



P5 Another one bites the dust

Juri river turns into a dumpyard



P6 Don't sabotage Iran deal

West warns Russia as talks reach final stage



P9 Many routes closed in Teesta

Boatmen in livelihood crisis



B1 Aluminium price skyrocketing

Goes up by Tk1.35 lakh per tonne in 8 days

Cruelly cut before they could bloom

Hit by train, 3 little schoolgirls killed in Cumilla



TASFIA



MIM



RIMA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Two schoolbags on the ground by rail tracks. The body of a schoolgirl in her uniform. Broken tiffin boxes, food strewn over the stones, and a textbook right next to them.

These were the scenes as panicked locals rushed to help after a train hit three schoolchildren on the tracks near Bijoypur market in Cumilla Sadar Dakshin upazila around 11:40am yesterday.

The three little ones -- class-5 students of Bijoypur Primary School -- were killed on the spot. One of them was dragged nearly 300 metres by the Chattogram-bound train.

The accident happened around 150 metres off a level crossing along the Dhaka-Chattogram double-line tracks in Bijoypur.

Deceased Mim Akhtar, Rima Akhtar, and Tasfia Akhtar Ayesa -- aged around 12 -- lived in Durgapur Manikka Pukurpar area near the Bijoypur market.

They had left home only a few minutes before the incident. Like every other day, they were on their way to school, which is a 10-minute walk from their homes, through a narrow alley by the market.

Shopkeeper Hazi Selim, a witness, said after the girls saw an oncoming train on one of the tracks, they moved to the other, oblivious to another train approaching fast on it. "It seemed they were puzzled and became frozen in place after noticing the train at the very last moment," he told The Daily Star.

The Chattogram-bound train, Mohanagar Provati, hit and dragged Tasfia, who was standing between the two others when the train hit them. Mim and Rima were thrown clear of the tracks upon impact, said witnesses.

After the incident, angry locals set fire to the tracks in protest. They also blocked the Cumilla-Noakhali highway, demanding an overpass in the level crossing area.

They left around half an hour later after officials from the district administration and police talked to them.

Deputy Commissioner Kamrul Hasan handed Tk 25,000 to the families of each of the victims. A committee was also formed to investigate the matter.

Asked, Jahangir Hossain, general manager (east) of Bangladesh Railway, said, "It's a very tragic incident. Perhaps they [the girls] did not realise the looming danger."

He also said the accident spot was quite far away from the level crossing gates.

After the bodies were taken to Manikka Pukurpar area, a pall of gloom descended on it. The air became heavy with cries and wails.

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Abdur Razzak Hawlader holds a picture of his son Hadisur Rahman while his younger son, Golam Mowla, and wife Rashida Begum weep inconsolably at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. Hadisur was killed in an attack on a Bangladeshi ship in Ukraine on March 2. The family had gone to the airport hoping that Hadisur's body would be on the plane that brought the 28 surviving sailors home.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

On train to Lviv

Nine Bangladeshis evacuated from Ukraine war zone thru' joint efforts of India, Red Cross

GOLAM MORTOZA

Now that he was alive and heading towards Lviv, the Ukrainian city near the border with Poland, it was some sort of a miracle for Rubaiyat Habib.

"When we were moving out of Sumy of Ukraine, Russian tanks and convoys were entering the town. It is not possible to explain how terrifying the situation was. As we have survived, it is no less than a miracle," said Rubaiyat.

He is one of nine Bangladeshis rescued through joint efforts of the Indian Embassy and the Red Cross in Ukraine where the ongoing war has unleashed horror, forcing civilians to flee or hide in the bunkers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday thanked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for helping rescue the nine Bangladeshis. Citizens of Nepal and Tunisia were also



Three of the Bangladeshis on the train heading for the western Ukrainian city.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

evacuated under Indian rescue operation, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Talking to this newspaper from the train to Lviv, Rubaiyat described the horrifying days after the Russian invasion began on February 24. Nearly 1,000 Bangladeshis have crossed over to the neighbouring countries,

some are still stranded.

Rubaiyat, an IT consultant living in Ukraine for the last 12 years, said he along with his wife and two children came out of the north-eastern town of Sumy around 9:00am on Tuesday (local time).

They joined five other

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Ousting Ukraine govt not the aim

Says Moscow after Russia, Ukraine agree more humanitarian corridors

AGENCIES

Moscow yesterday said it does not intend to occupy Ukraine or overthrow its government as Russia and Ukraine agreed to open more humanitarian corridors to evacuate terrified civilians from bombarded cities.

As fighting raged on the 14th day of the invasion, safe routes were opening out of five Ukrainian areas including suburbs of the capital Kyiv that have been devastated by Russian shelling and air strikes.

Russian troops were seen by AFP pushing closer to the capital Kyiv, while Moscow yesterday accused the United States of waging "economic war" through a barrage of sanctions.

With Ukrainian cities still being pummelled, President Volodymyr Zelensky urged Western powers to decide on a Polish offer to supply his country with fighter jets, after Washington rejected an initial plan.

He renewed the call after he accused Russia of carrying out an air strike that severely damaged a children's hospital in the southern port city of Mariupol.

Children were among people "under the wreckage," he said, without giving details of casualties.

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BCB gives in to Shakib's plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Shakib Al Hasan issue seems to have come to an end, at least for the time being, as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday granted him a break from cricket till April 30.

Despite the star cricketer initially agreeing to tour South Africa, ahead of departure for Dubai on Sunday Shakib said that he was not in a mental state to play cricket and asked for a rest during the upcoming South Africa tour.

Following a meeting with BCB president Nazmul Hassan, BCB CEO and other top officials at Hassan's Beximco office in Dhanmondi, the chairman of the BCB's cricket operations committee, Jalal Yunus, said that it won't be right to force Shakib since he is not enjoying the game at the moment.

"As you know before leaving for Dubai he said that he is mentally and physically fatigued and stressed. He called me and said that he is not enjoying any form of cricket. So I thought that since he has just finished the Afghanistan series and it can happen, I told him to take two days' time

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Rima Begum squeezing oil out of a foam attached to the end of a stick. Every day she uses the foam to soak up 3-4 litres of oil from the bottom of drums to collect in her bucket, and sells it for Tk 100 per litre. The photo was taken from Kalibari Ghat area of Khulna town on Tuesday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Refugee influx sparks rare EU unity

AFP, Brussels

The flood of refugees escaping war in Ukraine for the European Union has sparked a rare show of unity from the bloc's 27 nations after years of disputes over the sensitive issue of migration.

In the space of just a week the EU rushed through a unanimous decision to trigger its protection mechanism granting those fleeing Ukraine the right to stay and work in the bloc for an initial two years.

It was the first time the EU had activated the measure, drawn up in 2001 after the conflicts in former Yugoslavia.

"It's a unique and historic moment and I think we should take pride in this moment," EU home affairs commissioner Ylva Johansson told the European Parliament Tuesday.

"The decision was a unanimous decision, all member states agreed."

The EU's response to the unprecedented influx of over two million refugees in 12 days is a major shift from how it has handled previous crises.

When the same number of refugees arrived throughout the whole of 2015 and 2016 fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan the bloc was deeply split over how to share the burden.

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MATARBARI PLANT

Japanese firm Sumitomo won't bid for phase-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan's Sumitomo Corporation, a member of the consortium building the Matarbari coal-fired power plant under phase-1, has announced it will not participate in the second phase's bidding process because of its revised policy on decarbonisation.

Sumitomo, which is currently working in 65 countries across the world, announced the decision on its website on February 28. The development came amid the global campaign for reducing carbon emissions.

Talking on the matter, Hasan Mehedi, general secretary of Bangladesh Working Group on External Debt, said the revised policy made it clear the corporation would not join the EPC (Engineering, Procurements and Construction) bidding for the phase two of the project in Cox's Bazar's Moheshkhali.

"It's a huge decision by Sumitomo Corporation. We have long been requesting it to leave coal and switch to renewable energy," he told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that Japan must provide Bangladesh with technological support and funds to help it use renewable energies.

Contacted, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for energy, said there was possibilities that the government itself might not continue the second phase of the coal project. If it does, it will be a liquefied natural gas-based power plant, he said.

"Sumitomo's decision won't have any impact on us," he said.

Scheduled to go into operation next year, the plant is expected to produce 1,200 megawatt of power every day under phase-1.

Currently, preparatory survey for the second phase is going on, according to the information available on the website of the Coal Power Generation Company Limited.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, at the Dubai Exhibition Centre Leadership Building on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PID

Bangladesh, UAE to deepen relations

PM meets VP of the emirates, they laud each other on Covid response; 4 MoUs signed

UNB, Dubai

Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries for mutual benefits.

They reached the consensus at a bilateral meeting held between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and UAE Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum here on Tuesday.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said Sheikh Mohammed, also the ruler of Dubai, stressed the need for increasing the frequency of Emirates flights between the two countries.

Hasina in reply said her government was constructing the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. "We're trying to enhance our capacity to this end."

She said the UAE has plenty of scope to trade with and invest in Bangladesh.

The premier lauded the UAE government for successfully tackling the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sheikh Mohammed appreciated the Bangladesh government. "You've done well [in Covid-19 management]," he was quoted as saying.

The UAE vice president thanked Hasina for visiting his country during the celebration of the International Women's Day.

Hasina said the UAE has plenty of scope to trade with and invest in Bangladesh.

The two leaders led their respective teams to the meeting at the Dubai Exhibition Centre.

Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Saima Wazed, Foreign Minister Momen, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad, PM's Private Industry and Investment Affairs Adviser Salman F Rahman and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs

Fazilatun Nessa Indira, among others, were present at the meeting.

FOUR MOUS SIGNED

Following the meeting, Bangladesh and the UAE signed four MoUs, aiming to boost bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The signed instruments were exchanged between the two sides in presence of the two leaders.

The instruments are: MoU on Cooperation in Higher Education and Scientific Research between Bangladesh and UAE, MoU on Cooperation between Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), MoU on cooperation between the foreign services academies of the two countries, and MoU on cooperation between the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Dubai International Chamber.

Hasina arrived at the Gulf country on Monday on a five-day official visit at the invitation of UAE Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed.

Cruelly cut

FROM PAGE 1

"How can you leave me so soon, maa?" Tasfia's mother Rozina Akhtar kept wailing. Tasfia, who was second among three siblings, lived in her grandparent's home. Her father Bhulu Mir works in Oman.

Mim's mother Rupa Akhtar was numb with grief. Mim was Rupa's eldest. Mim's father is ill and cannot work.

The victims' namaz-e-janaza was held at Bijoypur Bazar later in the day. Mim and Rima were buried at their village homes while Tasfia was laid to rest in the graveyard of their ancestral home.

Accidents on the rail tracks are quite common in

BCB gives

FROM PAGE 1

to think. After two days, I called him to know his plan and Shakib said 'I am still physically and mentally unfit,' and for that reason, he is not willing to tour South Africa," Jalal told the media yesterday.

"Then we had a meeting with the BCB president, CEO and some board directors were also present there. Taking Shakib's interest into consideration and considering that he is terming himself physically and mentally unfit, we have decided to give him the rest. So we granted him a complete break from all forms of cricket till April 30," Jalal added.

The BCB director also said that they would sit with Shakib over his future plan upon his return on Thursday from Dubai, where the cricketer is busy

the country mainly due to unprotected level crossings, poor conditions of the tracks and a lack of safety awareness among people.

According to a report of Accident Research Institute of Buet, at least 105 people were killed in 99 rail-related accidents last year.

The actual number could be higher as many incidents go unreported.

Of the 105, 82 were pedestrians, said the report, which was prepared based on media reports. Twenty-two people were killed at level crossings, it said.

People's lack of awareness while crossing rail tracks is one of the main reasons behind the fatalities, according to ARI.

fulfilling his commercial commitments.

When asked whether the BCB was embarrassed over the Shakib saga, Jalal said, "He could have asked us but he didn't do that. I think you should ask him that question. He could have discussed it with us as he had said the same thing to the BCB president. Since Shakib is pressing the mental issue, we decided to give him the rest. This never sets a good example and we admit this since we have another 14 cricketers in the team. Everyone follows the seniors, so we also hope the seniors bring that positive vibe."

The Bangladesh team is scheduled to leave for South Africa on March 11 to take part in a three-match ODI and a two-match Test series.

'Why didn't you come back too?'

FROM PAGE 1

in Ukraine as the Russian invasion started a day after it anchored at Olvia port on February 23.

A "missile" attack claimed the life of one of the crew, third engineer Hadisur Rahman.

Yesterday, all the crew members arrived in Bangladesh by a flight of Turkish Airlines from Romania around noon. Hadisur's body is still in Ukraine, and efforts are underway to bring the body home, officials said.

Mowla told journalists that the airport authority actually didn't say whether Hadisur's body would arrive. "My parents are asking me but I don't have any answer."

He said, "We knew that 28 sailors would return. It was our hunch that my brother's body may also arrive. We want to see the body of my brother."

Hadisur's mother Rashida Begum too went to the airport with her

husband and younger son.

"My son will never ask me to give him something good to eat. My son will no longer ask me for anything," she said.

All the 28 sailors walked out of the airport around 2:00pm as their family members and officials of the shipping corporation and foreign ministry were waiting to receive them.

Among the sailors, GM Noor e Alam, captain of the ship, spoke to the media.

He started by thanking the Bangladesh government and all officials who worked to bring them safely back to Bangladesh war-torn Ukraine.

"We are glad that we returned home safely. With the clear direction of the prime minister and help of all officials concerned, we were able to return to the country safely and at the earliest."

He said all the sailors were extremely worried after the attack but the government had taken

sufficient initiatives to bring them back safely. "We are very tired."

"Usually, we don't talk with senior government officials, but after that attack, government officials talked to us and gave us courage."

Narrating the journey, he said, "It is beyond imagination. Actually, we could not imagine that we would return in such a way. There are citizens of many big countries who are yet to return home. But it happened due to the prime minister's sincere efforts and cooperation from the diplomats."

Expressing sorrow for Hadisur, he said, "We are deeply saddened. We would request the government and the corporation [Bangladesh Shipping Corporation] to give proper compensation to his family."

Asked whether there was any chance to bring back the ship damaged in the war, he said, "After the

war broke out, 19 channels of the port were closed and there was no chance of using any other channel."

Sikder Badiruzzaman, director general of the East Europe wing of the foreign ministry, told journalists that, "It is a great pleasure to us that we could bring all the 28 sailors to Bangladesh. Now they are safe and will go to their families."

He said they are hopeful of bringing Hadisur's body back at the earliest, but he could not give any timeline. "It is tough to fix any date. You can understand. A war is going on and people's movement has stopped."

Regarding the compensation, he said, "We will do whatever is required."

All crew members, rescued from the ship on March 3, took shelter in a bunker in the war-ravaged European country.

After two days, they reached Romania via Moldova.

Venezuela state oil company PDVSA and have been held in Venezuela since 2017, accused of corruption.

The United States has repeatedly called for their release.

Fernandez, a Cuban-American, was arrested in 2021 in Tachira state, bordering Colombia, after being accused of terrorism.

The NGO Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy tweeted that Fernandez "was unjustly detained... and accused of being a terrorist, simply for carrying a drone."

Covid positivity rate drops to 2-month low

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday reported 1.97 percent Covid-19 positivity rate against 16,370 tests, the lowest after December 23 last year when the positivity rate hit 1.95 percent against 19,624 tests.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) logged 323 new infections and one death from Covid in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

With the latest death, the total number of Covid fatalities in the country now stands at 29,097 and the mortality rate is 1.49 percent. The total number of cases rose to 19,48,471, said a DGHS release.

The deceased was a man, aged between 51 and 60.

Two held over rape of speech impaired girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Police arrested two people in Bogura's Shibganj upazila early yesterday over raping a 16-year-old speech impaired girl.

Law enforcers picked up Zahidul Islam, 33, and Abir Hossain, 18, both from Kalai municipality area of Joypurhat, after the girl's mother filed a case with Kalai Police Station in Joypurhat on Tuesday night.

Later yesterday, a Joypurhat court sent the arrestees to jail.

According to the case statement, Zahidul and Abir intercepted the girl in Shimultoli village of Kalai upazila on March 6 afternoon when she was returning home from her relative's house. The two took her to a nearby place and raped her.

Woman's body recovered from wheat field

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police yesterday recovered the body of a female stone crushing plant worker from a wheat field in Panchagarh's Golabari village.

Locals suspected that Karima Begum, 35, a resident of Amarkhana village in Panchagarh, might have been killed after being raped.

Jahangir Alam, a relative of the deceased, said Karima went out on Tuesday morning to go to work at a stone crushing plant in Banglabandha Land Port area, but she didn't return home.

Yesterday morning, locals found her body in a wheat field, with a shopping bag filled with daily essentials and her lunchbox lying beside.

'Pro-AL men' vandalise, lock Patuakhali BNP office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Swetchhasebak League men vandalised the Patuakhali district BNP office in the town's College Road area and locked it yesterday morning, alleged the opposition party.

District Swetchhasebak Dal President Mashiur Rahman Milon said they staged a demonstration in Patuakhali court area around 9:30am protesting the soaring prices of essentials.

Leaders and activists of Swetchhasebak League attacked the BNP office around 11:30am. They damaged chairs, tables, banners and festoons in the office and locked it, Mashiur alleged.

However, district Swetchhasebak League General Secretary Rifat Hasan Sajib denied the allegation, saying that it was the result of the BNP's internal feud.

On train to Lviv

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladeshis and around 700 Indian students on a journey to Poltava, a city located on the Vorskla river in central Ukraine.

"There were fears of bullets, bombs and deaths. The buses were overcrowded. My wife, my children and I had to keep standing almost all the way," he said.

"But this suffering was nothing compared to the joy of being alive."

It took them 12 hours to reach Poltava though it's normally no more than three hours' journey. The green channel arranged for civilians was zigzag and the vehicles moved slowly.

Their buses had the symbols of the Red Cross, so they faced no troubles on the way, he added.

Talking to The Daily Star over WhatsApp around 3:00pm yesterday (Bangladesh time), he said now they felt safe as they headed to Lviv.

After crossing the Ukraine-Poland border, it will take some six hours to reach Warsaw, the capital of Poland, which is sheltering hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and other foreigners who fled the war.

Asked about his days in Sumy, he said they had to hole up in the bunkers whenever they heard sirens. Every day, they had to remain in bunker for four to six hours.

With the power stations hit by Russian bombing, there were no water supplies and electricity. The temperature was minus 5 degrees Celsius.

"I cannot say how painful it was to live in the shivering cold without any hitting system," he said.

He said Russian troops bombed an area only some 150m away from his residence. Some 22 people including two children were killed in the bombing. "We could also be among the 22 people if we were not rescued."

Rubaiyat said he had no words to express his gratitude to Bangladesh Ambassador to Poland Sultana Laila Hussain.

"Our ambassador maintained contact with us day and night. She was reachable whenever we called her. She supported us, gave us mental support. We are extremely grateful to her," he said.

"We are indebted to Ambassador Sultana."

Contacted, Ambassador Sultana said the embassy was working to rescue all Bangladeshis, not only the nine.

"We had been in touch with the Red Cross and Indians. We had requested the Indian officials to evacuate them with the Indians. We thank the Indian officials and Red Cross," she said.

Sultana said some more Bangladeshis were still stranded in Ukraine and they were trying to evacuate them.

Chinese-linked hackers target six US states: report

AFP, San Francisco

At least six US states have been targeted by hackers linked to China who exploited vulnerabilities in web programs, cybersecurity company Mandiant said in a report.

Pre-primary in-person classes from March 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In-person classes at pre-primary schools will resume on March 15 after a two-year closure due to Covid-19 pandemic. Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, public relations officer of the primary and mass education ministry, said the decision was taken at a meeting yesterday.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md Zakir Hossain chaired the meeting.

For the first time, the students who had enrolled at pre-primary schools in 2021 and 2022, will get a chance of having in-person class experience.

Educational institutions were shut down on March 17, 2020. Those were reopened partially on September 12 last year.

Following a sharp rise in the Covid transmission rate, the government again shut all schools and colleges from January 21 for two weeks. The closure of primary schools was later extended till March 1.

In-person classes at all primary schools and kindergartens resumed on March 2. Classes are being held in two shifts. The first- and second-graders are attending classes in the first shift and the rest in the second. Besides, classes resumed partially at secondary schools, colleges and universities on February 22.

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

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



Garbage being burnt on open roads is quite a common scene in the capital. This occurs as collectors try to reduce the amount of waste they need to load on the truck, before it's sent to the dumping ground. As discarded wastes are typically unsorted, fumes from plastic and organic wastes exacerbate the city's air pollution. This photo was taken recently in Dhaka University area near TSC.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Address gender needs to become disaster resilient

Speakers tell roundtable



Speakers at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To build gender-sensitive, resilient strategies for disaster-risk reduction, gender needs of women and men need to be addressed using an inter-sectional lens, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said the ability to reduce risk for any kind of disaster in Bangladesh is improving day by day, but now, it is time to develop vulnerable areas inclusively.

The discussion titled "Intersectionality in Redressing Gender & DRR: #BreakingTheBias" was held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre, in observance of International Women's Day.

The programme was jointly organised by Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) South Asia, Gender and Disaster Network, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies at Dhaka University, and The Daily Star.

Mahbuba Nasreen, regional lead of GRRIPP South Asia and pro-vice chancellor (academic) of Bangladesh Open University, said South Asian countries are highly susceptible to natural and human-induced disasters due to their location and land characteristics.

Dr Saleemul Huq, director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development, said the country needs better preparation to fight climate change, and it has to take strategies from locals.

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Unite to EMPOWER

Speakers tell discussion marking Int'l Women's Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While women's emergence as social and economic actors in the past 50 years is a big achievement in Bangladesh, further alignment of the women's rights movement with other national and global civil rights movements is important to ensure their empowerment, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said breaking the glass ceiling, by tackling issues like harassment and toxic masculinity, needs to be done by creating a supportive environment, with participation of both men and women. Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the event on "Break the Bias for a Gender Equal World" at a city hotel on the occasion of International Women's Day.

In her speech, CPD Distinguished Fellow Prof Rounaq Jahan said when she used to write about women's issues during the late 1960s and early 1970s, collective action for women would be emphasised. But now, that notion, that sort of thinking has eroded, she said.

Saying that "every issue is also a women's issue", Prof Rounaq said, women may have a different perspective and priorities, but they are not always thinking about "just us women".

She added that it is essential for Bangladeshi women's rights movements to align with like-minded people and women's rights movements.

Brac chairperson Hossain Zillur Rahman said the emergence of women as social and economic actors is "one of the fundamental features" of the last 50 years in the country.

As a citizen, a woman has fundamental rights to access all sorts of services. However, these are not sufficiently emphasised in discussions, he said.

There is a huge gap in terms of ensuring institutional security for those who want to be courageous, and gender equality will only be achieved if there is equity in the society as a whole, Zillur continued.

Firdausi Qadri, emeritus scientist at icddr,b, said the multi-tasking role that women in Bangladesh

KEY POINTS

- Women's rights movement need to align with national, global civil rights movements
- Both men, women need to participate to break glass ceiling
- Women's fundamental rights to access services not sufficiently emphasised in discussions
- Huge gap in ensuring institutional security
- Efforts from both government, private enterprises important for women to excel
- It is essential to celebrate work of and for women

have to play is not an easy thing to do.

"The thing is, you have to force yourself to go that extra mile every day," she said, stressing the need for efforts from both government and private enterprises for women to excel.

Swedish Ambassador in Bangladesh Alexandra Berg von Linde said celebrating International Women's Day is important, as it is essential to celebrate the work of and for women, as well as acknowledge that "we still have a long way to go".

Taslima Akter, president of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Sanghati, said at present, the number of female garment workers in Bangladesh has dropped to 40 lakh from 44 lakh.

She suggested creating sufficient childcare and breastfeeding corners in factories.

Moderated by CPD executive director Fahmida Khatun, the event was also addressed by Syed Nasim Manzur, director of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Barrister Rashna Imam, managing partner of Akhtar Imam and Associates; Paula Schindeler, deputy head of mission, Embassy of the Netherlands in Bangladesh; and Rizvana Hredita, co-founder of Hydroquo Bangladesh Ltd.

Will prepare roadmap after discussion

Says EC Md Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday said authorities would prepare a roadmap of their activities after completing an upcoming dialogue.

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

The dialogue will start on March 13 by sitting with educationists. EC officials said that they are also planning to hold discussions with civil society members on March 22, and with journalists on March 30.

During talks with educationists, civil society members, election experts, media personalities and others, EC would seek their advice on how the polls, including the 12th national election, can be held in a free and fair manner.

"We have not prepared a roadmap of our work so far. We will finalise it after completing the discussions," said Alamgir while talking to reporters at his EC office.

"We will ask them what will be our role in conducting elections in free and fair manner... They have some role in the election process. We hope they would play that role," he said.

EC is holding the dialogue when 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 CEC and other election commissioners.

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

The last EC also held discussions with all stakeholders, including political parties, ahead of the 11th national election held in December 2018, after chalking out their work plans.



AL leaders 'getting share' from market manipulators

Alleges Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government will not be able to rein in the skyrocketing prices of daily essentials as the ruling party leaders are involved with the business syndicates that manipulate the market.

"The price of per kg rice is now Tk 70 while that of per litre soybean oil is Tk 200... We can't afford the food we used to normally buy," he said.

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It's been two weeks since DPDC authorities dug up a huge section of the busy Love Road for installing high voltage cables. As the work progresses in the authorities' own time, the greatest sufferers are commuters, since traffic congestion has significantly increased and pedestrian movement has become extremely dangerous. This photo was taken yesterday in Tejgaon Industrial Area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF DU STUDENT

Initial probe finds proof against teacher

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

A female student of Dhaka University (DU) has brought an allegation of sexual harassment against a teacher. Primarily, a probe committee has found proof of the allegation, informed DU sources.

On December 13, the student submitted a complaint letter to Vice Chancellor Prof M Akhtaruzzaman demanding justice after proper investigation.

The VC has directed the faculty dean to investigate the allegation, who formed the probe committee in this regard.

Seeking anonymity, a member of the

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PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 10



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-05	12-45	4-30	6-12	7-30
Jamaat	5-40	1-15	4-45	6-15	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Steps taken for quick disposal of death references

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique has taken an initiative to quickly dispose of the death references. Around 800 such cases are pending with the High Court.

He constituted 11 separate (two judges) HC benches for hearing and disposing of the death references and their relevant appeals.

The benches will hold the hearing from March 20 to 31, according to a notification issued by the CJ yesterday.

If a lower court sentences any person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence.

The case documents and judgment reach the HC as death reference from the lower court after the latter delivers the verdict as per relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

HC sources said 811 death references were pending with the court till December 10, 2020.

Fresh Tissue launches breast cancer screening



CITY DESK

Fresh Tissue, a brand of Meghna Group of Industries (MGI), has initiated a nationwide breast cancer awareness campaign titled “Fresh Bangladesh”, said a press release.

Considering International Women’s Day 2022, Fresh Tissue will conduct a free breast screening activity along with a doctor and a sonologist in different districts from a mobile clinic.

The launching ceremony was held on March 6 at a hotel in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Shampa Reza, a media personality and social activist, was present as the adviser of the campaign.

Dr Sharmin Akter Sumi, a breast cancer survivor and a specialist doctor, attended as a special guest. Md Yeasin Mollah, senior DGM (sales), Meghna Pulp & Paper Mills Limited; Shafiur Rahman, adviser (MGI); and Kazi Md Mohiuddin, senior general manager (brand), MGI, were also present.



With precision, 60-year-old Khulna resident Jahanara Begum dusts off excess flour from the “papad” she bought from a local wholesale market. She purchases each kilo of the raw black gram bean dough for Tk 90. For the last 10 years, Jahanara has been earning a living by selling fried papads for Tk 3 a piece at different local fairs. This photo was taken recently from Khalishpur area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

AL leaders

FROM PAGE 3

Speaking at a rally, he said most people now cannot give their children the necessary amount of nutritious food items like

meat, fish eggs as in the past due to an unusual price hike of all commodities.

“They (govt) won’t be able to lower the prices of essentials as they’re

benefited from it. Their leaders have created syndicates and get a share from them,” he said.

J a t i y a t a b a d i
Swachhasebak Dal

arranged the rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club protesting the soaring prices of daily essentials and the utility services.

Initial probe finds

FROM PAGE 3

committee told this respondent that they have talked to both the victim and accused.

“In our primary investigation, the incident of harassment has been confirmed. We have recommended the university authorities to take action against the teacher.”

The probe report was submitted to the VC on January 9, as per DU sources.

Meanwhile, the department has suspended the accused faculty member for a year-worth of courses over moral degradation.

However, according to university rules, any individual accused of such charges have to be released of all academic duties until the investigation is completed.

The victim’s family has expressed deep concern over the matter and demanded proper punishment.

However, the accused teacher -- Muhammad Sazzad Hossain Siddiqui --

has denied the allegation.

“This is a conspiracy. Besides, the probe committee has not informed me of finding proof in favour of the allegations as well,” he told this correspondent yesterday.

Mentionable, on February 23, the university syndicate reformed its anti-sexual harassment cell. The cell is looking into the allegation as per the VC’s direction.

Prof Zeenat Huda of Sociology and provost of Ruqayyah Hall is heading the cell. A meeting has been called in this regard on March 13.

Prof Zeenat Huda could not be contacted for comments.

Meanwhile, some students have urged the university authorities to take proper action against the teacher.

On March 3, they submitted a letter to the VC in this regard.

Contacted, VC Akhtaruzzaman said, “We have directed the anti-sexual harassment cell to look into the issue.”

Address gender

FROM PAGE 3

Mihir Bhatt, founder and director of All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, said disaster risks at coastal areas of India and Bangladesh partially depend on the people’s socio-economic condition.

AHM Noman Khan, founder and executive director of Centre for Disability in Development, said people with disabilities need to be supported in this regard, as they are vulnerable during all kinds of disasters.

Nazia Maisha, joint secretary of Physically-challenged Development Foundation at DU, said there should be a system to bring all persons with disabilities to shelters.

Prof Maureen Fordham of Gender and Disaster Resilience Centre; Ramona Miranda of Women Major Group; Farida Pervin, director general of Department of Women Affairs; and Prof Ishrat Sharmin joined the discussion among others.

First lamp post set up on main part of Padma Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The work of installing lamp posts has started from pillar number 40 near Jajira end of Shariatpur of Padma Bridge. This is the first time that a lamp post is being installed on the main part of the bridge. The lamp post installation began around 2:00pm yesterday.

Three lamp posts so far were installed till 4:30pm. Nine more lamp posts will be installed as per the target, said Saddam Hossain, assistant engineer (electrical) of Padma Bridge.

On November 25, last year, installation of the first lamp post started on the viaduct of Padma Bridge on the Mawa side of Munshiganj.

A total of 415 lamp posts will be installed on the entire bridge. Of these, 328 are on the main bridge and 87 on the viaducts at both sides.

The lamp posts in the Padma Bridge project have come from China, Saddam Hossain said, adding that testing has been completed on them.

The work to set up lights on the lamp posts is also in progress, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Pandemic has

FROM PAGE 5

Chakraborty from Abosar Prakashani are among some of the many books influenced by the pandemic in this year’s fair.

Besides, books by economists and doctors on public health, socio-economic and political implications of the pandemic can be seen in the fair as well. The most prominent one in this category is “Coronakaler Arthoniti” by Bangladesh Bank’s former governor Dr Atiur Rahman from Bhorer

Kagoj.

The general readers’ interest in the topic is noticeable as well. Morshedul Hasan, who came to the fair from Gopibagh, said, “I have survived Covid-19 on a couple of occasions. I know that the journey is not easy, and that’s what interests me in such books.”

Meanwhile, the cover of “Wireless to Cashless” -- written by Rezaul Hossain, CEO of Upay, UCB’s mobile finance service -- has been unveiled at the fair.

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VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

- Surveillance & Immunization Medical Officer- COVID -19 and immunization program / SSA**

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute

Riverine Station, Chandpur-3602
Phone: 0841-63407, 63183 Fax: 0841-63016
E-mail: harun.ssobfri@gmail.com

Memo No. 33.04.0000.122.18.061.00/482

Date: 07.03.2022

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender/Proposal ID No.	Name of works & package description	Last selling date & time	Opening date & time
668298	Repair & Renovation work of E-type building (E-01) at Riverine Station, Chandpur, under BFRl	20-Mar-2022 17:00	21-Mar-2022 11:30

This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid
Principal Scientific Officer
Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
Riverine Station, Chandpur-3602

GD-480

Same trend

FROM PAGE 5

worries how he can survive the two-month ban.

“Every year government aid comes in late and on top of that, we’re left to survive on just 40 kg of rice for two months,” Mintu Mistry said.

Not only in Bhola, but also in Barishal’s Babuganj upazila, Patuakhali’s Kalapara and Kuakata -- families are yet to receive any assistance, confirmed local fishermen.

According to the Barishal Divisional Fisheries Office, the ban was introduced in 2005. At present, apart from three districts of Barishal division, the ban will be implemented in Chandpur, Shariatpur and Laxmipur rivers.

Contacted, Anisur Rahman Talukder, the divisional director of the fisheries department (Barishal), said, “At present, rice aid is being provided to more than 1,64,000 families in Barishal division. For violation of the ban, 211 people have been jailed.”

“A campaign has already been launched to enforce the ban this time. Hopefully the ban will succeed,” he added.

Israel Pandit, president of the Barishal District Khudra Matsyajibi Samiti, said, 40kg of rice for each family is insufficient and it needs to be increased to 150kg.

RAK CERAMICS

RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited

RAK Tower (7th, 8th & 9th Floor), Plot # 1/A, Jasimuddin Avenue, Sector # 3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

NOTICE OF THE 23RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 23rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 11:00 am (Bangladesh Time). Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Order No. SEC/SRMIC/94-231/91 dated 31 March 2021, the AGM will be held virtually by using digital platform through the following link <https://tinyurl.com/rakagm2022> to transact the following businesses:

AGENDA

- To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2021, together with the reports of the Auditor and the Directors.
- To declare dividend for the year ended 31 December 2021.
- To elect/re-elect Director(s) of the Company.
- To re-appoint the Managing Director of the Company.
- To appoint Independent Director of the Company.
- To appoint the Statutory Auditors of the Company for the year 2022 and fix their remuneration.
- To appoint the Chartered Secretary in Practice (Compliance Auditors) of the Company for the year 2022 for compliance certification on corporate governance and fix their remuneration.
- To approve of entering into contract for sale or purchase of goods and materials with Mohammed Trading amounting to 10% (ten percent) or above of the revenue for the immediate preceding financial year.

Dhaka, Bangladesh
Date: March 09, 2022

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Muhammad Shahidul Islam FCS)
Company Secretary

Notes:

- The shareholders whose name appeared in the Share/Depository Register as on the 'Record Date' (i.e. February 24, 2022), are eligible to participate in the 23rd AGM and receive the dividend.
- The Board unanimously recommended dividend @ 12.50% in cash of the paid up capital of the Company for the year 2021.
- In order to comply with the BSEC notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2009-193/10/Admin/118 dated March 22, 2021; the Board of Directors has recommended to enter into contract for sale or purchase of goods and materials with Mohammed Trading (Owner is Managing Director of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited) amounting to 10% (ten percent) or above of the revenue for the immediate preceding financial year subject to approval of the shareholders.
- A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf (such a proxy shall be a shareholder of the Company). The Proxy Form, duly filled, signed and stamped of BDT 20 must be sent through email to the Company at sharedepartment.bgd@rakceramics.com not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- Shareholders are requested to submit through mail to the Company at sharedepartment.bgd@rakceramics.com on or before March 24, 2022, their written option to receive dividend in the form available in Company's website www.rakceramics.com/bangladesh If the shareholder fails to submit such option within the stipulated time, the dividend will be paid off as deemed appropriate by the Company.
- The concern stock broker, merchant banker and portfolio manager are requested to submit through mail to the Company at sharedepartment.bgd@rakceramics.com on or before March 24, 2022; the statement along with detail of their margin client or customer who has debit balance or margin loan, who are entitled to receive cash dividend of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2021. The statement should include shareholder's name, BO ID number, client-wise shareholding position, gross dividend receivable, applicable tax rate, net dividend receivable etc. along with the Consolidated Customers' Bank Account number, routing number and contact person.
- The shareholders will be able to submit their questions/comments and vote electronically 24 hours before commencement of the AGM and during the AGM. For logging in to the system, the shareholders need to put their 16 digit Beneficial Owner (BO) ID number and other credential as proof of their identity by visiting the link <https://tinyurl.com/rakagm2022>
- Shareholders are requested to log in to the system prior to the meeting start time of 11:00 am (Bangladesh Time) on 31 March 2022. The webcast will start at 10.45 am on March 31, 2022. Please contact +8801730058055 and +8801730055355 for any technical difficulties in accessing the virtual meeting.
- Detail log in process has been sent through email to respective shareholder's mail ID available in their BO Account maintained with the Depository. The detailed procedures to participate in the virtual meeting along with link are also available in the Company's website www.rakceramics.com/bangladesh



As soon as the first light hits the horizon, coal collectors of Sunamganj make their way to Tahirpur upazila's Jadukata river. They sift out coal from sand sediments in the water using small box nets and sell them to designated contractors. Of the 20,000 labourers engaged in this profession, most are women. They are often accompanied by their 11-14-year-olds, who aid their mothers in their backbreaking work and contribute to their families' survival.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Two children drown in Ctg pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two children drowned in a pond near their house while playing in Fatikchhari upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

The deceased are Jannatun Nisa (2), daughter of Omar Faruk, and Mim (3), daughter of Nazrul Islam of South Rangamatia village.

Quoting family members, Dr Fatema-tuz-Zohra, emergency medical officer at Fatikchhari Health Complex, said the children were playing in the yard around 12pm.

As the family members were not around, they fell into the pond while playing and drowned.

4 BNP men jailed in 2013 violence case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has sentenced four BNP men to two years imprisonment in a case filed for hurling crude bombs on police and preventing them from discharging duties in Dhaka's Badda on October 28, 2013.

The four are Dhaka north city unit BNP convening committee members Md Jahangir Mollah, Md Ismail Hossain, Abu Bakar Siddique and Bacchu Mia. All of them have been absconding since the case was filed.

Another one BITES THE DUST

Juri is less a river and more a dumpyard at present

MINTU DESHWARA

Juri has been robbed of its beauty.

During the monsoon season, discarded materials and polythene clog the river, threatening biodiversity of the Hakaluki haor. This has also led to the river's imminent death during the dry season.

Md Khurshed Alam, sub-divisional engineer (Moulvibazar) of Water Development Board, said the river originated in the northern part of Tripura. It enters Bangladesh through the Fultala border, flows through the upazila Sadar and becomes Hakaluki Haor, which merges with the Kushiara river.

Due to pollution, the river lost its navigability and is known to locals as "Mora Juri Nadi" (the dead Juri river). About a year ago, illegal structures on both sides of the river were evicted and 8.7km of the river were re-excavated, he added.

This correspondent recently visited the spot and saw that the river was almost dead. Garbage from nearby markets is being dumped indiscriminately into the river in a 300-meter area of the bridge connecting Bhabaniganj and Kamniganj markets.

Sadek Mia, a resident of Juri upazila town, said, "The markets' people have set up open toilets on the river banks. In addition to river pollution, the stench is hard to stand. In the rainy season, the filth washes into the river water and flows into



The Juri river in Sylhet can hardly be called a river anymore. At present, the river has turned into a garbage dumping facility for locals, since the authorities are yet to set up any designated waste management facility.

PHOTO: STAR

Hakaluki Haor.

Local journalist, Kalyan Prasun Champu, said, "People are dumping garbage in the river as there is no effective waste management system. It's possible to produce organic manure through waste management. The administration can take necessary measures in this regard."

Jaifarnagar UP Chairman Mashum Reza said a couple of years ago, it was decided in the Upazila Parishad meeting that waste management would be done by allocating space through a project. For this purpose, Chalibandar and Kapna Pahar regions were initially visited by the

administration.

Contacted, UNO Sonia Sultana said, "I've instructed the UP chairman to take measures to prevent waste dumping. We'll quickly determine a specific place for dumping garbage."

"If anyone disobeys the order and dumps garbage, strict action will be taken. If required, CCTV cameras will be installed for monitoring. Everyone should step forward to protect the river and haor," she added.

Badrul Huda, assistant director of the Department of Environment in Moulvibazar, said, "I will take necessary action after visiting spot."

‘VICTIMISED TWICE’

Rohingya transgender women seek recognition as ‘Third Gender’

DIL AFROSE JAHAN

Bilashi (not her real name), an 18-year-old Rohingya transwoman shared that she was blamed for transmitting Covid-19 -- with her neighbours calling the disease "a curse of the Almighty".

"People blame us for any disaster or unwanted incident; for example, the recent fires at Rohingya camp," said Bilashi.

An advocacy brief, titled "In the Shadows of the Pandemic: The Gendered Impact of COVID-19 on Rohingya and Host Communities", was produced by Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), Gender Hub in collaboration with ACAPS & NPM Analysis Hub, CARE Bangladesh, Oxfam, and UN Women.

Published in October 2020, the brief quotes a transgender Rohingya, who said that the community has an aversion towards transgenders, blaming them for the pandemic. "After the advent of Covid-19, they said that transgender people would not remain in our communities." And violence erupts every time such behaviours are protested.

After being beaten for hours, an unconscious, bleeding Asmani (not her real name) was dumped by the roadside at a Rohingya camp last year. The 20-year-old transwoman was coming home from her uncle's wedding at the same camp.

She was allegedly picked up by members and followers of Harakah al-Yaqin (a Rohingya insurgent group) in the middle of the night. Her shoulder-length hair, feminine attire and make-up led to the assault, says Asmani. "I regained consciousness after four days at one of the MSF (Doctors Without Borders) health facilities. I thought I wouldn't make it alive," she said.

According to the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), transgender people of Rohingya ethnicity are victimised twice -- first for being Rohingya, then for being transgender.

Asmani now has a "Hijra Guru-ma" (mentor). Both Asmani and Bilashi managed to get vaccinated last year. However, Bilashi -- also a sex worker -- has had difficulties maintaining HIV prevention measures, such as condom usage.

Bandhu Social Welfare Society in Cox's Bazar has confirmed that hate crimes against transgenders in the Rohingya camps are on the rise.

The number of transgender people in the camps is unknown.

According to the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), transgender people of Rohingya ethnicity are victimised twice -- first for being Rohingya, then for being transgender. They are, indeed, the most marginalised in the most persecuted minority of the world, echoed Bangladeshi trans rights activist Joya Sikder.

Guru-ma Soheli, who leads 25 transwomen in the community, said, "Here [the camp], I am forced to introduce myself as a man. If they [al-Yaqin] see us with long hair, make-up and feminine clothes, they torture us."

In Myanmar, transwomen are known as "Natyafua". Rohingya refugee transwomen now want recognition of their gender identity in their documents and identity cards.

A recognised identity can create awareness in the Rohingya community, while families of transgender women also need awareness in this regard, according to Joya Sikder.

Dil Afrose Jahan is a freelance investigative journalist and fact-checker based in Bangladesh. Read more online.

Pandemic has left its mark

Books on Covid stand out at Boi Mela

DIPAN NANDY

With the Covid-19 pandemic engrossing almost every aspect of human lives in the last two years, literature was not excluded from these extraordinary effects as well. Writers were engulged with new connotations and realisations, and that's what influenced their works immensely, be it fiction or non-fiction.

This trend was observed in this year's Amar Ekushey Boi Mela as well, with many books being sold on the pandemic.

Late Tareq Shamsur Rehman, former chair of international relations at Jahangirnagar University, wrote a book just before his death, titled "Corona Poroborti Bishwa Rajniti". The book, focusing on multiple aspects of international relations influenced by the pandemic, has been published by Shobha Prakash.

"Coronakaler Kobita: Aro Ek Biponno Bishoy", edited by Khasru Parvez from Katha Prakash; "Pandemic 2: Chronicles of a Time Lost" written by Slavoj Zizek and translated by Dr Masud Alam from Oitijya; "Corona Kahini" by Bhorer Kagoj editor Shyamal Dutt from the



newspaper's publishing house; "Corona Kaale" by Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader from Samay Prakashani; "Gudduburar Corona Protisedhok Abisker" by Anisul Haque from Prothoma; "Aninditar Coronajuddho" by Baren Chakraborty from Abosar Prakashani: are among some of the many books influenced by the pandemic in this year's fair.

Besides, books by economists and doctors on public health, socio-economic and political implications of the pandemic can be seen in the fair as well. The most prominent one in this category is

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Same trend, every year

Govt rice aid yet to reach Barishal's fisher families

SUSHANTA GHOSH

It's been a week since the two-month ban on fishing in six hilsha sanctuaries, the government's Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) rice aid is yet to reach the fishermen families in Barishal.

Every year, the aid reaches the families so late that the fishers are forced to accept this as an unfortunate norm. For many of them, the amount of aid provided isn't enough.

Kazirhat fishermen's village in Sadar upazila of Bhola has almost a few hundred fisher families.

Mintu Mistry, a member of this fishing village, has a family of ten. The last time he went fishing was on December 28, last year.

But as soon as the ban begins, he struggles to feed his family and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



With nothing much to do during the two-month ban on fishing in six hilsha sanctuaries, fishers are busy fixing their nets, preparing for the next catching season. This photo was taken from Bhola recently.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

Do not sabotage Iran deal with new demands

West warns Russia as talks reach final stages; Tehran's top negotiator returns to Vienna

REUTERS, Vienna

Western powers on Tuesday warned Russia against wrecking an almost completed deal on bringing the United States and Iran back into compliance with the 2015 nuclear accord, as Iran's top negotiator returned from consultations in Tehran.

Eleven months of talks to restore the deal which lifted sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear programme have reached their final stages.

But they have been complicated by a last-minute demand from Russia for guarantees from the United States that Western sanctions targeting Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine would not affect its business with Iran.

US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland said Russia was seeking to reap extra benefits from its participation in the effort to restore the nuclear agreement, but it will not succeed.

"Russia is trying to up the ante and broaden its demands with regard to the (nuclear deal) and we are not playing 'Let's make a deal,'" Nuland, the No. 3 US diplomat, told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.

Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani came to Vienna yesterday after

unexpectedly returning to Tehran on Monday for consultations, an Iranian and a European official said.

The talks' coordinator, Enrique Mora of the European Union, said on Monday the time had come for political decisions to be taken to end the negotiations.

"The window of opportunity is closing. We call on all sides to make the decisions necessary to close this deal now, and on Russia not to add extraneous conditions

to its conclusion," Britain, France and Germany said in a joint statement to the UN nuclear watchdog's 35-nation Board of Governors.

Iran has sought to remove all sanctions and it wants guarantees from the United States that it will not abandon the agreement once more, after then-US President Donald Trump walked out of the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions.

Diplomats have said until now that several differences still needed to be overcome in the talks, including the extent to which sanctions on Iran, notably its elite revolutionary guards, would be rolled back and what guarantees Washington would give if it were to again renege on the deal.

Meanwhile, an Israeli attack in Syria this week killed two officers from Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the Islamic republic's ideological army said on Tuesday, vowing revenge.



South Korean election officials sort voting papers for ballot counting in the presidential election at a gymnasium in Seoul yesterday. The election appears to have produced a dead heat between the two main candidates vying to lead the country for the next five years, according to exit polls. Conservative Yoon Suk-yeol, with 48.4 percent, is slightly ahead of liberal Lee Jae-myung, with 47.8 percent, an exit poll jointly conducted by three television networks showed.

PHOTO: AFP

BATTLE STRATEGY WITH CHINA

Taiwan studies Ukraine war

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan's military strategists have been studying Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the country's resistance, for the island's own battle strategy in the event its giant neighbour China ever makes good on its threat to take them by force.

While Taiwan's government has not reported any unusual activity by the military in China, which views the island as its own territory, Taipei has raised its alert level.

Russia's use of precision missiles, as well as Ukraine's tactically well thought through resistance despite being outmanned and outgunned,

are being carefully watched in security circles in Taiwan, whose own forces are likewise dwarfed by China's.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has championed the idea of "asymmetric warfare", to make its forces more mobile and hard to attack, with for example vehicle-mounted missiles.

Ma Cheng-Kun, director of the Graduate Institute of China Military Affairs Studies at Taiwan's National Defence University, said Ukraine had used the same concept with mobile weapons to stymie Russian forces.

"Ukraine's military has been making full use of asymmetric warfare, very effectively, and

so far successfully holding off Russia's advance," added Ma, a government advisor on China policy.

"That's exactly what our armed forces have been proactively developing," he said, pointing to weapons like the lightweight and indigenously-developed Kestrel shoulder-launched anti-armour rocket designed for close-in warfare.


Taiwan has been developing other missiles which can reach far into China.

Last week, the defence ministry said it plans to more than double its yearly missile production capacity to close to 500 this year, including the upgraded version of the Hsiung


Feng IIE missile, the longer-range Hsiung Sheng land attack missile which military experts say is capable of hitting targets further inland in China.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry says it has a "close grasp" of the international security situation and that it is working hard to "improve its defence combat capability all the time".

Strategists say Taiwan can also easily detect signs of Chinese military movements and make preparations ahead of an invasion in which China would need to mobilise hundreds of thousands of soldiers and equipment like ships, which could be easily targeted by Taiwanese missiles.



বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট
শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ
স্বাধীনতা ভবন
৮৮, মতিবিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০




বিভিন্ন ধরনের ০৯টি অকেজো গাড়ি (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) বিক্রয়ের টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি
দরপত্র নং: ৪৮.০১.০০০০.২০১.১৫.০২২.২১.৯৫ তারিখ: ০৯/০৩/২০২২

০১	গাড়ির বিবরণ	(১) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১৪-১৯৭৮, (২) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১১-২৫৭৪, (৩) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১১-০৭১৪, (৪) ঢাকা মেট্রো-ই-১১-০১১৩, (৫) ঢাকা মেট্রো-ম-৭১-১৫৭৩, এবং (০৬) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১১-০৩২৯; (০৭) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১২-৭৫৩২; (০৮) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১১-২৫৭৪; (০৯) ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১১-০৯৮৬।
০২	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১,০০০/- টাকা (হেক্সেভসোপ্যা)
০৩	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	অর্থ বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ৮৮, মতিবিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
০৪	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	আগামী ৩০-০৩-২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় ক্রয় করা যাবে)।
০৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	শিল্প ও বাণিজ্য বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ৮৮, মতিবিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
০৬	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়	আগামী ৩১-০৩-২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৭	দরপত্র খোলার সময়	আগামী ৩১-০৩-২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ২-৩০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

সকল দরপত্র আংশিক অথবা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক
ফোন: ৯৫৬৪৯০৩

জিডি-৪৭১



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
র‍্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭
পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
"The Public Procurement Act-2006" and "Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের র‍্যাব-৭, কমপ্লেক্স এর দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম পার্শে পুকুরের গাইড ওয়াল নির্মাণ করণের নিমিত্তে নির্দিষ্ট কাজ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী প্রকায়/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র সীলমোহরসহকৃত খামে আবেদন করা যাবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যসমূহ নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হয়েছে।

১.	মজদুর/নির্মাণ	১.	সরঞ্জাম মজদুর জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ/বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
২.	সংস্থা	২.	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রদান	৩.	অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪.	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	৪.	র‍্যাব-৭, কমপ্লেক্স এর দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম পার্শে পুকুরের গাইড ওয়াল নির্মাণ।
৫.	দরপত্র সূত্র নং	৫.	স্মারক নং-৭৪০৩/কিউ/র‍্যাব/১২৪।
৬.	তারিখ	৬.	তারিখ: ০৭ মার্চ ২০২২ইং।

কাজের বিবরণ:
৭. দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি: ৭. উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র।

অন্য উপাদান:
৮. বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক স্বাতন্ত্র্য: ৮. রাজস্ব স্বাতন্ত্র্য।

তথ্যাদি:
৯. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ: ৯. ১০ মার্চ ২০২২ইং।
১০. দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ: ১০. ২২ মার্চ ২০২২ইং।
১১. দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ১১. ২৩ মার্চ ২০২২খ্রি সময় ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়: ১২. ২৩ মার্চ ২০২২খ্রি সময় ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩. দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়: ১৩. ২৭ মার্চ ২০২২খ্রি সময় ১১.০০ ঘটিকা।

অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা:
১৪. অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা: ১৪. অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৫. দরপত্র জড়ক/সিডিউল: ১৫. অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৬. দরপত্র প্রকায়কারী/অফিস: ১৬. অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৭. দরপত্র খোলার স্থান: ১৭. অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
১৮. দরপত্র খোলার সময়: ১৮. ২৩ মার্চ ২০২২খ্রি সময় ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।

১৫. ঠিকাদানের প্রাক যোগ্যতা:
১৫. "পিপিআর/০৮" এর বিধি মোতাবেক প্রাক যোগ্যতা হিসাবে দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে ইচ্ছুক দরদাতাদের নির্দিষ্টকৃত অঙ্গপত্রের মূলকপি অবশ্যই প্রদান করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে বিবেচনা করা হবে না। (ক) ন্যায়িকত্ব সনদপত্র (খ) হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (গ) যে কোন তফসিলকৃত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাক হতে হালনাগাদের আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা ও ব্যাক এর সাথে লেনদেন সম্পর্কিত সনদপত্র (ঘ) ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা সনদপত্র (ঙ) জিআই নম্বর উল্লেখসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধ সার্টিফিকেট (চ) মুদ্রক (ভাট) সনদপত্র (ছ) দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণকারী মালিক/প্রতিনিধির সত্যায়িত ০১ (এক) তপ্পি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রবিন ছবি (জ) অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (উল্লেখ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত) (ঝ) প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে গ্রাহিকার অর্পণসহ ০৫টি নমুনা স্বাক্ষর সত্যায়িত করতে হবে (ঞ) নিজস্ব ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকানা স্বপ্নিত প্যাকে দরপত্রদাতা কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নথি মর্মে যোগাযোগ/অস্বীকারনামা (ট) দরদাতার নিজস্ব প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক প্যাকে প্রদত্ত ০৩ (তিন)টি নমুনা স্বাক্ষর প্রথম শ্রেণীর নমসক গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত (ঠ) নিজস্ব ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাকে দাখিলকৃত অঙ্গপত্রের ফরোয়ার্ডিং। দরপত্রের সকল কর্মক্রম "The Public Procurement Act-2006" and "Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বাহ্য টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/পিডিউল (PG-2/PG-3) এ উল্লেখ আছে।

১৬.	ক্রমিক নং	কাজের বিবরণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (অফিসেরতথ্যোগ্য)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময় (দিন)
১৬.	১।	র‍্যাব-৭, কমপ্লেক্স এর দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম পার্শে পুকুরের গাইড ওয়াল নির্মাণকাজ	১,০০০/-	৯০,০০০/-	কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ৩০ দিন

দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণ:
১৭. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম: ১৭. কর্ণেল এম এ ইউসুফ, পিএসসি।
১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী: ১৮. অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৭।
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: ১৯. অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম: ২০. ০২৩-৩৩৩০০৪০৩।

২১. বিশেষ শর্তাবলী:
ক। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
খ। কোন কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
গ। অনুমোদিত ব্যতীত অন্য কোন প্রকারে প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
ঘ। দরপত্র পিপিআর/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ ও তদীয় সংশোধনী মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।
ঙ। দরপত্র উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্যসম্পাদন করতে হবে।
চ। সর্বানুদূর দরদাতার দর গ্রহণে কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন ক্ষেত্রে বাধ্য নয়।

এম এ ইউসুফ, পিএসসি
সেই কর্ণেল
পরিচালক
তারিখ: ০৭/০৩/২০২২

জিডি-৪৭৬

Israel's president lands in Turkey

Aims to 'restart' ties

AFP, Ankara

Israel's president landed in Ankara yesterday to meet Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the first visit by an Israeli head of state since 2007, as the countries seek to mend fractured ties.

President Isaac Herzog's visit to the Turkish capital and Istanbul was planned weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine, but the conflict could feature at the talks, with both Israel and Turkey playing mediation roles in recent days.

But bilateral issues are likely to dominate following more than a decade of diplomatic rupture between the Jewish state and majority Muslim Turkey, a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause. "We will not agree on everything, and the relationship between Israel and Turkey has certainly known ups and downs and not so-simple moments in recent years," Herzog said before departing.

Prince Andrew sex assault case closed

AFP, New York

A sexual assault lawsuit brought in New York against Prince Andrew by his longtime accuser Virginia Giuffre has been formally dismissed after the disgraced British royal paid a financial settlement, court documents showed Tuesday. In February, the parties settled out of court for an undisclosed sum, spurring second son of Queen Elizabeth II public humiliation of a trial. Both parties filed a "stipulation of dismissal" of the case in federal court in New York, which was signed by Judge Lewis Kaplan on Tuesday.

'WITCHCRAFT' EXECUTIONS

Scotland offers formal apology

AFP, Edinburgh

Scotland's government marked International Women's Day on Tuesday by issuing a formal apology to thousands of women who were executed centuries ago in a mania against witchcraft. Between 16th-18th century, some 4,000 people were accused of witchcraft, according to the group Witches of Scotland, which has been campaigning for the apology. In total, more than 2,500 people were executed, four-fifths of them women.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Engineer
Health Engineering Department (HED)
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.hed.gov.bd



মুজিব বর্ষে স্বাস্থ্য স্বাতন্ত্র্য
এগিয়ে যাবে অনেক ধাপ

Memo No. 45.02.0000.001.14.018 & 019.22-38 Dated: 09/03/2022

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

Sl No.	e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of work	Last date & time of selling tender document	Tender closing date & time
1.	666962	WP-359/SDP-4-GOB-HED	Re-Construction of Nachol Old 31 Bed Upazila Health Complex in Chapainawabganj District.	06.04.2022 17:00	07.04.2022 14:15
2.	666963	WP-364/SDP-4-GOB-HED	Re-Construction of Gudagari Old 31 Bed Upazila Health Complex in Rajshahi District.	06.04.2022 17:00	07.04.2022 14:00

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

Brigadier General Bashir Ahmed, ndc, psc
Chief Engineer
E-mail: hedhq@yahoo.com

GD-478



SCIP Plastics Project
Sustainable Capacity Building to Reduce Irreversible Pollution by Plastics
Department of Civil Engineering
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET)
Khulna 9203, Bangladesh
Job Opportunity

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates of Bangladeshi citizens to fill the following posts to conduct the activities of a 32 months research project entitled as "Sustainable Capacity Building to Reduce Irreversible Pollution by Plastics (SCIP Plastics Project)", funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany. The Leader of this project is Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany with the partnership of KUET, KCC and CUET. Available posts are:
(i) Finance Director-1; (ii) Director-1 (HUB); (iii) Assistant Director-1 (HUB); (iv) Project Supervisor-1; (v) Head-1 and Assistant Head-1 (Awareness Centre); (vi) Research Associate-3 (Lead of working groups); (vii) Project Engineer-3 (Lead of working groups); (viii) Secretary-1 (Technical); (ix) Secretary-1 (Administrative); (x) Finance and Administrative Officer-1; (xi) Lab Technician-1 (Waste Lab); (xii) Lab Attendant-1 (Waste Lab); (xiii) Driver-1; (xiv) Staff (Management/Board of Directors); (xv) Staff-1 (Project Office); (xvi) Staff-1 (Awareness Centre).
Details of the SCIP plastics project as well as the available posts, minimum prescribed qualification and experiences of each post, number of posts, period of job and monthly salary are available in the designated link on KUET website (<https://kuet.ac.bd/scip>).
1. Application date: 10/03/2022 to 22/03/2022 (deadline: 22/03/2022 at 11:59pm)
2. Interested candidates are requested to submit their application only through KUET website (<http://kuet.ac.bd/scip>).
3. Online application is only acceptable. No application will be received by post/currier/in-person.
4. Only short listed candidates will be communicated based on the merits and experiences for in-person interview for the selection to recruit.
5. Any personal communication is considered as disqualification for any position of this project.
6. All the positions are full-time and fixed-term contractual. The positions are valid only for the project period of April/May 2022 to November 2024.
7. Persons already in full-time job must have official clearance/leave from the employer before joining if selected.
8. No application fee is required. No TA/DA is admissible for in-person interview.

Prof. Dr. Md. Rafizul Islam
Project Director, SCIP Plastics Project
Department of Civil Engineering, KUET
Khulna 9203, Bangladesh

GD-473



Members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defence Forces examine new armament, including NLAW anti-tank systems and other portable anti-tank grenade launchers, in Kyiv, yesterday, amid the ongoing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Ukraine no longer wants to join Nato Zelensky vows to ‘fight to the end’ but also offers olive branch to Russia

AGENCIES

President Volodymyr Zelensky said he is no longer pressing for Nato membership for Ukraine, a delicate issue that was one of Russia's stated reasons for invading its pro-Western neighbor.

In another apparent nod aimed at placating Moscow, Zelensky said he is open to “compromise” on the status of two breakaway pro-Russian territories that President Vladimir Putin recognized as independent just before unleashing the invasion on February 24.

“I have cooled down regarding this question a long time ago after we understood that ... Nato is not prepared to accept Ukraine,” Zelensky said in an interview aired Monday night on ABC News.

“The alliance is afraid of controversial things, and confrontation with Russia,” the president added.

Referring to Nato membership, Zelensky said through an interpreter that he does not want to be president of a “country which is begging something on its knees.”

However, a day later, Zelensky, invoking the wartime defiance of British prime minister Winston Churchill, vowed to “fight to the end” in a historic virtual speech to UK lawmakers.

“We will not give up and we will not lose,” he said, giving a day-by-day account of Russia's invasion that dwelt on the costs in lives of civilians including Ukrainian children.

“We will fight to the end, at sea, in the air. We will continue fighting for our land, whatever the cost.

“We will fight in the forests, in the fields, on the shores, in the streets,” he told the packed chamber, which greeted him with a standing ovation at the start and rose again at the end.

The speech was a conscious echo of Churchill's landmark address to the House of Commons in June 1940, after British forces were forced to retreat from France in the face of a Nazi German onslaught.

Russia has said it does not want neighboring Ukraine to join Nato, the transatlantic alliance created at the start of the Cold War to protect Europe from the Soviet Union. In more recent years the alliance has expanded further and further east to take in former Soviet bloc countries, infuriating the Kremlin. Russia sees Nato enlargement as a threat, as it does the military posture of these new Western allies on its doorstep.



Wait for response to ‘economic war’

Russia tells US; French minister says world heading for 1973-type energy shock

AGENCIES

The Kremlin yesterday accused the United States of declaring an economic war on Russia that was sowing mayhem through energy markets, and it put Washington on notice it was considering its response to a ban on Russian oil and energy.

Russia's economy is facing the gravest crisis since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union after the West imposed heavy sanctions on almost the entire Russian financial and corporate system following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov cast the West's sanctions as a hostile act that had roiled global markets and he said it was unclear how far turbulence on global energy markets would go.

“You see the bacchanalia, the hostile bacchanalia, which the West has sown - and that of course makes the situation very difficult and forces us to think seriously,” Peskov told reporters.

He declined to outline the exact nature of Russia's response.

The West's attempt to cut off Russia - one of the world's biggest exporters of oil, gas and metals - has hit commodity markets and raised

the spectre of spiralling inflation across the world.

Russia said on Monday that oil prices could shoot up to over \$300 per barrel if the United States and European Union banned imports of crude from Russia. Brent hit \$139 on Monday, its highest since 2008.

“The situation demands a rather deep analysis - those decisions announced by President Biden,” Peskov said. “If you are asking me what Russia is going to do - Russia is going to do what is necessary to defend its interests.”

“The United States definitely has declared economic war against Russia and is waging this war,” he said.

Meanwhile, French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire yesterday warned that the spike in energy prices caused by Russia's war in Ukraine will produce effects comparable to the 1973 oil shock.

“In 1973, as you know, the response caused an inflationary shock, leading central banks to massively increase their rates, which killed off growth,” Le Maire added. The first oil shock in the early 1970s was caused by the Yom Kippur war when Egyptian and Syrian forces launched an offensive against Israel.



Putin angry, aggrieved over Ukraine Say US intel chiefs

AFP, Washington

US intelligence chiefs on Tuesday branded Russia's Vladimir Putin an “angry,” isolated leader craving global clout, frustrated about how his Ukraine invasion has not gone to plan, and lobbying provocative nuclear threats at the West.

The long-standing president in Moscow has been “stewing in a combustible combination of grievance and ambition for many years,” CIA Director William Burns told US lawmakers.

He said Putin planned to seize Ukraine's capital Kyiv within two days.

He called the invasion of Ukraine a matter of “deep personal conviction” for Putin, his latest defiant clash with Europe and the United States.

“I think Putin is angry and frustrated right now. He's likely to double down and try to grind down the Ukrainian military with no regard for civilian casualties,” Burns said at a congressional hearing on global threats.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said “Putin's nuclear saber-rattling” has put the West on notice.

The invasion has produced “a shock to the geopolitical order with implications for the future that we are only beginning to understand, but are sure to be consequential.”



RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE Developments

AFP, Kyiv

POWER CUT TO CHERNOBYL

Power has been cut to the Chernobyl power plant, the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster, Ukraine said yesterday, but the UN's atomic watchdog said there was “no critical impact on safety”. The UN atomic watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a tweet that while the development “violates (a) key safety pillar”, in this case it saw “no critical impact on safety”. On Tuesday the IAEA had said that the site was no longer transmitting data and voiced concern for staff working under Russian guard.

12-HOUR CEASEFIRE

Moscow and Kyiv agree a 12-hour ceasefire to allow civilians to flee six badly battered areas including the capital Kyiv and the besieged southern port of Mariupol, which has been without water and power for nine days.

US REJECTS POLISH FIGHTER JETS OFFER

The Pentagon rejects a Polish offer to deliver its Russian-made MiG-29 fighter jets to a US base in Germany, to be eventually handed over to Ukraine, fearing a wider conflict with Moscow, which called the move a “potentially dangerous scenario”. But Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky pleads, “Look, we're at war! Send us the planes.”

EU TARGETS MORE OLIGARCHS

The EU adds 14 more Kremlin-linked Russian oligarchs and more than 146 senators to its sanctions blacklist, tightens controls on cryptocurrency transfers and targets Russia's maritime sector over the war in Ukraine. Britain impounds a private jet reportedly linked to Russian oligarch Eugene Shvidler.

NORD STREAM 2 ‘DEAD’

Russia's controversial \$12-billion Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany is “dead”, a senior US official says.

2,000 PLUS ‘RUSSIAN TROOPS KILLED’

The Pentagon says it estimates between 2,000 and 4,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in the nearly two-week-old invasion. Russia admitted to 498 killed on March 2.

2.15 MILLION FLEE

The UN says 143,000 fled Ukraine in the last 24 hours, with the number of refugees topping 2.15 million - more than half of those in Poland.

RUSSIA, UKRAINE FMS TO MEET IN TURKEY

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov and his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, will meet in Turkey, Russia's foreign ministry has confirmed. Lavrov will be flying to an international diplomatic forum in Antalya, and his “contact” with Kuleba is planned to take place there, Russian state-owned news outlet RIA Novosti quoted foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova as saying. The meeting was proposed by Turkey's foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, who had proposed holding it in a trilateral format with him, Kuleba and Lavrov at the table.

Anthrax biolab in Ukraine!

REUTERS, London

Russia yesterday said the United States must explain what Moscow claims was a military biological programme in Ukraine - an allegation Washington has already dismissed as “absurd” misinformation.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said evidence of the alleged programme had been uncovered by Russia during what it calls its military operation in Ukraine, which its forces invaded on Feb. 24. It involved deadly pathogens including plague and anthrax, she said.

A Ukrainian presidential spokesperson said: “Ukraine strictly denies any such allegation”.

In response to earlier Russian allegations about the purported military biological programme in Ukraine, a Pentagon spokesman said on Tuesday: “This absurd Russian misinformation is patently false”.

Zakharova said Russia had documents showing that the Ukrainian health ministry had ordered the destruction of samples of plague, cholera, anthrax and other pathogens after Feb. 24.

“We can already conclude that in Ukrainian biological laboratories in direct proximity to the territory of our country, development of components of biological weapons was being carried out,” she said.

Zakharova said the alleged programme was financed by the Pentagon. Zakharova said it was not clear if the alleged materials had been destroyed and she asked if they had fallen into the hands of extremists or nationalists.



When will there be a decision? Look, we're at war! We ask you again to decide as soon as possible. Send us planes. ... We don't have time for the media, for all these signals. This isn't ping-pong. It's human lives.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urges Western powers to urgently resolve on a Polish offer that would see his country supplied with fighter jets



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নেত্রকোণা

সর্বাধিক শাখা | সর্ববৃহৎ অনলাইন নেটিওয়ার্ক
সর্বাধুনিক তথ্য প্রযুক্তি | সর্বাধুনিক তথ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা

হাওড় বেস্কিত ভাটি অঞ্চলের জনসাধারণের দোরগোড়ায়
আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানের প্রত্যয়ে
নেত্রকোণা জেলার মদন শাখার আওতাধীন

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের

গোবিন্দ্রী উপশাখার

শুভ উদ্বোধন

১০ মার্চ ২০২২ বৃহস্পতিবার



BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

A memoir that retraces Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana’s days in exile

Sheikh Rehana’s dream of studying at Viswa-Bharati also remained unfulfilled as the state government refused to take responsibility for their security. The next government, that of Indira Gandhi, reduced their monthly allowance and benefits. Sheikh Hasina worked in Akashvani Delhi under a pseudonym without revealing her identity.

AHMED SHAFI UDDIN

When a character from history becomes a significant figure in the state, it is difficult for a researcher or writer to write about them. They have to tread very carefully while composing a book with unknown, yet important, collected information.

Author Sharaf Ahmed, however, does just that in his book, *15 August Hottakando: Probashe Bangabandhur Dui Konnar Dushhaha Din* (15 August Assassination: The Miserable Days of Bangabandhu’s Two Daughters In Exile), published by Prothoma Prokashon in 2021. After the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family on August 15 of 1975, the details of how his two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, spent their days miserably in exile are documented in this book with reference to valid sources.

Sharaf Ahmed, who has been living in Germany for three and a half decades, has brought to light previously unknown information, recovered documents, unpublished letters, press clippings, and photographs, such as those of Indira Gandhi, Wazed Mia, Sheikh Hasina, and Sheikh Rehana.

He has translated an article published in an archived German newspaper into Bangla. The author has also kept in touch with sources and eyewitnesses, via phone calls and emails, situated across Berlin, Bonn, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Vienna, Brussels, Amsterdam, Washington, Bangalore, and Dhaka, and also contacted the German journalists who met the daughters of Bangabandhu in Bonn on August 16, 1975.

It was then that rumours circulated across the media that Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana have been detained at the ambassador’s house in Bonn. The

ambassador had to present the two sisters to prove that they had not been taken prisoners, but when the journalists were present in the house, the sound of people crying was still coming from the upper floor.

“The two daughters survived because they arrived in Germany two weeks before the incident”, the author writes in the preface. “I kept thinking about how and where they were, who their companions of danger were during that tumultuous time, [...] and [how] the newspapers, the German

Sharaf Ahmed, who has been living in Germany for three and a half decades, has brought to light previously unknown information, recovered documents, unpublished letters, press clippings, and photographs, such as those of Indira Gandhi, Wazed Mia, Sheikh Hasina, and Sheikh Rehana.

politicians at the time, or [...] the German people saw it”.

“I feel compelled to present [these things] to the new generation and researchers”, the author adds. Perhaps it is from this thought that he has dedicated the book to the two children of that day, Joy and Putul.

When Bangabandhu was the President, he handed over USD 50 to his daughters during their trip to Germany. Then came that brutal murder, and the search for a safe shelter for the daughters continued.



BOOKS

WHAT TO READ 50 women poets represent Bangladesh internationally

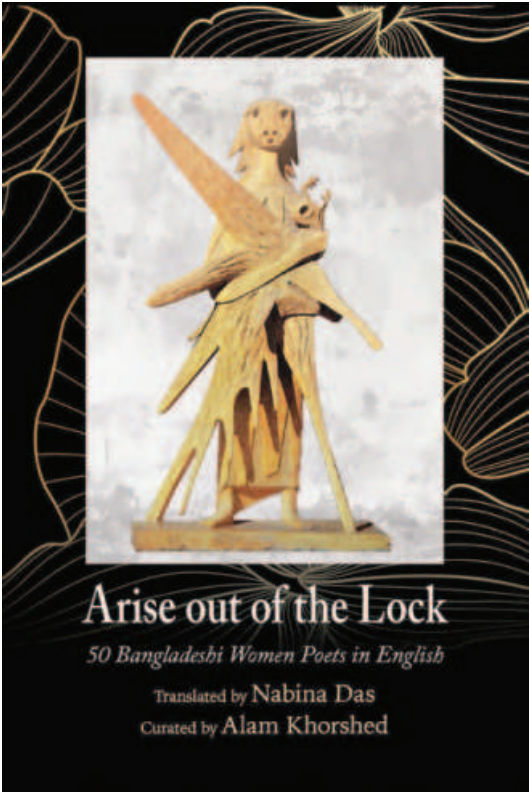
STAR BOOKS REPORT

On February 21, 2022, the poetry anthology *Arise out of the Lock* was published by London and Singapore-based publishers, Balestier Press, to commemorate the International Mother Language Day and 50 years of Bangladesh’s independence. The translated work of 50 “representative” women poets of Bangladesh has been curated for this book by writer, translator and critic Alam Khorshed, with the translation done by Nabina Das, a Bangla-speaking Indian poet, professor and translator based in Hyderabad. Das has also written for Bangladeshi platforms including *Dhaka Tribune* and *Six Seasons Review*.

The anthology includes poetry by literary icons such as Sufia Kamal, Anwara Syed Huq, Farida Majid, and more, alongside more contemporary poets and writers including Jahanara Parveen, Jharna Rahman, Novera Hossain, Leesa Gazi, and others.

“Certain themes and imagery traditionally coded feminine, such as flowers and fabric, recur with surprising and thought-provoking variations in their treatment”, reads a blurb for the anthology written by Deborah Smith, the critically acclaimed translator of Han Kang’s 2016 International Booker Prize-winning novel, *The Vegetarian*. “[F]requent references to characters from Islamic and Hindu mythology point to the lived experience of a shared cultural inheritance”, Smith writes of *Arise out of the Lock*.

The book contains a foreword by writer and activist Sadaf Saaz, co-founder of the Dhaka Lit Fest, and it is available to order on Amazon.



WHAT TO READ Rudra Goswami’s ‘Bishonno Roddur’ is a song of conscience

SHARMIN JOYA

People often struggle to express themselves in the era of digitisation. It is a time when we are convicted by censorship, causing the decay of emotion and the loss of the ability to stand out against oppression. Humans, as a result, struggle to survive meaningfully.

Bishonno Roddur (2022), the 7th poetry book by celebrated poet Rudra Goswami, is a song of conscience that touches one’s sense of morality in a subtle way. The book has been published simultaneously in Kolkata by Obhijan Publishers and in Dhaka by Anindyo publishers at the 2022 Ekushey Boi Mela.

Goswami infuses some fundamental questions—about realising one’s social strength, reacting against oppression, building empathy and so on—through the form of quatrains that try to raise awareness of what it is to be socially awake.

“I don’t call these poems, they are consciences”, Goswami told this reporter. “I always want to spread love and provoke

our inner soul through my works, hoping to see a bigger change”.

The 108 page-book consists of 100 quatrains exploring themes of love, nature, politics, and society, language, self-consciousness, the notion of existence, and so on.

“I will consider myself successful when these series of thoughts expressed in my book will start affecting people, and they will reflect through action”, the poet said.

The wonderful cover illustration of the book is done by Charu Pintu, while Komol Pal, an emerging artist working on his first big project with this book, has drawn the line art that beautifully complements each of the poems.

“I would like to congratulate and express my heartfelt gratitude towards Komol for his excellent work”, shares the writer.

The book is available at BDT 250 (\$10), at pavilion no. 25, Anindyo publishers at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

Rudra Goswami will visit the fair from March 14 to 17 to meet and greet his readers.

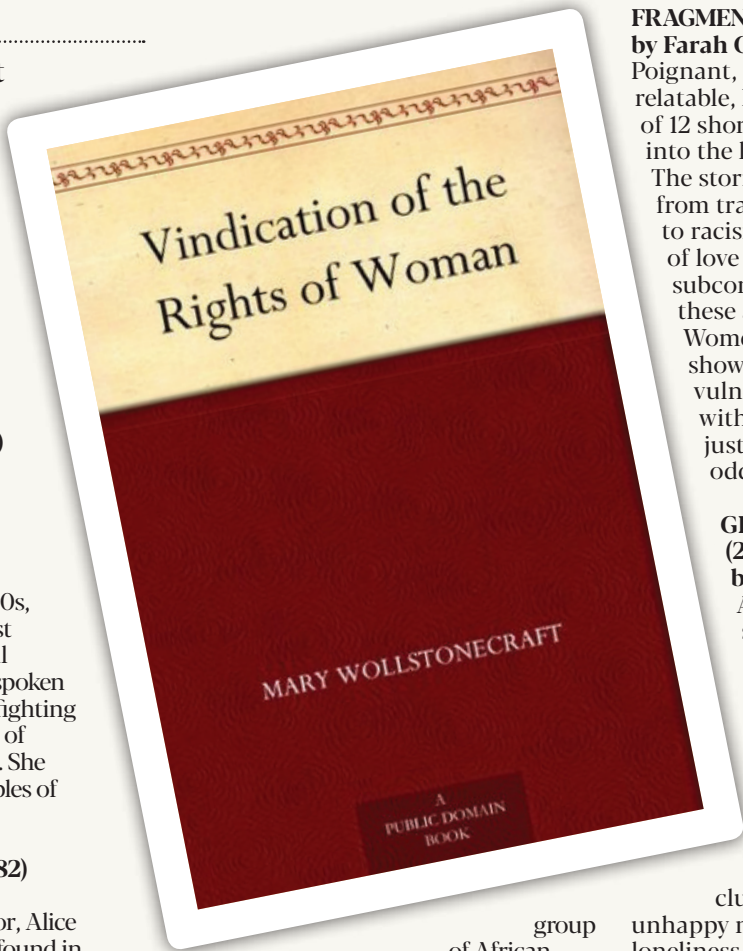
4 spellbinding books written by women, about women, to read for International Women’s Day

SARA KABIR

Each book in this list features strong, fearless, bold, multi-faceted, creative, inspiring, vulnerable, witty, and most importantly, real women from all walks of life.

A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN (1792)
by Mary Wollstonecraft
Established as the mother of modern feminism, Mary Wollstonecraft produced her declaration of female independence in the late 1700s, an age when women were just starting to stand up for equal rights. Wollstonecraft is outspoken and passionate in her book, fighting to change the prevalent view of docile, decorative femininity. She instead lays down the principles of emancipation.

THE COLOUR PURPLE (1982)
by Alice Walker
Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Alice Walker’s novel, can often be found in the list of banned books in America. What makes this book so controversial, yet so well-loved, is not its language or violence, but its depiction of the racism, love, religious beliefs, sexuality, sisterhood, loyalty, and domestic abuse faced by the



group of African American women the book is centred around. Intensely compassionate and beautifully crafted, Alice Walker’s novel takes readers on a page-turning journey of love and redemption.

FRAGMENTS OF RIVERSON (2013)
by Farah Ghuznavi
Poignant, heart-breaking and all too relatable, Farah Ghuznavi’s collection of 12 short stories offer a fresh look into the lives of South Asian women. The stories cover a range of topics from tradition to treachery, rights to racism, weaving a narrative of love and loss throughout the subcontinent. But most of all, these are stories about women. Women who are not afraid to show their intelligence, their vulnerability, their ability to withstand diverse situations, and just be themselves despite all odds.

GIRL IN WHITE COTTON (2020)
by Avni Doshi
Avni Doshi’s 2020 Booker-shortlisted novel begins with the protagonist, Tara, expressing an unusually blunt sadism towards her mother’s pain. Through fractured flashbacks and stories told in real time, we find out about Tara’s childhood in an ashram, a place that her mother clung to as she was evading an unhappy marriage. The thirst, hunger, loneliness, and anxiety of Tara’s childhood lies repressed in the art she produces. Through the back and forth of her flashbacks and her adult life, we find a story that teases out the complexity and paradoxes of mother-daughter relationships in South Asia.



Jharna Basak, known by her stage name Shabnam, was one of the most graceful actresses in Bengali cinema during the 60s. After her debut in the Pakistani film industry in the 70s, she reigned the scene for almost three decades. The actress has won 13 Nigar Awards in the category of ‘Best Actress’, which is a record to date. She announced her retirement from the silver screen in 1999 after appearing in Kazi Hayat’s ‘Ammajan’. Looking back at her years of success, experience, and innumerable memories, the actress reminisces about her journey with us.

“Harano Diney” (1961) was my debut Bangla film, where I shared the screen with Golam Mustafa. I was paid 800 taka for the project. I often miss Ehtesham Shaheb, who gave me a break in the Urdu film industry with “Chanda” in the early 70s. This film was a turning point in my career as it brought me many more offers. While working in Pakistan, I had a hectic shooting experience, working four shifts for different films in a day. Though I was working in Pakistani films, I never forgot my Bangladeshi roots. I always tried to uphold my culture, even in the outfits I wore on screen. When we returned to Dhaka, I decided to live an ordinary life. I never try to play the ‘celebrity card’. I have learned to fit myself in any environment. From buying groceries to other household work, I do it all by myself. However, I miss the days when we used to reside in Old Dhaka – the sound of galloping horses, the rides on carriages, and the



Shabnam earned much popularity as the star of many Urdu films. PHOTO: COLLECTED

chit-chats around the corners of each street. A lot has changed in this city, but nothing has changed in my memories of that time. My husband Robin took away a part of me when he left us in 2016. He had a pure soul. I miss him every day. Our only son Rony, who came to visit me a few days ago, is settled abroad. I also dearly miss Khan Ataur Rahman. I once decided to quit this profession, but he came to my house to speak to Robin and my in-laws, convincing me to keep working. Among many other memories, I still clearly remember the day when Rahman lost his leg. We were shooting in Sylhet and had taken a day off. We were all keen on playing Ludo while he decided to roam around the city. We soon got to know about his accident and rushed to the hospital. He survived the accident, but the price he paid with his leg was too high. My last visit to BFDC left me in tears, as I was disheartened by the emptiness that has taken over the premises. The memories I have with my colleagues that we have lost over the years took over me. Since then, I have not gone back there.

Interviewed by Shah Alam Shazu

Why did Lara Dutta turn down role in ‘The Matrix’?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood actress Lara Dutta opened up about turning down a role in “The Matrix” in a recent interview.



As per reports, the “Bellbottom” actress was offered a part alongside Keanu Reeves in the 2001 movie. However, she turned down the job to look after her ailing mother. Recently, the actress won the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Award for her portrayal of Indira Gandhi in “Bell Bottom”.

Farzana Chumki, Sallha Khanam Nadia to star in Indian film ‘Sunetra Sundaram’

SHARMIN JOYA

Indian filmmaker Shiv Ram Sharma is set to direct the film “Sunetra Sundaram”, which sheds light on hygiene issues faced by working women.

The film will star Bangladeshi actresses Farzana Chumki and Sallha Khanam Nadia in pivotal roles, alongside Parno Mitra as Sunetra.

“I was approached for this project a few days ago, I liked the plot and signed the film,” said Farzana Chumki.

Nadia shared that the story focuses on three women, who work together. “These women begin a movement to ensure hygienic and clean toilets in trains, as they have to spend long hours on public transportation,” she added.

The film’s shooting will begin from March 23, and both the actresses will go to Kolkata a day before. Some parts of the movie will be shot in Bangladesh as well.



Sallha Khanam Nadia.



Farzana Chumki.

COUNTRYWIDE

Road damaged a week after construction



PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Just a week after construction of the three-kilometre portion of an important road in Kishoreganj upazila the carpeting wore away, raising question about the quality of the work. According to the upazila Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Office, a tender was floated to construct the three-kilometre portion of the road, stretching from the upazila headquarters to the recreation park Vinnaya Jagat, under Rural Roads Protection and Maintenance Project four months ago. Nilphamari based construction firm Tahsin Construction got the Tk 1 crore work order and completed the construction work at the end of last month. During a recent visiting to the area this correspondent saw surface of the newly constructed road got damaged at different points. Labourers, engaged by the contractor concerned, were seen removing the rubbles from the surface of the road to avert public outrage. Sexagenarian Jamshed Ali of Musha village said they noticed use of substandard construction materials from the beginning. The ground development work was not done properly as there are many potholes on the surface of the road, another villager Enamul Huque said. Locals alleged that lack of monitoring by the officials concerned is one of the major reason for such low quality work. When asked, Mozaffar Hossain, owner of Tahsin Construction, denied the allegation of low quality work and said the construction work was done as per schedule. LGED Sub Assistant Engineer Jogobandhu Roy, who did the monitoring job, said the damage occurred due to plying of over-loaded trucks. Nilphamari LGED Executive Engineer Sujon Kumar Kor said he told the contractor concerned to repair the damaged portions.

A parched Teesta sees many routes closed

Many boatmen in livelihood crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 25 out of 35 river routes in the Teesta river basin area under eight upazilas of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram have been closed due to a sharp decline in the water level during the ongoing dry season. The situation is not likely to change before the onset of the rainy season when the river will be replenished by waters from the upstream. Locals said once the mighty river remained navigable round the year but the situation has changed due to the withdrawal of a huge amount of water from the upstream in India over the last several years.

This year the situation is even worse. People are often seen wading through the knee-deep river as large chars (landmass emerged from riverbed) have sprung up. Boatmen said, with a large number of cargo and passenger boats lying idle, over two thousand boatmen and workers have become jobless and locals are undergoing immense sufferings as they have to either walk miles or take a costly ride on horse carts to reach their destinations. At present river communications between Lalmonirhat and Kurigram with distant docks of Rangpur, Gaibandha and Jamalpur districts are suspended, as the river routes have already dried up, they said. Boatman Sahed Ali at

Bagdora ghat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said he has been jobless since the first week of January as there is no sufficient water flow for plying boat in the river. “Locals are now wading across the river” he said. “At least 20 boatmen were engaged in plying boats in this ghat, now all of them have become jobless,” he said, adding that boatmen are earning their livelihood by doing other jobs. Azizur Rahman, a boatman at Thetrai ghat in Kurigram’s Ulipur upazila said there is no sufficient water in the Teesta river now, therefore, boats cannot carry passengers and goods. At least 30 boatmen in this ghat have become jobless, earning their livelihood

working as day labourers. “We will return to our job when Teesta swells up again in the last week of June to the first week of July,” he said. “We are passing our days amid hardship as boats cannot ply the Teesta and adjoining canals due to acute water crisis,” said Mobarak Ali, a boatman of Gatiashyam village in Kurigram’s Rajarhat upazila. Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Lalmonirhat, said Teesta gets a normal flow of water for only three months – July-October. A parched Teesta is having a bad impact on the livelihood of the boatmen.



Boatmen have lost their jobs due to non-navigability of Teesta. In this photo taken from Kalmati ghat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila boats seen lying unused. PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

We don’t need another DSA-like law

BTRC must withdraw its draft online content regulations

THE draft regulations for online content platforms, prepared by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), seem to be rooted in the same authoritarian worldview as the infamous Digital Security Act (DSA), in which digital security and human rights are secondary to the government’s overarching need to muzzle dissent and free speech. The draft of “Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms” was made available early last month. Since then, it has attracted concerns that, far from offering a regulatory mechanism that is predictable, future-proof and fit for purpose, it gives one that is unsuitable, unrealistic and devoid of careful considerations.

We have already published a detailed analysis highlighting the key concerns about this draft. Now, 45 organisations have written to the BTRC, urging it to withdraw and reconsider the draft as, if enforced, it will “imperil people’s freedom of expression and the right to privacy, undermine encryption, and weaken online safety.”

These warnings, as we know from our observation of DSA enforcement, are almost certain to come true. Some of the major concerns expressed about this draft relate to: a) The absence of a “safe harbour” provision and the spectre of penalties for intermediaries and their employees; b) A traceability requirement that will undermine end-to-end encryption and violate privacy; c) The mandate for intermediaries to block an overbroad and ambiguous range of content, including content that is “insulting,” “harmful,” “offensive” or “breaches the secrecy of the government”; d) Truncated timelines to remove content; and e) The mandatory requirement for non-resident intermediaries to have local registration and appoint resident officers and representatives in Bangladesh.

The draft regulations appear to mirror many of the provisions in India’s highly controversial Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. These rules were already criticised for jeopardising human rights. A cut-and-paste exercise on the BTRC’s part is, thus, deeply problematic, not least because—as an expert has pointed out—it pre-empt’s an authentic rule-making effort driven by the local issues, considerations and regulatory environment. The question is: Why would BTRC do it, then?

That is not to say that we don’t need such a regulation. Given how widespread the use of the internet and how far-reaching its impact are these days, there should be rules to regulate online content, especially to mitigate its harmful effects. What we don’t need is a hurriedly patched up law that forces an overbroad set of regulations that contravenes basic democratic principles and human rights. We urge the BTRC to withdraw its draft regulations, and engage all stakeholders to find out regulatory options best suited to their purpose and needs.

Hear no evil, see no evil, punish no evil

Authorities silent as entire hills disappear in front of their noses

PEOPLE with connection to powerful quarters continue to cut down hills across Bangladesh in the name of creating housing plots. It is happening this time right in the middle of Chattogram city. A detailed report in this daily highlights that the hilly areas of Chhinnomul Bazar in Chattogram’s Arefin Nagar area have a number of signboards of housing projects, and that plots are being offered for Tk 7-12 lakh. It is said that the whole area surrounding Bayezid Bostami-Faujdarhat Link Road has seen mushrooming of such housing projects in recent years, where hills are being cut down on a daily basis right under the nose of the administration.

The surprising part of the story is that while entire hills are being razed, neither the Department of Environment (DoE) nor the district commissioner’s office apparently has any clue of such massive activities. Hence, the pertinent question that arises is: Why does the DoE exist if it cannot exert force to protect natural assets before they are destroyed?

This daily has been consistent in reporting on how powerful people, in cahoots with some unscrupulous officials of the administration, have been levelling hills to create housing projects, especially in the hilly areas. In all the reported cases, the lack of surveillance by the competent authorities has come out in the open, but no immediate action has been taken to deter the criminals and send them to prison. Nor has any action ever been taken against those officials who have consistently turned a blind eye to these activities. It is, therefore, not surprising that housing projects in hill areas are booming, thereby spelling disaster for the environment.

We wonder: when millennia-old hills get razed to the ground defying the laws of the land, what do the DoE, UNOs, DCs and NGOs do to save them? Hills work as natural barriers to protect people from cyclones and floods. If all the hills are cut down one by one in a predominantly hilly region, the environmental calamity that would ensue will be one of dreadful magnitude. We are deeply concerned to learn that, in most cases, the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) allows construction on condition of obtaining a “no objection certificate” (NOC) from the DoE. That means by spending money and exerting influence, anyone can obtain a certificate and go and cut down an entire hill! We believe it’s high time the ministries concerned woke up and put a stop to hill-cutting under any scheme whatsoever.

Is Dhaka beyond saving?



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

TASNEEM TAYEB

DHAKA, the nucleus of Bangladesh’s economic success, is the most densely populated city in the country (and perhaps in the world), accommodating more than 47,000 people per square kilometre (as of 2018). The megacity alone accounts for one-fifth of our GDP and nearly half of the country’s jobs. Dhaka is also the fourth least liveable city in the world, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit’s annual global survey in 2021. The country’s commercial lifeline has been subjected to haphazard and unplanned urbanisation, as a result of which it is now facing an existential crisis of its own.

Dhaka is plagued with high levels of pollution, unbearable traffic congestions and unplanned cluster of habitats mushrooming everywhere. The city often finds itself at the top of the Air Quality Index (AQI), with scores as high as 288—AQI score between 201 and 300 is considered “poor,” while 301 to 400 is considered “hazardous.”

The average driving speed of seven kilometres per hour is not only physically taxing for the commuters, but also takes a toll on the economy. A 2017 World Bank study suggests that 3.2 million working hours are lost every day due to Dhaka’s traffic congestion. A 2018 study by the Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) reveals that traffic congestion costs the economy a staggering Tk 37,000 crore every year.

Given that these data are four to five years old, one might assume that the current scenario has only become worse. An article by *The New York Times* reporter Lisa Friedman, hosted on the Cities Alliance website, suggests that each year, about 500,000 people migrate to Dhaka from rural and coastal areas. With the land mass remaining constant, it is only natural that this growing population burden would take a toll on the city.

Then there are the unplanned roads and alleys, which make the city even more vulnerable to disasters and make disaster management more challenging. Let’s take the fire incidents as a case in point. These incidents are a recurring phenomenon in Dhaka—for many reasons ranging from violation of Rajuk guidelines and usage of residential areas for commercial purposes, to lack of basic fire safety measure in the buildings. Managing fire hazards has been made even more difficult in many localities because of the narrow roads that are inaccessible for large vehicles carrying heavy equipment.



▲
With almost half of the country’s jobs located in Dhaka, the city is home to a population that is beyond its capacity.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

Moreover, the desperation of people who migrate to Dhaka from other parts of the country is often exploited by some vested interest groups, leading to criminal activities and increased pressure on law and order management. And with unemployment increasing—many employers had to lay off workers to mitigate the pandemic-induced losses—

decentralisation to take off the extra population load. It is time for us to act on those suggestions now. This is not only about empowering local governance, down to the district levels, with decision-making abilities, or improving the educational and healthcare services across the 64 districts, but also about creating economic hubs in all the regions.

the migrants remain prone to the lures of income opportunities by unscrupulous individuals.

And people still keep migrating to Dhaka in the hopes of building a better life. And why not? Dhaka city, along with the greater Dhaka region, account for 48 percent of all the jobs in Bangladesh. All the major infrastructures of governance, including the secretariat, are based in Dhaka. The best educational institutions and medical facilities are concentrated in Dhaka. Who would not want to have these facilities?

The question is: For how long would we be able to sustain this rampant concentrated urbanisation? A report presented at the Annual BIDS Conference on Development in 2021 says our per capita income and GDP was 11 percent lower than its potential in 2017, as a result of excessive resource concentration and economic activities in Dhaka. The report further suggests that the country is losing between 6 and 10 percent of GDP because Dhaka’s growth rate exceeds the optimum rate. If this continues, in the long run, Dhaka’s rapid urbanisation will become a liability for the nation’s growth and development.

Do we want to keep watching as Dhaka crumbles down by the burden of overpopulation?

On multiple occasions, experts have recommended the capital’s

Every region has its strengths, and these strengths should be leveraged to create employment opportunities for the local people. The government should consider offering incentives to industries to relocate outside Dhaka. In addition, to support the industries, the government should build the necessary infrastructure and improve connectivity to ensure smooth trade and transactions.

Moreover, medium-sized, climate-resilient secondary cities need to be developed across Bangladesh, so that people can find livelihood opportunities closer to home. People living in the coastal areas are especially prone to internal migration, and there should be a plan for their proper, constructive rehabilitation in the nearest secondary city, so that they do not find themselves lost in big cities without any livelihood support.

For Bangladesh, there is no alternative to developing secondary cities. We have big aspirations: we want to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we want to become a developed nation by 2041. But without developing sustainable, economically efficient, climate-resilient cities, achieving these goals would be impossible. For a prosperous tomorrow, we need to act today, and the responsibility falls on the policymakers. It is high time they revisited their vision for Dhaka and took proactive measures to turn it into a liveable city.

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

IMF’s Unfinished Business

Joseph E Stiglitz,
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JOSEPH E STIGLITZ and KEVIN P GALLAGHER

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) is showing promising signs of changing with the times. In addition to recognising that climate change poses significant risks to financial stability, it has responded to the pandemic with a major new allocation of special drawing rights (the fund’s reserve asset), while criticising the G20’s inadequate framework for dealing with debt distress. Moreover, in a recent agreement with Argentina, the IMF largely abandoned the kind of austerity programmes that have long plagued its reputation, not to mention undercutting livelihoods around the world.

The IMF will have a chance to take another major step in the right direction when it reviews its stance on capital flow regulation later this month. The original rationale for such regulation, enshrined in the IMF’s Articles of Agreement, was that cross-border capital flows could disrupt international financial markets, the stability of which was the IMF’s *raison d’etre*.

Yet, ironically, in the IMF’s darker days during the 1980s and 1990s, it made bailout packages conditional on recipients deregulating financial flows, and in the late 1990s, it even tried to change the Articles of Agreement to outlaw capital flow regulation. But the 1997-98 East Asian financial crisis, which resulted largely from capital market deregulation, sidelined that effort.

For many countries, capital flows are important for sustaining investment and growth. But some of the IMF’s

Given the possibility that interest rate hikes and Russia’s war in Ukraine will trigger massive capital flight and a global debt crisis, it is critical that the IMF embrace capital controls and the role they can play in helping member states mitigate financial instability.

own research shows that international capital flows to emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs) tend to be highly unstable—surging when interest rates are low in the United States, only to undergo “sudden stops” when monetary conditions tighten. While the surges push up exchange rates and encourage EMDC companies and households to borrow excessively, the sudden stops derail growth, weaken exchange rates, and drive debt up to unsustainable levels. The resulting crises take an enormous toll on these countries’ economies and citizens.

Recent advances in economic theory have proven that capital controls can make markets more efficient, not less. In 2011, Anton Korinek published an article in the *IMF Economic Review*, showing that capital flows generate negative externalities, because individual investors and borrowers are focused only on their portfolios, not on how their decisions may affect financial stability.

The following year, the IMF issued a new “institutional view,” acknowledging that capital flow deregulation is not optimal for most EMDCs, and that capital controls can indeed be effective under certain circumstances. And, to reduce the stigma, it rebranded such regulations as “capital flow management measures” (CFMs).

Yet, the effects of this shift remained limited, owing to resistance from major IMF shareholders, financial lobbies, and intransigent economists inside and outside the institution, who argued for unfettered financial markets and massive bailouts when things went awry. In the end, it became IMF policy to recommend CFMs only as a last resort, after a government had exhausted all other possibilities, even though academic economists and the IMF’s own researchers have shown that capital controls are most effective when they are deployed alongside other policies, not used in isolation.

Even in the early days of the Covid-19 crisis, when EMDCs experienced

massive capital flight, which predictably depreciated exchange rates and pushed many countries into debt distress, the IMF remained reluctant to advise countries to regulate capital flows. But things began to change this past December, when the IMF admitted that it should have sanctioned CFMs in its failed Argentina programme.

Another problem, however, is that even as the IMF has slowly changed its own stance on capital controls, trade and investment treaties have further curtailed the countries’ ability to regulate capital flows. A recent study analysing more than 200 trade and investment agreements finds that the majority of those between advanced economies and EMDCs not only prohibit capital controls, but also allow private financial firms to challenge governments directly through dispute settlement bodies that tend to favour the firms. Worse, treaties outlawing capital flow regulation are fast becoming the norm, and cases against governments are on the rise.

At this month’s review, the IMF’s board should press for four reforms to the fund’s capital account policy. First, the IMF must clearly advise member countries to enact permanent regulations, allowing for the rapid deployment of CFMs during surges and sudden stops. Second, it must recommend that CFMs be part of a multipronged approach, rather than used only as a last resort. Third, the IMF should advocate reforms to trade and investment treaties to grant EMDCs more policy leeway for using CFMs. And, fourth, the IMF must set aside time to train its staff to implement these policies in a consistent and even-handed manner.

Given the possibility that interest rate hikes and Russia’s war in Ukraine will trigger massive capital flight and a global debt crisis, it is critical that the IMF embrace capital controls and the role they can play in helping member states mitigate financial instability. The world economy may well depend on it.

Time to change the story of coastal women’s struggles



Kazi Amdadul Hoque is a senior director at the NGO Friendship, working on strategic planning, climate action and development.

KAZI AMDADUL HOQUE

M AKSURA lived in Shyamnagar, in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. She graduated against all odds and dreamed of a future where she could work and apply her knowledge in real life. But she was unable to find a suitable opportunity, and instead was married off to a disabled and slightly less educated man. The man owned a small shrimp firm, but his business was being threatened by newer, wealthier entrants. So she wished to shape a better life for herself and her family. But everyone was awaiting news of her pregnancy. The pressure from her family and society kept mounting, and soon after her wedding, she decided to give in and have a baby. Amid financial duress and a dwindling career, she conceived her first child at 28. As fate would have it, three months into her pregnancy, she lost the baby. As her husband wrestled with diminishing business opportunities in the heavily salinised area, Maksura found herself facing all sorts of social stigma. She decided to try for a child again; her world in tatters, Maksura knew that a baby was her ticket to peace and stability in the family. Unfortunately, this was not to be, as four months into her pregnancy, she miscarried again. Maksura met with an NGO medical practitioner who instantly advised her some medication, food and a change of her source of drinking water, and to opt for treated water found a little further from her home by Friendship’s water treatment plant. Maksura was finally able to give birth to a healthy baby. Maksura’s story reveals the research by the icddr, which found that women residing within 20km of the coastline and seven metres above sea level were 1.3 times more likely to suffer miscarriage than

women residing further inland. According to the Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI), salinity has been a problem since the early 1970s, and has increased around 26 percent in the last 35 years. However, salinity is not the only issue ailing Bangladeshi women’s health and lives in general. Women have assumed familial



▲ In Bangladesh, the impacts of climate change are felt more by women than men.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

search of jobs, women stay behind to look after the children and the elderly. They find themselves in charge of bringing wood and dry leaves for fire, water for household needs, and food for their families. If it is a traditionally woman-led household, these roles are even starker. Even as a standalone job, water collection is difficult. If water collection points are

actually own very little land. Whether or not these ventures bring them an earning opportunity, they do help them provide a source of food and nutrition for their families. According to data obtained from FAO in 2018, 11 percent of small-scale fishers and almost half of all aquaculture workers around the world are women, and climate change could harm all of these women’s livelihoods. Women often miss out on critical weather safety from disasters. According to the Climate Change Profile Bangladesh (2018), in times of climate-related disasters (which are likely to happen more often in the future), women are hit harder than men. In the past, cyclones and floods have been associated with death rates for women five times higher than for men. Cyclone Gorky in 1991 had a death ratio of 14:1 with the heavier side being that of females, according to a study by the World Bank. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recognises that one of the issues that can really exacerbate climate-related hazards is gender inequality, as workload, occupational hazards, psychological, physiological, and emotional stress, and mortality will all rise for women and girls. Even as the world tries to reduce carbon emissions, direct measures to ensure support for women are missing. Laws, policies, and practical interpretation are very important to empower women. Most of the issues are cross-cutting, and to be able to sift and work through them, extensive gender-disaggregated data on the more marginalised and vulnerable groups of women, including girl children and the very old, is needed. Climate change is not a gender-neutral concept, nor are the effects of it more lenient towards the disadvantaged female. However, the personal realisation for each one of us is that stories like Maksura’s should not be repeated, and that each one of us should genuinely and positively intend to prepare a stronger future generation that does not fall victim to age-old prejudicial norms and practices.

The flip side of economic growth



Mohammad Tareq Hasan, PhD, is an anthropologist and teaches at Dhaka University.

MOHAMMAD TAREQ HASAN

W ITH the rising prices of essentials in Bangladesh, people with fixed income are struggling to make ends meet. But some of the ministers are in denial, sometimes referring to the increasing income levels of the people in the country as the cause behind the increased living costs. This argument seems logical if we note that our per capita income increased by 11 percent in the 2020-2021 fiscal year and now stands at USD 2,591. Additionally, we achieved 6.9 percent growth in GDP. Furthermore, by 2041, the government expects the country’s economic volume to grow to USD 2.5 trillion and the per capita income to cross USD 12,000. There is a flip side to it: The benefits of economic growth have mostly trickled up, rather than trickle down. The World Inequality Report 2022 revealed that only one percent of Bangladesh’s population held 16.3 percent of the total national income in 2021, and the bottom half held 17.1

percent. And overall, 44 percent of our total national income is acquired by only 10 percent of the population. We find misery within rampant economic growth, but policymakers globally show persistent fascination towards growth. The obsession with economic growth echoes John Maynard Keynes’s speculation in the 1930 essay titled “Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren,” which says capital investment and technological progress would create a society where people would not have to work more than 15 hours a week. However, the global situation is far from what Keynes predicted 92 years ago. Government policies are focused too narrowly on the growth trajectory, ignoring many other ominous signs: rising inequality, corruption, soaring inflation, youth unemployment, regional disparity, etc. Considering the paradox, one could ask: If the economy is growing, why are people suffering? A straightforward answer to this: economic growth, as measured by GDP, does not essentially lead to common well-being. Since the Bretton Woods conference in 1944, economic growth in GDP has dictated how countries conduct their affairs and priorities worldwide. Economic growth often means more people at work and more businesses in operation.

One could say that the world leaders are obsessed with economic growth measured by the GDP. However, there is no consideration of whether that growth is inclusive and “good for all.”

Moreover, economic growth is expected to provide people with opportunities to move up the ladder and perform to their full potential. The height of this tendency was revealed by Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in 2006, when he explained the rising inflation saying, “The boom times are getting even boomier.” Similarly, some Bangladeshi ministers associate the rising living costs in the country with the increasing purchasing power of the population, and focus more on economic growth. One could say that the world leaders are obsessed with economic growth measured by the GDP. However, there is no consideration of whether that growth is “good for all.” For example, due to the traffic congestion, we lose a portion of our workday and efficiency. We could calculate the loss it incurs to the overall economic growth. But ironically, traffic congestion also causes GDP to increase, since people must buy all that gasoline. Additionally, traffic congestion’s aggregate negative consequences are not directly visible, as pollution and frustration do not usually show up in data representing economic growth. Many economists would agree that economic growth as measured by GDP is not directly connected with social and environmental outcomes that determine our well-being and the planet’s sustainability.

To move away from the world’s growth model and reliance on GDP as the measure of development is challenging. It would practically mean that we significantly reduce buying products. As the demand for commodities is reduced, production will decrease, and natural resource extraction will be slowed. Eventually, our planet’s sustainability will improve. But the growth supporters fear that in such an economy, many people would find no work. Nonetheless, they ignore that if we could decouple income from labour by introducing a basic income for all, it would encourage people to become entrepreneurs and try alternative livelihood options. The government could raise taxes on the rich to finance a basic income scheme. Furthermore, if growth becomes less imperative, policymakers could prioritise distributional policies more than we have today by providing better education, healthcare, or job opportunities for the disadvantaged segment, without worrying about increased government spending. One could argue that we still do not have globally applicable financial, political, and social redesign models to build an economy that will thrive even if it does not grow. But it is an existential question, and we need to start raising our voice at mainstream policy debates.

QUOTE
Quote

PABLO CASALS
(1876 - 1973)
Spanish musician

The love of one’s country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border?

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

31 Lifeboat need mother
32 Shoulder 11 Wallet bills
5 “Moby-Dick” captain 15 Stretches out
9 Syrup choice 19 Has lunch
10 Director 20 Had lunch
Almodovar 22 Clarinet’s kin
12 “The Tempest” 23 Artist Jean
sprite 24 Fishes with
13 Hawke of films a net
14 Speaks like a 25 Roman poet
Southerner 26 Made wolf
16 Ram’s mate sounds
17 Goes bad 27 Coves
18 Oysters’ prizes 28 Do some
21 Summer, modeling
along the Seine 30 Washroom
22 Makes sight
speeches 33 Conceal
23 Ease up 35 Hamm of
24 Tosses soccer
26 Stylish 36 Passport,
29 Drive license, etc.
30 Skeleton part 9 Mexican

DOWN

1 Chatty bird
2 Heroin, for one
3 Large amounts
4 Spill the beans
5 King Kong, for one
6 – up (agitated)
7 Stick
8 Free-for-alls
9 Mexican

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
dsopinion@gmail.com.

YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

C	I	A	O	S	H	A	M	S
A	C	C	R	A	P	U	P	I
R	A	T	O	N	A	T	O	N
B	R	O	T	E	N	L	I	E
S	U	N	D	A	Y	P	L	O
S	E	E	R	E	A	S	O	N
S	K	I	S	E	A	S	O	N
S	E	A	M	A	L	T	H	E
C	A	R	P	R	O	S	E	C
A	L	A	M	O	S	A	U	D
M	U	T	E	S	S	I	R	E
S	P	E	N	T	R	E	D	S

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Md. Golam Mostofa
Upazila Engineer
Phone: 01313419490
e.karnafuli@lged.gov.bd

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২

স্মারক নং: DGHS/HSM/e-GP/Pkg-5,6,7,8/2021-2022/351 Date: 08.03.2022

সংশোধিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিঃ ১
e-Tender Notice No. 2/2021-22

অত্র দপ্তরের স্মারক নং DGHS/HSM/e-GP/Pkg-5,6,7,8/2021-2022/313 Date: 02.03.2022 মূলে ০৩/০৩/২০২২ইং তারিখে প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির ক্রমিক নং-৪ এ Tender Id-66158 এর স্থলে 661858 হবে।

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অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ মাজহারুল হক
লাইন ডাইরেক্টর, হসপিটাল সার্ভিসেস ম্যানেজমেন্ট
স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা

3"x4c
জিডি-৪৬৮

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Rangpur.
Tel No. 0521-63655, Fax: 0521-63430
E-mail: eeran@rhd.gov.bd

Memo no: 35.01.8549.467.07.000.22-582(25) Date - 09.03.22

INVITATION FOR e-GP TENDER

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the e-GP Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for procurement of works. Interested person/Firms can see details by visiting the www.eprocure.gov.bd.

SL. No	Tender ID No	Tender Ref. No	Description of Works	Tender/Proposal Document Last selling Date & Time	Last Date & time for Tender / Proposal Security Submission	Tender/P roposal Opening Date & Time
1	671737	e-GP-44/EE/RHD/RANG/2021-2022	Renovation & repair works for 02 (two) storied Inspection Bungalow for RHD, Rangpur, under Rangpur Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	23 March, 2022 within 17:00	24 March, 2022 within 13:00	24 March, 2022 at 14:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-tender please register on in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

(Mohammad Mahbub Alam)
ID no-602242
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Rangpur

GD-0474

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Chattogram
E-mail: ee_chi@eedmoe.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender (LTM)

Tender Notice No. EE/EED/Ctg/e-Tender/2021-2022/37 Date: 09.03.2022

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID & procurement method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
01	Ctg/Rev/TMED-5974/2021-22/Lot No: 05	Lot No-05: Repair & Renovation work of Academic Building at Faizul Bari Fazil Madrasah, Kamafuly, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658024	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
02	Ctg/Rev/TMED-5974/2020-21/Lot No: 06	Lot No-06: Repair & Renovation work of Academic Building at Mithachara Fazil Madrasah, Mirsarai, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658025	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
03	Ctg/Rev/TMED-5974/2020-21/Lot No: 07	Lot No-07: Repair & Renovation work of Academic Building at Fakir Para Badar Aulia Dakhil Madrasa, Patiya, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658026	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
04	Ctg/Rev/TMED-5974/2021-22/Lot No:08	Lot No-08: Repair & Renovation work of Academic Building at Kattali Jakerul Ulum Senior Madrasa, Pahartali, Chattogram. (2020-21)	663060	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
05	Ctg/Rev/TMED-5974/2021-22/Lot No:09	Lot No-09: Repair & Renovation work of Academic Building at Al-Jamiatul Islamia Senior (Alim) Madrasa, Pahartali, Chattogram. (2020-21)	663061	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
06	Ctg/Rev/TMED-5974/2021-22/Lot No:10	Lot No-10: Repair & Renovation work of Academic Building at Jubaidia Islamia Mohila Fazil Madrasah, Sitakunda, Chattogram. (2020-21)	663062	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
07	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/19-20/13	Repair & Renovation Works at Academic Building at Al-Haj Yakub Ali Girl's High School, Halishohor, Chattogram.	650807	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
08	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot: 14	Lot No-14: Construction work of Boundary Wall at Matpara Mahmudunnabi High School, Bandar, Chattogram. (2019-20)	658031	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
09	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-15	Lot No-15: Repair & Renovation Work of Tin Shed Class Room at Aparnacharan City Corporation Girls High School, Kotwali, Chattogram. (2018-19)	658032	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
10	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-16	Lot No-16: Completion of incomplete work of Tin Shed Class Room at Aparnacharan City Corporation Girls High School, Kotwali, Chattogram. (2019-20)	658033	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
11	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-17	Lot No-17: Construction of New Shaheed Minar and Repair & Renovation Work at Golokherat High School, Mirsharai, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658034	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
12	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-18	Lot No-18: Construction work of New Retaining Wall and Boundary Wall at Abur Hat High School, Mirsharai, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658035	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
13	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-19	Lot No-19: Construction work of Attach Bath Room of Academic Building at Mogadia Nurul Absar Chowdhury High School, Mirsharai, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658036	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
14	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-20	Lot No-20: Construction work of New Retaining Wall at Shaherkhali High School, Mirsharai, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658037	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
15	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-21	Lot No-21: Construction work of Attach Bath Room of Academic Building at Abul Kasem Girls High School, Mirsharai, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658038	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00
16	Ctg/Rev/MAUSHI-5974/2021-22/Lot-22	Lot No-22: Construction work of New Retaining Wall at Mirsharai College, Mirsharai, Chattogram. (2020-21)	658040	23-Mar-2022 16:00	24-Mar-2022 15:00

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

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Education Engineering Department
Chattogram
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GD-479

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়
নীতি ও সংগঠন
www.mofa.gov.bd

নং ১৯.০০.০০০০.১২১.০১১.২০৭(৫১১)/১০২৫ তারিখ: ২২ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ ০৭ মার্চ ২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত নিয়োগযোগ্য শূন্য পদের বিপরীতে জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ এর ১৩তম গ্রেডভুক্ত নিয়োগ্য স্থায়ী পদে সরাসরি জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত শর্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে <http://mofa.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম/বেতনস্কেল	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স সীমা	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন
১.	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (Computer Operator) (গ্রেড-১৩) বেতনস্কেলঃ ১১,০০০-২৬,৫২০/-	৩০ বছর	০৪(চার)টি	(ক) কোনো স্নাতক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি। (খ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক পঞ্জীয়ন সনদ প্রাপ্তি প্রাপ্তি ইংরেজীতে ৩০ শব্দ ও বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ।	সকল জেলা

২। নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ

ক. ১০ মার্চ ২০২২ তারিখে প্রার্থীর সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা বিজ্ঞপ্তির ৩ নং কলাম এর বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী হতে হবে। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট প্রদানযোগ্য নয়।

খ. সরকারী আধা-সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের সকল শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে আবেদন ফরম পূরণের সময় Departmental Candidate এর ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিতে হবে। অন্যদের ক্ষেত্রে এই শর্ত প্রযোজ্য নয়। তবে সকল চাকরিরত প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে।

গ. নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধান কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

ঘ. লিখিত, মৌখিক ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

ঙ. মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সনদপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং পূর্ণপূর্ণ Application Form সহ সত্যায়িত একসেট ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। এছাড়া জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দার প্রমাণক হিসেবে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে আবেদনকারী যে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এ মর্মে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। আবেদনকারীকে তার সর্বশেষ অর্জিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার বিষয়টিও উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

চ. নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

ছ. এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণে “জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিয়োগ বিধিমালা, ২০১৯ অনুসরণ করা হবে।

জ. আবেদনকারীকে তার সর্বশেষ অর্জিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার বিষয়টি আবেদনে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

ঝ. লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীরা শূন্য ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় এবং ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীরাই শূন্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

ঞ. নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধি এবং বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

৩। আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলীঃ

ক) পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ <http://mofa.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ

- Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাধান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়: ১০ মার্চ ২০২২ সকাল ১০:০০ টা।
- Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাধানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ১০ এপ্রিল ২০২২ বিকাল ৫:০০ টা।

খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার রশ্মি ছবি (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০ x ৩৫০ pixel ও স্বাক্ষর (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০ x ৩৫০ pixel) জমা করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ১০০KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ৬০KB হতে হবে।

গ. Online আবেদনপত্রে পূর্ণপূর্ণ তথ্যই যেকোনো পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূর্ণপূর্ণ সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online-এ পূর্ণপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্টকপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন।

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতো ছবি ও স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবির Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে প্রার্থী একটি User ID, পিন এবং স্বাক্ষরিত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। যদি Applicant's copy তে কোন তথ্য ভুল থাকে বা অস্পষ্ট ছবি (সম্পূর্ণ কালো/ সম্পূর্ণ সাদা/খোলা) বা ছবি/ স্বাক্ষর সঠিক না থাকে তাহলে পুনরায় আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে আবেদন ফি জমাধানের পরে আর কোন পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন/ পরিবর্তন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। বিধায় আবেদন ফি জমাধানের পূর্বে প্রার্থী অবশ্যই উক্ত Applicant's copy তে তার সাম্প্রতিক তোলা রশ্মি ছবি, নির্ভুল তথ্য ও স্বাক্ষর সংযুক্ত থাকা ও এর সঠিকতার বিষয়টি PDF copy ডাউনলোড পূর্বক নিশ্চিত করে রশ্মি প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। উক্ত Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পর্যায়ে যে কোন Teletalk pre-paid mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই) টি SMS করে পরীক্ষার ফি বাব ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা ও Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ ১২.০০ টাকা মোট ১১২/- (একশত বারো) টাকা বাহ্যিক নম্বর মাধ্যমে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, "Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোনো অবস্থাতেই পৃথীত হবে না।"

প্রথম SMS: MOFA<space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে করতে হবে 16222 নম্বর

Example: MOFA ABCDEF
Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk. 112 will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is XXXXXXXX. To pay fee Type MOFA<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS: MOFA<space>Yes<space>PIN লিখে send করতে হবে 16222নম্বর।

Example: MOFA YES XXXXXXXX
Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for MOFA Application for XXXXXXXX User ID is (ABCDEFF) and Password (XXXXXX).

৪. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি <http://mofa.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের Website: www.mofa.gov.bd এ এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শূন্য যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে। বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বকালিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তৎক্ষণিক অনুসরণ করা বাধ্যনীয়।

৫. SMS এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও জেলার নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক Print (স্বাক্ষর হলে রশ্মি) করে দিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

৬. শূন্য টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID, Serial এবং PIN পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

- User ID জানা থাকলে: MOFA<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID & Send to 16222.
Example: MOFA HELP USER ABCDEF
- PIN Number জানা থাকলে: MOFA<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No.& Send to 16222.
Example: MOFA HELP PIN 12345678

০৪। প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা যাচাইঃ

(ক)

- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সনদ/প্রত্যয়ন/অনাপত্তিপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- পূর্ণপূর্ণ Application Form-এর প্রিন্ট কপি সাথে সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা হিসেবে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে।
- জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- বিভাগীয় ও সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিরত প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষের অনাপত্তিপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

(খ) উক্ত তথ্যসমূহের ভিত্তিতে প্রার্থীকে চূড়ান্ত নিয়োগ প্রদানের পূর্বে প্রার্থীর চারিত্রিক প্রাতিপদন সম্পাদন করা হবে।

(গ) প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র, জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষার নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীকে বাতিল করা হবে এবং জাতি বিরুদ্ধে যথার্থ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ভুল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষা উত্তীর্ণ যে কোনো প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(ঘ) যদি কোনো প্রার্থী বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক না হন কিংবা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নন এমন কোন ব্যক্তিকে বিবাহ করেন বা করার জন্য প্রস্তুতিবদ্ধ হন কিংবা কোনো ফৌজদারি আদালত কর্তৃক নৈতিক মূল্যবোধের ভিত্তিতে হন কিংবা কোন সরকারী বা স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান বা স্থায়ী কর্তৃপক্ষের চাকরি হতে বরখাস্ত হয়ে থাকেন এবং উক্তরূপ বরখাস্তের পর দুই বছর অভিজ্ঞতা না হয়ে থাকে, তবে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।

(ঙ) কম্পিউটার অপারেটর পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীদের লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বিষয়, নম্বর ইত্যাদি।

ক্রমিক নং	পরীক্ষা পদ্ধতি ও বিষয়বস্তু	নম্বর	সর্বনিম্ন পাশ নম্বর	সময়
(ক)	(১) লিখিত পরীক্ষা:	(২) বিষয় ভিত্তিক নম্বর	(৩) মোট নম্বর	(৪) ৫০%
	(১) বাংলা	২০		
	(২) ইংরেজী	২০		
	(৩) গণিত	২০		
	(৪) কম্পিউটার বিষয়ক সাধারণ জ্ঞান	২০		
(খ)	(১) মৌখিক	১০	১০	
	(২) সর্বমোট	১০০	১০০	

(চ) বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়-এর Website: www.mofa.gov.bd এ বিজ্ঞপ্তিসহ এতৎসংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্য দেখা যাবে। অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অ্যাপের টেলিটকের অ্যাপোলি <http://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করে বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য www.mofa.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে হতে জানা যাবে।

(ছ) অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ নম্বর অথবা vas.query@teletalk.com.bd বা as.randi@mofa.gov.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (Mail এর subject-এ Organization Name: MOFA, Post Name: Computer Operator, Applicant's User ID ও Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।)

(জ) জিজ্ঞাসা: প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের জিজ্ঞাসা অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রে প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য। প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোনো অযথাযত ধরা পড়লে বা কোনো প্রভাব বা দুর্নীতি আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষার নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে এমনকি নিয়োগের পরে যে কোনো পর্যায়ে প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

*** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে Online এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাধান করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

(গৌতম কুমার দে)
সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (নীতি ও সংগঠন)
ও
সদস্য-সচিব
বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি
পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা।

GD-469

Looking at his willow, Bangladesh batter Mahmudullah Riyad was probably contemplating reasons behind his poor run of form during the Tigers' practice session in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh will leave for South Africa for their upcoming series on March 11.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Although the BCB has granted Shakib a leave from all formats till April 30, Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, a very trusted man among the country's leading cricketers including Shakib, stressed importance on managing the senior players well and thought that it's not only about the South Africa tour but the board desperately need to arrive at a long-term plan about the availability of senior players. "We must understand that players like Shakib are at the tail end of their career and facing some limitations. But the country's cricket can get a valuable service from them for the next two-three years if the board chalks out a proper plan to bring confidence in them. I think there is a huge gap between the board and the player in terms of trust and mutual respect. It will set a bad example for our cricket if a player like Shakib signs off his career in chaos," Fahim said.

Mt Maunganui triumph on

TAMIM'S MIND

Now I will say that we want to win there, and we will do what we have to do to win. If we get the result, very good. If we don't, we will work harder.

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite there being no official practice session for the national team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday, the media present was anxious to get their hands on the latest update regarding one particular issue, the focal point of which was all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's availability for the upcoming tour of South Africa. The all-rounder had missed the Test tour to New Zealand this year with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) granting him leave after having included him in the squad for the Tests. This time the BCB had been more vocal after Shakib's announcement on Sunday that he was not mentally or physically fit to play international cricket. The BCB president had reiterated that seniors needed to decide which formats they wanted to play in without impeding team management's processes regarding building the team for the future. Despite the noise, later in the evening yesterday, the BCB granted Shakib a leave till April 30th from all cricket after the all-rounder sought to skip the

upcoming tour of South Africa tour. The issue of Shakib taking break from important series has been a touchy one for the BCB. ODI captain Tamim Iqbal, who partook in an individual session yesterday, was also not in a mood to become part of the noise around Shakib's availability. Tamim asked the media to refrain from asking anything on the matter but was content to give his views on the upcoming ODI series against South Africa. Even as he was not talking about the South Africa Tests, the Bangladesh Test side that won a historic first match at Kiwi soil was where Tamim was looking for inspiration ahead of a tough tour. Bangladesh had lost all nine ODIs they have played so far in South Africa and all six Tests till date as well. The record is similar to what was the case in New Zealand before that victory at Mount Maunganui. "We don't have a great record in South Africa but records can change and a great example is our Test win in New Zealand," Tamim told reporters on Wednesday. "We turned things around there after many years. We couldn't win in 30-32 matches in New Zealand but the Test team changed that. I'm hopeful this team will force the same change [in South Africa]. Belief makes a big difference. We will try to do the same in South Africa. "We know it will be difficult since they

are a very, very good team in their own conditions. Ten years ago, I would have said that we want to play good cricket. Now I will say that we want to win there, and we will do what we have to do to win. If we get the result, very good. If we don't, we will work harder. Tamim was looking for players from that Mount Maunganui victory to lead the way in terms of how to go about things in tough away conditions. "I wasn't with the team in New Zealand, unfortunately. I want those who were in that squad, to speak about it. Many of them are in the ODI squad, so they can talk about their thought process, and what they were thinking at the time to turn things around," added Tamim. The ODI series win against Afghanistan did not find batters to be consistent and in a great vein of form but the fielding problems remained persistent. Tamim said, "We didn't bat well as a unit. I didn't score runs. Shakib didn't find runs as well. But that's fine. Not worried about batting but fielding is one thing we have to improve." Tamim himself has been keen to work on his footwork with batting coach Jamie Siddons during the Afghan ODIs. "He is very honest. If I'm doing something [wrong], he will tell me," he reiterated. The Tigers will depart for South Africa with the ODI side leaving on March 11 on two separate flights while members of the Test side will leave on March 12.

Booters set for camp on March 19

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh head coach Javier Cabrera will get only four days to prepare the national football team for their FIFA friendly match against hosts Maldives on March 25 at the National Stadium in Male. All the 30 members of the preliminary squad, expected to be announced by March 13-14, will join the residential camp on March 19 at the Bashundhara Kings Arena after reporting to the newly-appointed manager Iqbal Hossain the day before. "The national team will train three days from March 19 to 21 at the Bashundhara Kings Arena before leaving Dhaka for Male on March 22. The match is scheduled for March 24," said national team committee chairman and Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vice president Kazi Nabil Ahmed in a video message after a meeting yesterday. "The team will come back on March 25 and travel to Sylhet on March 26 for their match against Mongolia on March 29," Ahmed added. "We are hoping for a good preparation as well as good results for the national team." Local coaches Hasan Al Mamun and Masud Parvez Kaiser will be acting as assistant coaches to Cabrera. Some 23 footballers are supposed to travel to play against the Maldives, who beat Bangladesh 2-0 during the SAFF Championship but lost 2-1 to the booters in a four-nation tournament in Sri Lanka last year.

Mabia, Ashiqur allowed direct entry to CG

SPORTS REPORTER

South Asian Games gold medalist weightlifter Mabia Akter Simanta and Ashiqur Rahman Taj have been allowed direct entry to the upcoming Commonwealth Games, thanks to their good performance in the regional competitions. Birmingham Commonwealth Games authority confirmed it to the Bangladesh Olympic Association and Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation yesterday. Mabia will compete in 64kg weight category while Taj will feature in 55kg weight category of the Games, scheduled to begin on July 28 in Birmingham. Apart from weightlifting, Bangladesh will also participate in swimming, athletics, boxing, gymnastics, wrestling and table tennis.

China exit bodes well for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Bangladesh are expected to be under less pressure in their AHF Cup title defence as top-favourite China withdrew from the tournament, set to begin tomorrow in Indonesia. "If we can reach the semifinals, then we will have easier matches in the semifinals as China pulled out," said Bangladesh Hockey Federation's acting general secretary Mohammad Yousuf, who is accompanying the boys in red and green to Jakarta. Bangladesh will start the campaign by taking on hosts Indonesia on the opening day.

'This was a statement from Bayern'

AGENCIES

Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski grabbed the earliest hat-trick in Champions League history with three goals by the 23rd minute as the Germans steamrollered Salzburg 7-1 on Tuesday to book a place in the quarter-finals with an 8-2 aggregate score. "This was definitely a statement from us, and it gives us hope that there is more like this to come," Bayern captain Manuel Neuer told Amazon Prime after his side reached the last eight for a record 20th time. Bayern, who have been unpredictable in the Bundesliga this year, have now scored seven or more goals in a Champions League game for a record seventh time. "We started well and presented ourselves differently from recent weeks. That gives you hope that this will go on. You could see from the start that we had a good attitude," said Neuer. The keeper also set a record with his 104th appearance in the competition, overtaking current club CEO Oliver Kahn as the Bayern keeper with the most games in the Champions League. "The game was of huge importance for us," Mueller said. "Had we been eliminated today we would have faced three sad months and people would be rightly questioning things." "Today it was an opponent on a different level," Salzburg defender Rasmus Kristensen said. "We had some chances but if you don't make them count it's difficult. It had nothing to do with attitude, focus or the match plan. They simply were better in all aspects - that's it." Salzburg had two golden chances early in the game and came agonisingly close to an equaliser in the 15th minute when Neuer, back from a knee injury, pulled off the save of the game to tip Nicolas Seiwald's missile over the bar. But even though Salzburg had not conceded more than two goals in a competitive match this season, they could do nothing to stop in-form Lewandowski.

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski scored a record-breaking 11-minute hat-trick during a 7-1 win at home to Red Bull Salzburg on Tuesday. The Polish striker had three goals to his name by the 23rd minute -- the earliest anyone has ever completed a hat-trick in a Champions League game. With just ten minutes and 27 seconds between Lewandowski's first and third goals, it was the fastest of the six hat-tricks the Pole has now scored in the Champions League.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Liverpool into quarters despite loss

REUTERS, Liverpool

Liverpool stuttered into the quarter-finals of the Champions League with a 2-1 aggregate win over Inter Milan after suffering a 1-0 loss to the Italian side, who were reduced to 10 men, at Anfield on Tuesday. After a cagey first half, a superb drive into the top corner from Lautaro Martinez in the 62nd minute put Inter ahead on the night. Although the defeat ended Liverpool's seven-match winning run in the Champions League they achieved their goal of reaching the last eight for the fourth time in the last five seasons. "The art of football is to lose the right games. I still hate it, but if there's any game we could afford to lose it was tonight," said Klopp. "Over the two games I think we deserved it. It is fair that we are through against a tough opponent".



A legend. A maverick. A CHAMPION.

Many know Warne after “the ball of the century” in 1993. The big spinning leg-breaks on bouncy tracks in Australia were unheard of before Warne regularly produced such deliveries. Then came the flipper, the zooter and the slider. Truth be told, not many batsmen knew what was happening when Warne was in his elements.

MOHAMMAD ISAM

In an attempt to put these words together, I went through every living memory of Shane Warne. The difficult part is obviously to put my thoughts into words; Warne entered my senses when cricket started to excite me at the age of ten. A whole lifetime of religiously following his playing career, post-international IPL career and then the commentary and punditry. The cricket fan in me takes centre stage when Warne was in front of me. Childhood ended for me when Bangabandhu National Stadium stopped hosting cricket. Warne's death marks the end of an era of cricket following for the absolute love for the game.

Warne pricked the senses of a ten-year old me in the 1990s with his theatre. Staring down the batsman like a fast bowler, the ball flicking from one hand to the other, the walk, the action, the flick of the wrist. Turn, spin, overspin. He had it all.

Many know Warne after “the ball of the century” in 1993. The big spinning leg-breaks on bouncy tracks in Australia were unheard of before Warne regularly produced such deliveries. Then came the flipper, the zooter and the slider. Truth be told, not many batsmen knew what was happening when Warne was in his elements.

Warne was in the thick of things in six Ashes triumphs from 1993 to 2007, losing only once in the epic 2005 series in England. He was part of the Australia side that wrested back the Frank Worrell Trophy in 1995. He won the World Cup in 1999, and one of his final big achievements was playing a vital role in Australia's 2004-05 Test series win in India.

He finished on 708 Test wickets at 25.41 average, bettered only by Muttiah Muralidaran who overtook him in numbers. The pair were immortalized when they were named in the Australia-Sri Lanka Test series trophy some years ago.

Warne was a handy batsman lower down the order, most famous for bailing out Australia in a 2001 Test against New Zealand with his 99, his highest score. He made quick runs as an ODI pinch-hitter a few times.

But it was his fielding that often surprised many. Warne was simply world-class at the slips for many years. When Mark Taylor retired, he took up the first slip position. Around the outfield too, he was athletic and powerful. Little details that often got lost in his overarching Hollywood persona.

Warne was embroiled in a match-fixing scandal, got banned for a year for using a banned substance. He had his personal life pasted in the tabloids in the UK quite regularly. Warne even got caught pinching a cigarette when he was promoting a nicotine-substitute manufacturer. But it all faded away in front of his mastery.

Warne was keenly aware of what he meant to the game. He was an out-and-out cricketer, and a revolutionary leg-spinner. Before him, the likes of Abdul Qadir and Richie Benaud had been successful leggies. Qadir, like Warne, was also a maverick, famously growing a goatee so that he looked like a French magician. Imran Khan thought it would add to his mystique. Benaud was the straight cut guy. He was the famous Australian captain from the 1960s who was more of an allrounder.

Warne's story touched everyone. He had the talent to play Australian rules football for his beloved St Kilda Club in Melbourne, but he went into cricket. The initiation wasn't great: he ran away from the Australia Cricket Academy. Thought it was too much hard work.

His Test debut was another relatable experience. He got smashed by Ravi Shastri, Sachin Tendulkar and co, famously taking just one wicket in the game.

Terry Jenner, Warne's leg-spin guru, dragged him out of his house literally, and retrained him as a bowler. Warne's rebirth

as a leg-spinner was also the rejuvenation of cricket's most difficult art.

Warne being pitted against Sachin Tendulkar in the late 1990s gave cricket fans of that generation its first big rivalry. Ahead of the 1998 tour, Tendulkar famously trained harder for Warne, who was quietly struggling with a shoulder injury. Tendulkar had the wood over Warne for most of his career, but the nature of the rivalry stood out. It didn't have the brutality of the Don Bradman-Harold Larwood battles, or the combustibility of the Dennis Lillee-Viv Richards skirmishes. When Warne bowled to Tendulkar or Lara, it was cricket at its best. A mesmerizing artist confronting two masters with the willow.

Warne never left cricket even after his celebrated retirement in 2007. He was always going to be a hot property in T20s. He led Rajasthan Royals to the inaugural IPL triumph, famously promoting the likes of Ravinder Jadeja and Yusuf Pathan into starring roles. Warne was always known as a natural leader and in the few occasions he led Australia, he gave glimpses of his aggressive captaincy. Rajastishan gave him the blank canvas to draw up what he wanted to do.

Perhaps Warne's greatest legacy is the unbelievable number of leg-spinners who now rule the roost in T20s. Rashid Khan, Imran Tahir, Adil Rashid, Adam Zampa and Yuzvendra Chahal are just some of the names that come up in everyday conversations. The progress of the left-arm unorthodox spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Tabraiz Shamsi is Warne's contribution to cricket: now cricket coaches, analysts, orgainers and team owners trust leg-spin.

As I search for the final words, thousands swim around but only three probably describe Warne the best.

A legend. A maverick. A champion.

***The writer is Bangladesh Correspondent for ESPNcricinfo.*

“[Mike] Gatting has absolutely no idea what has happened to it ... he still doesn't know!”

RICHIE BENAUD on Shane Warne's 'Ball of the Century' in 1993.



A peek through Warne's looking glass

The way people still wonder about how the pyramids of Giza and other giant stone block megalithic structures were built around the world, new generations of cricket fans down the line will look back at Shane Warne's 1001 Tests and ODI wickets, those magical moments under pressure, and scratch their heads the same. Blessed with a stellar cricketing brain, Warne was more than a great leg spin bowler, if not the greatest bowler ever. Arrived on the centre stage with 'the ball of century' and left with a bang as well, however, without a warning. Gone too soon, left a huge void, but the hottest of stars die young, as they say. Warne would undoubtedly remain a lighthouse in the ocean for not only aspiring leg spinners but bowlers, cricketers and sportspeople in general. Arguably the most influential cricketer of his generation, Warne's life's arc, on and off the field, makes the human side of his towering personality stand out above all else in the end. Below is a brief compilation of quotes from the legend himself, curated by The Daily Star, which sheds some perspective on his career and life.



ON HIMSELF:

I am no dummy, mate, that's for sure.

ON CRICKET:

To me, cricket is a simple game. Keep it simple and just go out and play.

ON BOWLING SPIN:

Part of the art of bowling spin is to make the batsman think something special is happening when it isn't.

ON THE BEST BATTER OF HIS TIME:

Sachin Tendulkar is in my time the best player without doubt - daylight second, Brian Lara third.

ON HIS

ACHIEVEMENTS

AS A CRICKETER:

I'm proud of what I've achieved in cricket, as once I didn't think I was good enough.

ON FANS' EXPECTATIONS TOWARDS SPORTS:

We've just got to be careful - with all sports, let alone cricket - I think there's so much emphasis on doing the right thing all the time, but I think the public want to be entertained when they come to watch sport.

ON CRICKET PHILOSOPHY OF THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM:

With Australians we're saying we're going to win before we start playing and pretty much keep on saying that.

ON LIFE:

You can't afford to live your life with regrets.

ON HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH TENDULKAR AND LARA:

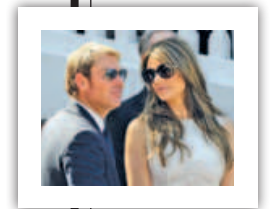
With Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara, it was better to be friends and make them smile rather than wind them up.

ON MAKING MISTAKES AND HIS SCANDALS:

People make mistakes and I've probably made a few more than others, but unfortunately, mine is also a bit more public. That's the way it is. You've just got to get on with life. After all, it's not a rehearsal.

ON ACTING CHILDLIKE:

The problem is there's still a big kid inside me who likes to have fun. I am passionate about my cricket and I love my family, but I'm also a kid and maybe I need to grow up... And maybe I don't.



‘His bowling will continue to inspire generations’

MAZHAR UDDIN

The current generation of youngsters may have not witnessed Shane Warne, who retired from cricket in 2007 after cementing himself as the greatest leg-spinner in cricketing history, but his legacy and aura are things that cannot be ignored.

The news that the 'King of Spin' was found dead at his Villa in Thailand on March 4 at the age of just 52 shocked everyone. But while he may have left sooner than anticipated, he influenced innumerable youngsters to chance their arm across the world and an example of his impact can be seen in the cricket academies in Dhaka.

16-year-old Rafin Ahmed is one of those examples. He joined Ankur Cricketers Academy at the Abahani Club ground in Dhanmondi under former Bangladesh leg spinner and prominent coach Wahidul Gani.

“I never watched Warne play live because he had retired from international cricket when I was one or two years old. But since I have been following cricket since childhood, I



used to hear a lot about him. I developed an interest in his bowling. I started to watch his old matches on YouTube and it was love at first sight. I decided to become a leg-spinner right away,” Rafin said.

Another example of the legacy that Warne left behind could be observed at the outer nets of the Abahani ground, where a youngster

was bowling leggies with an action identical to Warne's. That young man was Asif Alam, who plays first division cricket and dreams of representing Bangladesh given the fact that the national team is in desperate search for a leg-spinner.

“I dream of representing the national team because we have been searching for a leg-spinner. I want to

be someone like Shane Warne, who changed the dimensions and the art of leg-spin. It is outstanding how he made everyone fall in love with this art. I was amazed to see the 'ball of the century' from Warne. Since then I have always wanted to bowl like him,” Asif said.

Wahidul is one of the very few specialist leg-spin coaches in Bangladesh and has been coaching for over three decades now. The veteran informed that many parents had come to him over the years urging him to groom their child as the next Warne.

“Leg-spin is a difficult art to be honest and it's tough to master. Although the new generation may have not seen Warne during his playing days, there was a time when many youngsters were keen to become leg-spinners after watching the Australian great. Warne left a lasting legacy and I think even though he is no longer with us, his bowling will continue to inspire many more generations in the coming days,” said Wahidul.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, AFP, REUTERS AND TITU DAS



Lost shipwreck found after 100 yrs

AFP, Johannesburg

One of the famous shipwrecks in history, Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance*, has been discovered off the coast of Antarctica more than a century after its sinking, explorers announced yesterday.

Endurance was discovered at a depth of 3,008 metres (9,869 feet) in the Weddell Sea, about six kilometres (four miles) from where it was slowly crushed by pack ice in 1915.

"We are overwhelmed by our good fortune in having located and captured images of *Endurance*," said Mensun Bound, the expedition's director of exploration.

"This is by far the finest wooden shipwreck I have

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BANGABANDHU SATELLITE-2

War casts uncertainty over timely launch

MAHMUDUL HASAN

The timely launching of the country's second satellite by a Russian company could face uncertainty amid sanctions imposed by the US and its allies to punish Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The Bangabandhu Satellite-2 project could face financial and technological hurdles.

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, global payments messaging network SWIFT has asked Bangladesh's banks to suspend transactions with most Russian

lenders.

The technological hurdle comes in the form of the US and its allies imposing a sanction on Russia's import of microchips.

"In the current situation, there could be an impact on launching the satellite within our targeted time," said Shahjahan Mahmood, chairman of the Bangladesh Satellite Company Ltd (BSCL).

The state-run BSCL, on February 2, signed a cooperation contract with Russian company Glavkosmos with the aim of launching the satellite by 2023.

Under the contract, Glavkosmos was tasked with

manufacturing and launching the earth observation satellite for over \$430 million.

"We are keeping this issue under observation. Since the entire scenario has not been totally revealed."

However, he said Moscow assured that the current crisis will have no impact on the project since most components are built by Russia internally.

Mustafa Jabbar, telecom minister, said they are evaluating the situation.

"After the evaluation, the decision will be made regarding

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COVID INOCULATION

Special drive for 2nd shots begins Mar 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second round of the three-day-long countrywide Covid-19 special inoculation campaign will be started from March 28, read a DGHS circular.

Around 1.2 crore people, aged 12 years and above, who received their first jabs of Covid-19 vaccines on February 26 during the first round of the campaign, will get their second jabs in this campaign.

"It has been asked to arrange additional booths in those centres where people gathered en masse on February 26," read the circular signed by Dr Shamsul Haque, member-secretary of the Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce Committee of the Directorate General of Health Services.

On February 26, the Directorate General of Health Services vaccinated 1.2 crore people with the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine through a special campaign.

Around 24,500 vaccination centres were set up countrywide during the campaign. Due to the heavy rush of people, the campaign was extended for two days. Hundreds of people were seen thronging the vaccination centres countrywide.

During the three-day-long campaign, around 1.64 crore people were jabbed with first dose of Covid-19 vaccines countrywide, surpassing the 70 percent targeted population, according to the Directorate General of Health Services data.

Earlier on February 16, the Directorate General of Health Services scrapped the requirement to show national identity cards or birth certificates or any document to get Covid-19 vaccines, which resulted in the heavy rush for vaccines during the campaign.

As of Tuesday, around 12.57 crore or around 74 percent of the total population received their first dose while 8.78 crore or around 52 percent of the total population have received second dose Covid-19 vaccines.

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An SUV, apparently belonging to the government, goes against heavy traffic on a street near Khamar Bari in the capital yesterday. The street has already become significantly narrow there due to the construction work of metro rail.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Man dies in Rab custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A BNP activist of Chattogram's Rangunia upazila died yesterday, hours after a team of Rab-7 arrested him in connection with a murder case.

The dead is Nazrul Islam, 60, of the same upazila, said police.

According to the victim's family, he was accused in multiple politically motivated cases.

"He was arrested in front of my eyes. Now he is no more..." a wailing family member said, seeking anonymity.

The wailing family member said s/he feared for life and did not want to disclose identity. "You, media, never stand by us," the person said.

According to Rab, the victim was suffering from the heart- and age-related complications.

Contacted, Rab-7 Commanding Officer Lt Col MA Yousuf said Nazrul was a fugitive. He had an FIR filed against him in connection with a murder case in 2012 and a court-issued warrant.

"On information, Rab detained him in front of Chevron Clinical Laboratory Limited in Chattogram city around 10:00pm Tuesday. He later fell sick in custody."

He was rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital around 12:30am yesterday as he started having chest pain. He breathed his last at the

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Better Seeds Better Yield

OUR MISSION

HIGHER YIELD THROUGH INNOVATION

Smallholders (Small Farmers) are the most optimistic people in the world. Whether it is winter, summer, rain or drought, they plant crops in every season. Every time they plant crops, they do that with a new ray of hope. Lal Teer Seed Ltd. (LTSL) always consider to be a partner with farmers' aspiration and expectation. Because, the main input for better yield is "Seed". Seed is fundamental to better productivity and more yield.

Farmers always harvest crops with new hope. No matter whatever the yield they achieved in the last season, that the yield will be better in the next season. The next season is knocking at the door. As soon as one season ends the next season begins. It is a continuous cycle. So, farmers have to be ready at all times. LTSL remains ready to endure the major input of agricultural production - "THE SEED". Our mission is to foster the expectations of farmers; no matter whatever the obstacles are; drought, excessive rain, flood, epidemic or even pandemic. We remain ready to collaborate with farmers. LTSL is constantly moving forward with the farmers.

Breeders in LTSD are working day and night to develop new crop varieties through rational adaptation of best traits and genomic materials. New varieties are appreciated by farmers because of high yield which plays the vital role to fulfill their expectations. Moreover, some of these varieties are drought-tolerant, saline-tolerant, able to resist diseases or insects and climate resilient. Simultaneously preferable to consumers because of its taste and smell. Since 1997 our breeders have developed 165 new varieties of 35 types of various vegetables and field crops.

The World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) established in 2018 founded by Dutch, Danish, UK, Sweden and German Government evaluated the 31 most influential seed companies (13 Global and 18 Regional) operating in South and South-East Asia considering key for increasing access to quality seeds of improved varieties for smallholder farmers. LTSL ranked 7th in the 2021 Index for South and South-East Asia.

All our efforts are directed towards smallholders to grow more out of their small land. Farmers are at the heart of our efforts. This is our vision, mission and commitment. We believe, more production means better nutrition and health of people, benefit to farmers and satisfaction of consumers.

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Pandemic not over

Warns UN chief, decries vaccine inequality

AFP, United Nations

After two years the Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over and could be prolonged further due to "scandalously unequal" vaccine distribution, the UN secretary-general warned yesterday.

"The pandemic's most tragic toll has been on the health and lives of millions, with more than 446 million cases worldwide, more than six million deaths confirmed, and countless more grappling with worsening mental health," said UN chief Antonio Guterres in a statement marking the second anniversary of the global crisis.

"Thanks to unprecedented public health measures, and the extraordinarily rapid development and deployment of vaccines, many parts of the world are bringing the pandemic under control," he said.

"But it would be a grave mistake to think the pandemic is over."

Guterres noted that the "distribution of vaccines remains scandalously unequal," and that while 1.5 billion doses of vaccine

are produced each month, "nearly three billion people are still waiting for their first shot."

"This failure is the direct result of policy and budgetary decisions that prioritize the health of people in wealthy countries over the health of people in poor countries," said Guterres.

He added that the two-tiered recovery is "a recipe for more

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