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20 PAGES PLUS 50 YEARS OF BRAC MAGAZINE : Tk 12.00



50 years of igniting hope

from Bangladesh to the world

Abed bhai used to say -

When people have the opportunity to realise their potential, a light of hope gets switched on.

Over 100 million people around the world partner with us. They have boundless courage. Infinite potential.

We believe there is always a way if we work together, no matter how difficult things are.

We do not know every solution, but we are always on the ground, listening, learning, doing, and evolving.

Thank you for standing with us, through half a century of getting up and trying, every day.

We are not just dreaming of a better world, we are building it.



From Bangladesh to the world: Doing development differently

25 southern development approaches from BRAC



Village development organisations

Remote communities face common challenges globally – lack of access to information, opportunities, market linkages.

In 1977, BRAC began catalysing the formation of village development organisations. Governed by the community, they act as a single point for information, training and services. Members save money collectively, creating a platform for members to access collateral-free loans. The organisations are an engine for rural development, uniting people for power and generating employment by increasing the amount of money circulating in the community. The model has been scaled up in six countries.



Para-professionals

Professionals are scarce in remote areas globally. People can be brought in from cities, but it is expensive, short-term and requires intensive induction before they understand the community.

BRAC trains thousands of people to work as para-professionals. In roles like para-counsellors, legal aid providers and veterinarians, they take BRAC's work to the last mile in their own communities. They deliver knowledge, offer services and link people with providers. It's an affordable long-term solution with significant added benefits – para-professionals have lived experience of the challenges faced in their communities, and ownership of solutions. The model has been scaled up in 10 countries.



Community-led healthcare

In the 1970s, one in five children in Bangladesh died before their fifth birthday, women had six children on average and life expectancy was just 46 years.

BRAC's community-driven healthcare network saw women trained as health workers, who travelled door-to-door in their own communities, armed with knowledge, diagnostic tools and referral networks. This was supported by specialists, like midwives, and a range of facilities, like maternity clinics. Today, 97% of children live to the age of five, women have two children on average and life expectancy is 72 years. The model has been scaled up in six countries.



Credit plus plus

Microfinance provides financial services to people who cannot access banks, typically because of remoteness or lack of collateral.

Microfinance is only part of a solution, though, and must be combined with other services for people to improve their lives. The first 'plus' is creating markets, so a woman who buys a cow has a way to sell the milk it produces. The second 'plus' is providing services like education and healthcare, to support her to build resilience and drive intergenerational change. The model has been scaled up in seven countries.



Adolescent development programme

Every second girl in Bangladesh is married before her 18th birthday.

In the early 1990s, safe spaces for girls were scarce. BRAC turned classrooms into after-school clubs, where girls who dropped out of school could continue learning. 9,000 clubs across Bangladesh provided over 300,000 girls with the space to be themselves, and work on becoming whatever they wanted to be. Clubs were close to girls' homes, and run by women from those communities, trained to teach life skills, sports and the arts. These clubs produced women who went on to compete internationally. The model has been adapted in six countries.



One-room schools

Two out of five children of primary school age in Bangladesh were not in school in the early 1980s. Of those enrolled, half dropped out. Schools were far away, and interfered with chores or harvest seasons. Male teachers made parents with young daughters worry.

BRAC's one-room school model addressed why students dropped out. Schools were brought to students, through renting single rooms in communities. It was free, with no homework and flexible timing. Women from the community were trained to teach the same group of students for all their classes. The model reached 15 million students, was adopted by the Bangladesh government and scaled up in six countries.



Gender equality at every level

When women have better access to basic services, they make better lives for themselves, and multiply that impact by improving the lives of their families and, eventually, often changing the trajectories of whole communities. The challenge is that their voices – particularly those living in poverty – often go unheard.

BRAC works to expand opportunities available to women, develop approaches to strengthen confidence, skills, and build enabling environments. Women are the backbone of all BRAC's programming, in roles like para-professionals, programme participants, clients, artisans and entrepreneurs. This approach is taken in ten countries.



Sharecroppers scheme

Sharecroppers, who cultivate crops on other people's land, need capital at the start of the season. Banks won't lend, as the people don't have collateral. There is no profit until harvest, so microfinance isn't an option, because of monthly repayments. Informal lenders charge high interest, demand full repayment and part of the harvest.

With support from the central bank, BRAC's collateral-free loans charge just 10% annual interest. One-third of the loan is repaid initially. The remaining two-thirds are repaid after two harvest seasons. If a harvest fails, there is flexibility to recover.



Graduating from extreme poverty

Extreme poverty is more than a lack of finances. Over time, it turns into a lack of belief in one's ability to change their own life.

Graduation is a globally recognised proven approach to equip people to overcome extreme poverty. It is a time-bound pathway comprising income generation, social protection, financial support and social empowerment – with a key focus on supporting people to rebuild hope.

93% of graduates in Bangladesh continue to benefit seven years after graduating and 14 million people have graduated through adapting the approach in 50 countries.



Play Labs

90% of brain development occurs during the first five years of life.

BRAC Play Labs build wellbeing, resilience and positivity in children under five. Research shows they achieve the greatest challenge in early childhood development – over two years, children's performance gaps are reduced to the point where the least privileged children enter kindergarten as well-prepared as the most privileged.

Play Labs operate in three countries and have been adapted to create BRAC Humanitarian Play Labs, which operate in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and the Rhino refugee camp in Uganda.



On-the-job apprenticeships

Two out of five people aged 15–24 in Bangladesh are not in employment, education or formal training.

BRAC connects young people who have dropped out of school with master craftspeople. They work in pairs through an on-the-job apprenticeship model, with both parties receiving a stipend and training. Apprentices learn a trade which is in demand locally, and soft skills to enhance employability. 30,000 apprentices have graduated, among whom early marriage reduced by 62% and household incomes increased six-fold.



Community-based safe sanitation

1.6 million people die every year globally because of poor hygiene and sanitation, but open defecation in Bangladesh has reduced from 34% to almost zero over the past two decades.

Key to this success was reducing the gap between hygiene knowledge and practice. BRAC supported the government's efforts through community mobilisation and community-level WASH committees. Market forces were activated – rural sanitation centres sold sanitary construction materials and supported people to become sanitation entrepreneurs. The work became the largest WASH programme anywhere managed by an NGO, supporting 39 million people to access hygienic sanitation.



Evidence-based development

BRAC teams are from the same communities they work with, and always connected to the realities on the ground. Frontline insights from this lived experience are the most important evidence.

Supporting this is rigorous monitoring, evaluation and research. The Research and Evaluation Division was established in 1975. BRAC University was founded in 2001. Work and evidence run parallel – evidence informs BRAC's work, and the work informs the areas in which insights and research are needed. Work takes into account best practices from the globe, as well as increasingly informing the globe of best practices from the south.



Linking development with markets

BRAC sees people in poverty as active contributors to economic growth, and equips people across all its work to emerge as micro-entrepreneurs, artisans and social service providers.

This entrepreneurial programming approach has led to sustainability of impact, as people become self-reliant, and the creation of multiple social enterprises. In Bangladesh, Aarong Dairy, for example, links farmers who often have just three cows each to otherwise inaccessible markets; it now makes up one-third of the nation's locally processed milk.



Food security: Creating value chains to support agricultural production

Bangladesh had a food production deficit of three million metric tonnes in 1972. Hunger was causing chronic malnutrition, leading to child stunting and poor health.

BRAC's approach was multi-pronged – broadening nutrition awareness, expanding microfinance, educating people on leasing land for farming and increasing access to high quality inputs so they could make livelihoods from farming. Work was then done at the macro level – research and development, technology innovation and building value chains – to make markets work for people living in poverty. The model has been adapted in six countries.



Aarong: A livelihood platform for artisans

Bangladesh is a country of rich craft traditions, which produced the finest muslin in the world. By the early 20th century, however, many craft traditions had been lost – and more were disappearing. Artisans sold their crafts through buyers who took most of the profit. Retailers were few, and only paid when products were sold.

Aarong was started to make craft into a viable livelihood. Artisans were paid when products were made. While importing goods rose in popularity, Aarong grew demand for local fashion, home and gift products, fusing tradition with modern designs. Decades later, Bangladesh's crafts are world heritage listed and demanded globally.



Humanitarian-development nexus

Crises are changing globally, with climate change and conflict causing protracted displacement.

Bangladesh welcomed almost one million Rohingya in 2017. BRAC is the biggest civil society responder, merging short-term humanitarian response and long-term development approaches to provide multi-faceted, holistic services to Rohingya and host communities. Urgent humanitarian needs were the initial focus. As the crisis prolonged, focus shifted from mass scale short-term relief to localised, targeted long-term approaches to work towards self-reliance.



Local solutions

In the early 1980s, poultry farmers needed vaccines for their chickens, and those vaccines needed to be kept cold. Refrigeration was rarely available.

Bananas, however, were. Their flesh was just cool enough – and provided an added benefit of cushioning against breakage. Thousands of farmers were saved from catastrophic losses. Our pragmatic solutions come from deeply understanding every community's unique challenges, through the lived experiences of our staff who are from the same communities. 'Banana immunisation' is just one example. BRAC has established a southern approach to development – the work starts in communities, with the belief that the people closest to the challenges are the closest to the solutions.



Community-led housing

Bangladesh is among the most densely populated countries in the world. One in three people in urban areas live in makeshift shelters. Safe homes are crucial to escaping poverty, but people do not have the capital to invest in them.

Through BRAC's community-led housing model, community leaders mobilise a capital fund from member contributions and external grants to provide people loans to build houses, starting with those in most need. Houses are constructed with local labour, to local conditions, with local materials, using climate-resilient designs – so they are affordable, and built to last.



Functional education

Can a tiger build a house?

Illiteracy was a significant challenge among adults in Bangladesh in 1972. This was important in terms of vulnerability – it could result in being tricked into selling an asset at a low price or signing a contract without understanding it.

BRAC's functional education programme began in 1973, with literacy, numeracy and life skills. It also focused on building confidence – facilitators encouraged people to analyse their environment, self-reflect and focus on their abilities. One of the early realisations in a class was that, given access to the tools, all the adults could build a house – giving them an ability even tigers don't have.



Technology adoption

Technology has been a powerful force in BRAC's ability to scale – overcoming distance, reducing administrative time and informing rapid decision making.

The BRAC Computer Centre was established in 1985, and automating key data processing functions significantly improved the efficiency, transparency and reliability of BRAC's early initiatives. With thousands of employees working with millions of people in remote areas, all operations were digitised in 2016. During COVID-19, this enabled data-driven decision-making, informing the creation of telehealth apps, slum mapping and relief distribution apps and real-time, data-informed awareness campaigns.



Community and travelling libraries

Three million people have engaged in reading through BRAC's libraries across Bangladesh.

Community libraries were a bridge to the rest of the world for many remote villages. They burst with books, magazines and films, and were managed by locally-recruited librarians. These self-financed spaces offered training, encouraged cultural activities and explored the arts. They were the reason many women who did not go to school became readers.

Mobile libraries carried a trunk full of abridged versions of Bengali literary classics on a rickshaw or a boat, and would set up in different places for people to sit and read.



Boat schools

Much of Bangladesh's land is wetlands, which are submerged for half of the year, and primary enrolment and literacy rates lag far behind national averages.

BRAC's boat schools were introduced with a simple philosophy: if children cannot get to schools, schools will go to them. Painted bright pink and equipped with solar panels, the boats function as both classrooms and school buses, collecting children from their homes and returning them after school. Over 14,000 students in Bangladesh's wetlands region have accessed education through boat schools, and the model has been replicated in the Philippines.



Polli shomaj

Women being involved in decision-making results in more cohesive, healthy, peaceful communities. BRAC supports women to organise themselves through polli shomaj (community-driven women's networks).

Members are from all walks of life – mothers, students, local elites. Meetings are informal, but are the basis of powerful local action. Members support their communities – tackling natural disasters, influencing local government decisions, and countering gender-based violence. Women gain networks, self-belief and first-hand experience in influencing the trajectory of their community. Since 2002, over 9,000 members have contested local elections, with almost 3,000 being elected.



Popular theatre

Bengal has always had a love of performing arts. Social, environmental and spiritual messaging was often embedded in performances. BRAC uses theatre to create awareness and generate dialogue in communities, but with a twist – the theatre is led entirely by the community.

Each play explores a theme identified by people from the community. Instead of actors, the people on stage have no prior theatre experience, are from the community they perform in, and have lived experience of what they were performing. All shows are in the local dialect, and performers receive a stipend. 232,000 of BRAC's popular theatre shows have been performed throughout Bangladesh, attended by over 77 million people.



Sunk in seconds

Launch capsizes in Shitalakkhya after collision with cargo vessel; 6 die, many missing

STAR REPORT

The MV Afsar Uddin, a small launch thought to have up to 50 people on board, left Narayanganj river terminal around 2:00pm. The weather was fine. The launch was cruising on the Shitalakkhya towards Munshiganj.

But just 15 minutes later, when the launch reached Char Syedpur area in Narayanganj Sadar upazila, horror struck the passengers as a large cargo vessel, the MV Rupshi 9, hit the launch.

Panicked, passengers of the launch started jumping into the river as the cargo ship bore down on the small vessel. Within seconds, the launch sank with many of the passengers still in it.

On social media, distressing video footage, presumably taken by people on nearby boats, showing the launch being pushed by the ship on the busy river did the rounds soon after the incident.

At least six individuals died and 20 others went missing. Rescuers identified three of the deceased as Jaynal Bhuiyan, 50, Arifa Begum, 35, and her 15-month-old baby Salayet Hossain.

Firefighters said the body of a girl aged around seven and that of two women, around 19 and 30 years old, were yet to be identified.

Contacted last night, Abdullah Al Arefin, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Narayanganj, said, "We assume that some 20 more people are missing. Our rescue operations are still going on."

Officers of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said the cargo vessel was seized and 14 of its crew members were arrested.

Five bodies were recovered from inside the sunken

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The moment MV Rupshi-9 rams the smaller passenger launch ML Afsar Uddin on the Shitalakkhya in Narayanganj yesterday afternoon. The launch, thought to have up to 50 people on board, sank within seconds. Inset, family members of a victim in tears on the bank of the river.

PHOTO: SCREEN GRAB, STAR

US wants Bangladesh vocal against Ukraine war

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US wants Bangladesh on its side as it endeavours to end the war in Ukraine, said a top American diplomat yesterday.

On March 2, a UN General Assembly resolution Bangladesh was among 34 countries – including India, Pakistan and China – that abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly resolution on March 2 that

reprimanded Russia for invading Ukraine and demanded that Moscow stops fighting and immediately withdraws its military forces.

"This is a moment for all free nations and all free people to stand together with the people of Ukraine and say this war must end," said Victoria Nuland, the US undersecretary for political affairs.

Nuland's comments came at a press briefing after the eighth US-

Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue at the State Guesthouse Padma.

The US and its allies negotiated for months to prevent Russia from the invasion but Moscow did not listen.

"Now the apartments and maternity hospitals are being bombed and civilians are becoming victims. You are all watching the horrible pictures coming from Ukraine," she said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Govt reduces soybean oil price by Tk 8 a litre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday reduced the price of bottled soybean edible oil at the retail level by Tk 8 per litre to Tk 160.

The price of non-bottle soybean oil was fixed at Tk 136 per litre while a five-litre container of soybean oil was fixed at Tk 760 at the retail level.

Tapan Kanti Ghosh, senior secretary to the commerce ministry announced the new rate of edible oil at a press conference at the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Brac's lesser-known gift to Bangladesh: vaccination push

GOLAM MORTOZA

If one was to list the work Brac, the organisation Sir Fazle Hasan Abed built, has done or how it has contributed to Bangladesh's development, the task would be next to impossible.

What would be easier is if we asked what this organisation has not done -- and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus articulated it best.

"It is certainly not an exaggeration to say that there is hardly anyone among the 170 million people of Bangladesh who do not benefit in some way from Abed's programmes or enjoy products and services provided by his organisations," the Grameen Bank founder said.

Sir Fazle and Brac are synonymous -- there is no scope of discussing one without the other.

Even in absentia, he is fuelling Brac's onward journey through his guiding principles.

It is as if there's no end to the half-a-century-old organisation's work extravaganza. Apart from its home

RELATED STORY ON B4

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

OBITUARY

MD. RAKIBUR RAHMAN
August 18, 1951 - March 18, 2022

Former 3 times President, Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd.
Founder Chairman, Sheikh Russel Jatiyo Shishu Kishore Parishad
Chairman, Midway Securities Ltd.

We mourn the death of our beloved father Mr. Md. Rakibur Rahman, who passed away at 12:23 pm Friday afternoon on March 18, 2022 in United Hospital (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un).

His Salāt al-Janāzah was held after Isha prayers in Azad Masjid, Gulshan and he was laid to eternal rest in Banani graveyard.

He is survived by his wife, 2 sons, numerous family members, friends, colleagues and well wishers. On behalf of the Rahman family and Midway Securities Ltd., we humbly seek your prayers for the departed soul.

Md. Ashequr Rahman & Zarif Fatah Rahman



ANOTHER MILESTONE TOWARDS A SAFER NATION INAUGURATION OF PAYRA THERMAL POWER PLANT

81,158 MT of Steel has been supplied by BSRM

For making this a reality, we are most thankful to
The Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

We would also like to express our gratitude to: The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh China Power Company (Pvt.) Limited, the Consortium of Minconsult Sdn. Bhd, Shenzhen Energy Engineering Corporation and Power Energy Management Engineering Company, Power-Energy Management and Engineering Company (PEMEC), the Chinese Government, China Energy Engineering Group Northeast No. 1 Electric Power Construction Co. Ltd. (NEPC) and China National Energy Engineering and Construction CO.Ltd (CECC).



Stabbed by stalker, teen dies

A CORRESPONDENT,
Shariatpur

An 18-year-old madrasa student died in a private hospital in the capital yesterday, just over two days after she was stabbed by her stalker in Shariatpur.

Police said the stalker stabbed the girl at her house on Thursday night after her family rejected his proposal of marriage and fixed her wedding with someone else.

The victim, Kakoli Akhter, daughter of Nuruzzaman of Char Palang village of the district's Sadar upazila, was supposed to get married today, said Officer-in-charge of Palang Police Station Md Akhter Hossain yesterday.

The man who stabbed her is Zahidul Islam, 22, from Kashabhog area of the same upazila, the OC said.

Zahidul was a former student of the same madrasa where Kakoli was studying and had long been stalking her, OC Akhter said.

He had proposed marriage but was denied by Kakoli's family and recently, the family had fixed her marriage with someone else. On Thursday night, Zahidul went to her house and stabbed her repeatedly.

Neighbours caught Zahidul and beat him up, leaving him critically injured.

Police went to the spot and sent both of them to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital, from where they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the OC said.

Kakoli was rushed to the ICU of a private hospital where she died around 5.30am yesterday, the OC added.

Zahidul is undergoing treatment under police custody, the official said.

The deceased's brother filed an attempted murder case on Saturday, which will be turned into a murder case, the police official said.



Fire guts 150-200 shanties at Natun Bazar slum in Dhaka's Kalyanpur area last night. The fire began around 8:45pm and it took 14 fire engines to douse it around 10:20pm. Many of the dwellers lost everything they had to the blaze.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Lights turning on in Payra region

ASIFUR RAHMAN, from Patuakhali

Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila, a coalition of 22 small islands in the Bay, did not have access to electricity just a year ago.

Families there used to light up their houses with solar panels and traditional forms of lighting such as kerosene lamps and candles.

However, as soon as modern submarine cables provided all six unions of the upazila with electricity in last September, the situation started to change.

Idris Ali Sardar, 70, of the upazila's Baherchar Bazar area, said, "I never thought I would have access to electricity in my lifetime."

He also delightedly shared how his grandchildren now studied under electric lights at night.

Like Idris, some 25,000 consumers are now getting benefits from the electricity in the upazila that is around 40km away from Patuakhali Sadar.

Rangabali, an upazila that got recognition on February 25, 2012, is surrounded by the Bay in its south, the Agunmukho river in the north, the Buragauranga river in the east and the Rabnabad river in the west.

According to officials, a 33kV-5.80km submarine cable was installed under the Tetulia and the Buragauranga rivers and another 5.38km cable of 11kV was set under the Galachipa and the Tetulia rivers to provide the local communities with

electricity.

The lines were connected with the mainland from Bhola district's Charfasion Mujibnagar substation through Amgachiya Bazar and 2km under the Buragauranga river.

Tawfiq Omar, officer-in-charge of Rangabali sub-zonal office of Palli Biddut Samity, said at least a 1,000km transmission line was set up at Rangabali's four unions with a power sub-station while the consumers of the lines are now over 25,000 in 104 villages.

Engineer Md Mainuddin Ahmad, deputy general manager of Galachipa Zonal Office of PBS, said it was like a "war" to get the project done.

"PBS conducted the job by the contractors. But it was a pandemic situation while we were working. The weather was against us and so was the environment. We needed the support of locals," he said.

With remote areas like Rangabali, Bangladesh is now providing 100 percent electricity coverage, according to the officials of the Ministry of Energy, Power and Mineral Resources.

Explaining the claim of 100 percent electrification, they said they provided connections to all of those who applied for it.

This achievement puts Bangladesh ahead of India and Pakistan, among the countries in South Asia that have brought 98 percent and 74 percent electricity

networks respectively.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the 1,320 MW ultra-supercritical coal-based power plant at Patuakhali's Payra today at 10:00am where she could announce the achievement, said Nasrul Hamid, state minister for energy ministry.

Visiting the upazila on Saturday, this correspondent found at least six electronics shops in Baherchar area, the main bazar.

Bani Yamin, one of the shop owners, said they sell two to three refrigerators every day and they have sold at least 300 fridges of different brands since their union got electricity connection last September.

In the shop, Yamin sells electric products like refrigerator, ceiling fan, oven, electric stove, cooker and blender.

Not only such shops but also two auto rice mills have been in operation in the area since September. One of the mills is located at Baherchar.

Abdullah, the chief of labourers at the mill, said he worked for 37 years in different rice mills in Cox's Bazar.

"I am from Patuakhali and took no time to come and join here after coming to know that a mill would be established here," he said.

He said 14 employees including five females now work at his mill.

A total of six ice mills were set up in the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SI lands in jail in rape case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sent a sub-inspector of police to jail in a rape case after the end of his six-month bail granted by the High Court.

Judge of Panchagarh Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Mehedi Hasan passed the order rejecting the bail prayer of the accused.

A woman accused Abdul Jalil, 45, a sub-inspector of Kurigram Police Station of raping her in a case filed with the court on March 25 last year.

According to the complaint, the officer allegedly raped the woman, a widow, and was detained by the locals. He then married her but never accepted her as his wife.

As the SI dithered to accept her as his wife, the widow filed the case.

A Panchagarh court yesterday sent a sub-inspector of police to jail in a rape case after the end of his six-month bail granted by the High Court.

Judge of Panchagarh Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Mehedi Hasan passed the order rejecting the bail prayer of the accused.

A woman accused Abdul Jalil, 45, a sub-inspector of Kurigram Police Station of raping her in a case filed with the court on March 25 last year.

According to the complaint, the officer allegedly raped the woman, a widow, on June 10 and was detained by the locals. He then married her but never accepted her as his wife.

As the SI lingered to accept her as wife, the widow filed the case.

India-Bangladesh train services may resume next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inter-ministerial meeting ended yesterday without fixing any date for resuming the operation of trains between Bangladesh and India amid expectations that the service would resume soon.

Officials decided that Bangladesh Railway, through the foreign ministry, will write to India regarding the matter.

"Date for resumption of train services will be fixed upon receiving India's response," said Sardar Shahadat Ali, additional director general at Bangladesh Railway.

However, April 1 or April 14 (Pahela Baishakh) are being discussed as probable dates, sources said.

Currently, India is not allowing any foreigners with tourist visas to enter the country through land or waterways.

Mutilated body of child found in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police yesterday recovered the body of a toddler from a field in Morrelganj, Bagerhat.

The body was recovered from a field next to Kalam Sardar's garden in Hoglepasha area.

There were severe injury marks on the face, abdomen and several other places. Police said the face was unrecognisable.

After the inquest, the body was sent to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Shahjahan Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Morrelganj Police Station, said: "We have recovered the body of the child after receiving information from the locals. An unnatural death case has been filed. Police have started working to unravel the mystery of the child's identity and death."

Officials flock to fly Sunk in seconds

FROM PAGE 1

The state minister's spouse and their daughter will also accompany him but they will bear their own expenses, according to the civil aviation ministry.

Mohammad Musabbir, assistant personal secretary to the state minister, and Tanbir Ahmed, public relations officer of the ministry, will also be on the flight for the same reasons.

Biman will bear their travel expenses while all other expenses will be borne by the ministry.

Contacted by this newspaper, Md Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh asked why the government undertook a highly expensive visit like this for purposes that can be achieved by much more cost-effective alternative means including the support of the Bangladesh high commission in Canada.

"Even if there were justifiable reasons for the visit, there can be no valid grounds for the state minister and a couple of MPs to undertake a visit like this, which is practically demeaning of the high level of public positions they hold.

"On the other hand, it will be hard for anyone behind this whole initiative to explain what relevance officials like APS and PRO of the minister have to the stated purpose," he said, adding that it was nothing but a "pleasure trip at public expense" and an "embarrassing example of

abuse of power".

"Those involved in the decision-making process of the initiative should be held to account," he said.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal will also be on the flight.

A top Biman official, preferring anonymity, said around 25 to 30 officials of Biman, civil aviation ministry and two lawmakers are going on the test flight.

The official said irrelevant officials on the flight was nothing but a waste of public money.

It was also alleged that all tickets for the flight were unavailable when Biman started sale of tickets on March 19.

On that day, when correspondents of this newspaper called to book tickets, Biman staffers said the flight was not for "ordinary passengers".

But the Biman MD refuted all those allegations saying they are nothing but propaganda.

"This flight is not a VIP flight. Anyone can buy Biman's ticket on this route at a price of Tk 1,28,000 for round trip on economy class," he said.

When this correspondent called to the Biman call centre yesterday, a Biman staffer said only seven tickets remained and they would cost Tk 90,000 for a one-way trip.

Biman is using Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to operate flight on this route which will take around 14 hours.

FROM PAGE 1

launch, said Arefin, adding that Jaynal was among the 15 to 20 people who managed to swim ashore. But he appeared to have died of a cardiac arrest moments later.

Babu Lal Baidya, deputy director of BIWTA in Narayanganj, said the MV Aisar Uddin had the capacity to carry 80 people, but some 30 to 40 passengers were on board at the time.

Shakil Sheikh, who managed to swim ashore, said, "There were around 50 passengers in the launch. Some 20 to 25 could swim

US wants Bangladesh vocal

FROM PAGE 1
Russia's invasion of Ukraine violates sovereignty, territorial integrity and the basic fundamental principles of international law and the UN charter.

"This is a battle between autocracies and democracies around the world."

US WON'T BE SILENT OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

At the dialogue, Bangladesh raised deep concern about the recent US Treasury sanctions on RAB and seven of its current and former officials, saying that this might affect the efforts of Bangladesh to combat terrorism and transnational crimes.

Nuland said she knows the sanction has been a difficult issue for Bangladesh.

"We have concerns about how the RAB has performed about extrajudicial killings, about disappearances. That said, we have seen progress in the last three months with regard to mitigating these

ashore. The rest, including women and children, drowned."

Sheikh Zakir Hossain, a survivor, told reporters, "We saw the cargo vessel come too close to our launch's stern. We warned our launch driver, who would not listen to us. The cargo vessel did not honk. Soon, it hit our launch and fled."

Hours later, police seized the MV Rupshi-9 from a dockyard in Munshiganj. The crew members, who had fled, were arrested later, said Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj River Police.

Lt Col Zillur Rahman,

director (Operation & Maintenance) at the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence, last evening said BIWTA's salvage boat reached the site around 10:00pm and began the operation to fish the launch out of water.

"There could be a few more bodies inside," he said.

The cargo vessel, owned by City Group, was registered with the Mercantile Marine Office in Chattogram in 2019.

Biswajit Saha, director (corporate and regulatory affairs) at City Group, refused to comment on

the matter when this newspaper contacted him. Captain Giashuddin Ahmed, principal officer at the Mercantile Marine Office, said, "It is a vessel of international standard. We inspected it in September and October last year and found everything okay."

Meanwhile, the shipping ministry formed a three-member committee led by Joint Secretary ANM Bazlul Rashid to investigate the incident and asked it to submit a report within three working days, said Jahangir Alam Khan, senior information officer of the ministry.

Rafiqul Islam, member secretary of the probe committee, told The Daily Star last night that the primary findings suggest that the accident might have been caused by the carelessness of crew members of the bigger vessel.

"The cargo vessel pilot might not have seen the launch or did not give due importance about the existence of the launch. Besides, it seems, the cargo vessel was at a relatively high speed," he said. "We are trying to find the specific cause of the accident."

The cargo vessel pilot might not have seen the launch or did not give due importance about the existence of the launch. Besides, it seems, the cargo vessel was at a relatively high speed," he said. "We are trying to find the specific cause of the accident."

Replying to a query, he said, "We will take action if we find anyone involved in any sort of irregularities over the distribution of the family cards."

Talking to The Daily Star, Rabul Morshed, deputy senior executive of TCB (Khulna), said they sold essentials to 20,000 families in the region yesterday.

He hoped sales would pick up soon since 1,91,716 people in the region were expected to get the cards.

At least 27,000 people from all 13 upazilas of Dinajpur bought sugar, lentils, and soybean oil on the inaugural day yesterday.

A resident of Goyeshpur village in Pabna Sadar upazila, Mohamad Ashif expressed happiness after being able to buy the essentials at rates cheaper than in retailers. "It's a huge support," he said.

Ashif had also received a government cash support of Tk 2,500 earlier during the pandemic.



Right in the middle of the busy Moghbazar-Mowchak Road in the capital, a gaping hole has been left like this for the last 7-8 days as part of DNCC's drainage development work. Along with obstructing vehicular movement, this unprotected hole is also posing a risk of injury for pedestrians. This photo was taken yesterday in Moghbazar Wireless Gate area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Pay Tk 10 lakh or keep shops shut'

Seven stores at Ananda Bazar market remain closed in fear of DU BCL leaders

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Seven shops of Ananda Bazar located in front of Dhaka University's Amar Ekushey Hall has remained shut since March 13, as two Chhatra League leaders allegedly ordered shop owners to close their shops.

The leaders later asked for Tk 10 lakh from the owners to reopen the shops.

This correspondent visited the spot early yesterday and spoke to the shop owners.

The morning is supposed to be a busy time for them, but instead, they said they aren't raising their shutters in fear of BCL leaders Enayet H Monon, president of Amar Ekushey Hall, and its general secretary Imdadul Hasan Shohagh.

The allegations come 46 days after BCL announced their new hall committees for DU.

According to the owners, on March 13 around 8:00pm, the BCL leaders stormed the market with some of their followers and ordered the owners to shut the market. At stage one, the group started threatening and misbehaving with the owners, leaving them with no option but to comply. There are around 330 shops at the market and allegations run rife that the BCL leaders collect extortion money from all of those. Besides the seven stores, all the others are open at present.

Later this Friday, the BCL leaders met some of the shop owners at the nearby hotel and asked them to pay Tk 10 lakh if they wanted to reopen the market.

Both the BCL leaders have denied the allegations.

"I don't know anything about it. It sounds like the allegations are part of a conspiracy against us," said Monon.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Minimise use, extraction of groundwater

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An estimated 32 cubic kilometres of groundwater is being extracted annually, of which, 90 percent is used in irrigation and 10 percent for industrial and domestic purposes.

The numbers were revealed at a seminar titled "Good Groundwater Management: Justice in Achieving SDG" yesterday at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka.

Dr Anwar Zahid, director of groundwater hydrology, Bangladesh Water Development Board, in his keynote presentation, said, "Due to such over-extraction, groundwater is being contaminated with salt and heavy metal. 24 percent of lands are now exposed to extremely elevated arsenic, salinity and groundwater depletion hazards."

"Again, we have observed that groundwater level in urban areas, particularly Dhaka and Barind Tract, is declining permanently at an alarming rate. This implies that the water level is not being recharged even after the monsoon. With increased extraction, fluctuation of groundwater level has also increased with time," Dr Zahid added.

Md Tazul Islam, minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, emphasised minimising usage and extraction of groundwater.

"There is no alternative to minimising groundwater usage. At present, in many districts, people cannot use groundwater anymore and we are being forced to supply them with purified surface water," he said. "To achieve SDGs, 70 percent of our water consumption must come from the surface water sources."

He said the government is planning to construct water recycling plants where used water will be purified and resupplied to communities to reduce pressure on natural water sources.

In a previous study, it was revealed that Bangladesh is losing groundwater at an average rate of 8.73 millimetres per year. In 2006, the number of shallow water pumps that extract groundwater directly from the aquifers close to the ground surface was 11,82,525, and within 12 years,

ISSUES

- » 32 cubic km groundwater extracted annually
- » 90pc of extracted groundwater used in irrigation
- » 10pc used for industrial, domestic purposes
- » 24pc of land exposed to elevated arsenic, salinity

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Minimising usage and extraction
- » Sourcing 70pc of water consumption from surface water
- » Issuing government licence to stop extraction
- » Constructing water recycling plants

in 2019, the number of shallow wells increased up to 16,00,000.

Prof Dr Kazi Matin U Ahmed of Dhaka University's geology department, said, "We need a license from the government to extract all types of natural resources except groundwater. As a result, we have been extracting groundwater in an unplanned and unregulated manner."

"If we continue to extract groundwater in this way, many parts of the country will not remain liveable due to loss of agriculture, salination and heavy metal contamination," he said.

Strengthen healthcare at community level: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If there was effective health service delivery in district and upazila level hospitals, some 60-70 percent of people could be served with quality health services, according to a report titled "Bangladesh Health Sector: Present Challenges and Future Guidelines".

Prof AFM Ruhul Haque, former minister for the ministry of health and family welfare, presented the report yesterday. The report is based on discussions with 60 relevant stakeholders, including physicians, educationists, politicians, journalists and cultural personalities, during 11 dialogues held between March 11 and July 2, 2021.

While presenting the report, Prof Haque mentioned nine key problems behind inefficiency of the health system, including lack of adequate and skilled human resources, dysfunctional medical devices, lack of incentives and facilities for health staff working in rural and hard-to-reach areas, and inadequate medicines for outdoor patients.

The majority of the participants in those dialogues recommended strengthening the health services at community level.

Other recommendations include division-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

'Underinformed no more'

Integrated hotline service to provide support to migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migrant workers' plight begins right here at home, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said yesterday.

He said this while addressing a ceremony at the Probashi Kalyan Bhavan in the capital.

Regarding migrant workers' lack of information about the migration process, the minister said there is a 90 percent chance that a worker will be unable to identify their recruiting agent or who their overseas employers are.

If they're asked whether they even have an employment contract, most will be unable to answer, he further said.

To address this gap, "Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha)" project, implemented by IOM in partnership with Brac, handed over its hotline service to the Wage Earners' Welfare Board of the ministry at the ceremony.

From now on, the Prottasha hotline service will be merged with the ministry's Probash Bondhu Call Centre to provide more integrated information support to the migrants and their communities, according to the organisers.

The Prottasha hotline has assisted over 2,500 people in Bangladesh and abroad since its inception in 2019, according to a document.

On the other hand, the Probash Bondhu Call Centre receives 200 to 215 calls per day, said WEWB Director General Hamidur Rahman.

Secretary of the ministry Ahmed Munir Saleheen said the new service can play a far-reaching role in disseminating information among migrants.

Fathima Nusrath Ghazzali, officer in-charge of IOM Bangladesh, said IOM has been supporting the government since 1992 to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 21

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4:55	12:45	4:45	6:16	7:45
Jamaat	5:30	1:15	5:00	6:20	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Dilara Hashem passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent writer Dilara Hashem passed away at her home in Washington, United States on Saturday.

She was 86 years old.

Her novel -- Ghar Mon Janala, which tells the story of Najma, a woman struggling for life in a middle-class society, has evoked a huge response from the readers.

Born on August 21, 1936, in Jessore, East

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Uncertainty over SCBA polls result

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The result of Supreme Court Bar Association election is yet to be declared even after four days of the polls.

The resignation of AY Mashuazzaman, head of the election committee, and alleged pressure and misbehaviour by the ruling Awami League-backed lawyers are causing the delay.

The pro-AL lawyers have been demanding recounting of votes, cast for the secretary post, on charge of irregularities.

It is still uncertain when the result of the election, which was held on March 15-16 to elect 14 executive posts, will be declared since no new election conducting committee has been formed yet.

"The pro-Awami League lawyers kept me waiting till 4:00am on Thursday night. They made derogatory remarks before their leaders about me and pressurised me to recount the votes... although there is no such provision," Mashuazzaman told The Daily Star yesterday. "I submitted my resignation letter to the SCBA secretary...," he said.

Contacted, Additional Attorney General SM Munir said, no AL lawyer misbehaved with Mashuazzaman.

Some pro-BNP lawyers did it, he said. "He [Mashuazzaman] knows very well when the SCBA

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Supreme Court judges, former judges, lawyers, political leaders and family members attend namaz-e-janaza of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at National Eidgah Field yesterday. He was laid to rest in Dhaka's Banani graveyard in the afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life yesterday bade farewell to former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

The former chief justice was laid to rest in Dhaka's Banani graveyard around 12:15pm, Supreme Court spokesperson Md Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, his body was kept at National Eidgah Field on the Supreme Court premises for around one hour from 10:00am when SC judges, former judges, lawyers, law officers, political leaders and Justice Shahabuddin's family members paid their last tributes to him.

After his second namaz-e-janaza on National

EWU gives scholarship to students

CITY DESK

East West University (EWU) has provided "Merit Scholarship Award 2022" to 471 students from spring 2020 to spring 2022 semester for their academic performances. The event was held on March 16 on the EWU campus in Dhaka. EWU Board of Trustees Chairperson Syed Manzur Elahi, VC Prof MM Shahidul Hassan, and chief adviser Prof Dr Mohammed Farashuddin were present at the event.

Strengthen

FROM PAGE 3
centric decentralisation of healthcare, introducing a digitalised referral system at local level hospitals and separate service cadres for healthcare.

The report also recommended forming a "Health System Development Forum" comprised of the health ministry, parliamentary standing committee on the health ministry and relevant stakeholders.

Speaking at the event, Dr ABM Abdullah, professor emeritus at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "Doctors are deprived of timely promotion. As a result, they

are frustrated. This issue should be addressed."

Dr Kazi Kholiqzaman Ahmed, chairperson of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, stressed proper coordination to improve healthcare.

Dr Ehteshamul Huq Choudhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association, presented the opening speech, while Prof Dr Syed Modasser Ali, chair of Community Clinic Health Support Trust; and National Professor A K Azad Khan, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, spoke at the event.

Uncertainty over

FROM PAGE 3
election result will be declared," he added.

SCBA Secretary Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, a candidate from the pro-BNP lawyers' panel for the election subcommittee, said, "I hope he [Mashiuzzaman] will change his decision and declare the election result

within a few days."

Md Abdun Nur Dulal, a secretary candidate from AL-backed panel, submitted an application on Thursday night to the election subcommittee, saying that many votes have been illegally counted in favour of his rival candidate Kazal.

Too precious

FROM PAGE 5
two (in Gazipur and Duhazara),

Amir Hossain Chowdhury, chief conservator of forests, said, "Once the project is okayed, we will recruit people."

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bapa Sylhet chapter, said infrastructures, power lines and substations will be constructed for tourists, destroying the natural habitat of the wildlife.

"The government should focus on conservation of local species, which are already endangered and on the verge of extinction," said Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed, former chief conservator of forests, who also served as IUCN country representative.

BLAZE IN LATHITLA

Meanwhile, more than one km of forest area has been burnt to ashes in Dilkush and Shuknachhara areas of the forest sometime around this Wednesday and Thursday. However, the forest department does not seem to know anything about the incident.

Environmentalists suspect a vested group may have started the fire intentionally. When this correspondent visited the spot, he found that the main gate of the proposed park, the entrance of Jarichhara Road and more than one-km area of Shuknachhara have been burnt. Juri Range Officer Alauddin said he doesn't know how the fire started.

Justice Shahabuddin

FROM PAGE 3
Eidgah field, his body was taken to Banani Graveyard for burial.

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, former chief justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Md Muzammel Hossain, judges of the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC, former minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP,

lawyers of the SC, additional attorney generals, some deputy attorney generals, and government and SC officials concerned attended the janaza.

Justice Shahabuddin passed away at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on Saturday at the age of 92. His first janaza was held at his ancestral village in Netrakona.

Dilara Hashem

FROM PAGE 3
Bengal, now Bangladesh, Dilara graduated in 1956 from the English department at Dhaka University. Then, she joined the then Radio Pakistan.

She was a Bangla news presenter for a long time. Later, she joined as news presenter at Dhaka Radio and Television.

"Ghar Mon Janala" published in 1965 was made into a film in 1973. It

was translated into Russian and Chinese languages.

After the independence, she joined temporarily as radio broadcaster for BBC Bangla and The Voice of America in 1972. She began working as a full-time employee at Voice of America in 1982. She retired in 2011.

Dilara was among the first Bangalee writers to receive Bangla Academy Award in 1976.

Pay Tk 10 lakh

FROM PAGE 3
When this correspondent

asked him why the owners could be conspiring against them, he asked this correspondent to investigate it himself.

Shohag echoed him.

Asked, Saddam Hussain, general secretary of DU unit of BCL, said, "If someone does anything unethical using our organisation's name, we will take action against them as per our guidelines if the allegations turn out true."

Meanwhile, hall provost Dr Ishtiaq M Syed told The Daily Star they have not received any official complaint in this regard.

Contacted, DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani said, "We urge the victims to seek help from law enforcers if they have evidence."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Kushtia
Email: eekus@rhd.gov.bd

Reference No. 35.01.5000.439.07.003.21-495 Date: 20-03-2022

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package Reference No.	Name of work	Last date & time of selling	Date & time of closing and opening
01.	674874	e-Gp/R/G-10/KURD/2021-2022	Supplying of best quality Stone Chips, 1st Class Bricks, & Local Sand for Maintenance at Different Roads under Kushtia Road Division Kushtia, (RHD, Stack Yard Chourhash) during the year 2021-2022.	04-04-2022 at 16:00 hours	05-04-2022 at 12:30 hours.
02.	674875	e-GP/R/W-19/KURD/2021-2022	Installation of Cantilever Sign Board, Directional Sign Board, Single Chevron (B-13) & Rumble strips at Different Km of Ahaladipur-Rajbari-Pangsha-Kumarkhali-Kushtia (Chourhash) Road (R-710) under Road Division, Kushtia during the year 2021-2022.	04-04-2022 at 16:00 hours.	05-04-2022 at 12:35 hours.

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

Md. Shakirul Islam
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Kushtia

GD-535

ISDB-BISEW VACANCY

Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (ISDB-BISEW) has undertaken construction of an iconic commercial complex (IDB Bhaban-2) of approximately 60,000 sqm with State-of-the-Art Amenities & Facilities on 2 acres of land at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

ISDB-BISEW now wishes to hire qualified and experienced candidates for the following positions for the duration of construction of IDB Bhaban-2:

Sl. No.	Position	Required Nos.	Qualification and Experience
01	Project Engineer	1	• B.Sc. in Civil Engineering with minimum 20 years of experience, of which minimum 5 years of experience as Team Leader in large construction projects. • Age: Maximum 50 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
02	Quantity Surveyor/Quantity Engineer	1	• B.Sc. in Civil Engineering with minimum 7 years of experience in large construction projects. Able to prepare estimates, bill preparation, progress report, material requirements. Knowledge in AutoCAD and Microsoft Office is mandatory. Knowledge in Microsoft Project is preferable. • Age: Maximum 45 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
03	Civil Engineer	1	• B.Sc. in Civil Engineering with minimum 12 years of experience in structural design and supervision of large construction projects. • Age: Maximum 45 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
04	Site Engineer	2	• B.Sc. in Civil Engineering with minimum 10 years of experience in large construction projects. • Age: Maximum 45 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
05	Architect	1	• B.Sc. in Architecture from an accredited institution with minimum 10 years of experience in large construction projects. Good experience in relevant software programs including AutoCAD, Revit and 3D Modeling. • Age: Maximum 45 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
06	Asst. Architect	1	• B.Sc. in Architecture from an accredited institution with minimum 5 years of experience in large construction projects. Good experience in relevant software programs including AutoCAD, Revit and 3D Modeling. • Age: Maximum 40 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
07	Electrical Engineer	1	• B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from an accredited institution with minimum 15 years of experience in electric works including Sub-station, power supply, power distribution and electromechanical installations in large construction projects. Experience in relevant computer applications is preferable. • Age: Maximum 50 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
08	Diploma Engineer	2	• Diploma in Civil Engineering with minimum 5 years of experience in large construction projects. Knowledge in AutoCAD is preferable. • Age: Maximum 40 years. • Job location: Fulltime at project site.
09	Administrative Support Staff	2	• Graduate in any discipline. 10 years of experience in secretarial works. Good communication skills in English. Good knowledge in Microsoft Office is mandatory. • Age: Maximum 45 years.
10	Driver	1	• H.Sc. passed. Minimum 12 years of experience. • Age: Maximum 40 years.

Interested candidates are requested to submit applications with CV supported by certificates of qualification and experience along with 2 copies recent passport size photograph. Application should reach ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207 OR by email hr@isdb-bisew.org on or before 05 April 2022.

ISDB-BISEW, IDB Bhaban (4th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207. Phone: 880 2 9183006, Email: info@isdb-bisew.org, Web: www.isdb-bisew.org

Remembering

FROM PAGE 5
Pakistan army burnt him alive."

"Principal of Teroshree College Atiar Rahman was called from his college room to Teroshree Bazar. He was taken to Mintu Mia's grocery store and stabbed to death. All 43 who were killed that day met their fates in similar ways. By noon, the Pakistan forces returned to Ghior after completing their massacre. The locals bore responsibility of burying the bodies in a mass grave."

"After the country became independent,

Bangabandhu sent a condolence letter to my mother and provided us with financial support. It was a great honour for my family," said Someshwar.

To commemorate the memory of Teroshree Genocide Day, the "Shaheed Smriti Parishad" was formed in 1994. On December 27 that year, a memorial plaque was unveiled by Someshwar's mother Gayatri Devi Chowdhurani.

AUW to introduce scholarship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian University for Women is going to introduce a merit scholarship for Bangladeshi students from this fall, said VC Rubana Huq yesterday.

It will be based on their GPA in SSC and HSC exams, grades and points for A-level and IB students, she said at an event on campus in Chattogram.

পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)
প্লট: ই-৪/বি, আবারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
পিএকিএজ: ৪৮০-২-৮১৮১৩৫৮-৩১; ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৮১৮১৩৬১, ৮১৮১৩৬৮
ই-মেইল: pkfs@pkfs-bd.org; www.facebook.com/pkfs.org
নং-৫৩.২৩.০০০০.০০১.০৩.০৩৬.২২.১৭২৯ তারিখ: ২১/০৩/২০২২

গাড়ি ভাড়া সংক্রান্ত উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)-এর Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP)-এর আওতায় ২টি জীপ গাড়ি এবং ১টি মাইক্রোবাস (চালক ও জালানীসহ) ভাড়া সংক্রান্ত নির্মিত সর্বাধিক সরবরাহকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্র.সং	বিবরণ	দরপত্রের বিবরণ
১	প্রতিষ্ঠান	পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ), পিকেএসএফ ভবন, প্লট নং-ই-৪/বি, আবারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
২	ক্রয়কারী	উপ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক-২
৩	ক্রয়কারীর জেলা	ঢাকা
৪	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র	Hiring vehicles for transportation of personnel under Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP) of PKSF
৫	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	PKSF/Admin/GD-22
৬	দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	৫৩.২৩.০০০০.০০১.০৩.০৩৬.২২.১৭৩০.২১/০৩/২০২২
৭	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
৮	বাজেট ও তহবিল	বিশ্ব ব্যাংক ও পিকেএসএফ
৯	প্রকল্পের নাম	Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP)
১০	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২১ মার্চ ২০২২
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৬ এপ্রিল ২০২২ দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকা
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ	০৭ এপ্রিল ২০২২ দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকা
১৩	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৭ এপ্রিল ২০২২ দুপুর ২:৩০ ঘটিকা
১৪	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিউল বিক্রয়, দাখিল ও খোলার স্থান ও ঠিকানা	পিকেএসএফ ভবন, প্লট নং-ই-৪/বি, আবারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
১৫	দরপত্রের মূল্য	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা
১৬	দরপত্রের জামানত	দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে বাংলাদেশের কোনো তফসিলি ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ডার (ফেরতযোগ্য) পিকেএসএফ-এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে।
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	একিউএম গোলাম মাল্লা, উপ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক পিকেএসএফ, আবারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭
১৮	গাড়ি ব্যবহারের সময়কাল	বিজ্ঞাপনের বিস্তারিত অথবা জমা দরপত্র সিদ্ধিউল ও পিকেএসএফ এর ওয়েবসাইট:
১৯	দরদাতার যোগাযোগ	https://www.pkfs-bd.org ডিজিট করা জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

এ দরপত্র The Public Procurement Act, 2006 & The Public Procurement Rules, 2008 বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে এবং কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতই এ নোটিশ বাতিল/পরিবর্তন অথবা যে কোনো বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

উপ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক-২

জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান

শেখ হাসিনার দর্শন
সব মানুষের উন্নয়ন

বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ, চট্টগ্রাম

পোঃ চট্টগ্রাম সেনানিবাস, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২২০

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

দরপত্র নির্দেশে বর্ণিত শর্ত এবং যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানদের থেকে নিচে নিম্নোক্ত কাজের জন্য সীমাবদ্ধকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং	কাজের বিবরণ	বিস্তারিত
১.	মন্ত্রালয়/বিভাগ	১ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রালয়।
২.	সংস্থা	১ বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
৩.	ক্রয়/সেবারে স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	১ নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
৪.	আবেদনকৃত কাজের ধরন	১ জরুরি সঙ্কটসম্মিলিত কাজ।
৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র নং	১ ৩৯.০২.১০০৬.০৩৬.১৭.০০১.২০২১ তারিখ: ২০/০৩/২০২২
৬.	ক্রয়/সেবারে পদ্ধতি	১ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।
৭.	কাজের উল	১ কাজের খরচ।
৮.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১ ১০/০৪/২০২২ইং অর্থাৎ চৈত্র মাসের শেষ পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১ ১১/০৪/২০২২ইং বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১ ১১/০৪/২০২২ইং বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
	দরপত্র বিক্রয় অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১ কার্যালয়, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার, বাসুদেব, ডাক সেনানিবাস, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২২০।
১১.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস	১ নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার এর কার্যালয়। ১ ডেপুটি প্রকৌশলী/সিনিয়র প্রকৌশলীর সার্বিকভাবে নির্ধারিত ক্ষমতা নিয়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। ১ নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার এর কার্যালয়।
	দরপত্র ঘোষণার স্থান	১ সরকারি/স্বা-স্বাক্ষরিত/স্বাক্ষরিত/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নির্মিত টিকিট।
১২.	দরপত্র ঘোষণার যোগ্যতা	১ অধিকৃত কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকবে হবে, কাজ সমাপ্তির সময় দাখিল করতে হবে। এখানে উল্লিখিত টার্ম ওন্ডিশনসে কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। হাসপাতাল ন্যায়নকৃত নিষেধ, ঔষধি মাটসে, ব্যাক্ত সংস্পর্শে, আবেগ ও ভাষ্টি নিষেধের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৩.	দরপত্র জামানত	১ বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী।
১৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	১ নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	১ প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
১৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	১ টেলিফোন নং: ০২ ৩০৪৪ ১-২০৪ (দৈনিক), ই-মেইল: engrazim@bcsir.gov.bd
১৭.	নির্ধারিত হারে দরপত্র জামানত অফিসি ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ড্রাফট/ব্যাংক পাওরী আকারে পরিশোধ, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার এর নামে দাখিল করতে হবে।	

প্যাকেজ নং	কাজের নাম	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	দরপত্র জামানত (সেকেন্ডেয়ারি)	অফিসের মূল্য (সেকেন্ডেয়ারি)
W-04	বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগারে বসন্ত লাইটের কার্য পরিচালনা করা	৩০ দিন	৩০,০০০/-	১,৫০০/-
W-08	গবেষণাগার ভবনের বিদ্যুৎ তারের (দৈনিক পরিশোধ) ত্রুটি চিহ্নিত এবং জরুরি সঙ্কটের কাজ।	৩০ দিন	২৫,০০০/-	১,০০০/-
W-09	আবাসিক এলাকার মেরুত্ব কমানোর হুইট ট্রাট, সুরমা কমানোর ডিম্বিট ট্রাট ও পোমটী কমানোর হুইট ট্রাট এর জরুরি সঙ্কটের কাজ।	৩০ দিন	৩৫,০০০/-	১,৫০০/-
W-10	আবাসিক এলাকার রপসা কমানোর ডিম্বিট ট্রাট, ইচ্ছামতী কমানোর হুইট ট্রাট ও শব্দ কমানোর একটী ট্রাট এর জরুরি সঙ্কটের কাজ।	৩০ দিন	৩৫,০০০/-	১,৫০০/-

দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কার্যক্রম পিপিআর-২০০৬ এবং তদন্তের জারিকৃত সংশোধনী/শ্রোত্র অনুসারে হবে। উন্মুক্ত দর বিক্রয়টি প্রকল্পের ১০% উর্ধ্ব/নিম্ন হলে সরাসরি বাতিল বলে ধরা হবে। ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতই যে কোনো অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

যোগাযোগ
নির্ধারিত প্রকৌশলী
বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-৩৩৭

Convocation 2022

2nd Convocation

27th March, 2022
Venue: Permanent Campus:
Arefin Nagar, Baizid, Chattogram.

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Deputy Minister of Education
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Convocation Speaker
Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad
Distinguished Professor of CSE Department, BRAC University
Fellow, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences & Former Professor, BUET

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Together on top of the world

After conquering Mount Kilimanjaro, Bangladeshi couple eyes seven summits

Conquering heights is an urge so prehistoric that many have taken the test of fate to assess their mortal limits. After Wasfia Nazreen, Nishat Majumdar and Musa Ibrahim — Bangladeshis who have already conquered the highest peaks — the names of Julia Parvin and Mohammad Shahidul Alam (Shemon) have just been added to that list.

NAZIFA RAIDAH

Julia and Shemon have been living as expats in Mombasa, Kenya since 2012. They run a car importing business together.

Little did they know that amid their busy schedules they would sign up for the feat of their lives — conquering the Seven Summits, starting with their homeground, Mount Kilimanjaro.

They named their summit “U& Me — First step on Seven Summit” to encourage couples to take up mountain exploring together.

“The journey started at the wake of the pandemic. I was going through pictures from our visit to Mount Kenya, the second highest peak in Africa a year back. Missing the view from the top, I was engrossed with the idea of going back there again,” Julia told this correspondent over the phone.

“When my husband pitched Mount Kilimanjaro for our expedition, I was even more excited. I started my research — going through articles, vlogs and even talking to few local guides. I found that though reaching our destination wouldn’t be that challenging, surviving the trek would be, since altitude sickness and lacking physical fitness are major barriers,” she said.

Shemon chimed in, “At first, I treated it like a fever dream. But then, when I saw my wife looking up so many resources day and night, I couldn’t help but join in and support her.”

And thus, preparations for the ambitious feat began.

THE PREPARATION

The couple woke up early and went for their 5km power walk, which gradually increased to 10km a day and kept growing over time. They carried heavy backpacks on their walks so that their bodies could get adjusted to pulling weight.

Julia said they started training around the end of July, 2021.

“After 2-3 months of practice, we could walk around 35km

without breaking a sweat. We camped around different mountain ranges in Kenya at least twice a month, in places where it was dangerous to camp due to the presence of wild animals. But thankfully, we didn’t face any trouble,” she added.

THE JOURNEY

Finally, the anticipated day arrived on January 31, 2022. After getting the technicalities cleared with a registered tour operator, Shemon and Julia set off with a pack of 11 — including their guide, trekking crew and porters.

“We started facing natural challenges from the get go. While passing through the Lemosho route, we had to pass through a rainforest where we had to wade through thick mist and cold. Throughout the journey, the weather was gloomy and we

a few breathing exercises and went back to the tent to rest. The next day, I was ready to resume the journey,” she said.

The next day they started their ascent at 5:00am. They reached Stella point, after a long 10-11 hours hike, where they could see the summit sign from a distance.

FROM STELLA POINT TO UHURU PEAK

“For the path from Stella point to Uhuru peak, we had to cross a crater rim. The last 250m of vertical ascent was quite challenging as our legs were sore and fatigue was catching up to us,” said Shemon.

Despite the struggle, the couple pushed on, and finally, after seven days of hardship they reached Uhuru peak, the highest point of Kilimanjaro.

“Unfortunately, we could only spend



hardly encountered the sun,” said Julia.

“We had to double our energy as the path we were crossing was very slippery due to the mist. We wore raincoats, which was very uncomfortable to trek in,” added Shemon.

“The first few days, till 10,000-13,000 feet, we didn’t face a lot of issues. But then during the middle of the night, we started getting altitude sickness. Your head feels heavy, breathing gets difficult and your chest feels like you’re being punched. By the time we reached the base camp, I felt far worse,” said Julia.

“There was no medical crew 15,000ft above sea level and I was almost in the mindset to tell Shemon that we should turn back. But later, I thought, I couldn’t let all of this effort go to waste. I got out of our tent at the Barafu campsite, put the snow on my face and head and did

about five minutes at the peak, since a snow storm was approaching,” said Shemon.

“Within minutes the whole area turned white with snow, it was hauntingly beautiful, but it also made our descent difficult as it was hard to find a path to get down,” added Julia.

Their daring feat finally came to an end. The title of being the first Bangladeshi couple to trek Mount Kilimanjaro, one of the highest peaks of the world, was now theirs.

So what’s next for the couple?

Julia said the trek to Kilimanjaro made them confident and optimistic that they can conquer more peaks.

The couple plans on trekking Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, with a summit elevation of 6,961 metres.



‘Too precious to lose’

Proposed safari park at Lathitila forest can prove counterproductive, fear experts

MINTU DESHWARA

After Gazipur and Dulahazra, the forest department has finalised plans to build the country’s third safari park in Lathitila forest, located in Moulvibazar’s Juri upazila.

But experts said projects like this can prove counterproductive in protecting the biodiversity of the evergreen tropical forest, home to numerous animal species.

The prospect is particularly troubling given the recent heart-wrenching death spree of animals at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur. Between January 2 and February 3, 11 zebras died at the park, along with a tiger and a lioness. Following this, two top officials of the park were removed over negligence in carrying out their duties.

Amidst all this, the master-plan for Lathitila’s safari park project, which has a budget of Tk 846.25 crore, awaits government approval.

Out of the total budget, Tk 203 crore is allocated for animal management and Tk 182 crore for purchasing animals for the park.

Despite protests from environmentalists, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has finalised the project.

According to its feasibility report, around 8-10 lakh visitors are expected to come to the park every year.

Lathitila is not only home to numerous animals, it is also home to a few endangered species as well, its elephant species being the most talked about among them.

This correspondent talked to several residents of the area during a recent visit.

In the depths of the 5,631 acres of Lathitila forest, five female elephants still survive. But according to experts, there are no male elephants left in the forest to save the species from extinction. But their troubles don’t just end there.

Activist Khorshed Alam said various species of trees and bamboo have been felled, resulting in a food crisis for the remaining elephants.

“And when the forest becomes a safari park, they will face shelter crisis too. This will drive them further towards extinction,” he added.

Asked if there would be any damage to the elephants’ habitat because of the proposed safari park, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer, said there is no possibility of danger.

FOREST DEPARTMENT’S STAFF SHORTAGE

Asked about how they are going to manage the workforce for the third safari park, as they do not even have skilled workforce for the existing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



SAIDPUR 100-BED HOSPITAL

Patients hostage to ‘ambulance syndicate’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The two ambulances at Saidpur 100-bed Hospital have been out of order for years now.

Taking advantage of this situation, unauthorised private ambulances gather in front of the hospital gate daily to take patients to other hospitals on the outskirts, charging a high fare, alleged patients.

They said some hospital employees and brokers have joined hands with the ambulance agencies to form this syndicate.

Sources informed that out of two ambulances, one has been out of order for 18 years and the other, which was donated in 2016, became inactive in 2017.

However, the driver and staffers are still getting paid with their regular salaries.

According to the syndicate’s victims, a section of the hospital authorities refer patients to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) or specialised hospitals, even though they could be treated here.

During a recent visit to the hospital, this correspondent found Shakil Ahmed (22) from Saidpur’s Munshipara waiting in a wheelchair with a fractured leg, while his attendants were looking for transportation to RMCH.

Two ambulance drivers started dragging him. One demanded Tk 3,200 as fare and the other Tk 3,000, even though government ambulance charges only Tk 700.

Dr Omedul Hasan Sarker, resident medical officer of the hospital, however, denied the allegations and said that only critical patients are referred to specialised hospitals.

Dr Nabiur Rahman, additional director of the hospital, said, “We’ve written to the higher authorities for new ambulances.”



Four to die for killing schoolboy

UNB, Nyanj

A Narayanganj court yesterday sentenced four people to death and two others to life-term imprisonment for killing Emon Hossain (13) in 2013.

Narayanganj Additional District and Sessions Judge Court-2 Begum Sabina Yeasmin handed down the judgment.

The condemned convicts are Siraj (45), Ahmed Ali (55), Nahid (21) and Sentu Mia (25). Salma (42) and Husna (47) were sentenced to life.

According to the prosecution, Ahmed Ali had a longstanding feud with his nephew Iqbal, a Bangladeshi expatriate in Singapore, at Char Radhanagar village in Fatulla area.

On June 13, 2013, Ahmed killed Iqbal’s brother 13-year-old Emon Hossain, a class VI student, and dumped the body after cutting it into nine pieces.

Later, police recovered the dismembered body from a field in the area and a complaint was lodged with Sadar Police Station.



Remembering Teroshree massacre

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

The Liberation War has left our nation marred with atrocious tales. The Teroshree village of Ghior upazila of Manikganj bore testament to such a tale.

At dawn on November 22, 1971, the occupying forces and their locals allies attacked the village, preying on its innocent habitats.

They set fire to houses, shot and stabbed people, and killed more with bayonets. Loud gunshots and cries of the villagers were all that could be heard in that morning.

Forty three people were killed that day. Prominent residents like Siddheshwari Prasad Roy Chowdhury, a zamindar of Teroshree village, and Atiar Rahman, principal of Teroshree College, were killed in the attack.

Advocate Azharul Islam Arzu, a member of Communist Party of Bangladesh’s central committee and former president of its district committee, said, “In 1971, many people from surrounding areas



took shelter in Teroshree village. A freedom fighters’ camp was formed there.” He said the people of Teroshree were always active in the country’s struggles.

“Teroshree village was a centre of non-communal progressive revolutionaries of the war. That’s why the Pakistan army attacked this village,” he added.

Retired teacher of KN Institution

Someshwar Prasad Roy Chowdhury, son of Zamindar Siddheshwari Prasad Roy Chowdhury, shared the tale of that horrific day.

“I was just 12 years old, but I remember everything vividly. Hearing news of the attack, my father took shelter in a laundry house beside our house. But he was found through the local collaborators. The

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Demonstrators hold placards and Tunisian national flags during a protest against Tunisian President Kais Saied's seizure of governing powers, in Tunis, Tunisia yesterday. Saied last July sacked the government and moved to rule by decree, sparking fears for democracy in the birthplace of the 2011 Arab uprisings. PHOTO: REUTERS

BID TO OUST PAK PM No-confidence vote on Mar 25

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's parliament will convene on Friday to take up a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, the lower house speaker's office said yesterday, in what shapes up as his toughest test since coming to power in 2018. An alliance of opposition parties filed the motion against Khan this month, saying he had lost his parliamentary majority after over a dozen defections from his party, raising the risk of political turmoil in the nuclear-armed South Asian country. Under the constitution, the Speaker of the lower house of parliament is required to convene the session within 14 days of receiving the motion, which would fall today. But a statement from the Speaker's Office said the date was pushed back several days because of a conference of Islamic countries in Islamabad scheduled for March 23.



North Korea fires multiple-rocket launchers

AFP, Seoul

North Korea fired multiple rocket launchers yesterday, Seoul said, the latest in a series of provocations by the nuclear-armed nation to heighten tensions in the region. Pyongyang launched a string of banned weaponry this year and tested what it claimed were components of a "reconnaissance satellite" - although Seoul and Washington have described them as a new ICBM system. "There were shots suspected to be from North Korea's multiple rocket launchers this morning," said the Joint Chiefs of Staff in a text message to reporters. "Our military is maintaining our defence readiness while closely following related developments," it added, without further detail. Four shots were fired into the western waters during a span of an hour from 7:20 am from an unspecified location in South Pyongan province, Yonhap news agency reported citing unnamed officials. The intention of the firing was being evaluated, it added. South Korea's NSC held an emergency meeting and called for a tight readiness posture to prevent security vacuum during transition period.

SHAMANISTIC PRACTICES S Korea's Yoon ditches Blue House office

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's president-elect said yesterday he will relocate his office from the "imperial" Blue House, in a move critics charged is linked to his belief in shamanistic spiritual practices. Yoon Suk-yeol, who won a tight election earlier this month, pledged on the campaign trail that he would move presidential business out of the Blue House - home to South Korea's leaders since 1948. The former prosecutor has accused the hilltop headquarters of fostering an "imperial" presidency and undermining communication with the public. Outgoing President Moon Jae-in also pledged to move out "to eradicate the authoritarian presidential culture" but faced security and logistical hurdles.

RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE Japan PM presses Modi for 'action'

AGENCIES

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida urged India's Narendra Modi on Saturday to take a tougher line on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but a joint statement after talks in Delhi fell short of condemning Moscow's actions.

Unlike fellow members of the Quad alliance - Japan, Australia and the United States - India has abstained in UN votes deploring Russia's actions, calling only for a halt to the violence while still buying Russian oil.

Kishida told a joint news conference that he and Modi held an "in-depth discussion" and that "Russia's invasion... shakes the very foundations of the international order and must be dealt with firmly."

But Modi made no direct mention of Ukraine and their joint written statement afterwards called only "for an immediate cessation of violence and noted that there was no other choice but the path of dialogue and diplomacy for resolution of the conflict".

Without naming any country, they "emphasised the need for all countries to seek peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law without resorting to threat or use of force or any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo".

Earlier this month in a four-way call, the other Quad leaders - Kishida, US President Joe Biden and Australia's Scott Morrison - also failed to win the Indian premier over to their position on Ukraine.

A joint Quad statement at the time said they "discussed the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and assessed its broader implications" - without any condemnation of Moscow, reports AFP.

A separate Indian readout pointedly underlined that the alliance must remain focused on its "core objective... in the Indo-Pacific region" of promoting peace, stability and prosperity.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, India's foreign secretary, told reporters that the two leaders had "assessed broader implications particularly for the Indo-Pacific region. They underscored the importance of safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine."

Japanese foreign direct investment into India has mainly been in the automobile, electrical equipment, telecommunications, chemical and pharmaceutical sectors, reports Reuters.



Sri Lanka grapples with shortages

Two men die in fuel queues as multiple women standing in the hot sun to buy cooking gas faint



AFP, Colombo

At least two people in Sri Lanka died while waiting in long queues for fuel, officials said yesterday, as widespread shortages cause misery and hardship across the island nation.

Sri Lanka is battling the worst economic crisis in its history as an independent nation, with a lack of foreign exchange to purchase vital imports shrinking the supply of essential goods.

Motorists are forced to wait hours outside gas stations for petrol and the government has imposed rolling blackouts as power utilities are unable to pay for enough foreign oil to meet demand.

Police said a 70-year-old man who was standing in line to buy gasoline collapsed and died at a filling station on the outskirts of the capital Colombo yesterday.

It was the second such death in as many days, after another elderly man collapsed in Kandy while waiting for kerosene oil to use as cooking fuel, police in the city confirmed.

Local media reports said multiple women standing in the hot sun to buy cooking gas had fainted at several locations across the island over the weekend.

Oil and liquefied petroleum gas shipments have sat idle at Colombo's main port, with importers unable to scrape together enough foreign currency to pay for them.

The Covid-19 pandemic throttled Sri Lanka's tourism sector - a key foreign exchange earner - and foreign worker remittances have also declined.

Authorities announced last week that the country will seek an IMF bailout to resolve its worsening foreign debt crisis and shore up reserves.

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

Memo: 33.04.0000.124.02.010.20.151 Date: 20.03.2022

e- Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

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

Sl No	Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling Date @ Time	Tender Closing Date @ Time	Tender Opening Date @ Time
01	669927	Construction of Barbed wire fencing boundary wall (278 Rm) with main gate	05-Apr-2022 upto 16:59	05-Apr-2022 upto 17:00	05-Apr-2022 upto 17:00
02	671667	Construction of boundary wall with RCC frame	05-Apr-2022 upto 16:59	05-Apr-2022 upto 17:00	05-Apr-2022 upto 17:00

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

(Md. Mohidul Islam)
Project Director

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Appointment of C&F Agents for Chittagong Seaport

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by EDCL for appointment of C&F and Carrying Agents according to tender schedule of Chittagong Seaport as mentioned below :

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Earnest money	Cost of tender schedule	Last date & time of closing	Date & time of opening
01.	EDCL/PURCHASE/C&F/LT/2022/99 Dated- 20/03/2022	Appointment of C&F Agent (as per tender schedule) for Dhaka Airport with carrying of goods to EDCL's Dhaka, Bogra, Gopalganj, Khulna Plants & Madhopur Plant.	Tk. 3,00,000.00 (three lac) only refundable/ adjustable with SD	Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) only non-refundable	17/04/2022 at 11.00 pm	17/04/2020 at 11.15 pm

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays).
No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

General Manager
Procurement
For : Managing Director.

Shift S-400 missile systems to Ukraine US informally asked Turkey

REUTERS, Washington

The United States has informally raised with Turkey the unlikely possibility of sending its Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems to Ukraine to help it fight invading Russian forces, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

US officials have floated the suggestion over the past month with their Turkish counterparts but no specific or formal request was made, the sources told Reuters. They said it also came up briefly during Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman's visit to Turkey earlier this month.

The Biden administration has been asking allies who have been using Russian-made equipment and systems including S-300s and S-400s to consider transferring them to Ukraine as it tries to fend off a Russian invasion that began on Feb. 24. [Read full story](#)

The idea, which analysts said was sure to be shot down by Turkey, was part of a wider discussion between Sherman and Turkish officials about how the United States and its allies can do more to support Ukraine and on how to improve bilateral ties.

The Turkish authorities have not commented on any US suggestion or proposal relating to the transfer to Ukraine of Ankara's S-400 systems, which have been a point of long-standing contention between the two Nato allies.

Turkish foreign ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

Turkish sources and analysts said any such suggestion would be a non-starter for Turkey, citing issues ranging from technical hurdles related to installing and operating the S-400s in Ukraine, to political concerns such as the blowback Ankara would likely face from Moscow.



Participants with the lights of their smartphones illuminate the Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna Saturday, during the charity concert 'We Stand With Ukraine'. More than 3.3 million refugees have now fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion, the United Nations said, while nearly 6.5 million are thought to be internally displaced within the country.

PHOTO: AFP

WAR IN UKRAINE Developments

AFP, Kyiv

HYPERSONIC WEAPONS

Russia says for a second day in a row it has fired its newest hypersonic missiles in Ukraine, destroying a fuel storage site in Mykolaiv region. Hypersonic missiles travel faster than the speed of sound and can manoeuvre mid-flight, making them hard to track and intercept.

ART SCHOOL BOMBED

Ukrainian authorities accuse Russian forces of bombing an art school in the besieged city of Mariupol where some 400 people, including women and children, had been sheltering. They also accuse the forces of deporting around 1,000 residents to Russia and stripping them of their Ukrainian passports. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says the siege of Mariupol will go down in history as a war crime.

HOSPITAL HIT

In the encircled northern city of Chernigiv, the mayor says dozens of civilians have been killed by "indiscriminate artillery shelling", and that a hospital has been hit.

AUSTRALIA UPS ANTE

Australia bans all exports of alumina and bauxite to Russia while pledging more weapons and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. The export ban aims to impact aluminium production in Russia, which relies on Australia for 20 percent of its alumina.

ZELENSKY TO ADDRESS ISRAELI LAWMAKERS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who has emphasised was due to address Israel's parliament. In an international tour via videoconference, Zelensky has spoken to several foreign legislatures since the invasion launched on February 24, including the United States Congress, Britain's House of Commons and Germany's Bundestag.

10 MILLIONS DISPLACED

Ten million people -- more than a quarter of the population -- have now fled their homes in Ukraine due to Russia's "devastating" war, the United Nations refugee chief said. Some 90 percent of those who have fled are women and children. Ukrainian men aged 18 to 60 are eligible for military call-up and cannot leave. UNICEF said more than 1.5 million children are among those who have fled abroad, warning that the risks they face of human trafficking and exploitation are "real, and growing".

Beijing on the right side of history

Says Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi over Ukraine war



REUTERS, Shanghai

China stands on the right side of history over the Ukraine crisis as time will tell, and its position is in line with the wishes of most countries, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

"China will never accept any external coercion or pressure, and opposes any unfounded accusations and suspicions against China," Wang told reporters on Saturday evening, according to a statement published by his ministry yesterday.

Wang's comments came after US President Joe Biden warned his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, on Friday of "consequences" if Beijing gave material support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

During the video call, Xi told Biden the war in Ukraine must end as soon as possible and called on Nato nations to hold a dialogue with Moscow. He did not, however, assign blame to Russia, according to Beijing's statements about the call.

Wang said the most important message Xi sent was that China has always been a force for maintaining world peace.

"We have always stood for maintaining peace and opposing war," Wang said, reiterating that China will make independent judgements.

"China's position is objective and fair, and is in line with the wishes of most countries. Time will

prove that China's claims are on the right side of history."

Also on Saturday, Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said that sanctions imposed by Western nations on Russia over Ukraine were increasingly "outrageous".

Yesterday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged China to join Western nations in condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine on Saturday called on China to condemn "Russian barbarism" after dozens were killed in new strikes.

Ukraine and the United States are concerned about Chinese potentially sending military aid to Russia or helping Moscow circumvent Western sanctions.

The United States and its European and Asian allies have imposed sweeping sanctions on Russia for the Feb. 24 invasion of its neighbour, which they call a war of aggression by President Vladimir Putin. He says he launched a "special operation" to demilitarise and "denazify" Ukraine.

While saying it recognises Ukraine's sovereignty, Beijing has repeatedly said that Russia has legitimate security concerns that should be addressed and urged a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Rivals nearing deal on 'critical' issues: Turkey

REUTERS, Istanbul

Turkey's foreign minister said in an interview published yesterday that Russia and Ukraine were nearing agreement on "critical" issues and he was hopeful for a ceasefire if the two sides did not backtrack from progress achieved so far.

Foreign ministers Sergei Lavrov of Russia and Dmytro Kuleba of Ukraine met in the Turkish resort town of Antalya earlier this month with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also attending. The discussions did not yield concrete results.

But Cavusoglu, who also travelled to Russia and Ukraine last week for talks with Lavrov and Kuleba, told Turkish daily Hurriyet that there had been "rapprochement in the positions of both sides on important subjects, critical subjects".

"We can say we are hopeful for a ceasefire if the sides do not take a step back from the current positions," he said, without elaborating on the issues.

Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin, speaking to al Jazeera television, said the two sides were getting closer on four key issues. He cited Russia's demand for Ukraine to renounce ambitions to join Nato, demilitarisation, what Russia has referred to as "de-nazification", and the protection of the Russian language in Ukraine.

Mercury hits record high in Antarctica

AFP, Paris

Eastern Antarctica has recorded exceptionally high temperatures this week, more than 30 degrees Celsius above normal, say experts.

The Concordia research base at Dome C of the Antarctic, which is at an altitude of 3,000 metres, on Friday registered a record -11.5 degrees Celsius (11.3 Fahrenheit), Etienne Kapikian, a meteorologist from France Meteo tweeted.

Normally, temperatures fall with the end of the southern summer, but the Dumont d'Urville station on Antarctica registered record temperatures for March with 4.9C (40.82F), at a time of year when normally temperatures are already sub-zero.

Gaetan Heymes of France Meteo described the unseasonably mild weather as a "historic event".

And geoscientist Jonathan Wille wrote on Twitter: "And there it is, Concordia broke its all time record temperature by 1.5°C.



"This is when temperatures should be rapidly falling since the summer solstice in December.

"This is a Pacific Northwest 2021 heat wave kind of event," he added. "Never supposed to happen."

The unprecedented temperatures come after the National Snow and Ice Data Center in the United States said Antarctica's sea ice fell below two million square kilometres (772,204 sq miles) in late February for the first time since 1979.

Covid: China locks down millions more

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday imposed stay-at-home orders on millions more people in the country's northeast as it battles its biggest Covid-19 outbreak in two years. Jilin, the second-biggest city in Jilin province, will lock down about 4.5 million inhabitants for three days from Monday night, local authorities announced. More than 4,000 new infections were reported across China yesterday -- with two-thirds in Jilin province, which borders Russia and North Korea. Changchun, Jilin province's capital, said Saturday it would also tighten restrictions for three days. Tens of millions of people are currently in lockdown in other regions and authorities are rushing to create hospital beds, fearing the outbreak could put the healthcare system under strain.

Houthis attack Saudi energy facilities

REUTERS, Riyadh

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group fired missiles and drones at Saudi energy and water desalination facilities, causing a temporary drop in output at a refinery but no casualties, the Saudi energy ministry said yesterday. Drone strikes hit a petroleum products distribution terminal in the southern Jizan region, a natural gas plant and the Yasref refinery in the Red Sea port of Yanbu, the ministry said in a statement. Aramco CEO Amin Nasser told a call about the firm's earnings there was no impact from the attacks on its supply to customers.



Women react after a vehicle drove into a group of Belgian carnival performers who were preparing for a parade in the village of Strepny-Bracquegnies, Belgium, yesterday. The tragedy, which injured dozens, took place just after 5:00am at the carnival of Strepny-Bracquegnies, a district of the former industrial town of La Louviere. The main suspects were arrested, police said, adding that terrorism was not at this stage considered a motive.

PHOTO: REUTERS

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Where's the end to Dhaka's terrible traffic?

Authorities need to stop being apathetic to common people's sufferings

AFTER nearly two years of hiatus, almost all offices, businesses, schools and colleges have started to resume their normal functions. As a result, Dhaka's traffic has returned to its nightmarish worst. What is most shocking in this regard is how completely unprepared the authorities were for the reopening of educational institutions, and how apathetic they remain to the most distressing issue concerning the capital city's residents.

Dhaka's horrendous traffic is nothing new. Given that it is one of the most densely populated cities in the world and lacks the road space required for the current volume of traffic to move smoothly, traffic congestion has remained a perennial problem for the city residents. On top of that, a large percentage of the roads that we do have are either always undergoing repair work or are in desperate need of repair because they were poorly constructed in the first place. Then there is the fact that Dhaka has one of the worst public transport systems in the world.

However, given the day-to-day suffering this causes people, as well as the economic and social costs, why is it that we have just given up and learnt to live with it? Why haven't the authorities come up with a comprehensive and effective plan to improve Dhaka's traffic? How long will we remain satisfied with their empty promises?

The two years of empty streets that the pandemic forced upon us provided the perfect opportunity to the authorities to improve our roads. Yet, we barely saw them being bothered to do so. Is it because most of our government high-ups—the VIPS—can shut down entire roads and travel quickly without facing such congestion—while causing inconvenience to others—that they have remained so apathetic to this problem that ordinary people are forced to endure day in, day out?

There are, of course, other factors that exasperate our traffic problems, such as people ignoring traffic rules (which are barely enforced), traffic police looking the other way for rule violations (in exchange for bribes), etc. But many of them also have administrative roots. All these problems could be solved if the authorities were sincere in their pursuit to address them.

With Dhaka becoming more and more "unliveable" by the minute, there is no excuse for the failure of the authorities to address the city's traffic problems—and even less so, for their apathy towards how badly it is affecting the quality of people's lives.

Spare the Tetulia playground

For the sake of children, at least

AS it is, Dhaka city's unbridled and unplanned growth has divested it of the open spaces needed for its residents' recreation and outdoor activities. For anyone who has lived through the times when Dhaka was only a budding city, with every colony, housing area or locality having its own playground, park and recreation facilities, the current transformation is painful and unbearable. Now, only a few open spaces and playgrounds are available in Dhaka, and parks—which every locality should have—are few and far between. Whatever open space is available is being pounced upon, either by the administration or private realtors. Admittedly, the population pressure on the capital makes that inevitable, but the situation is worsened by the wanton disregard for the national building code. Reportedly, 25 out of the 75 wards under Dhaka South City Corporation and 10 out of the 55 wards under Dhaka North City Corporation don't have a single park or playground.

Added to the list of playgrounds that have made way for construction of buildings is the playground in Tetulia. On January 31, 2022, the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Dhaka handed over the playground to Dhaka Metropolitan Police, reportedly to house a police station there. Needless to say, unless there is an intervention, the people of the area would be deprived of a free and open space where they can take a deep breath and where children can play. The field had multiple uses, and had been used for Eid congregations and Janaza prayers for the last 50 years.

Dhaka's transformation as a sprawling mass of concrete jungle, which has devoured playgrounds, catchment areas and floodplains, has affected children the most. With the majority of new schools and colleges lacking any facilities for outdoor activities, the only option for physical exercise are the local grounds. And that, too, are becoming very scarce, which is one of the main reasons why children these days are found glued to the computer or the TV most of the time.

We understand that there is a need for space for a new police station. One doesn't contest the fact that the land has been acquired through a due process either. But we believe there could be alternatives that can spare the piece of land that has been used for outdoor activities by the local residents for the last five decades. We urge the authorities to show some kindness to the children and the locals of the overpopulated area, and make alternative arrangements for the police station.

What the Ukraine war means for our economy



MACRO MIRROR
Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

SINCE the war between Russia and Ukraine began on February 24, 2022, the global economy has entered a new terrain of uncertainty. The war-induced challenges have surfaced on various fronts. With global economic integration, a crisis of such nature, which involves a country like Russia, is bound to impact other economies.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has happened at a time when the world just started to recover from the fallout caused by more than two years of Covid-19 pandemic. But the recovery is facing inflationary pressure due to supply shortages in the face of higher demands as countries are beginning to expand economic activities. The ongoing war has created a new shock for the world. Supply disruptions and financial sanctions pose serious economic challenges. With no signs of reconciliation between Russia and Ukraine, the global economic implications will be much more severe.

Major countries including the US, the UK, Japan and the European Union (EU) have all suspended economic ties with Russia. Sanctions have been enforced on the Russian financial institutions with the objective to disrupt transactions with the country. As Russia is the third largest oil-producing country in the world, the global economy is suffering as a result of high oil prices. Though developed countries are sourcing their requirements from other oil-producing countries, small and poor countries are finding it difficult with their limited financial abilities to meet their energy requirement. In addition, high oil prices have a knock-on effect on other prices, leading to further inflationary pressure.

The ramifications of these challenges are seen through higher commodity and oil prices. Food prices have skyrocketed. Petroleum prices have been on the rise for quite some time. The war has pushed it upwards. In March 2021, petroleum price was USD 65.2 per barrel, which has reached USD 95.8 per barrel.

Depending on the duration of the war, its impact at country level will depend on the economic links with Russia and Ukraine, and their exposure to the global economy.

Bangladesh is already feeling the heat of the Russia-Ukraine war in many ways. If the war continues for a longer period, the

impact will intensify. We are feeling the impact through reduction in exports and rise in import bills. Being an oil-importing country, Bangladesh is already feeling the pressure through high import payments. It was reported earlier by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) that it was losing about Tk 19 crore per day. With high oil prices, the chain effect is felt through

sanctions. At the end of January of FY2021-22, the current account deficit reached USD 10 billion as there was an increase in import payments and reduction in remittances. If high current account deficit persists for a longer period, the exchange rate will also fall under pressure. It should be kept in mind that the impact of the war will continue for some



ILLUSTRATION: STAR

a hike in the prices of gas, fertiliser, and other essentials. The government raised diesel prices in November 2021 by about 23 percent, which has already been reflected in the market through the high transport costs and prices of other essential items.

In addition to fuel prices, costs of other imported products have also gone up significantly. This will push the production costs up, resulting in higher prices for the consumers. Global sanctions on Russia implies that Bangladesh's trade with Russia is going to be affected. Russia is a market for Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) products. In FY2021, Bangladesh's export to Russia was to the tune of USD 550 million, and import from Russia was USD 480 million. Bangladesh imports wheat and maize from Russia. Sanctions mean Bangladesh will have to import these items from somewhere else.

Russia is also implementing several projects in Bangladesh. The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) is a large project being implemented by Russia that involves USD 12.65 billion and is scheduled to be completed by 2025. The ongoing war and economic sanctions against Russia could delay this expensive project, which means cost escalation in Bangladesh. This implies higher loans and burden on the country.

The balance of payment will be under pressure due to high prices and trade

time, even after it is over, since it will take time for the economy to recover from the damages. Therefore, countries will still be feeling the impact of the crisis for a longer period, and thus should be prepared for that.

The policymakers in Bangladesh will have to monitor the market closely. The country should quickly source commodities from the global market at competitive prices and distribute essential commodities at reduced prices through open market sales. Prudent macroeconomic management should be followed to create fiscal space. As the government is in the process of formulating the budget for FY2022-23, it should allocate adequate resources for social safety net programmes at a larger scale for the poor and low-income families. In this respect, subsidies for critical commodities, such as fuel, power and agriculture, need to be continued for a few months. The economic recovery will depend on the extent of public expenditure. However, waste of public resources and unnecessary public expenditures should be curtailed. Efforts should be given to expedite projects that are near completion, rather than initiate new ones. The government should carefully use its foreign currency as the import payments continue to rise in the uncertain period of war and beyond.

In addition to fuel prices, costs of other imported products have also gone up significantly. This will push the production costs up, resulting in higher prices for the consumers.

We must all share the pain of rising prices



RMG NOTES
Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

A host of challenges await garment makers as 2022 progresses. The legacy impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, including ongoing logistical challenges around moving stock; the impact of Russia-Ukraine war and the subsequent reduced access to the Russian market for our products; access to raw materials and supply constraints for raw materials, such as cotton—all of these and more will make this year a difficult one, despite the relief many of us feel as the pandemic has somewhat slowed down.

My biggest concern of all, however, is inflation. Price hikes have not really been an issue in fashion and its supply chains for many years. If anything, ours has been a deflationary industry, due mainly to an excess of supply over demand, low barriers to entry into our industry, easy access to raw materials, and many other reasons.

But this picture is now changing. Through much of 2021 and now into 2022, our industry witnessed huge increases in the cost of shipping containers around the world. This is an ongoing problem, and it's only going to get worse. In some cases, the cost has risen from less than USD 2,000 to more than USD 20,000. Industry experts believe the prices could go even higher.

Those desperate to move their goods can, of course, opt for airfreight. But that brings with it extra costs. And, of course, prices for airfreight are also on the rise.

On top of the increased shipping costs, suppliers are also seeing a spike in raw material prices. Cotton is a staple for Bangladesh garment makers, and cotton prices continue to soar to record highs.

Garment manufacturers had just about become accustomed to rising raw materials and shipping prices. But now there is another issue adding fuel to the inflationary fire: the war in Ukraine. One consequence of this war is rising gas and fuel prices globally. Global analysts seem to have put no ceiling to the rise of fuel and energy prices as a consequence of the war. What is clear, however, is that the longer Russia's invasion of Ukraine lasts, the worse the consequences will be, given the huge strategic importance of this region as an exporter of fuel.

This is a concern for Bangladesh, which is increasingly dependent on imported energy.

Could rising fuel prices hit garment makers? Just recently, I read that fuel and energy shortages in Sri Lanka could impact the performance of the country's apparel export sector this year. On mitigating future disruptions, the country's main textile body said that unless resolved soon, extended power cuts, coupled with shortages of diesel, would have an impact on the industry's performance in 2022.

Sri Lanka's economy is different from ours, and its dynamics are unusual in that it's an island nation. But to see a rival garment hub suffering does bring these issues rather too close to home for comfort.

With all of this in mind, I believe RMG producers in Bangladesh need to begin putting mitigation measures in place and planning for a prolonged period of price inflation—if they are not doing so already.

There are several ways to protect one's business against inflation. One of the most obvious is via the use of forward contracts. A forward contract

is a contract between two parties to buy or sell an asset at a specified price on a future date. It can be used for hedging against future inflation and can help give a business more certainty.

A currency forward is a binding contract in the foreign exchange market that locks in the exchange rate for the purchase or sale of a currency on a future date. These are vital for many businesses right now, given the huge fluctuations we are seeing in the prices of the dollar and other major currencies.

There are also less formal techniques that businesses can adopt to protect themselves against ongoing price rises. On a broad level, the clearest advice I would offer is for RMG factory owners to be upfront with buyers about the increase in costs they are facing. A manufacturer trying to internalise the inflationary pressures we are witnessing will not remain in business for long.

There is nothing wrong with passing some costs along in an effort to maintain a reasonable margin. Much of this comes down to negotiation skills, an area we sorely need to improve upon in Bangladesh. It is widely accepted that as garment makers, we are price takers. But there has to be some limits to this. In other words, if our costs have risen significantly, at some stage we have to increase our prices or our margins will be completely eroded.

The one final point in all this is that, just maybe, this year will see some significant increases in the end prices of clothing. I read a lot about retail prices rising in the West. At the same time, I am astonished when looking at the websites of some major fast fashion brands and seeing how cheap their clothing remains. At times, it feels like end consumers are completely buffered from the inflationary impacts. Surely, this has to change at some point. We must all share the pain of global economic shocks.

Through much of 2021 and now into 2022, our industry witnessed huge increases in the cost of shipping containers around the world. This is an ongoing problem, and it's only going to get worse.

50 YEARS OF BRAC

An education legacy lighting the way



MANZOOR AHMED

Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at Brac University.

It hardly needs saying that the towering personality of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed left its indelible mark on Brac's vision, mission and programmes in all the areas of development in which the organisation has been engaged. Education, in its institutional forms as well as in a generic sense, was seen by Abed as the key to empowerment and capacity-building of people, so that they can exercise choices and make decisions in shaping their own lives.

In September 2019, I approached Abed Bhai with a request to write the foreword of a book on education in South Asia, which two of my colleagues and I had been writing. I handed him some notes with great hesitation, hoping that he would read these at his leisure and give his observations and guidance for a final text. I knew by then about his serious and potentially terminal illness.

On that September morning, he seemed to be in good spirits. The 2019 Yidan Prize for Education, arguably the most prestigious and certainly the largest in monetary terms (valued at USD 4 million), had been announced the previous day. He took a look at the first few pages of the notes, and beyond all my expectations, started to glance through the pages, making occasional comments and sometimes asking questions. He spent almost an hour on the notes, making observations and offering suggestions.

The substantive foreword of the book, titled *Political Economy of Education in South Asia*, published by the University of Toronto Press in January 2022, was the last piece of writing on education by Abed Bhai. Some of his thoughts and concerns are expressed in this piece. As Abed put it:

In our corner of South Asia, in the aftermath of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (Brac) transformed its post-conflict relief and rehabilitation operation into a rebuilding and development programme. Education was seen as a key component of our nation-building mission. Drawing inspiration from Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1970), we launched a literacy and adult education campaign as a means to raise people's awareness of their situation and encourage them to read the world,



not just the word. At that time, 80 percent of adults could not read or write. Interestingly, Brac's participants, those in poverty-stricken communities, told us firmly that their priority was educational opportunity for their children, because existing primary education was not serving their children well. Almost half the children had no access to primary education, and most of those who did enrol did not complete that stage.

Seeking to design a response, in the 1980s, Brac pioneered innovative community-based one-room centres for children aged 8-14 years, two-thirds of them girls, who had not entered a regular primary school. The teachers, mostly women, were from the community, trained and supervised by Brac and provided with textbooks and teachers' guides. This came to be known as non-formal primary education (NFPE), but its objective was the same as that of primary schools: to equip children with literacy and numeracy skills and prepare them for secondary school. At its peak, it served more than a million children at a time, becoming the largest successful non-formal primary education programme in the world. In stark contrast to the formal schools, over 95 percent completed the equivalent of primary education, and over 80 percent moved on to a secondary

▲ **Brac's education programme provides literacy and numeracy skills to children living in slums.**

SOURCE: BRAC

school. Abed lamented that there was still the need for such a programme in spite of the progress made in expanding formal primary education, but Brac had to curtail the programme because donor funding dried up when bilateral and multilateral contributors began channelling all their funds directly to the government. A new programme approach in the changed circumstances could be more of a partnership between Brac—and other education NGOs with demonstrated capabilities—and the government to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education for all children, as promised in the SDG4 education agenda.

I first met Abed Bhai and Bahar Bhabi (Ayesha Abed) in 1973, when I had the task of examining creative rural rehabilitation and development initiatives in post-liberation Bangladesh for the International Council for Educational Development in the US. I visited the projects at Shalla upazila in Sunamganj and Manikganj, which I wrote up as a case study, perhaps the first exposure of Brac in development literature, published in a book edited by Philip Coombs in 1980.

With Abed Bhai's encouragement, an international team from Unicef (of which I was then the senior education

adviser), USAID and the Rockefeller Foundation undertook an assessment of the NFPE programme in 1992, and looked at its potential for a major expansion. The assessment report was presented at an international donors' conference at the idyllic setting of the Rockefeller Foundation's conference centre in Bellagio, Italy. Faruque Chowdhury, the then adviser of Brac, represented the organisation. Major bilateral agencies that were in attendance readily pledged the necessary support for a major expansion of NFPE in Bangladesh. Thus, more than 30,000 centres enrolling over a million children came into being by 1996.

The establishment of Brac University in 2001 is a testimony to Abed's abiding faith in education. He often spoke about institutions that endured for centuries are the universities, such as Bologna in Italy, Oxford in the UK or Harvard in the US. Brac University's undergraduate programmes and its graduate schools and institutes, including the Brac Institute of Educational Development, strive to offer an academic programme appropriate for an emerging middle-income country. Abed wrote:

We in Brac University have set goals for ourselves concerning the kind of persons our graduates should be. We want them to possess a few essential attributes. They should have good written and verbal communication skills. They should be able to think critically and apply scientific reasoning in solving problems... They should be sensitive to the changing global world. They should accept and respect diversity and the plural identities of human beings, which would serve as a moral compass for them.

In his last written piece on education, Abed Bhai sounded a sober note:

Today, in this era of post-truth and alternative reality, amplified exponentially by social media powered by digital technology algorithms, the idea of progress itself is under challenge. In South Asia and elsewhere, the upsurge of ultra-nationalism, rejection of pluralism and secular humanism, self-serving populism, xenophobic trends, and majoritarian subversion of democratic institutions and values have emerged as new threats to human progress. Education itself is in danger of being misappropriated to serve these retrograde forces. The role of quality education—and of the larger education community, including teachers, parents, and students—in reclaiming the idea of progress itself is more important than ever.

The words of caution and the spirit and the philosophy underlying them are particularly relevant in the world today. Let Brac's legacy continue to light the way.

Women can internalise patriarchy, too



NOORA SHAMSI BAHAR

Noora Shamsi Bahar is a writer and translator, and a senior lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages in North South University (NSU).

A few days ago, a video that went viral showed a young college-going girl beating her harasser on a bus, ripping his shirt in the process, and making him beg for forgiveness. He had touched her inappropriately while she was resting with her eyes closed. Most passengers chose to remain quiet, which calls to mind Dante's words, "The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis." Some passengers asked her to let the perpetrator go instead of creating a scene. She was told that she should expect such occurrences and it wasn't that big of a deal—in other words, normalising sexual harassment and strangling the voices of protest against such harassers.

In fact, this college girl was told that she shouldn't have resorted to physical violence, but she claims that she wouldn't have done so if others had protested in some way. She probably knew that a molester is unlikely to be brought to justice. Prof Ziaur Rahman of Dhaka University's Department of Criminology asserts that 97 percent of sex offenders go unpunished (*Dhaka Tribune*, 2020). According to Sheepa Hafiza, executive director of Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK), the reason why such offenders remain unscathed is because of the culture of impunity and the state's indifference towards eliminating said culture. A glaring example of this is the fact that

victims often face further harassment when they seek justice from police. No one stopped this girl's harasser from getting off the bus, and so she did everything in her power to ensure that he would think twice before molesting someone else.

A few days after I saw the college girl's act of bravery, I came upon another video where a woman on a bus was screaming at a much younger girl, who was wearing a black T-shirt and a pair of jeans, blaming her for why two-year-old babies get raped. One can hear a man blaming the girl's upbringing, while another one tells the harasser that her claims are correct, i.e. the girl's choice of clothing is the reason why rape is on the rise. Ironically, the girl's character was questioned around the same time when the government banned questions probing the "immoral character" of rape victims in criminal cases by amending the Evidence Act, a 19th century British law.

What struck me the most was how the girl bore it all and remained mute. In the comment section of the viral video, I saw a substantial number of people wondering why the girl didn't utter a single word in protest, while another significant percentage commented on the clothes of the harasser. I found both types of comments problematic.

While it's easy to say that one should have raised her voice in protest or "slapped" the "psycho," one needs to bear in mind that unlike the college girl on that passenger bus, who was with her mother, the victim in the second story was alone in a bus full of men siding with a harasser who seemed like she would physically assault the girl if instigated in any way. Or, perhaps, she was wise enough to remain calm in that situation because some battles can't be won, especially if you're up against a person who is beyond logic and reasoning. After all, according to a Persian proverb, silence is the best

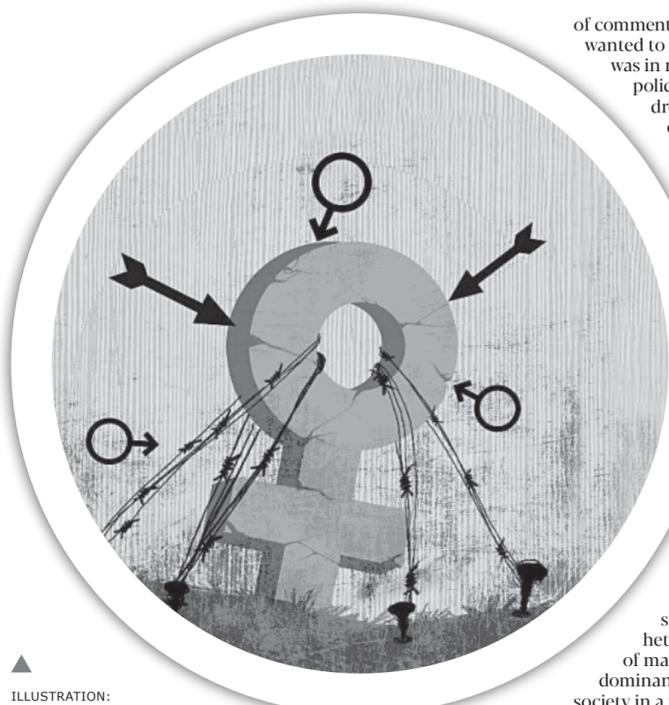


ILLUSTRATION: NAHFIA JAHAN MONNI

of comments came from. People just wanted to point out that the harasser was in no position to be the moral police because she herself wasn't dressed in the most Islamic of ways. However, what's the point of commenting about the hypocrisy of the harasser? The real problem here was a woman slut-shaming another woman.

When women bring other women down in this fashion, they give men the right to slut-shame women too. They make it easier for patriarchy and rape culture to thrive, and they impede the achievement of gender equality.

That being said, the root of the problem lies in the traditional form of hegemonic masculinity, which promotes stereotypical masculine heterosexual traits. This kind of masculinity puts men in a dominant position in a patriarchal society in a way where women aren't forced into becoming the subordinate gender; rather, women themselves give consent to being dominated by their male counterparts. Therefore, the female harasser on the bus is, in essence, a victim of hegemonic masculinity. She doesn't just advocate slut-shaming, which is deeply rooted in patriarchy, but is also of the conviction that women must have a certain "station"—or "sthaan," as she put it—in a male-dominated world.

reply to a fool. The harasser was dressed in a pink salwar-kameez; her orna was wrapped around her head. People took a few stills from the video, focusing on the tightness of her attire and the curves of her womanly shape. Moreover, the fact that she wasn't wearing an actual hijab or that she was *beporda* or that her neck was exposed was also pointed out. I get where these types

Lights

FROM PAGE 2
upazila and pharmacies started keeping necessary medicines in refrigerators.

The locals, however, said they are not getting electricity for a major portion of the day.

They said the solar panels could provide electricity for a major portion of the time.

"We get only six to seven hours of electricity now, which is quite upsetting. There are instances when power remained off for two to three days," said locals, demanding an uninterrupted electricity supply.

Tawfiq Omar said the interruption in the power supply happens because of some work of the roads and highways department.

"We need to stop the supply from morning to noon every alternative day. Otherwise, we need to work on new lines, that's why people face some problems," he added.

Tigers trip

FROM PAGE 14
Hasan, Liton Das and Yasir Ali, all of whom were undone by the extra bounce and pace generated by the right arm, as the Tigers were reduced to 34 for five inside 13 overs.

However, a resilient Afif fought on, stitching pivotal stands of 60 and 86 runs with Mahmudullah Riyad (25 off 44) and Mehedi Hasan Miraz (38 off 49) for the sixth and the seventh wickets respectively.

But when Bangladesh needed to accelerate near the end, both Afif and Miraz were removed by Rabada as the pacer ended with a five-wicket haul, finishing with figures of five for 39 in 10 overs.

Meanwhile, with any sort of scoreboard pressure non-existent, Janneman Malan (26 off 40) and De Kock stitched together a quick-fire 86-run opening stand to set South Africa up for a dominant victory.

UK PM under fire for Ukraine, Brexit comparisons

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson found himself under fire yesterday, including from his own MPs, after saying that Brexit showed that Britons shared the same "instinct" for freedom as Ukrainians.

End of a majestic forest

FROM PAGE 14
The forest used to host the Bengal tiger among other important wildlife species, he said, adding some hundred acres of it still exists but that too are being preyed upon by the grabbers.

As per the Forest Department data from last year, 238 grabbers have occupied a total of 2,500 acres of the forestland over the years.

Sirajul Islam Chowdhury Babla, chairman of Purbo Borobeuila union parishad of Chakaria upazila, said tidal surge intrudes far deeper into his village, thanks to clearing of the mangrove forest.

"During the 1991 cyclone, the devastation caused by the cyclone would have been much less, had the mangrove forest not been destroyed," he said, recounting the massive cyclone that battered the coastal areas of Chattogram and Cox's Bazar killing thousands of people.

As per the Chattogram Coastal Forest Division, 25,000 acres of the forest were declared reserved in 1903.

Govt reduces soybean oil

FROM PAGE 1
commerce ministry office in Dhaka.

The new price will come into effect at mill gates from today and it will take four or five days to be effective at the retail level, Ghosh also said.

The price chart will continue up the Eid-ul-Fitr, he said. The commerce ministry will fix the prices of palm oil in a meeting on March 22, Ghosh said.

The decision was taken in a meeting with refiners at the commerce ministry office in Dhaka.

Ghosh said the prices of edible oil have been reduced as a consequence of the 30 percent VAT withdrawal on import of edible oil.

Ghosh also said the mill gate rates of edible oil will be announced soon. Replying to a query, Ghosh said the government cannot give free edible oil to the consumers as the government will have to pay a big amount of subsidies from the revenue.

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) has increased the sales volume of commodities at subsidised rates three folds this year to bring down the prices of some basic commodities in

The then British government relocated 262 landless families to the mangrove forest leasing out around 4,000 acres of forestland in 1929, thus beginning the deforestation.

Mohammed Abdur Rahman, divisional forest officer of Chattogram Coastal Forest Division, said the Chakaria Sundarbans had tigers in the Pakistan era and deer till 1980.

Around 10,000 acres of the mangrove forest was leased out in the light of the country's first Shrimp Farming Policy adopted in 1985 during Ershad's tenure.

"The policy declares land that is eligible for shrimp farming could be leased out enabling the authorities concerned to lease out forestland. The decision was taken to benefit politically connected people as it ignored the science behind the shrimp farming in the mangrove forest," he added.

Replying to a question, Md Farhan Tajim, senior fisheries officer of Chakaria Upazila Fisheries Office, said they

leased out 587 plots to various organisations and individuals from 7,000 acres of forest in the '80s in light of the Shrimp Farming Policy.

A study done in 2020 by Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chattogram University and Rangamati Science and Technology University found that in 1974, the forest had 25,000 acres and it reduced to 170 acres in 2012 due to shrimp and salt production.

Besides, the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies of Rajshahi University and the University of Education Freiburg, Germany conducted a study on Chakaria Sundarbans in 2013.

It found the mangrove forest in Shaharbil union decreased by about 29.28 percent accounting for 3681.76 acres. In Dulahazara union, it was 30.92 percent or 3509.92 acres."

Shrimp farming and salt production have increased enormously, contributing to the ravaging of the forest in every union, the study found.

the local markets ahead of Ramadan.

The government will also assess the supply, freight charge and origins of palm oil sourcing countries to fix the palm oil prices in the local markets, Ghosh also said.

Palm oil prices may be much lower as palm oil is mainly sourced from Indonesia and Malaysia.

So, the prices of palm oil may be much lower as freight charge is lower because of the geographical locations of Indonesia and Malaysia, he added.

Mohammad Mostofa Haider, director of TK Group, a leading refiner of edible oil said the supply of edible oil is adequate to address the demand for edible oil in the market up to Eid-ul-Fitr.

Azad Chowdhury Babu, senior vice-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said it is expected that the new price will remain stable in the local markets up to Eid-ul-Fitr.

The FBCCI will continue the market monitoring of basic commodities along with the commerce ministry mainly to check

the anomalies in the prices of widely consumed goods during Ramadan.

Almost every year a section of unscrupulous traders start making a brisk business of basic commodities ahead of Ramadan as the demand soar during this time.

The TCB has started selling edible oil at Tk 110.0 per litre to reach 1cr families to arrest the skyrocketing prices of basic commodities ahead of Ramadan in the local markets.

Deadly attacks on women rise sharply in Iraqi Kurdistan

AFP, Sulaimaniyah

A woman burned alive by her husband, others shot dead by a father or a teenage brother -- bloody violence against women has spiked in northern Iraq's Kurdistan region.

The autonomous area, keen on projecting an image of a relative haven of stability and tolerance in war-battered Iraq, has seen a sharp rise in femicide, killings motivated by gender.

Brac's lesser-known gift to Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1
country, Brac has reached all over the globe, including conflict-ridden countries like Haiti and Afghanistan.

From providing informal education to establishing a university, from offering micro-credit to operating a full-fledged bank, everywhere he left his extraordinary mark. And women and the poor have always been at the core of all of Brac's endeavours.

A single article can barely give a glimpse of the immense work of this man and his organisation.

Thanks to an opportunity to write a book on the man and trailblazing organisation, I have had the good fortune of enjoying Sir Fazle's company for an extended period. I was blessed to be able to travel with him to many parts of the country, to talk to this legend and have extensive discussions with him.

I had a first-hand account of the work that Brac does and the opportunity of knowing the organisation from its core.

Based on that experience, I will try to shed some light on a comparatively less discussed topic: Brac's vaccination programme.

The year 1979 was termed the International Year of the Child. From that year Brac became the first organisation to highlight the need for vaccinating infants and expectant mothers.

"The child mortality rate is too high in our country. When a country has a high infant mortality rate, it also shows signs of a high birth rate. We have seen that once the infant mortality rate comes down, within a few years, the overall birth rate also starts declining.

High infant mortality rate and population explosion are impediments towards our progress and advancement," Sir Fazle told the then president Ziaur Rahman when the latter asked him what can be done for the children.

At that time, tetanus was responsible for the death of 7 percent of newborn children, which could have been saved if the expecting mothers were given tetanus toxoid injection.

Sir Fazle came to know of tetanus injection from his friend Lincoln Chen, who was working at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh.

He also came to know about some other vaccines, which might prevent the death of many infants.

Collecting the vaccines and training the service providers were not all that difficult, but a major challenge came in the form of vaccine preservation.

The vaccines had a requisite storage temperature rating, which demanded some specific refrigerators that were not available in every thana.

It might even take five more years to ensure uninterrupted electric supply in all those thanas to keep the refrigerators running.

Naturally, the vaccination programme went into a hiatus. But Brac did not stop, nor did Sir Fazle.

He realigned his efforts towards combating diarrhoea. He started reaching out to the doorsteps of 68,000 villages of Bangladesh with oral saline made of salt and molasses.

He also reached

Indonesia and Africa with this oral saline. His success spanned across the globe.

At last, 6-7 years after the initiative was first taken, the vaccination programme could be jump-started.

In 1986, the opportunity knocked at the door and a chance to materialise the vaccination initiative became a reality.

Brac would do the entire work, but they would also utilise the public sector infrastructure and human resources.

Sir Fazle always believed in work sustainability. If Brac does something but the public sector representatives are not involved, then how will the initiative continue to function in the long term?

In such a situation, if, for some reason, Brac had to shift its focus to some other endeavour, the vaccination programme would have stumbled and lost its momentum.

At that time, there were only four divisions. The arrangement went like this: Brac would focus on Rajshahi and some parts of Chittagong, while the government would take care of Dhaka and the remaining areas of Chittagong and CARE the Khulna division.

And the initiative to vaccinate against BCG, DPT, polio and measles started.

Although the government and CARE were part of the initiative, it was fully planned by Brac and they also arranged the training.

In 1990, the World Health Organisation surveyed the vaccination status of children and it was learnt that the areas covered by Brac had managed 80 percent vaccination, while CARE registered 65 percent and the government 50-55 percent.

Without a doubt,

it was only due to Sir Fazle's efforts that the government was motivated to actively participate in the vaccination programme.

The top leaders were due to attend and participate in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. Only the countries that managed to fulfil the requirements of 'Universal Child Immunisation' were supposed to get an invite.

But the then UNICEF chief James P Grant invited President HM Ershad and a Brac representative to join the prestigious summit, where Bangladesh's role was deeply praised.

In 1980, the newborn mortality rate was 135 out of a thousand and the child mortality rate 250 out of a thousand.

After a decade, in 1990, the same rates became 90 and 120 respectively. The death rates fell by half just within four years of starting the vaccination drive. Surveys conducted during those times reveal that the birth rate also went down.

Today, Bangladesh is well ahead of many other countries, in terms of the vaccination of children and mothers.

The vaccination issue again came into focus during the pandemic. The organisation that achieved this exemplary success is none other than Brac. Just like many other fields, this achievement, too, solely belongs to the legendary Sir Fazle Hasan Abed. He was the quintessential champion of Brac, a brother to all Bangladeshis, our very own Abad bhai.

Golam Mortoza is the author of the book 'Fazle Hasan Abed O Brac'

Translated by Mohammed Ishtiaque Khan

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়

(দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা শাখা)

মহেশপুর, ঝিনাইদহ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ	মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়			
০২	সংস্থান নাম	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, অসম্বল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প			
০৩	সংগ্রাহক সওয়ার নাম	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার, মহেশপুর, ঝিনাইদহ।			
০৪	সংগ্রাহক সওয়ার কোড নম্বর	৪৪৭১			
০৫	সংগ্রাহক সওয়ার জেলা	ঝিনাইদহ।			
০৬	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহবান করা হলো	২য় পর্যায় অসম্বল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস)			
০৭	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র	মুবিম/পিডি/জ.বী.মু.আ.নি.প্র/ম-০১/২০২১/৫৭৬			
০৮	তারিখ	২৩/০২/২০২২ খ্রি.			
০৯	ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM), PPR-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী			
১০	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	জিওবি			
১১	অর্থ বছর	২০২১-২০২২ খ্রি.			
১৩	প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচি কোড (যদি প্রযোজ্য হয়)	প্রযোজ্য নহে			
১৪	প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচি কোডের নাম	২য় পর্যায় অসম্বল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস)			
১৫	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা	০৬ টি, আবাসন সংখ্যা ৩৩ টি			
১৬	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের নাম	২য় পর্যায় অসম্বল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস)			
১৭	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা			
১৮	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	২০/০৩/২০২২ খ্রি.			
১৯	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০/০৪/২০২২ খ্রি. সকাল ৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
২০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১১/০৪/২০২২ খ্রি. সকাল ৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
২১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১১/০৪/২০২২ খ্রি. বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকা (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)			
২২	দরপত্র দলিলাদি বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণ	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, মহেশপুর, ঝিনাইদহ।			
২৩	দরপত্র দলিলাদি খোলার স্থান	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, মহেশপুর, ঝিনাইদহ।			
২৪	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	যে কোন সরকারী, আধা সরকারী ও সাধারণ শাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত ও হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স।			
২৫	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাবলী	বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্রের সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত থাকবে।			
২৬	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	মহেশপুর উপজেলায় ০৬ টি লটে ৩৩ জন অসম্বল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (বীর নিবাস)।			
২৭	লট নং	আবাসন সংখ্যা	প্রকল্পের অবস্থান	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	কাজের সময়সীমা
১-৫	প্রতি লটে ৫টি আবাসন) (৫x৫)=২৫ টি	আবাসন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প	মহেশপুর উপজেলার বিভিন্ন স্থানে	লটের বিপরীতে প্রাক্কলিত দরের ৩%	চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে ৬০ দিন
০৬	প্রতি লটে ৮টি আবাসন) (১x৮)=৮ টি				
২৮	বায়নার অর্থ জমা	দরপত্র জমা দানকালে বায়নার অর্থ উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার, মহেশপুর, ঝিনাইদহ এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট মারফত জমা দিতে হবে।			
২৯	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	নয়ন কুমার রাজবংশী			
৩০	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার			
৩১	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, মহেশপুর, ঝিনাইদহ। ০১৭৩৩-০৭৪৬৩৮			



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়

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তারিখ: ২০-০৩-২০২২

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20.03.2022
(মোহাম্মদ মাহবুব আলম)

সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (সেবা-২)

ফোনঃ ৫৫০০৭৫৩৯

ই-মেইল: ecs.seba@gmail.com

20.03.2022

(নয়ন কুমার রাজবংশী)

উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার

মহেশপুর, ঝিনাইদহ।

Gias Uddin Selim believed that I was his KAJOL REKHA

MONDIRA CHAKROBORTY

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Mondira Chakroborty is set for her silver screen debut with Gias Uddin Selim's "Kajol Rekha", playing the titular character. The budding actress gained popularity after becoming the 2nd runners up at 'Channel i Shera Nachiye 2012', and has made a name for herself as a model.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Mondira talked about her upcoming film "Kajol Rekha", and what inspired her to become an actress.

"From an early age, I was passionate about dance. However, my mother wanted me to see me as an actress," she shared.

"After becoming 2nd runners up at 'Shera Nachiye', I got a lot of offers, but was choosy regarding my work. When I saw Gias Uddin Selim's 'Monpura' in 2012, I instantly knew that I wanted to work with this masterful director."

The model had been training under Gias Uddin Selim for a year and a half, before being finally selected for the movie.

"He saw a spark in me when he first came across a television series I had appeared in, alongside Yash

Rohan. He thought I had great potential, and I was given the opportunity hone my craft under his guidance," adds the actress.

"Finally, after a lot of training, he gave me the script of 'Kajol Rekha', but didn't tell me which character I would be playing. Finally, when he announced that I would be playing the titular role, I was completely speechless. Selim bhai believed that I was his Kajol Rekha," says an elated Mondira.

"Kajol Rekha", also starring Sariful Islam Razz and Rafiath Rashid Mithila in pivotal roles, dives deep into the 400 year-old folk tale.

"Kajol Rekha is a sweet and simple girl who becomes a victim of child-marriage. She is constantly at tussle with the first wife of her

"After becoming 2nd runners up at 'Shera Nachiye', I got a lot of offers, but was choosy regarding my work. When I saw Gias Uddin Selim's 'Monpura' in 2012, I instantly knew that I wanted to work with this masterful director."

husband, Konkon Dashi (played by Mithila), who tries to dominate her," mentioned Mondira.

Her co-actors helped her throughout the rehearsal. "I am sure that the audiences will appreciate Razz and our chemistry," she shared.

The shooting of the film will begin from next month. However, the actress is quite nervous about shooting a major scene.

"There is this scene where I have to jump from a ship, and I am not a good swimmer," shares an anxious Mondira. "I am worried as I am yet unsure if I can pull the scene off."

The promising actress has a lot of OTT offers on her radar at the moment. However, she choose to dodge them all for her upcoming film.

"I want to focus on the film for now as I believe, too many projects will distract me and it will effect my performance. I have a lot of expectations riding on my shoulder, and I want Selim bhai to be proud of me," concluded Mondira.



DU Annual Central Theatre Fest starts today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 15th Annual Central Theatre Festival, organised by Dhaka University, will kick off from today.

The festival has returned with an arrangement of six days, featuring nine plays. The inauguration of the festival will be held at the Natmandal auditorium at 7 pm, tonight.

State Minister of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid will attend the event, while Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman, will inaugurate the festival. Treasurer Mamtaz Uddin Ahmad will grace the occasion as special guest, while the Chairman of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, MD Ashiqur Rahman, will preside over the programme.

The organisers will also felicitate legendary cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar.

Kanye West banned from performing at the Grammys

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Controversial rapper Kanye West, now known as Ye, has been barred from performing at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards due to his erratic online behaviour.

According to Variety, a representative for Kanye West, revealed that he received a phone call citing that the rapper had been 'unfortunately' removed from the performance lineup due to his "concerning online behaviour."

Previously, Kanye West had won 22 Grammys from 75 nominations, and is up for five awards this year. The rapper's name wasn't among the first list of performers, but he was scheduled as a planner performer at the event.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MONDIRA

COUNTRYWIDE



PHOTO: STAR

Duping poor with lure of valuables

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A clique has been allegedly earning a huge amount of money in the name of 'raffle draw' from the month-long fair organised by Ishwardi municipality.

The fair kicked off on March 11 was given permission by the district administration on condition of no gambling, said Abdulla Al Mamun, additional district magistrate (ADM) in Pabna.

Asked about the sale of lucky coupons or the so called raffle draw, the ADM said they gave no such permission for this.

"If any unlawful practice goes on in the fair, the local administration will take action," he also said.

Visiting the area, it was seen that men in over a dozen battery-powered three wheelers were advertising the lottery tickets in the municipality area and the adjoining areas. Each ticket was being sold at Tk 20.

"We are selling tickets in different areas and the poor people are buying them hoping to win valuable prizes like car, motorbike and refrigerator," said a ticket seller wishing not to be named.

Talking with The Daily Star, Ishwardi municipality Mayor Ishhaque Ali Malitha said that they have organised the fair in order to expedite the development work of Ishwardi stadium.

"We have organised the fair for the development of the stadium taking permission from the district administration; we don't patronise any sort of gambling or circus," he added.

Asked, who are the patrons of the daily raffle draw? the mayor, however, said that those who have organised the fair are organising the raffle draw as well.

"Actually an influential quarter is running the lottery and we have no involvement with it," the mayor added.

413-year-old Atia Mosque needs urgent renovation

MIRZA SHAKIL

Over four hundred years old Atia Mosque, one of the important archaeological sites in the country, located in Tangail's Delduar upazila has been in a dilapidated condition for long due to lack of care and maintenance.

Built in the early 17th century, the 413-year-old mosque has already lost much of its grandeur, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned.

Besides, the ornamental terracotta plaques on the nine-feet-wide walls of the ancient mosque already wearied away.

The thick walls of the mosque also got discoloured while some of its bricks are damaged.

Mawlana Mozammel Haque, imam of the mosque, said lack of care and renovation work have resulted in wearing away of many terracotta plaques of the mosque while the unique decorations of the mosque are falling off.

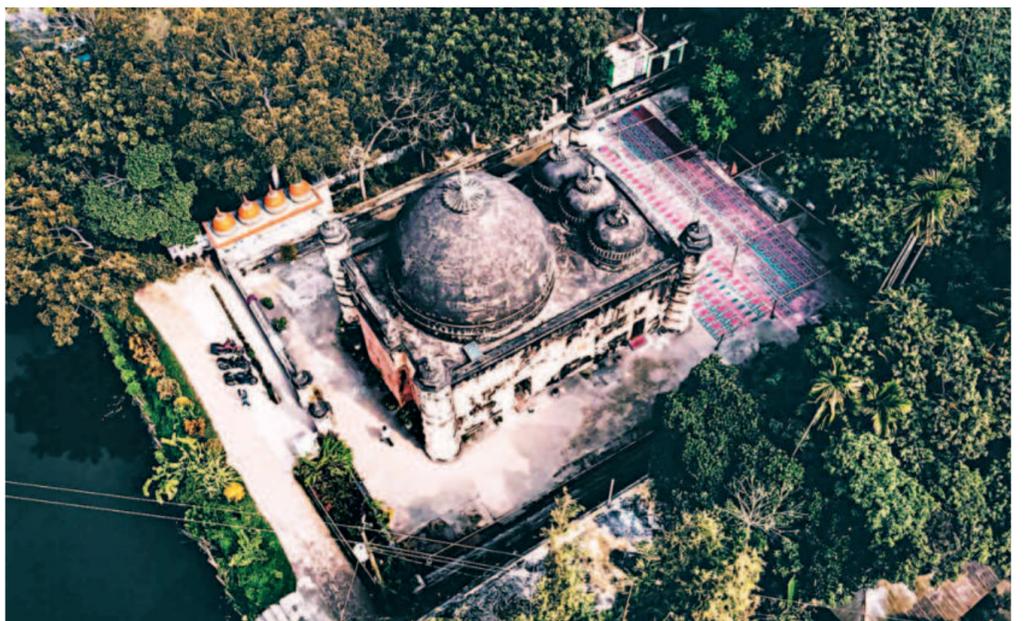
He, however, said a number of visitors, both locals and outsiders, come to visit the mosque every day.

A group of students from Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology

The mosque is located next to the shrine of Hazrat Shahan Shah, who came to Atia from Kashmir in 913 Hijri along with his 49 followers to preach Islam in the region.

University were visiting the year-old mosque when this correspondent went to the ancient site recently.

Expressing his frustration, one of the students Raihanul Islam said they were looking for a board that contains history of the mosque, but found only



Four century-old Atia Mosque in Tangail's Delduar upazila is on the verge of ruination, thanks to the negligence of the Department of Archaeology, who took its charge in 1978.

PHOTO: STAR

a plaque containing names of the founder and others who repaired it.

According to the officials of Department of Archaeology and local historians, the then Zamindar of Atia, Syed Khan Pannee, had built the mosque on the bank of Louhajang river in 1609.

He received Atia Paragana from the Mughal Emperor Jahangir as a gift in the beginning of the 17th century.

The mosque is located next to the shrine of Hazrat Shahan Shah, who came to Atia from Kashmir in 913 Hijri along with his 49 followers to preach Islam in the region. Their graves are near the mosque.

The mosque was badly damaged in the devastating earthquake of 1800.

Later, Rowshan Khatoon Chowdhurani, a female merchant from Delhi, restored the damaged mosque in 1837.

The Zamindar of Delduar Abu Ahmed Ghuznavi Khan in cooperation with Wazed Ali Khan Pannee and other Zamindars repaired it again in 1909.

The Department of Archaeology took over the responsibility of the historic mosque in 1978 and put up a notice board in front of the ancient site that says it is a government property and legal actions would be taken if anyone harms the mosque.

However, no initiative has been taken to restore the mosque or protect the structure.

Mohammad Zahid, a resident of Atia

village, said villagers along with local administration had tried to take steps to protect the historical mosque on several occasions, but Department of Archaeology told them not to do so.

Caretaker of the mosque Syed Monirul Haque said the worn out mosque was partially repaired in 2000 and in 2009.

Local resident Shakil Ahmed said the beautiful mosque is now on the verge of ruination and we urge the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to save the structure.

Rakhi Roy, regional director of Department of Archaeology (Dhaka and Mymensingh Divisions), said they will hold renovation work of the mosque next year.



PHOTOGRAPH:
NAIB UDDIN AHMED

SORRY FOR WHAT?

Denial of Genocidal Violence and Demands for Reparative Justice

ALI USMAN QASMI

In classical Urdu epics, kings would transmigrate their lives into a bird and lock it away in a secured place. To kill the king, one had to go after the bird.

Khadim Husain Raja – the chief architect of Pakistani military's planned operation against Bengalis – codenamed Operation Searchlight – to 'restore law order' in East Pakistan also had a bird – a mynah. There was another mynah that was not part of his household – Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – whom he had codenamed mynah to maintain secrecy while talking about him to his family in West Pakistan. On the fateful night of 25-26 March 1971, the military used heavy weaponry to wrest control of Dhaka and arrest Sheikh Mujib. "The mynah apparently had a weak heart, and unable to bear the boom of tank guns and recoilless rifles, succumbed to their noise," wrote Raja in his autobiography. Later, when his wife rang her daughter up to tell her about mynah's death, she thought her mother was referring to Sheikh Mujib and that he had died in the military action.

This story makes one think if Raja's mynah – no pun intended – carried the life and soul of Pakistan. Mynah could not survive the noise of the military operation on that fateful night. Nor could Pakistan.

Writing about the events of 1971 is not an easy task for Pakistani academics and journalists. In much of the writings widely available or the general nature of the public discourse about 1971, the emphasis is on the Indian treachery and excesses of the Mukti Bahini forces. There is a token acknowledgment of the years of injustices meted out to the Bengalis that reduces the entirety of 1971 to a lesson in constitutional history. Still, such an approach overshadows more critical questions about human suffering and trauma that continues to mark an indelible influence on millions of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

In Pakistan, there are three aspects of the debate and historical memory of 1971 that remain highly contentious. The first is about the events leading up to March 1971, the rationale for a massive military operation – and its legitimacy – and the illegitimacy of the Bengali resistance and the offense caused by calling it national liberation. The second is about the accusation of genocidal violence and use of rape as a weapon, contestation of the projected figure of 3 million dead and 200,000 women raped, and the counter allegation of a Bihari genocide. The third is about the way forward as to whether it should be by forgetting the past or seeking an apology for war crimes.

This article will focus on all three aspects of the debate about 1971 in Pakistan. I will show how these questions are intertwined and are not just historical questions but hold significant value for the future of a democratic polity in Pakistan.

On the legitimacy of violence or lack thereof

What was happening in East Bengal in 1970-1 was akin to the moment where Bengali leaders, having accumulated 'rage investments' from the people after years of injustice, oppression, and exploitation, offered them dividends in the form of a revolutionary explosion of rage. Once the Awami League had acquired power

was that he felt the Indians were laughing at the British by openly defying the colonial law. So, he had to order indiscriminate firing at the Indians who had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh to talk sense to them, to teach them a lesson. Yahya did the same. His commanders worked on a military plan for days while the negotiations were ongoing. This logic of law-preserving violence shaped the outlook of the Pakistani military's action in East Pakistan from 25 March onwards.

With its intent to strike fear in the hearts of the Bengalis, the military operation put an end to any possibility of a political settlement.

A significant part of Operation Searchlight was to ensure disarming of the Bengali units. Every single Bengali – including half a million Bengali civilians living in West Pakistan – became suspects as well. What was remarkable about this approach was that the Bengalis were still Pakistani citizens. They had not become stateless; they had become rightless citizens. And this is perhaps the reason for the scale of violence as it was not aimed against a single group or specific community but the entire population that could not have been denationalized. When every citizen in the state becomes an enemy, the operation to eradicate the enemy is necessarily genocidal.

In much of the apologetic literature on 1971 produced in Pakistan, the justification for the military action is sought in the sovereign right to suppress a rebellion and deny its validity as a

caused by the military operation.

Bina D' Costa has worked extensively to document the instances of sexual violence, forced abortions, and an international scheme for the adoption of war babies. Yasmin Saikia and Nayanika Mookherjee have recorded the stories of these women rather than their placement within a nationalist historical template of sacrifice and courage. For them, it is not a methodological constraint because of lack of material evidence but a deliberate narrative strategy for the articulation of trauma that, ironically, finds utterance only in silence and incoherence. This is despite the numbers, the archive, the state-sponsored programs for rehabilitation, and documented evidence about forced abortions and adoptions of war babies. The disciplinary bounds of historical narrative, to use Benjamin's insights, deprive the victims of the language to speak about their experience. The victims' testimony translated into a juridical mode becomes absurd, grotesque, exaggerated, and unbelievable. They are rendered speechless, incapable of articulating a response that corresponds to the neatness of the language of the law.

This is not to suggest insufficient documentation of rape as a weapon during the war. What is contested is the refusal of revisionist historians to accept the evidence presented by Bangladeshi scholars and activists. This is why it is crucial to go beyond

live with themselves through recognition and acceptance. She also realizes the enormity of the task as building such a monument will require acknowledging the violent excesses of the past. This is why recognition of what has happened is a prerequisite for the apology that the people of Bangladesh deserve – not an expression of regret that previous Pakistani rulers have already done. Without any considerable international pressure and the fact that unlike South Africa or Bosnia, Pakistanis did not have to live with the victims of their violence anymore, ensured there was never a series effort to fix responsibility, consider the possibility of reconciliation, or seek apology from the victims. For recognition leading to an apology, it is vital to identify those responsible for committing these crimes, at least hold a mock trial, and ask for an apology.

What can be a predictable outcome in the Pakistani context of ordinary citizens demanding criminal accountability of military as an institution for its war crimes in East Bengal is a strengthening of Pakistan's democracy. This is because such a movement will discredit much of the jingoistic rhetoric that allows the overdeveloped military institution to dominate Pakistan's politics through a rule of fear. Besides, it will force the adoption of an inclusive democratic model to address the demands and grievances of the citizens within a consensual constitutional framework. Otherwise, the Pakistani state will continue to invoke the same

Writing about the events of 1971 is not an easy task for Pakistani academics and journalists. In much of the writings widely available or the general nature of the public discourse about 1971, the emphasis is on the Indian treachery and excesses of the Mukti Bahini forces. There is a token acknowledgment of the years of injustices meted out to the Bengalis that reduces the entirety of 1971 to a lesson in constitutional history. Still, such an approach overshadows more critical questions about human suffering and trauma that continues to mark an indelible influence on millions of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.



Refugees stream across the River Ganges Delta at Kushtia, fleeing the violence during the ongoing West Pakistani military campaign called Operation Searchlight. (AP Photo/Michel Laurent)



Slain Bengalis in front of Jashore City College. Jashore, Bangladesh, December, 1971. Courtesy: Muktiujddho e-Archive

based on their spectacular electoral success, it was to be performed at various levels – whether in their calls for strikes and general intimidation of the non-Bengali population of the province. During discussions with Yahya Khan's negotiating team, Sheikh Mujib's negotiating team proposed the setting up of a Confederation. Still, with so much public posturing as a form of catharsis for making the military pay for its years of racial arrogance towards Bengalis, the negotiations had not broken down. It is just that the military's patience was running out as it was not used to such tactics of symbolic redemption. Speaking to the delegation of West Pakistani politicians in Dhaka, Yahya Khan said that the world was laughing at him.

This feeling of being mocked at and resorting to violence as a measure of reclaiming lost masculinity has an eerie resemblance with what triggered the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. As Ammar Jan argues, General Dyer's crisis

liberation war.

M. Rafiqul Islam has done some pioneering research on the legal semantics of the terms used and their justification. According to him, there is no explicit provision against the unilateral declaration of independence. What was important was the ability to follow it through, which the Bengalis effectively did with the help of the Indian military and the massive popular support at home. In that sense, the Bangladesh national liberation movement transformed international law insofar as it enabled the legal expression of secession from the postcolonial state. Up to that point, the operative logic was that there could be only a liberation war against colonial power seen as a foreign occupation. Still, accepting the Bangladeshi struggle as a liberation movement is a huge psychological barrier to cross for many Pakistanis. It is primarily because it inevitably follows that the Pakistani military, from March 1971 onwards, because of its brutal military operation and refusal to accept the democratic process, had become an occupying force and that resistance against it was legitimate.

The fear of numbers

Even if Pakistan's sovereign right to fight the rebellion and preserve its territorial integrity is recognized, it does not absolve the military of its targeted activities against Bengali Hindus and women. Subjecting Bengali women to sexual violence was a planned activity to 'teach a lesson' to Bengalis. This is supported by testimony given by Major General Khadim Husain Raja himself, who wrote that General Niazi threatened to "let his soldiers loose on their womenfolk." It is these twin objectives of Operation that disproportionately targeted the Hindus and the use of rape as a weapon to terrorize the Bengalis and cause them emotional trauma that makes the military Operation genocidal. The accusation of mass murder and rape is the most sensitive part of the debate. Independent observers dispute the Bangladeshi claim of 3 million deaths and 200,000 victims of rapes. For Bangladeshis, it is a fact of life that large-scale massacre and rape took place. Many people also died because of displacement, disease, hunger, and poverty

the logic of body count since it is invoked in a manner to dehumanize the debate and reduce it to numbers without any genuine regard for the experiences of those who suffered.

This is equally applicable in the case of the Bihari massacre during the liberation movement and after the formation of Bangladesh. The primary tactic employed by Pakistan's state-sponsored narratives about the 1971 war is to project the Bihari victim as a counterpoise to a Bengali claim to violence. Their purpose is not to give voice to the traumatic experiences of Biharis, who, too, were subjected to indiscriminate violence, but to stack bodies next to each other to make a comparative enumeration. Practically, the Pakistani State did little to alleviate the condition of Biharis. It washed its hand off them and told Bangladesh to take care of them. In the name of protecting them, the Bangladeshi government dumped the Biharis in refugee camps where they have continued to languish. So, the Biharis, in whose name the Pakistani military conducted a brutal operation, were no longer Pakistan's concern when they actually needed help and protection from extermination. Bangladesh was willing to repatriate them, but Pakistan was unwilling to take them back.

The question of apology

Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta was a teenager when she witnessed the Pakistani military's assault on Dhaka University Campus on 25-25 March 1971. Her father – Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta, Professor of English at Dhaka University – was killed in front of his house. The military targeted him because he was a Bengali Hindu intellectual. While talking to Nayanika Mookherjee in November 2016, Dr. Guhathakurta remarked:

"The day Pakistan builds a memorial in Lahore or Islamabad acknowledging how the Pakistani army killed and raped Bangladeshis during 1971 – I can think of pardoning Pakistan."

In demanding a memorial to the war of 1971 to be built in the heart of Pakistan's military establishment, Dr. Guhathakurta seeks recognition of the past to cultivate a new sense of political subjectivity. It is an attempt to seek any remnant of shared humanity in the aggressor by allowing them to come to

logic, strategies, and practices in the name of a sovereign nation, maintaining order and ensuring territorial integrity. Therefore, it is important that the debate about 1971 shifts from the logic of legitimate violence for restoring law and order to the brutal suppression of liberation war, and from obedience of command to responsibility for carrying out actions.

Concluding remarks

Zizek commented on Adorno's rhetorical statement that there could not be any poetry after Auschwitz to say there could only be poetry after a human catastrophe like Holocaust. Zizek wrote: "Realistic prose fails, where the poetic evocation of the unbearable atmosphere of a camp succeeds...poetry is always, by definition, 'about' something that cannot be addressed directly, only alluded to." In Pakistan, the cold, prosaic logic of state power, had reduced the debate on 1971 to an Indian conspiracy and a disputation about the 'actual' number of victims. It is only through poetry that Pakistanis have tried to make sense of the grief, bloodshed, displacement, and trauma of 1971. Faiz's hum ke thehre ajnabi, Nasir Kazmi's wo kashiyati chalanay walay Kia howay, and Naseer Turabi's wo hum safar tha mourn the loss of intimacy. I cannot but help contrast this poetic intimacy with the 'nearness' of state logic articulated by the Pakistani military. It is not infrequent to come across references to the inevitable failure of the Baluch insurgency because it is geographically contiguous to Pakistan. The underlying logic is that the military could not save Bangladesh because it was too far, without a direct link to ensure a more systematic supply of troops and ammunition to quell the insurgents.

There is, hence, a difference between the poetic intimacy of peoplehood imagined by Pakistani intelligentsia and the geographical contiguity as nearness guaranteeing the survival of the Pakistani state. It is for us to decide which of the two modes of togetherness we want to choose from.

Ali Usman Qasmi is an Associate Professor of History at LUMS University in Lahore, Pakistan.

This is a summarized version of the article that originally appeared in Urdu on BBC Urdu's website.

Kagiso Rabada was the destroyer in chief as his five-wicket haul helped South Africa thrash Bangladesh in the second ODI in Johannesburg yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Tigers crumble to PACE THREAT

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa came back into the three-match ODI series courtesy of a fiery fast-bowling display spearheaded by Kagiso Rabada that restricted Bangladesh to a paltry 194 for nine in the second ODI at Johannesburg yesterday.

The 26-year-old returned figures of five for 39 from his ten overs for his second five-wicket haul. Interestingly, both of Rabada's ODI figures have come against Bangladesh. He scalped his maiden five-wicket haul on debut against Bangladesh back in 2015.

Following a first-ever defeat at home against Bangladesh in the first ODI, the hosts put on a ruthless display in the crucial series-saving encounter and stamped their authority with a comprehensive seven-wicket win to level the series 1-1.

Credit must go to the Proteas pacers, who utilised the extra bounce on the surface at the Wanderers to great effect, repeatedly testing the Tigers after Tamim Iqbal elected to bat.

Rabada was instrumental, picking up three wickets in his first spell, while Lungi Ngidi dismissed skipper Tamim. Wayne Parnell also bagged a wicket as the Tigers were tottering on 34 for five inside 13 overs.

Curiously, the conservative approach from openers Tamim and Liton Das in the first ODI that saw them negotiate the initial pace and bounce and cautiously add 94 runs to lay a platform for a big total was missing yesterday.

Birth-day boy Tamim was the first to depart to a nasty Ngidi delivery. The left-



SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh:
194 for 9 in 50 overs (Afif 72, Miraz 38, Mahmudullah 25; Rabada 5-39, Ngidi 1-34)

South Africa:
195 for 3 in 37.2 overs (De Kock 62, Verreynne 58 not out; Shakib 1-33, Afif 1-15, Miraz 1-56)

Result: South Africa won by 7 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Kagiso Rabada.

hander came forward but the ball kicked off the surface and hit him in the thumb, which resulted in a simple catch at point.

After that, it was an exhibition of fierce fast bowling by Rabada. The right-arm seamer completely undid Shakib Al Hasan, man of the match in the previous game, without troubling the scorers.

The left-hander tried to flick a length delivery from Rabada but with the extra bounce on offer, the ball moved away as Shakib closed the face of the bat a bit early

and gave away a leading edge.

Liton Das, was the only Bangladesh batter who could blame poor shot selection. Despite looking solid in his brief stay, the right hander decided to play an uppercut close to his body and was caught behind after scoring 15.

In his seventh over, Rabada got the better of Yasir Ali with a short-pitched delivery angled towards the batsman's body. The right-hander tried to move away but in the process handed a top edge to point after scoring two.

Mushfiqur Rahim totally missed the line of a Parnell delivery and was trapped leg before on eleven.

However, South Africa had some concerns after Parnell left the field due to a hamstring injury in his third over, leaving skipper Tendai Bavuma to chip in with his medium pacers. Afif Hossain was the only visiting batsman who showed quality, continuing his form from the Afghanistan series as he scored an unbeaten 72.

The left-hander was involved in two crucial partnerships yesterday. The first was a 60-run sixth-wicket stand with Mahmudullah Riyad and the second an 86-run seventh-wicket partnership with Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who added 38 off 49 balls.

22-year-old Afif registered his second ODI fifty before being dismissed after facing 107 deliveries. He hit nine fours.

Bangladesh will have to come up with a better approach and game plan to tackle the pace and bounce from the Proteas pacers in the series-deciding encounter on Wednesday.

'Could have applied ourselves better'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh skipper Tamim Iqbal mentioned their lack of application on such an 'uneven' track at The Wanderers Stadium was the main reason behind their seven-wicket loss to hosts South Africa, who levelled the three-match series 1-1.

"The wicket was not what we expected. Pace and bounce we can take it, but uneven you can't," said Tamim at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Bangladesh top-order was dismantled by the pace and bounce of Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi as four of Tigers' first five batters -- Tamim, Liton Das, Shakib Al Hasan and Yasir Ali -- were undone by rising deliveries directed at their bodies.

Asked if the decision to bat first after winning the toss impacted the outcome, Tamim said they relied on the stats.

"We have never played here before. So we went with the stats and the stats suggested that teams batting first win more matches [at the Wanderers]. We can make a lot of comments about winning toss and bat or bowl. At the end of the day, we can blame a lot of things but we played poorly. I think we could have applied ourselves better. Sometimes things don't go your way," added Tamim.

Tamim, however, credited the character shown by two youngsters -- Afif Hossain (72 off 107) and Mehedi Hasan Miraz (38 off 49) -- to help Bangladesh recover from a slump. The duo strung together a crucial 86-run stand for the seventh wicket.

"At one point, scoring 100 runs was looking difficult. Afif played a good innings and Miraz again came through. There were some positives to take away," Tamim said.



Bangladesh retain AHF Cup title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh retained the title of the AHF Cup with a 5-3 win over Oman in penalty shootout after regulation time of the final match ended in a 1-1 draw at the Gelora Bung Karno Hockey field in Jakarta yesterday.

Forward Pushkor Khisha Mimo converted the fifth penalty to send the men in red and green into wild celebration as Bangladesh ensured their fourth consecutive title of Asia's second-tier hockey competition.

Goalkeeper Biplob Kujur played a crucial role to force Oman's Shamaiaa Bait Mahmood to send his shot wide after Oman had successfully converted the first three shots.

Apart from Mimo, Farhad Ahmed Shitul, Shonanur Rahman Sabuj, Roman Sarker and Nayeem Uddin converted their penalty shots successfully as Oman hit back in the game after Bangladesh surrendered their lead.

Bangladesh took the lead in the 14th minute when Sabuj changed direction of a fierce hit from Reazul Karim but the lead lasted only five minutes as Oman scored in the same fashion, with Fahad Al Lawati flicking home a fierce hit from Rashad Al Farazi.

“After the first wicket where it hit a crack and reared up, we felt we were in. In the recent past, Wanderers has given extra bounce with the new ball and not much thereafter but there was variable bounce today. With the ball gripping, our seamers did well to utilise it.”

Kagiso Rabada



'Can't explain this feeling'

Pak, Aus vie for series win

REUTERS

Pakistan and Australia head into a winner-take-all third and final Test from Monday as Test cricket returns to Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium for the first time since the 2009 attack by gunmen on a bus carrying the Sri Lankan cricket team.

Top teams have largely shunned Pakistan since the attack that killed six policemen and two civilians with Australia visiting the country for the first time in 24 years.

The Test will also be a first for Pakistan captain Babar Azam in his home city. "It's a different feeling to play in front of a home crowd, at my home ground. I can't explain this feeling," Babar told reporters on Sunday, adding that it will be a proud moment for the country and his team if they can win the series.

Babar's epic 196 and Mohammad Rizwan's gallant century helped the hosts snatch draw from the jaws of defeat in the second test in Karachi after the opening match also ended in a stalemate in Rawalpindi.

"We took a lot of confidence from the way the team played the last test," Babar said. "We will take that confidence into the final Test and we will be playing to win, that will be our mindset."

Both Babar and his Australian counterpart Pat Cummins said they did not expect the Gaddafi Stadium pitch to be much different from the first two tests.

"There's not a lot of grass on it," Cummins said. "I think it's had quite a lot of traffic throughout the PSL (Pakistan Super League) on it as well."



SET TO FLY: Bangladesh footballers set off during a practice session at the Bashundhara Kings Arena on Sunday ahead of their FIFA Friendly against Maldives in Male on March 24. The men in red and green, who started their three-day training camp on Saturday, will leave for the island nation on Tuesday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Hosts storm into semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh confirmed their semifinal berth in the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup International Kabaddi tournament following an emphatic 56-21 points victory over lowly Malaysia in a Group A encounter at the Shaheed Noor Hossain Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

The men in red and green bundled Malaysia out for five times to turn the match into a one-way traffic. Led by skipper Tuhin Tarafdar, the hosts established their superiority in the first half with a lead of 26-15 points before securing 30 points in the second half.

Razib Ahmed of Bangladesh was named man of the match for his all-round performance.

The defending champions, who overwhelmed England 46-25 in their opening match, will play their third match of group stages today against Sri Lanka, who advanced to the semifinals with a match in hand.



Tigers trip on bouncy Wanderers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could not cope with the kick and bounce on offer at The Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday, suffering a seven-wicket thumping at the hands of hosts South Africa in the 10th iteration of the annual Pink Day ODI.

With the convincing win, South Africa levelled the three-match series 1-1, extending the Tigers' wait for a maiden series victory away in South Africa. Alif Hossain, who took one wicket and an outstanding catch after hitting his second ODI fifty to help Bangladesh recover from a batting collapse, was the standout performer. The left-hander's courageous 107-ball 72 helped the Tigers post 194 for nine. However, powered by Quinton de Kock's blistering 41-ball 62 and an unbeaten fifty from Kyle Verreynne, South Africa romped to victory with 76 balls to spare.

After electing to bat, Bangladesh's top order was dismantled by pacers Rabada and Lungi Ngidi. Ngidi surprised Tamim Iqbal, who turned 33 yesterday, with a rising delivery while Rabada accounted for the crucial wickets of Shakib Al

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

END OF A MAJESTIC FOREST

Chakaria Sundarbans nears extinction as shrimp farming and salt production take over

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

If you cruise through the Ujantia canal up to its estuary with the Matamuhuri river of Cox's Bazar, you will see the last remnants of a mangrove forest, almost obliterated from the country's south-eastern landscape.

Popularly known as Chakaria Sundarbans, the forest once acted as a shield against natural catastrophes and served as a source of livelihood for coastal people.

It also used to be home to the Bengal tiger, crocodile, monitor lizard, deer, langur, wildcat, reticulated python, and

a host of birds.

The natural treasure trove now exists only on a few hundred acres out of its original 45,000 acres spanning across Purbo Borobeula, Paschim Borobeula,

INT'L DAY OF FORESTS

Rampura, Charandwip, Bodorkhali, and Moheshkhali.

The vast tracts of the forest have been wiped out, mostly in three decades, along with its flora and fauna

to make space for shrimp farming and salt production.

Kamal Hossen, professor of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chattogram University, said Chakaria Sundarbans is older than the Sundarbans in Khulna and Satkhira.

"We lost this majestic mangrove forest to the wrong policy taken during the Ershad's regime. The forest was sacrificed for farming of shrimp, which the then government branded as white gold," he told this newspaper.

"A thousand acres of forestland was also leased out to influential people."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Family cards confuse many

Some don't know where to get them, return home from TCB outlets empty-handed

STAR REPORT

Amid high prices of daily essentials, many in need returned empty-handed from the TCB sales points outside the capital yesterday as they did not have "family cards".

As per a recent government decision, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) sold the essentials at subsidised prices only to those who had the cards issued by local public representatives.

Fifty-year-old Rahima Khatun, who lives in a slum in Chattogram city's Sholashahar area, is among those who could not buy the essentials yesterday. "I did not know about the card. I thought I would get the products standing in queues like before... I also don't know how to get the card," she told our Chattogram correspondent.

In Chehelgazi Shishu Niketan area of Dinajpur, Roksana, another low-income person, was shocked after learning that only the card-holders were being sold the essentials. She also did not know how to get the cards.

More than a thousand people had thronged the TCB sales point in her area. Most of them had to return empty-handed as they did not have the cards.

To ease the burden of people ahead of Ramadan, starting in the first week of next month, TCB began a special drive yesterday, aiming to deliver basic commodities, including edible oil, lentil and sugar, at cheaper rates to selected 88 lakh families outside Dhaka.

Showing the "family cards", the beneficiaries can purchase the commodities twice: once between March 20 and March 31, and then between April 3 and April 18.

Public representatives are issuing the cards,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Russia strikes school sheltering 400 people

Says Ukraine; situation 'dire' in other besieged cities

AGENCIES

Ukrainian authorities yesterday said that Russia had bombed a school sheltering 400 people in the besieged port of Mariupol, as Moscow claimed that it had again fired hypersonic missiles in Ukraine, the second time it had used the next-generation weapon on its neighbour.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the siege of Mariupol, a strategic mostly Russian-speaking port in the southeast where utilities and communications have been cut for days, would go down as a war crime. He also warned Russians that thousands of their soldiers had died in the conflict.

The war in Ukraine, which Russian President Vladimir Putin launched on February 24 to stamp out pro-Western leanings in the ex-Soviet country, has sparked the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

Relations between Russia and the West have plunged to Cold War-era lows, and is wreaking havoc in the

world economy still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Yesterday, the Russian occupiers dropped bombs on an art school No 12," the Mariupol city council said on messaging app Telegram yesterday, adding that around 400 women, children and elderly people had been sheltering there from bombardments.

"Peaceful civilians are still under the rubble," it said, adding that the building had been destroyed.

City authorities also claimed that some residents of Mariupol were being forcibly taken to Russia and stripped of their Ukrainian passports.

"The occupiers are sending the residents of Mariupol to filtration camps, checking their phones and seizing (their) Ukrainian documents," Pavlo Kyrlyenko, head of the Donetsk regional administration said, adding that more than 1,000 Mariupol residents had been deported.

"I appeal to the international community: put pressure on Russia and its madman of a leader," he said on Facebook.



A Ukrainian family from Mykolaiv sits inside a tent to warm up after crossing the border from Ukraine to Poland, fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the border checkpoint in Medyka, Poland yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

brac turns
50
from
Bangladesh
to the world

সম্ভাবনা বিকাশে ঘুরে দাঁড়ানোর ইতিহাস
বাধা পেরিয়ে এগিয়ে যাওয়ার বিশ্বাস
মানুষকে নিয়েই পূর্ণ হলো ব্যাঙ্কের

৫০ বছরের এই দৃষ্ট পথচলায় দেশ থেকে দেশান্তরে কোটি প্রাণের সন্দন হয়ে ছড়িয়ে গেছে ব্যাঙ্কের নাম।
ব্যাঙ্ক পরিবারের সদস্য হতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত। যুগ যুগ অব্যাহত থাকুক এই পথচলা...

BRAC BANK
আমরা আছি