





## Govt spent Tk 40,000cr on Covid shots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has spent Tk 40,000cr for purchasing Covid-19 vaccines and implementing nationwide inoculation campaigns, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday.

“We have administered around 22 crore doses so far... No irregularity or fault was seen in such a huge campaign,” he said.

He made the statement while addressing a discussion marking World Kidney Day 2022 at the National Institute of Kidney Disease and Urology in Dhaka.

Of all jabs administered, 12.5cr were first doses, 8.5 crore second doses and 50 lakh booster doses. More than 1 lakh people worked for this, the minister said.

He also said Bloomberg ranked Bangladesh in the eighth position among all countries “for administering 22 crore vaccine jabs” within a short time.

Zahid Maleque also said the government would arrange a special campaign to administer booster doses like the ones for first and second doses. “This will keep the country safer.”

About the kidney disease situation in the country, the minister said that as many as 70-80 people have been dying from kidney disease while around 20-30 thousand people develop kidney disease every day.

“For this reason, we have taken projects to set up 10-bed dialysis centre and 10-bed ICU in each district separately. Besides, there will be cancer and kidney hospital in each of the eight divisions,” he added.

## HC issues contempt rule against CEC Awal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal for not registering Ganasamhati Andolon as a political party even though the court directed the Election Commission to do so almost three years ago.

The HC asked the CEC to explain in four weeks why contempt of court proceedings should not be launched against him.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman issued the rule after Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of the Ganasamhati, filed a petition in this regard.

At the hearing, lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua told the court that the HC on April 11, 2019, directed the CEC and the EC to register the Ganasamhati as a political party.

A copy of that order was submitted to the EC, but the commission is yet to register the Ganasamhati, which amounts to contempt of court, he added.

The lawyer said CEC Awal is responsible for implementing the HC directive.



A woman helps her daughter cross a wooden structure placed on a dug-up portion of the Atish Dipankar Road in the capital's Sabujbagh area yesterday. Dhaka South City Corporation dug the road over a month ago to improve the area's drainage. Meanwhile, the locals continue to suffer.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Rights bodies slam draft rules on social media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights organisations have issued statements expressing alarm that the proposed social media regulation could pave the way to curb freedom of expression.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission released a draft regulation meant to regulate digital and social media and over-the-top (OTT) platforms.

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a coalition of 20 organisations, in a statement yesterday said, “The Forum is worried about the vagueness concerning the regulation's scope and breadth of application and its lack of specificity in defining terminologies.”

Furthermore, the organisation is concerned about the draft regulation not clearly defining the grounds for removing content, and its power to impose restrictions on free speech.

The Forum said the lack of clear definitions in this draft regulation will create confusion and scope for abuse of the law. “For example, terms such as ‘content that hurts religious sentiments, secularism, culture and social values’ must be clearly defined,” said the statement.

HRFB said most provisions in the regulation are in direct conflict with international covenants on human rights, civic and political rights.

The regulation places restrictions on

those who host, publish, send, update information, which is contrary to the principles of free speech and open information.

“The privacy of individual citizens will be affected by the provision in the regulation which states that the BTRC or court can order the identity of the primary sender of an information to be revealed,” said the Forum.

“The end-to-end encryption

the years.

“We have seen thousands of arrests over a period of over one decade for expressions on social media that can be reasonably assessed to be lawful,” said TIB.

They also said powers given to the BTRC to cancel, suspend or revoke registration certificates may deter non-resident service providers from entering the Bangladesh market.

On Tuesday, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) had issued a similar statement saying the regulation will “inhibit democratic debate and discourse”.

“There is a risk that entities engaged in constructive but critical commentary on powerful actors, or in asserting rights or demanding justice and accountability in respect to corruption or human rights violations, may find it difficult to secure registration,” said BLAST.

The HRFB statement was signed by Golam Monowar Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra; Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Udyog; Sara Hossain, executive director of BLAST; Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development; Sanjeeb Drong, secretary-general of Bangladesh Adibashi Forum, and Saleh Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu Social Welfare Society.

**Terms such as ‘content that hurts religious sentiments, secularism, culture and social values’ must be clearly defined.”**

provided by WhatsApp will be rendered illegal by this regulation.”

Certain sections of the regulation are almost identical to some of the most abused sections of the Digital Security Act, observed the Forum.

These include sections pertaining to defamation, affecting the image of the nation and its sovereignty, breaching government secrecy, insulting the spirit of the Liberation War and the Father of Nation.

Transparency International Bangladesh in another statement yesterday said the power given to BTRC to remove content on the grounds mentioned above has been abused over

## Decapitated body of girl found in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The decapitated body of an eight-year-old girl was recovered in Keshlututi of Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila on Wednesday night, nearly two hours after she had gone missing from near her home in the village.

Family members of the victim, Fatema Jannat Mou, a first grader of a local school, found the body in a hole at the back of their house, Mosharraf Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Kamalganj Shamsheernagar police outpost, said, adding that stab marks were also spotted in the neck and abdomen.

A murder case was filed with Kamalganj Police Station yesterday, and the body was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

## Teacher held over rape attempt in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Rab yesterday arrested a 58-year-old madrasa teacher in Natore's Lalpur upazila where he had been hiding since March 6 after a case was filed against him for attempting to rape one of his students.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team arrested Hazrat Ali, principal of Dasgram Fazil Madrasa in Baraigram upazila, around 3:00am yesterday, said Farhad Hossain, company commander of Rab in Natore.

Farhad said Ali allegedly tried to rape the female student, 13, in a room of the madrasa earlier this month. As she screamed for help, other students along with locals rescued her.

During primary investigation, the accused confessed attempting to rape the girl, he also said.

## Teen found dead in Thakurgaon hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police early yesterday recovered a 14-year-old boy's body which was hanging from a shower head in the toilet of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

OC Tanvirul Islam of Thakurgaon Police Station said the victim, Devdas, of Ghoshpara area under Thakurgaon municipality, had gone to the hospital late Wednesday night to visit one of his friends Anirban, also 14.

Police suspect it is a case of suicide, he said, adding that an unnatural case was filed in this regard.

## 3 Covid deaths in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people died of Covid-19 and 327 cases were registered in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release from the DGHS.

The positivity rate was 1.91 percent, it said, adding that the caseload reached 19,48,798 and the death toll 29,100.

A total of 17,103 samples were tested across the country in those 24 hours. All the three dead were males, it also said.

## BJP soars

FROM PAGE 1

For Congress, the elections results in the five states will bring its position as a glue of an anti-BJP coalition under fresh questioning and critics of the Gandhi clan within the party will be emboldened, analysts say.

AAP's triumph in Punjab gives a big boost to the party and Kejriwal's hopes of becoming a bigger player in India's national politics.

The party also won two seats in Goa with a vote share of 6.77 percent.

On the other hand, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's national aspirations suffered a blow yesterday as her party put up a flop show in the coastal state of Goa, where it failed to win a single seat in the 40-member legislative assembly. TMC's vote share in Goa is 5.21 percent.

Last year, TMC suffered a virtual wipe-out in Tripura's civic body polls.

On the other hand, AAP secured one seat and led in another in Goa with a higher vote share than TMC.

BJP's win in UP, which sends the maximum number of Lok Sabha members (80)

and where the polls outcome is considered bellwether, and in three other states signals consolidation of its power and ideological hold in Indian politics. The victories will be seen as referendums on Modi's popularity ahead of the 2024 general election.

For Congress, the loss in Punjab, one of the major states where it had power, means its pan-India footprints have shrunk further. It is now left in power in just two heartland states – Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh – adding to its continued nightmare.

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress was set to end up in fourth place.

Wracked by infighting, Congress has itself to blame for the debacle in Punjab, as it replaced its Chief Minister Amarinder Singh just four months before assembly polls.

Saffron-robed Adityanath, who many consider to be Modi's heir, is set to become the first Chief Minister of UP to return to power with a decisive mandate after serving a full five-year term.

magistrates have started conducting drives in the market to stop those who make extra profit through SO trade of various consumer goods.”

Akhter added that the administration will look into the fact that the prices are not mentioned in the SOs.

The government fixed the retail price of loose palm oil at Tk 135 a kg, and soyabean oil at Tk 180. They were sold at Taka 140 and 180 in the retail markets of Chattagram yesterday.

## FDA approves Eskayef facility

FROM PAGE 1

Pregabalin is an anti-epileptic drug, which is also used to control neuropathic pain. Eskayef, the third drug manufacturer from Bangladesh to get the US FDA approval, will launch the product in the US shortly.

Eskayef's manufacturing sites have earlier received approvals from other global regulatory authorities.

These are United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (UK MHRA), European Union (EU) Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of UK, Brazil Agencia Nacional de Vigilancia Sanitaria (Brazil ANVISA) and Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of Australia.

“Unwavering commitment to quality has always been at the forefront of Eskayef's drive to serving humanity, and receiving this accreditation from the US FDA has solidified our hold as the epitome of quality products for the people of Bangladesh and the world,” said Simeen Rahman, group CEO of Transcom Limited and managing director and CEO of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

“It is a moment of great pride and a significant move towards our long-term strategy of stepping into the US market. In this journey, we have the aspiration to focus on technology-driven molecules and complex products in the pipeline to address unmet patient needs, where I believe the

talented individuals at Eskayef will differentiate us from others,” she said. During the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic, Eskayef launched the world's first generic Remdesivir brand Remivir, first generic Molnupiravir brand

ESKAYEF'S INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION	
INT'L REGULATORY AUTHORITY	APPROVAL YEAR
UK MHRA	2008
EU GMP	2009
UK VMD	2011
Australia TGA	2011
South Africa SHAPRA	2020
Brazil ANVISA	2021
US FDA	2022

Monuvir and first generic version of Nirmatrelvir tablets co-packaged with Ritonavir tablets with the brand name Paxovir, it said. **SIGNIFICANCE OF US FDA APPROVAL** Of nearly 200 pharmaceuticals companies operating in Bangladesh, Eskayef has won the US FDA approval after Square and Beximco Pharma.

The approval from one of the toughest regulators will enable Eskayef to export drugs to the US market as it depicts a high quality.

The US FDA issues export certificates for approved or licenced drugs and for unapproved drugs that meet certain legal

requirements.

The approval of FDA is important, because it validates the need for research on how drugs work on patients. In order to receive FDA approval for a drug or a medical device, the manufacturer must prove to the FDA that the item is “safe and effective”.

Officials said Eskayef got the approval following more than five years of efforts.

The recognition will play a big role in further accelerating export of drugs made in Bangladesh, the country which posted export earnings of \$169 million from pharmaceuticals shipment in the 2020-21 fiscal year, more than twice the overall receipts of \$83 million five years ago.

During the current fiscal year, drug exports have been buoyant. Manufacturers, including Eskayef, logged 21 percent higher year-on-year export receipts to \$130 million in the July-February period of the current fiscal year.

“This is really a matter of great pride. This shows that some of our manufacturers are making drugs maintaining international quality. Such recognition is also testament to the fact that we have very efficient human resources like pharmacists to make world-class drugs,” said Professor ABM Faroque, former dean of Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Dhaka.

Congratulating Eskayef, he said, “We want to see them getting approval for more and more drugs from US FDA in the coming days.” Professor Faroque

suggested local drug makers who got FDA approval to be cautious and maintain high standards so that more drugs from Bangladesh get approval from the US FDA, the strictest drug regulator in the world.

Md Mustafizur Rahman, professor of pharmacy discipline of the Life Science School at Khulna University, said the US FDA approval for a company means that its production processes have reached US standards.

“This approval helps companies export its products to the US market and the US importers do not remain uncertain about the quality of the products. Additionally, Regulators of other countries take the approval without any question, which is an honour for any company,” he noted.

Eskayef Pharma is one of the organisations of Transcom group founded by Late Latifur Rahman, who was awarded with Oslo Business for Peace Award in 2012, the highest distinction given to a businessperson for outstanding accomplishments in the area of ethical business.

Eskayef has been producing medicines for 32 years and currently exporting to 67 countries across six continents.

The drug maker, which manufactures and markets a wide range of therapeutic drugs, bulk pellets, and animal health and nutrition products, started its journey in 1990, when Bangladesh's operation of SK&F, USA was acquired by Transcom Group.

FROM PAGE 1

The decisions were made at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, finance ministry officials said the authorities have already decided to reduce the VAT on edible oil to 15 percent from 35pc. It will remain in effect till June, they said.

VAT on the other commodities will be also be lowered soon, they said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the minister mainly blamed the Ukraine-Russia War for the price hike.

“Wars are not in our hands. In such situation, imports face hurdles and prices become dearer. Sometimes, importers also take advantage of this ... That's why we have decided to deploy TCB,” he said.

“We believe we will be able to tackle this situation, like the way we handled the situation after the pandemic.”

Admitting that people were being severely affected by the soaring prices, he said at least one crore families would be benefited if the essentials were delivered properly.

Currently, TCB trucks sell essentials at subsidised prices in metropolitan areas. Sometimes, the truck sale continues at the district level. The government has for the first time decided to take the trucks into unions.

Contacted, Shafiq Zaman, additional secretary of the finance ministry, told The Daily Star that the decision was made after the Prime Minister's Office instructed to help five crore people by providing them with the commodities.

“With the help of deputy commissioners and UNOs,

we have already prepared a list of one crore families. The essentials will be distributed in two phases,” he said.

The phase-1 distribution is expected to begin on March 15 ahead of Ramadan. The second phase will be launched during the Holy month.

According to the decision, the TCB will buy 14,000 metric tonnes of sugar from Meghna Sugar Refined Ltd and City Sugar Industries Ltd; 10,000 metric tonnes of chickpeas from Sena Kalyan Sangstha, M/s Blue Sky Enterprise, and Ruby Food Products Ltd; 19,500 metric tonnes of lentil from Sabnam Vegetable Oil Industries Ltd, East Services Ltd, Porbo International, M/s Roy Traders, Plantagic Incorporation, Bashundhara Food and Beverage Ltd, and Basumati Distribution Ltd; and one crore 71 lakh litres of soybean oil from Sena Edible Oil Industries Ltd, Super Oil Refined Limited, Meghna Edible Oils Refinery Ltd, City Edible Oil Ltd, Basundhara Multi food Products Ltd, and Shun Shing Edible Oil Ltd.

## Global food

FROM PAGE 1

Attempts to send aid and evacuation convoys have failed for six days. Russian aircraft were targeting convoy routes yesterday, Petro Andruschenko, an adviser to Mariupol's mayor, told Reuters by phone.

Russian forces have advanced in the south but have yet to capture a single city in the north or east. Western countries have said they believe that after a planned lightning strike on Kyiv failed in the early days of the war Moscow has turned to tactics involving far more destructive assaults.



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## Scamming from a quiet

FROM PAGE 6  
said they have already written to relevant companies to address the loopholes in operating systems, and work is ongoing in this regard.

“Besides, we have introduced an app for agents to ensure security a long time ago, but some agents still prefer using papers for their convenience,” he said.

bKash is providing yearly training to all its agents on different subjects like fraud and terror financing. “We are hopeful that the situation will improve soon,” he added.

## Govt to follow Delta

FROM PAGE 5  
“The allegation is not true as there are two groups, including experts and economists, in the development of the plan. We initiated a study titled “Water Sector Intervention and Lesson” to understand previous policies, emphasising the importance of water,” he said.

Mentioning riverbank erosion renders 55,000 families homeless each year, he said they needed a long-term plan which prompted the prime minister to draw the Delta Plan.

“In the days to come, we have to advance following the Delta Plan. It’s our guiding force in dealing with river and water,” he added.

Binayak Sen, director general of BIDS, moderated the seminar. Rehman Sobhan, eminent economist; Sujit Kumar Bala, professor of Institute of Water and Flood Management at Buet; Zafrullah Chowdhury, founder of Gonoshasthya Kendra; Prof Sajed Kamal; and Prof Golam Rahman were present at the event and praised the book for its insight.

## Buet plans

FROM PAGE 5  
government projects, the authorities are planning to arrange jobs for the students according to their skills. In addition, job opportunities will be created in the university library, he added.

Affairs Office, Research and Innovation Lab will be formed for undergraduate students so that they can contribute to their respective fields.

Welcoming the initiative, Anisur Rahman, a student of Urban and Regional Planning Department of

Buet, said, “We don’t have enough research facilities. If the authorities give us logistic support for research, we will be more than interested.”

University Grants Commission secretary Ferdous Zaman hailed the decision.

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**M Masudur Rahman**  
General Manager Corporate Planning  
Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited

GD-485



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Memo No. 46.02.8800.000.07.001.22.995 Date: 09.03.2022

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GD-483

## Scarcity of stones

FROM PAGE 5  
2018, but it is now around TK 5,500. Mrittunjoy said, “But the most concerning thing is, we are not getting stones even after giving additional money.”

The UAE and Vietnam are major sources of stones, but getting stones from there to the western part of Bangladesh is an expensive process. So, those from India and Bhutan are more convenient, RHD officials said.

Mrittunjoy said, RHD has written to the

authorities of Madhyapara granite mine to increase stone supply, but to no avail.

Contacted, RHD Chief Engineer AKM Manir Hossain Pathan told this correspondent that although managing construction materials depends on contractors, they will do their level best to mitigate the crisis.

He said the executive director of ADB, who is from India, recently visited Bangladesh and has been briefed about the matter.

## Rehab had no

FROM PAGE 5  
According to the charge sheet, Shipon was brought in for treatment at around 11:30am on November 9, 2020. However, no doctor was present at that time.

The hospital's CCTV footage showed that some staff members dragged Shipon to a soundproof room and tortured him, following which the officer fell unconscious.

Ten of the accused forcibly took him to the observation room on the second floor and assaulted him repeatedly, said the investigation officer.

Shipon fell unconscious after a while. When his relatives took him to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Following Shipon's death, his father Faijuddin Ahmed filed a murder case with Adabor Police Station accusing 15 people, including five management personnel of the hospital.

Accused Remon and Sazzad are still at large, while Mamun and Fatema are now on bail. The remaining eleven are currently in jail custody.

During the investigation,

Asim, Masud, Arif, Sajib, Tanif and Tanvir gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

The IO appealed to the court to issue warrants against Remon and Sazzad as they were shown “fugitives” in the charge sheet. It will be placed before the court on March 27, said court sources.

The IO dropped the name of another accused – Dr Md Niaz Morshed – from the charges after his death in Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

Shipon hailed from Gazipur's Kapasia. He was a student at Jahangirnagar University.

Shipon, appointed as a police officer in the 31st BCS batch, was last posted at Barishal Metropolitan Police's traffic department. He secured the first position in his batch. Earlier, he served at DMP, Rab and PHQ.



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ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী পদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ ১৩.০৩.২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের পরিবর্তে নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী গ্রহণ করা হবেঃ

ক্র.	পদ নাম	মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বরসমূহ	মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও বার	স্থান
১.	ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী	১৮০০০৭৫ ১৮০০৫৮৯ ১৮০১১৯৫ ১৮০১৪৫২ ১৮০১৭৫৪	১৮০০১৪৬ ১৮০০৭২৭ ১৮০০৭৯২ ১৮০১২১০ ১৮০১৪৫২ ১৮০১৫২১ ১৮০১৫৫৭ ১৮০২৩৫৩ ১৮০২৫০২	২২.০৩.২০২২ মঙ্গলবার বিকেলঃ ০৩.০০টায় নগর ভবন, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
মোট = ২০ জন				

২। নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে আবেদনকারীকে অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ

- (১) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধন সনদ ও নাগরিকত্ব সনদ এর মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সকল সনদপত্রের একসেট ফটোকপি এবং Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপি দাখিল করতে হবে;
- (২) সরকারি/আবা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদেরকে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় জমা দিতে হবে;
- (৩) পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্ধারিত সময়ের ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে যথাস্থানে উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে;
- (৪) পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

**আকরামুজ্জামান**  
সচিব  
ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২০৫/২০২১-২০২২  
জিডি-৪৮৬  
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

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

Memo No: DGHS/HSM/e-GP/Pkg-13,20,22,23/2021-2022/388 Date:10.03.2022

**e-Tender Notice No. 6/2021-22**

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

Sl No	Name of Goods	Tender ID	Package No	Tender/ Proposal Document Last Selling/ Downloading Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date & Time	Remarks
01	Goods Procurement of Blood Bank Equipment's for F.Y 2021-2022	672168	Pkg.-13	10 APR-2022 12:00	10 APR-2022 14:00	OTM
02	Goods Procurement of Improvement of Hospital Services for F.Y 2021-2022	672170	Pkg-20	10 APR-2022 12:00	10 APR-2022 14:00	OTM
03	Goods Procurement of Dental Equipment's for F.Y 2021-2022	672171	Pkg.-22	10 APR-2022 12:00	10 APR-2022 14:00	OTM
04	Goods Procurement of Dialysis Bed for F.Y 2021-2022	672172	Pkg.-23	10 APR-2022 12:00	10 APR-2022 14:00	OTM

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

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



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# Scarcity of stones hampering RHD projects

This crisis may push deadlines further, fear officials

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A scarcity of stones, a crucial construction material, is seriously hampering construction work of different development projects of Roads and Highways Department (RHD). This problem may very well cause delays in meeting project deadlines.

RHD officials and contractors are blaming the rise in cost of stones, due to various reasons, and interruptions in their transportation from a major source in Bhutan.

Although the scarcity has been prevailing since late last year, it intensified in the last two to three months, they said.

As a result, works of several foreign-aided projects – including SASEC Road Connectivity Project-2, Cross-border Road Network Improvement Project, and Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project – have slowed down.

Under these projects, more than 200 km of four-lane roads and dozens of bridges are being built.

Besides, many government-funded projects, especially those being implemented in the country's western part, are facing difficulties to continue work, they said.

If the situation does not improve soon, it would ultimately push project deadlines even further. This is bad news, because many of the projects are already running behind schedule.

RHD is currently implementing 185 projects, including 22 foreign-aided ones, and Tk 19,656 crores were allocated under Annual Development Programme (ADP) for this fiscal year. **WORK SLOWED DOWN** The SASEC-2 is one such project facing difficulties.

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Meanwhile, Madhyapara mine cannot supply sufficient stones, leaving project implementers in trouble.

The Cross Border Road Network Improvement Project is another one that is in crisis.

Under the Tk 3,745.51-crore project, RHD is building 17 bridges along with 11.27 km connecting roads, with a loan from Japan.

Its PD, Shyamal Kumar Bhattacharyya, said they were facing issues for the last two months, as contractors are not getting sufficient stones, which is ultimately slowing down work.

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Bridge Improvement Project, RHD has already built 61 bridges, and construction of 21 is ongoing.

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The current deadline of the Japan-funded Tk 2,911.75 crore project is June.

Concord Pragatee Consortium Ltd (CPCL) is a Bangladesh firm involved with all three projects.

Mrittunjoy Ghosal, director (projects) of CPCL, said, “We are facing severe problems in project implementation due to stone shortage.”

“The problem started in July last year, and intensified recently. We are not getting stones even after paying higher prices,” he told The Daily Star.

The construction season for road and highway development starts in October and ends in March or April, depending on rainfall. “We are losing the ideal time for work due to the shortage,” he added.

Md Moniruzzaman, additional chief engineer (ACE) of RHD's Rangpur, said they are implementing 18 projects. “We are facing some problems over shortage of stones, and

if the situation lingers, the problems will intensify.”

ACE of Rajshahi and Barishal zones also echoed him.

**WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?** Mrittunjoy Ghosal said Bhutan was a major supplier of stones, but supply through the Burimari border of Lalmonirhat came to an almost halt for the last few months.

Sources at RHD said the Indian authorities have set up an axle-load control centre on the road that connects Bangladesh with Bhutan through India. As a result, heavily loaded trucks are not allowed to use the road.

Before, a truck used to carry 34 tonnes, but now, is only allowed to carry 17 tonnes.

So, transportation costs rose sharply, and therefore, suppliers almost stopped supplying, said a top RHD official.

In this situation, Indian suppliers have also increased stone prices, he said.

However, the increase in transportation costs due to fuel price hike, and rise of dollar exchange rate are also to blame for more expensive stones, said another RHD official.

The price of per tonne of “pakur” stone of India was around Tk 3,250 in

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## ‘Rehab had no clearance, licence’

Charge sheet submitted against 15 in ASP Shipon murder case

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

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The charge sheet states that National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH) registrar Dr Abdullah Al Mamun and 14 others were responsible for the ASP's death. The hospital was set up only to earn illegal money through fraudulent treatment.

The 14 others are hospital directors Fatema Khatun Moyna, Abdullah Al Mamun, Sakawat Hossain Remon and Sazzad Amin; marketing manager Arif Mahmud Joy; coordinator Redwan Sabbir Sajib; kitchen staffer Masud Khan; ward boys Jobayer Hossain, Tanif Mollah, Sajeeb Chowdhury, Asim Kumar Pal and Saiful Islam Palash; guard Liton Ahamed; and pharmacist Tanvir Hasan.

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## Buet plans to introduce on-campus jobs for students

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PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAR 11



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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## ‘Govt to follow Delta Plan as guideline’

Says state minister for planning commission on water management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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“The lessons from the past were not learnt,” Nazrul alleged.

Nazrul Islam also said the country's river has been facing two threats. The global threat stems from climate change, while the regional one is the diversion of water by upstream countries. However, Shamsul Alam disagreed with the author, saying their plan was participatory and they took lessons from their past experiences for water management.

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On a warm, sunny morning, a third-year fine arts student of Dhaka University sits on a bed of dry leaves near the faculty, totally engrossed in painting her next work of art during a practical class. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



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# ‘This book opens the unread pages of my life’

“I feel I have contributed very little to music. Nevertheless, Joy Shahriar transcribed the book, recording many events from my life that I had left behind in my long journey.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Celebrated singer Kumar Bishwajit is set to entertain bookworms with his autobiography “Abong Bishwajit”, which was released this year at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

We caught up with the National Award-winning singer to know about his experience of writing his first book, his journey so far, and more.

You have been singing for four decades now, and still manage to give back to back songs, including special releases for specific occasions. How do you keep up with the momentum?

Music is a matter of pursuit and practice. I have been in this industry for 40 years, and this is what I love doing.

I have always enjoyed music, I never get tired or bored of it. My passion empowers me to get better with every song.

I think my love for music is my biggest inspiration to keep up my efforts for forty years, and it will be for the years to come.

How busy have you been with stage shows?

I have been quite busy actually. Usually, Covid-19 cases go up during the winter and so, we had to cancel some of the shows this season, but everything seems to be back on track now.

I am in talks for many other live shows, and hope to finish them before the month of Ramadan.

Your autobiography was published recently. What should your fans look forward to from ‘Ebong Bishwajit’?

After the book was published, certain thoughts crossed my mind frequently – What have I done in life that needs something as great as an autobiography? How much have I actually contributed to music?

“Musicians now aim to perform songs that will make them popular. Subsequently, they choose old tracks for their live performances.”



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

I feel I have contributed very little to music. Nevertheless, Joy Shahriar transcribed the book, recording many events from my life that I had left behind in my long journey. “Ebong Bishwajit” opens the unread pages of my life.

What do you think about the current music scenario in Bangladesh?

Some newcomers are talented, and doing pretty well. I feel that musicians now aim to perform songs that will make them popular.

Subsequently, they choose old tracks for their live performances.

Back in the old days, we used to simultaneously work on mixed and solo albums. I think the new singers are drifting away from that trend.

They should invest more thought, knowledge, and energy on original tracks rather than relishing on old hits. Only then will they be able to craft a name for themselves.

## Adorable ‘bride and groom’ seen at ‘Gunin’ premiere

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dhallywood couple Pori Moni and Sariful Islam Razz arrived at the special premiere of their film, “Gunin” on March 9, dressed as a bride and a groom. Pori Moni sat on a palanquin, which Razz carried on his shoulders.

“We met and fell in love while shooting for this film. This is our post-wedding reception,” Pori Moni told The Daily Star.

“We had no grand festivities for our wedding. So, we are delighted that the makers of ‘Gunin’ arranged a reception for us. We hope that people enjoy our film,” added Razz.

“Gunin”, directed by Gias Uddin Selim, releases across the country today.



## NAGAR BAUL, Euphoria and Strings to perform together in Dubai

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Three of the biggest rock bands of the subcontinent- Nagar Baul, Euphoria and Strings will perform on stage for the first time at ‘Dubai Expo 2020’ on March 13.

The three renowned bands from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have already received invitations from the Dubai government.

“James and his band members will be flying off to Dubai on the evening of March 12 after completing their concert at the Army Stadium,” stated Nagar Baul James’ spokesperson, Rubaiyat Thakur Robin.

Speaking on behalf of James, Robin added that James is super-excited on being able to participate in such a prestigious tri-nation concert.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## SLANTING APPROACH ROAD A perennial woe to villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Hundreds of people of eight to ten villages have been suffering immensely due to low approach road of a bridge over a canal at Gotampur village in Rajbari’s Pangsha upazila.

Locals said the approach road is so slanted that it is even difficult to mount it on foot. Goods-laden vehicles and ox-carts need to be pushed from behind to surmount the bridge causing woes to the villagers. Very often vehicles overturn.

According to the sources of Pangsha Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), the 120-metre-long and 12-metre-wide bridge was constructed in 2004.

On a recent visit, it was seen that a paved road which is much lower than the level of the bridge has gone toward Gotampur bazar on the south side. However, the situation is more precarious on the north end as the dirt road connecting the bridge has collapsed.

Ayub Khan, a horse cart driver, said he has to use this bridge five to seven times in a day. But the bridge is much higher than the approach road. It is very difficult to get on the bridge with the horse. The cart has to be pushed from behind. For this reason, he has to wait for people who would push his cart. The suffering has no limit during rainy season.”

Azizul Islam of Gatampur village said, “I have never seen any development work of the road. Accidents occur here very often. Few days ago a horse cart overturned while crossing the bridge. Later, farmers who were working nearby rushed to the spot and saved the horse’s life.”

Al Mamun Khan, chairman of Havaspur union parishad, said, “I know people of that area have been suffering much due to the low approach road of the bridge. I will solve the problem within six months.”



PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Villagers often have to wait for people who will push their vehicle from behind while crossing this bridge in Rajbari’s Pangsha upazila.

## Muezzin’s magic in ornamental fish farming

SHYKH SERAJ

In the first week of January, I went to Narayanganj’s Araihaazar upazila, where fish farmer Mokbul Mollah is doing ornamental fish, also known as colourful fish, farming. Those who watch my television programmes may remember Mokbul, who started fish farming in the early 90s and changed his fortune at a young age. Having an experience of more than 25 years, he is going very well and has become a successful fish farmer. Mokbul has mastered the market need and demand by applying different methods of fish farming, though he remains quite busy with fish feed. Alongside Saifullah Gazi of Satkhira and Mridul Rahman of Rangpur, Mokbul is one of the pioneer ornamental fish farmers in Bangladesh. Now colourful fish farming is going on in ponds and even on the rooftops in different parts of the country. Even a small roof can be used for commercial and ornamental fish farming with little investment.

Mokbul is cultivating ornamental fish in two ponds on five acres of land and earning a yearly Tk 18 lakh (About USD 21,000). Then, I talked to a man who was standing beside Mokbul’s ornamental fish pond. I found the youth, aged around 26 years, to be very



PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

Muezzin Zahidul Islam talks to Shykh Seraj at his rooftop ornamental fish farm in Narayanganj’s Rupganj upazila.

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh’s pioneer development journalist. He received country’s two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak. At Channel i, he is the founder director. He is also director and host of Channel i’s popular agro-documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.



modest and wanted to know more about him. He is Zahidul Islam, a muezzin at a mosque in Rupganj upazila. Born in Barishal’s Bhandaria upazila, he now lives in Pashchingaon area in Rupganj, and started small-scale commercial fish farming on the roof of his rented

house. I was curious to hear from him about his initiative and he gladly welcomed me when I wanted to visit his farm. I reached his house in half an hour. Agriculture has become universal and diversified, and Zahidul can be an excellent example of an agricultural entrepreneur. He has built a remarkable ornamental fish shade on his rooftop, which is absolutely a commercial venture. He is raising ornamental fish on a basin, using a wooden structure. He is also producing fingerlings of ornamental fish.

“My interest in farming was always there and when I saw your rooftop farming episode, I really got into this. And by watching Mridul’s episode on ornamental fish, I thought why not start it on my rooftop,” Zahidul said, adding

that, “I got more and more interested to it as everything was happening so fast. Now I am doing well, if not that huge, but pretty well.”

He has spent a total of Tk 10,000 (About USD 116) for seven basins, one of which is a concrete one. He has kept working so diligently with utmost devotion that he now can sell ornamental fish worth Tk 12,000 (About USD 139) every month. He wants to expand his farm as there is a huge demand for colourful fish, Zahidul said.

Apart from his job as a muezzin, this extra money is really supporting his family. Zahidul showed me different fishes and said, “Each yellow Guppies cost Tk 50 (About USD 0.58), mixed Guppies Tk 100 (About USD 1.2) per piece, red Masco Tk 250 (About USD

2.9) each pair, and each pair red tail Platinum is Tk 300 (About USD 3.5).” I felt good to know that he has learned so much about the ornamental fish market by this time.

I was impressed by Zahidul’s initiative, which can be called a cottage industry of ornamental fish. This initiative of his alternative financial resource is certainly commendable. An initiative that many can take with devotion. It is possible to bring commercial success in a short time and enrich the production of ornamental fish. Through this, the willingness to raise colourful fish at home can also increase as trading of ornamental fish will definitely increase in the near future.



## Asean-US summit postponed

### Says Cambodia FM

REUTERS, Phnom Penh

A summit between US President Joe Biden and leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) due to be held later this month has been postponed and organisers will seek a new date, Cambodia's foreign minister told Reuters on Wednesday.

"It has been postponed to a later date because some Asean leaders cannot attend the meeting on the proposed dates," Minister Prak Sokhonn said in a text message. Cambodia is the current chair of Asean.

The United States had announced the summit would be held on March 28 and 29.

But Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen suggested this week that the meeting should be delayed after some Asean countries had asked for it to be held two days earlier.

Indonesia, which is the coordinator of the summit, did not immediately confirm the postponement after an official earlier said options for the schedule were still being discussed.

After Hun Sen's comment, a State Department spokesperson said on Monday that Biden was looking forward to welcoming Asean leaders to Washington and the United States was "working closely with Asean to plan a successful event."



Supporters of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) celebrate after learning of the initial poll results in Amritsar, India yesterday. The AAP has closed a clean sweep in Punjab with a lead in 92 of the 117 assembly seats after the first eight hours of counting of votes yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## US 'complicated' nuke talks

Says Iran as new Russian demands linked to its invasion of Ukraine raised concerns of further delays

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday accused the United States of working to "complicate" efforts to restore a 2015 nuclear deal, after new Russian demands linked to its invasion of Ukraine raised concerns of further delays.

It came on the day Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in major state policies, stressed that his country will not give up on elements of "national strength", such as nuclear progress and regional influence.

Tehran is locked in negotiations with world powers to revive the nuclear deal that offered it sanctions relief in return for curbs on its atomic programme.

Its arch foe the United States, under

former president Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew in 2018 from the accord known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Moscow said Saturday that, before backing a revived deal, it wants written assurances from Washington that sanctions imposed on it over the Ukraine war will not affect its economic and military cooperation with Tehran.

"Vienna negotiations are becoming more complicated every hour without a political decision by the United States," Iran's top security official Ali Shamkhani tweeted yesterday.

"US approach to Iran's principled demands, coupled with its unreasonable offers and unjustified pressure to hastily

reach an agreement, show that US isn't interested in a strong deal that would satisfy both parties," he added.

The negotiations to revive the deal involve Iran as well as France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China directly, and the United States indirectly.

Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the accord and its reimposition of biting economic sanctions prompted Iran to begin rolling back on its own commitments.

Negotiators have signalled that talks had progressed into a "final phase", but pending issues were still unresolved.

The United States has described Russia's new demands "irrelevant", while France warned they could dash hopes for a revived nuclear accord.

### WORLD BANK REPORT

## S Africa most unequal country

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa is the most unequal country in the world, with race playing a determining factor in a society where 10 percent of the population owns more than 80 percent of the wealth, a World Bank report said Wednesday. "South Africa... is the most unequal country in the world, ranking first among 164 countries," the Washington-based institution said in a report called 'Inequality in Southern Africa'. Nearly thirty years after the end of apartheid, "race remains a key driver of high inequality in South Africa, due to its impact on education and the labor market," it said. When race is considered as a factor in income disparities, the report added, "its contribution to income inequality amounts to 41 percent," while contribution of education is reduced to 30 percent.

### PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

## S Korea elects conservative opposition

REUTERS, Seoul

Conservative South Korean opposition candidate Yoon Suk-yeol rode to victory in a tight presidential election on a wave of discontent over economic policy, scandals and gender wars, reshaping the political future of Asia's fourth-largest economy. His victory in Wednesday's bitterly fought election marks a stunning turnaround for the main conservative bloc, now known as the People Power Party, which has regrouped since the 2017 snap election after the impeachment and ouster of then President Park Geun-hye.

Yoon is a former prosecutor-general involved with Park's case who fell out with outgoing President Moon Jae-in after being appointed by him, gaining notoriety for his investigations of top presidential aides. "The people put me here with hope in my conviction that I have not yielded to any power for fairness and justice for 26 years," Yoon said in a speech of his career as a prosecutor.



## How to manage inflammation?

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to eat plant-based foods which contain anti-inflammatory nutrients. Keeping whole grains, vegetables in everyday diet is necessary.

We should also load up on antioxidants as it helps with inflammation. Colourful fruits, leafy greens, beans, etc. contain antioxidants.

Omega-3 fatty acid helps regulate inflammation-related pain. Sea fish like tuna and mackerel are excellent sources of Omega-3 fatty acid.

We should also cut down on red and processed meats to keep harmful inflammation at bay.

Several herbs like ginger and turmeric may also help in fighting

inflammation.

Other measures recommended to keep inflammation under control are controlling blood sugar, getting adequate exercise, losing excess weight, and managing stress.

Around 30 minutes of regular exercise helps keep the body healthy and fight inflammation.

Uncontrolled blood sugar and inflammation are a dangerous combination. To keep blood sugar in control, one must cut down on carbohydrates like white flour, refined sugar, etc.

Chronic stress is one of the worst contributors of inflammation. Sleeping well and meditation may help in managing stress.

## Classes cancelled due to wedding

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He added that the school was not fully closed and three classes were held in the morning.

The head teacher could not be reached for comments despite

repeated attempts.

Archana Rani, head teacher of an adjacent primary school, said its classes were also hampered due to the wedding ceremony.

As the playground

is owned by the high school authorities, they (authorities of the primary school) could not interfere, said Abdul Latif Hawlader, Barishal District Primary Education Officer (DPEO).

Contacted, Rafiqul

Islam Khan, inspector of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education in Barisal, said suspending classes for a wedding ceremony is illegal.

"We will take necessary action after investigation."

## Bangladesh full of opportunities

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in the world.

Hasina said Digital Bangladesh that the government had aspired for almost 12 years ago is now a reality.

"I, therefore, invite you to come and partner with us," she said.

The premier felicitated the business leaders of the UAE and Bangladesh for launching the joint business council.

**PM FOCUSES ON FOOD SECURITY**

Speaking at another event, Hasina yesterday put forward a three-point suggestion for ensuring food security in the Asia-Pacific region

and strengthening collaboration among countries in the field of agricultural research and education.

The PM was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific as the chief guest.

She joined the hybrid event virtually from her place of residence in Abu Dhabi.

Bangladesh is hosting the regional conference in Dhaka for the first time.

Making her second suggestion, Hasina said, "Transfer and sharing of cutting-edge technologies like bio-technology,

nanotechnology, and robotics in the agricultural sector need to be strengthened among FAO member states in the region."

In the third recommendation, she said as modern agriculture needs huge investment, a special fund could be created to finance and support the agriculture sector.

Hasina said the Covid-19 pandemic revealed how vulnerable human beings are in the face of such disaster. It has also revealed how the human race can face such challenges by acting together.

"Food security is surely

the most pressing issue for people. About 305.7 million people in South Asia still suffer from hunger. We can arrange food for them easily if we all make a sincere effort," she said.

The PM declared the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific open.

Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) QU Dongyu and Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim spoke at the conference, presided over by Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque.

## Ensure equal inheritance

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religion except the inheritance law.

In the keynote speech, Shahnaz Sumi said, "Such a dual system cannot be continued in an independent country."

This downplays the supremacy of the spirit of the constitution, she added.

BNPS Executive Director Rokeya Kabir said women,

who comprise half of the total population in the country, were being deprived of equal rights in inheritance for the religion-based family laws.

"This is a violation of human rights as well as the constitution," she said.

She said different women's rights bodies across the country recently submitted memorandums to the Law Commission to

enact uniformed laws to end such discrimination.

Makhduma Nargis Ratna, vice president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, "The women's rights movement has long been demanding for the amendment of the existing family laws and enacting of a uniformed law."

Ranjan Karmoker,

executive director of Steps Towards, said, "The inequality in inheritance law is hindering the economic, social and political empowerment of women."

Arpita Das, programme coordinator of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said the discriminatory family laws were the root causes behind sexual harassment and torture on women.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার					
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ					
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন) এর কার্যালয়					
চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, চট্টগ্রাম					
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি					
নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে “পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮” এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য আইন অনুযায়ী সিএমপি রেশন স্টোরে ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার (০১লা এপ্রিল/২০২২খ্রিঃ হতে ৩০শে জুন/২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) এর জন্য দেশীয় ছোট দানার উন্নতমানের ১,৩৫,০০০ (এক লক্ষ পয়ত্রিশ হাজার) কেজি “মত্তর ডাল” ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন সরবরাহকারী/ফার্ম/দরদাতাগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে পুনঃ দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে-					
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।			
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
৩.	মালামাল ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	পুলিশ কমিশনার, সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম।			
৪.	কী কারণে দরপত্র আহবান	উন্নতমানের দেশী ছোট দানার মত্তর ডাল ক্রয় সংক্রান্তে।			
৫.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত (OTM)			
৬.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	২৩/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ১৭.০০টা পর্যন্ত।			
৭.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ, সময়- দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।			
৮.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ, সময়- দুপুর ১২.৩০টা।			
৯.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ, সময়- দুপুর ১২.০০টা।			
১০.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	জিওবি (রাজস্ব)।			
১১.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা	মোঃ সোহেল রানা, উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম।			
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তর	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম-এর দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইন্স অফিস কক্ষ।			
১৩.	মালামাল সংগ্রহ অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	দরপত্র তকসিল মোতাবেক।			
১৪.	দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি	দরপত্রের সাথে হালনাগাদ/২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে- ক) ব্যবসায়িক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, খ) আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, গ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশনসহ পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ সনদপত্র, ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার প্রত্যায়নপত্রসহ দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্ববর্তী ০৬(ছয়) মাসের ব্যাংকের সাথে লেনদেনের স্টেটমেন্ট, ঙ) এনআইডি কার্ড, চ) মত্তর ডালের ক্ষেত্রে এগ্রিকালচারাল লাইসেন্স, ছ) ছবিসহ ফার্মের মালিকানার হলফনামার কপি এবং প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে ছবিসহ প্রাধিকারপত্র।			
১৫.	সিডিউল/দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	(ক) সিএমপি রেশন স্টোর, দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইন্স, চট্টগ্রাম। (খ) পুলিশ সুপার, চট্টগ্রাম-এর বোলশহরস্থ কার্যালয়। (গ) জেলা প্রশাসক, চট্টগ্রাম-এর কার্যালয়।			
১৬.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	(ক) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম-এর দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইন্স কার্যালয়। (খ) পুলিশ সুপার, চট্টগ্রাম-এর বোলশহরস্থ কার্যালয়।			
১৭.	দরপত্র গ্রহণ/মূল্যায়ন	“পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮” এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট আইন অনুযায়ী।			
১৮.	ক্রয়ের বিবরণ				
	ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্রের বিষয়	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	সময়সীমা
	০১	উন্নতমানের ছোট দানার “মত্তর ডাল” ক্রয়	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র	৪,০০,০০০/- (চার লক্ষ) টাকা	০১/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত (০৩ মাস)
বিদ্রূপ দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। উল্লেখ্য যে, কোন কারণে দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী অফিস খোলার দিন যথাসময়ে টেন্ডার উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনে চাহিদার পরিমাণ হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধি করতে পারবেন।					
মোঃ সোহেল রানা বিপি-৭৮০৫১১২৩৬৯ উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ ও পরিবহন) পক্ষে-পুলিশ কমিশনার চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ চট্টগ্রাম					
জিডি-৪৮২					



## Western agencies get rare opportunity to judge Russian army's strengths, weaknesses

A group of people, including a soldier in camouflage, walking through a snowy, wooded area. The woman on the left carries a baby in a carrier and holds a bag of Haribo candy. The man in the center holds a baby wrapped in a blanket. The woman on the right carries a large blue bag. The background shows bare trees and snow.

A Polish soldier carries a child and helps a refugee family after they crossed the border into Poland from Ukraine at the border crossing in Medyka, eastern Poland, on Wednesday. More than 2.3 million refugees have now fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion on February 24, according to United Nations figures issued yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

States would backfill Poland's fleet with American F-16 fighter jets.

"That is something that we are not going to explore right now," Kirby said, adding that adding aircraft to Ukraine's fighter fleet was "not likely to significantly change the effectiveness" of the Ukrainian Air Force against Russian capabilities.

Kirby said intelligence agencies had warned that the MiG transfer to Ukraine "may be mistaken as escalatory and could result in significant Russian reaction that might increase the prospects of a military escalation" with the Nato alliance, reports AFP.

The Biden administration also warned Russia might seek to use chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine as the White House rejected Russian claims of illegal chemical weapons development in the country it has invaded.

This week, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova – without evidence – accused Ukraine of running chemical and biological weapons labs with US support.

In a series of tweets, White House press secretary Jen Psaki called Russia's claim "preposterous" and said it could be part of an attempt by Russia to lay the groundwork for using such weapons of mass destruction against Ukraine itself.

Jin Xing, a former popular talk show host and China's first openly transgender celebrity, told Reuters her account on Weibo - China's equivalent to Twitter - was suspended last week, after she published two posts, including one that made reference to Putin as a "crazy Russian man" and urged her followers to pray for peace.

"All I said was I support life and oppose war, that was it. I did not say I support the US or Russia or Ukraine," said Jin, whose account is followed by 13.6 million users.

Jin is not alone. Award-winning Chinese actor Ke Lan has been banned from posting on Weibo "due to violating relevant rules," according to a notice on her Weibo account.

**AGENCIES**

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## HOSPITAL WAS MILITARY BASE

Russia's top diplomat Sergei Lavrov claims the hospital was a base for Ukrainian Azov Battalion and "other radicals" and slams the West for supplying them with "deadly weapons".

### 1,207 DEAD IN MARIUPOL SIEGE

Some 1,207 civilians have been killed in the 10-day Russian siege of the port, its mayor says. The Red Cross calls the situation there "apocalyptic" after more than a week without water, power or heat.

### 35,000 EVACUATED

Some 35,000 civilians are evacuated from the badly hit cities of Sumy, Enerhodar and areas around Kyiv during a 12-hour ceasefire, with President Volodymyr Zelensky hoping three more corridors will open for Mariupol, Volnovakha and Izium.

### RUSSIANS NEAR KYIV

Fears are mounting Kyiv will also soon be encircled, with Russian tanks in places just a few kilometres (miles) from the city limits to the east.

### 2.3 MILLION FLEE

The UN says at least 2.3 million people have fled Ukraine, with more than half now in Poland. It has called the exodus Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II.

### MORE US AID

US lawmakers pass a \$14-billion aid package for Ukraine with Canada pledging more military equipment. The International Monetary Fund meanwhile approves \$1.4 billion in emergency financing for Kyiv.

### PATRIOT MISSILES

Washington deploys two new Patriot surface-to-air missile batteries in Poland to protect its frontline Nato ally.



**Activists take part in a lie-in demonstration near the Russian embassy in protest against the country's invasion of Ukraine, in Tokyo, Japan yesterday.**



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# No more carte blanche to errant cops

## Man’s death in Rab custody must be probed

IT’S really disturbing to learn of the death of yet another man in Rab custody. According to a news report, a team of Rab arrested Nazrul Islam, a 60-year-old BNP activist from Chattogram’s Rangunia upazila, on March 9 in connection with a murder case. A few hours later, he apparently fell sick with chest pain. He was then taken to a hospital, where he died. While Rab claims that the man was suffering from heart- and age-related complications, the fact remains that he died while in their custody. Nazrul is not the first person to die under mysterious circumstances in law enforcement custody, and we hope a proper investigation will be carried out to unearth the truth.

According to Rab, Nazrul was a fugitive and had an FIR filed against him in connection with a murder in 2012, as well as a court-issued warrant. This gives Rab a legitimate ground to arrest him, but to allegedly torture him to death is in no way acceptable. Didn’t Nazrul deserve to face a trial for the charges brought against him?

Unfortunately, we have entered an era in which custodial torture has become the norm, with the victims including not only political opponents and critics of the government, but also ordinary citizens arrested on petty crime charges. Only last month, a man named Wazir Mia, arrested on charges of stealing cows, was reportedly tortured to death in a Sunamganj police station. The description of torture inflicted upon him, as given to *The Daily Star* by two other arrestees, was horrifying. According to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 16 people died in police custody in the first two months of this year alone, which shows the gravity of the situation.

Such crimes continue to take place despite there being laws to prevent it. The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, for example, is precisely there to prevent such human rights violations, but the situation hasn’t improved a bit. It is partly because survivors are often unwilling to pursue legal cases against their tormentors, not least because they see little chance of success with police themselves investigating the cases. Even among the few cases filed, only a handful saw convictions. Therefore, we urge the government to critically examine why these heinous crimes continue to occur, and enforce the law at all costs. The victims or their families should also be encouraged and empowered to take legal action against the errant officers of law. Such gross human rights violations cannot continue unabated.

# Could an overpass have saved three young lives?

## Authorities’ indifference to citizens’ safety is the real tragedy

WE are shocked at the death of three school children in Cumilla who were hit by a train on their way to school on Wednesday. Unfortunately, the little girls were on the wrong track at the wrong time. The disaster struck before the eyes of the people around, who rushed to the spot to rescue them, but it was already too late. The girls—Mim Akhtar, Rima Akhtar, and Tasfia Akhtar Ayesa, around 12 years of age—lived in Durgapur Manikka Pukurpar area near the Bijoypur market.

According to eye witnesses, the girls were on their way to school—a 10-minute walk from their home—but after they saw a train coming towards them, they moved to the other track without looking behind, not knowing that another train was approaching at high speed. Apparently, the girls were panic-stricken and could not move fast to safety.

It’s no doubt a heart-rending incident, where three young lives were nipped in the bud—a tragedy of such a proportion is not something one can easily accept or come to terms with. The grieving family members will perhaps search for the answer as to why such an agony befell them so early in life.

The important point that emerged from our report is that the locals have been asking for an overpass in the level crossing area for a long time, but no action has been taken so far in this regard. As a result, after the accident, angry people blocked the Cumilla-Noakhali highway for hours and also set fire to the railway tracks to express their indignation. And as usual, the railway department could not say anything concrete regarding the overpass. We share the frustration of the local people, who believe an overpass there could have saved the girls’ lives.

The frequency of accidents on the rail tracks is rising alarmingly in Bangladesh, as level crossings remain mostly unprotected or in dilapidated conditions. The tracks are in poor condition, with many small parts stolen. Experts also say that accidents occur because of the lack of safety awareness among people who live near railway tracks. According to the Accident Research Institute of Buet, at least 105 people were killed in 99 train-related accidents last year, of whom 82 were pedestrians. The researchers believe the actual number could be higher as many incidents go unreported. We hope the railway department will take the tragic deaths of the three little girls in Cumilla into cognisance, and do whatever necessary to construct overpasses at vulnerable spots, and at the same time deploy trained personnel to manage the level crossings.

# Why wait for a deadly war to act against kleptocrats?



Dr Iftekharuzzaman is the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN

TWO weeks after the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, how it may eventually evolve remains uncertain, given Russia’s President Vladimir Putin’s apparent mission of neutralising the neighbour—which could imply virtual annexation. The international community is helplessly worried over the humanitarian crisis unleashed by death and destruction, and the plight of the affected and displaced people, particularly women and children, whose fundamental rights are being grossly violated by the wanton acts of aggression by the Kremlin.

Putin is not the only warmonger in contemporary history, nor does it necessarily take an authoritarian ruler like him to wage international military aggressions. War is a violent use of force to promote geostrategic interests, more often perceived or even manipulated than real. Examples are not far to seek, as in recent cases of Iraq and Afghanistan, where the loudest preachers of democracy and human rights involved themselves in ruthless wars.

The difference in Putin’s case is that he did not need to invent any fabricated logic to justify aggression before his domestic powerbase, which primarily consists of his cronies in a state almost completely captured by kleptocrats. Whereas his Western counterparts, “democratic” and “accountable” as they are, needed to innovate justifications, with or without success, to have served “national interest” or promoted “global peace.”

The Western response to the Russian aggression of Ukraine, therefore, stands on tenuous moral ground, while their support to Ukraine is also circumscribed by perceptions of “mutually assured destruction,” thanks to each other’s nuclear capability. All they can do will, therefore, be limited to mainly economic and trade sanctions, effective or not, that also to the extent that the fallout does not become unbearable to themselves.

On the other hand, the “targeted sanctions” announced by powers like the US, the UK, Canada, the European Union (EU), Switzerland and Japan against Putin’s cronies and their wealth and business interests that have been sustaining Kremlin’s kleptocratic



COLLAGE: STAR

**Why did Putin’s cronies, many of whom were suspected of large-scale corruption, swindling of public resources and money laundering, find safe havens for their ill-gotten wealth in countries that are now boasting of sanctions?**

superstructure over the years, deserve particular attention. Leaving aside the debate on whether and to what extent these can eventually bear fruits, the question is: Why did Putin’s cronies, many of whom were suspected of large-scale corruption, swindling of public resources and money laundering, find safe havens for their ill-gotten wealth

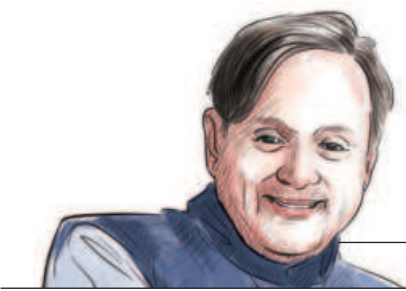
the world, on the financial system of leading democracies to invest and sustain their ill-gotten wealth transferred illicitly. The lion’s share of global illicit transfers, in trillions of dollars a year, land in countries led by those now propagating targeted sanctions. In such destinations of illicit financial transfers, there exist legal, policy and regulatory loopholes as well as so-called expert services for secret deals of acquisition of assets and businesses. The recently disclosed data by Pandora Papers show, for instance, the growing role of the US as a heaven for illicit transfers as many of its states provide policy provisions to establish tax-free secret trusts as investment opportunities out of illicit transfers. Apart from offshore heavens, the developed economies are indeed the principal gainers of illicit transfers which are facilitated, promoted and sustained by various means—like secrecy of beneficial ownerships, banking secrecy provisions, weak supervisions, and lack of sanctions.

Ironically, the host countries of illicit financial flows are also among the strongest proponents against corruption, though implementation of their national and international anti-corruption pledges, especially policies regarding crimes related to money laundering, has been dismally low. The Ukraine tragedy caused by a brazenly corrupt regime of Russia appears to have worked as a wake-up call for them to go after some of the invaders’ cronies. But it remains to be seen if these are only knee-jerk reactions or if, in fact, these announcements of sanctions will be followed by genuinely effective tracking down of the dirty money and assets, leading to concrete actions to hold kleptocrats to account—Russian as well as others.

By imposing sanctions against the Russian kleptocrats, not only has the efficacy of such sanctions been put to test in terms of their deterring effect on Putin, but the sanctioning countries themselves have also been exposed to a formidable challenge in their own jurisdictions. It remains to be seen if they can demonstrate the political will and institutional capability to implement concrete actions to bring to book cross-border corruption. It also remains to be seen whether they can adopt robust preventive measures to promote integrity, transparency and accountability of the powerful networks of law firms, trust companies, offshore specialists, real estate agents, accountants, regulators and banking and financial services companies that play the key role in facilitating the secret deals of the likes of Putin’s cronies from around the world.

## PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# India’s Ukraine Tightrope



AWAKENING INDIA

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under secretary-general, is an MP for the Indian National Congress.

SHASHI THAROOR

RUSSIA’S war in Ukraine has exposed India’s strategic vulnerabilities as few other things could, raising fundamental questions about the country’s position in the world, its regional security, and the wisdom of its long-term relationships.

India abstained in a succession of United Nations votes—in the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Human Rights Council—condemning the Russian invasion. In its initial “explanation of vote,” India did not even mention Russia or deplore the invasion. Instead, India merely urged a de-escalation of the conflict by those involved, as if both countries were belligerents, when in fact there is an obvious aggressor and a clear victim.

In subsequent statements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government has at least reiterated India’s long-standing principles, while calling for “concerted efforts from all sides to return to the path of diplomatic negotiations and dialogue.” In the face of mounting casualties—including an Indian student killed by Russian fire while queuing for food in Kharkiv—Modi’s government continues to call in vain for peace, while ensuring that no criticism, let alone condemnation, of Russia passes official lips.

The reasons for India’s reticence are easy to discern. For starters, Russia supplies India with about 50 percent of its weapons and defence equipment. And while India’s other commercial ties with Russia are much more modest than those

**Russia’s increasing closeness to, and geopolitical affinity with, China has therefore been worrying Indian policymakers for some time. The Kremlin has also been visibly warming to Pakistan, China’s client state.**

it has with the US, diplomatic relations with the Kremlin have been close since the days of the Soviet Union. Soviet vetoes at the UN frequently shielded India on Kashmir, and the Kremlin’s protection was indispensable during the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence, when the US and China supported Pakistan.

Russia’s increasing closeness to, and geopolitical affinity with, China has therefore been worrying Indian policymakers for some time. The Kremlin has also been visibly warming to Pakistan, China’s client state. Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan was in Moscow on the day Russia invaded Ukraine, and continued with his meetings, including with President Vladimir Putin—a clear sign that Russia’s calculations in the subcontinent have shifted. India seems to feel that it needs to cling to Russia’s goodwill in order to avoid losing it altogether.

But India has also been looking west in recent years, building a strategic partnership with the US that includes increasingly significant defence ties. It has embraced the US-led Quad as a useful counter to China. But Indian leaders realise that their continuing failure to join their Quad partners in opposing Russia’s invasion could jeopardise these links. The government, thus, finds itself on a tightrope, anxious not to fall to either side.

The war in Ukraine poses another strategic challenge for India. Until the crisis began to escalate late last year, the US seemed to be focusing on the global threat posed by China, and on the Indo-Pacific region, rather than Europe. But America may now revive its adversarial obsession with Russia. That could reduce US hostility toward China, India’s menacing northern neighbour.

All this is happening at a time when the security threat from Afghanistan is at its greatest since the Taliban was last in power two decades ago. China’s

build-up of military infrastructure in the region, its financial patronage of the Taliban, its opening to Iran (which cooperated with India in countering the previous Taliban regime), and an increase in Pakistani-supported militancy in Kashmir have put India on the defensive. Russia, China, and Iran recently conducted joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean.

India’s traditional allies in the region can sense which way the wind is blowing. Nepal has allowed China to build major railway lines and highways across its northern border areas. Bhutan signed a border agreement last October that surrenders territory coveted by China, giving the Chinese an advantage in any future conflict with India. Most of India’s other South Asian neighbours have signed up to China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which India strenuously opposes.

China’s increasing influence over these countries undermines India’s diplomatic position in its own backyard. And to the east, the ruling junta in Myanmar has declared a “special kinship” with China, whereas its predecessor had come to see India as a valuable counterbalance to China.

In short, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has placed India in an unenviable position. Ideally, India would have liked to continue strengthening its partnerships with Western democracies while maintaining its traditional closeness to Russia, in the hope of deterring China from further encroachment on India’s core security interests. Instead, India finds itself between a rock and a hard place. The conflict in Ukraine is posing a profound challenge to the Indian grand strategy. India’s traditional reluctance to choose sides on major international issues could prove highly costly in the not-too-distant future, when it wants other countries’ support. It will be either Hobson’s choice, or Modi’s.



# If my buying capacity triples and I don't know it, does it still count?



OF MAGIC  
& MADNESS

BADIUZZAMAN BAY

Badiuzzaman Bay  
is an assistant editor at  
The Daily Star.

APPARENTLY, it does. According to the state-run Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). And according to Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud. On March 6, the information minister made news landfall with an appearance at a public meeting where he said, "In the last 13 years [that Awami League has been in power], per capita income has seen over a fourfold increase, while people's purchasing capacity has almost tripled. Everyone is doing well now." Three days before, citing the same data from what could only be the ever-agreeable BBS, he said, "Prices of commodities are not an issue, the issue is if people can purchase them," suggesting that they can.

I usually try not to read too much into political comments made in public meetings. But that one by the information minister stuck with me. Is it possible that we've all been magically transported to some socialist utopia with no poverty? Or is this how the administration is justifying the astronomical prices of daily essentials these days—putting the onus on the public, rather than those manipulating the prices? Or should we take comfort in the fact that while the *aam* public may be poor, they won't at least die looking like one on paper?

I will be honest: I'm no economist or data expert. My knowledge is as good as that of my nine-to-five neighbour, or countless others whose idea of data is limited to how many boxes on their monthly to-buy list have been ticked. Increasingly, however, that list is becoming the financial equivalent of triage with relatively pricier items being left out every day. It requires no special skill to understand that the rosy picture being painted of our apparent financial prowess hasn't benefited everyone in the country—certainly not the poor or the vast majority of the so-called middle class.

The last several months have been particularly taxing. First, there was the hike in diesel and kerosene prices in November last year. Then, there was the talk of raising the prices of electricity, gas and fertilisers by March this year, followed by the proposal to raise the price of water by July 1. The cumulative effect of all this—coming in rapid succession—saw

prices of almost all food items, including wheat, rice, onion, lentils, chickpeas and other essentials, shoot through the roof, not to mention increasing the transport fares and agricultural production costs. This was, in other words, a lesson in how to totally lose control over a market that is notoriously susceptible to supply concerns and manipulations by unscrupulous traders and dealers.

The final straw, coming against the backdrop of Russia's war in Ukraine, was the simultaneous disappearance and exorbitant price setting of what little soybean oil was available in the retail market. This was succinctly described in the heading of an editorial by this daily: "Out of reach, out of control."

Traders are citing high import costs and duties, as well as supply concerns in the middle of the Russia-Ukraine war, as reasons for the high domestic prices of commodities. True, for many essential items, including edible oil, Bangladesh has to depend on the international market. According to the UN food agency Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), world food prices hit a record high in February—a 20.7 percent increase year-on-year—led by a surge in the prices of vegetable oils and daily products. The war, which broke out on February 24, then sent a shockwave throughout the world. Further compounding the crisis was the US ban on Russian oil imports and other

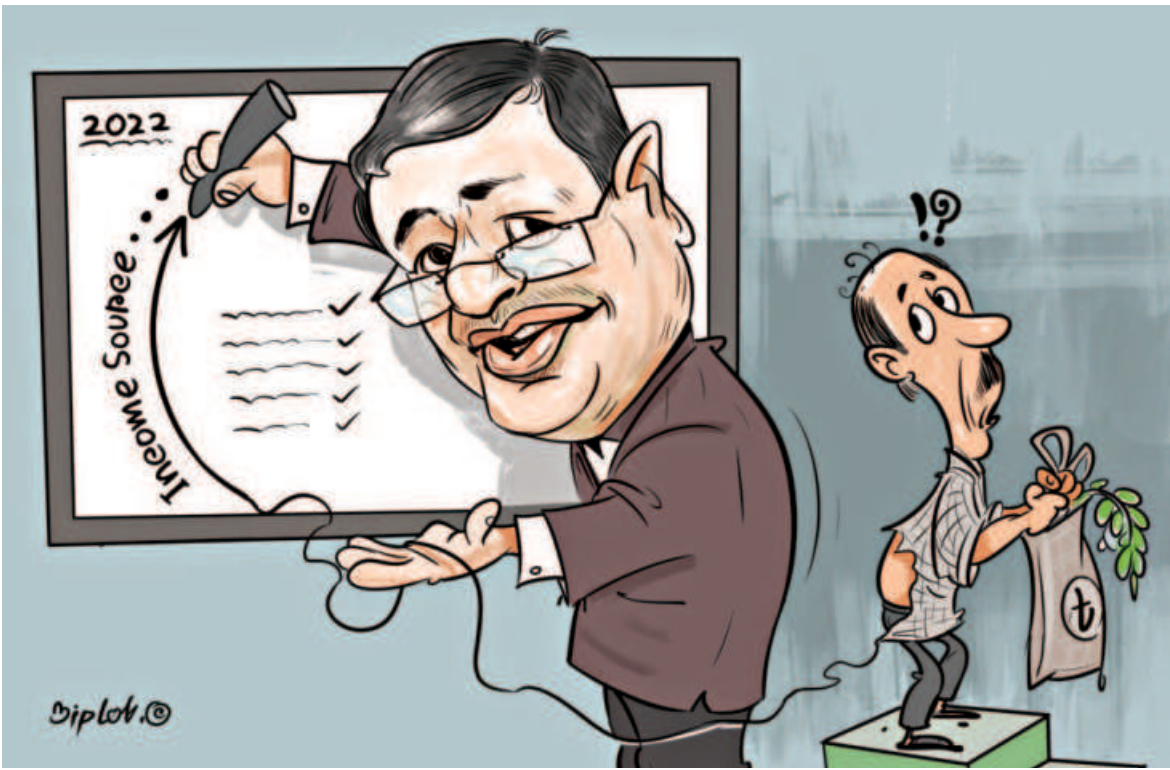


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**So when the information minister says the public can ride out the high food inflation based on their superior purchasing power, you cannot help but ask: Which segment of the population is he talking about?**

harsh sanctions. All this is bound to have a distressing effect on the global supply chain and prices.

But all this is also a mostly recent development. It doesn't explain the hike in the prices of products grown or manufactured locally, or sourced from markets not immediately affected by international trends, or those we already have a plentiful supply of. For example, according to the Trade and Tariff Commission, the country has an annual demand for two million tonnes of edible oil. Some 2.7 million tonnes of edible oil were imported in 2021. As such, we should have adequate reserves of edible oil. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi also said that the country had more supplies of essential commodities than needed. Why, then, are prices of all commodities still so high?

The reason is simple: market manipulations, which traders can do at the slightest excuse, their job made easier by the absence of a functional oversight mechanism. Sometimes we hear of raids to check hoarding tendencies and other irregularities. But these are so random, so infrequent and so poorly coordinated that they hardly put a dent in the rampant manipulative practices. The information minister's comment—shifting the focus from these manipulators to the customers—is thus an apt reminder of the woeful lack of preparation, and even

willingness, of the government to take on the traders. It appears it would rather hand over the reins to them than confront them, such is their sphere of influence.

One proven strategy for putting a positive spin on this state of affairs has been the use of BBS data. Economists have long decried the absence of reliable data to assess the country's demand and supply situation, and also the actual financial state of the population. The BBS offers a poor alternative, and now we know why. For example, a recent study by the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) reveals that the food inflation faced by the poor is more than double the rate that the BBS data claims. It's because the BBS still calculates food inflation based on the old Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of 2005-06, despite the HIES 2016 being available since 2017. The danger of such inaccurate and exaggerated data cannot be overestimated, as official response almost always depends on it. It gives a false sense of security and confidence. So when the information minister says the public can ride out the high food inflation based on their superior purchasing power, you cannot help but ask: Which segment of the population is he talking about? The upper 10 percent who drive up the per capita income, or the lower 90 percent who remain vastly unrecognised?

In reality, the message that his doing—oh-so-well citizens get from this is also threefold: they have to surrender to the whims of these traders and dealers, stop expecting a turnaround in the official attitude, and accept the new normal of astronomical prices.

So, how is the public faring, really? For a proper assessment, you have to get out of the data trap and go out on the streets, or inside the poor and marginally middle-class households. You have to see how the rising living cost is affecting every aspect of their lives—not just their food choices—and the impossible choices they have to make between educational and medical expenses, for example. You have to live their lives and their choices, or at least have the sincerity to understand them.

You can also try to process the morbid scenes of people running after the state-run TCB trucks, or jostling for position in front of them, to buy the necessities at lower prices. These scenes are a sad commentary not just on the plight of the poor, new poor and "disguised poor" (the so-called middle class), but also on the total failure of our economic policies to address their situation.

If the administration is sincere about tackling the price hikes, it has to do better. It must do better.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to [letters@thedailystar.net](mailto:letters@thedailystar.net)

### Adolescent mental health needs proper care

Mental health refers to the psychological, emotional and social well-being of a person. Sound mental health helps us make healthy decisions, behave politely and handle stressful situations in a normal way. But often, our mental health takes a toll due to various reasons, which could lead to chronic health issues—even mental illness. Though it affects people of every age, adolescents suffering from mental health issues bear its scar for the rest of their lives—if their issues are not addressed

properly and on time. Mental breakdown could happen for various reasons, mainly academic pressure, family pressure, impostor syndrome, child abuse, sexual abuse and cyber harassment. In 2019-20, a survey on adolescent mental health and well-being revealed that 5-15 percent of the adolescents in Bangladesh suffer from some form of major depressive disorder. Unfortunately, most of them lack proper treatment. And the scenario is getting worse by the day. We have seen many cases of suicide or

murder recently. We have also heard about teenage gangs. There must be a way out of this crisis. Parents must be understanding towards their adolescent children. The adolescents who are facing mental issues should also try to open up and speak up about their problems. We all need help one way or the other; denying ourselves of that will only make things worse for us.

**Suborno Dip**  
International Islamic University  
Chittagong



### QUOTABLE Quote



Jean-Paul  
Sartre

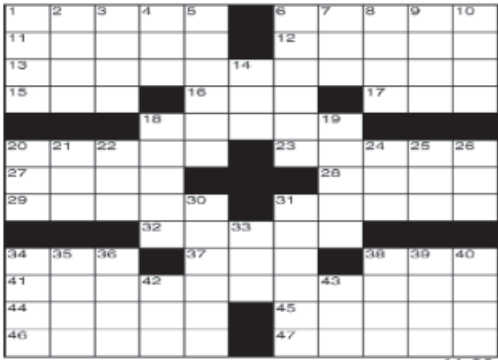
(1905 - 1980)  
French philosopher

When the rich wage war, it's the poor who die.

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**  
1 Volcano-shaped  
6 New Jersey player  
11 Kitchen come-on  
12 Stood up  
13 Red fruits  
15 Tissue layer  
16 Give permission to  
17 — Moines  
18 Star  
20 Takes in  
23 Titled women  
27 Surrounded by  
28 Ref's decision  
29 Raucous bird  
31 Cartoon pig  
32 Caesar, for one  
34 Fitting
- 37 Misbehaving  
38 Letter before omega  
41 Red fruits  
44 Fable ending  
45 Canvas holder  
46 Vacant  
47 Digging tool
- DOWN**  
1 Complain  
2 Spoken  
3 Prone to pry  
4 Little rascal  
5 Suspension bridge parts  
6 Moved quickly  
7 Blunder  
8 Nullified  
9 "Got it"  
10 Reduced amount  
14 Twisty fish  
18 Fragrant
- wood  
19 Burger topper  
20 River blocker  
21 Thurman of "Kill Bill"  
22 Snapshot  
24 Ruin  
25 Antlered animal  
26 Cunning  
30 Un-steady  
31 San Diego team  
33 West of films  
34 High point  
35 School event  
36 Field protector  
38 Tuscany city  
39 Canary snack  
40 Cruise stop  
42 D.C. player  
43 Jay-Z's music

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

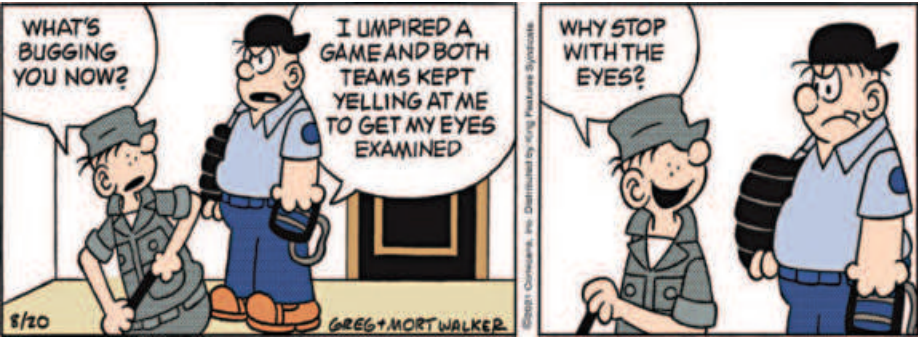


### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



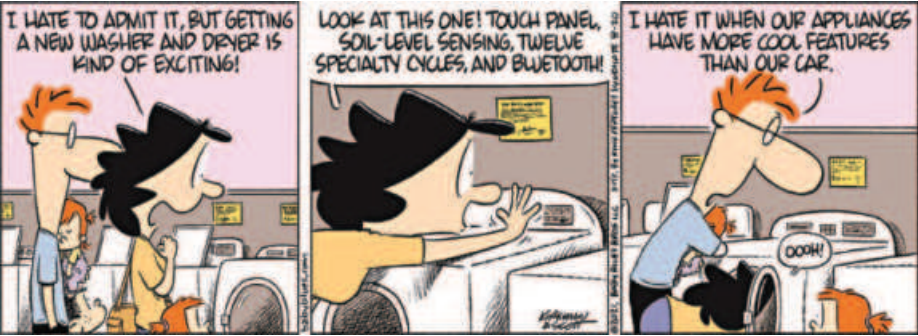
### BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



### BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT







Awardees and special guests at “Nibedita Women Summit 2019”.

YOUTH IN ACTION

# NIBEDITA

## A guiding light for women’s empowerment

**Nibedita organised numerous training programmes on soft skills, CV writing, trade licensing, and business loans, free of cost for women.**



Anika Islam.  
PHOTOS: COURTESY

SHARMIN JOYA

Nibedita is a non-profit organisation founded by Anika Islam in 2018, which aims for women empowerment. It provides free training for women in digital marketing skills, entrepreneurship, lifestyle modification, and career placement. “As I began my undergraduate education, I was also working at Robi as a customer apprentice in 2012. I wanted to be financially independent,” shares Anika. “My father was unaware of this, since he wanted me to focus on my education only.” She has completed her MBA degree. She is also an influencer who endorses many renowned brands professionally. Nibedita started out with 100 women, and soon, the community began to grow.

Currently, it has 36,000 active female members, moderated by students voluntarily. “Our focus is to empower women and bring equality and equity amongst them,” says Anika. “It has not been an easy road for me. I faced a lot of criticism, predominantly from women, who tried to break my confidence at different levels.” Nibedita organised numerous training programmes on soft skills, CV writing, trade licensing, and business loans, free of cost for women. In partnership with BCC, the ICT Division and LIC, Nibedita provided free certification courses from Coursera. “During the pandemic a lot of women reached out to me asking for ideas on how they can build a start-up and develop their skills,” says Anika. “Some participants completed up to 70 courses.” Nibedita worked on the Idea Project by the ICT Division, and it has formed a collaboration with Hi-Tech Park for three years. The Nibedita Women Summit 2019

was organised in association with Daraz, Brac Bank, and UNB. It was Nibedita’s first official, largescale event. Commemorating Women’s Day and Women’s History Month, “Nibedita Equalizer 2022” will be held today at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden with the tagline, “break the biasness”. In association with Digital Bangladesh, Hi-Tech Park, ICT Division, and The Daily Star, the event will honour 10 young influential women from different sectors. Among other things, “Nibedita Equalizer 2022” will feature sessions on mental health and emotional intelligence, marketing and communication impacts on business, inclusivity and leadership, focusing on breaking the biasness, following by a cultural programme. The author is a Reporter, Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star. Email: sharmin@thedailystar.net.

NURTURING DREAMS

## Paving the way for women in STEM

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Sidratul Moontaha is one of the recipients of the 2021 Diana Award. At the age of 22, she became the youngest Chapter Ambassador for Technovation. Founded in the United States, it is the largest and longest-running non-profit organisation for global technology education. It offers interactive learning programmes for young women. “I learned about Technovation when I was a community manager at an NGO. Being a strong advocate for women and girls in STEM, I emailed them about my intention to be Bangladesh’s Chapter Ambassador. At first, they said I was too young, but after a year of mentorship training, I was handed the responsibility in August 2020,” shared Sidratul. She initiated a programme for young women that combines both technology and entrepreneurship. “I relied on Facebook and word-of-mouth to reach out to people during the pandemic. At first, I didn’t have many members, but now people from almost nine cities have joined,” said Sidratul. In the first season, all teams made it to the quarterfinals of the Technovation challenge. The



Sidratul Moontaha, the youngest Chapter Ambassador for Technovation, is one of the recipients of the 2021 Diana Award.  
PHOTO: NAYEM SHAAN

apps they built tackle issues related to climate change, promote skill development, and encourage loan lending, among other things. Sidratul is also the CEO of her own EdTech company, Youthentic++, which she launched in 2020. They teach programming and AI to young individuals. Each workshop only costs \$1. They offer both free and paid programmes to over 800 students every month. Moreover, she is the first Bangladeshi to receive the SheInspires 2021 Award under ‘Global Rising Star’ Category, which celebrates the huge wealth of remarkable contributions by women. “Million STEM”, a network amplifying the voices of women in STEM featured Sidratul as a role model for young women in London. She was also invited to the Future Leaders Invitation Programme in Paris by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The Programme enables individuals from the political, academic, and economic landscapes to gain an enhanced knowledge of France in all its glory. “Currently, I am leading the international project, ‘Mangrove Conservation with Artificial Intelligence in Bangladesh’. An AI model will be trained using on-ground data and satellite image data to identify areas of Sundarbans, where restoration is possible. Next year, I hope to pursue a PhD in AI,” concluded Sidratul. The author is a student of BRAC University, and a freelance journalist. Email: shanzaychowdhury@gmail.com.

GUIDES

## 5 interesting platforms to learn about history



COLLAGE: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, you might be fumbling in the dark trying to grasp the what, why and how of events. The following interactive and resourceful platforms retell historical events in an enjoyable and interesting way that is palatable to everyone. **HISTORY EXTRA** The official website for BBC History Magazine and BBC History Revealed, this platform brings a chock full of history at your fingertips. There are comprehensive articles and masterclasses that get to the bottom of many historical facts and events. The site also produces a history podcast, but the most interesting section is their Historical Quizzes, which puts your history knowledge to the test.

**HISTORY TEA TIME WITH LINDSAY HOLIDAY** Lindsay’s YouTube channel has almost 400 mini history documentaries that uncover stories of royals, women and other fascinating but lesser-known topics. Videos like “Women of the Titanic” and “Hürrem Sultan, Ottoman Empress” make you realise that contemporary culture teaches us about the tragedy of the sinking of the Titanic and the magnificent Sultan Suleiman, but not much is said about the women involved. **YOU’RE DEAD TO ME** Podcasts in popular vernacular have proved to be a valuable investment of time. The host of “You’re Dead To Me”, Greg Jenner discovers the hidden side of famous people and inventions. Along with the best names in comedy and history, each episode features layer upon

layer of anecdotes, jaw-dropping facts and little nuggets of wisdom. **SUIBHNE** From bite-sized videos to long-form ones, Suibhne chronicles many countries’ history. The minimalistic yet detailed animation makes it easy to follow through with the stories. If you consider reading to be a chore, visit this YouTube channel for enlightening crash courses. **THE PEOPLE HISTORY** This website organises all salient historical narratives from the 1800s to as recent as 2013 under one umbrella. “This Day in History” is a section that reveals astonishingly rich trivia about the past. You can also take a look at what was trending in fashion and music, food prices, and evolution of several sports across different eras.

INTERVIEW

## Learning through play

ZAREEN NAWAR

Amir Hamza is the founder of Here We Play, a platform that promotes play as earnestly as schooling in the process and progression of teaching students at different levels of education. He also founded the start-up Makeateam, which facilitates activities, through interactive learning sessions and games, for corporations, students, and professionals from different sectors. Amir is one of the entrepreneurs in the Dhaka Hub Global Shapers 2021 Cohort. The Global Shapers are a community of young leaders and changemakers aged between 20 and 30, curated by the World Economic Forum. The Dhaka Hub was founded in 2014. In an interview with Star Youth, The Daily Star, Amir talks extensively about the impact his initiatives have been deriving. **How did you come up with the ideas for Here We Play and Makeateam?** While working for Teach For Bangladesh, I noticed that most students were not enjoying the process of learning. I realised that my best childhood memories were made during playtime with my friends. After putting much thought into encouraging students to enjoy learning, I came up with the idea of Here We Play over two years ago. With Makeateam, we facilitate team-building activities through interactive learning sessions and games. Anyone can join any of the sessions offered for personal and professional growth. **What were some of your biggest challenges along the way?** Having to convince teachers and principals about the importance of play alongside teaching was a challenge. Here We Play makes play complementary to education, and not just a brief supplement. Thankfully, we were invited to institutions to make play more accessible for students, instead of us having to approach them. That being said, many of our plans need funding in order to take off. **What are some notable projects of your platforms?** We have been working with teachers to enhance the pedagogy of play through classroom materials. I designed games for implementation in virtual mediums such as



Amir Hamza.  
PHOTO: COURTESY

Zoom and Google Meet, for students. They have been learning maths and art through gamified training knowledge. Recently, we launched a plant-based ID card making system to replace voluntary plastic cards people have to use during temporary conferences and other such programmes. The idea is to make the ID cards with paper and fill the inside of them with seeds so once they are thrown into landfills, they will help grow plants. **What are your future plans in this field?** I would like to ask for help from the government to implement virtual medium play and game-based learning in classes — this method could be introduced in the official curriculum. The data of the impacts can be sent to government bodies through Dhaka Hub. I hope to create games for Bangladesh, Nepal and India. The author is a freelance journalist. Email: nawarzareen@gmail.com





# Role of law in combatting air pollution and protecting public interest

The Daily Star in association with Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), the Lung Foundation and Centre for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS) organised a webinar titled ‘Role of law in combatting air pollution and protecting public interest’ on February 5, 2022. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.



**Syeda Rizwana Hassan,**  
Chief Executive, BELA

In many cases, the environmental impact of a development project is not considered properly. This is not at all acceptable because it is clearly mentioned in our Constitution that no harm can be caused to the environment and public health through any development project. Through our unmindful activities, we are putting the life of our future generations at risk. We are failing to adhere to our constitutional obligation of protecting the environment.

This is a matter of regret that a draft of the Clean Air Act has been lying gathering dust in government office for the last four years. Through this roundtable we would like to draw the attention of the government to the urgency of passing the act.



**Professor Dr. Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder,**  
Founder & Director, Centre for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS)

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) reported in 2021 that Dhaka was the world's fourth least livable city. According to Health Effect Institute, 158,000 people died in Bangladesh

in the country. Short-term measures include keeping construction sites covered to prevent the spread of dust, shutting down illegal brick fields and ensuring coordination among renovation works. Increasing use of blocks and clean fuel, improving traffic management, conservation of waterbodies and plantation of more trees are examples of mid-term solutions. Finally, as long-term measures, we should formulate specific plans to prevent air pollution during the dry season, establish an Air Pollution Control Commission, enact and implement the Clean Air Act 2019, and introduce environmental cadres in the Bangladesh Civil Service.



**Dr Asif Mujtaba Mahmud,**  
Secretary General, Bangladesh Lung Foundation

Air pollution is the fourth biggest threat to human health. If we look at air pollution-related deaths globally, we will see that 30 percent of people die from lung cancer, 20 percent from stroke, 25 percent from heart disease and 45 percent from various other lung-related infections. Seven million people die from air pollution each year. In Bangladesh, around two lakh people die every year due to air pollution, which is comparatively higher than air pollution-related deaths in developed countries such as the USA and Russia.

In Bangladesh, the main cause of indoor pollution is wood burning and cow dung. Rural women who use these materials are the ones who suffer the consequences.

I want to echo what Al Gore said, “Pollution should never be the price of prosperity.”

Even healthy and athletic people could be affected by air pollution, so it's not only people with underlying health conditions who are likely to suffer. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the leading cause of high rates of communal transmission was deadly air pollution.

If we want to prevent air pollution, the first step should be to address the public transport system. Besides, we should focus more on recycling. Planting trees is also an important step that will help us improve the air quality. We must stop deforestation.

Bangladesh Lung Foundation believes clean air is a basic human right. We will continue our effort to ensure clean air for everyone.



**Dr Kazi Saifuddin Bannur,**  
Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Lung Foundation

Five or six years ago, we received some patients from a particular area of Patgram Upazila, Lalmonirhat, who were suffering from severe breathing problems. We diagnosed interstitial lung disease. All of them were involved in stone crushing jobs. This is a type of silicosis in which the lung is significantly infected with compounds of sand. It indicates that workplace air pollution is quite a big problem in Bangladesh, and we must address it seriously.

**Syeda Rizwana Hasan,** Chief Executive, BELA

Our Constitution states that the focus should not only be on protecting the environment, but also on improving it. Article 32 of the Constitution guarantees the right to life, but how can one enjoy life without pollution-free air?

In addition to urban pollution, we should also talk about air pollution in different occupations. Garments, shipbreaking, and stone-crushing are hotspots for air pollution. That is why it is essential to monitor working environments that are indoor, congested, and prone to pollution.

The Department of Environment (DoE) does not monitor the level of asbestos in the shipbreaking zones, and this is a cause for concern. According to the ILO, IMO and Basel Convention, the shipbreaking sector is one of the deadliest sectors to work in worldwide. However, the DoE has changed the category of this industry from red to orange upon receiving a

request from the industry minister.

According to government records, 71 people died due to silicosis in Patgram, but now the government is saying everything is okay as workers are wearing masks while crushing stones.

In the last four years, we did not witness fresh air for even a week in any of the four years. The government has failed to finalise the proposed draft of the Clean Air Act. We have submitted our extensive study to the government after engaging all the stakeholders with the support of the World Bank and the Swedish Embassy. It is the duty of the DoE to alert the people about acute air pollution and take the required steps to curb it. Even if the proposed Clean Air Act is not finalized, the government should take steps to curb the high level of air pollution. Some soft targets can also be set. For example, local governments can take the initiative of roof gardening in their areas. Greenery has an impact on improving the air quality.



**Mohamad Iqbal Ahmed,**  
Senior Environment Specialist, World Bank

In the past, we had seen in our studies that the brick industry was the cause of 57 percent of air pollution. This number has fallen in recent years, but now the cement, transportation and construction industries are contributing even more to air pollution. In 2017, we started working on the draft of Clean Air Act. After working extensively and discussing with many stakeholders, we submitted the final version of our draft in 2019. This Act should be finalised as soon as possible, so that those responsible for pollution are held accountable and air pollution can be controlled in the near future.



**Mohammad Ziaul Haq,**  
Director, Dhaka Zone, Department of Environment

Air pollution is a complex process that is dependent on a variety of factors. For instance, a study found that not all of Dhaka's pollution was caused internally. Five percent of the pollution was attributed to natural causes, while 25 percent was a result of transboundary emissions from neighbouring countries like India. The remaining 70 percent is internal, and this is where we should put all-out efforts. The DoE has drafted some guidelines for different government institutions; however, these have not been strictly followed. In the future, it is crucial that all DoE guidelines for reducing air pollution are strictly followed by all government and private bodies.

By 2025, we will not be using old bricks for any sort of government-related work. We must ensure that the AQI is kept below 150 which is categorised as moderate. If this is ensured, then our existing problems will be somewhat addressed. But to achieve this, we must all work together.



**Md Selim Reza,**  
CEO, Dhaka North City Corporation

We are facing a crisis, and we need to address this immediately. Our air quality must be improved drastically to prevent the rise of airborne diseases. Mobile courts should be put in place to check air pollution.

An increasing number of people are coming to Dhaka and with them the number of high-rise buildings is also increasing. The demand for water, gas and electricity is also increasing. Establishing such infrastructures requires extensive excavation and construction work, and that pollutes the environment further.

A major challenge is that around 49,000 people reside in every square kilometre in Dhaka. There is no

space on the roads and footpaths for people anymore. That is why we must come together and formulate a plan to reduce the population density in Dhaka. Otherwise, we cannot address the issue of air pollution properly.

Our honourable mayor has declared a war against pollution. The participation of the various stakeholders present at this meeting is needed to properly coordinate and execute any plans to reduce environmental pollution in Bangladesh.



**Dr M A A Shoukat Choudhury,**  
Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET

The western and north-western wind direction brings a lot of dust and pollution from bordering areas, as well as from the Middle East to Bangladesh. There are regional networks that impose restrictions on how much pollution different countries/cities can generate. At the same time, regulations are also being established to reduce pollution from neighbouring countries. We must ensure that these restrictions and regulations are properly enforced on the countries which are responsible for increasing the pollution in Bangladesh.

In our country, activities such as construction, excavation, and cleaning of the sewer system pollute the environment. While we cannot fully stop these activities, we should ensure adequate protective measures to reduce the pollution.

Even though we are talking about reducing the number of brick kilns, the alternative, which is concrete blocks, also causes a lot of pollution in the production process. That is why we need to establish a proper alternative before we switch from bricks. I would suggest that the government create a roadmap to address the issue of air pollution over the next 10 to 20 years.



**Mizanur Rahman,**  
Former President, Bangladesh Brick Manufacturing Owners' Association

Our major problem is the delay in enacting the Clean Air Act. Without proper execution and implementation, we cannot reduce air pollution. The government is saying that they want to eradicate brick burning completely. But it sounds quite impossible as there are no clear instructions on how we will achieve this goal. We should have a proper alternative to using bricks.

There is a lack of planning and coordination between the different departments of the government. A meeting should be held between the relevant ministries to establish a clear plan on how we will tackle the current environmental crisis. All private stakeholders who are present here today should also assist the government in formulating the plan.



**Kazi Mizanur Rahman,**  
Director and Company Secretary, Lafarge Holcim Cement

Large industries are a major source of air pollution. These industries should be the ones to take charge and adopt the Clean Air Act into their company policies. The parameters of this Act are not too difficult, and if the companies adopt them, then they will benefit in the long run. The Clean Air Act should be updated to ensure that it meets the international standards.

Equal implementation everywhere is important. Lafarge has a cement grinding unit in an industrial area. We ran an annual ambient air quality check and found that the AQI near our factory is higher than the permitted limit. To address this, we introduced dust collectors and other necessary equipment. However, other factories in the area are not maintaining the same standard.

Therefore, all of us must work together to improve the air quality.



**Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP,**  
Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Every year two lakh people die due to air pollution. It means that during this two-hour-long programme, almost 45 people have died due to air pollution. In comparison, 30 people died yesterday (February 4, 2022) due to Covid-19. This just shows the gravity of the situation in terms of air pollution, and why we need to start taking this more seriously. We have been proactive in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, and we must do the same to curb air pollution in Bangladesh.

Covid-19 taught us the importance of public health. In Bangladesh, we are not thinking about the health of the entire nation. Instead, we are approaching it on a patient-by-patient basis. If we want to address the issue of air pollution, we must realise the importance of our public health sector. That is why we must allocate a higher portion of our upcoming budget to public health issues.

Manpower shortage is another challenge. The DoE is currently understaffed, and we are not being able to fill the vacancies.

We should remember that prevention is always better than cure. So, while we should look to strengthen public healthcare in the country, our priority should be to reduce air pollution.

Sometimes government institutions are involved in polluting the environment. So how can we tell the public to not pollute the environment? Here, the government should be the one to set an example for the public as well as the private sector.

**Syeda Rizwana Hasan,** Chief Executive, BELA

There are 18 districts where the air is very polluted, and some sectors are causing occupational hazards and pushing people towards death. We are not against the development targets of the government, but we cannot destroy the environment for the sake of development.

Our priority should be to establish regulations and take appropriate measures to reduce the pollution in areas which are highly polluted and in the danger zone. Here, the City Corporation has an important role to play. They have to take charge of greening our cities. In urban areas, we no longer have a place for gardening anymore. City Corporation should therefore make it mandatory for buildings to have rooftop gardens.



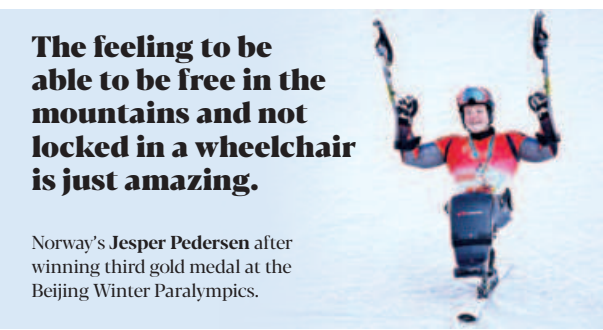
**Shamsuddoza Sajen,**  
Commercial Supplement Editor, The Daily Star & Moderator of the session

Bangladesh is one of the most polluted countries in the world. Air pollution has been seriously affecting every aspect of our life including health and economy. A Greenpeace study (2018) revealed that around 96,000 Bangladeshi children died before their fifth birthday in 2018 because of exposure to PM2.5. We lose almost five percent of our GDP due to air pollution.

Unplanned construction, brick kilns, and emission from vehicles are the three key reasons behind air pollution in Dhaka city. To address this issue, the government has formulated several laws and policies (e.g., Bangladesh Environment Protection Act 1995, National Environment Policy 2018, Brick Manufacturing and Kiln Establishment (Control) Act 2013 (revised in 2018)). However, there are serious gaps in the implementation of these regulations.

The draft of Clean Air Act was prepared a long time ago. We urge the government to enact the law immediately.





## Shakib-less ODI squad depart for SA

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national team players were in a relaxed mood during their individual sessions yesterday, a day ahead of the ODI team's departure for South Africa today. The team will depart on two separate flights today while members of the Test side will depart tomorrow on March 12.

The likes of Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad alongside Yasir Ali, Shoriful Islam and Taskin Ahmed went through their routines yesterday in the heat with batting coach Jamie Siddons furnishing up a few details with his stooges ahead of the series. The Tigers' Test squad will have the opportunity of training in Cape Town at Gary Kirsten's academy with Justin Kemp and Ryan Cook available to oversee training exercises. Siddons had already expressed his wishes of working with the Test side in South Africa.

The Tigers will have to do without Shakib Al Hasan's services after the all-rounder was given rest till April 30th. They currently top the ODI Super League table with 100 points and will be keen on getting a result to keep their position intact.

## DPL an 11-team competition this time

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Premier League (DPL) is set to get underway with 11 teams this year, Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) chairman Salahuddin Chowdhury informed The Daily Star yesterday.

Since the competition gained List A status in 2013, the DPL has always been a 12-team league. However, with Prime Doleshwar withdrawing their name from the tournament, the coveted domestic competition in the country, slated to begin from March 15, will be an 11-team competition.

"According to the bylaws, two teams used to get relegated but this time only one team will be relegated. However, it will be finalised after BCB's decision," Salahuddin informed.



PHOTO: BCB

# 'Want to make my own identity'

**Fast bowler Taskin Ahmed has seen the ups and downs of career since making his international debut in 2014. From showing serious promise to falling out of favour in Bangladesh ranks and then rediscovering himself, the 26-year-old has become a vital component in the Tigers' pace battery. The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin interviewed the evolving quick, where he gave insights on his game and his aspirations for the upcoming South Africa tour and more. The excerpts are below:**

**The Daily Star (DS):** You've been in a good rhythm in the last few months and bowled in two ODIs against Afghanistan. What would you say about your recent form?

**Taskin Ahmed (TA):** Actually, it's about following the basics to bowl properly. And I've been working on the technical issues for the last couple of years now. I'm just trying to maintain the process, the discipline and that's about it.

**DS:** In terms of mental aspects, you seem to have more of a clear mindset than before while bowling.

**TA:** I try to keep things simple based on the situation of the game and team plan. Sometimes to charge the batters, I may give away a few runs, but I'll try to bag a wicket or two. Also, at other times I may have to contain runs. Situation decides my role and I try to execute it.

**DS:** Stuart Law said a few days ago, the way he had seen you when he left, now you appear much stronger in terms of fitness. Do you think an improved fitness made you more comfortable while playing?

**TA:** During my career's start, I had a little idea about maintaining discipline and fitness. As a fast bowler there are always some niggles in the body but maintaining fitness is a must. This is the most important thing for a sportsman. Apart from it, I work on developing my skills, to improve my swings, cutters and many more. Sujon [Khaled Mahmud] bhai helps me a lot, recently Mashrafe [Bin Mortaza] bhai demonstrated me the off-cutter. I'm still working on it. Ottis Gibson was very helpful. Now [Allan] Donald is coming very soon and I'm excited to work with him as well.

**DS:** How excited are you to work with Allan Donald? Are there any specific skills you want to learn from him initially?

**TA:** I've seen him bowling on Television, to be honest. He was called the 'White Lightning'. I'm very excited and I'll try to receive as much as possible from him to improve my bowling. Since he was a fast and aggressive bowler, it matches my type. I'll definitely try to make my bowling better than before under him. There is always a new challenge every day.

**DS:** You are regular in all three formats of cricket right now. How do you adjust when shifting from one format to the other?

**TA:** Everyone knows that playing all three formats is difficult. However, the great international bowlers are making this difficult job look easy. It's true that it's difficult for me, but I also want to be a world-class bowler like them. I want to make my own identity from Bangladesh as well. There are issues like length adjustment, mental state. A bowler has to adjust on three things: mental, physical and tactical. I believe I still have a lot more to improve.

**DS:** A tough South Africa tour lies ahead of us. Our 2017 tour over there didn't go that well. We've seen in New Zealand earlier this year where you bowled in a partnership. Do you have any specific plans regarding South Africa as well?

**TA:** It's basically down to the assessment of wickets we will be playing on. The very basics is to bowl on proper line and length, to hit the right bouncer, and bowl according to the game situation. I remember playing in that condition in

2017, and I also got out of the team for two or three years after that tour. I had a tough time bowling there, but I'll try to do better this time and contribute to a win.

**DS:** The bowling partnerships you guys make, the pace bowling unit looks very solid with you alongside Ebadot Hossain, Abu Jayed Rahi and Shoriful Islam. How do you guys complement each other?

**TA:** In the Test we won in New Zealand, all the bowlers bowled really well in both of the innings. Speaking of the bowling partnership, one bowler created pressure from his side, the other picked up wickets from the other side. We will try to do more of the same this time around as well. I have played 10 Test matches, but I'll say that was my best test match overall in bowling, partnering and batting. There will be swings and variations, but more important is to execute the basic things properly and to stay fit.

**DS:** Obviously you bowl with the new ball, but in Tests, when the ball turns older, the reverse swing becomes an important aspect and it gets difficult for the batters. Do you have plans to work on the reverse swing in the SA series or in the future?

**TA:** With the blessings of Allah, I have been improving in the old ball as well. I can reverse swing when the ball turns old. But the fact is, I need to increase the percentage of effective reverse swings so that I can reverse the ball from the proper place while maintaining consistency.

**DS:** Any specific plans for the South Africa series?

**TA:** The same plan before every series. To follow the process, give my best, and rest will follow as the almighty wishes.

## Shakib's status unchanged

SPORTS REPORTER

It is still uncertain whether all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will be available for all of Bangladesh's forthcoming international commitments this year after opting out of South Africa tour at the last moment.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), however, kept the premier all-rounder in th latest central contract list (from January to December 2022) for all three formats.

Even though Shakib had told the media earlier that he requested rest from cricket till November this year, the BCB's cricket operations committee chairman Jalal Yunus mentioned that the board had taken the decision of keeping him in the contract for all formats after confirming his availability.

"Shakib only wanted to skip the South Africa tour and he has been allowed to do so. But he confirmed that he will be available for all the other upcoming series. He never said anything about not being interested in playing any particular format. And hence, he was kept in the central contract for all formats," Jalal told The Daily Star yesterday.

Jalal, however, said that only the selectors will be

**TEST, ODI, T20I:**

Mushfiqur Rahim, Liton Das, Shakib Al Hasan, Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam.

**TEST, ODI:**

Tamim Iqbal and Mehedi Hasan Miraz.

**TEST:**

Mominul Haque, Taijul Islam, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Ebadot Hossain, Shadman Islam, Yasir Ali and Mahmudul Hasan Joy.

**ODI, T20I:**

Mahmudullah Riyad, Mustafizur Rahman and Afif Hossain.

**T20I:**

Nurul Hasan Sohan, Nasum Ahmed, Naim Sheikh, Mahedi Hasan.

able to clarify specific reasons behind the inclusion of each player in the central contract list. But BCB chief selector Minhajul Abedin was unavailable for any comments on the matter yesterday.

Meanwhile, following impressive performances, the likes of Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Yasir Ali were handed central contract -- for Test -- for the first time.

Soumya Sarkar, Abu Jayed, Mohammad Saifuddin, Saif Hassan and Shamim Hossain are the five players left out of central contract as the BCB trimmed down last year's 24-member list to 21 this year.

## 'Highly motivated' BD take on hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are eager to begin their AHF Cup campaign on a positive note when the defending champions take on hosts Indonesia in one of four matches on the opening day in Jakarta today.

"The players are highly motivated as they know that we are playing the host nation. Indonesia have been training for a long time for this competition with a foreign coach. But we hope to get a good start," said Bangladesh coach Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurthy yesterday.

The men in red and green are likely to face a surprise challenge from hosts Indonesia, a side who have been training under a foreign coach for a year.

## U-18s confident of defending SAFF title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's football mostly flourished at the age-group level, winning international accolades, courtesy of talented players like Maria Manda, Marzia, Monika Chakma, Akhi Khatun, Shamsunnahar Sr, Krishna Rani Sarkar, Masura Parveen and a few other brilliant performers.

But this time around, none of the aforementioned players have been included in the Under-18 women's team, which is all set to leave the country on Saturday for India to defend SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title.

The three-team championship is scheduled to be held between March 15 to 25 at the JRD Tata Complex in Jamshedpur, India.

Is the current U-18 squad capable of defending the title of the regional U-18 tournament without these household names? Captain Shamsunahar Jr was confident of her troops' chances.

"We have been together for a long



time. I was the captain when we played for the Under-15 side. We also have talented players like Monika and Maria in the squad and they are also capable of performing. We are hopeful that we will perform well and retain the trophy," said Shamsunnahar Jr.

Head coach Golam Rabbani Choton

will also have a point to prove as he will be desperate to validate that the country's football stands on a strong base through performing well in the championship featuring three teams -- hosts India, holders Bangladesh and Nepal.

The tournament will be played in a

double round-robin league format, with each team facing each other twice before the top two sides play in the final.

"The previous batch of players played together for a long time. The current Under-18 batch started their international journey a few years ago in Bhutan and did

really well," said Choton.

"Since then they have been performing well in different age-group tournaments despite a lack of international exposure owing to the suspension of the AFC competition due to Covid. The SAFF U-18 championship is going to be challenging for the girls. But they have been training hard for the last two months and I think they reached this stage having proved themselves," said Choton, adding that only five players don't have any international experience.

As part of preparation, the U-18 team played three practice matches. They registered convincing victories in the two matches against their BKSP counterparts but suffered a 3-0 loss against the national women's team.

Bangladesh will start their campaign with the match against Nepal on March 17 before facing India on March 19. The last two matches against Nepal and India will take place on March 23 and 25 respectively.





# A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER

AFP, Madrid

The old French striker outshone the young French striker as Real Madrid reasserted the old order, coming from two goals down to eliminate Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Wait goes on for PSG

With less than half an hour to go at the Bernabeu, the great Paris Saint-Germain gamble seemed to be paying off.

Last summer the club opted not to sell Kylian Mbappé, who will be a free agent after this season, and had invested heavily in an ageing Lionel Messi and Sergio Ramos and also in young Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Mbappé scored to give PSG a 1-0 victory in the first leg. He then dazzled as PSG dominated the first hour in Madrid, scoring in the 39th minute, putting his team two goals up.

Then Donnarumma, trying to play out of defence, passed to Vinicius Junior who found Karim Benzema for a tap-in.

PSG imploded.

It wasn't quite a collapse on a par with the infamous Camp Nou remontada in 2017 when Barcelona scored three times after the 88th minute to eliminate PSG 6-5 on aggregate. It was total

and an that hit ruled out when he ran onto Neymar's first-time pass after 39 minutes. He froze the terrified David Alaba and then whipped a shot past Thibaut Courtois. His best moment came with an outrageous step-over to beat Courtois and net in the second half only to be ruled offside again.

Then PSG's defence unravelled and Mbappé was reduced to a mere spectator as one of the Madrid pensioners he is slated to replace stole the show.

Old guard defend their turf

Even as Real struggled for parity in the first hour, Benzema was clearly their goal threat, with a couple of dangerous first-half headers.

After an hour he changed the game. Even at 34, Benzema is sneakily fast and he still thinks quicker than most of his opponents. With Donnarumma dribbling round his goalmouth, Benzema pounced, allowing no easy escape. The 'keeper panicked, passed to Real's lurking Vinicius who popped the ball back to Benzema. Mauricio Pochettino, the PSG coach, complained that Benzema had slyly kicked Donnarumma, neither the referee nor the VAR officials saw a foul.

Benzema isn't the only old timer shining

## MOST HAT-TRICKS IN CL

- 8= Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
- 8= Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid 7, Juventus 1)
- 5= Robert Lewandowski (Dortmund 1, Bayern Munich 4)

## MOST HAT-TRICKS IN ONE SEASON

- 3-- Cristiano Ronaldo (2015/16)
- 2-- Robert Lewandowski (2021/22)
- 2-- Cristiano Ronaldo (2016/17)
- 2-- Lionel Messi (2011/12, 2016/17)
- 2-- Luiz Adriano (2014/15)
- 2-- Mario Gomez (2011/12)

nonetheless. Benzema hit three in 17 minutes and PSG ended a tie they had dominated, looking like kids in a playground.

In the end, the team that historically finds a way to win in the Champions League, even when they should lose, beat the team that so often manages to lose when they should have won.

Mbappé looks at home - in Madrid

The build-up was dominated by the relentless speculation on the future of

Mbappé, presumed to be heading to Real Madrid as the golden keystone in a rebuild to an ageing squad.

For an hour, Mbappé looked at home at the Bernabeu. He had already had two shots saved effort the net for offside

## KEY STATS

- Real Madrid are through to the European Cup quarter-finals for a record 37th time.
- Benzema is the first player to score in 18 successive calendar years in the UEFA Champions League (2005-2022).
- At 34 years and 80 days, Benzema is the oldest player to score a Champions League hat-trick.
- Mbappé has scored 14 goals in his last 14 Champions League appearances.

## HAT-TRICKS IN 2021-22

- Sebastien Haller (Sporting CP 1-5 Ajax, 15/9/2021)
- Christopher Nkunku (Manchester City 6-3 Leipzig, 15/09/21)
- Robert Lewandowski (Bayern 5-2 Benfica, 02/11/21)
- Robert Lewandowski (Bayern 7-1 Salzburg, 08/03/22)
- Karim Benzema (Real Madrid 3-1 PSG, 09/03/22)

for Real long past his seeming sell-by date. Luke Modric, who is 36, set up Benzema's second with a typical stabbed pass after 76 minutes.

PSG kicked off and rolled the ball back to their defenders. Vinicius gave chase, pressing Marquinhos who passed across his own box just as Benzema, the predator, arrived to side-foot his third. There were 11 seconds of play between the goals.

The last goal was the Frenchman's 309th for Real, taking him past the legendary Alfredo Di Stefano. Only Raul (323) and Cristiano Ronaldo (451) have more for Real.

Since Ronaldo left, Benzema has thrived as the focus of a team without Galacticos. On Wednesday he outshone Real's likely next superstar.

"It was a big night in the Champions League, you mustn't let them slip by," he said.

## 'It is an honour to be there'

AFP, Manchester

Pep Guardiola said Manchester City's routine stroll into the Champions League quarter-finals is cause for celebration despite a subdued 0-0 draw against Sporting Lisbon on Wednesday.

All the hard work for the English champions was done with a 5-0 win in the Portuguese capital three weeks ago as City reached the last eight for the fifth consecutive season.

"It's a good sign," said Guardiola. "The last decade, step by step the club grew up. Every season playing this competition, qualifying for last 16 and now in the best eight teams in Europe."

City are on course for a fourth Premier League title in five seasons, but the Champions League has so far remained out of reach despite the billions invested by the club's Abu Dhabi owners.



Guardiola knows his legacy in Manchester will be judged on whether he can finally make City champions of Europe.

However, he believes the achievement of just becoming a regular contender should not be overlooked.

"Every year when we qualify for the Champions League I celebrate it that night because I know how difficult it is," he added. "It is an honour to be there, some important teams are already out."

"When you qualify for last 16, I celebrate it. Now it's time to congratulate everyone, focus on the Premier League and see who we get in the draw."

A much tougher test will lie ahead in the last eight as Sporting set out at the Etihad just to avoid another embarrassing scoreline like the one they suffered on home soil.

"After the result of the first game the tie became practically impossible," said Sporting goalkeeper Antonio Adán. "The team was better defensively, and they didn't play with the same clarity either. We leave satisfied."

## India greets welcome 'Mankad' law change

NEW DELHI

India greets such as Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday welcomed cricket's governing body changing the law on controversial "Mankad" run outs, which will no longer be classed as "unfair play". The rare mode of dismissal -- where a bowler runs out the non-striker in their delivery stride if the batter is out of his crease -- was named after Indian all-rounder Vinoo Mankad, who 75 years ago ran out Bill Brown twice in that fashion on a tour of Australia in 1947.

The nickname for that type of dismissal has stuck ever since, much to the annoyance of Mankad, who died in 1978, and other Indian cricketers.

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodians of the sport's laws, have always held such dismissals are legitimate and batters should not seek to gain an advantage by backing up out of their ground.

But confusingly, the dismissal was listed under Law 41: "Unfair Play".

But in one of several changes announced by the MCC this week that will come into effect from October 1, it will now be covered under Law 38: "Run Out". "I was always uncomfortable with that particular dismissal being called Mankaded," Tendulkar said in a video message.

"I am really happy that it's been changed to run out. It always should have been run out according to me. So this is one good news for all of us."

## 'It still hasn't really sunk in'

AFP, KARACHI

Australian opener David Warner plans to attend the state funeral of his childhood idol Shane Warne later this month, but he says it will take time to get used to the legendary bowler's passing.

Warne died following a heart attack while holidaying in Thailand last week, and his death has shaken the Australian team, who are currently touring Pakistan.

A private jet flew the body of Australian cricket superstar Shane Warne home to his native Melbourne Thursday, six days after his death at the age of 52 provoked shock and grief around the world.

His family is reportedly organising a private memorial.

"It still hasn't really sunk in," said Warner ahead of the second Test starting in Karachi from Saturday.

"When we first found out, we thought it was a joke."

Warner said he will head home after the third Test, in Lahore starting March 25, as he was not part of the subsequent limited overs series.

Warne's state funeral is scheduled for

March 30, and Warner said: "I will be there, 100 per cent."

"It's definitely going to be extremely emotional for everyone. There will be lots of people paying their respects," he said.

"You just look at the tributes from around the world -- he has touched millions and millions of people, and from different countries."

Warner said he grew up idolising Warne. "As a kid, I had his poster up on the wall. I wanted to be like Shane."

Still, Warner has attracted fans of his own in Pakistan, where Australia are touring for the first time since 1998, having declined to visit previously on security grounds.

The nuggety opening batsman has amused the crowd by showing off his dance moves to music played between overs or accompanying the spectators in their chants.

"We're entertainers as well," said Warner. "If I'm not playing in the middle where I'm batting, I like to engage with the fans."

Warner acknowledged the Australians wanted to win over the Pakistan fans after such a long absence.

"I've got nothing but great words to say about the place," he said.



## Hosts beat limp India

AFP, HAMILTON

Hosts New Zealand inflicted India's first defeat of the Women's Cricket World Cup on Thursday, racing to a 62-run win in Hamilton.

India's bowlers did well to limit New Zealand to 260-9 but were let down by a limp batting display that left them well short of the target.

The result leaves India, who scored a 107-run win over Pakistan in their tournament opener, fifth in the eight-team leaderboard after two matches.

New Zealand bowler Lea Tahuhu took 3-17 to restrict India's run chase, with Kerr contributing 3-56.

New Zealand, who have played one more match, are second.



CAP 10

OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

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How to manage INFLAMMATION?

STAR HEALTH DESK

Inflammation is an immune response of the body towards damage and infection. It is usually gone on its own after serving the purpose, unless it is chronic.

However, in some cases, managing acute inflammation becomes essential. For example, during an allergic reaction, inflammation can cause swelling to close the airways -- making breathing difficult. Inflammation must be managed in such a case.

Among other things, a healthy lifestyle and mindful food habit can keep inflammation under control.

The best way to start is

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



NATURE QUEST

**SHOWING SOME LOVE ...** A playful pair of Rose-ringed parakeets exchanging a “beak-bump” in Rangpur Sadar upazila’s Park Mor area recently. It is in parakeets’ nature to show affection by tapping their beaks together after forming a strong bond.

PHOTO COURTESY: SABYASACHI DAS

Classes cancelled due to wedding on school grounds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A wedding ceremony was held on a high school playground, and to make that happen authorities suspended the day’s academic activities yesterday in Barishal city.

Students alleged that school authorities forced them to return home when they went to school.

Locals said the playground is used by students of two schools -- Mofazzal Hossain Khan Secondary Girls School and Mofazzal Hossain Khan Government Primary School -- on the same premises in North Amanatganj area.

On Wednesday night, the wedding organisers began setting up a marquee, stage and gates on the playground.

Over 400 people attended the wedding, held during school hours, locals said.

Contacted, Yar Hossain Sikder, father of the bride, said they arranged the ceremony there after getting permission from the high school’s managing committee.

Ashrafuzzaman Khan Rony, president of the committee, said he gave the permission out of social responsibility.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

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50 mL

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Pharmaceuticals Limited

Bangladesh full of opportunities

PM tells investors in UAE, emphasises on food security

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday invited United Arab Emirates investors to avail lucrative opportunities in Bangladesh, harness its potentials, and make the country their home.

“Come and make Bangladesh your home. I assure you all that Bangladesh is now a land of lucrative opportunities,” she said.

Hasina made the call while addressing the Bangladesh-UAE Joint Business Council virtually.

The PM said Bangladesh will become “Sonar Bangla” as envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



She said Bangladesh has been one of the very few economies in the world that grew even during the pandemic.

“Our sustained growth has been made possible by clear vision, prudent planning, sound governance, political stability, and tireless efforts of our hard-working people and spirited entrepreneurs. Today, Bangladesh has emerged as a Development Miracle.”

In this connection, the premier mentioned that the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicts that Bangladesh will become the 24th largest economy of the world by 2036.

Hasina said Bangladesh is on its way to turn its \$416 billion economy into one of

the largest in the world soon and become a developed country by 2041.

“Bangladesh is moving fast in urbanisation, industrialisation, and in increasing tele-density to connect individuals to governance, innovation and markets. Our aim is to connect our factors of production seamlessly into the global markets.”

The PM said Bangladesh offers a huge domestic market of more than 168 million people while its population is young, energetic, and ambitious.

“All these advantages make Bangladesh an attractive destination for investors, and a future manufacturing, and economic hub of the region.”

She said her government is ready with both policy and infrastructure support to make sure that investors choosing to make Bangladesh their home find only the best

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Ensure equal inheritance for women

Urge rights bodies, demand amendment of law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A women’s rights body yesterday demanded amendment of the existing family laws and enact a new one to ensure equal rights for women in inheritance and family property.

Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) came up with the demand at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Shahnaz Sumi, deputy director of BNPS, presented the keynote where a number of women’s rights activists from different organisations spoke at the event.

Speakers at the event mentioned that no civil or criminal law in the country is controlled by

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

ABOUT SUNNYDALE

- Established in 1985
- Management Committee with 38 years of experience in conducting school
- Medium of instruction: English
- In-house well trained and experienced teachers with minimum graduation degree or more till Middle School
- Highly qualified tertiary education providers at Senior School
- Education provided to pursue further academic excellence at home and abroad
- Nurture latent talents to achieve goals beyond education
- Holistic education to produce all-round global citizens

Purpose-built campus at Bashundhara with:

- Classrooms with international standard measurement
- Multimedia facility access in classroom and library
- High-tech Computer Laboratory
- Fully equipped Science Laboratories
- Multi-purpose hall room to conduct CAIE Examinations
- In-built Fire Detection and Protection System
- Basketball, Handball, Football and Cricket field

SALIENT FEATURES

- Holistic Education at Sunnydale**
- Instill Nationalism and Patriotism
- Inculcate Cultural Heritage and Language
- Build Character and Personality
  - Moral Ethics
  - Humanity
  - Honesty
  - Tolerance
  - Integrity
  - Self esteem
  - Respect
  - Resilience
- Invoke creativity and originality**
- Flourish latent talents with co-curricular and extra-curricular activities**

Sunnydale

at Bashundhara

Where dreams start, ambitions are framed and achievements are targeted at “SKY IS THE LIMIT”.



ADMISSION AND TRANSIT STRATEGY OF CLASSES TO BASHUNDHARA

ADMISSION

Students will be admitted in Playgroup to Class XI.

Admission process of **Classes IX and XI** will start on **12 March 2022**

Admission process of **Playgroup** will start in **August 2022**

Contact No.: +880 1324 430 197 E-mail: admission.bashundhara@sunnydale.edu.bd

Admission Form available on Website: www.sunnydale.edu.bd

TRANSITION STRATEGY OF CLASSES

**Classes IX to XII open:** July 2022

**Playgroup opens:** July 2023

**Nursery to Class VIII open:** 2024 onwards gradually

ACADEMIC LEVELS

- Early Learning:**  
Playgroup to Kindergarten II
- Junior School:**  
Classes I to IV
- Middle School:**  
Classes V to VIII
- Senior School:**  
Classes IX to XII  
Ordinary and Advanced Level

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

- Academic Year:**  
July to June completed in two terms
- Report Cards:**  
Issued at the end of each term
- Syllabus:**
  - Class I to VIII**  
Incorporated to lead to the University of Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) under UK Education Board
  - Class IX to XII**  
Ordinary & Advanced Level adopt the syllabus published by CAIE.
- Curricula Structure:**  
Equips students to successfully face the challenges in the tertiary education.

Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE)

CAIE curricula prepare students for life, cultivating a lasting passion for learning in the process. This international qualification is recognized by the world’s best universities and employers at home and abroad, creating a wide range of options in education and career.

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