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Record Tk 4,200cr sales each year



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Local banks in hunt for alternatives



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Warns Moscow on use of chemical weapons



P11 Khawaja shines
Smashes first Test ton in country of his birth

Not much done since Accord left

1,039 RMG units still waiting to be 'fully safe'

ZYMA ISLAM

When Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh closed its operations in the country in May 2020, more than 1,000 RMG units were "running behind schedule" in becoming "fully safe".

Accord handed the responsibility of making the factories structurally safe and compliant with international standards over to the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC). More than one and a half years later, the figure hasn't changed much.

At present, the process of becoming fully safe is



During the pandemic, the RMG Sustainability Council did not inspect as many factories as it should have.

Kalpana Akhter,
a labour rights activist.

"in progress" in 1039 factories, said Iqbal M Hussain, managing director of RSC.

The RSC was formed by brands, union leaders, and factory owners as an independent non-profit company, and a safety-monitoring body, licenced by the government to take over the Bangladesh operations of the Accord.

The Accord was signed weeks after the collapse of Rana Plaza in Savar in 2013 as a binding safety programme, and over 200 major brands, including H&M and Primark, committed that they would only source from factories undergoing remediation programmes under Accord.

About 1,700 factories were listed by Accord for the remediation programmes, which worked to make them structurally safe and compliant with international standards.

However, after a long drawn legal battle, Accord was made to leave Bangladesh in May 2020. On June 1, 2020, the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC) took over the Accord operations. The body, with 200 personnel, is tasked with continuing factory inspections, remediation monitoring, and other workplace programmes.

RSC and industry insiders said the hits faced by the industry due to the pandemic were largely to blame for the slow remediation process.

Meanwhile, unions, globally and nationally, have always maintained that because the RSC is not legally binding, unlike Accord, there is no compulsion on the part of the factory owners to fix the problem.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Shakib's U-turn on SA tour



SPORTS REPORTER

The merry-go-round featuring Shakib Al Hasan and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) came to a stop yesterday as the star all-rounder confirmed his availability for the upcoming tour of South Africa. The 34-year-old added that any decisions regarding resting players would be taken by the BCB and that he would travel to South Africa tonight.

The drama over Shakib's availability for the South Africa tour has created a lot of fuss over the past few days. The premier all-rounder stated before

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A warehouse storing frozen products is seen on fire after Russian shelling in the village of Kvitneve in Kyiv region, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian forces close in on Kyiv

Intense fighting reported near the capital as civilian areas pounded across Ukraine

AGENCIES

Russian forces upped pressure on Kyiv yesterday, pummeling civilian areas in other Ukrainian cities, amid fresh efforts to get aid to the devastated port city of Mariupol.

Russian strikes destroyed the airport in the town of Vasylikiv yesterday morning, about 40 kilometres south of Kyiv, while an oil depot was also hit and caught fire, the mayor said.

The northwest suburbs of the capital, including Irpin and Bucha, have already endured days of heavy bombardment while Russian armoured vehicles are advancing on the northeastern edge.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak on Friday called it a "city under siege", while Mayor Vitali Klitschko yesterday said Kyiv was reinforcing defences and stockpiling food and medicine.

Buses were continuing to bring refugees into the city from the hard-hit suburbs Klitschko said in a video message, adding: "We will not give up."

Other cities have already fallen or been surrounded following Russia's invasion of its neighbour on February 24, with civilians targeted in what the United Nations warned could amount to war crimes.

The southern port city of Mariupol is facing what Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba called "the worst humanitarian catastrophe on the planet", with more than 1,500 civilians dead in 12 days.

Kyiv yesterday said that Russian forces shelled a mosque in Mariupol where 80 civilians, including Turkish citizens, had taken shelter.

However, this was denied by Ismail Hacioglu of the local mosque association, who told Turkish television the area was under fire but the mosque was not hit.

A humanitarian convoy carrying food and medicine for around 400,000 residents in Mariupol yesterday left Zaporizhzhia, to the north east, city officials said. The buses will bring back stranded civilians.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

GIRL'S DEATH BY SUICIDE

Rape suspect was her stalker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The man accused of the rape of a schoolgirl in Jamalpur used to stalk her and several other girls in their area and was also involved in drug trading, said police and locals.

The statement came after the accused Tamim Ahmed Khan Swapan, 25, was arrested early yesterday.

According to locals, some guardians complained about Tamim's misconduct but that did not deter him from continuing it.

There were several local arbitrations, but he remained unchanged.

Tamim, a cable mechanic, married four times and lived with his second wife, said police.

Rab arrested him in Char Shasha village around 2:00am yesterday, a day after the 16-year-old girl of Malancha MA Gafur High School in Melandah died by suicide on Thursday evening.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



Swapan

Sustainability, inclusivity and climate change

Swiss ambassador names 3 challenges for Bangladesh in days ahead in interview with *Star*

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh and Switzerland celebrate 50 years of bilateral relationship today. The relationship is evolving as Bangladesh is gearing to become a developed country by 2041. Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh Nathalie Chuard sat down with The Daily Star to share her views on what the future holds for the two countries.

DS: How would you define the Bangladesh-Switzerland relationship?

Chuard: Since Switzerland officially recognised Bangladesh, the relationship between the two countries evolved with the changing world. On this august occasion, I am really looking forward to taking our relationship to the next level.

DS: What are the major areas of cooperation between the two countries?

Chuard: During and in the aftermath of the 1971 War, Switzerland focused primarily on humanitarian aid.

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Nathalie Chuard



A man in a wheelchair receives cooking oil and other kitchen essentials after hours of waiting near a mobile booth of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh in the capital's Paribagh. The corporation sells everyday essentials at prices lower than in retail.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Ex-DAE official arrested with 512 litres of edible oil

DMP starts surveillance to monitor hoarding of essentials

MUNTAKIM SAAD

With edible oil fast vanishing from retailers' shelves in the wake of a supply crunch, a retired government official turned out to be on the list of hoarders after stockpiling 512 litres of soybean oil.

Layekuzzaman, former deputy assistant agriculture officer of the Department of Agricultural Extension, hoped to make a hefty profit during Ramadan by selling the illegally stockpiled oil worth Tk 81,984.

On Friday, Mohammadpur police team arrested the 60-year-old and seized 512 litres of oil from a Lalmatia flat, said Biplob Kumar Sarkar, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press conference yesterday.

Layekuzzaman lives in a flat in Lalmatia and looks after his father-in-law's one next door. That is where he had stored the oil.

During primary interrogation, Layekuzzaman showed a receipt of Surya Enterprise, in Mohammadpur's Krishi Market, from where he bought 40 litres at Tk 159 per litre.

"He forged the receipt and included prices of more oil. We will try to find out from where he bought the rest," Biplob added.

A case was filed against Layekuzzaman under the Special Powers' Act with Mohammadpur Police Station.

Biplob added, "We will also interrogate the trader who sold 40 litres of oil to one person."

The DMP has started surveillance this week on business establishments and warehouses in the capital so that no syndicate can hoard the products.

"We will monitor if anyone is stockpiling to create an artificial crisis... If we get any such clue, we will inform the department concerned, like the Directorate of National Consumer Rights' Protection, and then conduct drives," DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star.

"There is a tendency to increase prices of essentials like edible oil, pulses ahead of Ramadan. We will look into whether anyone is doing illegal business."

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

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



Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury talks to an alumna of Dhaka University at the event celebrating 100 years of the university yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

12 impounded buses torched

CID had seized them in money laundering case against ex-AL leader, brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 12 buses of South Line Paribahan were burned to ashes in police custody in Faridpur town's Goalchamat area yesterday.

The Criminal Investigation Department seized a total of 22 buses in a money laundering case.

Ten of the buses were kept under a shed and 12 others under the open sky in the district police's jurisdiction as evidence of the case.

Around 1:00am yesterday, a group of miscreants set fire on the buses kept under the open sky in two rows.

According to locals, the fire broke out on the second bus of the first row at the beginning and the fire spread rapidly to other buses.

On information, a team of

firefighters in Faridpur rushed to the spot and doused the fire after one and a half hours.

Nazrul Islam, assistant deputy director of Faridpur fire service, said it seemed the fire was an act

of sabotage.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali, the night guard of the shed where the buses were kept, said, "The fire spread very quickly. It was a planned work."

The owners of the buses are Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat, suspended general secretary of Faridpur town Awami League, and his brother Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel, former president of Faridpur press club.

Both of them were arrested in the money laundering case.

Subal Chandra Saha, president of Faridpur district AL, filed the case



Shakib's U-turn

FROM PAGE 1

leaving for Dubai on March 6 to fulfill a commercial commitment that he was not mentally nor physically fit to play cricket. But by that time, the board had already included Shakib for both the ODI and Test series in South Africa.

The next day Hassan raised questions about Shakib's sincerity, asking the media whether the left-hander would have done the same thing if it was ahead of the Indian Premier League instead.

After a meeting, the BCB decided to grant Shakib a break for two months from all forms of cricket till April 30. Upon his return from Dubai on March 10, Shakib spoke to the BCB boss and, after another meeting at the home of cricket in Mirpur, the star cricketer eventually changed his mind.

"I spoke to [BCB president Nazmul Hassan] Papon bhai over the past few days and we managed to make a plan for the whole year. Since I am a part of all three formats [in the latest central contract list], I will always be available for all three formats. The board will decide when it is necessary to rest me and that goes for the South Africa series as well. So I am available for the South Africa series," Shakib said after the meeting at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

On the other hand, Hassan stated that the cricketer was mentally disturbed, which is why he had problems with his decision-making. He also asked the media to stop

speculating about possible reasons when a player asks to rest or is left out of the team.

"If someone does not play a series or two, there is no reason to speculate. The board might even decide to drop players and try someone new. I would like to ask you to take this sportingly. It's part of the game and happens all over the world."

"Since Shakib has told us that he is feeling mentally disturbed, we should be giving him our support. All the talk shows and discussions speculating about it are not good in that context. We have to stand beside someone when they are suffering mentally or physically. Do not speculate because that causes more problems," Hassan told the media.

Bangladesh will play the first of three ODIs against South Africa on March 18 in Centurion. The second and third ODIs are scheduled for March 20 and 23 in Johannesburg and Centurion respectively. The first Test will begin on March 30 in Durban while the second and final Test will start on April 7 in Port Elizabeth.

Turkmenistan votes for father-son transition

AFP, Ashgabat

Voting was underway in Turkmenistan yesterday for a tightly-controlled leadership election that is all but certain to yield ex-Soviet Central Asia's first father-son succession.

Not much done since Accord left

FROM PAGE 1

After Accord left, over 70 factories out of Accord and RSC's list of factories have still not implemented even 50 percent of the remediation measures recommended by Accord, shows the RSC website.

A handful of the factories are barely getting started with their preliminary inspection happening after the RSC took over.

Iqbal M Hussain, managing director of RSC and its chief safety officer, said 373 of the listed factories are "yet to complete the structural remediation based on an engineering assessment" and 1,241 are yet to have their fire alarm systems verified.

At the time of Accord's departure, nearly two-thirds of the listed un-remediated factories had implemented over 90 percent of the remediation measures recommended -- but even the minor work left can cause major accidents.

For example, in late January, a factory named Zaheen Knitwear Ltd in Narayanganj's Madanpur caught fire. The resulting inferno was so big that it took five hours for 13 fire-fighting units to bring the fire under control, and sixteen hours to completely douse the flames.

Zaheen was a listed factory with Accord -- meaning it was eligible for receiving orders from big brands like US Polo Association, Woolworths, Lidl and Target. It was also classified as "behind the

schedule," but only had a bit of work left.

Since it was a Friday, there were no workers at Zaheen and no casualties were reported; but to put into context the kind of disaster averted -- four out of six of the factory's units were engulfed in the fire.

Among the issues left unresolved, Zaheen's fire alarm system was supposed to be replaced, and fire doors and a standpipe system was supposed to be installed.

According to RSC inspection notes, the factory was first asked to install these in 2016.

The factory was in the process of installing the standpipe system, and importing the alarm systems and fire doors but as of January this year, it was yet to be completed.

Executive Director of Zaheen Knitwear Misbahuddaza Misbah admitted that they faced delays in ensuring the necessary remediations, saying the pandemic was also to blame. "We faced delays in importing the supplies, there was a worker crisis, and then the pandemic happened."

The factory management sought until June 2022 to complete the installation. RSC documents seen by The Daily Star said it was unacceptable.

"The corrective action plan should be completed as per the RSC recommendation with immediate concern," it added.

It wasn't fixed

immediately. Following the fire, Lt Col Zillur Rahman, a director of the fire service, said, "The fire safety system in the factory was inadequate. We faced difficulties in fighting the fire as the factory did not have water supply."

Similarly, a whole host of issues were reported to be resolved but were pending verification by the RSC since 2019.

"During the pandemic, the RSC did not inspect as many factories as it should have," said Kalpana Akhter, a labour rights activist, who runs Bangladesh Centre for Workers Solidarity.

The RSC's annual report 2020-21 outlines their problem. "The RSC's operation experienced partial halt several times [June to early September 2020 and March to May 2021] due to nationwide lockdown and movement restrictions," it said.

During the reporting period, out of the targeted 100 boiler safety inspections, only 10 were completed.

To make up for the stalled activities, the number of initial inspections to onboard new factories has been doubled, the report added.

It also states that inspections are categorised according to priority, with inspections related to industrial accidents and safety concerns getting precedence, followed by the factories ready for final approval.

Meanwhile, with nearly a thousand factories to

against the duo on May 18, 2020, two days after his house was attacked.

The duo was arrested in a special police operation in connection with the case on June 6, 2020. They remained in jail ever since.

SM Miraj Al Mahmud, a CID inspector, lodged the case with Kafirul Police Station against the brothers under the money laundering act on June 26, 2020.

Later, CID seized the buses as evidence of the case. The district police were given the responsibility of maintaining the buses.

Contacted, Jamal Pasha, additional superintendent of Faridpur police (administration and finance), said, "Police would investigate the incident and identify the people behind the incident."

Meanwhile, Barkat's wife Surajya Parveen suspected a local land grabber Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury could be behind the fire.

"We have lost several crores of properties because of this fire. We will go to the court over this matter," she said.

The accused, however, denied the allegations.

Student stabbed in N'ganj dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A college student, who was stabbed in Narayanganj on Friday night, died at a clinic in the capital yesterday.

Mabia Begum, mother of Mahfuz Ahmed, 20, a first-year student of Narayanganj College, said some of his friends took him out of his home in Narayanganj city's Khanpur Baubazar area around 9:00pm on Friday. Later, he was stabbed in Patharghat area.

Shah Jaman, officer-in-charge Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, said they detained three youths for questioning.

Police suspect the youths stabbed the victim over a feud. "We are investigating the matter."

9-yr-old raped in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police were trying to arrest a 50-year-old man who allegedly raped a third-grader of a madrasa in Kurigram's Rowmari upazila.

The nine-year-old girl's father filed a case against the man, Sadkul Islam Sadek, of Kajaikata village of the upazila, with Rowmari Police Station on Friday night, alleging that when his daughter was collecting firewood near his home earlier in the day, Sadek grabbed her from behind and took her to his room, where he raped her, said MR Sayeed, OC (investigation) of the police station.

Hearing her screams, locals rushed there and rescued the girl, but Sadek managed to flee, he said, adding that she was sent to Kurigram General Hospital for medical tests yesterday morning.

Man 'kills daughter, dies by suicide' in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A family planning official strangled his nine-year-old daughter to death and then died by suicide in their home in Bangala union of Sirajganj's Ullapara yesterday morning, OC Humayun Kabir of Ullapara Police Station said, quoting the victims' family members.

The deceased were Monjurul Alom Rajib, 40, an inspector of family planning in the union, and Rifat Tasnim Raka, he said, adding that the other family members were out when the incident happened around 9:00am.

Rajib was not mentally stable, said the OC, quoting the family members, as well as Rajib's colleagues.

Police are investigating the incident, Kabir said, adding that the bodies were sent to hospital for autopsy.

Bomb explodes near journo's home in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A bomb exploded in front of the house of a journalist, vocal about justice for Tanwir Muhammad Taqi, in the city's Alam Khan area around 3:00am yesterday.

Mahabubur Rahman Masum, editor of Dainik Khaborer Pata, alleged that those who killed the bright teenage boy were trying to intimidate him. No one was hurt, he also said.

OC Shah Jaman of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station said a general diary was filed over the matter and that they were looking into the incident.

Rape suspect

FROM PAGE 1

She left a suicide note, mentioning that Tamim "confined her to a room and did something very bad with her that she could not tell".

Ashik Uzzaman, commanding officer of Rab-14 of Jamalpur Camp who led the drive to arrest him, said in primary interrogation Tamim confessed his involvement in the rape.

Dilip Chandra Sarker, sub-inspector of Melandah Police Station and the investigation officer of the case, said Tamim was produced before a Jamalpur court yesterday afternoon after being interrogated.

The court sent him to jail.

Locals alleged that Tamim used to get support from his uncle Mirza Wahab Ali, ex-chairman of Nayanagar Union Parishad, and also worked for Mirza to hire people in the local polls.

He, along with some other youths, tried to cast votes forcibly in Nayanagar UP polls in 2017 for his uncle who was a rebel candidate of the Awami League.

Contacted, Mirza admitted that Tamim was his nephew and the son of his younger brother's second wife.

He said that his nephew grew up at his maternal uncles' house and had a very little contact with them.

"After hearing the incident, I assisted Rab and police to arrest Tamim", said Mirza, also an ex-member of Awami League Melandah upazila unit.

SHELL-SHOCKED FAMILY Nothing could stop the family members and relatives of the girl from

grieving. She was the only child of her parents.

The victim's father said he tried his best to arrange money for her daughter's education.

"Everything is shattered now. I don't know how I will bear the pain for the rest of my life," he said.

On Friday, the father lodged a case with Melandah Police Station accusing Tamim.

The girl's father alleged that Tamim used to stalk his daughter on the way to school.

MM Moydul Islam, officer-in-charge of Melandah Police Station, said the body was found hanging from the ceiling in her room on Thursday night.

Two notes were also found there, he said.

Protesting the death, her classmates and teachers brought out a procession and formed a human chain in front of the school yesterday morning, demanding exemplary punishment for the culprit.

In Ukraine ghost city, florist stays open to 'cheer people up'

AFP, Mykolaiv

Most business owners have shut up shop and fled Ukraine's Nikolaiv, but florist Angela Kalisnik continues to sell tulips and roses just a short drive away from the frontline.

"We didn't know the war was coming," says the 25-year-old.



To walk through the same pavements-fields-gardens, with fellows who were once constant companions but have now become friends of yore, only available through a phone-screen, it's no wonder that the alumni of DU lapped up every opportunity to create memories as they attended its reunion yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Gonoforum factions clash at press club

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two factions of Gonoforum got into a clash yesterday at Jatiya Press Club, leaving several leaders and activists of the party injured.

The faction led by MP Mokabbir Khan was holding the party's council at the club's auditorium, while the Mostafa Mohsin Montu-led faction was holding a human chain programme in front of the club to protest skyrocketing prices of daily essentials.

Eyewitnesses and sources said Montu-led activists stormed into the auditorium, shouting slogans which called Mokabbir Khan a "collaborator of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Brother of Mufti Hannan held

Rab says he is an organiser of Ansar Al-Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab claimed to have arrested one of the organisers of the banned militant group, Ansar al-Islam, from Rajashan area of Savar.

Munshi Iqbal Ahmed (62) is also the brother of Mufti Hannan, head of Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami Bangladesh (Huji-B), Superintendent of Police of Rab-4 Joyita Shilpi said. Mobile phones, extremist literature and leaflets used to spread extremism were seized from Munshi Iqbal, she said.

Based on secret information, he was arrested on Friday, during a raid in his brother-in-law's house in Rajashan area, she said. In addition, a Rab-4 press release said the arrestee was once a leader of Harkatul Jihad.

He began working with Ansar al-Islam on May 21, 2004 after a grenade attack on former British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury at Sylhet's Hazrat Shahjalal shrine.

Mufti Hannan was executed on April 12, 2017 over the attack.

Govt remains vigilant

Says home minister on uprooting militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been successful in controlling militancy in the country only because the citizens responded to calls from the prime minister and helped fight back, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

"However, we haven't been able to entirely uproot [militancy] yet," he

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Does anyone ever leave DU?

Alumni throng campus at reunion marking its 100 yrs

ASIFUR RAHMAN and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The central playground of Dhaka University almost seemed like it accommodated the whole campus on that one field yesterday.

Along with replicas of Aparajeyo Bangla, Curzon Hall, Raju Sculpture and almost all the historical establishments of the university, the playground area also portrayed the hundred-year journey of the university with paintings put up inside a tent.

This attracted a sizeable crowd, with some saying it was the biggest ever gathering seen in recent days, as thousands of alumni gathered there to spend the entire day with their fellows, reminiscing the memories they created at the university.

All this was part of the reunion organised by Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA), marking the university's 100 years.

Though originally slated for last year, the reunion was postponed due to the pandemic.

But this delay only created anticipation for the event, and when it was finally held yesterday, its attendees emitted a festive aura across the campus.

They were seen singing their hearts out, dancing and taking photographs and selfies.

M Sohrab Alam was a student of DU during the '80s. He was there yesterday with his family. "In our time, there were no digital devices. We lived through lots of happy moments, but couldn't capture them," said Sohrab, who was seen taking as many photos as he could.

Mashiur Rahman was a student of finance department back in 1984-85. "I've been living in Canada since 1992. There's no way I would miss the chance to meet my friends after so many years! And I did meet a lot of them, and we had so much fun today," he told this correspondent.

"Comparing DU with other universities will always be different. Not only is it a university for education, research and publication, but it has also played a seminal role in creating a country,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 13



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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Delays, rising costs show no sign of going away

Issues centring transport-sector projects still not addressed, despite ADB pointing them out for years

9 out of 12 transport projects, funded by ADB, have already been revised, while physical work of 3 has not even started

ISSUES

- Lack of comprehensive designs
- Delays in project preparation, approval; procurement; signing; land acquisition; resettlement
- Weak management
- Changes of project directors
- Understaffed project implementation unit
- Lack of coordination among consultants, contractors



SOLUTIONS

- Strengthen capacity of implementing agencies
- Streamline government approval process
- Assign dedicated, efficient project managers

The project for BRT from Dhaka airport to Gazipur was taken in Nov 2012 and was supposed to be completed by Dec 2016. After several revised deadlines, the latest one is Dec this year. Throughout this period, the budget shot up to Tk 4,268.3 crore from Tk 2,037.9 crore.

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

At a time when loans provided by Asian Development Bank (ADB) are ever increasing in the transport sector, implementing agencies have failed to get rid of some of the chronic problems liable for delays in implementation and cost overruns.

A lack of comprehensive designs; delays in project preparation and approval, procurement, signing contracts, land acquisition and resettlement; and weak management are among the factors that are holding back development progress, according to ADB.

The multilateral lender has been raising these issues for years, and even provided possible solutions, but the situation remains almost unchanged.

Nine out of 12 projects under the transport sector, funded by ADB, have already been revised, while physical work of three other projects has not even started, show documents prepared for a meeting.

Apart from the perennial problems, most projects were affected by Covid-19, which hit the country in early 2020. However, the situation regarding overall contracts awarded and disbursement of funds improved last year, as both metrics reached the target.

In this situation, a tripartite portfolio review meeting (TPRM) for the ADB-funded projects will be held in Dhaka today. This is the first such meeting this year.

The TPRM will be co-chaired by secretary of Economic Relations Division and country director of ADB's Bangladesh Resident Mission.

Representatives of the implementing agencies for all

projects will take part in the meeting.

ADB IN TRANSPORT SECTOR

As of December 2021, Bangladesh's active portfolio with ADB stands at \$13.02 billion, in the form of loans or grants for 50 projects in six sectors.

Of the projects, 12 are in the transport sector, with 19 loans and one grant, totalling \$3.09 billion.

Of the 12 projects, six are being implemented by Roads and Highways Department, five by Bangladesh Railway and one by Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd.

Since 1973, ADB has been providing support to the transport sector, particularly roads and rail projects, but ADB loans in this sector saw a sharp rise in the last decade.

While ADB's portfolio in the sector was \$ 0.741 billion in 2013, it stood at \$3.09 billion this year, shows an ADB document.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

According to ADB, lack of comprehensive designs, including quality surveys and investigation, results in changes in project works, as well as time and cost overruns.

Some high-value contracts take longer than average to award, in some cases more than 20 months, mainly due to poor quality of bidding documents and lack of specific evaluation criteria, it said.

Despite measures taken by ADB and executing agencies, time taken to prepare Development Project Proposal (DPP), revised DPP and Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP), and for time taken for their

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Green Delta Founder Honored with NATIONAL INSURANCE AWARD 2022



The founder and advisor of Green Delta Insurance - Mr. Nasir Ahmad Choudhury, was recently honoured as a distinguished insurance personality for his outstanding contribution to development of the industry. On behalf of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Secretary of Financial Institution Division (FID) - Sheikh Md. Salim Ullah, handed over the award to Mr. Nasir A. Choudhury at the formal ceremony of National Insurance Day 2022. The event was attended virtually by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the Chief Guest and was chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal MP. The whole Green Delta family is proud and delighted by such supreme recognition of the insurance legend.



12 lives lost

FROM PAGE 5
Shams Uddin (60) succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh hospital.
In Patuakhali, three people were killed in a collision between a pickup and two motorcycles in Dumki area on Friday. The deceased are Bayazid (14), Yusuf (33) and Hira (18).

In another accident, journalist Hasan Parvez (55) died, as a bus hit him while he was crossing a road at Amragachhia on Friday. In Dinajpur, an engineer of Palli Bidyut Samity was killed after a speeding truck hit his motorbike yesterday. The deceased is Dibakar Mohanta.

Nuclear Power Plant Key Project Manager

Bauwerk Ltd. is the national distributor for Hilli in Bangladesh. The company is looking for a Key Project Manager with minimum 10 years of experience with the Energy and Industry sector and specialization in construction and installation of machinery in Nuclear Power Plants. Fluency in Russian, Belarusian and English is mandatory for this position. Interested candidates are requested to apply to hr@bauwerk.ltd

Shawkat Jamil's death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the death anniversary of Shawkat Jamil Khan, who served as a senior photojournalist of The Daily Star. On this day in 2012, he passed away at the age of 56. His family requested all to pray for his departed soul.



Office Rent

Modern office in Dhanmondi of about 2000 sq. ft on first floor of 2-storied building available.
Contact # 017 265 02 473

Does anyone ever

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a state, a nation," said Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury while chairing a discussion on the university and its alumni. Meanwhile, the alumni association chose 100 posthumous alumni in 16 categories to honour, which include former VCs, politicians, educationists, martyrs of the Language Movement, intellectuals martyred during the Liberation War, philosophers, cultural activists, poets, writers, journalists.

The day-long programme was inaugurated at 10:00am with the national anthem, hoisting of the flag, and cultural presentations.

The oldest alumni to join the programme, 92-year-old Matilul Islam, served as the chief guest. Matilul was

a Pakistan-era government employee who was forced to retire by then President Yahya Khan regime with different false corruption charges. He later re-joined the government as the first finance secretary.

"To join as chief guest here is the greatest reward I have achieved in my journey," he said.

Conducted by DUAA secretary general Ranjan Karmaker, the programme was presided over by its president AK Azad.

Among others, Prime Minister's adviser Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Education Minister Dipu Moni, former minister Matia Chowdhury, politician Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, educationist Hamida Akhtar Begum, and cultural personality Ramendu Majumder joined the programme.

Delays, rising

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approval is increasing, the ADB document reads.

It mentioned that delays in approving revised DPP caused a one-year delay in implementing the BRT project and SASEC Road Connectivity Project-1.

Under the BRT project, the government is building a dedicated bus corridor from Dhaka airport to Gazipur, while a 70-km road from Gazipur to Alenga was expanded to four lanes under the SASEC-1 project.

The document mentions land acquisition and resettlement (LAS) is a major reason why transport projects require time extensions, mentioning that for the Akhaura-Laksm Double Track project, Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Rail Link project, SASEC-1 and SASEC-2, LAS took a considerably long time.

Frequent changes of project directors, understaffed project implementation unit,

lack of coordination among consultants and contractors are delaying project implementation.

ADB gave similar observations in its previous documents prepared for (TPRM) meetings of 2015 and 2016. RHD is currently implementing 185 projects, of which more than 80 were revised in the last fiscal year. BR is implementing 37 projects, of which 26 have already been revised at least once.

SOLUTIONS
The ADB suggested strengthening capacity of implementing agencies to improve quality of project designs, cost estimates and procurement packaging.

It also called for streamlining the government approval process of consulting, recruitment and procurement. The line ministries and Planning Commission have to take necessary measures to reduce time for DPP, revised DPP, TAPP and approval.

Govt remains

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said, adding that efforts are ongoing to this end and that the government remains vigilant.

He was addressing a discussion marking the launch of a whitepaper titled "2,000 Days of Fundamentalism and Communal Violence in Bangladesh", published by Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. The whitepaper was prepared by a "people's inquiry commission" spearheaded by retired Supreme Court

judge Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik.

It also makes a number of recommendations for government actions. The home minister said he will place the recommendations before the PM.

Nirmul Committee president Shahriar Kabir said they have suggested enhancing capacity of law enforcement agencies to aid the process.

Workers Party president Rashed Khan Menon hoped that the government will pay due importance to the findings and take effective steps.

Gonoforum factions

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government", and a fight broke out. Soon, members of both factions started throwing chairs at each other.

Mokabbir Khan, executive president of Gonoforum, alleged people of Montu's faction, who were expelled, deliberately attacked them.

About 15 leaders and activists of Gonoforum, including Mokabbir, were injured. Montu, president of a faction, denied the allegations.

Subrata Chowdhury, general secretary of the Montu-led faction, said their people were carrying out the programme in a peaceful manner. All of a sudden, some people loyal to Mokabbir attacked them.

"We have organised the council in a democratic manner," Mokabbir told reporters before leaving the auditorium.

"This was a pre-scheduled programme. But some miscreants have attacked the council and injured many, including me," he also said.

Denying allegations, Subrata said, "Why should our people go to their council?"

Police brought the situation under control

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj
www.debendracollege.gov.bd

Memo No. CEDP/GDC/2021-22/Ad-175 Date: 11/03/2022

e-Tender Notice 05/2021-2022

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	671860	Procurement of Equipments for science laboratories of Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.	29-Mar-2022 13:00	29-Mar-2022 14:00
2.	671504	Procurement of Furniture and Fixtures for Classrooms, Departments, Laboratories and Teacher's Auditorium at Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj.	29-Mar-2022 13:00	29-Mar-2022 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 28-Mar-2022 16:00.

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

Professor Dr. Md. Rezaul Karim
Principal
Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj
Phone: 996610404
E-mail: debendracollege@gmail.com

GD-491

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার কার্যালয়
(মুন্সিগঞ্জ বায়হাঙ্গা উপজেলা)
নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ
www.nikli.kishoreganj.gov.bd
তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-৫১.০১.৪৮৭৬.০০০.৪১.০১৬.২২-১১৫

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২১-২০২২খ্রিঃ

মুক্তিযোদ্ধা বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্মারক নং-মুক্তি/পিডি/আ বি পু আ সি প্র/ম ০১/২০২১/৪৭২ তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ এর নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য যে কোন সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত ও হালদানাদান ন্যায়ামকৃত টেন্ডারকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নোক্তকৃত খামে পিপিআর (PPR) ২০০৮-২০০৯ (সংশোধিত) এর আলোকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

ক্রমিক নং	প্রকল্প/বিভাগ	মুক্তিযোদ্ধা বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়।
০১	সংস্কার নাম	আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস ২য় পর্যায়)।
০২	সংস্কার শাখার নাম	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।
০৩	সংস্কার শাখার কোড	প্রযোজ্য নয়।
০৪	সংস্কার শাখার জেলা	কিশোরগঞ্জ।
০৫	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হলো	আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস ২য় পর্যায়)।
০৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	মুক্তি/পিডি/আ বি পু আ সি প্র/ম ০১/২০২১/৪৭২ তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ।
০৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানের তারিখ	১২/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ।

মূল তথ্যঃ

ক্রমিক নং	ক্রম/সংস্কার পদ্ধতি	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (Limited Tendering Method)।
০৮ <td>বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস</td> <td>জিআর।</td>	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	জিআর।
০৯ <td>সীমিত তথ্যাদি</td> <td>প্রযোজ্য নয়।</td>	সীমিত তথ্যাদি	প্রযোজ্য নয়।
১০ <td>প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচি কোডের নাম (যদি প্রযোজ্য হয়)</td> <td>প্রযোজ্য নয়।</td>	প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচি কোডের নাম (যদি প্রযোজ্য হয়)	প্রযোজ্য নয়।
১১ <td>প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচির নাম (যদি প্রযোজ্য হয়)</td> <td>আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস ২য় পর্যায়)।</td>	প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচির নাম (যদি প্রযোজ্য হয়)	আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস ২য় পর্যায়)।
১২ <td>টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের সংখ্যা</td> <td>০১ (একটি) বাজেট নিকলী/সংখ্যা-১১টি স্বতঃ।</td>	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের সংখ্যা	০১ (একটি) বাজেট নিকলী/সংখ্যা-১১টি স্বতঃ।
১৩ <td>টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের নাম</td> <td>আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস ২য় পর্যায়)।</td>	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের নাম	আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস ২য় পর্যায়)।
১৪ <td>অর্থ বছর</td> <td>২০২১-২০২২।</td>	অর্থ বছর	২০২১-২০২২।
১৫ <td>দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য</td> <td>২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা।</td>	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা।
১৬ <td>দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ</td> <td>১২/০৩/২০২২।</td>	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	১২/০৩/২০২২।
১৭ <td>দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়</td> <td>২৩/০৩/২০২২ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা।</td>	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/০৩/২০২২ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৮ <td>দরপত্র প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়</td> <td>২৮/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা।</td>	দরপত্র প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৯ <td>দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়</td> <td>২৮/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা (উপস্থিত দরদাতা সন্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে)।</td>	দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা (উপস্থিত দরদাতা সন্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে)।
২০ <td>দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান</td> <td>উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় (মুন্সিগঞ্জ বায়হাঙ্গা উপজেলা), নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।</td>	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় (মুন্সিগঞ্জ বায়হাঙ্গা উপজেলা), নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।
২১ <td>দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান</td> <td>উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।</td>	দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।
২২ <td>দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান</td> <td>উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।</td>	দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।
২৩ <td>দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান</td> <td>উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।</td>	দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।
২৪ <td>দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান</td> <td>উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।</td>	দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।

২৫ বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ

ক) ৫% এর অধিক মূল্যের অথবা ৫% এর অধিক উর্দন সরাসরি বাস্তব রূপে গণ্য হবে।

খ) বাস্তব টাকা উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের অনুমোদন যে কোন ভুলত্রুটিতে ব্যাক হতে ব্যাক প্রকল্প/সে-অর্থীর দরপত্র সিডিউলস সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

গ) দরপত্র দাখিলে উল্লিখিত সচল শর্তাবলী ও পিপিআর ২০০৮ ও তৎপরেবর্তী সংশোধনীয় অর্থবহী অনুসরণ করতে হবে।

ঘ) ব্যাক সলসিউল সাডিফিকেট দরপত্র সিডিউলস সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঙ) এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি কার্যকর হওয়ার পর দরপত্র প্রদান করা যাবে।

ক্রমিক নং	প্রকল্প	লটারি নং	লটারি বিবরণ	প্রদত্ত মূল্য	বায়নার (টাকা)	সিডিউল মূল্য	বীর নিবাস
০১	০১	আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস-০৬টি)।	১৪.১০.০৮২২৬০৮৪.৬২.২২২২	২,৫৪,০০০/-	২,৫৪,০০০/-	২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়
০২	০২	আজমল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস-০৬টি)।	১৪.১০.০৮২২৬০৮৪.৬২.২২২২	২,১২,০০০/-	২,১২,০০০/-	২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়

২৬ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম

২৭ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী

২৮ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা

২৯ বিজ্ঞপ্তি শর্তাবলী সম্বন্ধিত দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বোচ্চ উপজেলা প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ে পাওয়া যাবে।

৩০ কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন কারণে মর্শনো ব্যতিক্রমে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়ন ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

৩১ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি আর অফিসারের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইট www.nikli.kishoreganj.gov.bd হতে সজ্ঞা করা যাবে।

তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০২২
মোঃ আবু হাসান
উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার
নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ

জিডি-৪৯০

AGRANI BANK LIMITED
Establishment & Engineering Division
Head Office
9/D Dilkusha C/A
Dhaka.

Invitation for Tenders

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Procuring Entity Name	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
2	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
3	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV System on Agrani Bank Limited, Kamapur Branch, Dhaka, Chowkbazar Branch, Dhaka, Asadgonj Corp Branch, Chattogram, Bazar Sarak Branch, Gazipur and Station Road Branch, Thakurgaon.
4	Invitation Ref No	ABL/E&ED/Eng/Mecha-085/2022
5	Date	08/03/2022
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank limited.
8	Tender Publication Date	08/03/2022
9	Tender Last Selling Date	29/03/2022
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	30/03/2022 3:00PM
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	30/03/2022 3:30PM
12	Name & Address of the Tender Document Selling Office	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
13	Receiving Tender Document	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. Time: 10:00AM to 3:00PM, Date: 30/03/2022
14	Place of Tender Opening	Tender Opening will take place at the Primary Place
15	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	Tenderers who have: a. Not been prevented by order of any judicial court from entering into and/or signing contract with the procuring entity. b. Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 12,00,000.00 (Twelve Lac) only. c. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. d. Certificate by the bidder stating that he/she had successfully completed CCTV installation, testing and commissioning works at Govt/Semi-Govt Autonomous organizations/ Reputed Limited Company. e. No joint venture company is allowed. f. Up to date valid Trade license g. Up-to-date income tax paid certificate h. Valid VAT registration certificate i. TIN Certificate j. Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 12,00,000.00 (Twelve Lac) only. k. Main Catalogue/ Brochure. l. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 8,90,000/-. m. Affidavit/Declaration of legal ownership/ Certificate of Incorporation. n. Tender Submission Letter (Form PG3-1) o. Bio-data of key personnel employed by the contractor to carry out the functions stated in the schedule. p. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. q. International Standard Conformity Certificate and Every other documents mentioned in TDS.
16	Tenderer to attach copies of the following documents	1000/- (Tk One Thousand Only) Non-refundable pay-order from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favor of Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Yousuf Khan
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	01308623948 02223381674 demesed@agrani.bank.org
22		a) The Tenderer shall furnish Registration certificate and evidence of being managed by Bangladesh nationals in original and certificates of satisfactory completion of previous work for proposed brand CC Camera of above magnitude from the owner at the time of dropping the Tender documents. b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the Tender(s), the same will be received at the same time on the day after next working day. c) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg. 127 of PPR 2008. d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. No claims will be entertained in this regard.

(Mohammad Yousuf Khan)
Deputy General Manager
Agrani Bank Limited
Establishment & Engineering Division
Head Office, Dhaka

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
"Seaweed Culture & seaweed Product development in Bangladesh coast" Research Project
Marine Fisheries and Technology Station, Cox's Bazar

Memo: 33.04.0000.124.02.010.20.148 Date: 10.03.2022

e- Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

The e- Tender is Invited through e-GP System Portat (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following.

Sl No	Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling Date @ Time	Tender Closing Date @ Time	Tender Opening Date @ Time
01	669322	Research Equipment (Ultrature Water Purification System for Type 1 & type 3, Ultrasonic Bath, GC & HPLC column, Shaking Incubator, Laboratory Freeze dryer)	28-Mar-2022 upto 16:59	28-Mar-2022 upto 17:00	28-Mar-2022 upto 17:00

This is an online Tender Where only e- tender will be accepted in the national e- GP System portal and no official / hard copies will be accepted to submit e- Tender. Registration in the national e- GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e- GP portal and from e- GP help dest (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)

(Md. Mohidul Islam)
Project Director

12 lives lost on roads

STAR REPORT

As many as 12 people were killed and 33 injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Habiganj, four people were killed and 30 injured, as two buses and a truck collided in Shaistaganj upazila on Friday night.

The accident took place on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Ulukandi around 10:30pm, said police.

Shaistaganj Highway Police Station Officer in Charge Moinul Islam said, a bus of Ashif Paribahan initially collided head-on with a stone-laden truck. At that time, a bus of Shyamoli Paribahan, while trying to overtake, hit the other bus, he said.

On information, police and firefighters recovered the bodies and sent the injured to Habiganj Sadar Modern Hospital.

Locals blocked Dhaka-Sylhet highway for around half an hour. Later, they cleared the road, following the request of former Ubahata Union Parishad chairperson Rajab Ali and police.

In Netrakona, two people were killed, as a pickup hit a truck from behind on Mymensingh-Netrakona road in Sakua Bazar area yesterday morning, said police.

The deceased -- Tariqul Islam (35) from the district's Kalmakanda upazila, and Md Nuruzzaman (30) from Sunamganj's Darampasha -- were egg traders.

Police seized the vehicles but the drivers managed to flee.

In Mymensingh, a man died after a motorbike ran him over on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road at Rangopalpur in Gouripur upazila on Friday night. The motorcyclist was also injured in the incident, said police.



What's being carried on the shoulders of these men, known as "bawalis", is golpata. They get it from the Sundarbans, with clearance from the forest department during a three-month period. Then they bring the leaves all the way to Khulna using large boats. These leaves are then sold at Tk 250-300 a bunch (80 pieces) in different Khulna bazaars, and are later used for constructing roofs of rural houses. This photo was taken from Khulna's Chalna Bazar recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

GANGAMATI RESERVE FOREST IN KUAKATA

Akashmani trees UNDER ATTACK

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

In the reserve forest in Kuakata's Gangamati area, around 10,000 Akashmani trees were planted in the 2008-09 fiscal year. It has since come to be known as the natural wall of the sea.

But despite its importance to the area, the trees are now in danger of being wiped out, as a local group is out to cut and sell them, as well as destroy them with fire. Meanwhile, some of the trees have also died during the recent tidal wave, when their roots became covered in sand.

Coastal dwellers are apprehensive about this deforestation. They're seeking the authorities' intervention, including legal steps against the syndicate. They demanded that the authorities plant more trees, as they play an effective role in protecting the lives and property of the area's people.

When this correspondent visited the area recently, he saw felled trees scattered across the beach, while seven to eight workers could be seen taking down the trees and carrying them away.

When asked about their activities, the workers refused to provide details, although they later said they were from Gangamati. They claimed they're only cutting those trees that have been



These Akashmani trees in Kuakata's Gangamati reserve forest play a vital role in protecting locals from natural disasters such as tidal waves. But after a local group set their sights on them, the trees are disappearing at a worrying rate.

PHOTO: STAR



uprooted by the tidal water, and cutting them wouldn't cause much harm to the forest.

One of them said, "We're cutting the trees after informing forest department officials. In fact, they've asked us to cut the trees." However, a local named Ferdous Hawlader said the incident is not just a one-day affair, but a longstanding issue. He alleged that the workers do this in co-ordination with the forest department's local staffers.

Wishing anonymity, many locals alleged that over a thousand trees have been either felled or burned over the

last one year. They said the miscreants set fire to the trees, so that they can tell people the trees have lost their "wood value" and take them away.

Lincon Bayen, Barishal divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), told The Daily Star, "The coastal areas are already at risk of natural disasters. When there's a need to plant more trees to maintain environmental balance, cutting down trees this way is not desirable at all."

Contacted, Abul Kalam Azad, Mahipur range officer of the forest department, said, "I didn't know that

the trees were being cut like this. Those involved will be identified and legal action will be taken against them. About 20 cases over tree-felling have already been filed, whose proceedings are still ongoing."

Meanwhile, Patuakhali Divisional Forest Officer Abdullah Al Mamun said strict action will be taken against those involved. "If anyone from the forest department is involved with this, they will also be punished."

Apart from Akashmani, the garden at Gangamati also has other species of trees, including Hartaki, Bahera, Raintree and Gamari.

1ST DEATH ANNIV OF MOUDUD

Wife alleges he was killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP leader and ex-minister Moudud Ahmed's wife Hasna Moudud yesterday alleged that her husband did not die of Covid-19 but was killed.

"He did not die of coronavirus. His disease could not be diagnosed. I heard that he was killed. Maybe someone will kill me too," she said at a discussion.

The event was organised to mark the first death anniversary of Moudud Ahmed at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Speaking at the programme, eminent lawyer Barrister Amir-ul Islam said, "I told him [Moudud] that the books he has written, he will be remembered for those. Now, I noticed that he is alive through his writing."

Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said whatever the party politics Moudud Ahmed did in his life, he had a liberal, democratic consciousness.

Nagorik Oikya convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said, people said Moudud Ahmed changed his party again and again but this is not an issue.

"The main issue is whether he changed parties for his benefits or to stand by people," he added.



Surrounded by hundreds of boxes -- all folded and ready to contain mouth-watering treats, this family in Barishal's Rongsri village has been earning a living by making them for years. Based on their size, these boxes are sold for Tk 3-8 a piece. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

AL's promises still unfulfilled

Speakers tell CPD-Shujan dialogue on polls pledges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Many important election promises, which the ruling Awami League made before the 2018 elections, remain unfulfilled, at a time when the party is nearing the end of its tenure, speakers said in a dialogue in Rajshahi yesterday.

They said some of the promises regarding education, employment and gender equality are yet to be implemented, while work for some others is ongoing.

The pandemic became an obstacle to fulfil the promises, they mentioned.

They were speaking at the event "Rajshahi Sanglap" on "Commitment to national development of education, decent employment and gender equality" at a city hotel.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) jointly organised the dialogue, with assistance of United Nations Democracy Fund. More than 50 dignitaries joined the programme.

Shujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said AL announced its electoral manifesto in 2008 and named it "Din Bodoler Sonod".

"It was truly a document of change. I myself was greatly encouraged, as many ground-breaking changes were promised. I thought I would no longer need to continue Shujan's activities," he said.

But people know how much of the manifesto came into reality, he added.

Presenting the keynote speech, CPD Joint Director Avra Bhattacharjee said the 2018 manifesto promised to bring unemployment rate down to 1.2 percent.

But the rate climbed to 5.3 percent in 2020, from 4.22 percent in 2019, he added.

Avra Bhattacharjee said the manifesto promised hundred percent gender equality in higher education, but male students dominated both public and private universities by 56 and 70 percent in 2020.

Prof Ilias Hossain of Rajshahi University said the 2018 manifesto promised quality education by employing teachers on the basis of merit, qualification and experience, but political consideration remained high.

Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed of RU and Rajshahi Shujan president Mohammad Piar Bux also spoke.

Dr Khondoker Golam Moazzem, research director at CPD, chaired the event.

Hadisur's body to arrive today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The body of Hadisur Rahman, the third engineer of Bangladeshi ship "Banglar Samridhhi" who was killed in a rocket attack at a Ukraine port on March 3, is expected to reach Dhaka today.

"Hadisur's body is scheduled to be flown in by a Turkish Air cargo. It is scheduled to take off midnight Saturday and arrive to Dhaka by Monday afternoon," an official of Bangladesh Embassy in Romania told this correspondent yesterday.

Hadisur is one of 29 Bangladeshis who had been stranded in the ship owned by Bangladesh Shipping Corporation.

On March 3, it came under rocket attack, but it could not be confirmed as of now who were behind the attack.

On March 4, all the crew and the body of Hadisur were rescued from the ship, which was abandoned later. The 28 surviving members arrived in Dhaka on March 9.





PHOTOS:
COURTESY OF
POLASH

Views no longer concern me

POLASH

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

A shaken, intimidated and terrified Kabila standing behind bars, waiting to discover what fate has in store for him – this is how Ziaul Hoque Polash appeared for the last time on “Bachelor Point” season 3. While the future of the series was left in limbo with such a conclusion, Polash decided to take a little time to reappear on screen, experimenting with his strengths to absorb Kabila’s dilemmas and anxiety.

The actor is finally back on screen as Kabila on Bangla Vision and Dhruba TV, waiting to showcase a different shade of the celebrated comic character for his fans.

We caught up with Polash over the phone while he was shooting in Chattogram to know about his expectations from the upcoming season of “Bachelor Point”, forthcoming OTT releases, and directorial ventures in progress.

“For season 4, we were looking to break our own barriers,” says Polash. “It not only offers new characters, but also projects the old ones with a new spin. Kajal Arefin Ome, the director, leads us and we always choose to trust his vision.”

After garnering much praise for Adnan Al Rajeev’s web film “YouTumor” and Shankha Dasgupta directorial web series “Boli”, Polash seems to be rather happy with his OTT track record. “OTTs facilitate longer time for us actors to absorb our characters, offer better budget and also provide scope to practice our art form in a manner that we enjoy performing,” he adds.

He is set to appear in Taneem Rahman Angshu’s debut web series “Tirondaj”, in a completely new attire.

“Angshu came to me with a challenge, and he also gave me the floor to explore freely, especially when it came to fixing

my look for the production,” mentions Polash. “He even studied the gestures that I usually present on the screen, and guided me to work against them as he wanted to showcase a completely new Polash in this project.”

The actor currently aims at delivering exclusive characters on the screen for his viewers, and believes that OTT offers him the ground to do so.

“Each character has its own exclusivity and I want roles that have their own persona, body language, and ideology,”

“Each character has its own exclusivity and I want roles that have their own persona, body language, and ideology,” asserts Polash, who is currently busy with selected TVC shoots alongside his OTT ventures. “Repeating similar characters often leads to an actor being typecast.

Going against the tide, I look to building a stronger brand value, rather than being just a common product with lesser exclusivity to offer to his choosers.”

Even as a director, Polash found success with his venture, “Revenge”. The tele-fiction starred Afran Nisho and Tasnia Farin, Polash is looking to craft another fiction for the upcoming Eid al-Fitr. He also plans to release his first web series this year during the Eid al-Adha.

While speaking about his way forward, Polash also shared his perception of fame and how he is against the trending ‘benchmark’ that evaluates one’s capabilities with the number of views.

“Unlike when I was younger, views are no longer of concern to me. Rather, being able to touch the audience with my work is what matters the most,” he concludes.



Chorki dominates Channel i Digital Media Awards with 8 wins

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular streaming platform Chorki won eight awards at the second edition of the “Channel i Digital Media Awards”. Snac Keeper was the title sponsor of the event.

Chorki’s “Khachar Bhor Ochin Pakhi” won the Best Web Film award, while Mizanur Rahman Aryan received the Best Web Film Director award for the Chorki original film, “Networker Baire.” Fazlur Rahman Babu and Tama Mirza won the awards for Best Actor and Actress in a Web Film for “Khachar Bhor Ochin Pakhi”.

SCAN QR
CODE FOR
FULL STORY



Netflix release date for ‘Gangubai Kathiawadi’ confirmed

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After crossing the Rs 100 crore mark, Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s “Gangubai Kathiawadi”, starring Alia Bhatt, will be streaming on Netflix soon.

According to reports, the makers have decided to premiere the film on the streaming platform after it runs for eight weeks in cinemas.

In the post-pandemic era, Indian multiplexes have agreed to let films arrive on streaming platforms within four weeks till normalcy kicks in.

COUNTRYWIDE

Dealing with hurdle for 3 decades Villagers use a bamboo bridge that they built themselves on self-help basis in every two to three years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Piroipur

Several thousand residents of Pashchim Baniary village under Matibhanga union in Piroipur’s Nazirpur upazila have kept their communication alive by crossing the nearly dead Baleshwar river using a bamboo bridge that the villagers themselves first built over three decades ago.

Locals said although nearly five thousand people including children and students of different institutions use the 300-metre-long bridge daily, no step has been taken to build a permanent bridge there.

Villagers voluntarily render their labour to build the makeshift bridge that connects Pashchim Baniary village and Bawalipara village in Chitalmari upazila of Bagerhat.

“We using the bamboo bridge to cross the wide dead river for over 30 years,” one of the villagers Robin Baroi said.

After collecting bamboo and

wooden logs from villagers they voluntarily build the bridge on self-help basis in every two to three years, he said, adding that this year they were planning to make a new bridge reducing the length of the bridge.

As it is quite difficult to make the 300-metre bridge, they are reducing the length of the bridge by filling earth on either side of the dead river, another local Profulla Ojha said.

Villagers said most of them have to use the bamboo bridge to go to Khasherhat in Chitalmari upazila for different purposes as it is much closer than Nazirpur upazila headquarters, he said.

“Huge quantity of seasonal vegetables are grown here as most of the residents of our village depend on agriculture,” another villager Gourango Roy said, adding that they face serious difficulties while carrying their produce to Chitalmari using the shaky bridge.

The situation turns more worsen during the rainy season as the

approach roads also get muddy and slippery then, he said.

Moreover, hundreds of students of the locality are compel to use the makeshift bridge every day amid risk of accidents as almost all the secondary level educational institutions are located on the other side of the river.

Local union parishad (UP) member Kamallesh Mondal said, “We have urged the authorities concerned on several occasions to build a permanent bridge over the river, but they never cared about our sufferings as the bridge is located on the border line of two neighbouring districts.”

When asked, Matibhanga UP Chairman Jahidul Islam Bilu said Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim, also lawmaker from Piroipur-1 constituency, gave a demi official (DO) letter to the chief engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) for constructing a bridge on Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) girder in place of the makeshift one.



Local residents, especially children, face serious difficulties while crossing this makeshift bamboo-bridge on Baleshwar river at Pashchim Baniary village in Piroipur’s Nazirpur upazila, amid risk.

PHOTO:
HABIBUR RAHMAN

Scientists reverse ageing in mice

FROM PAGE 12
into undifferentiated stem cells.

In the current study, published on Monday in

the journal Nature Ageing, scientists tested variations of the cellular rejuvenation approach in healthy animals as they aged.

In one group of mice, researchers from the Salk Institute in the US, added doses of the Yamanaka factors from the time

they were 15 months old until 22 months – approximately equivalent to age 50 through 70 in humans.

Democratic process behind development

FROM PAGE 12

would be able to take it backwards anymore.

Mentioning that the country faced a problem during Covid-19 pandemic, the premier said there is another new problem due to the situation created by the war between Ukraine and Russia.

“So, we are in another abnormal situation... Fuel prices are going up and various problems have surfaced in the international arena. We are also facing some problems. But I believe that we can overcome this in Bangladesh.”

The PM asked the

expatriates to tell their families and relatives back home not to leave any land uncultivated to attain food autarky even in case of any global food crisis.

Describing her government’s development activities, Hasina said there is no scope for anyone to remain unemployed in the country unless he or she wishes to. “If anyone takes a little initiative, the person will not remain unemployed.”

The premier asked the overseas job seekers not to go abroad through illegal channels. She advised them to take loans from

the Probashi Kallyan Bank instead of selling their land to meet migration expenses.

Hasina urged the expatriates to abide by the rules and laws abroad to uphold Bangladesh’s image. “You’ve to protect your own dignity, ensure your own security, and uphold the dignity of both home and host countries.”

About the demands put forward by expatriates, she said the government has taken steps to ensure prompt passport services for them, and to strengthen surveillance to stop harassment at Bangladesh’s airports by

installing more closed circuit cameras.

Hasina said problems over luggage delivery services at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport would be over once the ongoing construction work of the third terminal is completed.

During the event, the PM virtually unveiled the foundation stone of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Building of the Bangladesh English Private School and College.

Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad also spoke at the programme.

Bangladeshi dies, another injured

FROM PAGE 12

heart disease, they added.

“The fire broke out at Rahbar Guest House on Mirza Ghalib Street under New Market police station around 4:00am today [yesterday]. Three guests were injured and the rest 16 were rescued,” Kolkata police said in a release.

Samimatul died after being taken to SSKM Hospital, it said.

The injured Bangladeshi,

Mehtab Alam, 42, was undergoing treatment at the hospital with 25 percent burns on his body, said hospital sources.

Officials from the Bangladesh deputy high commission in Kolkata and police visited the hospital.

Among the two other injured is Mainul Huq of West Bengal’s Murshidabad.

The receptionist at the guesthouse said the fire

started from the reception on the first floor of the building and it spread to other rooms.

Samimatul’s daughter-in-law Sharmin Akhtar Jahan said one of their relatives from West Bengal’s Malda district informed them about the incident.

“We are all shocked by the death of my mother-in-law who went to India for treatment,” she said.

Sarafat Hossain, son

of the deceased, said his mother and uncle visited a doctor on Friday and they were supposed to return home after seeing another physician within two or three days.

Family members expected that Samimatul’s body would be brought home by today or tomorrow.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent Rabiul Hasan contributed to this report.

Father finds son only to see him die

FROM PAGE 12

grieving father told reporters.

“I heard it because I was working nearby,” Mainul said.

“As the workers dug deeper, the wall collapsed with a loud bang around 2.30pm. Me and the other workers went running

towards the scene. Moments later, we heard cries from below the collapsed wall.”

“After a worker was rescued, I could see my son. He was lying face down. The wall was pressing his face down from the back of his head.”

“When we managed to rescue him, I saw him bleeding from his mouth. His teeth were broken.”

Mainul, aged 68, whose shirt was smeared with blood, kept breaking down in tears as he described the moments before his son’s death.

Mainul left home in the

morning with his son Rijalul to come to the site. “My son has two little sons. How will I return to his sons without him?”

Emran Hossain, officer-in-charge of Chandrima Police Station, said police were investigating whether the site lacked safety measures.



A satellite image shows fires and damage at Antonov Airport, in Hostomel, Ukraine. The picture was taken on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Risk worth taking’ US rushes MANPADS to Ukraine despite proliferation concerns

REUTERS

The United States and Nato are shipping weapons into Ukraine at break-neck speed, including highly sensitive items such as shoulder-fired missiles called Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS) that can take down aircraft.

The Western arms deliveries have been vital to enabling Ukrainians to fight the invading Russians forces far more effectively and fiercely than US intelligence expected. But moving those amounts of weaponry into the largest conflict in Europe since World War Two carries with it risks that some could fall into the wrong hands – a possibility the West has considered.

“Frankly, we believe that risk is worth taking right now,” a senior US defense official said on Friday when asked about that danger.

Highly portable missiles such as Stinger surface-to-air missiles – which are a type of MANPAD – can help win wars, but in the past they have also been lost, sold, or wound up in the arsenals of extremist groups.

For example, hundreds of Stingers supplied by the US were seen as key to helping mujahideen rebels drive Soviet forces out of Afghanistan. But the US subsequently spent years trying to recover unused MANPADS from that country.

In a Pentagon-financed study in 2019, the RAND Corp. think-tank estimated that upwards of 60 civilian aircraft have been hit by MANPADS since the 1970s, killing more than 1,000 civilians. As of 2019, 57 non-state armed groups were confirmed to possess or suspected to possess MANPADS.

So far, Russia has not targeted Western weapons convoys headed into Ukraine. But that could change.

At a Friday meeting of Russia’s Security Council, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu talked about potential future seizures of Western-made Javelin anti-tank weapons and Stingers. They should be handed to Russian-backed forces in the breakaway Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, he said. And Putin backed the idea.



Biden vows no WWII Warns Moscow on use of chemical weapons; UN dismisses Russian claim of Ukraine-US biological weapons program



AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden has vowed that Russia would pay a “severe price” if it used chemical weapons in Ukraine, while also pledging to avoid provoking Moscow into “World War III.”

Biden reacted after Russia accused Ukraine and the United States of developing biological and chemical weapons – in what Western nations says is a ruse to lay the ground for Moscow’s own possible use of them in the conflict.

“I’m not going to speak about the intelligence, but Russia would play a severe price if they used chemicals,” Biden said as he announced a raft of new sanctions against Moscow.

Biden also moved Friday to end normal trade relations with Russia, further ratcheting up pressure on President Vladimir Putin after the bloody invasion of Ukraine.

The United States, like other Western nations, is sending millions of dollars of weapons such as anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles to Ukraine, as well as sharing intelligence.

But Biden again underlined that US forces would not fight in Ukraine, despite the desperate pleas of many Ukrainians.

“We will not fight a war against Russia in

Ukraine. Direct confrontation between Nato and Russia is World War III – something we must strive to prevent,” Biden said.

Meanwhile, western countries accused Russia of spreading “wild” conspiracy theories at the United Nations after Moscow’s envoy told diplomats that America and Ukraine had researched using bats to conduct biological warfare.

Moscow called a meeting of the 15-member Security Council to repeat its previously made, unsubstantiated claims that Washington had funded biological weapons research in Ukraine.

Russia’s ambassador to the UN, Vassily Nebenzia, said Kyiv had operated a network of 30 laboratories carrying out “very dangerous biological experiments” aimed at spreading “viral pathogens” from bats to people.

The pathogens included the plague, anthrax, cholera and other lethal diseases, Nebenzia said in Russian, without providing any evidence.

“Experiments were being conducted to study this spread of dangerous diseases using active parasites such as lice and fleas,” he told diplomats.

Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN’s Under-Secretary-General of Disarmament Affairs, told the meeting the UN “was not aware of any biological weapons program in Ukraine.”

Saudi frees, slaps travel ban on blogger Badawi

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday confirmed a 10-year travel ban for freed blogger and human rights activist Raif Badawi, who has become a symbol of freedom of expression around the world. “The sentence handed down to Raif was 10 years in

prison followed by a travel ban for the same length of time. The court ruling holds up and is final,” an interior ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP. “Therefore, he cannot leave the kingdom for another 10 years unless a (royal) pardon is issued,” the official said, a day after Badawi was released from detention. Badawi, now 38, was arrested and detained in Saudi Arabia in 2012 on charges of “insulting Islam”. At the end of 2014, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 50 lashes a week for twenty weeks. His first flogging in the kingdom’s Jeddah square shocked the world and was described by the United Nations as “cruel and inhuman.” After the outcry, he was not lashed again.



West: Russia can torpedo Iran deal

REUTERS, Paris

France, Britain and Germany yesterday warned Russia that its demands to have its trade guaranteed with Iran risked the collapse of an almost-completed nuclear deal. Last Saturday Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov unexpectedly demanded sweeping guarantees that Russian trade with Iran would not be affected by sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. Washington has already insisted it will not agree to Russia’s demands. The 11-month-old international talks seek to bring Iran back into compliance with the deal’s restrictions on its rapidly advancing nuclear activities and bring the United States back into the accord it left in 2018 under former President Donald Trump.

47 children killed, maimed in Yemen in 2 months: UN

AFP, Dubai

Forty-seven children were “killed or maimed” in Yemen’s civil war in January and February following a surge in violence, the United Nations children’s fund said yesterday. Children are the “first and most to suffer”, Unicef said, adding

that a total of at least over 10,000 minors have been killed or injured in a war that has raged since 2015. “Just over the first two months of this year, 47 children were reportedly killed or maimed in several locations across Yemen,” Philippe Duamelle, Unicef representative to

Yemen, said in a statement. “Since the conflict escalated in Yemen nearly seven years ago, the UN verified that more than 10,200 children have been killed or injured. The actual number is likely much higher.”



Sustainability, inclusivity

FROM PAGE 1

This has continued. Right now, we are also supporting Bangladesh in responding to the Rohingya crisis. Over time, Switzerland has supported many innovative programmes in the areas of democratic governance, agriculture, income and economic development or labour migration. Now, we are focusing on trade and investment. There is a massive prospect of expanding our economic ties even further and I can see only positive developments if and when we can effectively combine the Swiss excellence in technology with the resilient entrepreneurial spirit of Bangladesh.

DS: What is the amount of bilateral trade and development cooperation?

Chuard: Over the last 50 years, Switzerland has invested over \$1 billion in development assistance and we just passed the symbolic threshold of \$1 billion in annual bilateral trade of goods. Major Swiss companies here have invested hundreds of millions so far. They provide critical goods, services, technologies, innovations and employment. Be it in

terms of trade, investment, development cooperation or humanitarian aid, if you look at Switzerland’s contributions per capita, we are among the top partners of Bangladesh. I am confident that this engagement will continue and prosper in the years ahead.

DS: What are the potential areas of cooperation in the coming years?

Chuard: Bangladesh has embraced the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and its graduation from the LDC category by 2026 is an important milestone. It recognises Bangladesh’s impressive socio-economic achievements. Now, the country is at a crossroads. There is a need to prepare for the post-graduation era, where certain market access preferences may cease to exist, as well as address various structural reforms to enhance predictability in the market and demonstrate strong economic governance. This preparation is even more important now that our entire world has turned upside down with the Covid-19 pandemic; and with its consequences, the sustainability of your

achievements – especially in the areas of poverty alleviation and social development – can be challenged.

Therefore, maintaining the economic growth momentum while making it more inclusive, greener and more climate- and shock-resilient is at the core of the Swiss engagement for the years to come.

DS: Do you see any challenges in the bilateral relationship?

Chuard: The whole planet is facing daunting challenges today: Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, the never-ending struggle for peace, democracy, social justice and human rights – just to name a few. This is why we need to work together and engage in an open and honest dialogue, where we can learn from each other and find common pathways towards sustainable development. The Agenda 2030 is the right framework for our bilateral and global cooperation. In particular, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions is a crucial one, one that I hope both our countries will work more closely on in the future. Switzerland strongly believes that global crises

can be better dealt with when we come together as one. Especially in view of what is happening in the world today, multilateralism matters more than ever. Switzerland is a candidate for a seat on the UN Security Council for 2023-2024, and I am looking forward to working with your government to pursue our actions in favour of peace, international law, sustainable development and human rights.

DS: As a development partner, what are your suggestions for Bangladesh?

Chuard: There are three words that come to my mind: sustainability, inclusivity and climate change. The recipes that have brought Bangladesh so far are probably not enough to take the next big steps ahead. Inclusivity is certainly at the core of Agenda 2030. Finally, your delta country is particularly affected by climate change, with millions of people and livelihoods at risk. These are big challenges but they also come with opportunities. It has always been a strength of Bangladesh to rettool fast. Retooling and rethinking will be crucial in the years to come.

Russian forces

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, an AFP reporter in the southern city of Mykolaiv said a hospital in the northern district of Ingulski came under fire, while heating is out in the area, forcing many residents to flee.

“They shot at the civilian areas, without any military objective,” said the hospital’s head, Dmytro Lagochev, adding: “There’s a hospital here, an orphanage and an ophthalmological clinic.”

Mykolaiv, which lies on the road to the strategic port city of Odessa, has been under attack for days.

The United Nations estimates that 2.6 million people had fled Ukraine since the invasion, most of them to Poland, in the worst refugee crisis since World War II.

As Russia widens its bombardment and talks between Moscow and Kyiv seemingly go nowhere, Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky’s pleas for Nato to intervene have grown increasingly desperate.

Washington and its EU allies have sent funds and military aid to Ukraine, taken action against its economy and oligarchs, and a cultural and sporting boycott has squeezed Russia’s soft power.



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Why build U-loops only to demolish them later?

Officials must be held accountable for wastage of public money

IT'S quite disappointing to see the fate of two U-loops built on Dhaka's airport road two years ago to ease traffic congestion there. These U-loops, despite being successful to some extent to serve their purpose, were recently demolished to construct the country's first bus rapid transit (BRT-3). Reportedly, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) built these structures spending Tk 3 crore, although they knew those would be demolished for BRT construction. The question is: Why would they spend money on a project despite knowing its future? This, once again, shows how unplanned our development activities are and how public money is often wasted on arbitrary projects.

Many crores of taka have already been spent on various projects to ease Dhaka's obnoxious traffic congestions, with little improvement in sight. Over the past 15 years, the government reportedly spent Tk 119 crore to modernise and digitalise Dhaka's traffic signal system, but all the money went down the drain because of such inefficient planning. Building footbridges, footpaths, and roads, and then dismantling them to make way for some other projects have rather become a norm. The lack of foresight is evident in most such projects. Reportedly, 11 U-loops were built under such a project undertaken in 2016. Now, two of them have been demolished. Who knows what will happen to the rest if other new projects are taken up?

Dhaka's traffic condition is one of the worst in the world. The city has been ranked 10th among 228 cities in terms of poor traffic management in the World Traffic Index 2020. Also, according to Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI), the country lost an estimated Tk 55,685 crore last year due to traffic congestion in Dhaka alone. Therefore, we definitely need projects to solve its traffic congestion, but those need to be well-planned and well-coordinated and certainly part of a bigger plan for the entire city's traffic management. No projects should be taken up arbitrarily without considering their sustainability.

In this particular case, we think the DNCC made a major blunder by building U-loops that they knew would be demolished soon for the sake of another project. Reportedly, the U-loops will be built again once the BRT project is complete. This means that the public will have to pay twice for the same project, which is totally unacceptable. The DNCC authorities must be held accountable for such wastage of public money. The government also should take a lesson from this incident and ensure no such wastage out of flawed planning ever takes place.

The magic of tea in North Bengal

Tea cultivation proves to be profitable for growers

IT is good to see that many farmers in the northern region are now happy as they can see profit coming from cultivation of tea. A number of farmers in the district have reportedly opted to grow tea instead of traditional crops which did not bring much profit. A report by this daily narrates the story of one Imran Ali, a farmer, who started to grow tea on his 1.7 acres of land in 2005. The decision, he says, changed his life forever as he saw a profit of Tk 14 lakh last year. Encouraged by the returns, Ali has now brought 8.5 acres of land under tea production.

This is great news from a socioeconomic point of view as tea production in the district has benefited many small and marginal farmers like him who switched to tea from rice, wheat, sugarcane, jute and tobacco. The profit will definitely increase their buying capacity and help them become economically solvent. The added benefit of growing tea, as reported by the farmers, is that it does not cause harm to the land's fertility.

Beginning with 455 acres of land in 2002, Panchagarh has already gone ahead of Chattogram in terms of gross annual production of tea. It is now second only to Sylhet, and according to data from Bangladesh Tea Board, tea from Panchagarh accounted for about 15 percent of the country's record tea production of 96.5 million kilograms in 2021. Records also show that last year, tea was cultivated on 11,433.9 acres of land in nine registered and 21 unregistered gardens of the northern region, helped by its higher and more fertile grounds that allowed growers to pluck leaves after a year of planting saplings. The production capacity of the entire area will increase manifold if another 50,000 acres of land can be brought under the coverage.

It needs to be mentioned that the idea of starting tea production in Panchagarh was a bold one but it has paid off. Those pioneers who started it showed the path for the next generation of investors and growers. It is no mean feat that only within two decades, Panchagarh tea growers have outpaced those in Chattogram who have been in the trade for many more decades. We hope this will continue in the coming days to further boost our economy.

In EC formation, was AL's political tactic at play?



Partha Pratim Bhattacharjee is the chief reporter of The Daily Star.

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

THE new Election Commission, led by Kazi Habibul Awal, is the first in the country's history to have been formed through the enactment of a specific law, as prescribed in the constitution 50 years ago. This makes it unique, to say the least, although it is too early to say whether it will be able to live up to the expectations that led to this moment. The five-member commission formed by the president will be judged by their actions and decisions with regard to the monumental task that lies ahead—holding credible elections.

In the coming days, there will be a lot of discussion on the EC's performance. For now, however, let's turn our attention to how the five commissioners were picked following a hectic selection process—and political parties whose recommendations eventually mattered—to understand if there was a pattern to this process.

There are some interesting facts to consider. For one, not a single name recommendation by any heavyweight political party was taken into consideration. Rather, a small Islamist party's recommendation yielded an election commissioner two times in a row. How is this significant?

After the search committee called on political parties to propose names for the posts of chief election commissioner (CEC) and four other election commissioners, the BNP, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and several other parties did not respond to its request. Not only did they not recommend any names, they also didn't participate in the president's dialogue on EC formation before.

On the other hand, the ruling Awami League, main opposition Jatiya Party, the Workers Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, Ganatantri Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF), National People's Party (NPP), and Bikalpadhara Bangladesh took part in the dialogue and also proposed their picks to the search committee, as did some organisations and individuals as well.

Of the 322 names proposed to the search committee, 138 came from the political parties, although the committee didn't disclose the identities of those who made the recommendations. It didn't disclose details of the 10 shortlisted nominees either, despite repeated calls for those names to be made public.

After the president constituted the 13th Election Commission on February 26, based on the shortlist submitted by the committee, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said that none of the names recommended by his party had been appointed. And it's not just the ruling party—none of the major participating parties, including Jatiya Party, Workers Party, JSD, and Bikalpadhara, got any mileage with their recommendations.

The twist lies in how smaller parties got their recommendations accepted. Let's start with Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, a lightweight Islamist party, which has already proven itself as the "luckiest" party in terms of selecting election commissioners.

CEC Habibul Awal was Tariqat's number one recommendation, while Brig

one of them. Immediately after the EC was formed, Zafrullah congratulated the newly appointed commissioners. BNP, however, wasn't happy with his move, not least because it could allow Awami League to claim that BNP had "indirectly" engaged in the process through Zafrullah. Recently, the BNP high command decided to boycott Zafrullah, and party leaders and

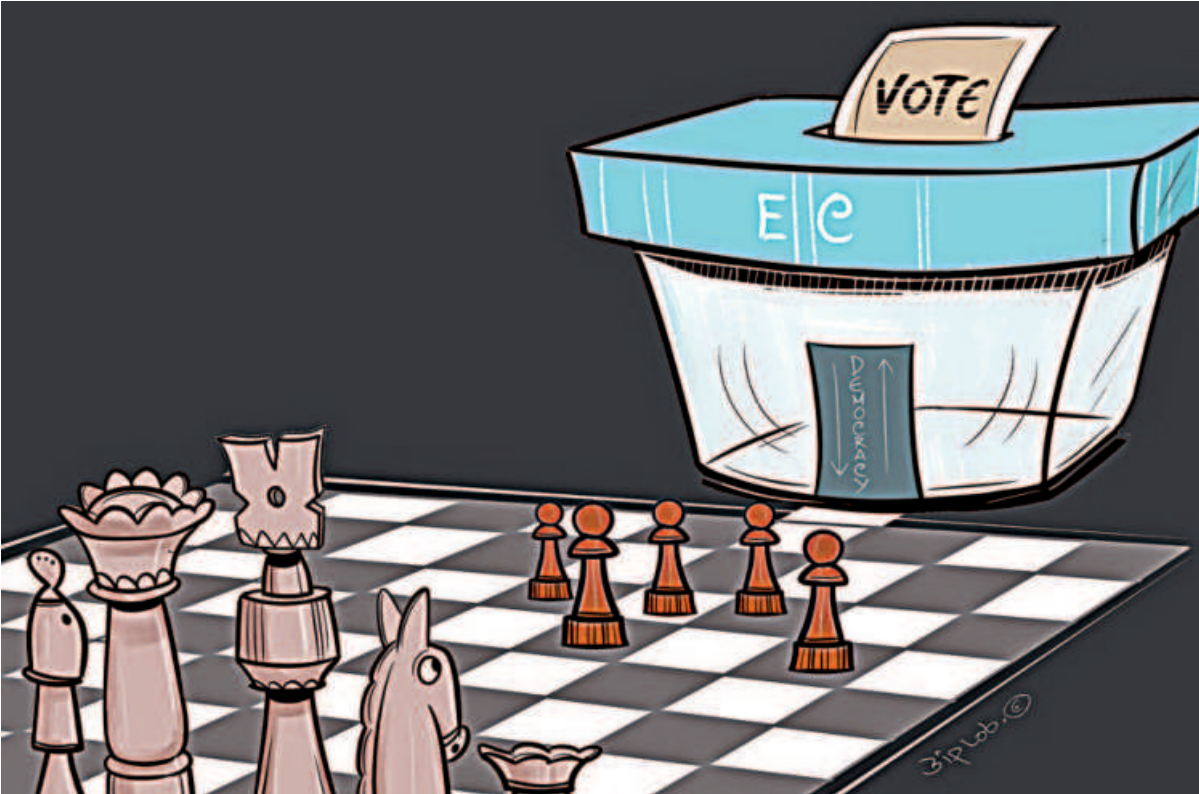


ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

Is it possible that the ruling party used like-minded and pro-government parties to push its preferred names, instead of submitting those themselves, to avoid criticism?

Gen (retd) Ahsan Habib Khan, another name proposed by this party, was chosen as one of the election commissioners. Interestingly, the same thing happened in 2017, when then-CEC KM Nurul Huda and other two commissioners—Rafiqul Islam and Brig Gen (retd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury—were picked up from the five names proposed by Tariqat.

Besides Tariqat, other parties that got lucky with their recommendations were BNF, Ganatantri Party, Samyabadi Dal, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), National Awami Party (NAP), and NPP, with some of the recommendations repeated between them. Incidentally, Ganatantri Party, Samyabadi Dal and NAP are all part of the Awami League-led 14-party grand alliance, while Tariqat is part of Awami League's electoral alliance.

Now, let's look at these political parties' representation in parliament.

In the 350-seat parliament, Awami League has 302 seats, Jatiya Party 26, BNP seven, Workers Party four, and JSD, Gono Forum and Bikalpadhara have two seats each, while Tariqat Federation and Jatiya Party (Manju) have one seat each. Independent candidates have three seats. So, except for Tariqat, none of the parties associated with EC formation—BNF, Ganatantri Party, Samyabadi Dal, BSD, NAP, and NPP—has any parliamentary representation.

Here is another twist: even though BNP boycotted the whole process, Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, known to be close to BNP, did recommend names to the search committee, with CEC Habibul Awal

activists have been verbally instructed not to invite him to any of their programmes, nor to participate in any of his.

The president's role in the appointment process is significant. According to Section 48 of the constitution, the president shall act in accordance with the advice of the prime minister in all matters, except in case of the appointment of the chief justice and the PM herself. So, as per the constitution, the president must have consulted with the PM prior to appointing the EC. If that is the case, why did the PM not advise him to appoint her party's recommended names? Did she advise him to pick names from the lists of the small political parties, and if so, why? And why did the PM advise him to drop the names proposed by parties with strong support base and organisational structure as well as representation in parliament? Did she leave the whole decision-making process to the president without interfering? We really don't know.

The names proposed by the ruling party were not selected by the president this time, while in 2017, only a single name was selected from its recommendations. Is Awami League not capable of proposing the right candidates? Does that indicate a political bankruptcy for a party as old and big as AL?

Or, is it possible that it used like-minded and pro-government parties to push its preferred names, instead of submitting those themselves, to avoid criticism?

If that is the case, it is a smart political tactic indeed.

Is democracy worth fighting for?



Debra Efroymson is executive director at the Institute of Wellbeing.

DEBRA EFROYMSON

THE eyes of the world are on Ukraine as its citizens fight to uphold their democracy in the face of Russian aggression. But how many people are aware that American democracy is similarly under grave threat?

America has long been considered an exceptional land, where democracy thrives and people of different backgrounds all have a chance at prosperity. This optimistic view of America has, admittedly, always been questionable given the country's embrace of slavery, its imprisoning of a higher percentage of the population than any other country in the world, its refusal to ratify important treaties including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its odd clinging to the electoral college, which allows the loser of the popular vote to become president.

The United States also has a unique (among democratic countries) system of lifetime appointments for Supreme Court justices, meaning that there is no rhyme or reason to how many justices any single president can appoint. Of the nine justices now on the Supreme Court, five were appointed by presidents who lost the popular vote (George W Bush and Donald Trump). Barack Obama, despite winning the popular vote twice, only appointed two

However democratic or not the US has been in the past, now for the first time it has been demoted to the status of a "backsliding" democracy by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) think tank.

justices, while Trump, who lost the popular vote twice, was able to appoint three.

While America's 100 senators are currently split 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats, those 50 Democratic senators represent nearly 40 million more voters than their Republican counterparts. Meanwhile, thanks to the filibuster, it requires 60 out of 100 votes to pass laws, meaning that the Senate cannot pass major legislation. This suits the Republican Party, which is dedicated to blocking virtually all legislation. In the words of the Republican leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, "100 percent of our focus is on stopping [the Biden] administration." McConnell also famously publicised his intention to ensure that Barack Obama would only serve one term. He failed—but he did make it extraordinarily difficult for Obama to get anything done.

Donald Trump, the very definition of a sore loser, continues to deny that he lost the 2020 election. The Big Lie has taken over the Republican Party and has been used as an excuse to make it harder to vote if you are poor or not white. In 2021, 19 states enacted 33 laws that will make it harder for Americans to vote. Some Republican-led states are considering laws that would allow the state legislature to overturn election results. Crazy fantasy? Well, look at Trump's claim that Mike Pence, as vice president, could have overturned the election.

In any case, however democratic or not the US has been in the past, now for the first time it has been demoted to the status of a "backsliding" democracy by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) think tank.

I don't mean to make Republicans out to be the only bad guys in the system. Then Senator Joe Biden drafted, and President Bill Clinton signed, new legislation that dramatically increased the prison population in the 1990s, particularly increasing the number of Black and brown prisoners. Politicians of both parties are more beholden to their corporate sponsors than to the public, and the results show in the nature of the bills they draft and in their votes. But while Republicans literally have no platform (other than to lower taxes on the rich, ban abortion and various books, and make it harder for people of colour to vote—none of which are popular among the masses), the Democrats, to some degree at least, are trying to pass voting rights legislation, universal healthcare, and various other policies that would make life easier for the poor and middle class.

A country that regularly elects the loser as president, is now veering into autocracy in terms of believing that the president is above the law and that elected officials rather than the electorate should determine elections, and that is grossly skewed in its representation—and then makes it almost impossible to pass legislation—is hardly a model democracy. Factor in its treatment of Black, indigenous, and other people of colour, and it never has been one.

And I haven't even mentioned the January 6 insurrection.

So while we watch Ukrainians fight heart and soul to save their democracy, some pundits are asking just how hard Americans are willing to fight to save theirs.

How the arts can help make AI better



Moinul Zaber is a computational social scientist. His Twitter handle is @zabermi

MOINUL ZABER

WE need to seriously think about the effective integration of “arts” into our education system. If we want to see ourselves thriving in a world that is rapidly embracing computational interventions such as artificial intelligence (AI), putting equal emphasis on the arts is the only way forward. As societies are becoming more educated, degrees will not be the only licence to success anymore. It’s the quality of education that will matter.

In my last piece, “Time to adapt to AI”, I argued that Bangladesh should start institutionally thinking about AI. The piece emphasised the supply side of the adaptation process and argued that the government needs to play a pivotal role in this regard. For this, starting from one specific sector, perhaps textile, would be recommended for Bangladesh. Gradual adaptation of AI-based technologies may occur in service delivery, supply chain management, marketing, quality assurance, manufacturing, and even transportation sub-sectors of the industry. However, this can only happen if the demand side of the AI marketplace is knowledge-intensive. AI will thrive in a society that engenders creativity, using education as the key enabler.

For industry 4.0, “knowledge-based society” is the new buzzword. The world is all in favour of teaching kids how to code in computing languages. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is at the focal point of most of our educational reform processes. However, there are two important things we need to remember. First, STEM helps to understand the world mathematically, rationally, and logically, and those are not the only ways in which humans act. Second, as the developed world leads this revolution, AI-based intelligent interventions are becoming a part of our lives. If we want to keep our culture alive, we will need to help our youths be creative and be aware

of their surroundings.

AI is a multi-disciplinary science. Yes, knowing how to code helps. But if we want robots and software to do tasks more efficiently than humans can, we need to have better algorithms. And if we need to have robots that can organise, cooperate, and sacrifice like humans do, we need far better algorithms. The key



▲ Artificial intelligence (AI) will thrive in a society that engenders creativity, using education as the key enabler.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

beauty around us, and then think. We react to the actions of our surroundings. Nobel Laureate Daniel Kahneman, in his famous book, “Thinking, fast and slow,” showed how we behave in different situations. For some reactions, the thinking process is fast, intuitive, and emotional. For others, it is slow, more deliberate and logical. However, holistically, this process of thinking and learning from our surroundings can be done effectively if we are trained to think both rationally and irrationally. Art, literature and music ignite our irrational creative thoughts. They train us to think out of the box, teach us how

we can be social, and help us learn social norms and culture. Looking at the waves of the sea after looking at Japanese master Hokusai’s “The Great Wave off Kanagawa” would ignite the creative cells of our brain.

Learning about society is not enough, we need to learn to move and love our own bodies, too. Sir Ken Robinson, the famous British author, argued about the importance of being aware of our body. In one of his Ted Talks titled “Do schools kill creativity?”, he eloquently explained how traditional education slowly kills the creative minds of children and how art, as an integral part of education, can reverse this process. He argues in favour of putting equal emphasis on teaching dance as we do for mathematics. After all, dance helps us to be aware of the very body we reside in. The arts can prepare us to break barriers and liberate us from the fear of failure. As Sir Robinson said, “If you’re not prepared to be wrong, you’ll never come up with anything original.”

Moreover, learning through art also helps students to learn science better. Brouillette and Graham (2016) conducted research encompassing 55 high-poverty elementary schools in urban California. A curriculum was designed to correct misconceptions and clarify concepts students had struggled with in the past year. The researchers found that integrating arts into the curriculum helped make learning science more memorable. In another work, Anne de Bruin (2018) studied secondary schools in Australia, the USA, Canada, and Singapore. She reported that teachers felt that cross-disciplinary learning shaped critical and creative thinking. Focusing on STEM helps education planners rethink how to teach science and mathematics, emphasises building devices, hones coding skills, and can even initiate robotics programmes in schools which can afford it. STEM takes these skills to the next level by helping students contextualise, rethink, redesign, wonder, inquire, critique, and innovate.

The world is now set for the inter-disciplinaries. AI scientists need to understand history and art, while historians and artists should understand AI. This communication can be effective only if we are trained to be multi-disciplinary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

US role in Ukraine’s crisis



PHOTO: AFP

Russia’s attack on Ukraine is wholly unacceptable. But what cannot be ignored is America’s role in the crisis. The US has been moving and supplying arms to the region which has done nothing but intensify the tension.

Additionally, while condemning Russia’s aggression, the US is pretending like it does not commit similar atrocities against other sovereign states—even though it has been estimated that among the 248 armed conflicts that have occurred in

153 regions across the globe between 1945 and 2001, 201 were initiated by the US, accounting for a whopping 81 percent.

America favours countries that buy arms from it. Their double standards in relation to the sufferings of the Palestinian people make clear just how much human lives matter to US politicians. The arms industry in America makes huge profits from these wars, and that is why they want wars to be waged across the world.

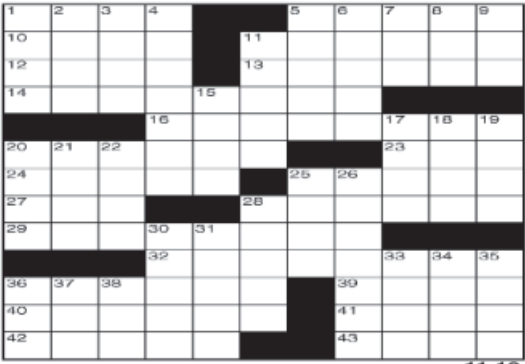
Nur Jahan, Chattogram

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
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12 Like tumblers
13 Pueblo material
14 Water lily’s kin
15 A thou thou
16 Plymouth colonizer
18 Temple support
20 Tennis feat
21 Sacred chests
23 Hamilton’s bill
24 Basic idea
26 Gets older
28 Nonsense
29 Fill

completely
31 Pitching stat
32 Bed item
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YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS



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

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষকের কার্যালয় সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১	
মেমো নং-সইআমেকহা/টি-১৩/২০২১-২০২২/OTM/৬৩	
তার ১২/০৩/২০২২ইং	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (রাজস্ব)-২০২১-২০২২	
সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা এর ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য (১) ঔষধ (ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক) (২) মেডিকেল যন্ত্রপাতি (৩) লিলেন (৪) গজ, ব্যাভেজ, তুলা (৫) পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষার কেমিক্যাল ও রি-এজেন্ট (৬) বইপত্র সামগ্রী (৭) ইউনিফর্ম (৪র্থ শ্রেণীর পোশাক) (৮) জীভা সামগ্রী (৯) আসবাবপত্র (১০) অন্যান্য মনিহারি (১১) পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা সামগ্রী (১২) পথা (২০২২-২০২৩) এর মালামাল ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীর বিধিবিধান মোতাবেক প্রকৃত ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।	
১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। এজেন্সী/প্রতিষ্ঠান	সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা।
৩। সজ্ঞাহক সংস্থার নাম	অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক।
৪। দরপত্র ক্রয় বাবল চালানোর কোড নং	১৬২০১০১১৩৩৩১-১১০০০০০০০-১১০০১০০০-১৪২২৩৩৮।
৫। কাজের নাম	(১) ঔষধ (ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক) (২) মেডিকেল যন্ত্রপাতি (৩) লিলেন (৪) গজ, ব্যাভেজ ও তুলা (৫) পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষার কেমিক্যাল ও রি-এজেন্ট (৬) বইপত্র সামগ্রী (৭) ইউনিফর্ম (৪র্থ শ্রেণীর পোশাক) (৮) জীভা সামগ্রী (৯) আসবাবপত্র (১০) অন্যান্য মনিহারি (১১) পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা সামগ্রী (১২) পথা (২০২২-২০২৩)।
৬। দরপত্র ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া/পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত (OTM)।
৭। বাজেট ও তহবিলের প্রকৃতি	রাজস্ব বাজেট।
৮। দরপত্রের কাজের বিবরণ	প্যাকেজ নং-(১) ঔষধ (ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক) প্যাকেজ নং-(২) মেডিকেল যন্ত্রপাতি প্যাকেজ নং-(৩) লিলেন প্যাকেজ নং-(৪) গজ, ব্যাভেজ ও তুলা প্যাকেজ নং-(৫) পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষার কেমিক্যাল ও রি-এজেন্ট প্যাকেজ নং-(৬) বইপত্র সামগ্রী প্যাকেজ নং-(৭) ইউনিফর্ম (৪র্থ শ্রেণীর পোশাক) প্যাকেজ নং-(৮) জীভা সামগ্রী প্যাকেজ নং-(৯) আসবাবপত্র প্যাকেজ নং-(১০) অন্যান্য মনিহারি প্যাকেজ নং-(১১) পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা সামগ্রী প্যাকেজ নং-(১২) পথা (২০২২-২০২৩)
০৯। দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	প্যাকেজ নং-(১) ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক ঔষধের ক্ষেত্রে প্রকৃত ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানী হইতে হইবে এবং ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানীসহ অন্য সকল প্যাকেজের জন্য প্রকৃত টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী হিসাবে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, মূল্য সংযোজন কর নিবন্ধনকরণ, টিআইএনসহ আয়কর সনদপত্র, অর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা সম্পর্কে ০১ (এক) বৎসরের ব্যালেন্স শিট, মালিকানা সনদপত্র/প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে ক্ষমতাপত্র, ছবি-০২ কপি, নমুনা স্বাক্ষর, কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় এর অধীকারনামা গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি, পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার স্বপক্ষে বিগত ২টি কার্যাবধির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি ও ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করা দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা হিসাবে বিবেচিত হইবে।
১০। দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) ও প্রাপ্তিস্থান	* প্যাকেজ নং (১) ঔষধ (ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক) এবং প্যাকেজ নং-১২ পথ্যের জন্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা হারে এবং অন্য সকল প্যাকেজের জন্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা হারে টেন্ডারী চালানোর মাধ্যমে অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক, সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক অফিসের মাধ্যমে জমা দিয়ে, অনলাইন ডিপোজিট শ্রিপের মূলকপি জমাগুরুত্ব দরপত্র তফসিল সরাসরি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দস্তর এবং পরিচালক, হোমিও ও দেশজ চিকিৎসা, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এর অফিস হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
১১। দরপত্র তফসিল সংগ্রহের তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/০৩/২০২২ইং মঙ্গলবার হইতে ০৫/০৪/২০২২ইং মঙ্গলবার পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
১২। দরপত্র তফসিল দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/০৪/২০২২ইং মঙ্গলবার সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্রসমূহ অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক, সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১।
১৩। দরপত্র তফসিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/০৪/২০২২ইং মঙ্গলবার মধ্যাহ্ন ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক।
১৫। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১।
১৬। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর টেলিফোন নম্বর	ফোনঃ ০২-৪৮০৪০০৩৯/মোবঃ ০১৮১৯-২৯৯৩৩১।
১৭। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	ক. দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার দিন সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটি ঘোষণা করা হইলে, সেই ক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবস দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে। খ. দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী দরপত্র তফসিলের অনুচ্ছেদ সমূহে সন্নিবেশিত আছে। ক. কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র/ক্রটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের সর্বমুখ্য ক্ষমতা রাখে। খ. সর্বক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীর বিধিবিধান অনুসরণ করা হইবে।
তার ১২/০৩/২০২২ ডাঃ স্বপন কুমার দত্ত অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত) সরকারি ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১ ফোনঃ ০২-৪৮০৪০০৩৯/মোবঃ ০১৮১৯-২৯৯৩৩১ E-mail: guamch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd	
জিডি-৪৯২	

POLYCYSTIC OVARY SYNDROME

Mental health and lifestyle modification

The prevalence of anxiety and depression is high in PCOS. Visible features such as hirsutism (appearance of thick, dark hair in unwanted regions of the body), acne and alopecia (hair loss), menstrual irregularity, infertility, and obesity can be deeply affected stigmatising to women.

DR MILIVA MOZAFFOR

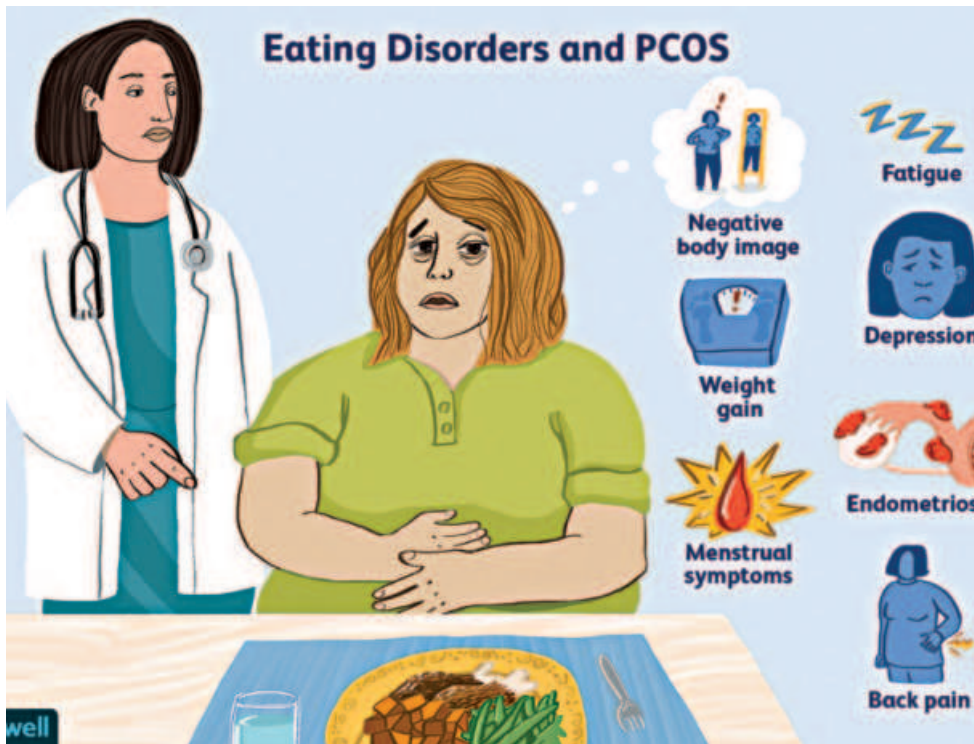
Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a hormonal disorder common among women of reproductive age. Women with PCOS may have infrequent or prolonged menstrual periods or excess male hormone levels. The ovaries may develop numerous small fluid collections and fail to release eggs regularly.

PCOS is a chronic, complex and the most common endocrine disorder observed in women of reproductive age. Research shows that PCOS affects 6 to 10% of women of reproductive age. It is a significant public health issue. The prevalence is quite high and is increasing day by day. It is a syndrome to be prevented by awakening awareness among health workers and patients.

PCOS have a significant negative impact on women's health-related quality of life and psychological function. Globally, there has been an increasing focus on this aspect because it is a reflection of the true impact of the condition on the patients' lives.

The prevalence of anxiety and depression is high in PCOS. Emotional distress could have psychosocial and/or pathophysiological causes. Visible features such as hirsutism (appearance of thick, dark hair in unwanted regions of the body), acne and alopecia (hair loss), menstrual irregularity, infertility, and obesity can be deeply affected stigmatising to women. In a qualitative study on the subjective experience of PCOS, women described as feeling robbed of their self-concept essence of being feminine and attractive, thus making PCOS the "thief of womanhood."

It has been shown that active women with PCOS report fewer depressive symptoms than inactive women with PCOS. Many experimental studies that demonstrate positive outcomes of exercise in terms of PCOS management consider multiple lifestyle modifications, combining diet, physical activity, and motivational support sessions.



Lifestyle modification, including physical activity, is recommended as the primary management strategy for PCOS as it reduces insulin resistance, improves metabolic and reproductive features of PCOS and improves body image. Individualised exercise programs increase compliance and group or home exercise and walking as potential exercise modes for women with PCOS.

In the Australian guidelines for PCOS management, the authors suggest at least 150 minutes of physical activity participation each week. Physical exercise improves menstrual irregularity cardiorespiratory fitness and reduces mental disorders while decreasing waist circumference and body fat. Physical exercises are the non-pharmacological treatment of PCOS. So, it

is imperative to take into account mental health and lifestyle modification for PCOS patients.

PCOS is both preventable and curable. The multi-functional combined approach is needed to prevent and treat the disease. More importantly, girls and women should avoid carbohydrates and eat more fruits and vegetables. In addition, they must be careful not to get overweight and obese. So, stay healthy to prevent PCOS. If you feel PCOS-related symptoms physically, consult your doctor earlier to get proper treatment.

The writer is an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, at Medical College for Women and Hospital, Uttara, Dhaka.



Act promptly to save lives and migrants go missing

Every year, thousands of migrants go missing or die along migration routes. Families of lost migrants confront catastrophic socio-economic, psychological, and legal implications. It is crucial to prevent migrants from dying or going missing by:

- Prioritising and cooperating in search and rescue operations to help migrants regardless of their migration status, including through clear and predictable disembarkation mechanisms that ensure that survivors are delivered to a place of safety and that all children receive adequate non-custodial care and reception;
- Supporting humanitarian organisations and commercial vessel crews providing vital assistance, healthcare, and protection to migrants on land and sea, without criminalising, blocking, or otherwise discouraging their activities;
- Frequent review of migration-related laws, policies, and practices to ensure they are compliant with international law and do not increase the risk of migrant deaths or disappearances;
- Enabling migrants and their families to establish, restore, or maintain contact along migratory routes and at destination;
- Creating and reinforcing opportunities for safe and regular migration that respects the right to family life and meets the needs of vulnerable migrants and practices for admission and stay based on compassionate, humanitarian, or other considerations.

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

New guidelines on abortion to help countries deliver lifesaving care

STAR HEALTH DESK

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently issued new guidelines on abortion care to protect women's and girls' health and avoid over 25 million unsafe abortions annually. Every death and damage caused by improper abortion is absolutely avoidable. Women and girls should therefore have access to abortion and family planning. With over 50 recommendations covering clinical practice, health care delivery, legal and policy activities, these guidelines improve abortion care.

Abortion is a simple and highly safe operation when performed with the assistance of trained professionals. Sadly, only around half of all abortions are performed safely, resulting in 39,000 deaths and millions more women hospitalised due to complications. Most of these deaths occur in low-income countries – 60% in Africa, 30% in Asia – and the most vulnerable.

The guideline includes basic primary care level measures to improve the quality of abortion care for women and girls. These include increasing task sharing among health providers, increasing the availability of medical abortion pills so more women can receive safe abortion services, and providing accurate information on treatment to all individuals who need it. Interestingly the guidelines advocate using telemedicine to support access to abortion and family planning services for the first time.

To know about the WHO guideline on safe abortion, please visit their website.



Vaccinating a mother against SARS-CoV-2 means vaccinating the newborn!

DR ABDULLAHEL AMAAN, DR KHAINOOR ZAHAN

Breastfed infants are better protected against different infectious diseases, such as gut infection (gastroenteritis), ear infection, urinary infection, sepsis (blood infection) as well as respiratory infections with a reduced frequency, duration and risk of hospitalisation than formula-fed infants. Moreover, such protection has been proved

to be continued even beyond the cessation of breastfeeding. The transfer of immunity molecules through breast milk is crucial in such protection against infections.

Breast milk includes many bioactive factors, such as immunoglobulins (IgA, IgM, IgG) which promote the infant's developing immunocompetence. Immunoglobulins are the most immunoprotected components in breast milk. IgA is considered dominant in protecting the infant's mucosal surfaces, IgM immediately recognises pathogens and stimulates innate immunologic activities, and IgG appears to be involved in immune surveillance in the intestinal lumen by binding to antigens phagocytising them and plays a role in developing adaptive immune responses. IgG is also able to prevent infection at the intestinal level.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientists were in doubt regarding the safety of breastfeeding by the mothers suffering from Covid-19 and vaccinating the lactating mothers. From the beginning of vaccination against SARS-CoV-2, scientists have been trying to evaluate whether the vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 leads to antibody excretion into breast milk to the infant.

A recent study has explored an adequate number of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in the serum, and milk samples of SARS-CoV-2 vaccinated mothers. Another study also describes the presence of specific SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in the breast milk of mothers who have already been infected with SARS-CoV-2. Such explorations bring hope for the protection of exclusive and uninterrupted breastfeeding.



studied

Dr Abdullahel Amaan is a Resident at the Department of Neonatology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Bangladesh. Email: abdullahelamaan@gmail.com

Dr Khainoor Zahan is a Deputy Director at the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council, Bangladesh. Email: khainoorzahan@gmail.com

The need for lab tests in disease diagnosis

PROF M KARIM KHAN

Recently, I saw an eight-month-old kid who had constipation since birth. On query, the patient had delayed stool passage after delivery, neonatal jaundice history, and intelligence seemed lower than other children of the same age. I advised a thyroid hormone tests to rule out hypothyroidism. The parents agreed to run the tests, which confirmed hypothyroidism, and I prescribed thyroxine.

Today, I want to talk about the investigations rather than the diseases. A thorough history taking, physical examination, and lab tests are required to validate the suspected diagnosis. Doctors are sometimes accused of ordering needless tests. Lab investigations often are necessary to confirm the provisional diagnosis before starting the treatment. But investigations must be logical and cost-effective.

We do investigations to confirm the diagnosis and to exclude the differential diagnosis. Before asking the parents/patients to do some investigations, especially while asking other than routine investigations, we should explain the rationality of investigations; otherwise, some communication gaps will be there and they may think something else. Because of this lack of explanation, doctors are being blamed unnecessarily. Our goal must be treating each patient with compassion, empathy, and transparency.

The author is a Professor of Paediatrics at Community Based Medical College, Mymensingh. E-mail: mmukkhann@gmail.com



Appointment
02 22 22 62 466
10666

Plot 15 Road 71
Gulshan Dhaka 1212

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

A unique precedent

BISHWAJIT ROY

Bangladesh cricket set a unique example in regards to dealing with a player's mental health. When a player wants to skip an international commitment citing a mental health issue, it deserves utmost attention and the highest levels of sensitivity.

It is not unheard of for players to take breaks to focus on their mental well-being, especially during these times of added pressures compounded by Covid-19. Recently, England all-rounder Ben Stokes, Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka and American gymnast Simone Biles were seen opting out of events to focus on their mental health and how carefully their cases were handled by the concerned authorities.

It is no small matter when a player brings up issues related to mental health and mental fatigue. But when it comes to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Shakib Al Hasan, there are reasons that may give people some pause.

On March 6, the premier all-rounder said that he was neither mentally nor physically prepared for the upcoming tour of South Africa.

On March 9, the BCB granted him a break from cricket till April 30 after Shakib had reconfirmed his unavailability due to mental health issues the same day. Ideally, the issue should have ended there.

But that was far from the end. Instead, the two parties came together in front of the media at the Sher-e-

SHAKIB'S RECENT SHENANIGANS

February 28: BCB president Nazmul Hassan informs media that Shakib Al Hasan has confirmed his availability for the South Africa tour.

March 3: BCB names Shakib in squads for both three-match ODI and two-match Test series against South Africa.

March 6: Shakib reveals that he is mentally and physically unfit to play cricket to the media before leaving for Dubai to fulfil his commercial commitment.

March 7: Hassan questions whether Shakib would do the same if he had gotten a team

in IPL.

March 8: Bangladesh team director Khaled Mahmud says that the board needs to put a 'full stop' to such situations.

March 9: BCB allows Shakib a break from all forms of cricket till April 30.

March 10: Shakib returns from Dubai.

March 10: BCB announces central contract with Shakib in all three formats.

March 10: Shakib confesses to Hassan that he is still 'mentally disturbed.' Hassan has a long discussion with Shakib following which the all-rounder informs that he is ready

to be available for all formats including the South Africa series. Hassan, however, asks Shakib to take some time and think it through.

March 11: Shakib finally confirms to Hassan that he is willing to tour South Africa. Hassan then asks Shakib to come to BCB for a meeting the day after.

March 12: Following a meeting regarding Shakib's future plans, both Hassan and Shakib announce to the media that the all-rounder will be boarding a flight for South Africa the next day.

Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to reveal that the all-rounder was going to play the series in South Africa after all.

Thus, a 'mental health' issue had been solved. All that was needed was just one day for Shakib to change his mind and the BCB wasted no time making up their minds.

It seems that Shakib's trip to Dubai for a commercial commitment made some wonder about a possible reversal of his decision. In that case, what can a player do if the cynics find other reasons like the barring him from participate in the more lucrative -- in terms of financial package -- Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League.

It could be the case for any athlete that they may reverse a decision about their mental health reason in the quickest timespan. But you still cannot say anything about it when it comes to mental health issues.

However, there were some statements from both the BCB president and Shakib yesterday that cannot be overlooked.

"If he skips a match in this series, please accept it. He wants to play. That is the most important thing. If Shakib wants to stay out of the game in South Africa, if he wants some rest, he is allowed. It should end here. The board has no problem with any player. I want to make that clear," Hassan said.

On the other hand, Shakib said: "Now

I'm in a better situation [mentally]. After going to South Africa, I may get better. That can happen. When you go to a better environment, you feel good."

So Shakib may act at will during a most demanding assignment for the Tigers to take care of his mental health. Is it not a unique initiative in the world of professional sports?

In the whole episode between the BCB and Shakib, the 'Bangladesh Team' seemingly became a simple spectator. Its team management and other players may understand that there is a 'reserve seat' for a very special player, but they may not understand what plan they should actually make: one with or without Shakib?

Khawaja's special hundred

AGENCIES

Having come within a miscued reverse sweep of a special century near the city of his birth last week, Australia opener Usman Khawaja yesterday embraced destiny with a heart-warming hundred in the place his parents lived and worked before the family moved to Islamabad and – eventually – Australia.

The 35-year-old pushed spinner Sajid Khan for a sharp single towards square leg, punching the air to celebrate his tenth Test hundred, his second against Pakistan in front of a good 10,000 weekend crowd at the National Stadium in Karachi, who applauded Khawaja on his feat during the opening day of the second Test.

Khawaja's extraordinary form since regaining his place in Australia's Test team as a COVID-19 substitute for Travis Head two months ago has brought the left-hander 479 runs with three centuries and the prospect of more tomorrow.

But it's doubtful any of those runs, or the 2887 that preceded them, have carried as much personal significance given the 35-year-old's historic family connection with Karachi where he had never before played cricket until yesterday.

It took Khawaja 273 minutes and 192 balls to reach the three-figure mark, spiced with 12 boundaries and a six. Australia finished the day with 251 for 3.



'Was confident from the start'

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Indian golfer Kshitij Naveed Kaul has said he felt confident right from the go about winning the Mujib Borsho Chattogram Open after cruising to a six-shot victory at the Bhatary Golf and Country Club yesterday.

The 21-year-old, the overnight leader by five shots, drove home the advantage scoring eight birdies against two bogeys and a double-bogey in round four to total 19-under (269) at the INR 50 lakh event.

Bangladesh's leading star Siddikur Rahman (71-66 69-69) finished as runner-up at 13-under 275 after his last round of 69.

"I was confident from the start of the week and felt I could win. It's been great to win two titles in such a short span of time. I've had a terrific start to the year and would like to make it count from here on," said Kshitij.

Bangladesh's Badal Hossain and Akbar Hossain finished tied for third at 11-under 277 while Zamal Hossain Mollah took sixth place at nine-under 279.

Sunit Chowrasia was the second Indian to finish inside the top-5 as he claimed fifth place at 10-under 278.

Sheikh Russel hit rock bottom

SPORTS REPORTER

Former champions Sheikh Russel dropped into the relegation zone following a 3-0 defeat against Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Kings Arena yesterday.

The treble-winners of 2103 season have had a wretched run in the league of late, following a decent start to the season. Saiful Bari Titu's charges had started the league with draws in their first two matches against Mohammedan and Chittagong Abahani before winning against Saif Sporting Club. However, things have been going south ever since as the big-budget outfit have now lost six matches in a row, joining fellow-strugglers Swadhinata KS at the foot of the table with five points from eight matches.

The hosts conceded the lead in the 22nd minute when goalkeeper Ashraful Islam Rana failed to block Japanese midfielder Soma Otanj's shot from the edge of the box. Didarul Alam doubled Muktiyoddha's lead seven minutes after the break, smashing home on the rebound after Tetsuaki Misawa's free-kick was parried in front of goal.

Muktiyoddha, who came into this match at the bottom of the table with three points, wrapped up the victory in the 81st minute when Aminur Rahman Sajib profited from a blunder by Ashraful, who had come down the pitch to negotiate a long ball, only to make absolute meal of the clearance.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan Sporting Club played out a goalless draw against Uttar Baridhara at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday. The draw saw both sides remain in their respective positions as before – Mohammedan in seventh with 10 points and Baridhara a place behind with eight points.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Police moved up to fourth position with 14 points following a 2-1 win over Rahmatganj at Sylhet District Stadium later in the day.



Mohamed Salah celebrates his goal during their Premier League match away at Brighton Hove & Albion on Saturday. The Egyptian forward dispatched a spot kick in the 61st minute following Luis Diaz's opener in the 19th minute as the All Reds moved within three points of league leaders Manchester City.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Archers leave for Phuket today

SPORTS REPORTER

A 16-member Bangladesh archery team will leave for Phuket today to participate in the 2022 Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament, Stage-1.

The team, which will be joined by coach Martin Frederick on the following day, will feature eight male archers and five female archers, according to a press release from Bangladesh Archery Federation.

A total of 115 archers from 12 countries of the continent will take part in the competition. The archers of the Bangladesh team are: Roman Sana, Hakim Ahmed Rubel, Ram Krishna Saha, Sagor Islam, Newaz Ahmed Rakib, Mithu Rahman, Sohel Rana, Himu Bachar, Diya Siddiqui, Nasrin Akter, Fahmida Sultana Nisha, Roksana Akter and Shyamoli Roy.

The Bangladesh players will compete in individual and team events of recurve and compound divisions.



Democratic process behind development

Says Hasina in UAE



UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said an uninterrupted democratic process for the past 13 years has been behind the unprecedented development of Bangladesh.

"You've noticed the change in Bangladesh in 13 years. And this development has been achieved only because the democratic process continued in the country with the Awami League in power for these 13 years," she said.

The PM was addressing a civic reception accorded to her in Abu Dhabi on Friday on the occasion of her official visit to the United Arab Emirates. She joined the event virtually from her place of residence in the capital of UAE.

Hasina said there was no continuation of democratic process in Bangladesh for several years after 1975.

"There was a black chapter after 1975. That dark cloud is gone. We're now taking Bangladesh forward following the ideology of the Father of the Nation."

She said Bangladesh is marching forward and no one

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Even though a footbridge is nearby, students run across a street in front of a bus at speed in the capital's Farmgate area. The photo was taken yesterday.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

In-person classes in full swing from Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secondary and higher secondary schools will resume in-person classes on all subjects from March 15, said Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

In-person classes in secondary and higher secondary schools resumed on February 22 on a limited scale.

Currently, SSC candidates are attending four classes a day and class-10 students three classes. Class-8 and 9 students attend three classes twice a week and class-6 and 7 students three classes.

The number of examinations will be reduced once the new curriculum is introduced, she said at the inauguration of Lila Nag Bhaban of Sher-e-Bangla Girls' College at Shere Bangla Balika Mahavidyalaya at Tikatuli in the capital yesterday.

"Students' fear of exams will go away. You can get out of the test-based assessment."

There will be daily reading evaluations and limited examinations at the end of the year. The final assessment will be done by adjusting the evaluation throughout the year, the minister added.



HOTEL FIRE

Bangladeshi dies, another injured in Kolkata

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi woman died in a fire at a guest house on Kolkata's Mirza Ghalib Street early yesterday.

Three others, including another Bangladeshi national, were injured in the incident, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The deceased, Samimatul Aros, 60, was from Parkansat village in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila.

She went to India through the Gede border on Wednesday with his brother, eldest son and a grandson, said family members.

Samimatul and her brother were visiting Kolkata for treatment of

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Firefighters along with locals conducting a rescue operation that lasted three hours after a wall collapsed in Rajshahi city's Chhotobon village yesterday killing one and injuring four.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI HEMU

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

Police more involved than Rab

Finds a study by Centre for Governance Studies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police are involved in more extrajudicial killings than the Rapid Action Battalion, found a report by the Centre for Governance Studies.

The CGS, a think tank conducting research and media studies on governance issues, analysed cases between 2019 and 2021, and released these figures yesterday at a virtual discussion titled "Executions at Will?"

"The police, including DB, were involved with a majority of the cases over the last three years – 51.24 percent," said Ali Riaz, distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University, while sharing the findings.

"The Rapid Action Battalion was involved in 28.8 percent of the cases."

The total number of extrajudicial killings was 562. Others were in the hands of other agencies, including Border Guard Bangladesh.

The number of extrajudicial killings in Cox's Bazar is astronomically higher than that of the rest of the country, found the report.

Between 2019 and 2021, Cox's Bazar district alone saw 238 cases of extrajudicial killings. Compared to that, the rest of the country saw 353 extrajudicial deaths.

The second highest death toll was in Dhaka with 58 deaths, followed by Chattogram's 30.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik pointed out that since the US imposed sanctions on Rab, only two extrajudicial killings have taken place.

"There are indications that the US sanctions have brought a respite in the extrajudicial killings since December 10. But temporary pause is not a solution to the practices and culture of impunity....," said the report.

"The government should appoint an independent commission with members from the government, representatives of national and international human rights organisations, members of civil society and journalists to investigate each alleged incident of extrajudicial killings of the past decade and bring perpetrators to book," it recommended.

The National Human Rights Commission must be empowered to investigate law enforcement agencies, said Riaz.

Alena Khan, CEO of Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation, said, "When there is a gunfight, why are there no casualties of bystanders? Why are there no signs of a gunfight having taken place in or around the area?"

Malik said, "Why do we not investigate why it was not possible to just shoot in the leg and injure instead of killing?"

Dr Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of CGS, chaired the event.

Scientists reverse ageing in mice

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have reversed signs of ageing in middle-aged and elderly mice by partially resetting the rodents' tissues to more youthful states, an advance they say may lead to better anti-ageing methods without side effects like brittle bones, weaker muscles or cancer.

As organisms age, studies have found that every cell in their bodies carries a molecular clock that records the passage of time. Previous research has found that the cells isolated from older people or animals have different patterns of chemicals along their DNA – called epigenetic markers – compared to those seen in younger people or animals.

Scientists have also previously reported that a mixture of four molecules – Oct4, Sox2, Klf4 and cMyc – known as "Yamanaka factors" – could reset epigenetic marks in cells to their original patterns, and using this approach researchers say adult cells can be dialled back



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WALL COLLAPSE

Father finds son only to see him die

ANWAR ALI

A 35-year-old man died and four others were critically injured as a wall collapsed at a construction site in Chhotobon area of Godagari, Rajshahi, yesterday morning.

The men were digging dirt for the basement of a building when an adjacent wall collapsed on nine of them.

Riajul Islam died soon after he was rescued from underneath the wall and taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Enamul Haq, Pilip, Kajem Ali, and Manjur Alam, all aged below 40, were admitted to the hospital with critical injuries.

Riajul's father Mainul Islam also works at the site where a multi-storey building is being built. He filed a case with Chandrima Police Station last night against the owner of the site Entaj Ali, accusing the latter of causing death by negligence.

Mainul said there was a wall on the eastern side of the basement and brick chips were piled against it on the other side of the wall.

When the workers began digging, one of them said the wall might collapse because of the weight of the brick-chips.

But they were ordered to continue digging, assuring the workers that no such thing would happen, the

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