

RAMADAN PRICE SHOCK

# Family cards may ease it a little

Govt to issue those to 88 lakh poor families

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

As the prices of daily essentials continue to soar, the government has decided to sell several essential goods at subsidised prices to 88 lakh selected low-income families outside the capital from Sunday.

The beneficiaries will be given "Family Cards", which will make them eligible to buy the commodities from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) once before Ramadan. They will also be able to avail themselves of the benefit once in the middle of the Arabic month, which starts in the first week of April.

The TCB dealers will sell the essentials to the beneficiaries in metropolitan areas, districts, upazilas and unions, said officials.

Officials have already started preparing the cards with the help of deputy commissioners' offices across the country, they added.

Twelve lakh families in the capital are now getting the benefits of the open market sales (OMS) programme of TCB without any cards, said Humayun Kabir, senior executive and press relationship officer at the corporation.

However, there are concerns as to whether the actual low-income families would benefit from the initiative, especially since the government in 2020 faced difficulties in distributing a one-off cash incentive under a stimulus package to 50 lakh families.

Under the Tk 1,258 crore package, each of 50 lakh families were supposed to get a cash support of Tk 2,500. But the initiative was suspended before reaching 35 lakh families amid allegations that the names of well-off people were on the list of beneficiaries. Such initiatives also failed to reach the desired goals as officials could not prepare the lists of beneficiaries.

Under the new arrangements, two litre of soybean oil and two kg each of lentils and sugar will be sold in the first phase and two kg of chickpeas will be added to the three items in the second.

Soybean oil will be sold at Tk 110 a litre, lentils at Tk 65 a kg, sugar at Tk 55 a kg, and chickpeas at Tk 50 a kg.

Dates will only be sold in the capital for Tk 80 a kg. Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Asif Hasan of Rangpur said officials started preparing the list of beneficiaries in late February and have already printed

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Firefighters trying to extinguish a fire in an apartment building in Kyiv yesterday after strikes on residential areas killed at least four people as Russian troops intensified their attacks on the capital, Ukraine emergency services said.

PHOTO: AFP

EDIBLE OIL PRICES

# Consumers yet to reap benefits of VAT cut

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOUDDUD AHMMED SUJAN

Even though the government on Monday partially removing VAT on edible oils, consumers have yet to get any relief as traders have not reduced prices as of yesterday.

The government waived the 15 percent VAT at production and five percent at retail to reduce prices of soybean and palm oils amid an outcry over the spiralling cost of essentials.

The finance ministry yesterday said VAT on imports of refined and crude edible oils, mainly soybean, would be cut to five percent from 15 percent. The National Board of Revenue will issue a notification in this regard, according to Gazi Towhidul Islam, public relations officer of the finance ministry.

But the benefit of such measures was not evident at the capital's Karwan Bazar kitchen market yesterday.

"I am waiting for the price to drop," said Monu Mia, who bought a one-litre bottle of soybean oil. Usually he buys a five-litre container.

A five-litre container was selling for Tk 795. There was no loose soybean oil available there.

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), which compiles market prices data in Dhaka city, showed that loose soybean oil was unavailable in the market.

It said the prices of one-litre bottled soybean oil remained unchanged from the previous day while 5-litre containers were also selling at Tk 780-Tk 800 yesterday, like the day before. The government-

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SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

# European PMs take train to Kyiv

Offensive appears to stall; Russia sanctions Biden, several top US officials; missiles hit capital ahead of resumption of peace talks

AGENCIES

Three European prime ministers rode a train for Kyiv yesterday, the first visit by foreign leaders to the Ukrainian capital since Russia launched its invasion, and a striking symbol of Ukraine's success so far in fending off Russia's assault.

"It is our duty to be where history is forged. Because it's not about us, but about the future of our children who deserve to live in a world free from tyranny," said Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, who set off across the border with Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala and Janez Jansa of Slovenia.

Top aide to Morawiecki, Michal Dwoczyk, told reporters the delegation had

crossed the Polish-Ukraine border by train after 8:00 am.

They arrived in a city still under bombardment, where around half of the 3.4 million population has fled and many are spending nights sheltering in underground stations.

At least four people were killed after two powerful explosions rocked the capital before dawn yesterday and tracer fire lit up the night sky. Kyiv's mayor announced a 35-hour curfew that started at 8:00 pm. The airport in the eastern city of Dnipro also came under heavy bombardment overnight.

Worst hit is the southeastern port of Mariupol. People trapped in Mariupol by Russian shelling were "essentially being

suffocated in this city now with no aid," Ewan Watson, spokesperson of the ICRC, told a UN briefing in Geneva.

Convoys of private cars were not sufficient to evacuate people from Mariupol and buses needed to be let through, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said, as some 2,000 civilian cars have been able to drive out of the besieged city yesterday amid bombardment.

But despite shelling that has reduced some Ukrainian cities to rubble, Europe's biggest invasion force since World War Two has been halted at the gates of Kyiv.

Major road and train routes from the capital are still open and Russia has failed

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PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

A view of the Sutki river in Bhatipara of Habiganj's Baniachong upazila. People living along the water body cannot fish in it or use its banks as a family claims that it is a "water reservoir" owned by them. The family has put up a fence across the river to stop fish from getting out. Land documents show it is a river. The photo was taken recently.

# The Sutki in shackles

River remains in the grip of a family for centuries

MINTU DESHWARA

The river is called Sutki. It flows at least 20 kilometres after originating from the Kushiara river in Lohajuri area under Baniachong upazila in Habiganj before falling into the Ratna river at Pratabpur of the same upazila.

Recent land documents seen by The Daily Star clearly earmark the water body as a river. And yet a single family has long been claiming its ownership as a private property, depriving thousands of inhabitants living along its two banks to fish in it or use its banks.

To deter other villagers from

fishing, who identify themselves as descendants of a Mughal-era ruler, even fenced up parts of the banks. They also placed bamboo and thorny shrubs at different points so that no one could use fishing nets there.

The saga around this disputed water body goes centuries back and has a history of half a century's court battle.

One King Govinda Singha during the Mughal era established his rule in this area and built a palace. He later converted to Islam, a common trend at the time, and took the name Habib Khan, according to local historian Sheikh

Fazley Elahi.

The palace, now partly renovated and located in No. 2 Haveli village in Baniachong Uttar Purba union, is inhabited by the family of Ahmed Zulkar Nayan, who claims to be a descendant of Govinda Singha's dynasty.

The family refuses to call Sutki a river. Instead, they say it is a "water reservoir" that their ancestors dug up centuries ago for irrigation.

In independent Bangladesh, Zulkar's uncle Dewan Yahiya Raja filed a case with a Sylhet court in 1972, claiming ownership of the river land on the same ground.

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কোকা কোলা

একটা ঠান্ডা গানে চাঙ্গা

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## Karnataka court upholds ban on hijab in schools

AFP, Bangalore

An Indian court upheld a local ban on the hijab in classrooms yesterday, weeks after the edict stoked violent protests and renewed fears of discrimination against the country's Muslim minority.

Southern Karnataka was on edge for several weeks after a small group of girls in their late teens were prevented from wearing the garment on school grounds at the end of last year.

Demonstrations snowballed across the state and police used tear gas to disperse angry crowds as more schools imposed their own bans and radical Hindu groups staged boisterous counter-demonstrations.

After weeks of deliberations, Karnataka's high court ruled that the wearing of the hijab "does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith".

The court said schools had reasonable grounds to impose dress codes that forbade the headdress in the interests of preventing divisions on religion and other grounds.

"The aim of the regulation is to create a 'safe space'... And the ideals of egalitarianism should be readily apparent to all students."

Additional police were deployed around Karnataka on Monday ahead of the ruling, though there was no sign of fresh protests till mid-afternoon.

As tensions came to a head in February, several violent confrontations in cities across the state were broken up by police and schools were shut.

The hijab is an important article of faith in Islam and many in Karnataka say that Muslim girls have worn it in schools for decades, just as Hindus, Sikhs and Christians have done with symbols of their respective religions.



A bulldozer knocks down shops on a road in the capital's Bangabazar area during a drive by Dhaka South City Corporation. The corporation carried out the drive yesterday to make room for development work.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Insurgents murdered Rohingya leader

Police claim

AFP, Kutupalong

Police admitted for the first time yesterday that an insurgent group ordered last year's murder of a respected Rohingya leader, saying they were threatened by his growing popularity.

The assassination of Mohib Ullah last September sent shockwaves through the sprawling border settlements that house hundreds of thousands of stateless Rohingya refugees who fled a violent crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar.

Hours after the 48-year-old was gunned down in Kutupalong, the world's largest refugee settlement, in Cox's Bazar his family accused the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) of orchestrating the killing.

The militant group is waging an insurgency in Myanmar and has been accused of running narcotics, murdering political opponents and instilling a climate of fear in the camps.

Security forces have routinely denied ARSA operates in the camps and blamed Mohib Ullah's death on an unrelated turf war.

But the police investigation has made headway in recent weeks and the inspector manning the probe said yesterday that 15



people with ties to the group had been arrested for their role in the killing, four of whom have issued confessions.

"In their statement the four claimed they are ARSA members and they got instructions from ARSA leaders to kill Mohib Ullah," Gazi Salahuddin told AFP.

"A meeting was held on the night of September 27 to assassinate Mohib Ullah. There were leaders of ARSA (in the meeting) and they demanded he be killed," he said.

Salahuddin said he believed the murder was ordered by ARSA chief Atullah, who is believed to be in Myanmar, because of

the victim's growing following.

"They thought Mohib Ullah and his organisation had become more organised and popular than ARSA. So they killed him," he said.

"Mohib Ullah was working against ARSA and was raising awareness about the group's criminal activities."

The militant group has previously denied any involvement in the community leader's murder.

More than 850,000 Rohingya refugees live in Bangladesh refugee camps, most of whom fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar that is now the subject of a genocide case at the UN's highest court in The Hague.

Working among the chaos and unease in the camps, Mohib Ullah and his colleagues quietly documented the crimes that his people suffered at the hands of the Myanmar military while pressing for better conditions.

The former schoolteacher shot to prominence in 2019 when he organised a protest of about 100,000 people in the camps to mark two years since their exodus.

He also met then US president Donald Trump in the White House that year and addressed a UN meeting in Geneva.

## Consumers yet to reap Family cards may ease

FROM PAGE 1

Amir Hossain, a distributor of Rupchada Soybean oil at Karwan Bazar, said, "We have been supplying each 5-litre can for Tk 785 so far after the company increased the rate. Now there is no supply from the company. It may resume tomorrow [today]."

Currently, consumers pay Tk 26-Tk 30 VAT per litre of bottled soybean oil at the government-fixed price of Tk 168 per litre, refiners said on Monday.

Ghulam Rahman, president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), told The Daily Star yesterday, "It will take time to get the result of the tax exemption."

After exempting the taxes, the government may revise the edible oil price considering the price in the global market, he added.

Distributors at the two markets said almost all companies have greatly reduced supply.

## The bell tolls for him

FROM PAGE 12

The noted filmmaker was born on October 10, 1939 in Santahar, Bogura to Rupchan Pramanik. He completed his SSC from Ahsanullah Institute and HSC from Dhaka City College.

He had a diploma in commercial art from the Institute of Fine Arts, Chittagong University.

In 1958, Azizur started his career as an assistant to eminent filmmaker Ehtesham in the film "Ei Desh Tomar Amar". He made his directorial debut in 1967 with "Saiful Mulik Badiuzzamal", based on a folk tale of Mymensingh.

Throughout his career, Azizur directed 54 films, including "Chhutir

Ghonta", "Oshikkhito", "Matir Ghor", "Janata Express", "Shampunwala", "Daktar Bari", "Gormil", and "Shomadhan".

Remembering the legendary director, several artists recalled memories with him.

Renowned actress Anjana worked in quite a number of his films, including "Oshikkhito", "Mehman", and "Phuleshwari".

"The loss is irreplaceable. I will always be grateful to him for giving me the opportunity to play the lead character in 'Oshikkhito', his fifth directorial venture."

The popular song "Dhaka Shohor Aisha Amar Asha Phuraise" is from this film. Ilias Kanchan, veteran actor and president of

FROM PAGE 1

the cards. "There will be two copies of the cards. One will be given to beneficiaries and another to dealers," he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said under another arrangement, 50 lakh people already have cards with which they can buy rice at only Tk 10, reports BSS.

Stating that 38 lakh people received financial assistance (amid the pandemic), she said "a total of one crore people will get the card."

**HC DIRECTIVES**  
The High Court yesterday directed the government to take action under all applicable laws against the hoarders of daily

essentials.

In response to a writ petition, the court ordered the authorities concerned to issue ration cards under the open market sale (OMS) programme for edible oil, onion, rice, wheat, sugar and lentils.

It asked them to submit separate reports to it on the steps taken to prevent illegal syndication of businesses and the hiking the prices of essential commodities.

Secretaries at the ministries of commerce and home affairs and chairman of Bangladesh Competition Commission have been asked to place the reports to the HC by April 26, Deputy Attorney General Protikar Chakma told The Daily Star.

Lawyer Syed Mohidul

Kabir, one of the three writ petitioners, told this correspondent that only wheat and rice are now sold through OMS Policy, 2015. Edible oil, onion, rice, wheat, sugar and lentils must be included in the policy, which is currently being updated.

The HC also issued a rule asking the officials concerned to explain in four weeks as to why their failure in monitoring and controlling market prices of essentials should not be declared illegal.

The court asked them to explain why they should not be directed to formulate a regulation under the Competition Act, 2012, in order to stop syndicates that are responsible for making the market unstable.

## The Sutki in shackles

FROM PAGE 1

A year later, the court upheld his petition and delivered a verdict in Yahiya's favour. The court also directed the local land office to issue legal documents certifying the ownership of over 242 acres of land, including the river, to Yahiya Fish Industries, a company owned by Yahiya Raja.

About 20 years later in 1992, the then Habiganj deputy commissioner cancelled the ownership on grounds that the water body was in fact a river and therefore a government property.

In 1996, Yahiya filed a contempt of court petition against the district administration for cancelling his ownership in

a Habiganj court.

In its verdict in December last year, the Habiganj court reinstated the ownership to Yahiya, saying the state has failed to produce the documents required to prove it otherwise.

Habiganj Additional Deputy Commissioner Bijen Banarjee yesterday said they will appeal against the verdict.

Land documents, including SA (State Acquisition) Khatiyani, RS (Revisonal Survey) Khatiyani, and BS (Bangladesh Survey) Khatiyani, show Sutki is recorded as a river. An investigation by the local administration early this month also found the land is not a private property and that relevant documents

It also wanted to know why the inaction and failure of the national consumer rights protection directorate in taking remedial measures should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries at the ministries of commerce, home affairs and food, Bangladesh Competition Commission, consumer rights protection directorate, trading corporation of Bangladesh and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry are respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice SM Maniruzzaman delivered the orders and issued the rule.

earmark it as a river.

The Daily Star has a copy of the investigation report as well as the land records.

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's Habiganj unit, alleged that the government is yet to win the legal battle due to the "negligence" of government prosecutors who failed to produce the relevant documents before the court.

Bijen Banarjee, the Habiganj ADC, admitted receiving a government report that faults the prosecutors for negligence.

"But we will continue the legal battle to reclaim the river," he added.

He also said Dewan Yahiya Raja concealed vital land records when he filed

## Unused data will be carried over from now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unused mobile data and calls bought for 3 day, 7 day, 15 day, and 30 day periods will add up the next time a subscriber buys mobile data and call times.

Mustafa Jabbar, telecom minister, announced the new rules at the office of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) yesterday.

According to the directive, an operator can offer up to 95 packages in three categories.

Besides, the operators have to send an SMS to their customers, informing them about the monthly expenses in Bangla, and email the information if a user requests it.

## Woman accuses 4 of gang rape in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A 29-year-old woman yesterday accused nine men of gangraping her in Cox's Bazar.

In a case filed with Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station, she accused Firoj Ahmed, 47, Rasel Uddin, 38, and his brother Nurul Islam, 48, Sharif, 48, and five other unnamed men.

Locals said the accused, who are residents of different areas in Cox's Bazar, are police informants, but officers refuted the claim.

According to the complaint, the main accused Firoj and several others abducted her when she was walking through Masjid Market around 2:00pm.

That then took her to the house of a man named Fazal Quader in Baharchara area and raped her, tying her hands and legs.

At one stage, the woman fainted, said the complaint, adding that locals sensed something was going on and called 999.

Police later rescued her, but the criminals managed to flee, it said.

Officers said they were looking for the accused.

## Siblings set on fire in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two siblings, aged nine and six, were set on fire in the capital's Adabar yesterday allegedly by their brother-in-law.

Mitu Akter and her younger brother were admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

With 98 percent burns, is struggling for life, said Resident Surgeon SM Aiyub Hossain.

Mohammadpur Zone Assistant Commissioner Mujib Ahmed Patwari of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said police are looking for the suspect named Alauddin.

Injured Bappi said Alauddin took him and Mitu to his house yesterday morning and set them on fire after pouring kerosene on them around 11:00am.

Biplob Kumar Sarker, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon), said police found that the man set the children on fire out of anger towards his wife, the elder sister of the children.

## European PMs

FROM PAGE 1

to capture any of Ukraine's 10 biggest cities.

However, Moscow claimed that it was now in control of the entire region of Kherson, reported Reuters.

Russia's foreign ministry said yesterday that US President Joe Biden and a dozen other top officials including Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had been banned from entering the country in a reciprocal response to US sanctions.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, meanwhile, said it was too early to predict progress at peace talks, which was scheduled to resume later yesterday

by video link.

As US pressure grows on Beijing to withdraw support from Moscow, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday his nation does not want to be impacted by Western sanctions on Russia.

In his most confident public statement yet, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called on Russian troops to surrender, saying they and their officers already knew that the war was hopeless.

The UN said yesterday more than three million people have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded on February 24, nearly half of them minors, with a child becoming a refugee every second.

the case to deceive the court.

Talking to The Daily Star, locals said it was beyond their comprehension how a whole river can be a private property.

Rafiq Mia, 65, a fisherman of Sundarpur village under Baniachang upazila, said they heard from their grandparents that the family has been controlling the river for generations.

Another fisherman, Julhas Miah, said, "Since our childhood, we have been hearing that the river is owned by Raja Saheb. So, we could never fish in it."

During a recent visit to the area, four people were found fishing in the river.

"We are working here on a

daily pay basis. We catch fish and hand them over to the river owner, who pays us daily wages. We have no ownership of it," said a fisherman, seeking anonymity.

Nayen could not be reached over the phone as he is abroad now.

His lawyer Faruk Ahmed said, "This is not a river. Their [Nayen] ancestors dug the water reservoir to irrigate crops in this area centuries ago. So, they are the owners of it."

Water Development Board (WDB) officials denied the claim and said it is a river.

"We have already spent around Tk 1 crore to excavate the river," said Shanewaz Talukder, executive engineer of WDB in Habiganj.



As the summer heat starts sweeping the city, these two boys decide to take a dip in Crescent Lake to cool off. This photo was taken at the capital's Chandrima Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## It's nothing but a farce

### Says Ganosamhati on public hearing to set gas prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The public hearing to set prices of gas is nothing but a farce as the authorities organise such hearings after deciding by themselves to increase the price, alleged Ganosamhati Andolon yesterday.

The organisation held a sit-in in front of the TCB building at Karwan Bazar, the office of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

BERC will hold a public hearing on March 21-24.

The last public hearing was held in 2019.

## Act against drying of tobacco at schools: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a The Daily Star report, the High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary steps to stop drying and processing tobacco leaves on the school premises.

The court also ordered the administration to immediately move tobacco leaves from the premises of Durgapur Government Primary School and Durgapur High School in Lalmonirhat, said Deputy Attorney General Protikar Chakma.

# ADB for speeding up 5 major RHD projects



**RHD officials notified the ADB team about issues centring price hikes and stone crisis. If the issues prolong, project implementation may be adversely affected.**

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has asked the government to speed up preparatory works for five upcoming road projects, which are aiming to boost sub-regional connectivity.

The multilateral lender, which has already promised to finance the projects, stressed meeting the target to begin the development schemes.

An ADB delegation made the call at a meeting yesterday with officials of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), the projects' implementing agency, three participants of the meeting said.

RHD officials said they were working to expedite preparatory works, which are now at different stages.

The meeting also discussed six ADB-funded ongoing projects. RHD officials notified the ADB team about issues centring price hikes and stone crisis. If the issues prolong, project implementation may be adversely affected, they added.

Ravi Peri, director of ADB's transport and communications division, South Asia Department, led the ADB team, while chief engineer AKM Manir Hossain Pathan led RHD at the meeting, held at the latter's headquarters in Dhaka.

The team later met Nazrul Islam, secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division, at his secretariat office.

The five projects are SASEC Road Connectivity Project-3 and 4; SASEC Dhaka-

South Corridor Improvement Project; SASEC Dhaka-Chattoogram Highway Improvement Project; and SASEC Chattogram Port Access Road Improvement Project.

Once implemented, the specific roads will have four or more lanes, which would not only improve internal road communication but also boost regional transport connectivity, RHD officials said.

The South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme started in 2001. It is a project-based partnership among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

It aims to promote regional prosperity, improve economic opportunities, and build a better quality of life for the sub-region's people.

### THE 5 PROJECTS

Under SASEC Road Connectivity Project-3, the 110-km two-lane Rangpur-Teesta-Burimari highway would be expanded into a four-lane road with service lanes.

Feasibility study for the project has already been done, and preliminary estimated cost is \$237 million.

However, the study has to be modified, officials said. The project is supposed to start in 2023.

Under SASEC Road Connectivity Project-4, two more lanes, along with service lanes, would be added to the 120-km two-lane Rangpur-Banglabandha highway. Feasibility study of the road was carried out partially. The project is expected to start in 2024.

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## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES Ensure cops don't harass families UN urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations called on the government to ensure that human rights defenders and the families of victims of enforced disappearance do not face any harassment from law enforcement agencies.

"Immediately cease reprisals against human rights defenders and relatives of forcibly disappeared persons for their activism and co-operation with international human rights bodies and UN mechanisms," it said in a statement yesterday.

Following announcement of sanctions imposed by the US against top Rab officials on December 10 last year, Bangladesh authorities have reportedly launched a campaign of threats and harassment against relatives of forcibly disappeared persons, human rights defenders and civil society actors.

Relatives were threatened and forced to sign blank sheets of paper or pre-written statements indicating that their family member was not forcibly disappeared and they had deliberately misled police.

"This is unacceptable," the UN said in the release, signed by the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

# An awful day for city commuters



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday morning.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ishtiaq Hossain, employee of a private firm, left his home in Khilgaon at 9:00am to go to his office in Farmgate. The commute usually takes around 45 minutes. But yesterday it took nearly two and a half hours.

Just like Ishtiaq, many people who stepped into the road yesterday morning suffered the same fate. Rafiul Islam, a resident of Baily Road, said it took him about an hour to reach Farmgate from Paribagh on a bike. The usual commute time is no more than 10-15 minutes.

One of our photojournalists, Prabir Das, visited Dhaka's Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Shahbagh,

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# Must expedite extension work of Dhaka airport PM tells authorities

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to speed up the expansion work of Dhaka airport.

She also asked to take required measures for land acquisition of the Chattogram airport alongside giving other necessary directives, said a press release of PMO press wing.

The premier gave the directives after witnessing a presentation on progress (1st phase) (1st amended) of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's extension work at Gono Bhaban.

The total progress of the work is 23 percent and it is hoped that the work could be completed by November 2023, the release said.

She also stressed the need for increasing income of the Bangladesh Biman as well.

## Saudi FM in town

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a two-day visit for holding the first ever political consultation aimed at boosting the bilateral relationship.

He will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, lay foundation of an Arabic language institute and sign a few memorandum of understandings. According to foreign ministry officials, Saudi Arabia is interested in a number of investment proposals equaling about \$10 billion.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAR 16



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:00	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
Jamaat	5:35	1:15	4:45	6:18	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# 'It seems they are denying us justice'

Says father of 11-month-old over delay in probe into the child's death due to alleged negligence

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

After six months of an 11-month-old's death due to alleged negligence in post-operative care, two investigations regarding the death are still in limbo.

A three-member probe body formed by Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) on September 19 last year, has so far recorded statements of hospital staffers accused of negligence and parents of the child. They were supposed to complete the probe within 10 days.

On the other hand, the disciplinary committee of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) is yet to arrange any hearing in this regard.

Eleven-month-old Abdullah Al Azan died six hours after surgery for reconstructing his cleft palate at Care Medical College Hospital in the capital on August 22 last year.

The bereaved parents – Abdullah Al

Sayem and Tanzum Aktar – accused the medical staff, particularly the surgeon – Dr BK Das Bijoy – of negligence in medical care and misbehaving.

- Azan dies 6hrs after surgery at Care Medical College Hospital on Aug 22, 2021
- Family says negligence in post-op care
- 2 committees formed by DGHS, BMDC
- After 6 months, probes still in limbo

On August 29, they submitted separate complaints to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and BMDC, seeking justice.

DGHS directed SSMCH to investigate the incident and the SSMCH authorities formed a body headed by its surgery

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



It's been almost a week since a heavy vehicle toppled this traffic light at the Hatijheel BFDC intersection. Even though this area is visited by many city-dwellers, the authorities are yet to mend the broken light, which once aimed to control vehicular movement. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা**  
**আবশ্যিক**

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উন্নয়নমূলক কার্য সুষ্ঠুভাবে সম্পন্ন করার নিমিত্তে প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদটি খন্ডকালীন (সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী) নিয়োগের জন্য যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদের নাম ও বেতন	পদের সংখ্যা	নির্ধারিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
স্থপতি (Architect) সর্বসাকুল্যে মাসিক বেতন চ: ৪৬,৪৪০/- (ছেচল্লিশ হাজার চারশত চল্লিশ) এছাড়া বছরে ১টি নববর্ষ ভাতা ও ২টি উৎসব ভাতা প্রাপ্য হবেন অফিস সময়ঃ সপ্তাহে ৩ দিন, সকাল ৯:০০ হতে বিকেল ৫:০০টা	১টি পদ খন্ডকালীন (সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী)	বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে B. Arch ডিগ্রিধারী হতে হবে। মুদাতম ১০ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

প্রাথমিক সাদা কাগজে নাম, পিতার নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, জাতীয়তা, জন্ম তারিখ, NID-এর কপি, সদা তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ কপি ছবি, মোবাইল নম্বর, ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক সকল প্রকার সন্দেহের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং নিজ ঠিকানা সম্বলিত ফেরত খামসহ আবেদনপত্র রেজিস্ট্রার, বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা বরাবর পৌছাতে হবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায়/সাক্ষাতকালে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য কোন প্রকার যাতায়াত বা দৈনিক ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে এই নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া গ্রহণ/বাতিল/পদ সংখ্যা হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধির ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ায় কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

উল্লিখিত পদের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখঃ ০৬/০৪/২০২২

জিডি-৫১৪ রেজিস্ট্রার

**Jhuntu Pada passes away**

STAR REPORT

Jhuntu Pada Mohajan, a former official of Bangladesh Railway, passed away on Monday.



He was born in November 1947 in Raozan, Chattogram. His funeral was held at his village home in Binajuri on Monday night.

Jhantu, father of Sujoy Mahajan, business editor of the daily Prothom Alo; and Subir Mahajan, a teacher of drama in Chittagong University, is survived by his wife, four sons and relatives, friends and admirers.

**It seems**

FROM PAGE 3

department chief Prof Dr Mustafizur Rahman. Asked about the delay in the probe on February 22, Mustafizur said, "We had to reshuffle the committee as one of the members was linked to the care hospital."

Contacted again on March 12, he said they were preparing the report. Prof Dr Khalilur Rahman, director of SSMCH, however, refused to entertain that notion.

"We had reshuffled the committee immediately after the issue was identified at the beginning. They were supposed to complete the investigation within the deadline."

Abdullah Al Sayem, father of Azan, said the DGHS committee was reluctant to complete the investigation. "It seems they are denying us justice."

Dr Farid Hossain Mian, director (hospitals and clinics) at DGHS, said it was mandatory to inform us [DGHS] in writing or verbally if the investigation committee needed a time extension. "I haven't got any petition asking for an extension," he added.

Meanwhile, BMDC has also made little progress in its investigation in this regard. On September 9 last year, Dr BK Das submitted a written explanation in his defence to the BMDC.

On October 25, the child's parents submitted their statement in response to Dr Das' explanation. The disciplinary committee, however, could not hear the case as it could not meet "due to the spread of Omicron variant transmission since December".

"The new disciplinary committee will sit on April 2. The committee will decide its next steps in this regard," Md Anwar Hossain, acting administrative officer at the BMDC, told this correspondent.

**18yrs in guise**

FROM PAGE 5

He was arrested by Mymensingh police during an armed robbery in 2004. He was later released on bail after serving 17 months in jail. He then went into hiding, said SI Mohammad Al Mamun of Tongibari Police Station. His real name is Md Maruf Hossain Iqbal. He has been living with his family at Sutrapur.

"Iqbal has been sent to Munshiganj court, and from there, he will be sent to Mymensingh court," said Mamun.

**An awful day for city Good news for port**

FROM PAGE 3

Kakrail, and Motijheel areas and witnessed heavy traffic congestion. "There were gridlocks in areas where there are more schools and colleges," Prabir said.

Cars, motorbikes and rickshaws were barely moving in Bailey Road, Siddheshwari areas, which have several educational institutions. Even authorities found the whole situation especially inconvenient.

"I perform my duties a little more comfortably on Tuesdays," said an on-duty police officer near Minto Road. "Today, I'm having trouble keeping up with the traffic," the official further said.

Contacted, DMP Additional Commissioner (Traffic) Munibur Rahman told The Daily Star, "There were too many parked cars in the morning, as everything - offices, schools and colleges - have reopened."

FROM PAGE 5

treatment plant, reservoir, and elevated tank have been constructed under package 1; transmission and convection pipeline

under package 2; and new pipelines have been laid to replace old ones under package 3. The DPP got approved on August 13, 2013.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**Sr. Executive (Finance & Admin)- 01**, Bachelor degree in Finance (8-10 years relevant job experience).

**Responsibilities:** Preparing accounts, Tax & Vat returns monitoring spending and budgets, Compiling and presenting financial and budget reports, Ensure that financial statements and records comply with laws and regulations, Keeping account books and systems up to date & banking relevant works.

**Please send CV by courier in following address on or before 20.03.2022.**  
**Orient Energy Systems Ltd., House-06 (1st Floor), Road-113/A, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212.**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD  
Barishal Road Circle, Barishal  
☎ 0431-64787/ফ্যাক্স: 0431-62792  
Email: sebarishalrhd@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.0651.171.99.37.2022-1011 Date: 15.03.2022

**Corrigendum to Invitation for Tender**

With reference to the Invitation for Tender (IFT) No. 35.01.0651.171.99.37.2022-657 Tender Package No. 01/Tender/PSN/BCFB Toll/BRC/2021-22, dated: 16.02.2022 for the Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based multi station monitoring of Modern Electronic/Computerized Toll (Government Revenue) Collection System Including ETC of 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at 12th km of Rajapur-Naikati-Bekuti-Pirojpur (Z-8702) Zilla Road for 03 (three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2021-2022. The Tender Notice was published in the daily newspaper named "The Daily Ittefaq, The Daily Kaler Kantho, The Daily Star on 18.02.2022, and The Daily Barisaler Ajkal on 17.02.2022". The Tender Notice also published on the websites of CPTU and RHD. The Changed made to the above Tender in the following:

Sl No.	Page No.	Section & Sl. No. of IFT	Description	Previous	Changed
1.	18	Section-02 Clause ITT 37.1	Tender Opening Time & Date	22.03.2022 and 03.00pm	02.30pm and 06.04.2022
2.	51	Section-07 Clause-05	A. Foreign Training: Foreign Training from South Korea/Vietnam/Indonesia/Singapore/Turkey/India (Any two countries).	Duration at least 10 days.	Total duration in two countries is 10 days
3.	52	Section-07 Clause-07	Equipment and Consumables	N/A	Lists need to be submitted.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

**Mintu Ranjan Debnath**  
ID No. 601920  
Superintending Engineer (C.C.), RHD  
Barishal Road Circle, Barishal

GD-513

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Goalanda, Rajbari  
www.lqed.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8229.000.14.016.19-87 Dated: 13.03.2022

**Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice No. 02/2021-22**

This is the information of all concern that due to an unavoidable circumstance the following changes have been made to the tender which was published in The Daily Prothom Alo & The Daily Star, Date: 12/03/2022.

Original		Modified	
Tender ID	Package No.	Tender ID	Package No.
<b>GOB Development -</b>			
671658	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/02	673284	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/02
Estimate for Construction of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under-Goalanda Upazila, Dist-Rajbari Part A: Civil Works (i) Foundation up to Plinth.		Construction of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist: Rajbari, Part A: Civil Works (i) Foundation up to Plinth. Part A: Civil Works (ii): Ground Floor, Part B: Plumbing & Sanitary works, Part C: Electrical Works.	
671670	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/03		
Const. of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist-Rajbari Part A: Civil Works (ii): Ground Floor.			
671675	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/04		
Const. of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist-Rajbari, Part B: Plumbing & Sanitary works			
671702	e-Tender/ADP/GOB/Goal/2021-22/05		
Const. of One storied Ansar VDP Hostel under Goalanda Upazila, Dist-Rajbari, Part C: Electrical Works.			
<b>ADP Allocation -</b>			
671703	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/06	673359	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/10
Improvement of road by BFS from Khorib shop-Iddris house at Gofur Mondalpara road in Ujanchar union, Upazila-Goalanda		Improvement of road by BFS from Khorib shop-Iddris house at Gofur Mondalpara road in Ujanchar union, Upazila-Goalanda	
671704	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/07	673360	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/11
Part-1) Construction of Drain on Daulatdia Rail Station Bazar for Drainage water Daulatdia union, Upazila-Goalanda. Part-2) Construction of Drain culver across the BC road on Daulatdia Rail Station Bazar point under Daulatdia union, Upazila-Goalanda		Part-1) Construction of Drain on Daulatdia Rail Station Bazar for Drainage water Daulatdia union, Upazila-Goalanda. Part-2) Construction of Drain culver across the BC road on Daulatdia Rail Station Bazar point under Daulatdia union, Upazila-Goalanda	
671705	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/08	673361	e-Tender/ADP/Goal/2021-22/12
Improvement of road by BFS from Munshi Bazaar to Momin Sardar Moszid road under Debogram union Upazila-Goalanda, Rajbari.		Improvement of road by BFS from Munshi Bazaar to Momin Sardar Moszid road under Debogram union, Upazila-Goalanda, Rajbari.	
671745	INF-2020-21-308229-01	673362	INF-2020-21-308229-01
Part-a) Installation of Solar Street Light at Ujanchar Natun Bridge area under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari. Part-b) Maintenance work at Labour & Child Ward at Upazila Health Complex under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari.		Part-a) Installation of Solar Street Light at Ujanchar Natun Bridge area under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari. Part-b) Maintenance work at Labour & Child Ward at Upazila Health Complex under Goalanda Upazila, Rajbari.	

All other terms and conditions same as the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Bazlur Rahaman Khan**  
Upazila Engineer  
Goalanda, Rajbari  
Phone: 06423-56143  
Email: [ue.goalanda@lqed.gov.bd](mailto:ue.goalanda@lqed.gov.bd)

GD-515

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**

**Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh, is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in the following Tender as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per Terms and Conditions stated below:**

**1. Procuring ManageEngine ADAudit Plus, ManageEngine ADManager Plus, Microsoft RDS CAL, Acrobat Pro DC, GOOGLE OCR API and Web Scanner Software- Scanner.js ENT EDITION for Pubali Bank Limited.**

Please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for more details. Interested Parties may purchase Tender documents by **29 March 2022** duly fulfilling all other requirements.

**(Md. Helal Uddin)**  
GM & Division Head

**পুবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
**PUBALI BANK LIMITED**

**ICT OPERATION DIVISION**  
Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka

**সর্বসাধারণের জ্ঞাতার্থে/ অবগতির জন্য**  
**আইনগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ স্বার্থের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত জমির মালিক (১) শেখ ওমর আলী মল্লী, (২) বিরোজা বেগম, (৩) উদয় কুমার শেখ মল্লী, (৪) শেখ সাহেদ আলী, (৫) শেখ শাহজাদ আলী ও সর্ব মাতাঃ সুলতানা সোমা বেগম, (৬) সুলতান জাহান মিত্রা, (৭) শেখ শাহজাদ উদ্দিন আলী, (৮) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৯) শাহজাদ শেখ শাহজাদ আলী, (১০) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১১) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১২) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১৩) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১৪) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১৫) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১৬) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১৭) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১৮) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (১৯) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২০) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২১) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২২) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২৩) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২৪) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২৫) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২৬) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২৭) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২৮) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (২৯) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩০) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩১) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩২) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩৩) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩৪) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩৫) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩৬) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩৭) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩৮) সাকিব হাসান জামি, (৩৯) 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# CITY

## Good news for port city residents Another CWasa water plant goes into operation

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

A water treatment plant of Chattogram Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (CWasa) officially goes into operation today, raising the total production to 500 million litres per day.

The prime minister will inaugurate the plant virtually, said Maksud Alam, chief engineer of CWasa.

Sheikh Hasina Water Treatment Plant-2 (SHWTP-2), under the Karnaphuli Water Supply Project Phase-2, can supply 140 million litres of water every day.

CWasa currently supplies 391 million litres of water a day against the demand for 500 million litres, said officials.

According to the documents of CWasa, the organisation currently supplies water to 80,000 households, while the rest get their water from deep tube wells.

"Once the project is launched, there will be no more water crisis in the port city, at least until 2030," said AKM Fazlullah, managing director of CWasa.

The Karnaphuli Water Supply Project-2 began in June 2016.

Of the total project cost of Tk 4,489.15 crore, Japan International Cooperation Agency is providing Tk 2,800.92 crore, while the government is providing Tk 1,665.16 crore and CWasa Tk 23.7 crore.

The project has been implemented through three packages. Intake and

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

An aerial view of the water treatment plant, which will raise the total production to 500 litres per day from the existing 391 litres.

## Hadisur, gone too soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

"I helped him to become a marine engineer with my life savings. My wife and I are both sick. With him gone, who will take care of our two little boys?"

This is what Abdur Razzak, father of Hadisur Rahman -- the naval engineer who was killed in a missile strike on Bangladeshi ship "Banglar Samridhhi" in Ukraine on March 2 -- had to say, after Hadisur was laid to rest next to his grandparents' graves in Barguna yesterday morning.

He was buried at the family graveyard of his village home in Betagi upazila's Hosnabad around 11:00am.

About 5,000 people attended his namaz-e-janaza.

Hadisur was the second of four children and the only earner in the family. Among the two younger



brothers, Md Tareq is a fourth-year student of Patuakhali Government College and Golam Mawla Prince a first-year student of Kabi Nazrul Government College, Dhaka.

Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, lawmaker of Barguna-1 constituency, visited Hadisur's house yesterday morning.

He provided financial assistance to the bereaved family and assured that the brothers will get jobs.

## SWADHINATA PADAK 10 individuals, 1 institution to be awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has picked 10 individuals and one institution for this year's Swadhinata Padak (Independence Award), for their outstanding contributions to the country.

Six recipients -- Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury, Col Khandoker Nazmul Huda (posthumous), Abdul Jalil, Siraj Uddin Ahmed, Md Sohiuddin Biswas (posthumous), Sirajul Haque (posthumous) -- have been named for their contributions to the Liberation War, said a notification of the Cabinet Division yesterday.

Prof Dr Konok Kanti Borua and Prof Dr Md Kamrul Islam will be awarded for their contributions in the medicine sector; Md Amir Hamza for literature; and Mainul Hossain for architecture, it added.

Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute will receive the award in the research and training category.

## 18yrs in guise of journo to avoid 17yrs in prison

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Name changed. Papers faked. And a deception of 18 years. That is how it was for Mohammad Iqbal Hossain (52).

A fugitive sentenced to 17 years in prison, Iqbal changed his name and address in his NID card and birth certificate, after being accused in an arms and robbery case in 2004 under Dhaka's Sutrapur Police Station.

To avoid the sentence, he has been in hiding for 18 years, disguising himself as an online journalist. All this came to the fore when Munshiganj police arrested him yesterday. Iqbal is the son of late Abul Hossain, former UP chair of Dulihata village in Tongibari, said police.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Beat policing making villages safer: IGP

First-ever graphic novel on beat policing launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's goal to transform villages into cities can only be achieved by ensuring security, and police have ensured that through beat policing, IGP Benazir Ahmed said yesterday.

Police are now scattered across villages, and so, crimes in the country have come down to a great extent, Benazir said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the first-ever graphic novel "Dunjeyer Diary" and an animated film series at

Bangladesh Police Auditorium in Rajarbagh. The IGP said such mediums can reach people very quickly. "A perfect example of this is the cartoon character 'Meena'."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur				
01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping.		
02.	Agency	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.		
03.	Procuring entity name	Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.		
04.	Procuring entity code	-		
05.	Procuring entity district	Rangpur.		
06.	Invitation for	Lot-1 Installation of Life boat davit with basement construction work. Lot-2 Re-tender for 550 KVA Standby Diesel Generator Set; Lot-3 Re-tender for Supply of furniture goods. Lot-4 Supply and installation of equipment and other accessories of modern chemistry lab. Lot-5 Supply and installation of a PABX and other necessary accessories. Lot-6 Interior design of commandant room. Lot-7 Sound proof Interior design of conference room. Lot-8 Interior design of library, supply book shelf and incorporation of e-library. Lot-9 Supply and installation of desktop computer. Lot-10 Supply and installation of submersible multistage centrifugal pump with test boring. Lot-11 Supply of Mechanical and Electrical lab instrument. Lot-12 Supply of Reading Books. Lot-13 Supply of Electrical Equipment & Others. Lot-14 Supply of equipment of Basic Model Course as per sample.		
07.	Invitation Ref. No.	18.26.8576.001.99.003.2021-22		
08.	Date	15.03.2022		
09.	Procurement method code	National Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
10.	Budget & source of fund	GOB.		
11.	Development partner if applicable	N/A.		
12.	Project/programme code	N/A.		
13.	Project/programme name	N/A.		
14.	Tender Package No.	Package No. OTM 03/2021-22		
15.	Tender package name	As mentioned at serial No. 6 and in the Tender schedule.		
16.	Tender publication date	On 16.03.2022		
17.	Tender last selling date	05.04.2022 (1200 hrs) or before.		
18.	Tender closing date and time	07.04.2022 at 12:00 Noon.		
19.	Tender opening date and time	07.04.2022 on or after 12:30pm.		
20.	Name and address of the office for selling tender documents	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur.		
21.	Name and address of the office for opening tender documents	Chairman, Tender Opening Committee, Office of the Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur.		
22.	Name and address of the offices for receiving tender documents	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur.		
23.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur, Date 30.03.2022, Time 11:00am.		
24.	Eligibility of tenderer	All eligible persons/contractors/firms who have fulfilled the qualification criteria stipulated in the tender data sheet and other conditions of the tender documents with experience.		
25.	Brief description of goods or works	As mentioned at Serial No. 6 and in the Tender Schedule.		
26.	Brief description of related services	As mentioned at Serial No. 6 and in the Tender Schedule.		
27.	Tender document price	Taka 1000.00 (one thousand) non-refundable DD/PO in favour of the Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur (Drawable from Sonali Bank, Pirganj Branch), Rangpur, is to be submitted		
28.	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security (DD/PO, refundable)
29.	Lot-1	Installation of Life boat davit with basement construction work	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur	Tk. 20,000.00
30.	Lot-2	Re-tender for 550 KVA Standby Diesel Generator Set	-Do-	Tk. 1,20,000.00
31.	Lot-3	Re-tender for supply of furniture goods	-Do-	Tk. 80,000.00
32.	Lot-4	Supply and installation of equipment and other accessories of modern chemistry lab	-Do-	Tk. 10,000.00
33.	Lot-5	Supply and installation of a PABX and other necessary accessories	-Do-	Tk. 50,000.00
34.	Lot-6	Interior design of commandant room	-Do-	Tk. 20,000.00
35.	Lot-7	Sound proof Interior design of conference room	-Do-	Tk. 40,000.00
36.	Lot-8	Interior design of library, supply bookshelf and incorporation of e-library	-Do-	Tk. 50,000.00
37.	Lot-9	Supply and installation of desktop computer	-Do-	Tk. 30,000.00
38.	Lot-10	Supply and installation of submersible multistage centrifugal pump with test boring	-Do-	Tk. 30,000.00
39.	Lot-11	Supply of Mechanical and Electrical lab instrument	-Do-	Tk. 30,000.00
40.	Lot-12	Supply of Reading Books (Original)	-Do-	Tk. 40,000.00
41.	Lot-13	Supply of Electrical Equipment & others	-Do-	Tk. 15,000.00
42.	Lot-14	Supply of equipment of Basic Model Course as per sample	-Do-	Tk. 30,000.00
43.	Name of official inviting tender	Capt Md. Shafiqul Islam Sarker (G), psc, BN.		
44.	Designation of official inviting tender	Commandant		
45.	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur.		
46.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Rangpur, Pirganj, Rangpur, Ph: 01711-121732, Email: commandantbmar@gmail.com		
47.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Project Director Upgradation of Existing Plant Quarantine Laboratory at Central Packing House to International Standard Project Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Room No.-723, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Rear Building Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215		
Ref. No.:	84	Date: 16.03.2022
1.	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Agriculture
2.	Agency	Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
3.	Procuring Entity name	The Project Director, Upgradation of Existing Plant Quarantine Laboratory at Central Packing House to International Standard Project (UPOQ/LAB)
4.	Procuring Entity Code	224345600
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6.	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Well experienced reputed Architectural Engineering Consulting Firm.
7.	EOI Ref. No. & Date	Memo no. 12.01.0000.988.07.013.21.84, 16.03.2022
KEY INFORMATION		
8.	Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
9.	Budget and source of fund	GOB
10.	Development Partner	Not Applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11.	Project Code	224345600
12.	Project Name	Upgradation of Existing Plant Quarantine Laboratory at Central Packing House to International Standard Project.
13.	EOI Publication Date	16.03.2022
14.	EOI Closing Date and Time	31.3.2022 at 12:00 pm.
15.	EOI Submission Place	Office of the Project Director, Upgradation of Existing Plant Quarantine Laboratory at Central Packing House to International Standard Project, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Room No.-723, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Rear Building, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
16.	Brief Description of the Assignment	i. The main task of the consulting firm is to perform to Site investigation, Architectural and structural and interior design, plumbing design, electrical and gas line design based on biosafety guidelines. Preparation of Tender document, BCO, full time supervision and monitoring of construction works of Vertical Extension of Western Part of 2nd Floor into 5 laboratory space, and repair & renovation of existing laboratory, modification of existing conference room to laboratory, shifting of conference room materials to another room of the same floor at Central Pack House of Shyampur in Dhaka Project (Architectural and structural design, plumbing design, electrical design) at Shyampur, Dhaka. Non residential building repairing, laboratory repair and established, HVAC system, central pack house repair, and establishment, and central pack house extension with road and other construction. The implementation period will be completed on 30 June 2024. ii. The works to be executed in the existing Central Packing House campus at Shyampur, Dhaka.
17.	Required Qualification & Experience	Should have minimum 15 (Fifteen) years experiences in similar works, availability of appropriate experience and professional qualifications among applicant's staff & resource to carry out the assignment & financial capability. A brochure should be submitted by the applicants summarizing their facilities and areas of expertise describing the performance of similar activities.
18.	Other Details	1. A short resume/CV of the key staffs/sponsor's that plays key role of the firm architect, civil engineer, electrical, mechanical and maintenance eng. The CV to be supported with recent passport size photo (Photocopy not accepted), last academic certificate, professional membership certificate & latest use cell phone number. 2. Statement of salary with all indication of one monthly salary sheet to be submitted. 3. The document of the firm's defining its constitutional, legal valid registration status, power of attorney. 4. Commercial license & VAT registration certificate renewed up to 2019-20 & Income tax clearance certificate up to last 3 (Three) year. 5. The consultant must have experience in building construction all over Bangladesh. The consultant should submit list of the project completed during last 10 (ten) years and list of work in hand. Project Completion Certificate and work in hand certificate should be accompanied with respective work order and agreement duly signed by the procuring entity (Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies). All papers must be attested by first class gazetted govt. officer.
19.	Number of Firm/Company	None
20.	Duration of Consultancy	Project Period
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
21.	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Dr. Jagot Chand Malaker
22.	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Project Director
23.	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Project Director, Upgradation of Existing Plant Quarantine Laboratory at Central Packing House to International Standard Project, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Room No.-723, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Rear Building, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215
24.	Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	Cell: 01715004000, E-mail: pqwlab521@gmail.com
25.	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs	

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(Dr. Jagot Chand Malaker)  
Project Director,  
pqwlab521@gmail.com

## 30m under Covid lockdown in China

AFP, Beijing

Nearly 30 million people were under lockdown across China yesterday, as surging virus cases prompted the return of mass tests and hazmat-suited health officials to streets on a scale not seen since the start of the pandemic. China reported 5,280 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, more than double the previous day's tally, as the highly transmissible Omicron variant spread across a country that has stuck tightly to a zero-Covid strategy.

## Russian TV protester faces 10 days in prison

AFP, Moscow

A Russian journalist who protested Moscow's military action in Ukraine during a prime-time news broadcast on state TV was in court yesterday, facing 10 days in jail for the demonstration. Marina Ovsyannikova, a state television employee who barged onto the set of Russia's most-watched evening news broadcast holding a poster, went on trial for breaching protest laws, as a Moscow court representative told AFP. She pleaded not guilty. The poster, clearly visible for a few seconds, read: "No war, stop the war, don't believe the propaganda, they are lying to you here." Ukraine's President Zelensky also praised her for "telling the truth". But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called her actions an act of hooliganism.



A gunman fires into the air during the funeral of 16-year-old Palestinian Nader Rayan who was killed by Israeli forces, at the Balata camp near the northern city of Nablus, yesterday. Israeli troops killed two Palestinians in separate shootings in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## POSSIBLE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN MYANMAR UN cites 'clear indications'

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday denounced mass killings in Myanmar and accused the military of possible war crimes and crimes against humanity since last year's coup d'etat.

The UN human rights office urged the international community to take immediate steps to halt the spiral of violence in Myanmar.

In a report covering the period since the military seized power on February 1 last year, UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet's office said Myanmar's military and security forces had shown a flagrant disregard for human life.

It described how the military had bombarded

populated areas with air strikes and heavy weapons and deliberately targeted civilians, many of whom were shot in the head, burned to death, arbitrarily arrested, tortured or used as human shields.

"We have really been able to identify a pattern over the past year, which indicates that this is planned, coordinated, systemic attacks; that there are clear indications that they would amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity," UN human rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva. "This is the clearest yet indication of the commission of these crimes."

The report said that at least 1,600 people had been killed by security forces and their affiliates, while more than 12,500 people had been detained.

## Russia says received US guarantees on Iran nuclear deal

AFP, Moscow

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday said that Moscow had received written guarantees from Washington on its ability to trade with Tehran as part of ongoing talks to salvage the Iran nuclear deal. More than 10 months of talks in Vienna have brought major powers close to renewing the landmark 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on regulating Iran's nuclear programme. The negotiations halted after Moscow earlier this month demanded guarantees that Western sanctions imposed following its military incursion into Ukraine would not damage its trade with Iran. Meanwhile, Iran has arrested several suspected members of a spy network linked to arch foe Israel, foiling its attempt to sabotage a key underground nuclear facility, state media reported.

## Angry crowd tries to storm Sri Lanka president's office

AFP, COLOMBO

A huge crowd tried to storm the Sri Lankan president's seaside office yesterday as anger flared over runaway prices brought about by the worst financial crisis in the island's modern history. The cost of food, medicine and other essential goods have risen dramatically across the South Asian nation, with long queues outside petrol stations and rolling blackouts now the norm. Fuel costs have risen by nearly 80 percent since early February while food prices rose by a quarter according to January figures.

**Office of the Patiya Pourashava**  
Patiya, Chittagong  
Website: [www.patiyapourashava.gov.bd](http://www.patiyapourashava.gov.bd)

Memo No. 00.00.1561.033.09.2022-153 Dated: 14.03.2022

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

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

Tender ID	Scheme/Package name	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
673592	<b>PAT/MGSP/OM/2021-22/W-01</b> Repair & Mobile Maintenance of (a), Allai Abdul Hoqsub Bari Road by B.C at Ward No. 01, (b), Gopal Bari to Matrivander (Boalkhali Road connecting) by B.C & Kali Bari Road at Ward No. 02, (c) Bir Muktiyudda Samsuddin Ahmed Road (Boalkhali Road to Amir Vander connecting) & Afi Uddin Shah Mazar Road by B.C at Ward No. 03 (d) S. Alam Bari Road (Abul Masud Chw. Road to Mazer Ghata connecting) by B.C at Ward No. 04 under Patiya Pourashava, Chattogram.	30-March-2022 Time 17:00	31-March-2022 Time 15:00
673617	<b>PAT/MGSP/OM/2021-22/W-02</b> Repair & Mobile Maintenance of (a) Habibur Para Road (Anwara Road to S. Alam Bari connecting) by B.C Ward No. 05, (b) Teker Puni-Korol Road & South Ghata Road by BC at Ward No. 06, (c) Azizur Rahman Sow. Road (Bahuli-Mitra Para Road to Beribund Road connecting, Bahuli Hz. Shah Chand Aw. Mazar Road by B.C Ward No. 07, (d) Annadatta Road & Annadatta-BOC connecting road by B.C at Ward No. 08, (e) Failatoly-BOC connecting road by B.C at Ward No. 09 under Patiya Pourashava, Chattogram.	30-March-2022 Time 17:00	31-March-2022 Time 15:00

These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Executive Engineer  
Patiya Pourashava, Chittagong

GD-512

## AL to run with 14-party

FROM PAGE 12

Contacted, Maizbhandari told The Daily Star, "We wanted to know about the vote and the alliance. She [PM] told us that the next election will be contested under the alliance banner. The prime minister also said the alliance will neither be expanded nor shrunk."

According to meeting sources, the PM said it was not fair that some alliance leaders had criticised the government on different occasions.

She said while remaining in the ruling alliance, if they criticise the government for saving their parties, opposition parties could use it as a weapon against the alliance, the sources said.

Echoing the PM's views, some alliance leaders said many of their leaders became lawmakers and even ministers, and got

various benefits in the last 13 years because they were part of the alliance.

"So, making such criticisms is nothing but a double standard," said a leader wishing not to be named. Meeting sources said AL President Hasina asked alliance partners to strengthen their parties and she would help if needed.

The PM instructed the alliance leaders to remain on the streets with political programmes to counter opposition parties, said the sources.

Menon said when he wanted to know about the government's stance on Hefajat-e-Islam, the premier replied that she has to follow the policy of pacifying all and take everyone with her.

According to Menon, she also said they have to ensure that opposition forces cannot utilise

Hefajat for their own gains.

After the meeting, Menon told journalists, "We said the questions that remain between the government and the 14-party alliance need to be resolved. It is because we are not agreed on all matters. So if there is any anomaly, the issue comes up for discussion."

Asked whether they will contest the polls under the alliance banner if BNP boycotts the election, he said, "That was not discussed. We know that BNP will not participate in the polls."

The 14-party alliance was formed in 2008. The Jatiya Party joined it before the 2009 national election and formed the Awami League-led Grand Alliance.

The 14-party combine contested the 2014 and 2018 elections without Jatiya Party as an alliance member.

## 40 invited

FROM PAGE 12

Rounaq Jahan, Debapriya Bhattacharya and Prof Mustafizur Rahman, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumdar, former University Grants Commission chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, and educationist Prof Syed Anwar Husain, are also in the list of invitees.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Mohammed Farashuddin, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation Chairman Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, noted jurist Shahdeen Malik, Dhaka University professors Abul Barkat, MM Aksah, Amena Mohsin, Robaet Ferdous, SM Shameem Reza, Sheikh Hafizur Rahman and Kaberi Gayen, local government expert Tofail Ahmed, former foreign secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed, former ambassador AFM Golan Hossain, ex-secretaries

Abdul Latif Mandal and Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan have been invited to join talks.

The other invitees include Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekaruzzaman, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam and Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir.

Writer and columnist Mohiuddin Ahmad, Bangladesh Heritage Foundation Chairman Rahman, Leadership Studies Foundation Chairman MA Sayeed, strategy analyst Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdul Hafiz and Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong have been invited.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Mirpur PWD Division  
Darus Salam Road, Mirpur-1, Dhaka  
Phone No. 02-48040661, Fax No. 02-48040661  
[www.pwd.gov.bd](http://www.pwd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 25.36.2600.510.00.000.22-2230 Date: 14/03/2022

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Construction Work of Mirpur PWD Division, Dhaka.

Tender/ Proposal ID	Name of the work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
674003	Construction of Multistoried Residential Flat for Govt. Officers-Staffs at Paikpara, Mirpur, Dhaka (Sub-Head: Construction of Utility Buildings e.g.: Sub-Station/Service Building-1 & 2, Floating Club House, School Building, Community Block, Mosque, Mondir, Multipurpose Building including Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works, Construction of Boundary Wall, RCC Road, Footpath, Walkway, Parking, Ornamental Main Gate, Development of Pond & Water body with Construction of Jogging track, Ghat & Retaining Wall, Construction of RCC Dustbin, Pump house, Guard Room etc. financial year-2021-2022	17-Apr-2022 15:30	17-Apr-2022 16:30

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

Md. Saifuz Zaman  
Executive Engineer  
Mirpur PWD Division, Dhaka  
[ee\\_mirpr@pwd.gov.bd](mailto:ee_mirpr@pwd.gov.bd)

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## IO's negligence

FROM PAGE 12

Moreover, he did not submit any documents in favour of his statement nor did he provide any explanation as to why Noman was not included in the charge sheet.

The judge said Kabir Hossain was convicted as he held meetings with others to plan the attack and reced the area before launching it. Arman was jailed as he gave shelter to the attackers.

Jalal Uddin, a sub-inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station, filed a case against some unidentified people under the Anti-Terrorism Act a day after the blasts.

On October 16, 2016, Mohammad Shah Uddin Sheikh, an inspector of Detective Branch of Police, submitted a charge sheet against 10 people, including two juveniles, to Dhaka's Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

According to the case documents, Kabir, Arman and Zahid confessed to their involvement in the attack.

On May 31, 2017, a Dhaka court framed charges against eight accused in the case.

## Relations

FROM PAGE 12

human rights," he said, adding that there will be a second summit on democracy this year, where Bangladesh can get invited.

The comments come ahead of US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue to be held in Dhaka on March 20.

**Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University**  
Trishal, Mymensingh, Bangladesh

**Tender For Invitation**

Ref. No: JKKNIU/CL/BP/10/2018-19/610 Date: 13/03/2022

Ministry/Division:	Ministry of Education			
Agency:	University Grants Commission			
Procuring Entity Name:	Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Trishal, Mymensingh			
Procuring Entity District:	Mymensingh			
Invitation For:	JKKNIU/CL/BP/10/2018-19/610			
Invitation Ref No.:	JKKNIU/CL/BP/10/2018-19/610			
Date:	13/03/2022			
Procurement Method:	Open Tendering Method (National)			
Budget and Source of Funds:	Revenue Budget, GOB			
Tender Package No.:	G-1			
Tender Publication Date:	16/03/2022			
Tender Last Selling Date:	04/04/2022 at 2:30 pm			
Tender Closing Date and Time:	05/04/2022 at 12:00 noon			
Tender Opening Date and Time:	05/04/2022 at 12:30 PM			
Name & Addresses of the Offices :				
A. Selling Tender Document	Central Library, JKKNIU, Trishal, Mymensingh			
B. Receiving Tender Document	Administrative Building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, JKKNIU, Trishal, Mymensingh, up to 12:00 noon on 05/04/2022.			
C. Opening Tender Document :	Administrative Building 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, JKKNIU, Trishal, Mymensingh, at 12:30 noon on 05/04/2022.			
Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting (Optional):	Pre-tender meeting shall be held on 05/04/2022 at 12.10pm			
Tender Document Price:	Cash Taka 1000.00 ( One Thousand only)			
Eligibility and Qualification of Tender				
Enlisted to any Government / Semi-government / Autonomous Organization.				
Package No	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount (TK)	Duration / Period
G-1	Tender for the Procurement of Books	Administrative Building	50,000.00 Pay Order/Bank Draft in favor of Librarian, JKKNIU.	90 (Ninety) days from the date of Purchase order.
Name of Official Inviting Tender:		Sheik Md. Jalal Uddin		
Designation of Official Inviting Tender:		Librarian (In-Charge)		
Address of Official Inviting Tender:		Central Library, JKKNIU, Trishal, Mymensingh		
Contact details of Official Inviting Tender:		Mobile: +8801788499941; +8801673603792		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				

GD-508



# Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce & Industry



## Celebration of 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh-Germany Diplomatic Relations



Celebration-Cake Cutting. Ambassador of Germany H.E. Achim Tröster & Madam in center flanked by Board of Directors of BGCCI and Dignitaries



**H.E. Achim Tröster**  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dhaka



### Germany in Bangladesh: 50 years of Diplomatic Relationship

This year marks the 50 years of diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and Germany. In 1972, Germany was one of the first countries in Europe to recognize the People's Republic of Bangladesh. On 4 February 1972, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dhaka sent a Verbal Note to the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Bangladesh, which 11 months earlier had declared its independence from Pakistan. Over the past five decades, Bangladesh has achieved outstanding socio-economic development and Germany is delighted to contribute in the process. A strong pillar of our bilateral relationship remains the development cooperation in the areas of climate change, good governance, renewable energy and recently also for the Rohingyas and host communities.

**BGCCI is one of our partners that promote business between the two countries.**

Bangladesh, despite frequent natural poverty, has shown resilience and growth. The poverty rate has been halved since 2000 and it has one of the highest rates in Asia even during the Covid-19 pandemic. By 2026, Bangladesh will officially graduate to the status of a Least Developed Country (LDC), and by 2041, the country aims to become a high-income industrialized country (HIC). In order to meet the increased energy demand without harming the environment and climate, Germany supports Bangladesh's efforts to achieve a maximum coverage through renewable energies sharing the experience from our own transition to renewable energies.

being exposed to disasters and strong character for The poverty rate 2000 and it has one economic growth during the Covid-19 Bangladesh will

It is impressive what Bangladesh has achieved since independence. Germany is the largest trading partner of Bangladesh in Europe and the second largest globally. RMG exports to Germany in FY20-21 stood at \$5.95 billion as against \$6.97 billion in earnings from the US market. Currently, around 65 German companies are working in Bangladesh, particularly in the textile, transport, energy, logistics sectors and the building materials industry. In cooperation with the German company Veridos, Bangladesh has officially entered the era of e-Passports in 2020. BGCCI is one of our partners that promote business between the two countries. Since the beginning of bilateral development cooperation in the 1970s, Germany has provided more than 3 billion EUR in bilateral development cooperation projects in Bangladesh. A special focus is put on improving labor conditions and environmental standards in the Ready Made Garment (RMG) sector. Besides, Germany has helped Bangladesh fight the challenges of Covid-19 by donating vaccines, ventilators and medical masks. Germany also extends its support to the humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh, investing more than 53 million EUR to support the Rohingya refugees and the host communities since 2018. Besides, we are working together with our partners in the EU to find a political solution together with the UN.

The cultural and educational cooperation between Germany and Bangladesh dates back even before their diplomatic relationship. The cultural and educational cooperation is mainly channelled through the Goethe Institut Dhaka that facilitates exchange of literature, music, film, arts and ideas. The cultural and educational cooperation has significantly expanded with more students choosing Germany as their key destination for higher-studies.

After fifty years, the excellent relationship between Bangladesh and Germany continues to reach new heights with deeper and stronger cooperation. Due to its strategic location in the Indo-Pacific region and its growing importance as a strong political and economic actor, Bangladesh today is an important economic and political partner of Germany. We share the same values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and numerous international conventions, and we work together for a rule-based international order. Both Bangladesh and Germany are committed to democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. As we reflect on our close relationship on the 50th anniversary, it is evident that Germany will continue to remain a committed partner in Bangladesh's development journey in the years to come.

### Excerpts of Speeches at the Celebration



**Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP,**  
Hon'ble Minister of Bangladesh Foreign Affairs  
BGCCI is celebrating the 50th year of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Germany. I thank BGCCI for organizing this commemorative event. Germany recognized Bangladesh soon after our father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned from his captivity in Pakistan. This was a game-changer for the viability of a sovereign Bangladesh on the world map. I recall with deep gratitude the contributions of our respective leaderships in laying the foundation of our bilateral relations. Our bilateral engagement with Germany remained a constant which was boosted in the last twelve years, thanks to the personal rapport between our honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the immediate past German Chancellor Angela Merkel. We look forward to taking Bangladesh-Germany relations to further new heights during Chancellor Olaf Scholz's leadership. The relationship between our two countries will further develop including our trade, commerce, and investment.



**H.E. Achim Tröster**  
Ambassador of Germany in Bangladesh  
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh-Germany relations is a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. We are looking forward to the next fifty years of highly successful relations and also like to thank BGCCI for accompanying us today. BGCCI is playing a highly important role in building the relationship between both the country and I am looking forward to cooperating closely. Germany was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Bangladesh. We are proud to be a close partner and to have contributed to Bangladesh's remarkable achievements over the last 50 years. A strong pillar of our bilateral relationship remains the development cooperation in the areas of Climate Change, good governance, renewable energy, and the Rohingya issue. As we reflect on our close relationship on this special occasion, it is evident that Germany will continue to remain a committed partner in Bangladesh's development journey in the years to come.



**H.E. Mosharraf Hossain**  
Bangladesh Ambassador in Germany  
Germany was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Bangladesh. Both the country shares excellent bilateral relations. We have several projects in Bangladesh funded by the German organization GIZ. Germany is keen to support Bangladesh in the renewable energy sector. As Germany has a new government and our Honorable Prime Minister sent a felicitation letter to the new German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Germany is the second-largest trading partner of Bangladesh. Almost 16% of Bangladesh's Apparel exports are in Germany, other than that leather goods, frozen fish, other textile goods are exported to Germany. I am working on increasing German investment and trade in Bangladesh. I have met several federal offices in Germany, and I hope the Bangladesh-Germany friendship will last forever.



**Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin**  
Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office  
Bangladesh and Germany have the best of relations and there has been an increasing interaction in the world of trade and commerce. The German investment in Bangladesh is increasing day by day. I wish BGCCI all the very best and I hope that BGCCI will be able to help Bangladesh in further strengthening the relationship with Germany, particularly in the investment, trade, and commerce sectors.



**Md. Saiful Islam**  
President, MCCI  
Former President, BGCCI  
Bangladesh is progressing over the period of the last twelve years and the country is graduating from LDC to Middle Income Country. We feel excited about this graduation but at the same time, we are concerned that how we will be facing the challenges of graduation. The bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Germany has crossed the \$7 Billion landmarks. The balance of trade is in favor of Bangladesh but, we expect within three years' time if we have growth like this, we will attain a bilateral trade worth \$10 Billion.



**Abdul Muktadir**  
Chairman & MD, Incepta  
Chair of Committees, BGCCI  
BGCCI plays a very important role in bringing businesses of Bangladesh & Germany together. We are fortunate pharmaceuticals company based in Dresden, Germany. We also have a dedicated factory only for Germany in Bangladesh and all the medicines produced in that factory are sent to Germany and other European countries. We are trying to bridge Germany and Bangladesh doing business together. Bangladesh has a strong base for pharmaceuticals. In association with BGCCI and the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, we would like to arrange a forum where we would like to invite all the German manufacturers to come to Bangladesh and establish offices where we can get the spare parts and many other things that are required for a day-to-day basis. I urge the German leadership to come to Bangladesh and support us by providing high-quality equipment and, spares so that the transition time of machines becomes much faster and together businesses between Bangladesh and Germany will flourish.



**Thomas Hoffman**  
President, BGCCI  
The message was read by Sr. VP Tarun Patwary  
We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Bangladesh & Germany and the 20th Anniversary of BGCCI's formation. In the 50-year journey, our two countries have forged closer business cooperation. BGCCI provides an ideal platform for the promotion of bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Germany, which is continuously growing. I hope all the members of BGCCI will continue to play a proactive role to promote two-way Trade and Commerce between Bangladesh and Germany.



Ambassador of Germany H.E. Achim Tröster with Madam, Deputy Head of German Mission Ms. Constanza Zähringer with the BGCCI Board Members.



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# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Save consumers from scams and losses

### Govt should strengthen relevant bodies, uphold consumer rights

As consumer behaviour changes with a growing shift from traditional commerce to e-commerce amid inadequate regulatory response, people are increasingly getting the short end of the stick. Almost every day, reports of scams, manipulations and sufferings are hitting the newsstands, as the competent authorities struggle to keep up. This was again reflected in the theme of this year's World Consumer Rights Day—"Fair Digital Finance"—which calls for fair transactions and alterations in government policies in favour of consumers, as well as corporate behaviour towards the latter. As a report published in this daily shows, never before have these reforms been more urgent, given how widespread these illicit practices are.

The report paints a gloomy picture of the fate of the victims of e-commerce scams, saying that many may never get their money back. It shows how e-commerce platforms like Eorange, Evely, Sirajganjshop, Dhamaka Shopping, 24Tkt, Alesha Mart, Priyoshop.com, and Qloom—which built their business models around Ponzi schemes—swindled their customers, and now they have liabilities running into thousands of crores of taka. Each of these companies have many complaints against them, which remain undisposed to a large extent. Some of the outstanding money is said to be stuck in payment gateways. But it's nowhere near enough, and since these firms basically ran on empty pockets, the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) faces an impossible task of realising money that simply does not exist.

With the authorities unable or unwilling to offer a way out for the defrauded customers, their suffering may drag on for many days to come. This is the opposite of the vision for fair digital finance. True, customers, too, need to take responsibility for being defrauded in ways that, frankly, shouldn't be too unfamiliar by now. But the authorities, and indeed traders both traditional and digital, have a bigger role to play in establishing fairness and accountability.

The commerce ministry needs to take control of this situation. Just as e-commerce scams, market manipulations in traditional commerce leading to unusual price hikes are also on the rise. This shows a pathetic lack of preparation and oversight on the relevant authorities' part. The priority is to overhaul the financial intelligence unit and especially the DNCRP, which received a staggering 26,538 complaints related to online shopping from 2018 till last February, but failed to respond adequately because of a manpower crisis. These bodies should be able to properly handle market oversight needs, consumer complaints, and other product and service related concerns across the country. We need sustainable, future-proof reforms that can prevent scams and manipulations.

## We are entirely under electricity coverage!

### Now make power affordable for every citizen

THAT the government has brought 100 percent of the country's population under electricity coverage is truly an amazing achievement. Data from the Power Division shows that our installed power generation capacity rocketed to 25,514MW from 4,942MW in 2009, while the maximum power production rose to 13,792MW, from 3,268MW 13 years ago. According to the World Bank, in South Asia, Bangladesh is now ahead of India and Pakistan, who have brought 98 percent and 74 percent of their population under electricity coverage, respectively.

Back in 2009, reportedly only 47 percent of Bangladesh's population had access to power. The government deserves praise for bringing the rest of the population—more than half—under the electricity network in just 13 years. According to the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, the government has taken electricity transmission lines to even the remotest areas of the country. This means that all the relevant agencies have worked efficiently to achieve this feat.

While we commend the government for achieving this milestone, we would also like to remind them of the challenges that lie ahead—that it must make electricity affordable to all citizens of the country, and the supply should also be uninterrupted. It is true that electricity has been taken to the people in the remotest of areas, but can the people living in those areas afford it? According to a BIDS study, 10-15 percent of the population could not access electricity in many areas despite having electricity coverage, due to the rising costs. Transmission and distribution systems across the country must also be upgraded to minimise system loss and ensure smooth supply.

Bangladesh currently has an overproduction of electricity, with more than 40 percent excess power generation capacity. In fact, the government is paying Tk 5,000 crore every year to private rental and quick rental power plants as capacity charges for the surplus electricity, according to the Bangladesh Power Development Board, which means that over the last 10 years, Tk 50,000 crore of taxpayers' money has been wasted. Moreover, we still rely on expensive fuels for power generation, which increases the production cost. This eventually burdens the consumers with increased prices.

Most importantly, the government must consider moving to renewable energy to cut reliance on fossil-fuel-based power generation in the coming days, which is unsustainable from both environmental and economic perspectives. While the world is moving away from coal-fired power plants, Bangladesh ranked sixth globally for the amount of coal usage in 2019, according to Global Energy Monitor. So, achieving 100 percent electricity coverage will only be meaningful if the issues mentioned above are properly addressed.



# Dhaka's abstention in Ukraine vote is an anomaly



BLACK, WHITE AND GREY

Ali Riaz is a distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University in the US, and a non-resident senior fellow of the Atlantic Council.

ALI RIAZ

BANGLADESH'S abstention in the vote on the Ukraine crisis at the United Nations' emergency special session on March 3, 2022 deserves much more scrutiny than it has received thus far. The resolution condemned Russia's "military operation," describing it as an act of "aggression," criticised the recognition of an independent state of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine, and called for immediate withdrawal of the Russian troops from Ukraine. Of the 191 countries, 141 voted in favour of the resolution. Thirty-five countries abstained from voting, and four countries, including Russia, voted against the resolution. Bangladesh was one of the four South Asian countries that abstained—others were India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Four other South Asian countries, however, voted in favour of the resolution: Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, and Afghanistan.

Many in Bangladesh say it's consistent with the country's foreign policy, and that the vote was a continuation of its earlier positions in the UN. Such an assertion echoes the government's claim, but one should ask: is it consistent? What do Bangladesh's past votes in the UN indicate? The premise of the adopted resolution is the question of a country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. What stance Bangladesh has taken on these issues should be examined and analysed to understand whether this vote is a departure from the precedents.

**What did Bangladesh say?**

On February 26, 2022, two days after the Russian aggression began, the Bangladesh foreign ministry issued a statement expressing "grave concern" at the situation in Ukraine, calling for immediate cessation of the ongoing hostilities and military operations in the Ukrainian territory. The statement further said, "Bangladesh believes the obligations stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations regarding prohibition of use of force, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of international disputes must be complied with in all circumstances, without exception."

Another version of the statement was presented at the UNGA emergency special session by Monwar Hossain, deputy chief of mission of Bangladesh to the UN. Although Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen was in New York, he didn't attend the session.

Since then, the government has provided several explanations of Bangladesh's decision to abstain. The first explanation was provided by the foreign minister in an interview to a Bangla TV channel in New York. "We are against all wars. We want a peaceful solution to this problem at the initiative of the UN secretary-general," he said. He further added that, as a small country, all wars and international crises are against the national interests of Bangladesh (Deutsche Welle, March 3, 2022). Later, he also said that Bangladesh had abstained from voting because it wanted peace.

The second explanation came from Planning Minister MA Mannan. He said, "We did not vote on the Russia-Ukraine

issue keeping in mind the interests of the country." The planning minister said Bangladesh was a member of the UN, not an employee. "We will decide whether or not to vote... We did not vote on the Russia-Ukraine issue, mainly considering the interests of the country. We were not alone; many other states have taken a similar position and refrained from voting" (*Jugantor*, March 5, 2022). On March 6, the foreign minister said, "If you read the draft resolution, you will see that it is not to stop the war. It's for someone to blame. We want peace. We don't want a war to be fought anywhere" (*Prothom Alo*, March 6, 2022).

What these ministers did not mention was that Bangladesh's position on this resolution was not consistent with the position the country adopted in the past at the UN on the question of territorial integrity and sovereignty of small countries. Bangladesh's votes at the Security Council and the General Assembly are quite contrary to their claims.

**Bangladesh on sovereignty at UNSC**

Bangladesh was a member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) in 1979, 1980, 2000 and 2001. One can look at the votes on the question of territorial integrity and sovereignty during these periods. In 1979, in the wake of the border dispute between China and Vietnam, resolution was moved on the situation in Southeast Asia and its implications for international peace and security. The Sino-Vietnam conflict ensued after Vietnam began a military invasion in Cambodia. On January 15, 1979, Bangladesh, along with six other countries, moved a resolution condemning Vietnam's military operation in Cambodia. The resolution was not adopted due to a veto by the Soviet Union. On March 13 the same year, Indonesia and four countries moved a resolution for an end to the war and for the territorial integrity of Cambodia and Vietnam. Bangladesh voted in favour of this resolution, which was also not adopted because of the Soviet Union's veto. It should be recalled that at that time, the Vietnamese government was backed by the Soviet Union, while China backed the Cambodian government.

In 1980, the UNSC voted twice on issues like these. One was on the issue of Afghanistan; the other was on the question of Palestinian independence. On January 6, 1980, Bangladesh joined hands with four other countries to introduce a resolution condemning the Soviet Union's invasion in Afghanistan. The resolution said that Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence had been violated. This resolution failed to pass, thanks to the Soviet veto. The Palestinian people's right to freedom was put up for vote on April 26, 1980, with a Tunisian proposed resolution. Despite Bangladesh's positive vote, it was not adopted due to the US veto. The vote on Afghanistan passed on December 20, 2001, which Bangladesh supported, favouring the integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan. An analysis of Bangladesh's vote in the Security Council demonstrates that Bangladesh was not swayed by the list of who was voting in favour, or how the global powers were casting their votes; instead, Bangladesh had taken a principled stance.

**Bangladesh at UNGA emergency special sessions**

Bangladesh became a member of the UN on September 17, 1974. The first emergency special session of the General Assembly that the country attended was the sixth in 1980. Since then, Bangladesh has joined

six special emergency sessions of the General Assembly—the sixth session (1980) through the 11th session (2022).

The issue of sovereignty appeared in the sixth session on January 14, 1980 on the Afghanistan question. Bangladesh voted in favour of the resolution, against the Soviet Union; India abstained. The seventh session was about Palestine: from July 1980 to September 1982, there were several meetings where Bangladesh voted in favour of all the resolutions adopted on the issue of Palestinian independence, Israeli aggression, settlement, etc. The US has always vetoed these resolutions.

The eighth session (1981) dealt with the issue of Namibia's independence. The Security Council could not pass a resolution of condemnation and sanctions against South Africa because of the veto from three countries, including the US. The resolution against the occupation of South Africa in Namibia not only called for sanctions, but also expressed support for the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), a pro-independence party. The resolution called on countries and international organisations around the world to help SWAPO, and even to provide military assistance. This is worth highlighting because the reason for Bangladesh's objection to the Ukraine resolution was that it was not only a censure motion, but it was also "blame." The Namibia resolution blamed the perpetrator, South Africa, in an unequivocal manner. No country voted against the resolution; 25 countries, including the US, abstained.

In 1982, the ninth special emergency session was against Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. While 21 countries voted against the resolution, Bangladesh remained in favour of the resolution that was adopted by the UNGA. The 10th special emergency session was held in a staggered manner from 1997 to 2018. Bangladesh stood firmly on condemning Israel's attacks and settlements in east Jerusalem, Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories; Bangladesh's support for the sovereignty of the Palestinians has never wavered.

The votes cast by Bangladesh in the sixth to tenth emergency special sessions of the UNGA had three features; first, they favoured the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any country; second, Bangladesh voted with the majority of countries; third, Bangladesh was not influenced by the votes of the global or regional powers. The first and third characteristics of Bangladesh's vote were similar when it was a member of the Security Council. The fact that resolutions co-sponsored by Bangladesh were vetoed is a testimony to the independent and principled stance of the country. In the 11th session, Bangladesh's vote on the Ukraine question is neither with the majority, nor the principled stance it has espoused for decades.

**What will happen in the future?**

The conflict in Ukraine will not end soon. It is not clear what Vladimir Putin's long-term goal is, but it's easily understandable that Russia is determined to control Ukraine for years to come. On the other hand, the US, Europe, and other countries will continue to press for an end to the ongoing war and the Russian presence. Therefore, the Ukraine issue will reappear on the UN agenda in the future in various ways; more resolutions will be voted on. Bangladesh will have to decide whether to cast a principled vote as it used to in the past, or base its decision on other considerations.

# Celebrating DU centenary in my own way



SHAHNOOR WAHID

Shahnoor Wahid is a senior journalist.

WINTER always lingers delightfully on the Dhaka University campus. The fallen leaves of myriad colours underneath the tall trees create a surreal montage against the green grass. And the puff of air still carrying a little bit of chill has stories to tell—if you care to pause for a while and listen.

When I reached the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) last Friday, it was already late in the afternoon. The setting sun painted the trees and buildings with a crimson tint of ethereal splendour. In fact, I came to the campus to feel the air, to smell the leaves, and to touch the grass to celebrate the centenary of Dhaka University in my own way.

As I stood in front of the TSC after decades, a flurry of wind came from nowhere and ruffled up the leaves of the trees around me. The trees, enjoying a lazy afternoon slumber, woke up and started to sway in excitement. I looked up. "Ah, my friends, so you recognised me after all these years!" I waved at the trees and shouted gleefully. "Yes, yes, we recognise you... it's just like yesterday to us... you were so young and strong those days. But we can see you are frail now, slow in gait and struggling to breathe... your eyes have lost the sparkle... your skin is pale... what happened?" The trees sounded concerned. I smiled. "Oh, nothing; it is old age, my friends—an inevitability for staying around too long, perhaps. A predicament of sort of the human kind, you can say. You see, with age, you trees get beautiful, taller and stronger. But with us humans, it's different. Old age robs us of our youthful

sprints; our eyesight begins to go and our dreams begin to get hazy. We start to go downhill with all sorts of ailments. All our beautiful memories also start to fade away. Anyway, I am happy to see you tree families looking healthy and enjoying the breeze."

I waved goodbye to the tall trees of TSC



ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

and started to walk towards the Salimullah Muslim Hall (SM Hall), which used to be my hall. As I walked past the residence of the vice-chancellor, I heard some noise in the distance. I stopped on the track. That rumbling noise! What is it? Thousands of feet on the road—a hundred voices chanting slogans! Then I saw them. A big rally of students with placards in hands, coming towards where I was standing. I was transfixed. But the rally passed by

and went towards the TSC. Placards read "Down with the military rule," "Must accept Six Points," "We want democracy." I followed the rally for a while, but it seemed no one noticed me. I turned back to go to the SM Hall, but saw another, even bigger rally coming towards me. I stood in one corner to allow it to pass. This time,

continued to act brutally on peaceful congregations. They mentioned the killing of a student named Asad in Mohammadpur by the police that very morning. I was more confused. Why are they talking about Asad, who was killed in police firing in 1969? Then I heard the whistles and the sound of boots running on the ground. Dozens of policemen came from all directions and started to beat up the students in the rally. Students tried to run towards safety, but many of them got arrested. To my utter surprise, this time also, no one paid any attention to me, even though I was standing out in the open. Soon, the sound of slogans became louder and louder throughout the campus in a maddening crescendo.

I tried to catch my breath and resumed walking towards Jagannath Hall. It was at this point that I heard the sound of gunfire. Deafening sound of incessant firing from heavy machine guns filled the air. I could hear the rumbling sound of heavy army trucks on the campus. Sound of blazing guns came from the teachers' quarters. I ran towards Jagannath Hall, but could not go far. The hall was surrounded by army trucks and Pakistani soldiers were running through the floors, shooting at unarmed students in a devilish frenzy. I watched from behind a tree as they dragged the dead students out onto the ground and dumped them in a big ditch on the field. Lord Almighty! Whatever is happening? Where am I?

Like a flashback on celluloid, everything that happened on the campus went past my inner eye as I stood shivering under a tree. Uncontrollable rage overpowered my entire being, as I recalled how the Pakistanis killed our beloved professors, students and staff members on the campus. I tried to console myself saying that no nation that kills teachers can sustain and prosper.

It was almost midnight when I stood up from where I was sitting. I hailed a rickshaw and asked him to take me towards Birdem. The trees were fast asleep.

# Adaptation strategies must be bottom-up



## POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SALEEMUL HUQ

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

There are two major outcomes and messages on adaptation to climate change that have been mentioned in the recently published Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of Working Group II (WG2) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The first one says that the impacts of climate change are evident all around the world—in both poor countries and rich—necessitating a much enhanced investment in adaptation measures to be better prepared going forward.

The second message, which did not receive as much attention, was that of the hundreds of adaptation activities and investments that have been undertaken, a significant number either did not help or made things worse.

While there are many reasons for these past failures, a major reason is that almost

banks, bilateral donor agencies and even a number of countries have adopted. The main principles include: consulting local communities before designing the interventions to be funded; involving those communities in implementing the plans; and having the communities themselves monitor and assess the effectiveness of such investments.

However, merely signing a pledge is not enough, if the practice doesn't change on the ground. Hence the annual Gobeshona conference on Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience has become a venue for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the financiers and agencies supporting adaptation around the world.

The Gobeshona conference on LLA and Resilience, which was held online for the first time in 2021, has now become a global event where the institutions who have signed the LLA principles will be invited each year to share what they are doing in practice, and particularly bring the local adapters from around the world to share their experiences. Before, the conference was held in person, in Bangladesh.

The second annual Gobeshona conference on LLA is also scheduled to

champions for COP26 and COP27 will be interviewed. We will share the messages from the local adapters with the high-level climate champions and ask them how they can ensure that these messages actually influence the global decisions that are going to be made at COP27.

This annual conference, hosted and organised by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development

(ICCCAD), is now aimed at becoming a standing item in terms of monitoring and evaluating the performance of the national and international agencies that are supporting adaptation activities around the world. It is expected to become as important an event as the UN climate summit. It will be able to track and monitor the actual implementations of LLA on the ground.



Local adaptation priorities, such as conserving and using crop biodiversity, can help manage climate change impacts in vulnerable countries around the world. SOURCE: IIED

all those investments for adaptation were done in a top-down way, where experts came up with the plans and the local communities, who were the supposed beneficiaries or even targets of this support, were merely made to implement what they were told to.

This was not only an extremely disempowering manner of dealing with the local communities, but also a mistake to ignore their own lived experiences and the experiential knowledge that they had on how best to adapt to the climate change hazards they had been facing.

This has led to a global movement to promote what is now called Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), and there are eight principles that over 50 global institutions, multilateral development

be held online, from March 27 to April 1, with a focus on connecting the local adapters to global decision-makers, keeping an eye on the upcoming 27th UN Climate Change Conference (Conference of Parties—COP27), set to be held in Egypt in November 2022.

The opening session on March 27 will be hosted by Bangladesh, and there are over 80 sessions already scheduled over the next six days. These sessions are set to be hosted and organised by different organisations and groups from around the world, and participants can join any sessions they wish to attend online—completely free of cost. Each session is aimed at finding a message for the upcoming COP27, and in the final session on April 1, the high-level climate

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Sl. No.	Name of the items	Nature of e-Tenders	Date of publishing e-Tenders	Last date and time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for opening of e-Tender	Value/set of e-Tender Schedule (non-refundable)
1.	Supply of 22,000 Kgs UV Curing Varnish with photoinitiator for 100 & 200 Taka Bank Note.	International e-tender	16.03.2022	20.04.2022 upto 11.00 A.M	20.04.2022 at 11.15 A.M	Tk. 5000.00
2.	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 02 (two) Double Head Sheet Counting Machines.	International Re-e-tender	16.03.2022	20.04.2022 upto 11.00 A.M	20.04.2022 at 11.15 A.M	Tk. 1000.00

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(Rashid Ahmed)  
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)  
Phone: 88-02-9205103.

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# CHOKED BY 2

## shipbreaking yards

Once 50ft wide, Sonaichhari canal now a narrow stream

**“**  
**We’ve already visited the area and found that both shipyards grabbed the canal by filling it. In addition, both changed the leased land’s shape without permission. We have already sent an inspection report to the high-ups, mentioning that both shipyards violated the environmental law and action should be taken against the grabbers**

Md Fardoush Anwar  
deputy director of DoE  
(Chattogram)

SIFAYET ULLAH

Not so long ago, Sonaichhari canal, which is linked directly to the Bay of Bengal, used to be a vibrant 50-foot wide water body.

However, over the last three years, the canal has not only lost its lustre, it has also fallen victim to mindless grabbing, especially by two ship-breaking yards at Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram.

This has also affected the canal’s

the canal turned narrow.

Seiko shipyard has filled the canal by dumping soil and Jiri Subadar has taken possession of the site by erecting various iron and cement pillars along the canal, collectively filling almost 35 feet from their respective sides.

According to a report by Survey of Bangladesh, the canal was flowing through the Bangladesh Survey (BS) lines 185, 187, 182 and 192. The land office of Sitakunda leased

by the grabbers.”

On February 8, assistant commissioner (land) of Sitakunda upazila submitted a report to the DoE over the encroachment. This correspondent obtained a copy of the report.

The DoE officials said Jiri Subedar Steel and Seiko Steel have grabbed the canal without taking any permission.

“We’ve already visited the area and found that both shipyards grabbed the canal by filling it. In addition, both changed the leased land’s shape without permission,” said Md Fardoush Anwar, deputy director of DoE (Chattogram).

“We have already sent an inspection report to the high-ups, mentioning that both shipyards violated the environmental law and action should be taken against the grabbers,” he said.

He further said notices have been served to both yards for a hearing.

Contacted, Naem Ahmed, managing director of Jiri Subedar Shipyard, said they leased the land 20 years ago and didn’t grab the canal.

Asked about changing shape of the leased land, he claimed, “Shape of the land hasn’t changed, as we’ve built a wall to protect it.”

Contacted, Nazim Uddin, managing director of Seiko Shipbreaking Yard, said, “The canal wasn’t on the BS record, so we filled it. However, as per Sitakunda UNO’s direction, we’ll withdraw our boundary from the canal.”

Sonaichhari canal was included in 1969 master plan of Chattogram Development Authority (CDA). The canal is also in the Revisional Survey (RS), said Aliur Rahman, general secretary of Movement to Protect Rivers and Canals of Chattogram.

“We held a human chain to protect the canal, but the administration isn’t taking any action against the occupiers,” he said.

Md Shahadat Hossain, UNO of Sitakunda, said “The BS survey didn’t mention the canal, so both shipyards filled it up. This is a natural water body, so this canal will be recovered from the occupier.”



navigability, hampering the livelihoods of 300 fishers who depend on the water body.

Both the yards, Seiko Steel (Darus Salam Enterprise) and Jiri Subadar Steel Mills, have encroached the canal from two sides, right under the nose of Sitakunda Upazila Administration and Department of Environment (DoE).

Local fishers alleged that they’re facing problems while moving with their boats as

out a 10.47-acre land around the canal to both the shipyards. But they grabbed the natural canal, as it wasn’t mentioned in the survey.

Visiting Sonaichhari area recently, this correspondent found the canal was around 15-foot wide.

Bijoy Das, a fisher of Sonaichhari Jelepara, said, “We’re facing problems as our boats often get stuck along the boundaries put up

## Furniture for all seasons

**Bolir Haat a go-to destination to buy quality products for cheap**

ARUN BIKASH DEY

If one takes a right turn from Bahaddarhat intersection in the port city, they’ll find Khaza Road, and after walking further down the road they would reach Bolir Haat, one of the largest furniture hubs in the country.

Bolir Haat has around 10,000 furniture makers (carpenters), working in around 500 shops. Of the makers, most are born into the profession, following footsteps of their ancestors.

The haat became the most popular place for furniture buyers, as they can find quality items for cheap. However, this whole thing didn’t happen overnight. It took a long time, traders said, adding that the furniture hub has been satisfying people of all strata, without compromising on quality, for decades.

The area’s fame has now even reached overseas. Members of many families in the area work in Malaysia or the Middle East for their expertise as carpenters, said locals. Traders said furniture priced between Tk 4,000 and Tk 15 lakh are being sold in this hub. Well-off people as well as those from low- and middle-income groups go there to shop.

While visiting the market recently, it was seen that both male and female workers were busy with their work in different factories.

Md Ayub, a worker, earlier said they had to craft furniture manually, but nowadays, they do it with machinery. “It saves both time and labour.”

Md Shah, another furniture maker, said people mostly go there to order furniture on the occasions of marriage ceremonies.

Ali Azgar, a banker visiting the hub, said, “I’ve heard good things about this place from my relatives. So, I’ve come here to order furniture for my daughter’s marriage ceremony.”

Asked how they sell quality furniture at affordable rates, Md Hasan, manager of Rangdhanu Furniture Collection, said most factory owners at the haat were once makers themselves. They know how to make quality furniture in a cost-effective way.

They don’t have to pay money for marketing or to intermediaries, and so, the prices are lower, he said.

Hazi Md Jasim Uddin, president of Bolir Haat Furniture Traders’ Association, echoed him.

He also urged the government to assist traders through providing facilities, including, bank loan on easy conditions and reduced interest rate.



## Moon ride on ‘chander gari’

NAIMUR RAHMAN

Travelling is always a delight, but what makes it even more enjoyable is the various kinds of ride you get to take through the journey. The Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) is already a preferred destination for tourists, but one of its attractions is the open quarter or open roof genre of jeep, commonly known as “chander gari”.

The CHT is not the only place with the chander gari. Sajek, Bandarban, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Cox’s Bazar and more also have it. In more than 20 sub-districts across the CHT, the chander gari is in use.

There’s some folk tales surrounding the jeeps. There’s a saying by locals of Khagrachhari and Rangamati, who believe that it must’ve come from the moon, mostly because for the folks of these areas, engine-driven vehicles were still a novelty when they first came around. There’s also the belief whereby locals think the vehicles are capable of going up to the moon given how it treads the difficult terrains of CHT at the speed of a hurricane.

“That such a car can ride so fast in

these terrains gives you a tremendous adrenaline-pump when you ride it. It has also very good functionality, as it helps you reach your destination in a short time and can visit remote but beautiful places of the CHT,” shared one passenger while travelling to Sajek.

The idea of such vehicles was inspired by the signature jeep car of the British age. They are mostly modelled after army cars, except for the open quarters, open roof style, which was later redesigned by locals from its primary infrastructure.

Army cars that would go up for auction were bought and modified in the chander gari fashion.

Gradually, it took over the hilly regions for their superiority in navigating the mountainous terrains over other cars.

Although the primary motive behind the chander gari concept was for its



convenience in transporting people, eventually it also became a vehicle to deliver goods and a tourist attraction. The treacherous journey of

going up and down through these steep, slender roads can be terrifying and scary, but even that fear of death succumbs to the sheer beauty of the hills, said visitors.

Compared to a natural roller coaster, the terrains of CHT are no less jerky. This is why they sometimes carry a bad reputation

for tourists, but the drivers of the chander gari are adept and acquainted enough to cross these roads comfortably enough to drive these fears away, they said.

But this is not to say the terrain and the vehicle doesn’t have its own crash history.

“The passengers often start screaming when we turn the more sharper roads.

Driving in rocky and hilly roads on a daily basis does sound scary but we (drivers) don’t worry about it anymore because the other drivers of the road know the ways as well as I know them. We have just adapted to these roads,” said Mohammad Khorshed, a driver of chander gari in Bandarban.

The sitting arrangements in each cars are for 12 people maximum, but sometimes it exceeds according to need. The passengers are often seen covering the windshield of the front-trass of the vehicle by hanging their legs while sitting on the roof, which can be a hazardous behaviour.

And yet, if the passengers are cautious enough of their own safety, the ride can be a beautiful introduction to the beauty that is CHT.

### Babar ends drought of tons

AGENCIES

Babar Azam's glorious unbeaten 102 kept Pakistan alive but Australia remained on course for victory in the second Test in Karachi on Tuesday.

Set a record victory target of 506, Pakistan lost two quick wickets but Babar would not go down without a fight.

The right-hander combined with opener Abdullah Shafique in a 171-run unbroken partnership for the third wicket in a spectacular rearguard spread over nearly 60 overs. Pakistan finished day four on 192-2.

Babar's sixth Test century, first Test hundred in two years, contained 12 fours. Babar last century came against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi in February 2020.



Rugganj Tigers opener Zakir Hasan cancelled out Abahani opener Mohammad Naim's brilliant hundred as the left-hander struck a 116-ball 117 to help his side secure a seven-wicket victory in their debut Dhaka Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Mizanur, Zakir outgun Naim's Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Naim punched the air in celebration upon reaching his ton yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur against newly-promoted Rugganj Tigers in the first day's fixture of the Dhaka Premier League.

The batter had been lacking in runs in the T20 format recently, domestically and for the national team, and the relief he felt after getting some much-needed confidence by coming into some runs with a big knock was apparent.

However, neither him nor his side Abahani Limited had the last laugh as the defending champions slumped to a surprise defeat by a big margin, losing by seven wickets against a side playing their first-ever DPL match.

If it was a show of power between the two sides' openers, Rugganj Tigers came up trumps as Zakir Hasan and Mizanur Rahman assailed the challenge posed by Abahani bowlers on a pitch that became easier to bat on as the day progressed.

Mizanur pulled one in front of square for four from a Kamrul Rabbi delivery in the second over before Zakir's cover drive in the same over showed their composure early. The duo found boundaries early every other over and dominated proceedings in chase of Abahani's challenging 255 for nine.

Mizanur was the aggressor during an 82-ball 93, laced with 12 fours and three sixes. He and Zakir put on 166 for the opening stand before Mizanur departed to an ill-conceived scoop off Rabbi. Zakir carried



on, hitting Mosaddek Hossain for four over mid-wicket to bring up his first List-A ton in 76 innings.

He departed with his side close to the win, getting an inside edge onto his stumps after a 116-ball 117. Skipper Marshal Ayub's unbeaten 23 then saw them coast to win with seven wickets and eight overs to spare.

Earlier, Abahani were in early trouble against pacers Shafiqul Islam and Mukidul Islam Mugdho, slumping to 48 for four inside 13 overs.

Naim stitched a vital 77-run partnership with skipper Mosaddek, who struck 37 off 58. Shamim Hossain then fell to a Mohammad Sharifullah delivery but Naim was able to accelerate late on in the innings, finding boundaries against Shafiqul to complete his ton. He fell to Forhad Reza after a brilliant catch in the deep from

Ariful Haque after a 132-ball 115, laced with 10 fours and two sixes. Mohammad Saiyuddin's steady 40 saw Abahani manage 255 for nine, but ultimately it was not enough.

In the other match at BKSP, Prime Bank posted 265 for eight courtesy of Anamul Haque's 60 and Shamsur Rahman and Alok Kapali's 40-odd knocks. Mahedi Hasan clinched wickets at the top to finish with three for 53 as Prime Bank won by 50 runs.

Legends of Rugganj picked up a big 147-run win against Gazi Group Cricketers after posting 291 for seven, thanks to skipper Naem Islam's 92. Sabbir Rahman made a quickfire 42 off 25 deliveries later down the order. Qazi Onik picked up three for 36 as Gazi Group were bowled out for 144.

### Donald, Morkel join ODI practice

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh ODI team practiced at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday as they geared up for the upcoming ODI series against the hosts, slated to begin with the first ODI on March 18.

ACE all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan had joined the Tigers a day prior and did some running exercises on Wednesday. He batted during the practice game, looking to get back into the flow of things after having suggested that he was suffering from 'mental and physical' exhaustion following the Afghanistan series at home.

Allan Donald, who was appointed bowling coach, joined the Tigers in training yesterday while the BCB also drafted in former South Africa all-rounder Albie Morkel as a power-hitting coach for the upcoming series.

Donald meanwhile got a first look at the pacers, who went through the grind of trying to adjust to South African conditions as quickly as possible.

"Morkel was drafted in for five days for the ODI series. He has been appointed chiefly for power-hitting since his experience in that regard is quite a lot. The head coach also wanted him with us and he will be with us for five days," team director Khaled Mahmud said in a video message to the media.



### MARAZ, ISA rewarded

SPORTS REPORTER

Maraz Hossain and Isa Faisal are the two new faces called up by Bangladesh national team's coach Javier Cabrera in the 23-member squad for two FIFA friendly matches against Maldives and Mongolia this month.

Saif Sporting Club's attacking midfielder Maraz represented Bangladesh in U-16, U-19 and U-23 teams while Bangladesh Police left-back Faisal represented Bangladesh in U-18 and U-23 teams. Both of them, however, first caught attention in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup primary school football tournament.

"It's a great opportunity to learn from big brothers. I will try my best if I get a chance to play," said Maraz, who has scored five goals this season - two each in the Independence Cup and the Federation Cup and one in the Bangladesh Premier League.

"This is beyond my expectation as I only concentrated on giving 100 percent for Bangladesh Police. Every player has different qualities and I have too. I will try to secure a place in the playing eleven with my own quality," said Faisal.

Cabrera dropped 12 players from the squad that last played in the Four Nations Cup in Sri Lanka in November last year. Those 12 have been replaced by the two new players and 10 proven campaigners.



Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty looked in good mood after a historic nine-run win against Pakistan on Monday in the ICC Women's World Cup. She posted a picture of herself on Facebook yesterday while relaxing in a picturesque place in Mount Maunganui. The Tigresses will play their next match against West Indies on Friday at the Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui; a venue where the Tigers, led by Mominul Haque, earned their historic maiden Test win in New Zealand in January this year. Meanwhile, Australia routed the West Indies by seven wickets in Wellington yesterday to maintain their perfect record at the mega event.

### Benzema becomes all-time top French goalscorer

AGENCIES

Karim Benzema became the highest French goalscorer in history on Monday after his double gave Real Madrid a 3-0 win over Mallorca, sending them 10 points clear at the top of La Liga.

The 34-year-old was already riding on a massive high after his hat-trick helped Real Madrid complete a stunning come-back in the Champions League over Paris Saint-Germain last week.

His unstoppable form continued as the 34-year-old's penalty against Mallorca took his career tally to 412 goals, putting him one above Thierry Henry in the all-time list of French scorers. Benzema then made it 413 for him and three for Madrid with a superb header late on.

Benzema is also the current top scorer and assists provider in La Liga with 22 goals and 11 assists in 25 games. He is now the third highest-scoring player in Madrid's history with 311 goals, while Di Stefano finished his career on 308. Spain great Raul is still above Benzema



with 323 goals, while Cristiano Ronaldo is top of the list on 451.

But the Frenchman had to go off late on with what looked like an injury in his lower left leg, giving Madrid a serious headache before Sunday's Clasico against Barcelona. Vinicius Junior, who opened the scoring, and Rodrygo also suffered problems in the second half.

"They don't seem like very serious things. Rodrygo was a knock, Mendy

has felt something in his adductor and Karim, after a jump, didn't feel good. We'll see if they can recover for Sunday," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Carlo Ancelotti's side moved on to 66 points from 28 games, extending their lead at the top to ten points over second-placed Sevilla, who were held to a 1-1 stalemate at Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, a sixth draw in their last eight league matches.

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NATIONAL POLLS

# AL to run with 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like the previous two elections, the ruling Awami League will contest the national election next year under the 14-party alliance.

"The 14-party unity will remain intact and the members will contest the election under the alliance," Amir Hossain Amu, coordinator and spokesperson of the alliance, told journalists after the meeting of the combine at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Amu, also a member of AL's advisory council, said they did not discuss seat sharing at yesterday's meeting; it will be discussed when the election schedule will be announced.

The meeting of the alliance took place after around three years.

Meeting sources said Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Tariqat Federation Chairman Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari and some other alliance leaders asked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina about the future of the alliance and the next parliamentary election.

They also requested the PM to settle the issue before the election, the sources said, adding that the premier in reply said the unity of the alliance will remain intact.

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Illuminated by bright spotlights, workers in high visibility vests and hard hats stand in stark contrast to the surrounding darkness as they install tracks on the viaduct of the metro rail project at the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. The photo was taken around 7:30pm yesterday, and they usually work deep into the night to ensure timely completion of the project.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

US SANCTIONS ON RAB

# Relations won't be affected says US Embassy official

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Sanctions on Rapid Action Battalion and its top officials do not mean that the US does not want to build on its relationship with Bangladesh, which is based on shared values of human rights, democracy, security and development, said an embassy official.

There is a feeling that the sanctions have clouded the overall relationship, said Sean J McIntosh, US Embassy Public Affairs Counsellor, at a discussion yesterday.

"We are so able to move forward on our mutual values of interests. I think we will do that," he said at the discussion jointly organised by the Central Foundation for International and Strategic Studies (CFISS) and Dhaka Tribune.

US President Biden has made it very clear that the issue of human rights is at the centre of his foreign policy and imposing sanctions against RAB and seven of its current and former officials on December 10 last year for gross human rights violation was meant to promote accountability and to make the message loud and clear, McIntosh said.

About US not inviting Bangladesh for its Democracy Summit last year, he said that there were some arguments over it.

"From this moment, there will be an opportunity for Bangladesh to demonstrate improving democracy and

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MASTERMINDS OF HUSSAINI DALAN BLASTS

# IO's negligence kept them beyond law

Two sentenced to different jail terms

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

The masterminds behind the 2015 Hussaini Dalan blasts had remained beyond the law due to the investigator's utter negligence, said a Dhaka court.

Judge Md Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka yesterday rebuked Investigation Officer Mohammad Shafi Uddin Sheikh while delivering a verdict on eight members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh over the blasts.

The tribunal sentenced Mohammad Arman to 10 years in prison and Kabir Hossain to seven years after the charges against them were proven.

They were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default on which they will have to serve six months more in jail.

The tribunal acquitted six other accused -- Abu Sayeed, Rubel Islam, Chan Miah, Omar Faruk, Ahsan Ullah Mahmud and Shahjalal Miah -- as the prosecution failed to produce any evidence to prove the charges against them.

On October 24, 2015, two people were killed

and 115 others injured in multiple bomb explosions at the Shia Muslim community's headquarters -- Hussaini Dalan -- in the old part of Dhaka city.

In the verdict yesterday, Judge Majibur Rahman observed that the IO made serious mistakes during investigation and utterly neglected his responsibilities.

The IO did not explain in his report how Chan Miah, Omar Faruk, Ahsan Ullah Mahmud and Shahjalal Miah had links to the blasts, he said.

"Only to increase the number of the accused, the investigator included their names in the charge sheet, for which they endured physical, financial and mental sufferings," the judge observed.

The investigator did not press any charges against two -- Albani and Noman -- even though they masterminded the attack, he added.

According to the judgement, the IO stated in the charge sheet that Hiron, Albani and Alauddin were killed in gunfights, which is why he did not press charges against them. He did not mention how he came to know the trio were killed.

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# BNP to skip talks with EC

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

BNP, if invited, will not join the ongoing dialogue on finalising the roadmap for the next general election as top party leaders believe the incumbent Election Commission cannot hold a free and fair election without a polls-time neutral government.

The leaders said they don't have trust in the newly formed EC because it "represents a particular party rather than the people of the country".

The party had put forward a 20-point proposal to the immediate past EC during talks, but none of those were implemented as the commission served the purposes of the government, the leaders alleged.

"It is an Election Commission of Awami League. It does not represent the people of the country. So, why should we join the talks despite knowing that the commission will serve the purpose of a particular party?" BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said their main demand is holding the national election under a non-partisan interim government and the EC issue will not be an issue if the demand is met.

The EC plans to hold talks with representatives from different sections of society, including politicians, election experts, political scientists, academics, and journalists.

TALKS WITH EC ON NEXT POLLS

# 40 invited to Mar 22 meet

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is going to hold the second round of dialogue with 40 eminent citizens on March 22.

The commission is holding the talks with representatives from different sections of society to seek advice on how the polls, including the 12th Jatiya Sangsad election, can be held in a free and fair manner.

According to EC officials, the dialogue is aimed at preparing the commission's roadmap for the next general election, due late next year.

The EC on Sunday held the first round of discussion with academics. It plans to sit with civil society members, election experts, media personalities and politicians, among others.

The commission has sent invitation letters to eight former advisers to caretaker governments -- economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, former bureaucrats Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury and Hafizuddin Khan, noted entrepreneur Rokia Afzal Rahman, economist AB Mirza Md Azizul Islam, rights activists Sultana Kamal and Rasheda K Chowdhury and economist Hossain Zillur Rahman.

The names of Gonoshasthaya Kendra trustee Jafarullah Chowdhury, three distinguished fellows of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Prof

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The section of Mirpur Road near the capital's Manik Mia Avenue is gridlocked on both sides. With all schools, colleges and offices now open after closures over the last two years due to the pandemic, the capital seems back to its pre-Covid busiest.



Azizur Raman (1939-2022)

# The bell tolls for him

SHARMIN JOYA

Azizur Rahman, the director of iconic film "Chhutir Ghonta", passed away in a hospital in Canada's Toronto on Monday.

He was 82.

According to his family, Azizur had been suffering from respiratory problems and old age complications and was on oxygen support for the last one year.

He lived with his two children in Canada for almost a decade.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS