঘ) ৪০০/-, গ্রুপ ঙ) ৪০০/- এবং গ্রুপ চ) ৪০০/- অফেরতযোগ্য।  
১৫ দরপত্র সিডিউল এর মূল্য পরিশোধের নিয়ম : উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক, পটিয়া শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম-এর কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ কোডে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমাদান করিয়া জমার স্বপক্ষে সিটিআর সংগ্রহপূর্বক দরপত্র সিডিউল সম্ভ্রহ করা যাইবে।  
১৬ দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিলকৃত জামানতের পরিমাণ : গ্রুপ-ক ও গ্রুপ-খ ৫০,০০০/- (প্রতি গ্রুপ) গ্রুপ-গ, গ্রুপ-ঘ, গ্রুপ-ঙ এবং গ্রুপ চ- ৪০,০০০/- (প্রতি গ্রুপ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।  
বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ  
১৭ দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম : ডাঃ সব্যসাচী নাথ।  
১৮ দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী : উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা।  
১৯ দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার অফিসের নামঃ উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম।  
২০ দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের বিবরণঃ ই-মেইলঃ patiya@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd  
২১ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।  
২২ বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সংযুক্ত থাকিবে।  
ডাঃ সব্যসাচী নাথ  
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা  
পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম  
জিডি-৪৬২

জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়  
খুলনা ডিভিশন  
০৬৯৯-ক, খালিশপুর, খুলনা  
www.nha.gov.bd  
মাদারীপুর জেলার শিবচর উপজেলায় দাদাভাই উপশহর আবাসিক জোন উন্নয়ন (৩য় পর্যায়) শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আবাসিক প্লট বরাদ্দের লটারী অনুষ্ঠানের সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি  
এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় গৃহায়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, খুলনা ডিভিশনের আওতাধীন মাদারীপুর জেলার শিবচর উপজেলায় দাদাভাই উপশহর আবাসিক জোন উন্নয়ন (৩য় পর্যায়) শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের অবরাদ্ধকৃত আবাসিক প্লটগুলি আবেদনকারীগণের অনুকূলে বরাদ্দের জন্য প্রকাশ্যে লটারী অনুষ্ঠান অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ আগামী ০৯-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখে রোজ বুধবার এর পরিবর্তে আগামী ২৪-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখে রোজ বুধবারের সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকায় মাদারীপুর জেলার শিবচর উপজেলায় “শিবচর পৌরসভা মিলনায়তনে” অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।  
উক্ত স্থানে আগ্রহী আবেদনকারীগণকে যথাসময়ে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।  
মোঃ মোর্শেদ মাহমুদ চৌধুরী  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (অরোঃ)  
জিডি-৪৬০

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর  
উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়  
গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট  
www.lged.gov.bd  
স্মারক নংঃ ৪৬.০২.৯১৪১.০০০.০০৭.০০১.২১-৪৬২ তারিখঃ ০৭.০৩.২০২২ইং  
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৮/২০২১-২০২২ইং  
২০২১-২২ অর্থ বৎসরের বাজেটে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ খাতের আওতায় পণ্য ও সেবা বাবদ সহায়তা খাতে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ভবন মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ কাজ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে উপজেলা অত্র উপজেলার ০৪টি ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ভবন মেরামত কাজ ০৪টি প্যাকেজের আওতায় বাস্তবায়নের জন্য এলজিইডির তালিকাভুক্ত (হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত) ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিত) এর বিধান অনুসরণপূর্বক সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।  
১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ : স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ।  
২। অর্পের উৎস : ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ খাতের আওতায় পণ্য ও সেবা বাবদ সহায়তা।  
৩। কাজের ধরণ : নির্মাণ/সংস্কার।  
৪। সম্ভ্রহের পদ্ধতি : সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM)  
৫। দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা : ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, এলজিইডি, সিলেট।  
খ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, জৈন্তাপুর, সিলেট।  
৬। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা : উপজেলা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট।  
৭। প্রি-টেন্ডার মিটিং : ১৪.০৩.২০২২ইং।  
৮। দরপত্র বিক্রির সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ২৩.০৩.২০২২ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।  
৯। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময় : ২৪.০৩.২০২২ইং বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।  
১০। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ২৪.০৩.২০২২ইং বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।  
১১। টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির ধরণ : তফসিলভূক্ত যে কোন ব্যাংক থেকে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট।  
১২। দরপত্রের বৈধতার মেয়াদ : দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৯০ (নব্বই দিন)।  
১৩। কাজের বিবরণ  
গ্রুপ নং প্রকল্পের নাম প্রাক্কলিত মূল্য টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা  
গ্রুপ নং-০১ পশ্চিম জাফলং ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ভবন মেরামত। ১০,০০,০০০.০০ ২৮,০০০.০০ ৫০০.০০ ৯০ দিন  
গ্রুপ নং-০২ আলীপুরাও ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ভবন মেরামত। ৮,৭১,০০০.০০ ২৮,০০০.০০ ৫০০.০০ ৯০ দিন  
গ্রুপ নং-০৩ নন্দিরগাও ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ভবন মেরামত। ১০,০০,০০০.০০ ২৮,০০০.০০ ৫০০.০০ ৯০ দিন  
গ্রুপ নং-০৪ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ভবন মেরামত। ১০,০০,০০০.০০ ২৮,০০০.০০ ৫০০.০০ ৯০ দিন  
শর্তাবলীঃ  
ক) দরপত্রের সাথে হালনাগাদ লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ইত্যাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।  
খ) উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট অনুকূলে টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি দাখিল করতে হবে।  
গ) প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের উপর ৫% (পাঁচ শতাংশ) এর অধিক উর্ধ্ব দর বা নিম্ন দর দাখিল করিলে দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।  
ঘ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্য ও শর্তাবলী অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর থেকে বিস্তারিত জানা যাবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিত যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।  
মোঃ রফিকুল ইসলাম  
উপজেলা প্রকৌশলী  
গোয়াইনঘাট, সিলেট  
E-mail: ue.gowainghat@lged.gov.bd  
জিডি-৪৫৭



INTRA-PARTY FEUD  
AL central leaders  
to visit Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

To strengthen the party's grassroots in Chattogram and resolve intra-party feud, Awami League's (AL) central committee instructed local leaders to organise a delegate meeting in all the three organisational units in the district immediately.

As per the instruction, AL south district unit will organise the delegate meeting at GEC Convention Centre on March 15, while the north district unit will organise the meeting the next day at the same venue.

Chattogram city unit AL is yet to finalise a date, said Iftekher Saimul Chowdhury, its law affairs secretary. Sources also mentioned that there are some dissatisfaction among the grassroots leaders over some actions by city and district units leaders. Central leaders will try to resolve the misunderstanding.

The ward level council of AL's city unit -- which was supposed to be held on December 26, 2021 -- got postponed due to intra-party feud. AL's central committee entrusted six Ctg leaders to address the issue later in January, with whom central leaders will also sit.



Plots of land, like this one here, are not uncommon in the hilly areas of Chattogram. But those very spots were not always this flat. Tall hills have been razed to the ground to make way for various housing projects, defying the laws.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

TURNING HILL INTO HOME

Don't worry  
about the law!

Housing projects in hill areas booming  
amid authorities' lack of coordination

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

The hilly areas of Chhinnomul Bazar in Chattogram city's Arefin Nagar, a housing project, owned by Ali Nagar Samabay Samity, is secured by an iron gate under the watchful eyes of guards. According to locals, one Yasin of Chhinnomul, the samity's president, is supervising the project.

What's strange is that this Yasin is nowhere to be found.

His or the samity's contact number has not been made available anywhere, with the samity's local agents doing all the dealings. His offers, however, are very much there.

A buyer need not know the owner or how the hill will be flattened.

There is no paperwork showing who the previous land owner was. New ownership will be offered for Tk 7 to 12 lakh per plot.

And the cherry on top is that fighting over ownership in court is also included in the package.

It's not just Yasin who's doing this there. Signboards bearing names of housing projects and individuals are hung everywhere one's eyes may wander.

In fact, the whole area

surrounding Bayezid Bostami-Faujdarhat Link Road has seen a surge in such projects in recent years.

The only problem is that these are hill areas, where constructing such structures is completely illegal without the right permits in the first place.

While talking to this correspondent, Mofidul Alam, director (Chattogram division) of Department of Environment (DoE), informed that Arefin Nagar and its surrounding area is listed as khas land.

He said he has visited the site after learning about how hills are being cut there. Authorities have agreed to strengthen monitoring activities in a meeting presided over by the divisional commissioner on February 17.

District Commissioner (DC) Mohammed Mominur Rahaman, however, said he was not aware of any housing project in the area. Had there been any such incidents, they would have taken action.

Authorities' lack of coordination and response to the issues, and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Bodies of woman,  
child found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Police recovered bodies of a woman and a child from a swamp in Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj yesterday. Identities of the deceased -- a woman aged around 22 and a one year old girl -- could not be known immediately, said Mohammad Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sreenagar Police Station.

Locals spotted the bodies in a swamp in Brahman Paiksha village around 3pm and informed police, said the OC.

"The bodies were wrapped in a bedsheet and blanket," said OC. Police are working to identify the victims and are investigating the incident, the police official added.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

640kg hilsa  
fry seized in  
Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The river police and fisheries department of Lauhajang upazila in Munshiganj seized 640 kg of hilsa fry during a raid at the old ferry ghat area early yesterday.

The price of the seized fish is around Tk 1.6 lakh, said Abu Taher Mia, officer-in-charge of Mawa River Police.

"After receiving a tip-off, around 640kg of hilsa fry were found, abandoned, in the old ferry ghat area at 6:30am. Those involved couldn't be identified yet, as they fled after sensing presence of police. The seized hilsa fry were distributed among madrasas and the poor," he said.

Kainya Haat: by  
women, for all

MINTU DESHWARA

There's a haat in Moulvibazar where all the sellers are women. Aptly called "Kainya", the haat is gradually gaining popularity among local buyers and sellers.

Nafiza Firuz sells handmade sweet food in Moulvibazar. "We women stay busy during our spare time, after finishing all daily chores. Many of us spend their leisure doing various kinds of productive work. I like to make delicious cakes and hand-made sweet delights. Kainya makes selling these easy for me."

Ratry Bhumik, a boutique entrepreneur, said, "It's difficult for a woman to go to a normal market to sell our products. But Kainya encourages folks like us to keep doing business."

The unique haat was launched by the Sadar upazila administration on the premises of Chandnighat Union Parishad from yesterday, marking International Women's Day.

Nasir Uddin Ahmed Ujjal, executive director of entrepreneurial collective Rangdhanu Satrang, said beyond just getting a scope to do business, the entrepreneurs working with Kainya are also



gaining in social stature, as their works are being appreciated by their families and neighbours.

Visiting the fair, this correspondent spoke to several customers. One of them, degree student Imon Das, said, "I have been to many markets in my lifetime, but this one is special because of its specific focus on women entrepreneurs."

Organisers of the haat said Kainya is a women's market that has everything, from boutique items to food to poultry, cows and even vegetables.

Moulvibazar Sadar UNO

Sabrina Rahman Bandhan

said, "We organised

it with the aim to

encourage women

entrepreneurs.

The market has

over thousands of

products."

Chandnighat

UP chairman

Akhtar Uddin

said, "This is the

first haat of its kind

in my union. Initially,

around 50 women are

selling their products,

while stalls are free. The

number will be increased according

to demand. Initially, it has been decided to

operate the market two days a week.

The initiative was put to action by Moulvibazar

Sadar upazila administration and Moulvibazar

Ladies Club to highlight the contribution of

women in society, said Kabita Yasmin, president

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Scheme on Improvement of Public Financial Services Delivery through Implementation of BACS and iBAS++  
Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)  
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance  
Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban, (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000

07.00.0000.000.25.144.21-1418 Date: 08/03/2022

**Invitation for Tenders for Organization of Foreign Training Programs**

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1. Ministry / Division	Ministry of Finance
2. Agency	Finance Division
3. Procuring Entity Name	National Program Director, Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5. Invitation for	Selection of Training Management Firm for Organization of Foreign Training Program and Knowledge Sharing Program under "Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)"
6. Invitation Ref No	07.00.0000.000.25.144.21-
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
7. Procurement Method	OTM
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
8. Budget and Source of Funds	GoB
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
9. Program Name	Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)
10. Scheme Name	Scheme on Improvement of Public Financial Services Delivery through Implementation of BACS and iBAS++
11. Tender Package No.	iBAS-NS2
12. Tender Package Name	Selection of Training Management Firm for Organization of Foreign Training Program and Knowledge Sharing Program under "Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)"
13. Tender Publication Date	09/03/2022
14. Tender Last Selling Date	30/03/2022 up to 5.00 pm
15. Tender Closing Date and Time	31/03/2022 at 3:00 pm
16. Tender Opening Date and Time	31/03/2022 at 3:30 pm
17. Name & Address of the office Selling Tender Document	Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS), Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (4th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
18. Name & Address of the office Receiving Tender Document	Same as above
19. Name & Address of the office Opening Tender Document	Same as above
20. Pre-Tender Meeting Date and Time	22/03/2022 at 3:00 pm
21. Pre-Tender Meeting Place	Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS), Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (4th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>	
22. Eligibility of Tenderer:	a. 05 (five) years of experience in foreign training program management from Bangladesh; b. The minimum specific experience in organizing foreign training programs of at least three (3) contracts of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed dating from year 2014 each with a value of at least of Tk fifty (50) lakh for lot-1 and Tk ninety (90) lakh for lot-2 shall be required. c. Valid Trade License d. Up-to-date Income Tax Certificate e. VAT Clearance Certificate f. Bank Solvency Certificate g. Last 03 years Audit Report h. Evidence of valid ISO certification; i. Evidence of having professionals in the organization who has a minimum 05 years of work experience as a training management specialist in national or international reputed organization (Photocopies of contracts/offer letter/employer certificate); j. Evidence of permanent office, registration & training program management team in Bangladesh;
23. Brief Description of Services:	The training management firm will manage the training and knowledge-sharing programs for officials of GoB & SPFMS, prepare detailed program itinerary as per instructions, visa processing, arrange travel & all pre-departure formalities, welfare guide, full time land surface transport including weekends, visits to places of educational and cultural interest, accommodation, working lunch & descriptive training completion report
24. Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Taka 2000 (Bangladesh Taka Two Thousand only)
Lot No	Identification and name of Lot Tender Security Amount (Tk)
a	Lot-1: Organization and implementation of foreign training program titled "Training on Block Chain Certification" Tk. 2,00,000 (Taka Two Lacs only)
b	Lot-2: Organization and implementation of Knowledge Sharing Program titled "Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS)" Tk. 3,00,000 (Taka Three Lakh only)
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
25. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Nazma Mobarek
26. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	National Program Director
27. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS), Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (4th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, Phone: 0255110523-27, 0255110530-32, 0255110546-55
28. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Same as above
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings	

(Nazma Mobarek)  
National Program Director (Additional Secretary)  
Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)  
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Phone: 02-55110546-55, Website: www.spfms.gov.bd

GD- 465

**Engineering Office**  
**University of Chittagong**  
Chittagong-4331, Bangladesh  
Phone: PABX-2606015-27 (extn-4231)  
E-mail: ce.engroff@cu.ac.bd

Ref No: LTM/CUCE-40/2021-2022 Date: 08/03/2022

**LTM Notice**

This is an online Tender, where Only Enlisted Contractors/Tenderers at the University of Chittagong are eligible and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Only CU Enlisted Tenderers are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Office of the Chief Engineer, University of Chittagong, Chittagong for the procurement of :

SL. No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Package Description	Online Tender Notice Publication Date	Online Tender Closing & Opening Date
01	ID-667184, CE-e-GP(LTM)-69/CUCE-40/R/2021-2022	LTM-69/CUCE-40/R/2021-2022 Extension for Kitchen room and others necessary maintenance work in Faculty of Social Science Teachers Lounge Kitchen at the University of Chittagong.	08-Mar-2022 13:00:00	23-Mar-2022 13:00:00
02	ID-667185, CE-e-GP(LTM)-70/CUCE-40/R/2021-2022	LTM-70/CUCE-40/R/2021-2022 Maintenance Work of 153 nos Gas Line Risers at Different Places in the University of Chittagong.	08-Mar-2022 13:00:00	23-Mar-2022 13:30:00
03	ID-667189, CE-e-GP(LTM)-71/CUCE-40/R/2021-2022	LTM-71/CUCE-40/R/2021-2022 Replacement of Old Damaged G.I. Pipe Line (Main Line) From 2no Gate to Suhrawardy Hall Main Gate at the University of Chittagong.	08-Mar-2022 13:00:00	23-Mar-2022 14:00:00
04	ID-667198, CE-e-GP(LTM)-72/CUCE-40/D-RR/2021-2022	LTM-72/CUCE-40/D-RR/2021-2022 Construction work for Pump House (West Side of Alau Hall) at the University of Chittagong.	08-Mar-2022 13:00:00	23-Mar-2022 14:30:00
05	ID-667209, CE-e-GP(LTM)-73/CUCE-40/D-RR/2021-2022	LTM-73/CUCE-40/D-RR/2021-2022 Construction for Breast Wall (Length 160'-0") North & East Side of Play Ground of Shaheed Abdur Rob Hall at the University of Chittagong.	08-Mar-2022 13:00:00	23-Mar-2022 15:00:00

LTM Tender details can be downloaded from as stated above on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for purpose.

The fees for downloading the LTM Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.

LTM Tenders will be accepted only up to as above date and time. Accepted tender will be opened online immediately after as stated above date and time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal system and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Engr. Syed Zahangir Fazal**  
Chief Engineer (I/C)

GD- 463





Mehazabien in and as ‘Sabrina’.

“Sabrina is someone we all know closely. I have seen Sabrina in my mother, my friends, Sabrina is me,” said Orsha.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

A rather curious audience, consisting of primarily journalists and media personalities, took their seats in The Daily Star’s A S Mahmud Hall. “Who is Sabrina?” was a question – more of a marketing strategy, to Hoichoi and Ashfaq Nipun’s next project, “Sabrina”. Present during the press conference were Hoichoi’s Bangladesh lead Sakib R Khan, director Ashfaq Nipun, actors Mehazabien Chowdhury, Nazia Haque Orsha and Runa Khan. As the 60-second teaser pointed out, quite eloquently, that the marketing was not just a gimmick – the cast and crew of the upcoming project was quite determined to portray that Sabrina could be any woman, from any background, facing any level of challenge that the patriarchal society throws in front of them. The teaser, initially featuring a startled Mehazabien and Orsha responding to the call “Sabrina”, cuts out to dozens of women

from diverse backgrounds doing the same. As it turned out, “Sabrina” will look to tell the stories of struggle and triumph, in an ‘avant garde’ take on a string of familiar issues, according to the director. “The biggest challenge for me was to be in the shoes of Sabrina, which was extremely tough for me,” said Ashfaq Nipun. “I could easily have focused on the sequel to the extremely successful ‘Mohanagar’, as it is an ‘alpha-male’ oriented story, and the audience is generally more receptive to it. However, I felt like Sabrina’s story just needed to be told.” “It is sad that at this time, we don’t get to see much of female-centric work”, said Mehazabien. “We have so many excellent female artists, yet we are not able to utilise them, or write good scripts for them. I thank Ashfaq Nipun and Hoichoi for this initiative.” “Sabrina is someone we all know closely. I have seen Sabrina in my mother, my friends, Sabrina is me,” said Orsha. This is the actress’ first outing with the streaming

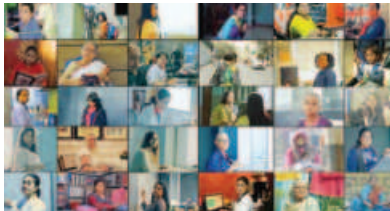


PHOTO: COURTESY OF HOICHOI

platform. Veteran actress Runa Khan echoed the same sentiment, saying that every woman, at one point, faces the same, tired set of circumstances set by patriarchy. The web-series, which releases on March, has the entire media world invested in it; not only because of the premise, but the track record that director Ashfaq Nipun boasts while handling sensitive topics.

## ‘MISSION EXTREME’ to release in Malaysia

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dhallywood superstar Arifin Shuvoo and Miss World Bangladesh winner Jannatul Ferdous Oishee starrer police action thriller film, “Mission Extreme” released simultaneously on December 3 in Bangladesh, as well as the USA, England, France, Ireland, Scotland, and Australia. Now, the Cop Creation film is set to be released in Malaysia. It will be screened at TGV Cinemas and KLCC in Kuala Lumpur from March 11. Jointly directed by Sunny Sanwar and Faissal Ahmed, the film also features Sadia Nabila, Sumit Sen Gupta, and Taskeen Rahman, among others. A sequel of “Mission Extreme” is already in the works.



## Dua Lipa slammed with second copyright infringement suit

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular British singer Dua Lipa has been engrossed in another legal suit, after she has been slapped with a second copyright infringement suit. A pair of songwriters has claimed that the hit “Levitating” is “substantially similar” to their 1970’s disco song “Wiggle and Giggle All Night” which was written by L Russell Brown and Sandy Linzer. The lawyers for the two songwriters has claimed that the songs signature melody is an absolute copy of the opening melody of “Wiggle and Giggle All Night”.



# NEWS

## Carbon user fee to cut emission

FROM PAGE 1  
A carbon fee in Bangladesh will also help with revenue mobilisation that could be effectively recycled to protect the economically vulnerable, support firms in their decarbonisation process and create jobs through investment in climate projects. Furthermore, carbon pricing could also help negotiate better terms for prospective border carbon adjustments abroad and/or more favourable trade deals in the run-up to least-developed country graduation. Assuming advanced

economies and higher-income emerging and developing countries reduce their emissions by 60 and 30 percent respectively, and lower-income emerging and developing countries reduce their emissions by 10 percent, a \$25 carbon fee for Bangladesh would also be consistent with the global collective target of keeping warming to 2C. The \$25 carbon fee is IMF’s proposal for an international carbon floor price for low-income countries in consideration of international equity and competitiveness. But Bangladesh needs to

act fast and decisively. It is ranked among the top ten countries in the world most affected by extreme weather events during 1998-2017, the report said. Losses linked to such events were estimated annually to average 1.8 percent of GDP between 1990 and 2008. In addition, rising sea levels and coastal erosion is expected to result in a significant loss of land surface, food production and displacement of people. “Not only Bangladesh is highly exposed to climate change risks, but also has

limited adaptive capacity to cope with these risks.” The World Bank estimates that Bangladesh would need \$5.7 billion per year as adaptation finance by 2050, more than five times higher than its current expenditure of about \$1 billion a year on climate change adaptation. In fact, total climate-relevant budgetary allocations for both mitigation and adaptation has been less than 1 percent of GDP annually, well below the 3-4 percent of GDP needed per year for climate and biodiversity preservation mandated

by the Sustainable Development Goals. Adaptation investments, which are expected to be met through a combination of domestic and external funding, are significantly higher than mitigation investments. “There can be no adaptation without finance.” Bangladesh has an extensive pipeline of adaptation projects through its Delta Plan 2100 and is currently working on the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2030, a strategic investment framework to mobilise financing.

## Free speech, privacy

FROM PAGE 12  
draft will “undermine end-to-end encryption” and enable the targeting of journalists, dissidents and activists. Forcing intermediaries to block an ambiguous range of content, including content “insulting”, “harmful”, “offensive” or “breaches secrecy of the government”, is an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right to freedom of expression, it said. The draft regulation is inconsistent with the international human rights framework, including the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it added. “Efforts by telecommunication regulators to change regulations to address concerns around ‘over-the-top’ (OTT) services can have significant negative impacts on human rights as well as broader principles such as network neutrality, if done improperly...The BTRC must frame its consultation around the exact problems it wishes to address and engage with stakeholders on what regulatory

options are best suited to address them, rather than forcing an overbroad set of regulations,” the letter mentioned. The statement said that the absence of a safe harbour provision and spectre of penalties for intermediaries and their employees, will have a chilling effect on free speech and result in over-censorship. “We respectfully call upon the BTRC to withdraw and reconsider the draft regulations, as they erode digital security and put human rights and freedoms at risk,” said the letter.

## Home beckons

FROM PAGE 1  
On February 22, the ship had started from the Port of Karadeniz Ereğli of Turkey for Olvia port to carry clay for transporting to Italy. The ship reached the Ukraine port the very next day. “Everything was normal when we had reached the port. Then on February 24, Russia started invading Ukraine,” the crew member said on condition of anonymity as the person was not authorised to talk to media. The ship had been stranded at the port since then. But on March 2, frustration at being stranded turned into terror and trauma. “It was around 5:05pm when a missile hit the ship, sparking fire. Our Third Engineer Hadisur Rahman was talking on the phone on the navigational bridge at that time,” the crew member said. At that time, the assistant chief engineer, second officer, and deck cadet were also on the

navigational bridge. Soon after the attack, fire broke out in the ship and all three, except Hadisur, ran away from the area. “I was just 10 feet away from Hadisur. I was also talking on the phone. I thought I lost my limbs. It took around 30 seconds for me to regain some composure and realise that I was not hurt. The whole ship jolted with heavy vibration. We had no idea then that Hadisur was killed,” he said. All the crewmen started to douse the fire. It took around three hours to bring the fire under control. Then they went to the engine control room, the lowest level of the ship and considered the safest place. “As per our rules, head counting started and that is when we realised Hadisur was missing,” the crew member said in a shaky voice. All crew members went to the navigation bridge area to find Hadisur, only to find his body. “I thought he jumped in the water and he was

saved but I was wrong. We recovered the body and kept it in the fridge of the ship.” Soon after the attack, the electricity of the ship went off as the generator had been damaged. “We stayed in the control room the whole night. It was a horrific time as we were literally out of all kinds of contact.” The following day at 2:30pm, they were rescued from the ship and taken by a tugboat to a safe bunker. “We stayed there for two days. We had internet connectivity there, but we could not bring any of our clothes from the ship with us.” The sailors were rescued with the help of Bangladeshis in Ukraine and the authorities of Olvia port, according to a press note of the Bangladesh embassy in Poland issued the day after the attack. Leading up to the rescue, the Bangladesh government sent a letter to the Ukrainian authorities mentioning the abandonment of the ship, which eased the process. The crew members stayed

in the bunker till March 5. They were supposed to go to the Moldova border a day before, but they could not do so due to safety issues. On March 5, all of them started for the Moldova border around 8:15am on two microbuses. However, it took four hours to get clearance from the Ukrainian authority. The crewmen had to cross a total of 17 military checkpoints on way to the Moldova border and were escorted by Ukrainian soldiers in areas considered to be risky. “All the checkpoints were being manned by Ukrainian military personnel. They helped us a lot,” the crew member said. “We entered Palanca in Moldova around 12:20am on March 6 and arrived at the Moldova-Romania border around 5:30am. We crossed the Romanian border around an hour later and reached the hotel in Bucharest around 1:00pm,” he said. He said during their journey from Ukraine to Romania, immigration

officials in both Moldova and Romania expressed sorrow when they heard about the sailors’ plight and helped them cross the border quickly. “When we reached a hotel in Bucharest, we were extremely tired but relieved that we had come to a safer place. We have no words to express our gratitude to everyone who worked for our safe return,” the crew member said. On the night of March 7, they went to the house of the Bangladesh ambassador in Romania for dinner. Since the “missile” attack till they reached the hotel in Buchares, none of them were able to eat a proper meal. “We carried some dry food with us when we left the ship. We lived four days on some cookies, puffed rice, high-protein biscuits, potatoes and wheat that we brought with us.” “All of us have seen death very closely. It’s a new lease of life. I can’t express in words. Please pray for us so that we can arrive home safely.”

## US, UK ban Russian oil

FROM PAGE 1  
But Ukraine accused Russia of attacking a corridor from the beleaguered southern port city of Mariupol,

where aid workers said tens of thousands were living in “apocalyptic” conditions. Biden said Ukraine would “never be a victory”

for Putin, as he announced the measures targeting the energy sector that props up the Russian economy and its war effort.

## Stock sufficient, price still high

FROM PAGE 12  
Another major issue is the disbursement of supply order. Legally, one must collect commodities within 15 days of placing supply order. However, some dealers collect oil even a year later, he further said. He also requested the authorities to issue an instruction in this regard and urged DNCRP to stop their drives. DNCRP chief, however, said they would continue their drives and it would go tougher from March 9 to execute the power entitled to them by the law. Harunur Rashid, an edible oil dealer of Moulvibazar, said at least 750 trucks leave his district with oil each day. He urged the DNCRP to check out whether such a number of trucks went out

from the district in the last week. In response, DNCRP chief Shafiquzzaman said they would sit with the refiners today to verify the allegations. “I heard from the FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry) meeting where refiners said they were providing the market with enough supply,” he said. On Monday, FBCCI held a meeting on the current market of edible oil with refiners where big groups that import edible oil said there was no crisis of oil in the market. Biswajit Saha, director for corporate and regulatory affairs of City Group, in the meeting, said his company was supplying between 2,000 and 2,500

tonnes of cooking oil every day to distributors. He apprehended that some dealers were hoarding oils in hope of a further price hike ahead of Ramadan. Dealers and retailers could not inform the meeting at exactly what price they buy the oil from refiners as they do not receive a voucher from the millers. Int’l Women FROM PAGE 12 extraordinary women from around the world who are working to build a brighter future for all. The first lady of the United States, Jill Biden will deliver remarks in the recognition of the courageous accomplishment of this year’s awardees.



**AFP, Kyiv**

Ukraine begins evacuating civilians from the northeastern city of Sumy under a deal with Moscow to set up humanitarian corridors out of cities besieged by Russian forces. Thousands attempt to board packed trains out of Odessa, Ukraine's main port which is also bracing for attack.

Moscow announces a ceasefire in the five cities worst-hit by the fighting: Chernihiv, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Sumy. Previous such cessations of fire collapsed at the weekend, with both sides trading blame.

At least 21 people, including two children, were killed in air strikes on Sumy on Monday night, hours before the evacuations began.

The UN says the number of people fleeing the war now tops two million. Poland alone has received 1.2 million people.

Chinese President Xi Jinping urges “maximum restraint” over Ukraine but stops short of condemning the Russian invasion in a video summit with the leaders of France and Germany.

Energy giant Shell says it will stop purchasing Russian crude oil and shut down its operations in the country.

## NEARLY ALL RUSSIA FORCES DEPLOYED

Russia has committed nearly all its combat power stationed along the border into Ukraine, the Pentagon said Monday as it announced 500 more US troops were deploying to Europe to boost Nato security. With President Vladimir Putin intensifying operations, the US Defense Department also warned that Russian strikes on civilians were mounting and that Moscow was seeking to recruit foreign fighters, notably Syrians, for the war.



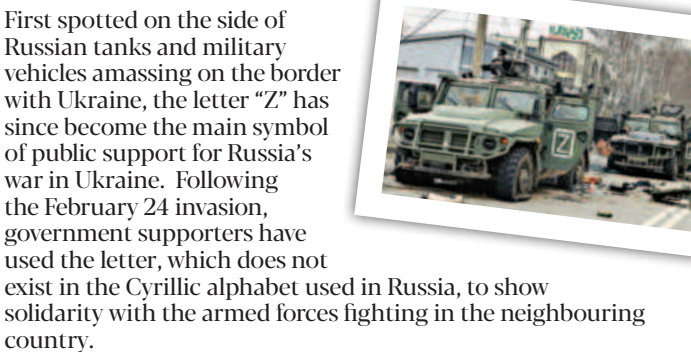
A boy has arrived safely in Slovakia after travelling some 1,200km (750 miles) from eastern Ukraine with no more than two small bags, a passport and his relatives' phone number.

Hassan, 11, left his home in Zaporizhzhia because his mother could not leave her elderly mother.

She put him on a train, and when he finally got to the border he was helped across by customs officers. Officials said he was a true hero and had won over everyone with his smile.

The boy arrived at the border carrying a plastic bag, a small red backpack and his passport. He was taken in by volunteers who gave him food and a drink while border officials got in touch with relatives in the Slovak capital Bratislava.

His mother, in a video posted by Slovak police, thanked everyone for taking care of her son.



There have been various theories put forward since Z was first seen emblazoned on military hardware, alongside other letters, including V and O.

The most popular theory used by military experts to explain the letters is that they were written according to the respective areas where the Russian troops are usually stationed, with Z potentially standing for Zapad (west).

The Russian defense ministry itself has not commented on any of the theories, and instead posted on its Instagram channel that Z meant *Za pobedu* (“for victory”) and V stood for “power of truth”.





## Dishonest traders, ready excuses

Strict monitoring, legal measures can keep prices in check

WE, in Bangladesh, are used to the whims and greed of the dishonest traders and businessmen, particularly those who deal in food items and other consumer goods. They never miss a chance to raise prices on ever so flimsy grounds, like an odd thunder shower or a wildcat strike by transport owners. We have often seen prices of fast-moving consumer items go up, in spite of adequate reserve and normal demand. Unfortunately, in a sellers' market, consumers are captive to the syndicate's machinations that dictate the supply of essential goods. Regrettably, the administration, despite assurances, have not been able to rein in this wayward group of traders who continue to call the shots and dictate prices at will.

Noticeable is the disturbing fact that prices of food items go up before every Ramadan. Admittedly, demands during the fasting month go up considerably, but actually seldom outrun the supply. And unlike in other countries, where economic laws are allowed to function, in Bangladesh prices that go up once never come down with the demand curve flattening out. And this has much to do with the state's inability to make the market mechanism function as per its natural manner.

It is therefore, disquieting, though not surprising, to see that the prices of essential goods are going up once again. It was not unexpected, with Ramadan less than a month away, but the added excuse at the disposal of the traders is the ongoing Russo-Ukraine war. Admittedly, the conflict will have an effect on the market—to a greater or lesser degree—but it defies logic that the war has been going on for hardly a fortnight, and waves have already reached our shores. Are we to believe that our stock position is so poor that it can't withstand an erratic market for a short time? Experts disagree that the war is the cause. They believe that the lag time for the effect of the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine is at least three weeks. Indeed, the pandemic had disrupted the supply chain, but the rise in prices in Bangladesh has been much more than the international prices.

The real cause is the unmitigated greed of a section of traders. It is, therefore, immoral—and illegal—on their part to exploit the situation and milk the consumers. How do the traders account for the hike in cost of even those items that have not been imported from these two countries in the last eight months? We believe that the administration at the central as well as the local level should start monitoring the market strictly, instead of dispensing homilies to the traders and consumers. Dishonest traders must be brought to account and hoarding must be dealt with severely. At the planning level, all the steps of supply chain management should be strictly conformed to, to offset the consequences of supply disruption.

## Don't make women jump through the hoops

Provide collateral-free loans to female entrepreneurs

DESPITE having a good track record of utilising bank loans and paying interests on time, women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh still have to circumvent various stumbling blocks while seeking loans from financing institutions. It is unfortunate that despite being important players in the overall economic growth of the country, neither the government nor financial institutions have taken effective initiatives to simplify the loan sanctioning process. For entrepreneurs and businesswomen to stand on their own feet, we need to remove the unnecessary hassle and encourage them to dream big—not be burdened by bureaucracy.

At a roundtable titled "Financial Inclusion for Women's Economic Empowerment," organised on the occasion of International Women's Day, women leaders and researchers asked the pertinent question: When thousands of crores of taka are plundered every year by male sharks, and bad loans are increasing at an alarming rate, why is it that women entrepreneurs have to meet stringent requirements to get loans of even small amounts?

Admittedly, the Bangladesh Bank in recent times has undertaken some positive initiatives to ensure financial inclusion of women. According to a circular issued by the central bank in 2019, 10 percent of the banks' total disbursements to the cottage, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs (CMSME) must be to women, and the percentage is to be raised to at least 15 percent by 2024. At the same time, the size of Bangladesh Bank's own source fund named "Small Enterprise Refinance Scheme" has been increased from Tk 850 crore to Tk 1,500 crore to include more women. Furthermore, to face financial challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government declared stimulus packages of Tk 20,000 crore for the CMSME sector.

However, the latest Bangladesh Bank statistics show that women entrepreneurs received only 3.78 percent of the banks' total disbursements to CMSMEs. It is apparent that policies alone will not be enough to bridge the gap, when women are being barred from accessing the loans, because they lack the long list of official documents needed to be eligible for the loans.

Sociocultural constraints, patriarchal mindsets, lack of control over decision-making processes, and low digital-technology literacy are some of the reasons holding women back from financial inclusion. Giving due recognition to the fact that their collective contribution would largely boost the country's economy, the government should formulate time-befitting women-friendly financial policies. We believe that collateral-free bank loans, if introduced, would attract more women to start their own enterprises and become successful employers in the long run.

# Only reduced costs can end migrants' exploitation



Shariful Hasan is the head of the Migration Programme at Brac.

SHARIFUL HASAN

REZAUL Mia from Tangail spent about Tk 4.5 lakh, which he acquired through a loan, to get a labourer's job in Saudi Arabia last year. He paid most of this money to the local intermediary who processed his recruitment. Rezaul earns less than Tk 25,000 per month, and he does not know when he will be able to finish paying off his debt.

There are more than 700,000 migrant Bangladeshi workers who can relate to Rezaul's situation. Every year, Bangladeshis leave home for abroad to change their destiny. Currently, there are over 10 million Bangladeshis working abroad. Every year, they send an estimated USD 20 billion in remittance, which is six times higher than the total foreign aid the country receives, and it constitutes at least eight percent of the GDP. Last year alone, they sent over USD 22 billion in remittance to Bangladesh.

Whenever I describe Bangladesh to foreigners, I tell them, "It is a country of 'EFG,' where 'E' stands for expatriate workers, 'F' for farmers, and 'G' for garment workers." Thanks to the migrants, Bangladesh now has a foreign exchange reserve of more than USD 43 billion. But despite these contributions, our migrant workers are exploited both at home and abroad. Most of the problems they face are linked with high migration costs.

According to the World Bank and International Organization for Migration (IOM), the cost of labour migration from Bangladesh is the highest in the world, but compared to that, the income of Bangladeshi migrant workers is the lowest. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted a large-scale survey on the cost of migration from Bangladesh in 2020, which revealed the same fact.

According to the BBS survey, male workers spend around Tk 4.71 lakh each on average, while female workers' recruitment costs Tk 1 lakh to migrate to their countries of employment. The report says Bangladeshi workers need nearly 18 months on average to recover their migration costs.

Why is the cost so high? Because of the recruiting agencies, middlemen, and fraudulent agencies who purchase and sell visas at high prices. The migration process in Bangladesh is still driven by



▲ **Our migrant workers enrich the state coffers by sending a huge amount of money back home, but at great personal costs.**

COLLAGE: STAR

**Despite their contributions to the economy, our migrant workers are exploited both at home and abroad—and most of the problems they face are linked with high migration costs.**

middlemen, who charge hefty amounts for their services. Visa trading is also a common practice where several middlemen are involved in illegal selling and buying of work visas, ultimately increasing the cost of migration.

The problem is the same in the destination countries. Once migrant workers reach there, they often face

Of course, this is not a new idea. According to the Overseas Employment and Migrant Act, this should have been initiated in 2013. The recruiting agencies always complain that they don't find qualified workers from the database of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), so they have to depend on middlemen. BMET says it is currently trying to make a strong database through an app, and such a digitalisation process can reduce the migration cost.

On the other hand, those who are going abroad from Bangladesh are not very conscious, and they want to go at any cost. This practice is dangerous. Before going abroad, everyone should calculate how much money they can earn and what their migration cost is. The government, NGOs and other stakeholders can work together to make people aware of the risks and consequences before they decide to go abroad.

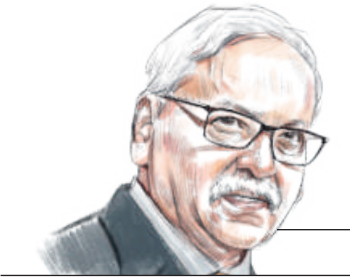
Another big reason for the high migration cost is unskilled labour. Potential migrants from Bangladesh are ready to pay much higher costs, rather than spend a little portion of that on skills training. Skills training must get priority. Particularly, after Covid-19 and due to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, there is a huge demand for skilled workers. We have to start preparing for that now.

To reduce migration costs, there is no alternative to strong government monitoring. The government can fix realistic migration costs. Migration costs are mostly divided into three parts. The first consists of various government fees, such as registration fees, welfare fees, smart card fees, etc. These costs are fixed no matter where the workers go. The second type of cost varies from country to country, such as visa fees, work permit fees, attestation fees, etc. The last part includes costs like airfare, which can always change.

However, for ethical recruitment, rather than fixating on the migration costs, we must also be vocal about employers' pay models. If there is a need for an employee, it is the responsibility of the employers to bear the recruitment costs. To establish this, negotiations need to take place globally.

Admittedly, there are many achievements in the country's migration sector, and the government has taken various positive initiatives. But there is still a long way to go, especially to reduce the migration costs, and it is never possible without all the stakeholders working together. We must understand that if the migration cost is not reduced, the problems that our migrant workers face will never end.

# Developing countries are leading climate actions



Dr. Saleemul Huq is the director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

SALEEMUL HUQ

THE Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) was launched over 10 years ago, by then President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives, and has been operating since then with a different head of government in charge of it for a two-year tenure.

The current chair of CVF is Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, whose term is scheduled to end later this year, and the president of Ghana will take over the position. However, Bangladesh's involvement with the CVF will continue for two more terms as a member of the governing troika of past chairs who continue to support the current head of the forum.

The CVF consisted of 48 member countries when Bangladesh took charge, and has now grown to include 55 developing countries after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the group at the 26th Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland last year.

Over the years, the CVF has become a leading group of countries tackling climate change, and has evolved from emphasising their vulnerability to highlighting their resilience. And now, under Bangladesh's leadership, it is focusing on climate prosperity with the development of Climate Prosperity Plans, and with Bangladesh set to release its Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCPP).

Another major development that took



▲ **Member states of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) have created their own fund to tackle the impacts of climate change.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

taken by the CVF finance ministers was the creation of the CVF and V20 Joint Multi-Donor Fund, with an initial funding from the CVF countries themselves, and then further contributions from international foundations and the government of Germany. The fund is managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on behalf of the CVF and V20.

The V20, with support from the fund, recently initiated a major programme with a 21 million-euro contribution from Germany to join the InsuResilience initiative to provide support for subsidised

insurance premiums against climate impacts, and for better data gathering on climate hazards in the CVF countries. This will hopefully become a significant programme in tackling both adaptation and loss and damage from human-induced climate change.

Another, more recent development under the CVF and V20 Joint Multi-Donor Fund has been the beginning of a new funding window to support the communities suffering the climate impacts in CVF countries, and get support to address the impacts of climate change after they have occurred. As the world has now entered the new era of loss and damage, the CVF and V20 fund is now the first UN fund to explicitly work on climate-related loss and damage.

It is important to note that the finance ministers are not involved in the climate change negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), but they have to seek the money needed to cope with climate disasters such as floods, cyclones and droughts. Hence, they are by now well aware of the adverse impacts of climate change in their respective countries. They have, therefore, agreed to set up their own loss and damage fund under the CVF and V20 fund—a programme of assistance to the victims of climate change that welcomes contributions from others in the spirit of solidarity, and without invoking any liability or compensation.

It is expected that this loss and damage fund and other programmes of the CVF and V20 can kick-start both funding and actions to address loss and damage from climate change, which might have a positive influence on the upcoming discussions on setting up a facility for financing loss and damage at COP27, set to be held in Egypt in November this year.



# Russian societal tensions are mirrored in Putin’s Orthodox church



Dr. James M Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and a scholar, and a senior fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute.

JAMES M DORSEY

THE Russian Orthodox Church blesses rather than fire weapons. In doing so, it has emerged as a powerful weapon in its own right in President Vladimir Putin’s civilisationalist arsenal.

Putin justified his invasion of Ukraine in part by asserting that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s government had been preparing for the “destruction” of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The Russian president was referring to that part of the church that remained loyal to the Moscow Patriarch after the Ukrainian church in 2018 declared itself independent. Unwittingly, Putin may have been acknowledging that all may not be well in the church—at least not from his perspective.

Choosing his words carefully, Metropolitan Onufriy, the head of the pro-Moscow wing of the church, called for an end to the fighting.

“Forget mutual quarrels and misunderstandings and ... unite with love for God and our Motherland,” Onufriy said.

The metropolitan’s call contrasted starkly with maximalist remarks by the Moscow church’s patriarch, Archbishop Kirill, a staunch supporter of Putin.

“When I say ‘Russian,’ I use the ancient expression from ‘A Tale of Bygone Years: Where from has the Russian land come,’ the land which now includes Russia and Ukraine and Belarus and other tribes and peoples,” the patriarch said.

In his war, Putin’s notion of religious fault lines amounts to drawing a landscape in which much of the terrain is covered and out of sight.

Putin would have less of a problem with the repression, becoming known

of the pro-Kyiv wing of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in areas of Ukraine that Russia controls, including Crimea and the breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

More problematic is the harassment and intimidation of the rapidly growing Evangelist community. If widely known



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Largely unnoticed in the discussion about Ukraine are demographic concerns among Russian nationalists and the Orthodox church.

is on track to account for one-third of Russia’s population by 2050.

“There won’t be any Russians left in 2050,” warned Dmitry Smirnov, chairman of the church’s Patriarchal Commission on Family, Maternity and Childhood Protection. Asked by Govorit Moskva radio what the church could do to reverse

Last week, 150 Russian Orthodox clerics called for an end to the war in an open letter.

“The church is closely tied to the current government. There is mounting hostility (towards) its ruling class because of its ostentatious consumption, luxury, power, and repression. People feel that the church has become obsessed with earthly goods. This is risky because sooner or later, power will change hands,” said a Russian political scientist in an email exchange.

Risky as it may be, many in the Balkans fear that the church could help make Bosnia and Herzegovina one of Putin’s next targets, should he subdue and maintain control of Ukraine.

“Russia sees the Balkans as Nato’s soft underbelly where they can foment chaos and create a mess,” said Bosnian journalist and scholar Harun Karcic.

Noting that church support was a prerequisite for electoral success in countries like Serbia, Greece, Montenegro, and Macedonia, Karcic asserted that “whatever happens in Ukraine will not stop in Ukraine. Bosnia will likely be one of the next countries of interest.”

The journalist-scholar described Milorad Dodik, the Serb member of the tripartite Bosnian presidency, as “a major Russian player who is a great supporter of the Russian Orthodox Church... Here we have a full Russian proxy who is a very public fan of the Russian Orthodox Church, who effectively controls half of Bosnia.”

Last year, Dodik put Bosnia on tenterhooks, pulling Republika Srpska, the Serb constituent element of the country, out of key government institutions, including the military, the judiciary, and the tax administration. The move threatens to destabilise Bosnia, almost three decades after it was founded on the ashes of a bitter ethnic and sectarian war.

Dodik is in good company. Serbia itself has emerged as a potential monkey wrench in the Balkans by breaking with Europe and refusing to close its airspace to Russian flights. Moreover, Air Serbia has doubled to 15 from seven the number of weekly flights it operates from Belgrade to Russia.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 “Toodleeoo!”

5 Pillow covers

10 Ghana’s capital

12 Eye part

13 Betray, in a way

14 Be penitent

15 Dude’s address

16 Highish card

18 Golf position

19 Calendar column

21 Novel need

22 Realize one was wrong

24 Small amphibians

25 When the slopes are busy

29 Fashion line?

30 Tennis great

32 Caboose, e.g.

33 Course employee

34 Jiffy

35 1836 battle site

37 Riyal spender

39 Trumpet accessories

40 Fathered

41 Depleted

42 Cincinnati team

DOWN

1 No-no on some diets

2 Doomed flier

3 Play opener

4 Gold, to

5 Cross

6 Crude building

7 Twin of Artemis

8 Servile follower

9 Wintry weather

11 Star in Scorpio

17 Glasses

20 Casual fabric

21 “Hey! Yeah, you!”

23 Bewildered

25 Close tightly

26 Dojo sport

27 “That’s just great ...”

28 Required

29 Swindles

31 Lab liquids

33 Fence feature

36 Chess pieces

38 Melody

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11-20

YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

P A W N S

E T H E L

N E A T O

P A T P L A N T E R

A S H

L E A F

V A L

H E R O N

M O I

I N D O U B T

E R N I E

D E E T S

H O W L S

A D H O C

D I A N A

S A T

S A T

W I N O S

T A I

B O S S

T E A

L A Y E R

A T O N E

S E U S S

**খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড**  
বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা  
ফোনঃ ০২-৪৪১১০৯৯০, ০২-৪৪১১০৯৮৭, ০২-৪৭৭৭২০০০৩, ০৪১-২৮৩০৯৮৮  
ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৪৭৭৭২০৪০৪, Web: [www.khulnashipyard.com](http://www.khulnashipyard.com), E-mail: [contact@khulnashipyard.com](mailto:contact@khulnashipyard.com)  
দরপত্র অনুসন্ধান নংঃ-৪/২০২১-২০২২/১২০ তারিখঃ ০৭ মার্চ ২০২২

**চাটর্ড একাউন্টেন্টস নিয়োগের দরপত্র**

খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা এর ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের জন্য চূড়ান্ত হিসাব ও খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড এমগ্রয়িজ প্রভিডেন্ট ফান্ড ট্রাস্ট, খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড ওয়ার্কস পাবলিক লিমিটেড এন্ড ওয়েলফেয়ার ফান্ড এবং খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড গ্রুপ ইন্স্যুরেন্স ফান্ড সংশ্লিষ্ট নিম্নলিখিত কার্যক্রম গ্রহণকরতঃ নিরীক্ষা প্রতিবেদন প্রণয়নের জন্য বহিঃ নিরীক্ষক (চাটর্ড একাউন্টেন্টস) ফর্মের নিকট হতে সিলমোহরযুক্ত পৃথক পৃথক খামে দরপত্র (অফার) আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রমিক	বিষয়বস্তু	কার্য পরিধি
১.	অভিজ্ঞতা	সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে নিরীক্ষা কাজের কমপক্ষে ১০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিই কেবলমাত্র দরপত্র প্রদানের যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন। অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
২.	দরপত্র জমা ও খোলার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	জমাঃ ২৭ মার্চ ২০২২ সাল, বেলা ১১.০০মিঃ খোলাঃ ২৭ মার্চ ২০২২ সাল, বেলা ১১.৩০মিঃ
৩.	দরপত্র সিলিং ও মার্কিং	দরপত্র খামের ভিতর এবং বাইরে উভয়ের উপর সিলমোহরসহ ম্যানজিং ডাইরেক্টর, খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, খুলনা এই ঠিকানায় দাখিল করতে হবে। ভিতরের খামের উপর চাটর্ড একাউন্টেন্টস নিয়োগসহ দরপত্র বড় করে লিখিত থাকতে হবে। বাইরের খামে টেন্ডার নং, খোলার তারিখ এবং সময় উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
৪.	আনুষঙ্গিক খরচ	উল্লেখিত অর্থবছরের নিরীক্ষা কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য যাবতীয় বিষয় যেমন-ড্রাম, খাবার, যাতায়াত ও অন্যান্য খরচ ফর্মকে বহন করতে হবে। আইটেম অনুযায়ী ভ্যাট ও ট্যাক্সসহ পেশাগত কি বাবদ সর্বমোট মূল্য পৃথক পৃথক ভাবে অংকে এবং কথায় স্পষ্ট করে লিখতে হবে।
৫.	অতিরিক্ত কার্য	নিরীক্ষা প্রতিবেদনের অতিরিক্ত হিসেবে কোম্পানির হিসাব ব্যবস্থা তথা আইনগত স্বত্তা BAS/IAS অনুযায়ী তৈরী হয়েছে কিনা তার উপর মতামত প্রদান করতে হবে। এছাড়াও প্রচলিত হিসাব পদ্ধতি, বাজেট এবং বাজেটটির কন্ট্রোল ইত্যাদি দ্রব্যাপারে একটি আলাদা প্রতিবেদন নিরীক্ষিত হিসাব প্রতিবেদনে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করতে হবে।

উক্ত নিরীক্ষা কাজে অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক সিএ ফার্মসমূহকে ভ্যাট, টিআইএন, আইসিএবি অডিট রেজিস্ট্রেশন এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যপ্রাদিসহ নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ (খুলিগি) এর প্রধান ফটকে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে অথবা ডাক/কুরিয়ার যোগে দরপত্র প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী নিয়োগপত্রে উল্লেখ করা হবে। খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন করায় দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সময় দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। বিস্তারিত জানতে খুলিগির ওয়েবসাইট ভিজিট করুন।

জিডি-৪৫৮

পক্ষে ম্যানজিং ডাইরেক্টর

**Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Chief Chemical Examiner**  
**Institute of Public Health (IPH) Bhaban (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**  
**Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.**

**Invitation for Tender**

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs					
02	Agency	Bangladesh Police, CID, Dhaka.					
03	Procuring entity name	Chief Chemical Examiner, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
04	Procuring entity District	Dhaka.					
05	Invitation for	01) Chemicals (LC-MSMS, HPLC & AR Grade), Narcotics Analysis Ready kits, Chemical Related Gas & Gas Cylinder, Chemical Related Glass Apparatus & Chemical Related Analysis Device and 02) Stationary Goods (Consumables, Monihari goods & Health Provision contents) items.					
06	Invitation Ref. No	Memo No- CE/01/2021-22/211(3) Dated 07/03/2022.					
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>							
07	Procurement Method	OTM with Frame Work Tenders will be selected in accordance with the procedures set in the guidelines of public Procurement Regulation Rules – 2008 of the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.					
<b>FUNDING</b>							
08	Budget & Source of fund	Revenue Budget (GOB)					
<b>PARTICULARS</b>							
09	Tender Package No	CE-13					
10	Tender Package Name	01) Chemicals (LC-MSMS, HPLC & AR Grade), Narcotics Analysis Ready kits, Chemical Related Gas & Gas Cylinder, Chemical Related Glass Apparatus & Chemical Related Analysis Device and 02) Stationary Goods ( Consumables, Monihari goods & Health Provision contents) items.					
11	Tender Publication date	Before 09/03/2022					
12	Tender Last Selling date	23/03/2022					
13	Tender Closing date & time	24/03/2022 time 12.00 hrs					
14	Tender Opening date & time	24/03/2022 time 12.30 hrs.					
15	Name & Address of the office	Office of the Chief Chemical Examiner, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
16	Place/date/time of Pre-tender Meeting.	Chief Chemical Examiner's Room., Office of the Chief Chemical Examiner, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka. 21/03/2022 11.00 am					
<b>INFORMATION</b>							
17	Eligibility Tenders	Up to date copies of valid Trade License, Bank Solvency Certificate with current balance in BDT, Income Tax Certificate (last fiscal year), VAT Registration Certificate, Minimum 03 years experience in similar natures of works etc.					
18	Brief Description of Chemicals	Mentioned in Tender document.					
19	Brief Description of related services	As per Tender document.					
20	Price of Tender Documents	A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested bidders on submission written application upon payment of non-refundable fee of taka 2000/- (Only Two Thousand) in cash for Chemical & Chemical Related items, on the other hands payment of non-refundable fee of taka 1000/- (Only One Thousand) in cash for Stationary items at Office of the Chief Chemical Examiner, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
21	Name of items	Location	Tender Security (Tk)	Completion time			
i) Chemicals ( LCMSMS, HPLC & AR Grade), Narcotics Analysis Ready kits, Chemical Related Gas & Gas Cylinder, Chemical Related Laboratory apparatus and Chemical Related Analysis Device		Chief Chemical Examiner's Office, Bangladesh Police, CID, Institute of Public Health (IPH) Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka.	Tk. = 2,00,000/=	21 days			
ii) Stationary Goods (Consumables, Monihari goods & Health Provision contents) items.		Chief Chemical Examiner's Office, Bangladesh Police, CID, Institute of Public Health (IPH) Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka.	Tk. 25,000/=	21 days			
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>							
22	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Dilip Kumar Saha					
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Chemical Examiner					
24	Address of official inviting tender	Chief Chemical Examiner's Office, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
25	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone-222298676, Fax-222292870					
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.						
27	An application should be submitted to our office during purchasing the schedule.						

07.03.2022  
(Dr. Dilip Kumar Saha)  
Chief Chemical Examiner  
Bangladesh Police, CID,  
Mahakhali, Dhaka.  
Phone-0222298676, Fax: 02222292870

GD- 459





## The slow, painful death of BAIN LOOM

“

**We have no project for weavers. The bain-loom industry is in danger of extinction in absence of patronisation for its immediate revival.**

**MD MAINUDDIN**  
Coordinating Officer  
of Bangladesh Small  
and Cottage Industries  
Corporation of  
Khagrachhari

SIFAYET ULLAH

The back-strap handloom, popularly known as “Bain” loom, is a centuries-old textiles craft of the indigenous people of Khagrachhari district. But faced with continuous aggression from the power-loom industry, weavers are being compelled to leave their ancestral profession.

In addition, the high price of raw materials, coupled with the low-cost of finished products, has made the situation worsen over the years.

According to Bangladesh Handloom Board, around 12,000 looms have shut down in the district in the past 30 years.

Even in the ‘90s, there were as many as 40,000 looms in the district, which has now come down to 28,000.

According to sources, many traditional weavers have been compelled to switch crafts after incurring huge losses over the years.

For example, there were more than 100 looms in Dhumnighat area of Sindukchhari, but that number has now come down to 50, said Dahan Bikash Tripura, a resident at the area. “Once upon a time, the knocking sound of the loom was heard day and night across Dhumnighat. But we’re past those days now.”

He said many of the traditional weavers

have now switched to jhum cultivation.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent saw weaver Maryam Tripura spinning yarn and running the loom to make traditional Thami.

“I have a passion for our traditional Bain-loom industry. Whenever I find time after finishing my studies, I start running the loom in my own bid to keep the industry

**According to Bangladesh Handloom Board, around 12,000 looms have shut down in the district in the past 30 years. Even in the ‘90s, there were as many as 40,000 looms in the district, which has now come down to 28,000.**

alive,” she said.

She said weavers don’t get much profit anymore due to increase in raw material prices.

“A loom-made winter blanket is sold at Tk 600 to 700. But to make the blanket, we have to buy wool for around Tk 450 to 500,” said Maryam Tripura.

Besides, lack of capital and problems related to marketing and distribution were

also behind handloom sector’s gradual downfall, said Pranab Kumar Das, liaison officer of Bangladesh Handloom Board of Khagrachhari.

The government trains a small number of weavers every year, which is much less than the demand. In 2022, only 30 weavers will be trained, sources said.

Shapla Tripura from Khagrachhari has been working in the weaving industry for 15 years. She received the Joyeeta Award for her work for the bain-loom industry.

She has a Bain Textile outlet in Khagrachhari city. “Before, we used to weave 30 to 50 pieces. Now, we get no more than five or six orders a month,” she lamented.

She said in order to sustain this industry, marginal entrepreneurs have to be given benefits.

Md Mainuddin, coordinating Officer of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation of Khagrachhari, told The Daily Star, “We have no project for weavers. The bain-loom industry is in danger of extinction in absence of patronisation for its immediate revival.”

According to the Handloom Census 2018, carried out by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, there were 116,006 handloom units in the country, which is a 36.79 percent fall from 2003, when there were 183,512.

## Household waste stinks up the city

**CCC’s door-to-door garbage collection programme in shambles**

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Among the many problems that consume a metro, the one that has become a headache for port city dwellers is poor waste management.

Residents across different areas of the city are being compelled to keep domestic waste in front of their homes or adjacent roads, as conservancy workers of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) are irregular in collecting them.

During a recent visit to KB Aman Ali Road, Ujir Ali Shah by-lane, Momin Road and DC Road areas, it was seen that household waste wrapped in poly bags were kept on the road and in front of residential buildings.

“Conservancy workers used to come every day but they started coming thrice a week since April 2020, right after the pandemic hit,” said Abul Kashem, a resident of Ujir Ali Shah by-lane.

“Since January this year, they have started to come twice a week,” he added.

Sources said CCC started collecting waste from door-to-door in January 2017. It distributed over 900,000 bins to the houses so that conservancy workers could collect the waste from them daily.

Over 2,000 conservancy workers were appointed on a daily wage basis under the scheme as well.

Himadri Biswas, a resident of KB Aman Ali Road, said, “The authorities have also removed the trash cans. Where do we keep the waste now?”

This correspondent, during recent visits, saw open trash cans in many areas.

Conservancy workers were seen keeping household and commercial waste in both open and container cans at Chawkbazar Kitchen Market, Katalganj, Chatteshwari Road and KB Aman Ali Road – causing discomfort for pedestrians.

Contacted, CCC chief conservancy officer Shafiqul

Mannan Siddique said there are supervisors in every ward to look into the works of the conservancy workers.

“I will ask the supervisors. Negligence in duty will not be tolerated,” said Shafiqul.

Almost 90 percent of the 1,350 open bins and 96 container bins have already been removed, informed the official. “We will remove the remaining open ones soon,” he added.

Asked, Hridoy, a conservancy worker in Baghmoniram, said the number of workers has not increased in five years. On the other hand, the population of the city has increased manifolds.

“It’s not possible for workers to cover this many buildings,” said Hridoy.

This correspondent could not reach the CCC mayor for comments despite repeated attempts.



## A makeshift market for USED LIFEBOATS

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Spotting used, red lifeboats parked on the canal banks beside Dhaka-Chattogram Highway at Sitakunda upazila, one might scratch their heads and ask why they’re kept there. But these boats are in fact of great value, being displayed for sale.

Acquired from local shipbreaking yards, these boats have now formed a makeshift boat market in Sitakunda, which meets the local and national demand. Depending on size and condition, the lifeboats are sold at Tk 25,000 to Tk 10 lakh each.

A lifeboat, or life-raft, is a small, rigid or inflatable boat carried for emergency evacuation in the event of a disaster aboard a ship.

Buyers across the country come to Sitakunda’s Madambibir Hat, Kumira, Bhatiari, Madanhat and other areas to buy the used lifeboats for their affordability and strength, which is much better than their wooden alternative. Government and private marine fisheries, fishers, resort owners and travel agencies are their main customers.

It’s noteworthy that most renowned shipbreaking yards are located in Sitakunda’s seashore, where various items like kitchen tools, electronic products, antique showpieces, different machinery and stationaries taken from scrapped ships are also sold.

At first, sellers collect the used lifeboats from scrap ships. The boats are then docked on the canal bed for display

Visiting Sitakunda, Bhatiari and Kumira recently, this correspondent saw hundreds of different sized lifeboats on both sides of the canal bank. Buyers were inspecting the boats floating on the water.

Used or new motor engines are installed on the boats after they’re sold. The sellers said sometimes they customise the boats as per demand.

The sellers informed that fishers are buying small sized lifeboats for their light-weight and affordable price, shifting from the use of “dingi” boats.

M/s Khaja Alam Enterprise’s proprietor



## A rendezvous of booklovers

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Be it a weekend or work day, readers from all age groups are rushing to the Amar Ekushey Book Fair, at the MA Aziz Stadium Gymnasium premises in the port city, since its inauguration on February 20.

Visiting the fair premises over the last few days, this correspondent saw large crowds gathering in front of different stalls – some were shifting through the pages, while others were looking for books of their choice.

Volunteers were seen standing at the entrance of the fair with hand sanitisers, urging visitors to wear a face mask.

Himel Dutta, a sixth grader, visited the fair with his father on a weekend. He kept asking his father to buy him some comics at a stall.

Himel’s father smilingly said, “I had to buy two comic books for him. I got myself an essay book and a novel too.”

Meanwhile, eleventh-grader Senjuti

Chowdhury visited the fair with her friends. They were all looking at books at Baatighar’s stall. Senjuti said she had come to buy Biswajit Chowdhury’s story book “Patharer Murtir Moto”.

Bablu Chowdhury, a sales official at Baatighar, said demand for novels and books on Bangabandhu was the highest at their stall, adding that daily sales overall was satisfactory.

Contacted, Nisar Uddin Ahmed Monju, convener of the book fair, said necessary steps have been taken for the overall security of the fair. Besides, instructions have been given to abide by the health rules. The fair grounds are under CCTV observation, he said.

The book fair will continue till March 10. A total of 95 publishers from Dhaka and Chattogram are participating at the fair. The fair is running from 3:00pm to 9:00pm every day and from 10:00am to 9:00pm on holidays.



## SA pick IPL players for BD ODIs

AFP, Johannesburg

Eight South African cricketers with Indian Premier League contracts will play in a one-day home series against Bangladesh before leaving for India.

Cricket South Africa on Tuesday named a 16-man squad for the three-match series, which is part of the World Cup Super League.

The series will be played between March 18 and 23.

The IPL starts on March 26 which means that the South African players may miss the start of the tournament because of quarantine requirements.

But it is not yet clear whether IPL-bound players will be available to play for South Africa in two World Championship Tests against Bangladesh which follow the one-day games and only finish on April 12.

Fast bowler Anrich Nortje, who has not played for South Africa since the T20 World Cup in November, remains unavailable as he continues rehabilitation following a hip injury and it appears his participation in the Tests and in the IPL is in doubt.

The only change from the squad which beat India 3-0 in January is the absence of fast bowler Sisanda Magala, who failed a fitness test.

The IPL players in the squad are Quinton de Kock, Marco Jansen, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada and Rassie van der Dussen.

Jansen, Markram, Ngidi, Rabada and van der Dussen would all probably feature in a full-strength Test squad.

Test captain Dean Elgar said last week he would be asking the players to put loyalty to their country ahead of the earning potential of the IPL.

**Squad:** Temba Bavuma (capt), Keshav Maharaj, Quinton de Kock (wkt), Zubayr Hamza, Marco Jansen, Janneman Malan, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle Verreynne (wkt).



Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal goes for an expansive stroke at the nets against pacer Taskin Ahmed during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Tamim will look to rectify mistakes he made in the series against Afghanistan as the Bangladesh team leave for South Africa on Monday for three ODIs and two Tests.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## ‘Need to put a full stop’

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team's team director Khaled Mahmud struck a conciliatory tone over Shakib Al Hasan's remarks regarding him not being ready to play international cricket while making it clear that the board needs to put a 'full stop' to such situations where a senior player can pick or choose what formats he is willing to play right before a series.

Mahmud dictated that players like Shakib have given the team and the country a lot. The board is considerate of issues that players face, especially during pandemic times with bio-bubble protocols making life difficult. However, he was clear regarding what the BCB needs to do and the problems that the management faces when someone like Shakib chooses to play in particular tournaments.

"It's true that players get exhausted. Those of us who have played, know this. During our playing days, there weren't so many matches. Even I get exhausted as team director now. There is bio-bubble all day and it's just hotel and grounds. It's difficult. If we think straight, then a player can say things like that but my thinking is that Shakib could have said it sooner," Mahmud said.

Shakib had not featured in the Tigers' Test tour of Sri Lanka in April-May last year due to his IPL involvement. He then missed one home Test against Pakistan through injury and then opted out of the away Test series against New Zealand. This time he was initially given permission

to miss the South Africa Tests and only feature in the ODIs, but following his IPL snub, BCB president Nazmul Hassan told him to play the upcoming Test series as well.

Shakib had agreed to that following the ODI series but last Saturday, before he left the country, Shakib reiterated not being mentally or physically ready to play international



matches. More confusion was added as Shakib said that it may well be that he misses the South Africa ODIs and play the Tests.

"At BCB, we want that our best available team always plays. We know we will miss Mustafizur [Rahman] in the Tests but we have accepted that he doesn't want to play Tests nowadays," Mahmud noted.

Mahmud, however, struck the same tone as BCB president had on Monday. The question of seniors not having clarity over which formats they want to play, is

hampering team management's processes regarding future stars.

"It's not a problem if Tamim or Shakib plays a series but problem is that we're playing someone instead of them but when Shakib returns, what happens to that player? We're not being able to create a team. If Shakib doesn't want to play Tests, then he shouldn't and I don't care. BCB is not concerned and can't force him. We want him to play as long as he is fit but if he says he isn't enjoying, then he should say that he doesn't want to play Tests, ODIs, T20s or that he doesn't want to play a particular format or even two formats. From BCB's side, there is the matter of establishing someone in Shakib's place."

With Shakib and others such as Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad nearing the twilight of their career, Mahmud was more eager for continuity of the team building process. The former national team captain made it clear that the last call on the Shakib issue rests with BCB.

"Board won't make requests; they will dictate since these are contracted players. Shakib has been given two days' time, so it's better not to say something. I am hoping he will go because it makes a difference for us at the moment. If Shakib wants to play he will go, if he doesn't, the board will take a decision. It's high time now and we need to put a full stop to it. It can't happen every time that someone doesn't want to play and he doesn't play," he concluded.

## Pindi run-feast ends in draw

REUTERS, Islamabad

Imam-ul-Haq smashed his second hundred in the run-feast in Rawalpindi but Australia's first Test in Pakistan in 24 years ended in a dull draw on Tuesday.



Opting to bat on run-filled surface, Pakistan had made 476-4 before declaring their first innings at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

By the time they bowled out Australia for 459 on the final day, the chances of any team winning the contest had

evaporated. Pakistan decided to bat on allowing Imam, to score his second hundred of the contest.

The bespectacled left-hander's unbeaten 111 included seven boundaries and two sixes. Imam went on to win the man-of-the-match award.

His opening partner Abdullah Shafique, who made 136 not out, also brought up his maiden Test century as Pakistan posted 252 for no loss in their second innings before the teams shook hands and left.

A total of 1,187 runs were scored over five days and only 14 wickets fell in what Australia's Steve Smith called a "pretty benign, dead wicket" which risks censure from the game's governing body.



## Chattogram Open starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

International professional golf returns to Bangladesh following a three-year gap when the Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open gets underway at the picturesque Bhatiary Golf & Country Club today.

The Bangladeshi players and officials are excited about being part of an international event with Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) points after a long gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sanctioned by Professional Golf Tour of India and Bangladesh Professional Golf Association, the Rs 50-lac event will offer Official World Golf Ranking points for the golfers.

Around 60 leading golfers of PGTI and top 65 Bangladeshi players including star golfer Siddikur Rahman will be taking part in this 72-hole strokeplay event. Some of the leading players from India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will be taking on the challenge of Bhatiary's tough hilly layout.

The top Indian players in the field are Chiragh Kumar, Shankar Das, Kshitij Naveed Kaul, Akshay Sharma, M Dharma, Kartik Sharma and Sunit Chowrasia.

## ‘Real ready to restore pride against PSG’

REUTERS, MADRID

Real Madrid were hurt by their worst performance of the season in their 1-0 loss to Paris St Germain in their Champions League last 16 first leg and will try to play smart in the return leg on Wednesday, coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

The LaLiga leaders were sunk by a stoppage time goal from Kylian Mbappe in their meeting last month but are no strangers to pulling out extraordinary performances in the Champions League, having won the competition a record 13 times.

"We are a very proud team and that performance hurt us pretty bad," Ancelotti told a news conference on Tuesday.

"We are a proud team, mainly in a competition like the Champions League. So we will play for pride. We saw the best version of PSG in Paris. I wish to see the best version of Real Madrid on Wednesday."

Ancelotti's side will be buoyed by their 4-1 win over LaLiga contenders Real Sociedad on Saturday, having initially been pegged back by an early goal.

"Our team is calm and motivated. The mental aspect is crucial in a moment like this. If we play with Saturday's intensity, we



have a good chance to qualify," the Italian said.

"We have to be smart and play smart. We need to go out there and win. We don't need to score many goals. We need to keep it together and the support of our fans will be major for us."

PSG forward Mbappe, who has been linked with a move to Real Madrid next summer as a free agent, is a doubt for the match after he was hurt in training on Monday. But Ancelotti said his potential absence would not affect Real's preparation.

"We will prepare for the game as if Mbappe would play. That's the only way we can do it," Ancelotti said.

"It would not surprise me if Mbappe gets a great reception by our fans. They always received great players with respect. But our fans want us to win. That's what they care about the most."

Meanwhile, in the other match of the night, English Premier League leaders Manchester City will entertain Sporting CP, after having thrashed the Portuguese outfit 5-0 in the away fixture when Bernardo Silva had bagged a brace while Riyad Mahrez, Raheem Sterling and Phil Foden scored one apiece.



Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane celebrates one of his two goals during a 5-0 thrashing of Everton in London on Monday. The two goals saw the England captain overtake Arsenal great Thierry Henry with his 176th goal, climbing to sixth in the Premier League scoring chart led by Alan Shearer (260).

PHOTO: REUTERS





## DIGITAL REGULATIONS ‘Free speech, privacy will be imperilled’ 45 groups urge BTRC to scrap draft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-five organisations wrote to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to drop the draft regulations for digital and social media, and OTT platforms, saying, it “imperils people’s freedom of expression and the right to privacy, undermines encryption and weakens online safety”.

The organisations include Article 19, Human Rights Watch, Committee to Protect Journalists, Internet Society, Open Knowledge Foundation, Wikimedia Foundation, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, Association for Progressive Communications, PEN America, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), The Tor Project and others.

The letter urged the BTRC to protect people’s rights and freedoms and enable an open, free and secure internet in Bangladesh.

“If enforced, the regulations will have a deleterious impact on human rights, and put journalists, dissidents, activists and vulnerable communities, in particular, at greater risk,” the organisations wrote.

“The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms’ seeks to implement a content governance framework devoid of adequate judicial oversight, clarity and predictability, and integration of human rights and due process,” the letter read.

It stated that the “traceability” requirement in the

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Disregarding safety, two schoolgirls and a man jaywalk amid an onrush of traffic on the capital’s Mirpur road around 12:00pm yesterday, even though a footbridge was just a few yards away. This shows how the frequency of road fatalities does not register with many.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## UKRAINE WAR

# Bangladesh’s position fairly balanced

Says ex-foreign secretary

UNB, Dhaka

Former Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque yesterday said Bangladesh’s position on the Russia-Ukraine issue was “neutral and fairly balanced” but it might require a review in the coming days.

“Neutrality may not always be the preferred path,” he said as he felt the necessity for revisiting the policy when required.

Bangladesh is still watching how the war evolves and has apparently taken an “interim” position. “In every aspect we’ll feel the impact whatever position we take.”

The former foreign secretary was addressing a seminar titled “Russia-Ukraine War: Whose Profits and Whose Losses?” organised by the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University.

Haque said the “global military complex” will be the most beneficiary of the Russia-Ukraine war while everyone will be affected more or less, including the loss of lives.

## PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS

# The poor plumb the depths of misery

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and  
SHAHEEN MOLLAH

No matter how hard Md Shaon, a day labourer, and his wife, a domestic help, work, their attempts fall short against the skyrocketing price to make ends meet for their family of five.

“Name any item – rice, oil, vegetable – they are getting costlier,” said a crestfallen Shaon.

While Shaon is struggling to keep his head above water, he came to know that a hike in house rent is coming into effect from June.

“We don’t know how we would survive in this situation,” he added.

Shaon’s concern is shared by a good number of people, especially the fixed income

group and those at the lower rung of the society.

The prices of oil, onion, potato, beef, mutton, chicken, flour, cardamom and sugar have increased within a week, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

The logical price chart of the Department of Agriculture Marketing shows that the average prices of 39 daily items have shot up almost 17 percent from last year.

However, there are instances where the government rate is not reflected at the retail level, leading to long queues in front of the open market sales trucks.

One such long line was found in front of a truck in the Motijheel’s AGB Colony area where over a hundred people were waiting to buy essentials.

Over at Kawran Bazar, Dhaka’s wholesale hub, Monir Hossain, a resident of Moghbazar’s Pearabag, was hoping to buy loose soybean oil at a low price but had to make do with palm oil at Tk 160 a kg.

“I know that the price of per kg palm oil is Tk 133 – I was told it was an old price,” he said.

The hike in soybean oil price has also had an impact on mustard oil as people are buying it as an alternative.

Within 10 days, the price of mustard oil (general quality) shot up from Tk 186 a litre to Tk 250. Last year, the price of mustard of the same quality was Tk 140.

Onion, which sold at Tk 40 per kg last week, now costs about Tk 70 though this is the harvesting season of the tuber.

## EDIBLE OIL

# Stock sufficient, price still high

Says DNCRP in a meeting with  
dealers, refiners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has sufficient stock of edible oil to meet the demand till Ramadan, but the market remains volatile, said the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP).

The consumers’ rights body DNCRP made the statement in a meeting with the edible oil refiners and dealers in the capital’s Karwan Bazar area yesterday.

DNCRP Director General AHM Shafiquzzaman said the country had around 6 lakh tonnes of edible oil stored which was enough to meet the demand till Ramadan.

Another 183,000 tonnes are on its way to Bangladesh while 175,000 tonnes are waiting to be processed at refineries, he added.

Referring to the stock, he said the oil was imported at a cost of \$1,400 per tonne and the government fixed the rate in line with the price.

“So, there is no scope of oil price hike till Ramadan,” he said.

“The current price of edible oil in the international market is \$1,900, but no one opened any LC (letter of credit) to buy it. So, why this crisis?” he asked.

He also said a blame game was ongoing as dealers were blaming the refiners for not supplying oil as per their supply order and refiners were blaming dealers for an exorbitant price.

Meanwhile, Dokan Malik Samiti President Helal Uddin urged the DNCRP to check the flow of supply in the market.

He doubted the DNCRP’s information on stock was correct.

“Each day we need around 10,000 tonnes of supply. DNCRP and business body representatives can monitor the refineries at the mill gate.”

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Large scrap-laden trucks, illegally parked on Chattogram’s Airport Road, cause immense sufferings to locals and foreign-bound passengers. The already-narrow road becomes almost unusable for these vehicles. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Int’l Women of Courage Award for Rizwana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Rizwana Hasan has been crowned with the International Women of Courage Award for her excellent contribution in leading the fight to conserve the environment and defend the dignity of marginalised people of Bangladesh.

Syeda Rizwana, an environmental lawyer, is among the 12 women to win the award.

United State’s Secretary of State Antony J Blinken will host the annual award in a virtual ceremony at the US Department of State.

The 2022 ceremony will honour a group of 12

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