

Fresh Cement becomes the major supplier of cement in Payra Power Plant

Electricity now in every house

Says PM as she announces 100pc coverage, opens 1,320MW Payra power plant

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 13 YEARS

| | 2009 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Number of power plants | 27 | 150 |
| Power generation capacity (in MW) | 4,942 | 25,514 |
| Highest power generation (in MW) | 3,268 | 13,792 |
| Total power delivery lines (in km) | 2,60,000 | 6,21,000 |
| Population with access to power (in %) | 47 | 100 |
| Per capita power generation (in KWh) | 220 | 560 |
| Number of subscribers | 1,08,00,000 | 4,21,00,000 |



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspects the 1,320MW Payra Thermal Power Plant after inaugurating it in Patuakhali yesterday. During the inauguration, she said 100 percent of the country's population has been brought under electricity coverage.

PHOTO: BSS

STAR REPORT

It's a milestone that can make the country proud. From a mere 47 percent in 2009, Bangladesh has now ensured 100 percent coverage of electricity.

"Every house of the country now has access to electricity," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday while officially inaugurating the 1,320 MW Payra Thermal Power Plant, the largest of its kind in the country.

The PM said, "The biggest thing is that we have been able to illuminate houses of all the people."

She also said her government has managed to distribute power to every house in the remote hilly and hard-to-reach areas by setting up solar panels, and to char areas through submersible cables.

For the last 13 years, the government has been working tirelessly for the overall development of the power sector, the PM said.

Inaugurating the coal-fired power plant, she said, "It's a gift from me to the people of the country ahead of Ramadan and the holy Eid-ul-Fitr."

The prime minister released 1,320 pigeons, the symbol of peace, and went round the central control room of the plant after unveiling the plaque of the power plant in Patuakhali.

In her first in-person speech since the outbreak of the Covid-19 two years ago, she thanked China's president and its prime minister for their cooperation in setting up the power plant, which is a joint venture between Bangladesh and China.

Bangladesh is now ahead of India and Pakistan, which have brought 98 percent and 74 percent of their populations under the electricity network, according to World Bank data.

The power generation capacity has risen to 25,514 MW in February 2022 from 4,942 MW in January, 2009, according to data of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

Per capita power generation has increased from 220 kWh to 560 kWh and distribution losses of electricity have been cut by 5.85 percent.

The PM's Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, State Minister

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

VIOLENCE AGAINST ROHINGYAS

It's genocide

Blinken announces at US Holocaust Memorial Museum

STAR REPORT

The Biden administration yesterday declared that the Myanmar army committed genocide and crimes against humanity by carrying out mass killings of the Rohingya Muslim population.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the decision at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Analysts say the decision should strengthen efforts to hold the Myanmar junta accountable.

"There was clear evidence of an attempt to destroy the Muslim minority," Blinken said, citing the killings of thousands and forcing close to a million to flee the country in 2016 and 2017, reports AFP.

"The United States has concluded that genocide has been committed seven times. Today marks the eighth. I have determined that members of the Burmese military committed genocide and crimes against humanity," he added.

The top US diplomat said the responsibility of determining whether genocide has been committed is one he takes "very seriously," especially given his own family history as the stepson of a Holocaust survivor.

He said the military's intent went beyond ethnic cleansing to the actual destruction of the Rohingyas. "The attack against Rohingya was widespread and systematic, which is crucial for reaching a determination of crimes against humanity."

Blinken noted 2017 remarks by Min Aung Hlaing,

the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar military, that the government was "solving" an "unfinished job" in its destruction of Rohingya communities.

The Holocaust Museum prepared its own report in late 2017 with the Fortify Rights that concluded there was compelling evidence of crimes against humanity in Myanmar.

The US decision comes nearly 14 months after Joe Biden took office as president and pledged to conduct a new review of the violence in a shift from the stance of the Trump administration that had condemned the violence against the Rohingyas, but fell short of determining it as genocide.

Myanmar's military operation in 2017 forced about 750,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh, where they recounted killings, mass rape and arson.

Rohingyas had been facing persecution and were denied citizenship and other fundamental rights, forcing them to flee to the neighbouring country since the late 1980s. Following the violence in 2017, the UN

termed it a classic example of ethnic cleansing. Later, the UN Fact-Finding Mission said the Myanmar military had genocidal intent behind the crackdown.

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2018 determined the violence as genocide.

In 2019, the Gambia filed a case with the International Court of Justice in this regard. The International Criminal Court is also investigating

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



GROUNDWATER

Bangladesh among top extractors Finds a recent UN study

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh is one of the 10 countries in the world that extract groundwater the most, found a recent report by the UN.

The excessive extraction of water is causing groundwater levels to drop.

Anwar Zahid, director of groundwater hydrology of the Bangladesh Water Development Board, said, "It is very alarming that the water table is fast depleting."

Apart from Dhaka, the depletion is also taking place in its surrounding areas and even in some rural areas, he told The Daily Star.

"The availability of freshwater would be scarce due to the quick depletion. At the same time, our agriculture and industry would also suffer," Zahid added.

The other six countries in the continent that made the top 10 list are China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, said the United Nations World Water Development Report 2022.

This is an annual flagship report that was this year styled "Making the invisible visible".

Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey account for roughly 60 percent of the world's total groundwater withdrawal, according to the report, which was unveiled yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



এশিয়া কাপে তীরমেনাদের স্বর্ণ জয়

এশিয়া কাপ ওয়ার্ল্ড র‌্যাংকিং (স্টেজ-০১) এর রিকার্ড মিক্সড, রিকার্ড নারী দলীয় ও রিকার্ড নারী একক ইভেন্টে ৩টি স্বর্ণ জয় করেছে আমাদের তীরমেনারা। তাদের এই দাপুটে জয়ে আমরা গর্বিত।

বাংলাদেশ আরচারি ফেডারেশনের গর্বিত উন্নয়ন সহযোগী

f / teerforgold

Left under the open sky

Kalyanpur Natun Bazar slum residents devastated by fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When the fire broke out at Kalyanpur Natun Bazar slum on Sunday night, Josna Begum (37) was frantically trying to save her belongings. However, she could only take a bed and a dressing table out to a nearby road on the first try. When she came back, she saw the fire engulfing her house.

Her other belongings that didn't burn, were stolen. This correspondent found a devastated Josna sitting in front of her gutted house yesterday, staring at the ashes of all of everything she acquired over 20 years of savings and hard work.

Talking to this correspondent, Josna said she came to this slum 20 years ago from Bhola and got married to rickshaw-puller Rafiqul Islam. They are a family of six, including their four children.

"We are now living under the open sky, with our hands empty," said Josna.

Tenth-grader Mahim Hossain, another resident of the slum, bought a set of old textbooks after schools reopened.

"All my books have now turned into ashes," said Mahim.

The fire originated around 8:45pm on Sunday at the Natun Bazar slum. At least 14 units of firefighters put out the blaze around 11:15pm.

The cause of the fire could not be known immediately. Slum-dwellers said they witnessed such incidents several times in other parts of the same slum before. They

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



People through the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday to buy tickets. The queues before the counters grew longer as the online ticket sale remains suspended for five days until Friday to facilitate smooth handover of the ticketing service to a new vendor.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

There are ways other than hiking gas prices

Speakers tell BERC hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not have to hike gas prices if the local production is increased, taxes at import level are remitted, and unnecessary expenditure in the energy sector is reduced.

The suggestions came up in a hearing organised by Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on the proposal for gas price hike by Petrobangla and GTCL (Gas Transmission Company Limited) yesterday.

Taking part in the hearing, Prof Shamsul Alam, energy adviser of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said they had sought information from state-owned energy production and distribution companies, but got no response.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase local production
- Remit taxes at import level
- Reduce unnecessary expenditure
- Rely less on LNG

He said the state-owned gas fields have the capacity to produce 1,145 mmcfd (million cubic feet per day) whereas they produce 841 mmcfd. Why they do not produce as per their capacity has not been clarified.

"The same thing is happening regarding IOCs [international oil companies]. They have a combined capacity of producing 2,760 mmcfd, while they make 2,286 mmcfd. The authorities do not have any reasonable explanation behind the production decline," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 22



| | 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

'Make sure you look poor, needy'

Gang loots valuables from hospital patients, luring them with govt, zakat aid; 5 held

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

It's an organised gang that mostly operates in government hospitals. It targets those that come for treatment from outside Dhaka, feed them sedatives, and loot their valuables as the victims fall unconscious.

Members of the gang first introduce themselves as locals and offer the victims help with their medical treatment.

For the next step, they cozy up to the victims with sincere offerings of help, like arranging government aid, funding from corporations or from zakat funds to bear medical costs.

The victims would then be asked to put all their money and other valuables inside a bag "to look poor and needy" -- which was explained as a requirement to obtain the aid money.

From there, the victims would then be taken to less crowded places and offered tea or juice, with sedatives mixed in. As soon as they drink it, the victims fall asleep or lose consciousness, which is when the gang members loot them and flee.

All of this was revealed after Cyber and Special Crime Division of police's Detective Branch (DB) arrested five gang members from Narayanganj in a special drive on Saturday.

The arrestees are ringleader Rubel Molla (32), Md Saiful (48), Abdur Rahman (50), Md Ismail (25), and Enayet Hossain (28).

Police also seized a cell phone, a pair of gold

earrings and a silver chain from them.

Mohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (financial crime investigation) of Detective Branch's cyber and special crime division, told The Daily Star yesterday that the arrestees used to target patients and their attendants at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation.

Of the arrestees, Rubel used to build relationship with the victims, while Abdur, Ismail and Enayet scouted targets at hospitals and even bus, train or rail stations. Meanwhile, Saiful sold the looted valuables, said additional deputy commissioner Mohidul.

"The arrestees have been doing this for the last 3-4 years," he said. Rubel, Ismail and Enayet already had cases filed against them, the investigators found.

A theft case was found registered against Rubel with Shahbagh Police Station; two cases -- over attempt to robbery and violating law and order -- were found against Ismail; while a narcotics case was filed against Enayet with Jatrabari Police Station.

Detectives said a rickshaw-puller named Azizul, who used to carry passengers to the hospitals, is another mainstay of the syndicate.

"We have obtained some information on Azizul, who is currently on the run. We are now conducting drives to arrest him," said Junaed Alam Sharker, ADC of cyber and special crime division of DB.

The gang cozies up to the victims with offerings of help, like arranging government aid, funding from corporations or from zakat funds to bear medical costs. The victims would then be asked to put all their money and other valuables inside a bag "to look poor and needy" -- which is explained as a requirement to obtain the aid money.

'They don't really listen to us'

Says ACC chairman on recommendations made to ministries, govt offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministries and government offices do not fully comply with the recommendations of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) made to curb grafts, opined ACC Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah yesterday.

He also said ACC has requested the cabinet division to ensure implementation of these recommendations.

The ACC chairperson said this while revealing its Annual Reports for the years 2020 and 2021 at a press conference at the commission's Segunbagicha headquarters.

At the session, ACC Commissioner Mozammel Haque Khan, however, said they cannot put pressure on government organisations as that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Six projects nominated for WSIS awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six projects from Bangladesh that are providing service through Information and Communication Technology got nominated for World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards.

The projects are Development of National ICT Infra Network for Bangladesh Government (Info-Sarker); Digital Land Tax; Konekt, an adolescents' education, soft skills, and counselling platform; Digital Flood Forecasting System; Food For Nation; and Fighting against Misinformation, Disinformation and Mal-information through Community Radio in Bangladesh.

A total of 360 projects from different countries, under 18 categories, have been nominated for the awards.



Right down the stairs of this footbridge in front of Shulitola High School on the capital's Bongshal Road, a garbage dump has been created, taking up parts of the road and pavement. What's more, signs around the place specifically ask people not to dump waste there. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

NSU SBE NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
EXPERIENCE LOCALLY. LEAD GLOBALLY.



**MBA & EMBA ADMISSION
SUMMER 2022**

TRANSFORM YOURSELF WITH COUNTRY'S TOP MBA/EMBA DEGREE

EXPLORE NSU MBA AND EMBA

- Ranked Number 1 Private University in Bangladesh
- Highly ranked internationally by QS Ranking and Webometrics Ranking
- Highest employer reputation. 100% Job placement rate of the graduates
- Weekend and evening classes for working students
- 50% tuition waiver for MBA candidate securing highest marks in the admission test and for NSU undergraduates with CGPA of 3.8 or above

ELIGIBILITY

- Completed undergraduate (UG) degree with at least 2nd class or minimum CGPA of 2.75/4.00
- For EMBA: 3 years of continuous work experiences after the completion of UG degree
- Admission test waived for candidates having UG degree from NSU with CGPA of 3.0 or above
- UG appeared students can apply
- For details, please visit:
<http://www.northsouth.edu/academic/sbe/mba-emba.html>

New offerings:

- ★ New Majors (**Management Information Systems & Supply Chain Management**) in EMBA program.
- ★ A new major in **Supply Chain Management** in MBA program. (awaiting UGC approval)
- ★ Many brand new courses, such as, **Marketing Analytics and IT Entrepreneurship**



ASIA 2022

E/MBA Program Office
Room 631, 6th Floor, North Academic (NAC) Building
Bashundhara, Dhaka 1229, Bangladesh
Phone: +880 2 5566-8200 ext.- 1760/1765/1764/1763
Graduate Application Helpline - 01614271717
Email: mbainfo@northsouth.edu

Dream. Transform. Succeed

Apply online at: <http://apply.northsouth.edu>

Praava gets accreditation certificate

CITY DESK

Praava Health has received the global accreditation certificate for medical testing from the reputed International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), said a press release.

The accreditation was granted via Bangladesh Accreditation Board, an MRA signatory member of ILAC.

As a part of the certification, Praava Health was also granted ISO 15189-2012 accreditation for medical testing laboratories, having rigorously established globally accepted standards for laboratory quality, reporting, and quality management systems in its labs.

The accreditation enables Praava laboratory reports to be accepted at healthcare centres in 102 ILAC-accredited countries around the world.



Sultana Sarawatara Zaman's death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Professor Emeritus Sultana Sarawatara Zaman.

Sultana Sarawatara Zaman is well-known for her contribution in recognising the stigma associated with children with disabilities; and their educational, social and rehabilitation needs.

Prof Zaman taught developmental psychology at Dhaka University.

In 1977, she founded of the Society of the Care and Education of Mentally Retarded Children, later renamed Society for the Welfare of Children with Intellectual Disability, Bangladesh.

In 1984, she founded the Bangladesh Protibandhi Foundation (BPF) and the Bangladesh Institute for Special Education.

In the same year, she was awarded a doctoral degree from Emory University, Atlanta, US.

Prof Zaman received Rokeya Padak in 2008. She established an orphanage (Khela Ghar) for abandoned children found in the refugee camps in Kalyani, West Bengal, India near Jashore border.

On her death anniversary, BPF has arranged prayers and reminiscence events in the inclusive schools run by BPF. A doa mahfil will be held at his residence "Nirjhor" in Sherpur today.

Her friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

They don't

FROM PAGE 3

may be a misuse of power. Due to the pandemic, ACC could not submit its annual report last year. This is why it submitted annual reports for both years to the president on Sunday.

In the report, ACC made recommendations on the source of corruption in Directorate General of Drug Administration, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, sub-registry office and the ministry of fisheries and livestock.

According to the report, a total of 176 cases out of 3,382 were disposed of in 2020. Of these, the commission got 121 verdicts in its favour.

In 2021, a total of 203 cases out of 3,434 were disposed of. ACC won in 119 cases.

In these two years, the ACC received 33,278 complaints and selected 1,355 allegations for enquiry. Of these, a total of 5,358 allegations were sent to different offices for taking actions.

Left under

FROM PAGE 3

believe this one spread faster due to the wind.

Dhaka District Administration yesterday made a list of 279 families who were affected by the fire. They were provided with 16.5 kg sacks of rice and dry food, said Abdur Rahman, district relief and rehabilitation officer.

A medical camp by SMC clinic was set up on the spot to provide primary medical treatment to the injured.

Debashish Adhikary, a doctor currently working at the camp, said they have so far treated 70 slum residents with minor injuries.

A journey

FROM PAGE 5

On information, police and fire service rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation. Critically injured Monsur died at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

Mansur's uncle Mahmud Hossain told The Daily Star, "Monsur told his family that he was going to Cox's Bazar with friends... We don't know how to console each other over the death of such a young soul."

DRIVER, HELPER FLEE

After the accident, the truck's driver and helper managed to flee, said police. OC Sirajul said police seized the truck, and no one claimed it till yesterday evening.

This correspondent checked the truck's number in Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority's database. The truck was registered with BRTA on February 25 last year. The bodies were handed over to the families without autopsy, and a case was filed.

Till death do us

FROM PAGE 5

"Fahmida was undergoing treatment at the ICU, where she breathed her last at 7:30am," said Md Yusuf, her paternal uncle.

With Fahmida's passing, the couple's story came to an abrupt end. But though it didn't last long, it will stand tall as a phenomenal instance of love winning over the adversities thrown at its path by reality.

The couple were first introduced in 2018, later developing their relationship into a love affair.

They were over the moon during the first few years, until everything came crumbling down with Fahmida's diagnosis of rectum cancer in January last year.

She was first admitted to

a hospital in Dhaka, then taken abroad for better treatment.

But doctors there said her cancer was already in the advanced stage.

She was brought back to the country and admitted to a hospital in Chattogram.

But Mahmudul never gave up on her. The MBA graduate from a private university chose to stick by her side despite incessant protest from family members.

As the doctors advised stopping chemotherapy, saying that she was approaching the end, Mahmudul decided to ask for Fahmida's hand.

The proposal startled her, according to family members. Neither families initially accepted this, but

acquiesced to his sternness.

On the day of the marriage, Fahmida, an MBA graduate herself, looked happy for a while, which was a massive departure from her usual depressed mood brought about by the severe pain of the disease.

"All of us, from both families, also forgot our sorrows for a moment, seeing the two of them happy," said her uncle Yusuf.

On Friday, this correspondent spoke to Mahmudul.

"I love her. I wanted to take care of her and carry all her burdens. We dreamt of marrying each other and we're glad that part of our dream has come true."

Fahmida passed away two days later.

Dhanmondi Society introductory event held

CITY DESK

Introductory programme of the 19-member executive committee of Dhanmondi Society was held at a restaurant in Dhanmondi yesterday, said a press release.

The event included a press conference where Dhanmondi Society president Abu Mohammad Sabur and general secretary Dr Mosaddek Habib (Mitu) spoke.

Dhanmondi Society is an apolitical and non-profit organisation, designed for the betterment of the residents of Dhanmondi.

There are ways

FROM PAGE 3

On behalf of consumers, the energy expert said there will be no need to hike gas prices if local production is increased, taxes including VAT is remitted at import level, and dependency on liquefied natural gas (LNG) is reduced.

Prof Badrul Imam, another energy expert, said relying on LNG intensified the country's energy crisis.

"Bangladesh is called the petroleum province, given its geological position. But we did not explore properly yet. In the last 20 years, we drilled one field each year. Despite knowing that the gas crisis is approaching, we did not take pragmatic steps, but rather resorted to LNG imports," he said.

Petrobangla proposed

Tk 15.30 to buy a cubic metre of gas. Currently, it is buying gas at the subsidised price of Tk 9.37. BERC's technical committee differed with the proposed price, as in its analysis the price to buy per cubic metre gas could be at best Tk 12.47.

Md Abdul Jalil, chairman of BERC, said the social and economic implications must be taken into account while proposing tariff hike of gas, as it causes a chain reaction in dependent sectors.

"We must conduct a study on factors like the impacts and which socioeconomic class suffers how much due to tariff change. Unfortunately, we don't do such studies," he said.

Job Opportunity

Manager/Asst. Manager, Sales- (03) Job Responsibilities Marketing Garments Accessories- Interlining Having solid experience on Interlining sales Educational Requirements: Graduate/Post graduate in any Discipline from reputed university. Or Diploma in Textile Experience & Age Requirements: 3 to 5 year(s) & Age (25-45) Job Location: Dhaka/Chattogram Salary: Negotiable & Festival Bonus: 2 (Yearly) Contact Details: POST BOX NUMBER: 10015 C/O: Mohammadpur Sub Post Office, Dhaka-1207.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines advertisement for procurement and logistic support directorate. Includes details about international tender for disinfecting spray and aluminium casseroles.

Central Counterparty Bangladesh Limited advertisement for Request for Proposal from International CCP System Software Vendors. Includes details about the procurement process and contact information.

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation advertisement for recruitment. Includes details about job openings, application process, and contact information.

Conjoined twins separated at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) have separated two-year-old conjoined twins Labiba and Lamisa through a surgery yesterday.

Starting around 8:30am, the surgeons completed the surgery around 5:00pm, confirmed Prof Dr Asraf Ul Haque, head of paediatric surgery at DMCH.

"The children were kept at the ICU following the surgery," Dr Asraf said during a press conference at the hospital last evening.

On December 13 last year, doctors postponed the surgery due to "complications involving their reproductive organs".

The twins from Nilphamari were admitted to the hospital on September 28 last year. Since then, they have been preparing for surgery under supervision of the paediatric surgery department.



Raushan Ara Akhter (32), locally known as "Paani Apa", has been working as a one-woman army in the battle against the water crisis in Gunari village of Khulna's Dakop upazila. She goes door-to-door, fixing the water tank pipelines in every house to install rainwater harvesting systems and clean the filter.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Transport workers go on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Transport workers of buses and minibuses in Lalmonirhat went on an indefinite strike yesterday to press home their four-point demand.

Transport workers from Teesta to Burimari Land Port in the district have enforced the strike simultaneously since yesterday morning, said the workers.

Their demands are arrest of their leaders who sold their organisation's property and embezzled the money, a stop to thuggery at bus terminal, an end to attack on transport workers by hired goons and arrest of those who attacked their president's filling station.

Bappi Islam, one of the protesters, said, "We will not join work until our demands are met."

Passengers had to suffer due to the sudden bus strike. They were forced to spend more money on battery-run auto-rickshaws to go to their destinations.

WATER CRISIS IN THE SOUTHWEST

'PAANI APA' to the rescue

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Mitu Sana, a homemaker from Gunari village at Khulna's Dakop upazila, has to go to the Union Parishad pond -- far from her home -- to fetch drinking water.

Mitu's husband and her brother-in-law are both day labourers, and her father-in-law is too old for the job. So the responsibility falls on her shoulders, like every other woman of the region.

"It takes one and a half hours to fetch water from the pond. I need to make the trip twice a day," said Mitu.

In the southwestern region of the country, the water crisis during the dry season is a battle that every woman has to fight. Women of every household have to walk for hours to fetch water from sources far from their homes.

Rainwater, during this season, is the only viable source that can solve the crisis.

Raushan Ara Akhter (32), locally known as "Paani Apa", has been working on that front. She has got training to install rainwater harvesting systems and fix technical issues related to them.

Raushan goes door-to-door, fixing the water tank pipelines of every house and

cleaning the filters.

"We need to prepare all the water tanks to contain rainwater. I have to complete the work in every household in Gunari village before the monsoon," said a determined Raushan.

A recent UNDP survey reveals that 73 percent of the people living in five coastal upazilas -- Koyra, Dakop, Paikgachha of Khulna and Assasuni and Shyamnagar of Satkhira -- drink unsafe saline water.

The survey was carried out on 2,71,464 people of 66,234 households living in 39 unions of the five coastal upazilas, under a project titled "Gender-responsive Coastal Adaptation (GCA)".

Though the permissible salinity level in drinking water is 1,000 mg per litre, residents of the coastal areas consume water with a salinity level between 1,427 mg and 2,406 mg per litre on average, reveals the survey.

During the dry season, the salinity level of tube well water in Shyamnagar goes up to 6,600 mg per litre, more than six times the permissible limit.

Almost all freshwater sources were destroyed in the 2009 cyclone "Aila". All drinkable resources were damaged and

ponds were filled with saline water.

According to the DPHE in Dakop, 1,53,000 people in the upazila have no access to a deep tube well.

Sources in the DPHE said there were some 46 government ponds in the upazila. However, due to lack of maintenance, many of these have dried up.

Under the UNDP project, each family was given a 2,000-litre water tank to contain rainwater in an attempt to solve their drinking water crisis for several months.

"But many people do not know how to manage the filter properly. So I was given training on how to properly install and clean it, to ensure a steady supply of safe drinking water," said Raushan.

Mitu Sana added, "I am eagerly waiting for the rainy season. It will solve this huge crisis for us."

And Paani Apa is there to the rescue.

"All the families have my contact number. They can call me if they face any issue with the rainwater tank. I go immediately to fix it," said Raushan.

Raushan Ara Akhter is currently working with 88 families, and will soon start with 26 more.

All the families have my contact number. They can call me if they face any issue with the rainwater tank. I go immediately to fix it. Raushan Ara

A journey that ended too soon
5 friends killed, as truck hits car on Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Five friends, a car, and a trip to Cox's Bazar -- this was supposed to be one of the many highlights of their lives. It was a time to leave the hustle and bustle of the city behind, but what they didn't know is that the trip they were looking forward to would lead to their demise.

The five youngsters met their fate in a road accident, after a truck collided head-on with their car on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway in Lohagara upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Md Sakib Risvee (25), Md Sajid Khan (28), Md Monsur Ali (25), Md Harunur Rasid (30) and Saiful Islam (25). They lived in different places of Chattogram, including Sagorika, Andarkillah and Satkania upazila.

Among the dead, Sakib was the founder president of "Xtreme Rollerz of Chittagong", a platform of motorbike stunt riders, while Sajid was the platform's vice president.

Sajid was also involved with Chhatra League in Satkania municipality area. Monsur was a second-year student of Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College.

OC Sirajul Islam of Dohazari Highway Police Station said, "During the incident, Sakib was driving the car, and a dump truck coming from the opposite direction collided with the car around 5:30am, leaving four dead on the spot."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Till death do us part'



Mahmudul and Fahmida on the day of their marriage at the hospital on March 9. She passed away yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Two lovers. Between them stood the biggest obstacle imaginable -- death itself.

Yet they chose to bet on each other. On March 9, Fahmida Kamal (25) and Mahmudul Hasan (30) got married, despite pressures from family and society.

Fahmida had been struggling with cancer for over a year, and everybody advised Mahmudul against it. But in the end, love won as they exchanged wedding vows at a private hospital in the port city where Fahmida was being treated.

"The bride was dressed in a red sari, while Mahmudul wore pajama and panjabi," said Saifuddin Saki, a maternal grandfather of Fahmida.

"They exchanged garlands, cut a cake and the marriage was registered right at the hospital. Family members, hospital staffers and others present were treated with sweets, cake and dates," he said. But tragically, only 12 days later, Fahmida succumbed to her terminal illness yesterday morning.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Architecture
Ministry of Housing & Public Works
Sthapatya Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
www.architecture.gov.bd
Phone No- 02223350954

Memo No -General- 400 /Stha

Date : 21 -03-2022

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal .

| SL No | Tender ID | Package No | Name of Works | Publishing Date & Time | Last selling Date & Time | Closing Date & Time |
|-------|-----------|------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 676437 | DOA-21-08 | Software and Database Maintenance (Architecture Engineering & Construction Collection Commercial and AutoCAD-including specialized toolsets Commercial Renewal). | 22-Mar-2022 09:00 | 13-Apr-2022 14:00 | 13-Apr-2022 15:00 |

The Interested persons/firms/supplier may visit the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd to get details of the tender.

This is an Online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) is required. Further information and guideline are available the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Biswajit Barua)
Superintending Architect (Co-Ordination Circle)
And Procuring Entity (PE)
Department of Architecture
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
Phone No- 02223350954

GD-454



Patiya Govt. College

Patiya, Chattogram

www.patiyagovtcollege.gov.bd



Memo No. CEDP/PGC/2021-22/016

Date: 21/03/2022

e-Tender Notice 05/2021-2022

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

| Sl. No. | Tender ID No. | Name of supply | Last date and time of tender security submission | Tender closing date & time |
|---------|---------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| 1. | 676440 | Procurement of Furniture & Fixtures for Classrooms, Laboratories, Teachers Council Room and Auditorium for Patiya Govt. College, Chattogram. | 06-April-2022 13:00pm | 06-April-2022 14:00pm |

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 4:00pm, 05 April, 2022.

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

21/03/2022

Prof. Mohammad Mozammel Hoque
Principal

Patiya Govt. College, Chattogram
Mobile No. 01876029046

E-mail: patiyagovtcollege@gmail.com

GD-547

Beijing not sending arms to Russia Says China envoy

AFP, Washington
China's ambassador to the US said Sunday his country was not sending weapons to Russia for use in Ukraine, but he did not definitively rule out the possibility Beijing might do so in the future.
In a lengthy phone call Friday, US President Joe Biden warned his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that there would be "consequences" if Beijing provided material support to Moscow as it prosecutes its war against Kyiv.
Asked Sunday on CBS whether China might send money or weapons to Russia, Ambassador Qin Gang spoke about the present, saying: "There is disinformation about China providing military assistance to Russia. We reject that."



A view shows a warehouse of goods damaged by shelling, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Sievierodonetsk Ukraine, in this handout picture released yesterday. The war between Ukraine and Russia, two of the world's top crop producers, could lead to a food crisis "on the global" scale, French Farming Minister Julien Denormandie said in Brussels yesterday ahead of a EU agriculture meeting.

PHOTO: AFP

DEFECTORS FROM PM'S PARTY Pak seeks lifetime disqualification

REUTERS, Islamabad
Pakistan's government yesterday asked the Supreme Court to advise if it could seek lifelong disqualification of dissidents from Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling party ahead of a no-confidence vote that weakens his prospects of retaining power.
With parliament set on Friday to take up the motion filed this month by opposition parties, the nuclear-armed nation faces constitutional and administrative crises that threaten political turmoil.
Speaking after filing a petition to the Supreme Court, Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan told reporters the government had asked it to advise why lawmakers who ditch their party and switch sides cannot be disqualified for life.
"The basic questions ... include will the dissident MPs be disqualified for life, ... what would be the significance of the votes polled by those MPs and will the vote of these MPs be counted or not," Khan said. The opposition seeks to oust the prime minister because it blames him for mismanaging the governance.
Pakistan's law on floor-crossing provides that MPs who defect could lose their seats if they then vote against their party, but Khan's government aims to find out whether that also applies before they cast their votes.

World 'sleepwalking'

UN chief warns over climate catastrophe

AFP, Paris
UN chief Antonio Guterres said yesterday the world is "sleepwalking to climate catastrophe", with major economies allowing carbon pollution to increase when drastic cuts are needed.
The planet-saving goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius is already "on life support," he told a sustainability conference in London.
Keeping 1.5C in play requires a 45 percent drop in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by mid-century, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
But even if nations honour newly revised pledges under the Paris Agreement, emissions are still set to rise 14 percent before the decade ends.
"The problem is getting worse," Guterres said in a pre-recorded video message. "We are sleepwalking to climate catastrophe."
"If we continue with more of the same, we can kiss 1.5C goodbye," he

added. "Even two degrees may be out of reach."
His comments came only hours before the 195-nation IPCC kicks off a two-week meeting to validate a landmark report on options for reducing carbon pollution and extracting CO2 from the air.
The report is expected to conclude that CO2 emissions must peak within a few years if the Paris temperature targets are to be met.
Guterres described Covid recovery spending as "scandalously uneven" and a missed opportunity to accelerate the turn toward clean energy.
The Russian invasion of Ukraine, he added, could further derail climate action with importers locking in fossil fuel dependence as they scramble to replace Russian oil and gas.
"Countries could become so consumed by the immediate fossil fuel supply gap that they neglect or knee-cap (climate) policies," Guterres said.
"This is madness. Addiction to fossil fuels is mutually assured destruction," he added.



Numbers, casualties continue

FROM PAGE 12
ARI said 110 people were killed in 151 accidents in 2019 while 126 accidents claimed 264 lives in 2020. Last year, 199 lost their lives in 65 accidents, said ARI, based on newspaper reports.
The national committee said 217 people were killed in 77 accidents last year while 124 were killed in the same number of accidents in 2020.
Both the ARI and the committee said the actual numbers may be higher since many incidents go unreported.
ARI Lecturer Md Imran Uddin said apart from 14,805 registered vessels, another 35,000 to 40,000 unregistered ones are assumed to be plying the rivers. "The unregistered vessels don't come under any safety surveys. These vessels make the waterways unsafe," he told The Daily Star yesterday.
Besides, he said, the authorities, following the capsizing of Pinak-6 in 2014, had decided not to allow any new "sunken deck" vessels, because they are

prone to accidents, but have continued to issue fitness clearance to the existing ones.
"It is an example of the government's double standards," he said, adding that the vessel which sank on Sunday was a "sunken deck" launch.
Ashis Kumar Dey, general secretary of the national committee, said a lack of proper monitoring by the authorities was behind the rise in accidents on rivers.
There are only six surveyors in the shipping department to survey around 15,000 registered vessels across the country. Although a new organogram with 22 surveyors was approved in 2018, no new appointments have been made in this regard, he said.
There are only 17 inspectors of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority against 48 posts, hampering proper inspections of vessels, he added. Ashis said probe committees were formed after every major accident. "But their recommendations were never executed and the

officials responsible for the accidents were never punished."
Departmental actions were taken against a few, but those were too lenient, he also said, adding, "Launch owners do not face any punishment in most cases while crew members get nominal punishment in some. A sort of culture of impunity is prevailing here."
Contacted, Commodore AZM Jalal Uddin, director general of the shipping department, said a "casual approach" towards ensuring safety is the main reason for accidents.
Rising traffic is another reason for the rising number of accidents, he said, adding that many of the crew members who steer the vessels do not have licences.
About the shortage of surveyors, he said, "I will beg to differ here. Increasing the surveyors is not the only solution."
"I agree that increasing surveyors will increase compliance and safety standards but if people don't follow the safety guidelines the situation will never improve."

Teacher, student die

FROM PAGE 12
Police said Jasim Uddin is a supervisor of the construction firm.
Ainul Islam, a representative of NDE, said their company is carrying out development works on a stretch of the Dhaka-Aricha highway from Uthuli to Paturia ferry terminal in Shibhalaya upazila.
"We have been keeping our vehicles at various places along the highway for two years. We are keeping two pickup trucks on the school premises paying a monthly rent. We are sorry for the accident."

District Primary Education Officer Tapos Kumar Adhikari said Abdul Alim Memorial School has students of classes-1 to 10.
"Students up to the fifth grade take exams under this school while the secondary students sit exams under Rupsa Wahed Ali High School, which is situated nearby. Basically, it is a kindergarten school," he said.
District Secondary Education Officer Rebeka Jahan said there is no rule which allows commercial use of school premises. "If the school authorities

have given permission to rent out its premises, then they have disobeyed the government rule."
Mohammad Shahin, officer-in-charge of Shibhalaya Police Station, said they launched a probe to identify those responsible for the accident and bring them to book.
The OC said police seized the pick-up truck.
Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not reach Shahidur Rahman, managing director of the school, for comments as his phone was switched off.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স
বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ,
ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
www.smp.police.gov.bd

তারিখ-২১/০৩/২০২২খ্রি।
দরপত্র বিক্রয় নং-১২/২০২১-২০২২খ্রি।

সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, সিলেট এর চার্জিট ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালে ইমারত ও ভবনাদির মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজ বাস্তবায়ন এর শর্তাধীন প্রকৃতিসম্মত আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত তৎপরবর্তী সকল সংশোধিত বিধি-বিধান মোতাবেক নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত পূর্ত মেয়ামত ও নির্মাণ কাজের ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হল। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউল বর্ণিত আছে।

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| ০১ | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ। |
| ০২ | সংস্থা | সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, সিলেট। |
| ০৩ | দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান | পুলিশ কমিশনার, এসএমপি, সিলেট। |
| ০৪ | কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান | ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ সালের ইমারত ও ভবনাদির মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজ বাস্তবায়ন সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র। |
| ০৫ | দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ | স্মারক নং-পুঃহেডকোঃ/৪৪.০১.০০০০.০৪৩.১১০-২০২১/৭০৮(৪), তারিখ-২২/০২/২০২২খ্রি। |
| ০৬ | দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)। |
| ০৭ | ব্যাংকট ও অর্থনৈতিক ষাট | রাজস্ব ষাট, অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং- ৩-১২২০২০১০৫৯৫৪-সদর দপ্তর ৩২৫৮১০৮। |
| ০৮ | দরপত্র বিক্রয় প্রকাশের তারিখ | ২৩/০৩/২০২২ খ্রি তারিখের মধ্যে। |
| ০৯ | দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ | ০৬/০৪/২০২২ খ্রি তারিখ ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। |
| ১০ | দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় | ০৭/০৪/২০২২ খ্রি ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। |
| ১১ | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় | ০৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রি ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা। |

অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| ১২ | দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস | (ক) মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজ সংক্রান্ত সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তরের নামঃ- ১। সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট। ২। উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (উত্তর) এর কার্যালয়, এসএমপি, সিলেট। ৩। উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (দক্ষিণ) এর কার্যালয়, এসএমপি, সিলেট। ৪। উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (দ্রাঘিক) এর কার্যালয়, এসএমপি, সিলেট। |
| | দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস | সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট। |
| | দরপত্র খোলার স্থান | সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট। |

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| ১৩ | প্রি টেন্ডার সভার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময় | সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট। তারিখ- ৩১/০৩/২০২২খ্রি ও সময়-১১.০০ঘটিকা। |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|

দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| ১৪ | দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। | (১) হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, (২) বিগত ০৩ বছরের পূর্ত কাজ বাস্তবায়নে অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, (৩) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র, (৪) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (৫) হালনাগাদ আয়কর (১২ ডিজিটেল) সনদপত্র, (৬) হালনাগাদ ড্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন (১৩ ডিজিটেল) সনদপত্র, (৭) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদপত্র, ও (৮) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যা যা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল(PG-2/PG-3) এ উল্লেখ আছে। |
| ১৫ | দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় ১নং হতে ৭ নং পর্যন্ত মূল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। | বিহীন |

মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজের বিবরণ

| সি. নং | কাজের নাম | সিডিউলের মূল্য | লিকুইড মালি | দরপত্র জামানতের টাকার পরিমাণ | কাজ সমাপ্তির সময় |
|--------|---|----------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| ০১ | (ক) পুলিশ লাইসেন্সের সমস্ত সীমানা প্রাচীরের (দৈর্ঘ্য ১৩০০ ফুট) উপর ১.৫ ফুট ব্রীল স্থাপন কাজ। | ৪০০/- | ২,৪৫,০০০/- | ২২,০০০/- | ৪০ দিন |
| | (খ) শাহপরাণ (রহু) থানার উপশহর পুলিশ ক্যাম্পের চিন শেড ঘরের মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজ। | ৪০০/- | ৯৪,০০০/- | ৮,০০০/- | ৩০ দিন |
| | (গ) কোতোয়ালি মডেল থানার পশ্চিম পাশের স্টেন আংশিক মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজ। | ৪০০/- | ৮৫,০০০/- | ৭,০০০/- | ৩০ দিন |
| | (ঘ) এসএমপির দক্ষিণ সুরমা পুলিশ ফাঁড়ির অভ্যন্তরে স্টেন ও সেকফটিক ট্যাংক মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজ। | ৪০০/- | ১,০৬,০০০/- | ৯,০০০/- | ৩০ দিন |
| | (ঙ) বন্দরবাজার পুলিশ ফাঁড়ির গোসলের শেড নির্মাণ, পানির হাউজ ও ওয়াশরুম টাইলসকরণ, গ্যাকপায়ে আরসিকরণসহ পাবলিক টাইলস স্থাপন ও সেকফটিক ট্যাংক মেয়ামত কাজ। | ৪০০/- | ১,৭৫,০০০/- | ১৬,০০০/- | ৩০ দিন |
| | (চ) আধরখানা পুলিশ ফাঁড়ির ১নং ফোর্স ব্যারাকের মেয়ামত কাজ (শেডের এ্যাক্সেস দ্বারা ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল শীট স্থাপন ও প্রাস্টিক সিলিং স্থাপনসহ)। | ৪০০/- | ১,৬৮,০০০/- | ১৫,০০০/- | ৩০ দিন |
| | (ছ) কোতোয়ালি মডেল থানার অভ্যন্তরে রান্নার মেয়ামত ও সংস্কার কাজ। | ৪০০/- | ১,২৭,০০০/- | ১১,৫০০/- | ৩০ দিন |
| | (জ) শাহপরাণ (রহু) থানার অভ্যন্তরে পুরাতন ফোর্স ব্যারাক নং-১ মেয়ামত কাজ (ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল শীট, প্রাস্টিক সিলিং স্থাপন ও ওয়াশরুম টাইলসকরণসহ)। | ৪০০/- | ১,৯০,০০০/- | ১৭,০০০/- | ৪০ দিন |
| | (ঝ) শাহপরাণ (রহু) থানার অভ্যন্তরে পুরাতন ফোর্স ব্যারাক নং-২ মেয়ামত কাজ (প্রাস্টিক সিলিং স্থাপনসহ)। | ৪০০/- | ১,৫১,০০০/- | ১৩,০০০/- | ৩০ দিন |

দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণ

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| ১৬ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম | জনাব মোঃ কামরুল আমীন |
| ১৭ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী | উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সদর ও প্রশাসন), অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইএজিডি), এসএমপি, সিলেট। |
| ১৮ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা | সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাড়ি নং-২২৮, রোড নং-০১/এ, ব্লক নং-এফ, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট। |
| ১৯ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম | ফোন নং-০২-৯৯৬৬৩৪৫৭২, ফ্যাক্স নং-০২-৯৯৬৬৩১৯৩৭ ও E-mail:dchqsm@police.gov.bd |

২০ বিশেষ শর্তাবলী

ক) ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাচে আবেদন পূর্বক বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ০৬/০৪/২০২২খ্রি তারিখ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। কেবলমাত্র ৪-৪ প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণ দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে পারবেন। ঠিকাদার নিজে যদি উপস্থিত হতে না পারেন সে ক্ষেত্রে মনোনীত ব্যক্তির স্বাক্ষর সত্যায়িত করে ক্ষমতা অর্পন করে আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করে সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।

খ) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

গ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সকল তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সম্বন্ধে নিম্নে স্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।

ঘ) স্পষ্টি কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। প্রতিটি প্রকল্পের ক্ষেত্রে উল্লেখিত লিকুইড মালি ০৪/০৪/২০২২খ্রি তারিখ পর্যন্ত ব্যাংক জমা আছে মর্মে ব্যাংক কর্তৃক দেয় প্রত্যয়ন পত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঙ) দরপত্র পিপিএ/২০০৬, শিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং তদপরবর্তী সকল সংশোধিত মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

(মোঃ কামরুল আমীন)
বিশি-৩৬৬৮১০০৪৩
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সদর ও প্রশাসন)
অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইএজিডি)
সিলেট মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, সিলেট।
০২-৯৯৬৬৩৪৫৭২ (অফিস) ও ফ্যাক্স নং-০২-৯৯৬৬৩১৯৩৭।
E-mail-dchqsm@police.gov.bd

Reducing and reusing water: The road to sustainable steelmaking

Jagaran Chakma

Less than just 10 per cent of the water used by steelmakers is consumed during production as most of it evaporates during the cooling process

The steel industry plays a vital role in the economy by supplying various materials to the manufacturing, construction and transport sectors, but whether it be refining iron ore or recycling scrap, steel production is a resource-intensive process that requires large amounts of water. In addition to being used in cooling operations, water is required throughout the steelmaking process for descaling, dust scrubbing and other processes.

According to various Bangladeshi steelmakers, they are increasingly focusing on treatment strategies that improve water and energy efficiency to ensure long-term sustainability for the industry and the environment.

As such, the steel industry has seen significant change over the years, including fluctuations in growth, a shift towards scrap recycling, greater geographical distribution of production facilities, and increased adoption of water management strategies. This is the case the world-over and Bangladesh is no exception. These changes are interrelated in many ways as the opportunities presented have to be met in a sustainable manner in order to cater to the growing demand for steel in the country.

Therefore, water recycling is important for steel plants as it allows them to recover up to 90 per cent of their potential water usage. Water management strategies help steel plants recover and recycle water, which can result in significant cost savings by reducing the need for access to a water source as well as wastage.

Md Shahidullah, secretary general of the Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers Association, said although a large amount of water is used in steel production, most of it is reused and the industry consumes relatively less water than the dyeing process of garment industries.

Less than just 10 per cent of the water used by steelmakers is consumed during production as most of it evaporates during the cooling process.

"This is due to the use of indirect,

non-contact, cooling for processing equipment," added Shahidullah, also managing director of Metrocem ispat. During the cooling process, high pressure valves are used to spray water on steel products, particularly thermo-mechanically treated bars at continuous casting mills.

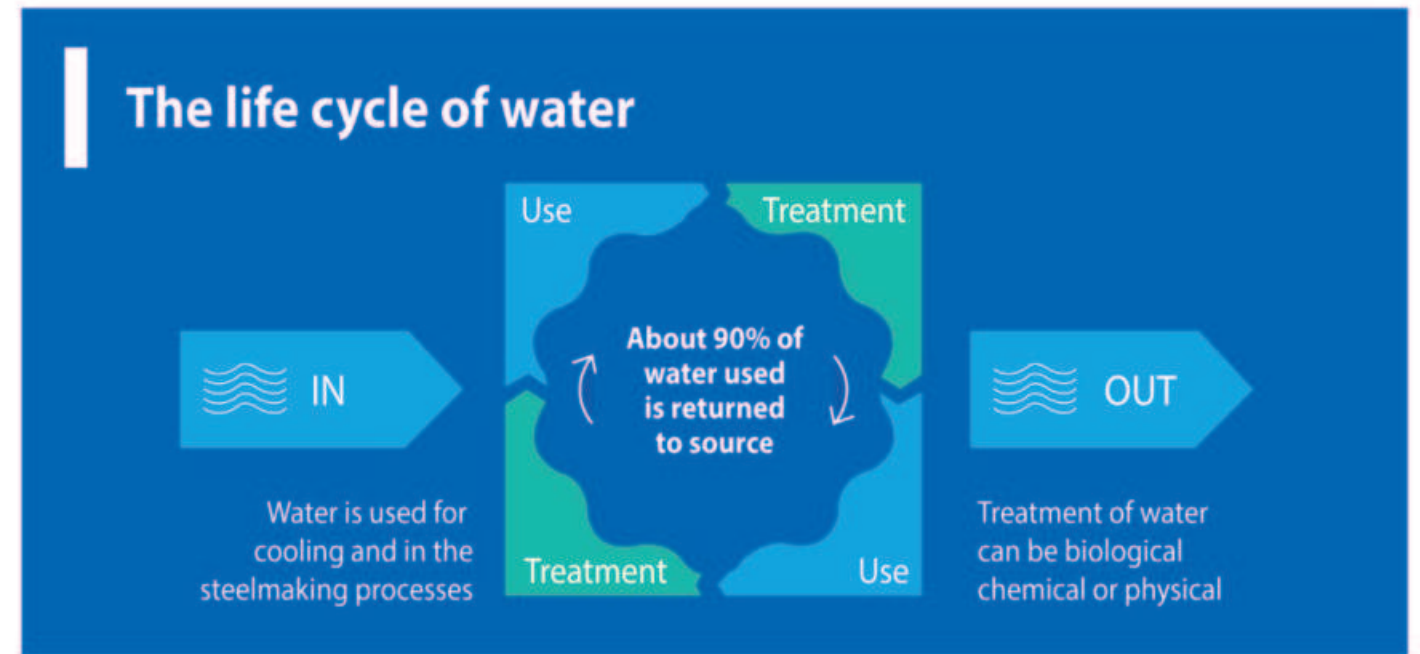
water," he added.

Sengupta went on to say that the amount of water discharged by a plant will vary depending on the type of cooling system used.

He said they extract groundwater from the mill area that can be used and recycled to ensure value addition.

Bangladesh that have a combined capacity to manufacture nine million tonnes a year.

At present, Bangladesh's steel consumption is significantly lower than the global average, according to the World Steel Association, an international trade body for iron and steel industries. The per



Globally, according to the World Steel Association member survey 2011, the average water intake for an integrated plant was 28.6 m³ per tonne of steel produced, with an average water discharge of 25.3 m³. For the electric arc furnace route, the average intake was 28.1 m³ per tonne of steel, with an average discharge of 26.5 m³. This demonstrates that overall water consumption per tonne of steel produced is low, ranging from 3.3 m³ to 1.6 m³.

Tapan Sengupta, deputy managing director at BSRM, said they use natural water at their steel manufacturing plant through a recycling process.

"Without recycling the water it is not possible to use natural water all the time as the process requires huge quantities of

Considering its need for large quantities of water, GPH ispat developed a water harvesting plant on 50 acres land in the adjoining area of its steel plant in Mirsarai, Chattogram.

"We will use this facility for harvesting rainwater that will be used round the year at our steel plant," said a senior official of GPH ispat.

"We will not use groundwater or other natural water bodies for production," he added.

GPH ispat invested in the system in accordance with the guidelines of the Institute of Water Modelling to protect groundwater from contamination and recycle the water used by its industrial units.

There are about 40 active steelmakers in

capita consumption in Bangladesh currently stands at 45 kilograms (kg) while the global average is 208 kg. In India, the average is 65.2 kg, and 42 kg in Pakistan.

Per capita steel consumption is much higher in developed countries with South Korea requiring 400 kg, the US needing 600 kg, and Japan 1,000 kg. As per the production capacity of local steel plants, they need a million gallons of water per day for manufacturing.

Given water's essential value to society, the steel industry should take the responsibility for water management seriously and constantly evaluate how best to use water, finding improvements both in conservation and reuse.

Water Health: The GPH ispat's Approach of Preservation



GPH's Quantum Electric Arc Furnace with Winlink Technology is a completely green, world class factory

There is not an abundance of drinking water available in the world. Only 3% of the Earth's available water is freshwater, with less than 1% of this being accessible. Therefore, protecting the quality of freshwater is of paramount importance, especially for a country like Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is growing rapidly, and without an adequate supply of safe groundwater, the different strata of society, ranging from residential to industrial, will fail. That is why the responsibility of protecting the quality of water falls on every individual and organization within the country.

This is exactly why GPH ispat has, in accordance to the guidelines of Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), invested in a system to protect ground

water contamination for the industrial units of GPH.

The system comprises of several components, the first being an artificial lake that can reserve up to 1.5 million cubic metres of water. This lake was set up in a barren area, spanning



around 50 acres of land. GPH ispat established an entire ecosystem around the artificial lake, which includes wildlife such as deer, snakes, foxes, fishing cats, hedgehogs, lemurs and

squirrels.

GPH ispat also supported and encouraged the local people to plant trees around this artificial lake. So far, over 2 lac trees have been planted, creating a rich, biodiverse area which consists of a variety of seasonal vegetables and fruits on the hillside next to the lake.

The lake, which has been approved and certified by IWM, is used for two purposes.

Firstly, the lake collects and stores rainwater, which allows GPH ispat to use this rainwater for its factories, ensuring that no groundwater is used from the local area. The Water Treatment Plant enables 2,500 cubic metres of rainwater to be harvested every day. This rainwater harvest is

further increased during the monsoon season, with an additional 1,000 cubic metres being harvested.

Secondly, the lake is used to recycle the wastewater generated by GPH ispat's factories. The recycling process involves the usage of the costly and highly efficient Water Treatment Plant (WTP). This plant removes 100% of the contamination from the wastewater before discharging it into the lake, where it is reused by GPH ispat's factories. There is zero discharge of liquid waste, ensuring that no damage is done to the environment. The industrial wastewater treatment saves around 200 cubic metres of groundwater every day.

harvesting project, using the harvested water for day to day use and agricultural work.

While establishing such a water recycling and treatment system required a significant investment, GPH recognized the importance of preserving a valuable resource like groundwater.

GPH hopes that its efforts to preserve groundwater will have a positive impact by raising awareness and knowledge on the topic of



The system is so efficient that GPH only uses 75% of the water stored in this lake, distributing the remaining 25% to local inhabitants. Around 50 families living near the production facilities are benefited from this rainwater



- 50-acres of artificial lake used for harvesting rainwater.
- With Zero Discharge Technology 100% of wastewater from factories is recycled.
- No groundwater used by GPH factories.
- 25% of the artificial lake's water provided to the local community.
- 2 lac trees planted around the lake.
- Engaging local community with farming (fish and domestic birds) for financial support and development.
- Enrich the biodiversity without sacrificing the existing flora and fauna.
- Involving directly to the NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) to its climate action plan to cut emission and adapt to climate impacts.



GPH lake certified by IWM to harvest rainwater

Lawlessness is the law of the rivers

Take action against those responsible for launch capsizes in Shitalakkhya

WE are shocked at the recent incident of launch capsizing that happened in the Shitalakkhya River—in Char Syedpur area of Narayanganj Sadar upazila—in the afternoon of March 20, 2022. At least eight passengers have died in the incident, while 19 others remain missing at the time of writing this column. Reportedly, a small launch named MV Afsar Uddin, with around 50 passengers on board, was heading towards Munshiganj from Narayanganj when it was hit by MV Rupshi 9, a large cargo vessel. It was heartbreaking to watch the footage of the cargo ship ramming into the launch. The panicked passengers started jumping into the river, but the ship bore the launch down within seconds with many passengers still on it.

This incident is yet another example of how deadly our river routes have become over the years. On April 8 last year, a passenger vessel named SKL-3 sank in the same area after being hit by a cargo vessel, killing 34 people. The capsizing of MV Mayur (on June 29, 2020) is still fresh in our memories, when 34 people died as the launch hit a small water vessel in the Buriganga. And only last December, we witnessed the deadliest incident of launch fire in our history, which took at least 43 lives. All these incidents have revealed the chaos in our river transport system—the inefficiency and negligence of the crew members of the water vessels, their total disregard towards the existing rules and regulations, and the indifference of the Department of Shipping and the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) towards making them compliant.

According to the survivors of Sunday's tragedy, the cargo vessel came too close to their launch without so much as honking. Primary investigation has also found that the vessel was running at a relatively high speed. Meanwhile, even though the passengers of the launch warned the driver of the possibility of a clash, he didn't seem to care. It is clear that the drivers didn't feel the need to follow any rules and regulations while cruising their vessels through the river routes, which is perhaps emblematic of the lawlessness ruling the rivers.

It is good to know that a murder case has been filed against eight crew members of the cargo vessel, including two of its masters. We now hope that they will be brought to book for the deaths and reckless endangerment of so many passengers. We also think the driver of the launch should be held accountable for ignoring the passengers' warnings.

We cannot afford to see this incident as a one-off accident. The systematic problems plaguing the river routes, which stem from the authorities' indifference and inefficiencies, must be addressed without delay if we are to ensure that no more lives are lost in such preventable tragedies.

A people's organisation for 50 years

Brac's trailblazing contributions to the country's development

WE congratulate Brac on its 50 years of operations in Bangladesh. Founded on March 21, 1972, by the late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Brac's journey started from the very birth of Bangladesh, with a rehabilitation programme for people trying to recover from the ravages of war. Soon, the organisation expanded its mission to help people in the remotest areas to create livelihood opportunities for themselves.

What truly sets Brac apart is its intense engagement at the grassroots level—not only in Bangladesh but in other countries too. For five decades, Brac has been working to help people in the farthest corners of the nation in building their lives from scratch—be it through employment, providing microfinance to vulnerable families, creating awareness about health issues in rural Bangladesh, or by educating millions of adults and children across Asia and Africa.

Education, in fact, has been at the core of Brac's mission. At the time when Bangladesh was born, 80 percent of adult Bangladeshis could not read or write, which prompted the organisation to launch its literacy and adult education campaign. Brac's innovative non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme has equipped over a million children aged 8 to 14 years (most of them girls) with literacy and numeracy skills to prepare them for secondary school. Though discontinued due to a lack of funds from bilateral and multilateral contributors, its proven success is a rationale for its revival as a partnership between Brac, other education NGOs, and the government to meet the SDG4 education target. The establishment of Brac University in 2001 has provided quality higher education and opportunities for research.

Since 1979, Brac has also worked extensively to improve the health of people in the country's rural areas. From leading the vaccination of children against diseases, which drastically reduced the previously high child mortality rate—with assistance from government and CARE—to providing life-saving oral saline to tens of thousands of households, Brac's contribution to our healthcare has been unique.

Keeping women and the poor at the centre of all developmental activities, Brac has introduced innumerable innovative strategies to lift people from poverty and ill health, equipping them with the tools to help them lead better lives. We hope Brac continues the legacy of its founder Sir Fazle Abed and plays its crucial role in the country's overall development.

Our apathy towards the suicide epidemic



Shuprova Tasneem is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

SHUPROVA TASNEEM

EVERY death is a tragedy, but when a young life is cut short, there is almost always a deeper level of empathy, a shared commiseration at the sadness of a life not lived. However, it's troubling how this empathy vanishes completely when that life is taken away by suicide—replaced by a wave of judgement, it shows a complete lack of understanding of the mental health issues that could drive one to take their own life.

On Sunday, March 13, 2022, a 16-year-old student from Mymensingh reportedly died of suicide. Before doing so, she wrote a Facebook post about her mental state, detailing how she had been suicidal for three years, had received no support and was now in a place where she was having physical reactions to her trauma and felt that death was the only escape. Her story has already been sensationalised on social media enough, so I will keep the details to a minimum. What I want to focus on are some of her final words, "You have no idea how much mental pressure a person has to feel to want to die willingly... don't come here to judge me. If someone asks for help, all you can do is bully. But when they do something, it is their fault. Have you learnt anything in life except victim-blaming?" (translated).

She displayed a great deal of foresight in writing this, since her assumption of being judged and bullied even after death turned out to be perfectly accurate. Her social media is flooded with comments, ranging from how selfish she is, how she will go to hell, how "dirty feminists" deserve to die (in her suicide note, she spoke of the restrictions she faced as a female in a patriarchal society), and even jokes about how she's finally getting the attention she craved. And, of course, comments about her body and her face—page after page of filth written at the expense of a dead teenager, apparently "undeserving of sympathy" because her death was a "choice."

As I scrolled through these comments, I was appalled to realise that we live in a society where its members have so little empathy for the dead, and disrespect religious beliefs enough to use it as an excuse to publicly condemn—and even celebrate—the death of a minor. But then I came across a comment that stopped me in my tracks. A young woman wrote,

"I have resisted committing suicide thinking that people might miss me, but now that I see all the comments here, I feel like it won't matter, everyone will clearly hate me anyway" (paraphrased).

Sometimes, it's easy to forget that the cruel bullies with too much time on their hands and too little self-respect are the loudest and the most vicious voices on

lawyers, police representatives and ordinary citizens shared their opinions on what went wrong in her life. Almost all of them referred to the importance of good parenting, with little explanation of what that entails, and none of them used the two most crucial words here: mental health.

The fact that suicide is a culmination



ILLUSTRATION: TEENI AND TUNI

The fact that suicide is a culmination of depression, mental illness, traumatic stress, hopelessness, social isolation and a number of other factors is completely lost upon us. But where the general public fails, our institutions must show us the way.

social media. We need to have a much-needed (and much longer) conversation about what we have done wrong as a society that these people exist in the first place—and why they hate women so much that any reference to gender inequality makes them wish death and destruction upon their fellow human beings. But what we need to remember right now is that many people who don't agree with the trolls, and who often are on the receiving end of their attacks, are suffering in silence.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) estimate that around 10,000 suicides occur in the country every year. Last year, a youth-led organisation found that between March 2020 and February 2021, 14,436 people died by suicide in the country. And it's likely that these numbers are grossly underreported due to the stigma surrounding suicide. How many people are contemplating suicide, right now, as I write this? And what views are they being exposed to, other than the ones shouting at them from their screens, telling them that they deserve to die because they don't know how to appreciate life? Is anyone talking to them, listening to them and providing them with the support they need?

In all the reports I found on the schoolgirl from Mymensingh, teachers,

of depression, mental illness, traumatic stress, hopelessness, social isolation and a number of other factors is completely lost upon us. But where the general public fails, our institutions must show us the way. So where are the educators, the community leaders and the elected representatives talking about suicide—not as a crime or a shameful act, but the tragic result of severe mental health issues that we have wilfully chosen to ignore? Where are the available resources on suicide prevention, the national suicide helpline, and the honest and inclusive conversations on the pressure that people face in society today?

Research done on mental health in other countries tells us that suicide is not inevitable. If a person living with suicidal thoughts is listened to and their feelings validated, the knowledge that someone cares can make them feel less trapped. In other words, a better societal understanding of mental health and depression, and appropriate support structures can save lives. But before any of that can happen, we need to seriously reflect on the lack of humanity hiding behind the excuse of "personal beliefs" that prevents so many from feeling any empathy for a life ended abruptly by depression and mental illness.

Morality in the age of social media



Mahir A Rahman is a research associate at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

MAHIR A RAHMAN

THE evolution of morality and ethics in the 21st century has taken a whole new direction, owing to the mass awareness and participation made possible by the ubiquity of social media. Throughout history, there have been discoveries that have changed society in unimaginable ways. Two important developments that shaped the history of moral evolution can be mentioned here. First, written language has revolutionised the communication of ideas over space and time. Second, new modes of transport radically transformed social norms by bringing people into contact with new cultures. Both these epoch-making events contributed significantly in shaping and reshaping moral thinking across cultures. Yet, these pale in comparison to how the internet and social media is shaping our individual and social identities.

In recent times, starting from the Arab Spring, social media has played an integral role in fomenting public opinion towards matters of morality, ethics and social justice. In Bangladesh, the relatively recent movements demanding safer streets following the deaths of a couple of students was fuelled, to a large degree, by social media participation. While there have been some positive developments in the evolution of public participation in shaping social justice through social media, one must exercise caution, and the role of social media

While there have been some positive developments in the evolution of public participation in shaping social justice through social media, one must exercise caution, and the role of social media must be carefully scrutinised.

must be carefully scrutinised.

Popular social media platform Facebook's early mission was "to make the world more open and connected"—and in the first days of social media, many people assumed that a huge global increase in connectivity would be an unequivocal good. However, in recent times, that optimism has somewhat dissipated. The American social psychologist Jonathan Haidt noted that the problem may not be connectivity itself, but the way social media turns so much communication into a public performance. What did he mean by this?

The social psychologist Mark Leary coined the term "sociometer" to describe the inner mental gauge that tells us, moment by moment, how we're doing in the eyes of others. Leary has argued that people don't actually care about self-esteem; contrarily, the evolutionary imperative is to get others to see them as desirable partners for various kinds of relationships. Social media, with its displays of likes, friends, followers, and retweets, has pulled the sociometers out of one's private thoughts and made them public. In 1790, the Anglo-Irish philosopher and statesman Edmund Burke wrote, "We are afraid to put men to live and trade each on his own private stock of reason; because we suspect that this stock in each man is small, and that the individuals would do better to avail themselves of the general bank and capital of nations and of ages."

Social media has put Burke's words to test. It pushes people of all ages towards a focus on the scandal, joke, or conflict of the day, but the effect may be particularly profound for younger generations, who have had less opportunity to acquire older ideas and information before plugging themselves into the social media stream. Since

social media is an open platform, young people are being exposed to a barrage of "philosophies" and "guidelines," providing moral justification to almost every little thing, without proper critical analysis and creating moral rules almost "on the fly." An example of this is the fact that social media has channelled the susceptibility to divisions based on "group identity" into the creation of a "callout culture": anyone can be publicly shamed for saying something well-intentioned that someone else interprets uncharitably. As Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt put it, "New media platforms and outlets allow citizens to retreat into self-confirmatory bubbles, where their worst fears about the evils of the other side can be confirmed and amplified by extremists and cyber trolls' intent on sowing discord and division."

In conclusion, it has to be acknowledged that human civilisation is arguably living in the most peaceful (and possibly most moral) era in our species' existence. Technological innovation and social media have transformed our lives, in many positive ways. However, the frictions that remain deserves to be discussed. As cognitive psychologist, linguist and author Steven Pinker points out, much of our recent social history, including the culture wars between liberals and conservatives, consists of the moralisation or amoralisation of particular kinds of behaviour. Pinker aptly captures this by arguing that there seems to be a Law of Conservation of Moralisation, so that as old behaviours are taken out of the moralised column, new ones are added to it. As the tectonic plates of moral evolution shift, we must therefore scrutinise the role of social media in our lives, and be mindful of how we utilise it for positive changes.

Lessons we can learn from the Russian invasion of Ukraine



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (ret'd) is a former associate editor of The Daily Star.

THE invasion of Ukraine, which Russia chooses to euphemistically call "special operations," has produced several lessons for us, as much as it has, once again, exposed various negative facets of the existing world order, the fault lines in international relationship, and the skewed international system hogged by the rich and the powerful. This conflict has also brought to light the partisan nature of Western media, which flaunts its so-called objectivity and hypes its impartiality, now ever so consumed by selective amnesia of the US and its allies' bombardment of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya, so much so that they cannot but betray their racist proclivities. This racial bias is also evident in the European governments' policy towards the Ukrainian refugees compared to their attitude and policies towards other refugees, whose skin colour happens to be a few shades darker than theirs.

Unfortunately, all wars are launched on the pretext of justice—and all wars result in deaths. But while all murderers face retribution and punishment since it is forbidden to kill, those who wage wars and kill people go free because, according to Voltaire, "they kill in large numbers to the sounds of trumpets," as have modern-day mass killers like the two Bushes, Henry Kissinger, Blair, and Obama. The latter, a Nobel Laureate, justified war as the arbiter of conflicts who wanted the world to think in new ways about the notions of just war, and legalised war; since the notion of "just" is highly subjective, one was, therefore, free to wage war. Now Putin has been added to that list.

What is particularly noticeable, and heartening, is the overdrive of certain international bodies and institutions that have moved very quickly to hold Russia to account, like the UN and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the latter calling Russia for alleged genocide and war crimes. It is so encouraging to see the ICJ move with such celerity as never seen before under the Convention

on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The hearing started in The Hague on March 7, 2022.

These are appropriate measures that must be taken against a blatant aggressor, and one would like to believe that the international institutions are not totally neutered yet. But if only these bodies had moved with equal promptness



in similar circumstances in the past, when international order was equally blatantly trampled under the feet of the lone superpower, when the UN was bypassed and when indiscriminate carpet bombing tried to blow a civilisation out of the face of the Earth, Russia would have perhaps thought twice before attacking Ukraine.

Also, contrast that with the genocide in Bangladesh, which has not been recognised as genocide as yet. And what about civilian deaths in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Libya caused by US operations? I quote a very conservative estimate, by the Watson Institute of Brown University in the US, that 387,072 civilians died violent deaths as a direct result of the US' post-9/11 wars. The war deaths from malnutrition and a damaged healthcare system and environment likely far outnumber deaths from combat. Should they not merit recognition by the ICJ? Let's see now the strategic and

security lessons the Russia-Ukraine war has for the world—particularly for a geographically small country like Bangladesh, whose main diplomatic preoccupation since its inception has been to craft policies and chart courses in order to exist peacefully with its preponderantly large neighbour. What has come out very starkly in

And more than anything, Russia's aggression, that has matched the immorality and depravity of the US and Western actions in the four aforementioned countries, demonstrates the need for a small country to have a credible deterrence, that would make amply clear to any potential aggressor that the cost of aggression would be highly disproportionate to its assessed gains. Ukrainian leadership must be ruing the fact that they gave up the nuclear warheads stationed in its territory in exchange for security guarantee. At the time of independence, Ukraine had the third largest nuclear stockpile in the world, which they surrendered in 1994 after joining the NPT regime, in exchange for economic and territorial guarantee. One wonders whether Russia would have attacked Ukraine if they were in possession of nuclear weapons.

And this is another lesson for a small country like ours: Do not depend on the security guarantees of others—not even that which is in black and white. Look at the fate of the Budapest Memorandum signed between Ukraine (and also Belarus and Kazakhstan) with the US, the UK and the Russian Federation in 1994, which stipulated economic and territorial security guarantees for the signatories in return for giving up nuclear weapons. The memorandum was honoured in its violation, regrettably. Ukraine has learnt the hard way that, while the US and its allies are willing to put boots on the ground while invading a third country, they would dither in doing so in defence of a country outside their alliance. And neither should small countries fall for the oft-repeated cliché that diplomacy is the best defence. In this instance, the US and the West's defence and diplomacy both failed miserably.

Last but not the least is the very important lesson that one must learn not only from the recent invasion of Ukraine, but also the Russian annexation of Crimea and its war against Georgia. In all three instances, ethnic affinity of the people living in areas bordering Russia was exploited by the latter to create grounds for invasion and annexation, as was done in Crimea, or carving a separate state from the mainland as with Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia, and with the Donbas region in Eastern Ukraine. I call it "the quisling factor" for want of a better phrase, and we must be wary of it too.

▲ European governments have been a lot more welcoming towards the Ukrainian refugees compared to refugees from other places.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

the latest Russia-Ukraine war is that a country's geopolitical importance, stemming from its geopolitical location, can be more of a bane than a boon—unless one plays one's diplomatic card deftly. Sandwiched between two big and powerful entities—i.e., the Russian Federation and the conglomerate of Nato allies with historical animosity to the former—the situation for Ukraine was always extremely delicate. Ukraine became a buffer for the Russians after the break-up of the Soviet Union, and the Nato borders moved further eastwards with Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia joining the Western alliance. Ukraine fell victim to the large single-powerful-neighbour syndrome, with the Russian Federation dominating its entire eastern flank and most of its big western neighbours allied to either of the big powers. Ukraine's intention to join Nato and make a big case out of it are the immediate reasons behind its woes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

Bring prices under control

Commodity prices have been rising uncontrollably in recent times. As a result, low-income people and the middle class have been finding it harder and harder to afford some of the most basic commodities. Even though prices have been rising, peoples' incomes have not gone up nearly as much.

The authorities should be doing a lot more to control prices. The lack of monitoring by the authorities, along with the dishonesty of powerful

traders who are artificially increasing prices have led to a crisis that we have not seen for a very long time. Should things continue like this, we might see other social costs go up rapidly. Therefore, the authorities urgently need to expand their social safety net programmes, as well as take immediate measures to bring prices back under control.

Mahmudul Haq Hasan
Dhaka College, Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD

Narayangonj Road Circle

Allenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

Phone: 02-48110361

E-mail : narayangonjcircle@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.2690.189.07.000.22-698

Dated : 21-03-2022

CORRIGENDUM-01

Sub : Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System of Meghna Bridge at 25th km & Gomoti Bridge at 42nd km & 43rd km of Dhaka-Chattogram National highway under Narayangonj Road division.
Package No. 01/Manual/PSN/NRC/2021-2022
Date 16-03-2022.

Ref : Invitation Notice Memo No. 35.01.2690.189.07.000.22-666 Date 16-03-2022.

The following amendment (as shown in column-4) is hereby made to the Tender notice for the above mentioned work. The participants are advised to submit their Tender with due consideration to this amendment. This corrigendum is a part of the Tender notice. All other terms and conditions of Tender notice shall remain unchanged. The participants must submit this corrigendum-01 along with their Tender document duly sealed and signed.

| Sl. No. of IFT | Reference | To be replaced | Replace With |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 17. | Tender last selling date and time | 06-04-2022 4.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) | 12-04-2022 4.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) |
| 18. | Tender Closing date and time | 07-04-2022 12.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) | 13-04-2022 12.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) |
| 19. | Tender opening date and time | 07-04-2022 12.30 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) | 13-04-2022 12.30 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) |
| 20 | Selling tender document (principal) | Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Narayangonj | Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narayangonj |
| | Selling tender document (others) | (i) Office of the Chief Engineer, RHD, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Alenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (iii) Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Narayangonj Road Circle, Allenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka. | (i) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Administration & Establishment, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Dhaka (iii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Munshiganj (iv) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narshingdi |

(Dr. Mohammad Najm Haque)
ID No-601964
Superintending Engineer, RHD (C.C.)
Narayangonj Road Circle.

GD-544

বাংলাদেশ
সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন

“সুজিববরের অধীকার
উন্নয়ন-অর্থায়নের উলস হবে গুঁজবাজার”

সূত্র নং-বিএসইসি/প্রশাসন/১২:০০/২০০৩-৩৩৩ তারিখঃ ২১/০৩/২০২২ইং

“ অকেজো গাড়ি বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ”

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশনের ০৩ (তিন)টি অকেজো গাড়ি নং- ঢাকা মেট্রো-খ-১২-৭১৭৫, ঢাকা মেট্রো-খ-১২-৭১৭৬ ও ঢাকা মেট্রো-খ-১৩-১২৮৩ “যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে” ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক বা আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। বিক্রয়যোগ্য অকেজো গাড়ির বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ও শর্ত সম্বলিত সিডিউল নং ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) ২৭/০৩/২০২২ হতে ১০/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন এর নিকট হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং ১১/০৪/২০২২ইং তারিখ বেলা ০২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে কমিশনের প্রশাসন বিভাগে দরপত্র জমা দিতে হবে। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের পর আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান বা পক্ষে মনোনীত ব্যক্তিগণ বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন, ই-৬/সি, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭ হতে বিক্রয়যোগ্য গাড়ি সমূহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দেখতে পারবেন।

(আবু মেহেদী আক্তার)
সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)
বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন
মোবাইলঃ ০১৮১১১৯৭০৬৮

GD-542

OTT will surpass city boundaries SOON

APURBA

“My dream role is to play Amit from Rabindranath Tagore’s iconic novel ‘Shesher Kobita’. This is one of my favourite novels, and I am exceptionally drawn to Amit’s character. I really want to play this role, as it touches my heart.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Apurba is one of the busiest stars on television. The actor, who took a break for a few days for a vacation abroad, is busy shooting for multiple Eid projects.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the “Batch 27” actor talked about his upcoming Eid fictions, his favourite character, and more.

How busy are you with Eid tele-fictions?

I have already started shooting for many projects. Last week, I completed shooting for Mohidul Islam’s Eid fiction opposite Mehazabien, and will soon start working on Shihab Shaheen’s comedy drama alongside Sabila Nur this week. I will start shooting for more Eid projects soon.

Over the last few years, Television has doubled the production of Eid dramas. Is it possible for them to maintain a good quality?

The number of television channels have multiplied over the years, and the audiences’ tastes have changed. Nowadays, many good productions are being made, keeping in mind the interests of the audiences. Viewers have many options to choose from, so I don’t think there’s any scope to complain.

What are your thoughts on the rise of OTT?

OTT projects usually have bigger production units and huge budgets, so there is a lot of scope to experiment with the plot. Viewers are able to watch quality, film-level content within the comforts of their home.

I have worked in many web-series and my experience assures me that OTT will surpass the boundaries of city life, and habituate people from rural areas to its

Throughout your career, you have enacted various roles. Is there any character that you want to play?

My dream role is to play Amit from Rabindranath Tagore’s iconic novel “Shesher Kobita”. This is one of my favourite novels, and I am exceptionally drawn to Amit’s character. I really want to play this role, as it touches my heart.



PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK

Britney Spears working on new music after 6 years

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Pop star Britney Spears is working on her new music in six years, after breaking free from her 13-year conservatorship battle against her own father.



According to reports by The Sun, Britney Spears and her team are beginning to put “feelers out about the prospect of new music”. The “Toxic” singer has contacted Claude Kelly, who has written a number of hit songs for Britney’s 2008 album ‘Circus’, which also includes ‘Womanizer.’ Britney Spears last album “Glory” was released in 2016.

SONAM KAPOOR announces pregnancy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor announced her pregnancy on Instagram.

In a post, the actress shared some pictures with her husband Anand Ahuja, showing her baby bump.

Sonam wrote a rhyme—“Four hands. To raise you the very best we can. Two hearts. That will beat in unison with yours, every step of the way. One family. Who will shower you with love and support.

We can’t wait to welcome you.” She also informed that they are expecting the baby to arrive in fall, this year.

Sonam last appeared in the 2019 in the film, “The Zoya Factor”, and in a cameo in the Netflix original “AK vs AK” released 2020.



NEWS

Why do we

FROM PAGE 12
cause snoring too.

Anatomy may also contribute to snoring. If you have a long soft palate, enlarged adenoids, displaced cartilage in the nose, tonsils or a large tongue, it can be harder for air to flow through your nose and mouth, causing you to snore.

Snoring may run in families. Nasal stuffiness due to allergies or common cold may block airflow causing snoring.

Pregnant women may be more likely to snore due to hormonal changes or weight gain.

Snoring may also be a symptom of obstructive sleep apnea. If you are a heavy snorer, you should check with your physician.

Treatments for snoring include changes in habit like quitting smoking or drinking. Your physician may also ask you to lose weight. Doctors might also suggest minor surgeries to open up your nasal or oral passage enough to prevent snoring.

You may also try remedies like sleeping on your side instead of your back and sticking to a sleep schedule to avoid snoring.

Jet crashes

FROM PAGE 12
website FlightRadar24, was under investigation.

The airline said it had provided a hotline for relatives of those on board and sent a working group to the site. There were no foreigners on the flight, Chinese state television reported, citing China Eastern.

Media cited a rescue official as saying the plane had disintegrated and caused a fire destroying bamboo trees. The People’s Daily quoted a provincial firefighting department official as saying there was no sign of life among the debris.

Second round of talks today

FROM PAGE 12

and sent invitations to eminent citizens. We are hoping that all of them would join the dialogue.”

The Daily Star contacted 10 eminent citizens.

Of them, four confirmed joining and one was yet to decide. The remaining five said they would not be able to join for different reasons such as health condition, pre-scheduled appointments and others.

AB Mirza Azizul Islam, former adviser to the caretaker government and noted economist, said, “I will not be able to go to talks. Election is a political issue and I don’t get involved in political

discussions. I don’t think I can make any significant contribution by joining.”

Hafizuddin Khan, another former adviser to caretaker government and former bureaucrat, said he will not join talks as it will be difficult for him to give his opinion due to time constraints, as so many people were invited.

“I heard 40 eminent citizens were invited. If they each talk for five minutes, even that will take a long time. It [talks] doesn’t work this way. It would have been better if they had invited four or five people. We could have given our opinions properly. Besides, I also have health issues for

which I cannot join.”

Rasheda K Choudhury, former caretaker government adviser and executive director for Campaign for Popular Education, is currently in the USA and will return Dhaka later this month.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), said he will not be able to join talks as he will be in Khulna to attend pre-scheduled programme.

Tofail Ahmed, local governance expert, said, “It won’t be possible for me to join as I am in my home in Chattogram since March 18 and will return to Dhaka on March 24.”

Gonoshasthaya

Kendra trustee Zafurullah Chowdhury, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumdar, former University Grants Commission chairman Prof Nazrul Islam and Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, all said that they would be joining the dialogue today, while economist Prof MM Akash yesterday said he was yet to decide as he has programme at the same time of the talks.

The EC’s initiative to hold dialogue received an underwhelming response on the first day – March 13 – as just 13 out of 30 invitees joined.

BLAST gives pointers to stop character

FROM PAGE 12

150(A) of the act and to repeal section 155(4) of the act.

Mahbuba Akhter, deputy director (advocacy and communications) at BLAST, told The Daily Star yesterday that the organisation will again request the parliamentary committee to place a bill on the amendments suggested by BLAST.

Contacted, Shahiduzzaman Sarker, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, said the committee was yet to analyse the suggestions.

“The cabinet has already approved in principle the Evidence (Amendment) Act 2022. We will study and discuss the suggestions made by BLAST when we have an official meeting.

If the suggestions are relevant, we will include them in the amendment bill,” he said.

The committee will hold a meeting on this issue before the next parliament session.

Law Minister Anisul Huq earlier told The Daily Star that the government will amend sections 155(4) and 146(3) of the Evidence Act, 1872 to prevent questioning of the characters of rape victims in court.

BLAST’s March 10 proposal reads, “53 (A). Evidence of character and past sexual history when not relevant: The evidence about the character of the complainant and their past sexual experiences with any person other than the accused during trial of offences under sections 9 and 10 of the Nari o

Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000, and/or Sections 354, 375, 376, 493 and 509 of the Penal Code 1860 and attempts to commit these offences shall not be admissible.

“146 (3)(A) It shall not be lawful to raise questions about the complainant’s past sexual experiences with persons other than the accused and questions intended to injure the character of the complainant during trial of offences under Sections 9 and 10 of the Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 and Sections 354, 375, 376, 493 and 509 of the Penal Code, 1860, and attempts to commit these offences during the cross examination.

“150 (A). The court shall ensure that complainants of the offences under

Sections 9 and 10 of the Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 and Sections 354, 375, 376, 493 and 509 of the Penal Code, 1860, and complainants of attempts to commit these offences, are not subjected to questions about their character and past sexual history with any person other than the accused.

“If the Court is of the opinion that any Advocate has raised questions to any witness in contravention of Section 53A and Section 146(3)(A) of this Act then it shall report such contravention to the High Court Division or any other competent authority to which such Advocate is subject in the exercise of his profession, and recommend that appropriate disciplinary be taken against him.”

‘No question’ of surrender

FROM PAGE 12

and its invasion force has got bogged down.

Ukraine and its Western

backers say Russian ground forces have made few advances in the past week, concentrating their efforts

on artillery and missile strikes – often into urban centres.

The bulk of Russian

forces remain more than 25 km from the centre of the Kyiv, British military intelligence said.

ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড
EASTERN REFINERY LIMITED
(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)

Ref: 28.25.0000.028.07.006.22/ABP Date: 22/03/2022

Invitation of Tender (International) for Replacement of MCC Panel of Bitumen processing plant at ERL

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Ministry/Division | Energy and Mineral Resources Division. |
| 2 | Agency | Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). |
| 3 | Purchaser name executing agency | Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL). |
| 4 | Invitation for | Goods and related services. |
| 5 | Invitation Ref No. | 28.25.0000.028.07.007.22/ERL |

KEY INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| 6 | Procurement method | One stage two envelope (Technical and Financial)- ICT. |
|---|--------------------|--|

FUNDING INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 | Budget and source of funds | Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 8 | Tender Package No. | ER/E&G/MCC PANEL/ABP/21-22 |
| 09 | Tender package name | Replacement of MCC Panel of Bitumen Processing plant at ERL. |
| 10 | Tender publication date | 22/03/2022 |
| 11 | Tender last selling date | 08/05/2022 |
| | | Date Time |
| 12 | Tender closing date and time | 09/05/2022 BST 1500 hrs |
| 13 | Tender opening date and time | 09/05/2022 BST 1515 hrs |
| 14 | Name & address of the office(s) | Address |
| | -Selling tender document (principal) | Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong 4204, Bangladesh. |
| | -Selling tender document (others) | ERL Dhaka Liaison Office, 2nd Floor, YMCA Bhaban, 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. |
| | -Receiving tender document | Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh. |
| | -Opening tender document | Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh. |

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| 15 | Eligibility of tenderer | As per Tender Data Sheet (Section-2). |
| 16 | Brief description of goods or works | Replacement of MCC Panel of Bitumen Processing Plant at ERL. |
| 17 | Brief description of related services | Supply, Replacement, Testing and Commissioning of MCC Panel of Bitumen Processing Plant at ERL. |
| 18 | Price of tender document (Tk) | Tk 3000.00 (three thousand) or US Dollar 35 (thirty-five). |

| | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lot | Identification of lot | Location | Tender security (amount in Taka) | Completion time |
| Single | ER/E&G/MCC PANEL/ABP/21-22 | Eastern Refinery Ltd. | Tk 4,00,000 (four lac) | 34 weeks |

PURCHASER DETAILS

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 19 | Name of official inviting tender | Engr. Md. Tazul Islam. |
| 20 | Designation of official inviting tender | Deputy General Manager (E & I). |
| 21 | Address of official inviting tender | Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong 4204, Bangladesh. |
| 22 | Contact details of official inviting tender | 0233301261-7, +8801554631326 tazul3069@gmail.com Ext-340 |
| 23 | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders at any time or stage without assigning any reason whatever and no claim will be entertained in this regard. | |

GD-546

Shakib, Taskin to stay with pack

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh team management and players will be boosted by all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's decision to stay back with the Tigers despite the fact that a few of his close family members are going through health complications in Bangladesh.

There was doubt regarding Shakib's availability for the third ODI on March 23 and, beyond that, the Test series beginning from March 31. Shakib's mother is admitted in a city hospital while his two of his youngest children are suffering from pneumonia.

"There is a medical emergency since a few of his family members are ill. That's why he has some doubts and has been communicating with his family over going," team director Khaled Mahmud informed in a BCB video message to the media yesterday. "We have been regularly booking tickets for him and even today there was talk of him going. Shakib turned down the offer [to leave] and decided to play. It was true that he was going to leave and even Jalal bhai had confirmed [to media] that he would leave. A while later Shakib decided that he will go after playing. So, he isn't going now, he will play the third ODI before we decide," he added.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed yesterday that, pacer Taskin Ahmed has been convinced to not make himself available for the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL) after franchise Lucknow Super Giants asked about Taskin's availability for the upcoming tournament, slated to begin from March 26. "The management of Lucknow Super Giants have contacted us as they are willing to rope in Taskin for the upcoming season," BCB's cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus told the media yesterday afternoon.

"However, since the national team is engaged in a crucial series in South Africa and there are two important Test matches, we didn't give him the permission or NOC. Let's finish the series first, then we can think what's next."



Comfort zone diffuses away from home

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers pace unit, which played a vital role behind the historic Test win over New Zealand in Mount Maunganui earlier this year along with the maiden win in South Africa in the first ODI of the ongoing series, is giving confidence to the Bangladesh team management to win matches overseas consistently.

Bangladesh's pace battery, in recent times, showed great promise with the presence of a group of fast bowlers, the likes of Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Mustafizur Rahman and Ebadot Hossain, who plays the longest format, have started to apply themselves especially away from home.

Much like the pace bowling unit, the habit of playing in seaming and bouncy tracks is also helping the Tigers batters to cope with tough conditions.

Although Bangladesh batters struggled against the extra bounce and pace by the South African seamers in the second ODI, according to the Tigers team director Khaled Mahmud, the culture of playing in seaming conditions at home has started to improve the mindset of the players.

"Look, we have already started to prepare grassy wickets in domestic circuits, which are giving the courage to our players abroad," Mahmud told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

"We didn't have that added punch in the bowling department in the past but, if you noticed, we have a core group of fast bowlers, both in Tests and limited over formats, who are bowling over 140 kmph consistently."



Khaled Mahmud

"There is a positive vibe in the team, where the head coach and the entire team management knows that we have to be mentally tough to overcome the hurdles.

"It is also about the execution on the field and the boys are doing it really well. Although we lost the second ODI where the pitch, if you noticed, provided some extra bounce. But the message is clear to all the players that this is our standard and we should maintain this no matter what happens," he added.

The former Bangladesh captain also pointed out: the current Tigers pace bowling unit provides the strength to put up a fight with the ball, an aspect that

had remained missing in the past. "We didn't have that added punch in the bowling department in the past but, if you noticed, we have a core group of fast bowlers, both in Tests and limited over formats, who are bowling over 140 kmph consistently."

"Ebadot picked up a five-wicket haul that helped us to win in New Zealand in Tests while Taskin, Mustafiz and Shoriful were crucial behind the victory in the first ODI. I think our bowlers were better than the South African bowlers in terms of execution in the first ODI. Now we have that strength to win matches abroad riding on our pacers," Mahmud said.

Member of the selection panel and former captain Habibul Bashar, on the other hand, informed the Tigers want to diversify when it comes to their approach and game plan in different conditions.

"Obviously we are preparing ourselves to cope in different conditions. But the fact is when we play at home, our strength will always remain the same," said Bashar.

"But at the same time when we play abroad, we know what is waiting for us, and since our pace bowling department has come to a shape, we are confident to beat any team. If we can win the ODI series against South Africa it will be a huge boost for our boys to go forward."

Shamim's ton stands out

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngsters shone in the Dhaka Premier League matches yesterday with BKSP venues seeing a flurry of tons.

Abahani's Shamim Hossain hit a 68-ball 108 against City Club, paving the way for a 111-run win. The left-hander, a U-19 World Cup winner, played a blistering knock, hitting 13 fours and eight sixes at BKSP's Ground 3. His innovative stroke-playing, going across the stumps to find the boundary at fine leg or making room to go over extra-cover, saw Abahani post a formidable 309 for five before City Club were bowled out for 198, thanks to Arafat Sunny's five-for.

In the other match at BKSP, another U-19 World Cup winner, Shahadat Hossain Dipu, struck an unbeaten 145-ball 131 to help Prime Bank chase down Legends of Rugganj's 265 for five and win by four wickets. Rugganj's innings was propelled by Raqibul Hasan's 121 and skipper Naeem Islam's 91.

ULAB hosted its first-ever DPL match yesterday and Gazi Group romped to an 86-run win over Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity following half-centuries from Al Amin jr. and Gurinder Singh, which helped them reach 246 for seven. In reply, Khelaghar were bowled out for 160. The venue, surrounded by greenery and the university, will host five rounds of DPL matches.



Afridi, Naseem put Australia in trouble

REUTERS

Quick bowlers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah picked up two wickets apiece on Monday to lead Pakistan's inspired performance against Australia on the first day of the deciding third and final Test in Lahore.

Afridi, 21, did the early damage, striking twice in his second over to dismiss opener David Warner for seven and No. 3 Marnus Labuschagne before he had scored, to reduce Australia to 8-2 after they won the toss and opted to bat.

Naseem, 19, drafted into the Pakistan side in place of all-rounder Faheem Ashraf, hurt the tourists in the final session, dismissing a well-set Steve Smith for 59 and Travis Head for 26 as Australia reached 232-5 at close.

All-rounder Cameron Green was unbeaten on 20 for Australia with wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey eight not out.

After their shaky start, it was opener Usman Khawaja who led Australia's fightback with a resilient 91, adding to scores of 97, 160 and 44 not out in his last three innings in his country of birth.

The left-handed Khawaja, who added 136 for the third wicket with Smith, appeared set for his 12th test hundred before Pakistan captain Babar Azam completed a one-handed catch at slip off spinner Sajid Khan.

Booters upbeat over Maldives tie

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team coach Javier Cabrera and captain Jamal Bhuiyan are anticipating a good result as they fly for the Maldives today to play a FIFA international friendly against the hosts on March 24.

"We're really convinced that we can do something important and looking forward to facing the Maldives," Cabrera said at a press conference at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh did not have a good time against the Maldivians in the past two decades and are yet to win on their soil. However, the men in red and green ended their 18-year winless streak against the island nation with a 2-1 win in their second match of the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Tournament in Colombo last year, a win which will give encouragement to Cabrera's charges.

What will also work in Bangladesh's favour is the absence of Maldives' talisman Ali Ashfaq, the forward too often ripping Bangladesh apart on his own. "Of course, Ali Ashfaq is one of the best players for the Maldives in the last 10 years. But the last match when we played against them in Sri Lanka, he was also

there and we won that match," Jamal said when asked whether the absence of Ashfaq would give Bangladesh an extra edge.

Since the departure of Jamie day, the booters were brought under the guidance of Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon and Portuguese coach Mario Lemos. Jamal hinted at some similarities of Cabrera with the recent Spanish gaffer. Nevertheless, he felt excited to work under Cabrera's unique set of tactical styles. "He has been a very hard worker from the day he arrived. He has seen a lot of club matches in the last three months and studied the players very well. He is clear about his objectives from the first day.

There are some differences from the other coaches we had in the past, you will see that in the match," the skipper said.

The Maldives is a home away from home for Bangladesh as so many Bangladeshi expats work there. Jamal and Co are looking forward to play in front of them while mentioning the recent complication regarding tickets in their SAFF encounter. "As a player you want your fans to support you on the field. So I think this time they should allow the Bengali fans to enter the stadium and support their team, otherwise, someone has to speak with the federation of Maldives," he concluded.



'BARCA IS BACK'

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates his second goal with teammates during Barcelona's 4-0 thrashing of rivals Real Madrid at Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday. Xavi Hernandez's side gave a football masterclass in a match they dominated from the start and which they arguably deserved to win by even more than four goals. "I'm delighted, it's a night to enjoy. Barca is back. Today we showed that we can fight against a great Real Madrid team that are on a roll and in their stadium. It is a great achievement to encourage us for the future of our project," Xavi told the reporters.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CAP 10 OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

BSRM WINS THE BEST BRAND AWARD FOR THE 10TH TIME IN A ROW

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

SHAH CEMENT

READY-MIX CONCRETE

SMART CONCRETE SOLUTION

Call for Order
01954 55 66 33

Star HEALTHLINE

Why do we snore and what CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

STAR HEALTH DESK

Snoring is the noise people make while breathing during sleep. It is not usually a very serious illness, but it can be indicative of other conditions. It is also a nuisance for those you share the bed or room with. It may be a result of sleep deprivation. The condition happens when the air flow through the mouth or nose is hindered. There may be many reasons behind air flow being obstructed. Muscle tone decreases with age, causing airways to constrict. That's why snoring is more common in older people. It is also more common in men and those who are overweight. Alcohol consumption and certain medications which relax muscles may

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



WHAT USED TO BE HOME ... Women sit amid the remains of the shanties gutted by a blaze in the capital's Kalyanpur area on Sunday night. Many others were seen wandering about the slum, clueless as to what the future holds. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ACCIDENTS ON WATERWAYS

Numbers, casualties continue to rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accidents on rivers and subsequent fatalities have seen a gradual increase over the last three years and experts see the authorities' poor monitoring of the waterways operations as the main reason. The lack of trained crew members, rise in river traffic, including unregistered vessels, shortage of manpower for safety checks, and a culture of impunity are also to blame, they said. Waterway's safety is often ignored in the country, but it comes up for discussion every time an accident claims people's lives. The issue has come to the fore once again after a cargo vessel bore down a launch in the Shitalakkhya on Sunday, leaving at least eight people dead. The accident took place three months after a fire at the MV Abhijan launch killed 49 people in December. Data from the Department of

- ▶▶ 146 people killed in 39 accidents on rivers last year
- ▶▶ Estimated 35,000 unregistered vessels ply the waters
- ▶▶ Six surveyors to survey 15,000 registered vessels

Shipping, a regulatory body under the shipping ministry, shows that at least 146 people were killed and 179 injured in 39 riverine accidents last year. Eighty-one people were killed and 10 injured in 32 accidents in 2020 while in 2019, three people lost their lives and 33 others were injured in 26 accidents. Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI) and the National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways say the figures are much higher.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ELECTION COMMISSION

Second round of talks today

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is all set to host its second round of talks this morning. It will meet representatives from different sections of society as well as political parties to seek advice on how elections, including the 12th Jatiya Sangsad polls, can be held in a free and fair manner. According to EC officials, the dialogue is aimed at preparing the commission's roadmap for the next general election, due late next year. The EC has already sent invitations to 40 eminent citizens for talks. EC Joint Secretary Asaduzzaman Arzu yesterday said, "We have completed all preparations

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Jet crashes with 132 on board in China

No sign of survivors; rescue operations underway in mountains

REUTERS, Beijing

A China Eastern Airlines 600H5, SS Boeing 737-800 with 132 people on board crashed in mountains in southern China on a domestic flight yesterday after a sudden descent from cruising altitude. Media said there were no signs of survivors. The airline said it deeply mourned the passengers and crew, without specifying how many people had been killed. President Xi Jinping called for investigators to determine the cause of the crash as soon as possible, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Chinese media showed brief highway video footage from a vehicle's dashcam apparently showing a jet diving to the ground behind trees at an angle of about 35 degrees off vertical. Reuters could not



immediately verify the footage. The plane was en route from the southwestern city of Kunming, capital of Yunnan province, to Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, bordering Hong Kong, when it crashed. China Eastern said the cause of the crash, in which the plane descended at 31,000 feet a minute according to flight tracking

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Hyginex spray

Instant hand sanitizer

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

নগর কৃষি উৎপাদন সহায়ক (পাইলট) প্রকল্প।

ছাদ বাগান করুন, নির্মল পরিবেশ
ও
সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ুন।

বাস্তবায়নেঃ নগর কৃষি উৎপাদন সহায়ক (পাইলট) প্রকল্প।
কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর



The site of a destroyed shopping centre is seen after it was hit in a military strike in the Podilskiy district of Kyiv, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Kyiv yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'No question' of surrender

Ukraine defies Russian demand to lay down arms in Mariupol; strike reported on buildings in Odesa

AGENCIES

Russian forces advancing on the Ukraine capital Kyiv from the northeast have stalled, British intelligence said yesterday, as Ukraine rejected Russian calls for defenders to lay down their arms in the besieged city of Mariupol. Russian shells hit houses and a shopping district in Kyiv's Podil district late on Sunday killing at

least eight people, city authorities said, following a relative lull in the fighting over the weekend. "There can be no question of any surrender, laying down of arms," said Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk in response to Moscow's offer to let Mariupol residents leave the city if they surrender their weapons. "We have already informed the Russian side about this," said

Vereshchuk, according to the Ukrainska Pravda news portal. The assault on Ukraine started with Russian troops crossing the border or landing by sea and air on February 24. But Western countries say Russia's expectations of a swift victory and the removal of President Volodymyr Zelensky's government have been dashed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

EVIDENCE ACT

BLAST gives pointers to stop character assassination

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Rights organisation Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust has recommended changes in the Evidence Act that would block the ways in which the character of women are questioned in rape cases. BLAST handed proposals to the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry on November 17 last year and on March 10, requesting the latter to bring a bill in the parliament to amend the law. The organisation said women who bring allegations of rape face derogatory and unnecessary questions about their character and sexual experience at courts because of several provisions of the Evidence Act. As a result, the women are discouraged from seeking justice while the accused individuals remain out of trial, said the proposals. BLAST suggested including a subsection to sections 53(A), 146(3) and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2