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A 20-yr-old menace
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Bangladesh meets UN affordability internet goal

A big leap in tech industry

Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City likely to get \$1.3b investment by 2025

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Oryx Bio-Tech Limited was struggling for quite some time to find a suitable plot near Dhaka for building a large manufacturing plant -- the first-ever plasma fractionation plant in Bangladesh.

It will produce human plasma-based pharmaceutical products to be used in the treatment of complicated fatal diseases like cancer and hepatitis.

However, it was not easy for Oryx to find the plot as it requires quite a large space with uninterrupted electricity, water, gas, and other supplies, as it is a highly sophisticated and research-intensive industry.

Then they came to know about Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City (BHTC), a 355-acre industrial park, in Gazipur's Kaliakair upazila, which offers a developed and ready space with all the necessary amenities for tech-based industries.

"We were amazed to find BHTC, which is so close to Dhaka and offers prime plots connected with all the necessary infrastructure, uninterrupted supply system, and excellent communication networks," said Dewan Shahryar, adviser to the managing director of Oryx-Bio-Tech Ltd.

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BANGABANDHU HI-TECH CITY AT A GLANCE

- Total area: **355** acres
- Location: Kaliakair, Gazipur
- 44** companies have invested **\$130m** so far
- Expected investment by 2025: around **\$1,300m**
- Expected employment by 2025: **50,000** people



Kharkiv municipal authorities use sand bags to protect the city's monuments from strikes on Saturday. The local authorities reported 44 Russian artillery bombardments and 140 rocket assaults in a single day. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: AFP

Bangladeshi journalist, engineer missing in Libya

SHARIFUL HASAN

A Bangladeshi journalist, who went to Libya on March 21, has been missing for the last five days.

Zahidur Rahman is a special correspondent of private TV channel NTV.

Saiful Islam, a Bangladeshi expatriate engineer, and Mohammad Khaled, a Libyan driver, who were with him, are also missing.

Zahidur's family says they have learnt from different sources that the 48-year-old journalist has been picked up from Tripoli, the capital of the war-torn country.

Saiful's family believes the three might have been taken away by a government agency since the militias hardly have any grip on the city now.

Major Gen SM Shamim-Uz-Zaman, Bangladesh ambassador to Libya, however, would not rule out the possibility of a militia group capturing the three.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, he said, "At first, we thought

any of the government agencies might have hauled them up. But now it seems some militia members might be their captors. We have information about the place from where they were taken away on March 23, but we're not sure who picked them up. We're trying to



ZAHIDUR RAHMAN



SAIFUL ISLAM

reach the highest authorities.

"Zahidur was taking pictures at different places. This can be a reason. I know him personally. We are very worried about him."

Asked about Saiful, he said, "They were taken away together. But we have information that the driver called his family. They have probably been kept at separate places. We are

trying our best to rescue them. Let's pray they return safely."

Recently, Bangladesh lifted restrictions on sending workers to Libya, considering "improvement" in the political situation there. On March 3, Zahid flew to London on a family visa by a Turkish Airlines flight. From there, he travelled to Ireland, Scotland and then to Libya.

NTV aired several of the reports that he sent from London. He had secured the visa for Libya before leaving Dhaka.

In a Facebook post uploaded on March 22, he wrote that entering the war-ravaged country was quite challenging. Talking to this

correspondent yesterday, Zahidur's wife Taslima Rahman said she last spoke to him on March 23 noon. Since then, his mobile phone has been switched off.

"Initially, we did not understand what has happened. After 24 hours, many started calling us to say that my husband was not available online

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Dentist stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor bled to death after being stabbed on his thigh by unidentified criminals in the capital's Shewrapara early yesterday.

The victim -- Ahmed Mahi Bulbul, 40 -- was a dentist who also owned a construction company, said police.

Bulbul was popularly known as "Goriber Dakta" for treating the poor at zero cost, said his friends.

Primarily, investigators suspected that the murder could be an act of muggers.

However, the victim's family members, relatives, and friends urged the law enforcers to investigate further motives as he recently owned a project in Noakhali.

The victim's wife Shammi Akhter filed a murder case with Mirpur Police Station against unnamed accused.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

TIPU MURDER

'Killer' arrested

He tried to flee country; cops held him at Bogura; no bike, weapon found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday said they arrested the man who shot Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and a college student in the capital's Shajahanpur on Thursday.

Masum Mohammad, who goes by the alias Akash, was about to leave the country, when detectives caught him in Bogura, Additional Commissioner AKM Hafiz Akhter of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police claimed at a media briefing.

The 34-year-old man was given the hit job five days before the murder and was informed about Tipu as the target two days later, Hafiz said without mentioning any possible motive behind the murder.

However, police could neither recover the firearm used in the murders nor the motorcycle on which the suspect fled the scene, he said.

The additional commissioner said Masum disclosed the names of several other suspects. "We will interrogate him on remand and let you know the details of his associates, masterminds and motives," he said.

Asked how detectives were so sure that Masum was the suspect without the weapon or the motorcycle, he said the security camera footage and other evidence corroborated their findings.

Masum admitted that he shot the firearm and disclosed the name of the man who rode the motorcycle on which he arrived at the scene and fled, said the officer.

The suspect, he said, told officers that he was already accused in four to five cases, including one for murder. "During primary interrogation, Masum said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

A toddler's trauma

After mother's murder, she alerts neighbour and saves infant brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the murderers left three-year-old Maimuna gagged and bound, sitting next to her mother's dead body, it was the toddler's quick wit that saved her infant brother.

The killers had also gagged 10-month-old Tanvir with duct-tape across his mouth and neck, and placed a heavy pillow on his face, slowly asphyxiating the baby.

While mother Tania Akter Mukta bled to death on the floor of her Sabujbagh home, Maimuna, with her hands, mouth and neck bound with duct tape, managed to open the main door and

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



A young man holds on to a cyclist as they try to cross a street with heavy vehicles whooshing by in front of the Matsya Bhaban in the capital yesterday. Traffic police tried to stop them but in vain.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Shwapno : the first GLOBALG.A.P. Certified retail chain in S.E. Asia

Shwapno, the largest retail chain in Bangladesh, has been awarded the GLOBALG.A.P. Certificate recently. GLOBALG.A.P. is an international organization that works to ensure the standard of food safety across the world. After completing all the tests and formalities supervised by their audit committee, Shwapno received the certificate. Shwapno is the first and only retail chain in South-East Asia that has become a GLOBALG.A.P. certified member and the only Bangladeshi company to gain such recognition.

The GLOBALG.A.P. certificate is awarded after testing the food safety standards of agricultural products. SGI India Private Limited begins the multi-step process by auditing. After completing all the tests, Shwapno received the certificate on 16th February 2022.

The Executive Director of Shwapno, Sabbir Hasan Nasir said, 'Shwapno is the first GLOBALG.A.P. Certified retailer in South-East Asia. This is a matter of great pride and relief for us. I would like to thank our farmers, USAID, and GLOBALG.A.P. for helping us gain this achievement. The standard of seven certified products ensures how serious Shwapno is

about maintaining food safety. We always identify the most impactful dreams and we try to make these dreams come true.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our customers for putting their trust in us.'

Mahadi Faisal, the head of marketing for Shwapno, explained 'We have the wrong notion about pesticides or herbicides. Farmers here refer to them as poison. In fact, a lot of people use this notion to do business claiming that they sell poison-free fruits and vegetables. However, in reality, these pesticides or herbicides are medicines for plants. Research has shown that almost 75% of our farmers are not familiar with the correct use of these medicines. This is where the problem lies. Correctly using plant medicines and maintaining the PHI (pre-harvest interval) fall within the regulations and that is what we do. Shwapno is very dedicated to ensuring food safety for its customers. The GLOBALG.A.P. Certificate is the result of that effort. This is a great source of joy for us.'

It must be noted that Shwapno first began working with GLOBALG.A.P. with the help of the AVC (Agricultural

Go Safe!



Value Chains) project run by the international development agency USAID in 2017. GLOBALG.A.P. is an international organization that follows a strict set of rules and criteria to give recognition to companies that produce and sell agricultural products. Retail stores in Europe and the US maintain the GLOBALG.A.P. Standards. Shwapno can now export of produce to Australia, the UAE, the US, and the UK as mentioned in the GLOBALG.A.P. Certificate. Shwapno has been buying agricultural products from its own trained farmers for many years. As a result, this has benefitted the farmers, buyers as well as customers.

4 bodies found in dists over two days

STAR REPORT

Police have recovered the bodies of four people, including a college student, in separate incidents in Savar, Mymensingh, Pabna and Noakhali since Saturday evening.

In Savar, the victim was identified as Sakib Al Mahmud, 18, a resident of Bongoan area and a twelfth grader at the capital's Mirpur Mofidium School and College.

Sakib had remained missing since March 17 night.

On Saturday evening, locals smelled some bad odour coming from a septic tank a few yards away from Sakib's home and discovered the body.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

Rakib Mahmud, the victim's elder brother, alleged that Sakib's friend Piyash had borrowed money from him. As Sakib was pressuring him to return the cash, Piyash and some others killed him and dumped his body in the septic tank.

After Rakib filed a case against Piyash and four unnamed people the same day, police arrested Piyash, who gave a confessional statement during interrogation, said Moklesur Rahman, sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station.

He added that Piyash was later produced before a court, which granted him a three-day remand.

Meanwhile in Mymensingh, a teenage boy was hacked to death by unknown miscreants in his house in Nandail upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mahfuzur Rahman Sajid, 16.

Quoting the victim's family, Mizanur Rahman Akanda, OC of Nandail Police Station, said Sajid was home alone while his family was out at a relative's home, when the criminals entered his house and hacked him to death early yesterday.

Neighbours found the body in the morning and informed police, who came and recovered it.

In Pabna, police recovered the body of a garment seller – Imran Hossain, 21 – from a field in Bera upazila yesterday morning.

Locals found the body on the field in Al Hera Nagar area and informed police, who went to the spot and recovered the body, said Arbinda Sarkar, OC of Bera Model Police Station.

In Noakhali, police recovered the body of a teenage boy from a pond in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila on Friday, a day after he went missing.

(Our correspondents from Savar, Mymensingh, Pabna and Noakhali contributed to the report.)



This 160-foot-long national flag was created by the Upazila Parishad in Dhunat, Bogura, using the effects of light on water in a pond to celebrate the Independence Day.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Russia wants to split Ukraine into two

Says Kyiv, calls for more arms as Moscow's forces destroying fuel, food depots

AGENCIES

Russia wants to split Ukraine into two, as happened with North and South Korea, Ukraine's military intelligence chief said yesterday, vowing "total" guerrilla warfare to prevent a carve up of the country.

President Volodymyr Zelensky urged the West to give Ukraine tanks, planes and missiles to help fend off the Russian forces, which the Kyiv government said were increasingly targeting fuel and food depots.

Meanwhile, US officials continued efforts to soften comments on Saturday from US President Joe Biden, who said in a fiery speech in Poland that Russian leader Vladimir Putin "cannot remain in power".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington had no strategy of regime change in Moscow, telling reporters in Jerusalem that Biden had simply meant Putin could not be "empowered to wage war" against Ukraine or anyone else.

After more than four weeks of conflict, Russia has failed to seize any major Ukrainian city and Moscow signalled on Friday it was scaling back its ambitions to focus on securing the

Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatists have been fighting the Ukrainian army for the past eight years.

A local leader in the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic said yesterday the region could soon hold a referendum on joining Russia, just as happened in Crimea after Russia seized the Ukrainian peninsula in 2014.

Crimians voted overwhelmingly to break with Ukraine and join Russia -- a vote that much of the world refused to recognise.

"In fact, it is an attempt to create North and South Korea in Ukraine," Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukrainian military intelligence, said in a statement, referring to the division of Korea after World War Two.

Ukraine's foreign ministry spokesperson also dismissed talk of any referendum in eastern Ukraine.

Kyiv and Moscow, meanwhile, agreed two more "humanitarian corridors" to evacuate civilians from frontline areas yesterday, including allowing people to leave by private car from the southern city of Mariupol, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said.

The encircled port of Mariupol has been devastated by weeks of heavy bombardment, forcing thousands of residents to take shelter in basements with scarce water, food, medicine or power, reports Reuters.

In a late-night television address on Saturday, Zelensky demanded that Western nations hand over military hardware that was "gathering dust" in stockpiles, saying his nation needed just 1% of Nato's aircraft and 1% of its tanks.

The United Nations has confirmed 1,104 civilian deaths and 1,754 injuries across Ukraine but said the real toll is likely to be higher. Ukraine said yesterday 139 children had been killed and more than 205 wounded so far in the conflict.

The British Ministry of Defence said Russian forces appeared to be concentrating their efforts on encircling Ukrainian troops directly facing separatist regions in the east.

"The battlefield across northern Ukraine remains largely static with local Ukrainian counterattacks hampering Russian attempts to reorganise their forces," the ministry said.

A big leap in tech industry

FROM PAGE 1

"The ICT division was also very cordial and helpful. As a result, we could complete all the initial tasks such as land allotment, power supply, and various other complicated works at great speed despite the pandemic," he said.

Thanks to the BHTC authorities' cooperation, in two years' time human plasma-based lifesaving pharmaceutical products, such as albumin, immunoglobulin, will be produced in Bangladesh, which are currently produced only in developed countries like the USA, Japan, Italy, France and the UK and in a few developing nations.

In the next three years, Oryx Bio-tech will invest \$300 million in BHTC and has proposed to employ 2,000 workers in the plant.

Oryx Bio-Tech Ltd is just one of the 70 tech companies that have invested millions of US dollars in BHTC to produce world-class tech-based products in Bangladesh.

So far, 44 companies have been allotted plots in the park and many of them have started to construct their factory buildings.

According to the BHTC authorities, all the companies, who have been allotted plots, will start their production in full scale by 2025 if everything goes at the current pace.

The authorities have constructed an eight-storey service building, where two companies have been allotted more than 20,000 square feet of office space.

Five more companies have obtained office spaces in the newly-constructed administrative building.

The entire hi-tech city is divided into four blocks.

The 65-acre block-1 will have residential facilities, a hotel, and administrative buildings. There will be training centres, a convention hall, mosques, shopping centre and other residential facilities in block-2.

Block-3 (40 acres), block-4 (36 acres), block-5 (29 acres), and block-6 (97 acres) will be entirely industrial areas, and a special zone comprising 97.33 acres of land has been developed for establishing research and development facilities.

The government has been constructing all types of associated infrastructures with its own funds in the park. All the necessary roads, electricity and gas lines, 48 core fibre optic cable network, lighting, power station, sewerage line bridges, and culverts have already been set up.

The mosque, shopping centre, several other buildings and a picturesque artificial lake are currently under construction.

Bikarna Kumar Ghosh, managing director of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA), asserted, "Within the next two years, the hi-tech city will be completed and by 2025, all the companies will start their operation."

"At that time, the hi-tech city will employ around 50,000 skilled workers and we shall be able to attract billions of dollars' worth of investments from home and abroad."

The BHTPA has already taken several pragmatic steps to make investments easy and hassle-free for attracting investors.

Potential investors can quickly apply for land, and acquire different types of

licences and certificates with the help of BHTPA's one-stop service centre.

The authorities are also working with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to arrange tax exemption for IT devices and raw material needed for industries located at the hi-tech city.

Ghosh said, "We have sent a special proposal to NBR to arrange tax rebate and customs exemption for IT devices and raw material for our industries. Besides, we have hired former NBR members as our consultants to train our investors about our laws related to tax and customs."

"We are also working with Bangladesh Bank and Brac Bank to arrange loans on easy terms for our small and medium-sized entrepreneurs. We also arrange training and send trainees to international business expos regularly."

SK Tito's Sidney Sun International is one such medium-sized companies that will start producing CCTV, XBR, NVR and other video surveillance accessories in BHTC by May this year.

Tito commented, "We are really impressed with the fact that we can now import our raw material more easily than before. Thanks to the authorities' training and consultation, we can now efficiently interact with the customs officials and have our goods quickly released from the ports."

ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak said, "Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City is a dream project of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Through BHTC, we shall rebrand Bangladesh as an ICT exporter country in the world."

Bangladeshi journalist, engineer missing in Libya

FROM PAGE 1

over the phone. He never switches off his phone," she said.

Zahidur is also a director of Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman is the founding chairman of the private hospital.

Taslima said that after she could not trace her husband, she informed the matter to Enamur. The MP later told her he learnt from different sources that Zahidur did not return to his hotel in Tripoli.

In a Facebook post at 1:49am (Bangladeshi time) on March 23, Zahidur mentioned he was at Corinthia Hotel Tripoli. He hasn't posted anything on the social media platform since then.

Taslima said that on

her request, the state minister contacted the home ministry and asked it to contact the Bangladesh embassy in Libya over the



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

matter. She then came to know her husband had been picked up by some people. "We were informed the same by NTV."

Zahidur's son Farhan Asif Rahman, a third-year student of a private

university, said, "We are worried about my father's safety. We have been told he might have been picked up by the Libyan police

March 22, Zahidur went to Tripoli's Green Square, also known as Maydan ash-Shuhada, and took pictures. From there, he went to Leptis Magna area. Several photos uploaded by Zahidur on Facebook show him accompanying an old man holding the national flag of Libya, at the Green Square. Engineer Saiful and driver Khaled were also there.

The area was known as Green Square under Gaddafi's rule. Rebel groups took control of the area on August 21-22 in 2011. It was later named Martyred Square in memory of those killed fighting Gaddafi's men. Zahidur might have drawn the attention of some ruling people after he took photos there with the Libyan flag. He might have been picked up over the matter from a nearby place.

Engineer Saiful's father Darul Islam said, "A

journalist named Zahidur Rahman came from Dhaka. My son and a Libyan driver went along with him. They have been missing since March 23."

"Despite the crisis in Libya, militia have no control over Tripoli. Driver Khaled has spoken to his family. We are speculating that the journalist might have been captured by someone from the government forces for taking pictures at certain places. On Sunday, August 21-22 in 2011. It was later named Martyred Square in memory of those killed fighting Gaddafi's men. Zahidur might have drawn the attention of some ruling people after he took photos there with the Libyan flag. He might have been picked up over the matter from a nearby place.

Engineer Saiful's father Darul Islam said, "A

Half-day hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) is all set to observe a half-day strike across the country today protesting the price hike of daily essentials.

The LDA, a coalition of eight left-leaning political parties, would observe the strike from 6:00am to 12:00 noon.

The strike would be observed with the demands of breaking the "business syndicate" that manipulates the market of essential commodities and issuing ration cards for those in need.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince, who is also a leader of the LDA, said the strike belongs to left-leaning parties and not just the left-leaning parties.

Sagar-Runi probe lingers on

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Rab to submit by April 26 the probe report in journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi murder case.

With this, officers investigating the case have so far taken 87 dates to complete the probe.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary passed the order after Rab's Additional Superintendent Khondoker Md Shafiqul Alam, the current investigation officer, failed to submit the report yesterday, court sources said.

Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Runi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012 in their rented flat in West Razabazar.

Court accepts charges against PK Halder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges against PK Halder, former managing director of NRB Global Bank, and 13 others in a graft case.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh passed the order after scrutinising case documents and other relevant papers, said court sources.

The 13 others included PK Halder's mother Lilabati Halder and brother Pritish Kumar Halder.

Of the 13 accused, eight including, the three, were shown fugitives in the chargesheet while the six others were shown in jail.

The judge issued arrest warrants for the eight absconding.

The ACC filed the case on January 8, 2020 over acquiring illegal assets worth around Tk 275 crore.

Petition seeks pry school closure in Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to keep the functions of primary schools across the country closed during the upcoming holy Ramadan.

Lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as a public interest litigation also challenging the government's decision to continue running the primary schools till 20th of Ramadan.

In the petition, he also urged the HC to ask the government to cancel the decision.

The lawyer said the court may hold a hearing on the petition today.

'Killer' arrested

FROM PAGE 1

he agreed to kill Tipu because those who assigned him promised to get him off the cases."

Visiting Masum's home in the capital's Dakkhin Madertek, this correspondent learnt that Masum got involved in Bangladesh Chhatra League in college and used to hang out with friends a little too much. His father, the teacher of a school in Segunbagicha, was not okay with his lifestyle, family members of Masum said.

After his father drove him out of the house around 15 years ago, he never returned or contacted

his parents, said his mother.

"My son was a polite boy and a brilliant student in school. I do not believe that he can kill anyone," she told this correspondent. "We heard that he got married and was the father of a three-year-old child."

A d d i t i o n a l Commissioner Hafiz at the press conference said police were focusing on several aspects of the case.

"We have arrested the lone shooter. Now we will try to find who instructed him ... who were his associates and what were the motives behind the murder. We are also trying to recover the firearm and

the motorcycle," he said.

Several local ruling party leaders and law enforcers said Tipu's murder could be linked to his rise in local politics, his control over tenders in Bangladesh Krira Parishad and Power Development Board and his alleged involvement in a couple of previous murders.

Detectives said the day before Tipu got killed, Masum along with an associate waited around Tipu's office at AGB Colony in Motijheel with a pistol. But they failed to kill him.

Masum and the associate went the next day in front of a restaurant Tipu owns

in Motijheel AGB Colony area, but failed to kill him as he was surrounded by people. They then followed his microbus and opened fire when his vehicle got stuck in traffic near Amtala Masjid.

After the killing, he went to a hideout with the help of two friends, the Detective Branch said in a press release.

Hafiz said Masum told officers that he did not see who else got shot in the Thursday murders.

Tipu was returning home at Khilgaon Bagichha from his restaurant in Motijheel AGB Colony around 10:15pm on Thursday when

he, his driver and a college student, Samia Afran Jamal Prity, who happened to be on a rickshaw next to the microbus, got shot.

Tipu and Prity were pronounced dead after being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Masum and his associates went to Joypurhat in a vehicle the next day and made a failed attempt to go across the border. He then came back to Bogura where he got arrested.

Tipu's wife Farhana Islam Doly, a women councillor in Motijheel area, said she wanted to see the mastermind arrested.



After a shaky first day, things gradually started to get better since yesterday morning for the resumed online ticketing service for rail tickets. Given the difficulty to cut tickets online, a large crowd queued in front of Kamalapur Railway Station's ticketing booths.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A bit of relief

After a shaky start, online rail ticket sale sees improvement on second day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the situation has improved, but many people are still facing problems to buy train ticket online as of yesterday, especially during the morning hours.

As a result, different railway stations, including the country's largest Kamalapur Railway Station, witnessed huge crowds of people looking to buy tickets.

Talking to The Daily Star, Railways Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder admitted that there were some issues in the online ticketing system. "The problems are being fixed," he told this correspondent yesterday.

BR resumed the online sales process through its new vendor, a joint venture firm led by Shohoz, after a five-day pause that ended at 8:00am Saturday.

However, people have failed to buy from tickets from the eticket. railway.gov.bd website as the site went down immediately after resumption of the online ticketing service.

Even yesterday morning, these problems weren't going away for many.

Ekush Ahmed, a private service-holder, said he tried to get registered in the morning but failed after repeated attempts.

However, he said he managed to get registered in the noon.

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89pc child workers out of school post-pandemic: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 57 percent of child labourers were going to school before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, but 89 percent of them have dropped out afterwards, shows a recent study.

Educo Bangladesh -- a Barcelona-based non-government organisation -- conducted the study, titled "Child Labour in Bangladesh: Our Experience and Way Forward", on 443 child labourers of Dhaka from October to December last year.

The study results were presented by the researchers in a session held at a city hotel yesterday.

Among the participants, 56 percent said they joined the workforce as their poverty-afflicted families needed financial support, while 28 percent said they started working due to schools closing because of the pandemic.

Besides, around 53 percent of them were sitting idle at home during the lockdown. Only 13 percent of child

There are 3.45 million child labourers in the country. A total of 1.28 million are engaged in hazardous works. About 95 percent are employed in the informal economy.

AFZAL KABIR KHAN
Manager of Educo's ODHAKAR project

domestic workers had jobs, while 11 percent left Dhaka.

Twenty seven percent of employed child workers faced a minimum of 50 percent wage cut, while 22 percent couldn't even get a meal three times a day during the period. The study also mentioned that around 70 percent child workers said they or their families didn't get any financial support during the lockdown.

While presenting the data, Sharfuddin Khan, a freelance researcher, said, "Only 13 percent got support from the government and 12 percent from their employers."

"It was a global disaster. We should not talk about the negative issues anymore -- the past is in the past," said Md Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru, state minister for social welfare ministry.

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Parents' role most effective

Speakers tell seminar on stopping child marriage



From left, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Education Minister Dipu Moni and NHRC Chairperson Nasima Begum at the seminar "Parents Can Stop Child Marriage", at CIRDAP in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raising awareness among parents against child marriage, while addressing other underlying issues that force them to marry off their children at an early age are vital to fight the menace, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar -- titled "Parents Can Stop Child Marriage" -- was held at CIRDAP in the capital, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

Education Minister Dipu Moni, chief guest at the programme, said in child marriage, the entire family's burden falls on the shoulders of an underage bride who is not ready for the responsibilities.

"In such marriages, the bride is mistreated, especially when she gets pregnant. When she comes back to her paternal home with the child, it

only intensifies the existing burdens of the family," she added.

The minister said sometimes the fear of sexual harassment of young girls prompt the parents to marry off their daughters.

"But that doesn't solve anything. This only brings a false sense of security, for child brides are more prone to domestic violence. Parents are in a position where they can play the most effective role in battling child marriage," added the minister.

Nasima Begum, chairperson of National Human Rights Commission, a special guest at the event, said, "Child marriage deprives girls of their basic human rights. Parents have the prime responsibility to fight this."

She urged parents to let their girls avail the opportunities created by the government at upazila

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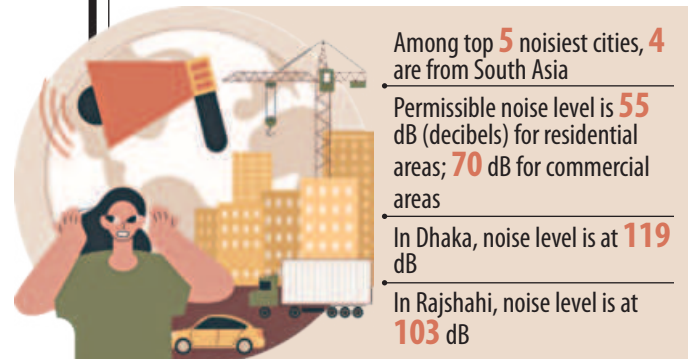
Turn it down a notch!

Dhaka world's noisiest city, Rajshahi 4th on list, says UN report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is the world's noisiest city, according to the latest report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report, styled "Frontiers 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches", found that Bangladesh's capital Dhaka topped the list, while India's Moradabad of Uttar Pradesh and Islamabad of Pakistan placed second and third position in the list.



Among the top five noisiest cities, Rajshahi is at the four, while Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam is at the fifth position. Among the top five noisiest cities, the top four are from South Asia.

The report, however, did not mention how the data was collected or from how many areas of Dhaka the noise pollution was measured.

According to World Health Organization's guidelines the permissible noise level limits are 55 dB (decibels) for outdoor residential areas and 70 dB for commercial areas and where there's traffic.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 28



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4:45	12:45	4:45	6:20	7:45
Jamaat	5:20	1:15	5:00	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Recognition for Ramna Kali Mandir martyrs demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee for Rehabilitation of Families of Victims and Martyred Freedom Fighters of 1971 has demanded state recognition for the martyrs of the attack on the Ramna Kali Mandir by Pakistan forces on the night of March 26, 1971.

The demand was made at a discussion held at the temple yesterday. The meeting was organised by the rehabilitation committee.

Shahriar Kabir, president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, Prof Nuzhat Choudhury and Bipul Roy, GS of the rehabilitation committee, also spoke.

It's delightful to see achievements of Bangladesh

Says Xi Jinping in letter of felicitation to Hamid

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese President Xi Jinping has said he is willing to work with Bangladesh to push the China-Bangladesh Strategic Partnership of Cooperation to new heights.

In a letter of felicitation to President Abdul Hamid on the occasion of Independence Day, he said China and Bangladesh are close neighbours, traditional friends and strategic partners.

In recent years, Chinese cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative is making sound progress, injecting new impetus into the bilateral relations and bringing more benefits to people of both countries. "It is deeply delightful for China to see the achievements of Bangladesh," said Xi Jinping.

Chinese PM Li Keqiang and Foreign Minister Wang Yi also sent letters of felicitations to Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen respectively. Premier Li said the China-Bangladesh partnership has maintained sound momentum, bearing rich fruit in all areas.



City corporation vans' irregularity in collecting garbage from an area as busy as Dhaka University means it's almost always difficult for pedestrians to walk through here. To add to their woes, some people set fire to the piles of garbage, which emits thick clouds of smoke around the area, harming both people and the environment.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Mass media employees bill to be placed at JS today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud will place the Mass Media Employees (services and conditions) Bill-2022 at JS today.

The parliament is scheduled to sit in at 5:00pm.

The cabinet in late 2018 approved the draft. The wages and benefits of journalists, employees and press workers, artists of broadcast, online, and print media outlets would be fixed under the proposed law.

Currently, journalists and employees of media houses are regarded as "workers" under the labour law. Once the law is passed, they will be regarded as media personnel, not workers.

A bit of relief

FROM PAGE 3
However, Nahid Hasan Khan, director traffic (commercial) of BR, told The Daily Star that some customers said the service has improved a lot.

Contacted, Farhat Ahmed, manager (public relations) at Shohoz, said there was no issue from their side from 8:00am yesterday.

He said around 7,000 tickets were sold through

the online platform between 8:00am to noon yesterday. Besides, more than 2 lakh got registered with the website so far, he added.

RAILWAY MINISTER LEAVES FOR TURKEY
Meanwhile, an eight-member delegation led by Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan left the capital yesterday for a visit to Turkey.

The team, which

includes ministry secretary Humayun Kabir, will visit the country following the invitation of Turkey's communication and infrastructure minister, said a press release.

The delegation will visit railway locomotives and carriages factories in Turkey and hold talks over mutual cooperation in the railway sector. The delegation is supposed to return on April 4.

Parents' role

FROM PAGE 3
levels to make them self-reliant and proposed a change in child marriage surveys, setting a specific year as a benchmark to get a clearer picture of the situation.

Taslima Yasmin, associate professor of law at Dhaka University, said, "We will raise awareness among the parents, but it is also crucial to address the limitation under which parents feel like they're forced to marry off their child."

"Did we ensure any support for the families? Is there enough shelter homes for girls who want to escape child marriage? We have a national action plan, but it is not clear how much of it has been executed so far," she added.

Echoing the same, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam, who moderated the seminar,

said, "We need to make these policies effective."

"The longer girls stay in school, the longer will we be able to resist their early marriage. Even those already married have to be brought back to school," she added.

The seminar connected thousands of women from across the country, who shared their struggles and sufferings caused by child marriage.

Dr Farajana Rahman, associate professor of psychology, National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital; Tahmina Haque, programme officer (gender equality), Unicef Bangladesh; Rehana Khan, senior programme officer, Human Rights and Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka; Sylvia Islam, development advisor, High Commission of Canada, Dhaka; spoke at the seminar, among others.

Southern univ holds 2nd convocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second convocation of Southern University was held yesterday on its campus at Chattogram city's Baizid Link Road.

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury presided over the event. Educationist and writer Prof Kaykobad was the convocation speaker. Prof Md Mozammel Haque, Trustee Board Chairman Khalilur Rahman, Daily Azadi Editor MA Malek were present at the event.

URGENT RECRUITMENT FOR NOBODOOT		
Sl	Post	Academic Qualifications
1.	Proof Reader-Cum-Writer (English)	Masters with Honours in English. Preference will be given to the retired teachers/professors of English.
2.	Professional Proof Reader	Preference will be given to the persons who have work experience in newspaper and publication sector.

Office Location : Banglabazar, Dhaka
Job Nature : Full Time (9 am - 8 pm)
For Female : (9 am - 6 pm)
Candidates interested are requested to send their applications together with a full Biodata, 2 copies of passport size photographs, attested copies of academic and experience (if any) certificates, national ID card by **13 April 2022**. Name of the post must be written on top of the envelope. No TA/DA is admissible for the interview. Students need not apply.
MANAGING DIRECTOR, GYANGRIHA PROKASHONI
38 Banglabazar (1st Floor), Dhaka-1100

89pc child workers

FROM PAGE 3
He suggested researchers don't collect data only from the duration of the pandemic, but also go for pre and post-Covid data.

Lawmaker Meher Afroz Chumki, chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on the women and children

affairs ministry, said the government has initiated safety net programmes for child workers.

Atfal Kabir Khan, manager of Educo's ODHAKAR project, said there are 3.45 million child labourers in the country. "A total of 1.28 million are engaged in hazardous

work. About 95 percent are employed in the informal economy," he added.

Mahbuba Bilkis, deputy secretary of the labour and employment ministry, didn't agree with the statistics. "We need sector-wise or area-wise accurate statistics to address the issue," she said.

Turn it down

FROM PAGE 3
In Dhaka, the noise levels have been found to be 119 dB, while it's 103 dB for Rajshahi.

The report also said, "Exposure to environmental noise sources such as road traffic, air traffic, railways, machinery, industry and recreational activities have well-documented negative impacts on physical and mental well-being."

Fagua brings

FROM PAGE 5

"Fagua Utshab Udjapon Parishad" organised the festival, turning the heart of the green Fulchhara tea garden red as thousands people partook in a game of colours with abir.

Deputy Director of Local Government Mollika Dey inaugurated the programme, which included traditional dance and other performances by 30 local artists.

A menace

FROM PAGE 5

According to Aysha Mustari, principal of Dewanabari Govt Primary School, no safety measures has been taken by the brick field owners on these fronts.

Dr Ranjan Kumar Majumder, a retired medicine specialist, said due to environmental pollution from the brick field, school-going children and residents of the adjacent areas have the risk of suffering respiratory problems like bronchitis, asthma and heart diseases as well.

Teachers of the schools alleged that they informed Trishal upazila education officer and the Department of Environment (DoE) regarding the issue, but to no avail.

Asked, Education Officer Md Mosharraf Hossain said he visited the schools and the brick fields recently and instructed the upazila administration about the next course of action.

Contacted, Abdus Salam Khokon, owner of "Modern Bricks" refused to cooperate with this correspondent when asked whether his brick field has a license.


However, Badal Mia, owner of Bhai Bhai Bricks, claimed that his brick field is far away from the school and he has applied for a license.

Farid Ahmed, divisional director of Mymensingh DoE, said the brick fields are running without license and proper environmental clearances.

"I was informed about the nuisance. But I have not been able to visit the sites yet," said Farid.

"The brick fields are illegal. Necessary actions will be taken against them soon," he assured.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)



International Labour Organization (ILO) invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization for Procurement of services to develop a TVET marketing strategy, and awareness and increased enrolment campaign. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO website at:
https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/Aboutus/WCMS_840460/lang--en/index.htm

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Tuesday, April 26, 2022, by 04:30 PM (BST time).**



ইসলামিক ফাইন্যান্স এন্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্ট লিমিটেড
Islamic Finance and Investment Limited
Based on Islamic Shariah, the first of its kind in Bangladesh

Impetus Center (3rd Floor), 242/B, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208, Tel: 88-02-8878725-31

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Islamic Finance and Investment Limited (IFIL), the first Islamic Shariah-based Financial Institution of the country is looking for deserving candidates for the following positions:

Branch Manager (Preferably SPO to VP)

- Minimum 8-10 years of experience in any Bank/Financial Institution of which at least 2 years as Manager/Deputy Manager.
- Must have strong knowledge in Branch Management, Operations, Business procurement & development.
- Must have leadership capability to manage and motivate staff.
- Strong knowledge in Investment Risk Analysis and Recovery Activities.
- Excellent client base of Corporate, SME & Retail Business.
- Strong ability of Asset & Liability Marketing and in-depth knowledge about market & clients as well.

Head of IT (Preferably Assistant Vice President)

- Minimum 10 years of experience in IT out of which at least 5 years in any Financial Institution at senior position.
- Experience in implementing Shariah based Core Banking/Financial Solution.
- Requires sufficient knowledge in Hardware/Software, administration/Operation/Maintenance.
- Knowledge of establishing Data Center (DC) and DR infrastructure.
- Knowledge on financial accounting and related Software.
- Knowledge on Install, configure and maintain Server, Network and Information Security.
- Knowledge on monitoring of website, Hosting, Web security, Mail Server etc.
- Knowledge on MIS reporting.
- Must have Masters/Bachelor's degree (4 years) in CSE or related subject from a reputed university with a satisfactory academic track record.
- Professional Certification on DBA/Network Administration/ Information Security Management System is preferred;

IT Division (Preferably JO to Officer)

- 1 to 2 year(s) of experience in installing, configure and troubleshooting of Hardware, Software, Databases (SQL, MySQL Server) and Operating System (Windows/Linux).
- Knowledge of maintaining, configuring and replacing various IT Hardware, e.g., servers, storages, power supplies, network devices, workstations, peripherals devices.
- Sound knowledge in IT System & Network.
- knowledge in Installation & troubleshooting CC camera, DVR, Access Control System, Video Editing and Video Conferencing.
- Bachelor's degree (4 years) in CSE or related subject.

Head of ICCD (Preferably FVP to VP)

- Minimum 12 years working experience in bank/financial institution of which at least 5 years in ICCD.
- Knowledge on rules & regulation of Bangladesh Bank, BSEC, NBR, DSE/CSE circulars, commercial law, audit & inspection.
- Experience in running ICC Division complying Core Risk Management guidelines.
- Experience in preparing detail internal audit plan using a risk based methodology.
- Knowledge on updating manuals, policies and other guidelines time to time in relation with the circulars issued by regulatory authority.
- Knowledge on analyzing financial statement to ensure accuracy of financial recording and compliance.
- Experience in Shariah based Core Banking/Financial Solution will be preferred.

Internal Control & Compliance Division (Preferably Officer to SO)

- Minimum 03 years working experience in Financial Institution or Audit Firm in conducting audit and inspection.
- Should have good knowledge in all areas of operations of banking/NBFI.
- Experience in preparing audit plan and organize audit activities.
- Experience in managing external auditors as and when required and maintain sound relationship.
- Experience in implementing Shariah based Core Banking/Financial Solution will be preferred.

Finance & Accounts Division (Preferably Officer to SO)

- Minimum 2 years' experience for maintaining Tax and VAT related documents, as per IT Ordinance 1984 and VAT Act- 2012 in any financial institution.
- Experience in preparation and submission of Corporate Income Tax and VAT Return.
- Knowledge on attending hearing before the concern Authority of Taxes as well as VAT with required supporting documents;
- Knowledge on calculation of Income Tax of employees as per IT Ordinance.
- Knowledge on preparation and filling of Tax and VAT appeal as per law.
- Must be a CA (CC) and ITP.

General Services Division Officer (Preferably PO to SPO)

- Minimum 5 years' working experience in Banks/Financial Institutions out of which minimum 3 (Three) years' working experience in GSD.
- Experience in ensuring infrastructure of the premises including office furniture, equipment & machineries, electro-mechanical items, vehicles, support and sub-staff.
- Experience in ensuring facilities management along with safety and security of all the premises including head office and branches.
- Knowledge on general procurement as per procurement policy.
- Knowledge on maintaining relationship with suppliers by negotiation and ensuring cost excellence.
- Knowledge on Fixed Asset Management, insurance and tender process.

Additional Job Requirements for all the above Positions: IT Savvy with MS Word, MS Excel & MS PowerPoint, Knowledge of relevant laws and regulations of regulatory bodies, Written & verbal communication skills in both English & Bangla, Minimum Masters/Bachelor's degree (4 years). No third class will be considered, Age must not be over 45 years.

Compensation & other Benefits for all the above Positions: Job grade (higher/lower) will be offered on the basis of experience & competency level of the selected candidate. Attractive Salary and Benefit Package will be offered to the selected candidate.

Interested candidates are requested to forward their application along with detailed CV and one recent passport size photograph to Chief HR Officer, Islamic Finance and Investment Limited, Head Office, Impetus Center (3rd Floor), 242/B Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208 by 15 April, 2022.

Only short listed candidates will be called for employment process. Management of IFIL reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the applications.

www.ifilbd.com



National Institute of Textile Engineering and Research (NITER)

Nayarhat, Savar, Dhaka-1350.


1. Vacancy for Principal

The Candidate must possess a Master's degree in Textile/ Fashion Design/ Mechanical/ Industrial & Production Engineering/ Relevant Engineering field. Ph.D. degree from any recognized University will be given privilege. S/He have at least 3 first classes up to post graduate level and minimum 10 publications in reputed journal. The candidate should have at least 18 (eighteen) years professional experience of which 10 years must be in teaching at undergraduate/graduate level and at least **1 year active teaching experience in the position of Professor in any recognized University/ Educational institutes.** Candidate must be at the age range of 45-60 years on the date of the application. Candidates having experiences in managing educational/ training institute will be treated as added qualification. The qualified candidate should have adequate knowledge about the textile industry's potentials, manpower requirements and training needs of Bangladesh. **Attractive compensation package will be given to the selected candidate.**

2. Vacancy for Registrar (Scale: 35,500-67,010, Grade-6)

The candidate must possess minimum 2nd class or CGPA 3.00 (in a scale of 4.00) in Master's degree from a recognized University/ Institute with at least 7 years of professional experience from any University/ Academic Institution as Deputy Registrar/ Assistant Registrar/ Section Officer/ Administrative Officer or equivalent position. The candidate must have minimum 2nd division in S.S.C and H.S.C examination. S/he must have high level of proficiency in English language and computer applications. Criteria's negotiable for highly experienced candidate.

Apply Procedure: Application along with detailed CV, certified, photocopies of all academic credentials, proof of work experience and 2 passport size photographs should reach to the President, BTMA & Chairman, Governing Body, NITER, UTC Building, Level-8, 8 Panthapath, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka within 11 April, 2022.



ইস্টার্ন ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

প্রধান কার্যালয় : ১০০, গুলশান এভিনিউ, গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১২।
(অর্থক্ৰম আদালত আইন, ২০০৩ এর ১২ ধারা মোতাবেক)

বন্ধকী সম্পত্তি বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এজেন্টরা সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইবে যে, ইস্টার্ন ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রতিনিধিত্ব করে ইস্টার্ন ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১২ এর বন্ধকী সম্পত্তি বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করেছে। নিলামের তারিখ, সময়, স্থান এবং বিক্রয়ের পদ্ধতি নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১) **বন্ধকী সম্পত্তি:** গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১২ এর বন্ধকী সম্পত্তি বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করেছে। নিলামের তারিখ, সময়, স্থান এবং বিক্রয়ের পদ্ধতি নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২) **নিলামের তারিখ:** ১৩/০৪/২০২২

৩) **নিলামের সময়:** ১০:০০ ঘটিকা

৪) **নিলামের স্থান:** ১০০, গুলশান এভিনিউ, গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১২

৫) **নিলামের পদ্ধতি:** লটারী পদ্ধতি

৬) **নিলামের শর্তাবলী:** নিলামের শর্তাবলী নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৭) **নিলামের আবেদন:** নিলামের আবেদন নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৮) **নিলামের নিয়ন্ত্রক:** নিলামের নিয়ন্ত্রক নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৯) **নিলামের অফিসার:** নিলামের অফিসার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১০) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধি:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধি নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১১) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কার্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কার্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১২) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১৩) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১৪) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১৫) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১৬) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১৭) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১৮) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১৯) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২০) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২১) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২২) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২৩) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২৪) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২৫) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২৬) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২৭) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২৮) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

২৯) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩০) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩১) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩২) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩৩) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩৪) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩৫) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৩৭) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩৮) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৩৯) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৪০) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৪১) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৪২) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৪৪) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৪৫) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৪৬) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৫১) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৫৩) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির ক্ষমতা নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৫৪) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৬৩) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৯১) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৯৬) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

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৯৮) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির অধিকার নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

৯৯) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির কর্তব্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।

১০০) **নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব:** নিলামের প্রতিনিধির দায়িত্ব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত।



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh is seeking applications to fill the following positions at UNFPA Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka:

- Individual Consultant for SRHR Policy and Planning
- Individual Consultant for National SRHR Advocacy

How to Apply:
For Details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, Please visit the link: <https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en>. Application should be received no later than 17:00 hrs, 31 March 2022 (Dhaka Time)

“UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status”

“There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process”

EC keen to hold Cumilla city polls by May 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission wants to hold the Cumilla City Corporation election before May 16.

This will be the first major polls under the new EC. The commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal, will discuss the issue at its first meeting, to be held in the first week of April.

At the meeting, the commission will take a decision on announcing the election schedule if it gets clearance of Local Government Division, EC secretariat Additional Secretary Ashok Kumar Debnath told The Daily Star yesterday.

The EC on March 7 had sent a letter to the division regarding updated information on whether there was any legal issue to hold the polls, he said. "We hope we'll get a response within two-three days," Ashok said.

The last Cumilla city election was held on March 30, 2017, which was also the first assignment of the immediate past EC led by KM Nurul Huda.

The EC has a legal obligation to complete the polls to a city corporation within the last 180 days of its tenure, according to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir, while talking to reporters at his EC office yesterday, said, "We are yet to decide whether we will use EVM in the Cumilla polls."



After taking care of the herd, these boys at Sylhet's Fenchuganj got down on the field to kick around a football in the afternoon. Even when they can't play for long, a 10-15 minute's match is usually enough to fill the day's quota for entertainment. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Narrow escape Child rescued after falling into drain; concerns over Ctg open drains, canals flare up

At least five people died or went missing after falling into these open drains and canals in port city in the last one year.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In a repeat of a series of incidents that took place last year, a child fell into a drain while walking with her family members in the port city's Chandgaon area on Saturday evening.

Fortunately, the girl was rescued by her family members soon enough before anything serious could happen.

The incident sparked widespread criticism against Chattogram City Corporation (CCC). Meanwhile, a CCTV footage of the incident went viral on social media. The footage showed the girl walking on the sidewalk holding hands of two women. Suddenly, she fell into the open drain in front of one Safa-Marwa Electronics of the area. Both women immediately pulled the baby out of the hole.

Despite repeated attempts, identity of the victim could not be traced, while police could not provide information of the family.

"We sent a patrol team to the scene after we saw the video footage on social media, but couldn't trace the victim," said OC Mainur Rahman of Chandgaon Police Station.

Contacted, local ward councillor Esrarul Haque denied negligence and said they installed a slab on the drain to fill up the gap.

In another incident, a mentally unstable man jumped in at a canal in Bahaddarhat area yesterday noon.

Enamul Haque, senior station officer of Agrabad Fire Service Office, said upon receiving information, firefighters rushed to the spot and rescued him.

These incidents add to the concern over the open drains and canals in the port city, which some say have become "death traps", said locals.

At least five people died or went missing after falling into these drains and canals in the last one year.

Fagua brings rhythm to lives of tea workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Fagua festival has a special place in the life of tea workers. Besides an attempt to preserve their heritage, the festival brings rhythm to their arduous and monotonous lives.

Yesterday, tea workers from different areas, belonging to different ethnic groups with their own language and culture, came together as one to mark the Fagua festival, held at Fulchhara football field in Moulvibazar's Srimangal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

A menace for 20 years

Illegal brick fields operational next to two primary schools in Trishal



PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Brickfields next to primary schools. Children's lives endangered by health hazards. That is how it has been for more than 20 years in Boilor area of Mymensingh's Trishal.

"Modern Bricks" and "Bhai Bhai Bricks" have been running next to Dewaniabari Govt Primary School and Kanhor Govt Primary School respectively in Boilor for more than two decades.

The authorities, however, remain indifferent.

According to locals, Abdus Salam Khokon, owner of "Modern Bricks", and Md Badal Mia, owner of Bhai Bhai Bricks, have been running their brick fields for years on cultivable land in Boilor.

The brick field owners have leased the lands from locals, where crops are harvested twice to thrice every year.

Kazal Kumar Roy, headteacher of Kanhor Govt Primary School, said the presence of the brick fields have created health hazards for both students and teachers due to the dust, fume and constant movement of vehicles near the school area.

"Our children have been suffering for years. But no effective action has been taken by the authorities to address this," said Parvin Sultana, assistant teacher of the school.

During the peak season, around 30 trucks and hand trolleys remain engaged to carry the bricks for different destinations from dawn to dusk, accelerating the menace manifolds.

The frequent movement of the brick carrying vehicles has become a safety concern as well for children also play on the school field, said teachers and guardians.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Humayun Azad murder case verdict Apr 13

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday fixed April 13 to deliver the judgement on four JMB members in a case filed over the killing of Dhaka University teacher, intellectual and writer Humayun Azad.

Judge Al-Mamun of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date.

The accused are Salehin alias Salahuddin, Anwarul Alam alias Anwar, Mizanur Rahman alias Minhaz and Nur Mohammad.

Of them, Salehin and Nur are on the run. On February 27, 2004, 56-year-old Humayun Azad was stabbed at Ekushey Book Fair on Bangla Academy premises.

A day after the incident, Azad's brother filed an attempted murder case with Ramna Police Station against some unnamed people.

The case later turned into a murder case after he passed away on August 12, 2004.

DESTINY SCAM Verdict on May 12

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed May 12 to deliver judgement against Destiny Group Managing Director Rafiqul Amin and 45 others in a money laundering case.

After concluding the closing arguments, Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 set the date. The court recorded statements of 202, out of 303, prosecution witnesses. During the hearing, Amin and five others, now in jail, were produced before the court. Destiny-2000 president Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-Ar Rashid and two others – now on bail – were also present.

Amin's wife Farah Diba and 36 others are now absconding. The ACC on May 4, 2014 pressed charges against 51 people in two cases filed on charges of misappropriating over Tk 4,200 crore from investors.

Admin work resumes at PUST after a month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The administrative work of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) resumed yesterday, after a month's halt.

The activities were halted following agitation by its officers' association pushing for a 17-point requirement charter over allegations of nepotism against former VC Prof M Rustom Ali.

"We have resumed administrative work, but a lot of difficulties remain in the absence of a vice chancellor," said Bijan Kumar Brahma, acting registrar of the university.

"The authorities have assured us that they will discuss the issues with the next vice-chancellor," said Md Sohag Hossain, secretary of the officers' association. However, examination results of 21 departments are yet to be published. The time of its publication is still uncertain. "We don't publish the results without the VC's approval even after completing procedures," said Tawhida Khanam, controller of examinations.



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam speaks at a rally at Polo Ground in the port city yesterday. Earlier in the day, Fakhru and other party members were barred by police when they were on their way to Kalurghat Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. They were going to the betar kendra to pay tribute to the martyrs marking Independence Day.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Taliban girls' education ban won't last

Says Malala

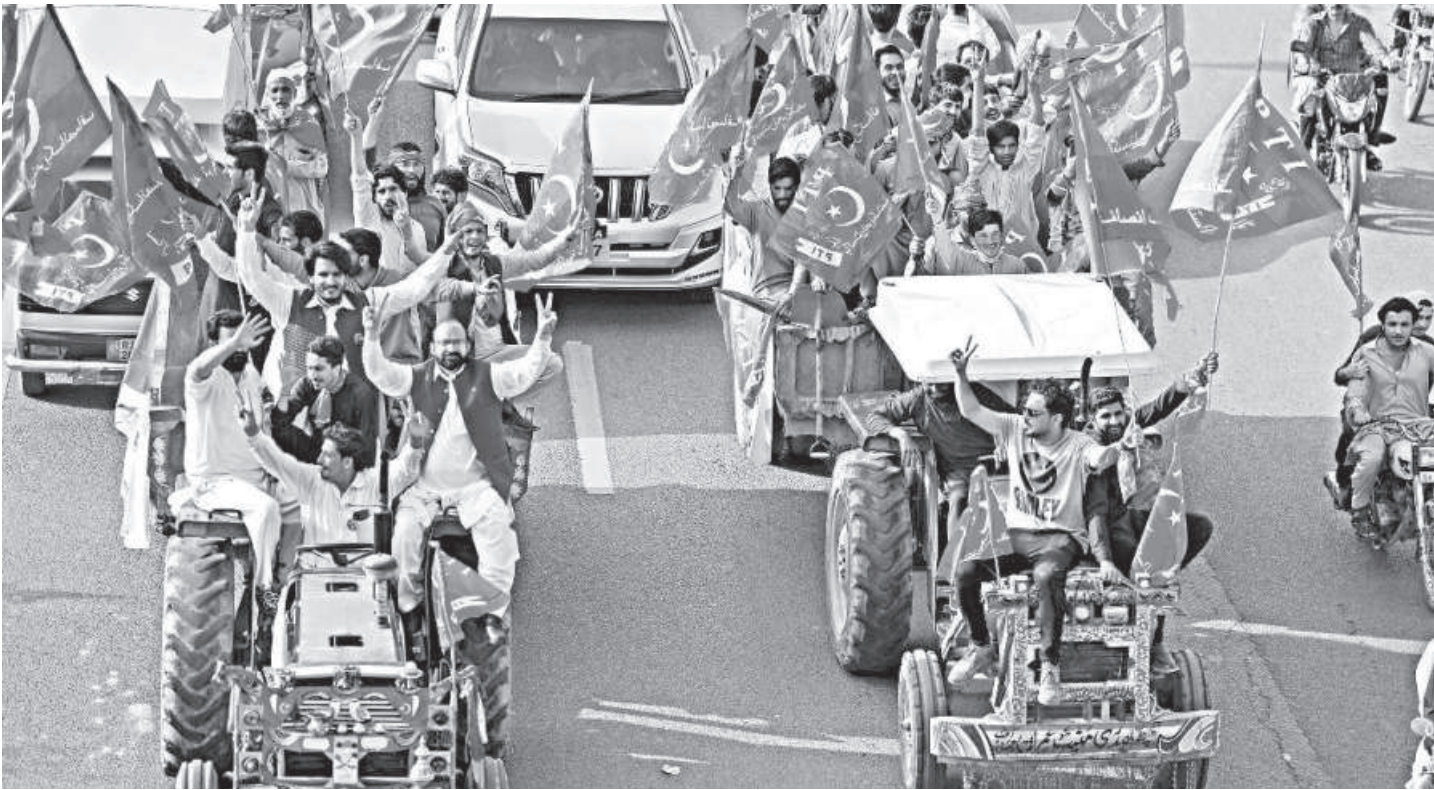
AFP, Doha

The Taliban's ban on girls' education won't last forever, Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai said on Saturday, emphasising that Afghan women now know what it is to be "empowered".

The hard-line Afghan regime closed girls' secondary schools just hours after reopening them this week, prompting a small protest by women and girls in the capital Kabul. "I think it was much easier for the Taliban (to enforce) a ban on girls' education back in 1996," Yousafzai told the Doha Forum.

"It is much harder this time -- that is because women have seen what it means to be educated, what it means to be empowered. This time is going to be much harder for the Taliban to maintain the ban on girls' education. This ban will not last forever," she said.

The fundamentalist Taliban stopped girls from attending school during its rule of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when it was ousted by the US led invasion.



Activists and supporters of ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party arrive to attend a rally in Islamabad, Pakistan yesterday. Prime Minister Imran Khan has dubbed this rally of PTI as a "battle for the future" ahead of the opposition's no-trust motion in the National Assembly.

PHOTO: AFP

Will 'annihilate' coup opponents

Says Myanmar army chief on crackdown anniversary

AFP, Naypyidaw

Myanmar's junta will "annihilate" coup opponents, army chief Min Aung Hlaing said yesterday as the military staged a show of force on the anniversary of its bloodiest crackdown so far on democracy protests.

The Southeast Asian country has been in chaos since a putsch in February 2021, with more than 1,700 people killed in crackdowns on dissent, according to a local monitoring group.

Across Myanmar "People's Defence Force" fighters -- often armed with homemade or rudimentary weapons -- clash regularly with junta troops, with

some analysts suggesting the military has struggled to respond effectively to their hit-and-run tactics.

Fighting has also flared with more established ethnic rebel groups along the Thai and Chinese borders.

Presiding over the annual parade that showcased tanks, truck-mounted missiles, artillery and troops on horseback, Min Aung Hlaing told about 8,000 assembled security personnel that the army would not let up.

The military will "no longer negotiate... and annihilate until the end" groups fighting to overturn its rule, he said ahead of the Armed Forces Day procession in

army-built capital Naypyidaw.

Jets flew overhead trailing the yellow, red and green of the national flag, while state media showed women lining the streets leading to the parade ground to give flowers and place garlands on the marching soldiers. In Yangon around a dozen anti-junta flashmob protesters set off flares and shouted slogans, according to footage posted on social media.

Others on social media called for residents to switch off their lights at home in a national "power strike" yesterday evening.

Armed Forces Day commemorates the start of local resistance to the Japanese occupation during World War II.

WEST BENGAL KILLINGS

22 accused named by India's CBI

NDTV ONLINE

India's Central Bureau of Investigation has named 22 people as accused in the Birbhum massacre, in which eight people were beaten and burnt alive earlier this week, triggering political furor. The list of accused is the same as that of the state police, sources said. The agency, however, has questioned the ruling Trinamool Congress's block president Anarul Hossain, who, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had promised, will be arrested. Around 20 people have been arrested after six women and two children -- mostly of members of a single family -- were locked in their homes and burnt alive by a mob at the Bogtui village near Birbhum's Rampurhat town earlier this week. The attack was allegedly retaliation to the murder of a local Trinamool Congress leader, Bhadu Sheikh, who died in a bomb attack.

India successfully test-fires surface-to-air missile

THE INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE

India yesterday successfully carried out the test firing of the medium-range surface-to-air missile air defence system off the coast of Odisha's Balasore, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.

"MRSAM-Army missile system flight tested from ITR Balasore, Odisha at around 10:30 hours intercepting a high-speed aerial target at long range. The target was destroyed by the missile in a direct hit," the DRDO said. The system is part of the Indian Army. In the test, the missile secured a direct hit at the target at a very far-off distance, DRDO officials said. On January 20, the Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile was test-fired from ITR off the coast of Odisha validating several new indigenous systems.



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Procurement & Logistics Support Directorate

REF: DACPL/OTM/e-GP/2021-22/ Date: 27-03-2022

e-Tender Notice

e-GP tender(s) are hereby invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following items:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date and time
676733	LP42122029	China Casserole(Zamdani Print), Qty: 6000 Each.	10-04-2022 at 1700 Hrs.	11-04-2022 at 1100 Hrs.	11-04-2022 at 1100 Hrs.
677507	LP42122037	China Bread Plate (Zamdani Print), Qty: 2400 Each.	10-04-2022 at 1700 Hrs.	11-04-2022 at 1100 Hrs.	11-04-2022 at 1100 Hrs.
677430	LP42122035	Disp. Paper Cup, Qty: 6,00,000 Each	10-04-2022 at 1700 Hrs	11-04-2022 at 1100 Hrs	11-04-2022 at 1100 Hrs
677543	LP42122038	Baby Diaper, Qty: 12,000 Each	10-04-2022 at 1700 Hrs	11-04-2022 at 1100Hrs	11-04-2022 at 1100Hrs

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (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 branches of bank.

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

For more details please contact with the following person.

Mohammad Shafinur Rahman Akand
Asstt. Manager Commercial Purchase

GD-586

Justice Sinha

FROM PAGE 16

account, said an ACC official preferring to be unnamed.

Later, Sinha visited the bank along with his brother to withdraw about \$157,090.

"He told the bank that he got the money from one of his friends to buy a house. While he was chief justice, he used to transfer his illegal wealth through hundi and kept those in his brother's account," the official said.

They later bought the house for \$280,000 on June 12, 2018 by paying cash upfront.

"He laundered the money while travelling abroad for various purposes as justice," the official said, adding that the findings have already been submitted before the commission for approval to file a case.

To find out about Sinha's wealth, the ACC wrote to Canada, the US, the UAE and Singapore for information. The US responded with information on the house.

Earlier, Gulshan Anowar Prodhan, the deputy director of the ACC, filed a case against SK Sinha for allegedly amassing more than Tk 7 crore illegally.

The former chief justice had spent the sum constructing a nine-storey building in Uttara on a plot registered in his brother's name.

According to the report of an independent architect, about Tk 6.31 crore was spent on the construction of the building, reads the FIR.

About Tk 75 lakh was spent to buy the plot and about Tk 78 lakh remain frozen in banks, according to the case statement.

On November 9, 2021, a court sentenced Sinha to seven years in prison for money laundering and another four years for breach of trust. Both the sentences are to be served concurrently.

The court had also asked the authorities concerned to confiscate Tk 78 lakh frozen in the banks in favour of the state.

Accused 'on the run'

FROM PAGE 16

Fazle Hossain Badsha contacted Rajshahi SP.

"I talked to police. When I learnt police were not believing the claim of victim's family, I decided to visit the spot," he said.

He said he found witnesses who described how Abhinath was denied water for two weeks and how Shakhawat brought Abhinath home, instead of taking him to hospital, after he drank pesticide in front of him.

Abhinath himself told his family members that he drank poison for not getting irrigation water, the witnesses added.

"It's strange why police delayed arresting the accused when he was in the locality and there was evidence against the accused."

Asked about the lawmaker's visit, SP Masud said police still did

not want to believe that a farmer could commit suicide only for lack of irrigation water.

"We found water in his [Abhinath] paddy field, there was no evidence that his paddy was damaged for lack of water," he said.

The SP said police gathered some important information in the case which would be clear after getting the autopsy report.

Abhinath, 36, and his cousin Robi Mardi, 27, of Nimghutu village, drank pesticides near the deep tube-well in Issoripur village on Wednesday afternoon. Robi died at a hospital on Friday night.

On Thursday, police said Abhinath's wife Rozina filed an unnatural death case. However, talking to this correspondent, Rozina denied filing the case.

Kamrul Islam, OC of Godagari Police Station,

recorded the unnatural death case at Abhinath's house on Thursday and took Rozina's signature on it.

Contacted, senior criminal lawyer Nurul Islam Sarker Aslam said the UD case might weaken the suicide provocation case.

Locals had said Abhinath and Robi badly needed irrigation water and were being ignored by Shakhawat for over two weeks.

On Wednesday, they took pesticides with them and visited Shakhawat to ask him for water for irrigation, locals and Abhinath's family said.

When Shakhawat denied them water, the two drank the pesticide, they said.

Shakhawat denied any involvement in the incident before going into hiding.

Foreign powers

FROM PAGE 16

Imran said his government received threat in written form and asserted he had all the evidence to prove his claims which he said he will unveil at the "right time".

"Our country received threats due to the acts of previous leaders... the governments in Pakistan had been changed with the help of locals... when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto tried to make independent foreign policy... parties of Fazlur Rehman and 'absconder' Nawaz Sharif launched a movement against him and later Bhutto was executed," said the premier.

He lashed out at PPP leadership, saying that Bilawal Bhutto and Asif Zardari have formed alliance with those elements involved in the execution of their party founder, reports The Express Tribune.

"Today foreign elements are trying to affect our foreign policy again... we know the elements who united the killers and the victims... today the time has changed and there is a saying in English you only cross the river once... this is an age of social media where

you cannot hide anything."

PM Imran said his government will maintain friendly ties with other states but will never become "slave to anyone".

Khan also said he will not spare "corrupt leaders" even if he had to step down from his post.

PTI leaders Pervaiz Khattak, Ali Zaidi, Shafiqat Mahmood, Murad Saeed, Qasim Khan Suri, and Faisal Javed, among others, also addressed the gathering.

They vowed that PM Imran will not go anywhere and the opposition's efforts against the premier will prove futile.

Meanwhile, opposition supporters are also gathering in Islamabad ahead of planned anti Khan protests today.

Supporters of former PM Nawaz Sharif's party began a "long march" on Saturday to the capital from the eastern city of Lahore, reports Al Jazeera Online.

Thousands of activists from the conservative Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (I) party are also marching on Islamabad to join anti-government protests.

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সফিহু বাংলাদেশ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট
www.forest.bagerhat.gov.bd

খাড়াগাছ/জন্দকৃত/কর্তনকৃত কাঠ বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সং	মন্তব্য/বিভাগ	পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়।
১	এজেন্সী	বন অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ।
২	দরপত্র আহবানকারী	বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট।
৪	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	এস, এম, সাজ্জাদ হোসেন, বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা।
৫	কাজের নাম	সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট এর আওতাধীন বাগেরহাট, খুলনা ও পিরোজপুর জেলার বিভিন্ন উপজেলার সামাজিক বনায়নের আওতাধীন সজিত মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ এবং উন্নয়নমূলক কাজের প্রয়োজনে খাড়াগাছ/জন্দকৃত/কর্তনকৃত/কাঠপড়া লটসমূহ বিক্রয়।
৬	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	SFDB-11/21-22 Date: 27.03.2022
৭	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	বহুখামে সীলসোহরযুক্ত।
৮	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	২৭/০৩/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৯	দরপত্র জয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১১/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১০	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা, খাটপুন্ড, খুলনা, ফুলতলা ও পিরোজপুর এসএফএনএটিসির কার্যালয় হতে সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।
১১	দরপত্র জমাদানের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট, জেলা প্রশাসক, পিরোজপুর ও খুলনা জেলা এর কার্যালয়। তারিখঃ ১২/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ, সময়ঃ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট। তারিখঃ ১২/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৩	দরপত্র সিডিটির মূল্য	খাড়াগাছের লট প্রতিটি ৪০০/- টাকা এবং জন্দকৃত/কর্তনকৃত/কাঠপড়া প্রতিটি ২০০/- টাকা।
১৪	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য	বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট এবং খাটপুন্ড, খুলনা, ফুলতলা ও পিরোজপুর এসএফএনএটিসির কার্যালয় হতে সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে।
১৫	কাজের বিবরণ (লটের তালিকা)	অত্র দপ্তরের আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন উপজেলার সজিত বাগানের লট।

এস, এম, সাজ্জাদ হোসেন
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বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
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ফোনঃ ০২৪৭৭৭৫১৫২৪
Email: soiaforest.bagerhat@gmail.com

জিডি-৫৮১

Bangladesh Handloom Board
Engineering Section
BTMC Bhaban (4th floor)
7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
www.bhb.gov.bd

Reference No: 24.05.0000.533.07.008.21-46 Date: 23.03.2022

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID No	Name of the Tender	Deadline of Submission
674619 (Re-tender)	Repairing works of Office Building at Basic Centre, Tangail.	10/04/2022 03:30 pm
677532 (Re-tender)	Repairing works of Office Building at Basic Centre, Sirajganj.	10/04/2022 03:40 pm
673915	Construction of Boundary wall with R.C.C frame structure and 5" Brick wall at Basic Centre Jashore.	10/04/2022 03:50 pm
674226	Construction of Boundary wall with R.C.C frame structure and 5" Brick wall at Basic Centre Shaikhupur, Jhenaidah.	10/04/2022 04:00 pm
675073	Repairing works of Existing Boundary wall and main gate at Basic Centre Satkhira.	10/04/2022 04:10 pm

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

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches upto 3.25 pm on dated 07/04/2022.

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

Engr. Md. Sadakatul Bari
Executive Engineer
Phone : 02-55014082
e-mail: xen@bhb.gov.bd



First responders work at a site of fuel storage facilities hit by cruise missiles in Lviv, in western Ukraine, yesterday. Russia hit a fuel depot being used by Ukrainian forces and used cruise missiles to strike a plant in the city being used to repair anti-aircraft systems, radar stations and sights for tanks, the ministry said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel will do anything we believe is needed to stop the Iranian nuclear program. Anything. From our point of view, the Iranian threat is not theoretical. The Iranians want to destroy Israel. They will not succeed. We will not let them.

Israel Foreign Minister Yair Lapid during talks with US top diplomat Anthony Blinken

‘Regime change’ not goal

Blinken stresses after Biden says ‘butcher’ Putin can’t stay in power; Macron fears ‘escalation’ in war

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday said President Vladimir Putin’s position is “up to the Russians”, playing down President Joe Biden’s comments that suggested a desire for regime change in Moscow.

Biden’s point, Blinken said in Jerusalem, was that “Putin cannot be empowered to wage war, or engage in aggression against Ukraine, or anyone else”.

Speaking in Warsaw on Saturday, Biden sparked controversy when he called the Russian leader a “butcher” and added: “For God’s sake, this man cannot remain in power.”

That raised questions of whether the United States was advocating non-democratic “regime change” in Russia.

The White House later scrambled to deny he was seeking “regime change” in Moscow, while the Kremlin said Biden’s words could harm bilateral relations.

“As you’ve heard us say repeatedly, we do not have a strategy of regime change in Russia or anywhere else for that matter,” said Blinken.

“As in any case, it’s up to the people of the country in question. It’s up to the Russians,” he

said.

Meanwhile the comment also drew attention of French President Emmanuel Macron.

He yesterday warned against verbal “escalation” with Moscow, after Biden called the Russian leader a “butcher”.

Macron told broadcaster France 3 that he saw his task as “achieving first a ceasefire and then the total withdrawal of (Russian) troops by diplomatic means.”

“If we want to do that, we can’t escalate either in words or actions.”

Paris has kept diplomatic channels to Moscow open throughout Russia’s military buildup on Ukraine’s borders and invasion of its neighbour.

The stance has been criticised by some other leaders and commentators but defended by Macron as

vital to limiting damage from the war.

He nevertheless accused Putin of wanting to return to “a Europe of empires, of domination, without respect for the integrity of borders and nations’ right to decide for themselves”.

Macron said that he would call Putin within a day or two to discuss a proposal from France, Greece and Turkey to evacuate Ukrainians from besieged port city Mariupol.

Sanctions should only come off with a full ceasefire and withdrawal, but also commitments that there will be no further aggression.

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss

Nearly 50pc Ukrainians ready to take up arms: poll

AFP

Nearly half of Ukrainians aged 18-55 are ready to fight to defend their country against Russia, a poll conducted by a Norwegian research centre suggested on Saturday.

Around 70 percent of men and 30 percent of women said they were willing to take up arms, according to the survey carried out by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (Prio) with the help of local pollsters Info Sapiens.

Surveyed March 9-12, during the third week of the conflict, the respondents answered online questions about their attitudes to four types of resistance.

When presented with the statement, “If the war continues, I will help the resistance by joining direct military combat in open battles against the Russian or pro-Russian forces”, 49 percent responded positively.

Air strikes hit Yemen rebels despite truce

AFP, Riyadh

The Saudi-led coalition yesterday launched air strikes on Yemen hours after Huthi rebels announced a three-day truce, with the UN chief condemning a surge in violence as the war enters its eighth year. The raids targeted Sanaa, the rebel-held capital, according to Saudi Arabia’s Al Ekhbariya TV, which tweeted “the start of air strikes on Huthi camps and strongholds in Sanaa” around midnight. The attacks began shortly after the Iran-backed Huthis announced a three-day truce and offered peace talks on condition that the Saudis stop their air strikes and blockade of Yemen and remove “foreign forces”. Just a day earlier, the rebels had fired drones and missiles at 16 targets in Saudi Arabia, turning an oil plant near Jeddah’s Formula One track into a raging inferno as aghast drivers looked on. The flurry of attacks and diplomacy came as Yemen, the Arab world’s poorest country, on Saturday marked seven years since the Saudi-led intervention against the Huthis, who seized Sanaa in 2014.

CHINA EASTERN PLANE CRASH 2nd black box found

AFP, Beijing

The second black box has been recovered from last week’s deadly China Eastern plane crash, officials said yesterday, and could help solve the mystery of the jet’s breakneck descent. The Boeing 737-800 was flying between the cities of Kunming and Guangzhou on Monday when it nosedived into a mountainside, disintegrating on impact and killing all 132 people on board. The cause of the disaster, China’s deadliest plane crash in more than 30 years, is not yet known. Tracking website FlightRadar24 showed the jet sharply dropped from an altitude of 29,100 to 7,850 feet in just over a minute. After a brief upswing, it dropped again to 3,225 feet.

Ex-colonies must decide monarchy’s role: Prince William

AFP, London

Prince William ended a turbulent tour of the Caribbean by starkly admitting this weekend that the region’s former British colonies must decide whether to scrap the monarchy’s role in their countries. The 39-year-old Duke of Cambridge also hinted that a British royal may in future no



longer head the club of 54 Commonwealth countries as the political association of ex-colonies evolves. The unusually candid comments, which were splashed on the front of several British newspapers yesterday, followed a rocky three-country Caribbean tour over the last week which drew both protests and criticism. William and his wife Catherine, 40, faced calls to apologise for the slave trade that helped make past British royals’ fortunes, and accusations of appearing “tone deaf” over elements of the visit.



Villagers and relatives mourn during the funeral of a slain policemen and his brother at Chattabugh village of central Kashmir’s Budgam district near Srinagar yesterday, a day after suspected militants reportedly shot the policeman and his brother.

PHOTO: AFP

‘Nothing happens’ when ME suffers

Qatar, Saudi, amid Ukraine crisis, decry lack of attention to region

AFP, Doha

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have expressed regret at a lack of attention to Middle East conflicts, as the West pushes them to show more solidarity with Ukraine.

“The humanitarian suffering that we have seen in Ukraine, and everyone is talking about it right now... has been the suffering of a lot of countries in this region for years and nothing happened,” Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told a roundtable at the annual Doha Forum.

“We have never seen a global response to address those sufferings,” he added, evoking “the brutality against the Syrian people, or against the Palestinians or against the Libyans or against the Iraqis, or against the Afghans”.

Neither oil kingpin Saudi Arabia nor gas-rich Qatar, both close to the West but with ties to Russia, have taken a strong position for or against Moscow since it invaded Ukraine last month.

The Qatari diplomat expressed hope that the Ukraine conflict would serve as “a wake-up call for everyone in the international community, to look at our region and to address the issues... with the same level of commitment that we have seen between Russia and Ukraine”.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Yemen have been killed, directly or indirectly, and millions have been displaced as a result of its years-long conflict, in what the UN calls the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

The war in Syria is estimated to have killed nearly half a million people and displaced millions more since it began with a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests in 2011.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan appeared to support the Qatari position.

“The engagement of the global community... now and then, it’s quite different,” he said at the forum.

“The trans-Atlantic unity right now, it’s commendable. But I think you have to have a much better conversation with the rest of the global community,” he said, addressing US and European officials at his side.

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Sporshia in 'Nikhoj'.



“Whether it’s a multi-starrer cast, or even a single scene- it doesn’t really matter. A 5-second shot can really change the plot.”

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Orchita Sporshia, has been garnering tremendous praise for her performance as Safiya in Chorki’s web-series “Nikhoj”. In a chat with The Daily Star, the “Kathbiral” actress opens up about “Nikhoj”, her upcoming ventures, and more.

Tell us about your character Safiya in “Nikhoj”. What made you chose this role? Safiya is a strong character – she struggles with herself, her family, and is on a quest to find her father, who was mysteriously kidnapped from their house.

Amidst all that, she still takes up the responsibility to take care of her family. I’d say that I didn’t choose the role, the role chose me!

Is it easy to stand out as a protagonist in multi-starrer web-series? Whether it’s a multi-starrer cast, or even a single scene- it doesn’t really matter. A 5-second shot can really change the plot. In “Nikhoj”, many characters have equal importance. However, my character ‘Safiya’ carries the whole storyline.

You have been nominated for Meril Prothom Alo Awards 2021 for your

performance in “Nabab LLB”. What inspired you to take on this role? “Nabab LLB” revolves around Shuvra, a rape victim, who faces social stigmas and exclusion from society after the devastating incident.

Earlier on, there was a lack of representation of rape victims on the silver screen. Many actresses refused the role of ‘Shuvra’, but I was keen on playing such a challenging role. If we can play the role of a lover, sister, and daughter, why not a victim?

You have been missing from television for almost 5 years, why is that? I left the television industry for good, as I could not come to terms with the system that it runs on. It’s unlikely that I will return.

What are your upcoming projects? I am currently working on two web-series – Cinebuzz’s “Holy Gun” and Binge’s “Issac Liton”, alongside Mosharraf Karim.

The teaser for “Holy Gun” was released recently. It’s an anthology series that

revolves around 6 negative female protagonists. The series highlights why society terms them as ‘negative’, and focuses on their personal narration. It will showcase their circumstances and what lead them to choose this path. “Issac Liton” is a comedy thriller.

We are still working on it so I can’t really reveal anything about it.

I have completed dubbing for actress Rozina’s “Fire Dekha”, a government granted film that revolves around the liberation war. I am playing the role of a village girl, opposite Nirab.

A picture where you posed with a snake has become viral on social media. I really didn’t think that people would like that picture so much. The snake came as a co-artiste, during the shoot of “Isaac Liton.” Everybody was frightened by him, except me. I am really not scared of anyone except humans.

TM Rocks brings 50 bands together for ‘Priyo Bangladesh’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



50 popular bands came together for one epic Independence Day collaboration titled “Priyo Bangladesh.” The music video was shot in the presence of more than 200 band members at the Narayanganj Osmani Stadium. Bangladesh Musical

Bands Association (BAMBA), in association with TM Rocks, organised the union of all the popular names on one stage.

“TM Rocks is a new horizon for TM Records,” said National Award winning composer and CEO Kaushik Hossain Taposh, who went on to clarify that TM Rocks will only work with bands.

Eminent musicians, including Maqsood, Syed Hasan Tipu, Naquib Khan, Bappa Mazumder, Hasan, Hamin Ahmed, Partha Barua, Manam Ahmed, Labu Rahman, Lincoln, Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu, Rafa, Bassbaba Sumon, among others were involved with the song, alongside talented newcomers.

“Priyo Bangladesh” is available for streaming at TM Rocks’ Youtube Channel and Facebook page.

Snoop Dogg confirms collaboration with BTS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

American rapper Snoop Dogg has confirmed a collaboration with K-pop sensation BTS.

The “Drop It Like It’s Hot” singer stated that “It’s official like a referee with a whistle”. The rapper wants BTS to reveal further details to the public, reports The AV Club.

Snoop Dogg has previously collaborated with K-pop bands including- Girls’ Generation, 2NE1, PSY, and MONSTA X. The rapper has always been open to media around his love for K-pop.



COUNTRYWIDE



People of 10 villages under two unions in Tangail’s Dhanbari upazila suffer for years as this bridge over the Bangshi river has no approach roads on both sides.

PHOTO: STAR

Bridge lies with no APPROACH ROADS

People of two unions suffer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People of several villages under two unions in Dhanbari upazila have been suffering immensely for long as the bridge over the Bangshi river does not have approach roads on either side.

Villagers put makeshift wooden platforms on both sides of the bridge to cross the river.

Locals said although, they somehow walk through the bridge in the dry season, they have to depend on other alternatives in the rainy season.

They also blamed the negligence of the authorities concerned for the sufferings. Funded by the Annual

Development Projects, the bridge was constructed on the Bangshi river near Dhopakhal Union in 2016-2017 fiscal year to improve road communication facilities between 10 villages under Dhopakhal Union and Jodunathpur unions.

Taslim Ahmed, a resident of Islampur village under Jodunathpur union, said after completion of the bridge construction work, the contractor concerned filled earth on its both ends for construction of the approach roads, but floodwater washed away the soil the same year.

Although, several thousand people of different villages have

been since then, the authorities concerned had done nothing to ease their troubles, he said, adding that they have informed the matter to Dhanbari Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) Office and local public representatives, but they did not pay any heed.

As a result, several thousand villagers, especially farmers, have been suffering a lot to carry their produces and other agricultural goods. “We thought the bridge would ease our communication problems, but it was complete waste of money,” farmer Nurul Islam of Dhopakhal village said.

Another villager Sekandar Ali said due to lack of approach

roads they have to spend extra money to go to their destinations, including to the upazila headquarters.

Shahina Begum of Islampur village said women and children, especially students of different educational institutions, suffer the most while crossing the bridge.

Azharul Islam, a member of Dhopakhal Union Parishad (UP), said although the upazila parishad chairman assured them, but the approach roads are not constructed yet.

Dhanbari LGED Upazila Engineer Joynal Abedin Sagar said the approach roads will be constructed this year.

A toddler’s trauma

FROM PAGE 1
walk over to the opposite flat.

Even with hands tied, she knocked the door of her neighbour’s home. They heard her soft thuds and opened the door to find the toddler bound and scared.

When they took off her gag, she cried out, “Mother is gone!”

The neighbour immediately went over to Maimuna’s flat, only to encounter the enormous pool of blood on the floor. She screamed for the owner of the building, who rushed over.

That was when everyone noticed the baby – Tanvir – lying on the bed, a pillow on his head. Due to lack of oxygen, his face already began turning purple by then.

The owner’s relatives resuscitated the baby with CPR, bringing a slight stirring in his lungs.

Tanvir was rushed to Mugda Medical College, where he was immediately put on life support.

The building owner’s son, Musliq Ahmed, narrated the entire incident to this correspondent yesterday.

On Saturday, 26-year-old Tania was hacked to death in her home on the first floor of a four-storey building in Battala area.

Tania’s husband Mainul Islam spoke to The Daily Star yesterday, and said, “Around 3:52pm, my wife called me to tell me that two technicians had come to fix the air-conditioner in the house. I spoke to the men and told them to leave, saying we

need no such service.”

By the time Maimuna knocked on the neighbour’s door, it was 5:20pm, meaning the baby had been slowly suffocating for approximately an hour while the murderers got to work.

Monotosh Biswas, assistant commissioner of police (Sabujbagh zone), said, “The AC was found disassembled on the floor, and the almirah was open with a locker inside also open. It appears that someone who came to repair the AC killed the woman.”

Muradul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sabujbagh Police Station, said around 15 thousand taka and four Bhoris (46.64 grams) of gold were taken from the house, adding that a case was filed in this regard.

Dentist

FROM PAGE 1
Mahtab Uddin, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Mirpur division), said Bulbul left his Shevrapara home early morning and headed towards Noakhali.

He took an auto-rickshaw to go to Farmgate.

Three unidentified men stopped the auto-rickshaw near the under construction metro-rail station in Shevrapara and tried to snatch his belongings.

As he resisted, one of the three stabbed him on his thigh, took one of his mobile phones, and fled the scene, the police official said.

Bulbul died of excessive bleeding, he added.

He also said the law enforcers primarily suspected the murder to be an act of muggers, but they were investigating the incident keeping the other motives in mind.

Mahbubur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Mirpur Police Station, said they were also investigating if Bulbul had any previous enmity with anyone.



Bulbul was rushed to nearby Al Helal Hospital after he was stabbed. Then he was taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Seeking anonymity, a top DMP official said Bulbul could have been saved if he had received primary treatment quickly.

Hailing from Rangpur, Bulbul lived in a rented house in the capital with his wife and two children. His daughter is eight years old and his son one and a half years.

He treated his clients at “Rangpur Dental” in the capital’s Moghbazar and provided free medical services in different parts of the country through an organisation called “Bhumi”. **‘MY SON WILL NEVER RETURN’**

The murder of Bulbul left his family in a devastating situation at their home in Rangpur’s Bhagibalapara area.

His grieving mother said, “Bulbul sent me Tk 2,000 on Saturday late night to buy milk for his child. He told me he would return home within a few days. But, my son will never return.”

Bulbul’s father Abdus Salam, a retired army person and a freedom fighter, died in 1999. Of three siblings, Bulbul was the eldest.

He was a brilliant student and a good soul, said his family members.

His wife Shammii Akhter asked, “What crime have my little children committed to become orphans at this age?”

Bulbul’s sister Lavly Samad said the entire family got a heavy blow with the death of Bulbul as he continued to bear most of the family expenses.

The family members demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the murder.

[Our Dinaipur correspondent contributed to this report]

Plan ahead to prevent economic instability

Expand fiscal support to offset inflation from taka’s devaluation

IT is disconcerting to note that Bangladesh, like many other countries, is facing a volatile situation in the foreign exchange market. Initially, this volatility was the result of demand recovery after Covid and the ongoing supply chain disruptions. But over the last one month, this instability has increased as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and other factors related to that crisis.

To prevent the taka from fluctuating rapidly, the Bangladesh Bank had injected a record USD 3.78 billion between July 1 and March 23 this fiscal year. But this has hardly resolved the crisis for banks facing a dollar shortage for their transactions. Even though export earnings have risen by 29 percent to USD 27.97 billion year-on-year, it has not been enough to offset the steep increase in import payments—as imports rose by 46 percent year-on-year, to USD 46.67 billion—along with a sharp decline in remittance. As a result, demand for the dollar went up significantly—particularly in comparison to its supply—which even compelled some banks to purchase the greenback from the central bank to settle letters of credit for imports.

In response, the central bank has been generous in providing dollars to commercial banks to prevent a major fall in the value of taka. Yet, the exchange rate now stands at Tk 86.20 per USD compared to Tk 84.80 a year ago, which means the central bank has allowed the taka to depreciate slightly. But, more importantly, our forex reserve declined from USD 48 billion in August last year to USD 44.29 billion on March 23 this year.

Despite these concerns, experts believe that the worst is yet to come, as Bangladesh has still not felt the full brunt of the crisis. And they believe that the taka will eventually have to be depreciated against the dollar. That depreciation will lead to further inflation, and the government has to take certain policy measures to counteract its effects, particularly on low-income people.

Amid the current global turmoil, policymakers will have to remain extra vigilant to ensure macroeconomic stability in the country. And to make sure that our forex reserve doesn’t decline further, experts suggest that the government look to stem imports, particularly of non-essential and luxury items. Given that the taka is expected to lose some of its value, leading to increased inflation, the government should plan ahead to provide further fiscal support to the poor population. Additionally, it should consider reducing taxes and VATs, as well as expand its open market sales (OMS) programmes, as recommended by experts.

Beware of antimicrobial resistance

Proper policies needed to change how antibiotics are used

IT’S been known for some time that antimicrobial resistance (AMR)—which occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines—has become a global health threat. Now, a report by *The Daily Star* illustrates the level of danger we are in. It shows how not only are drugs becoming increasingly ineffective—due to intake of over-prescribed or self-prescribed medicines—but germs are getting drug-resistant as well. As a result, even common infections are becoming harder to treat, leading to higher medical costs, longer hospital stays, and increased mortality.

One example of this, as explained by a superbug expert at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in Dhaka, is the germ that causes typhoid fever. Over the past 20 years, two antibiotic drugs used to treat typhoid have been replaced as they’ve become ineffective against the water-borne disease. “If ceftriaxone [the antibiotic now in use] loses efficacy, typhoid will break out in the community,” he said. Over 85 antibiotics are currently available in our country for treating different diseases. A surveillance study by BSMMU, which examined 1,250 bacteria collected from nearly 9,000 samples and tested around 30 antibiotics against those, found that there was not a single bacterium that wasn’t resistant to at least one drug.

This is a shocking development. Experts say that gross misuse and overuse of antimicrobials are responsible for the development of these drug-resistant pathogens, and for some of the critical medicines becoming ineffective. For example, throughout the pandemic, doctors prescribed antibiotics unnecessarily to Covid patients in 83 percent of cases, according to a study by the IEDCR. As per another estimate by the health ministry, 60 percent of patients take medicines without consulting doctors or upon advice from informal providers like quacks and pharmacies.

Clearly, both doctors and patients, as well as policymakers governing various aspects of drug use, are responsible for this situation. The prospect of life-saving drugs no longer working is indeed a frightening one, which should worry us all. One solution to the drug resistance problem can be to bring in new drugs, which is a costly and time-consuming process.

A more sustainable solution is to restrict the use of antibiotics through proper policies. For one, sale of antibiotics without prescription should be prohibited. Also, physicians outside hospitals shouldn’t be allowed to prescribe high-end antibiotics. To regulate the use of antibiotics, the health authorities may also create separate lists of antibiotics that registered doctors, consultants and doctors at hospitals can prescribe. We must take actions befitting the gravity of the danger for the sake of public health.

Smart policies needed to deal with current economic shocks



MACRO MIRROR
Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author’s own.
FAHMIDA KHATUN

THE world is facing an unprecedented time as countries desperately try to recover from the fallouts caused by two years of Covid, followed by the newly raised geopolitical tensions due to the Russia-Ukraine war. With the rage of the pandemic weakening, economic activities around the world have started to gain momentum. This has led to higher demand for goods and services. However, as the supply is not yet able to keep pace with increased demand, prices of goods and services continue to rise. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has worsened it further. Bangladesh feels its impact, too.

To deal with such circumstances, appropriate economic policymaking will play a critical role. The national budget, which is an important tool to implement the priorities of the country through certain fiscal measures, can stimulate the economy in a given financial year. The budgetary process is not a mere exercise of target settings for expenditure and resource mobilisation—it is an important medium towards contributing to the government’s ongoing development activities. The upcoming national budget for FY2022-23 should prioritise resource allocation for the affected people and sectors, and extend guidance for smooth recovery from the existing economic challenges.

Currently, the economic stress that Bangladesh is going through is being reflected in a few important indicators. Prices have skyrocketed, resulting in distress not only for the poor and low-income people, but also the fixed income groups. Though food inflation is around 5.3 percent at present, the ground reality paints a different picture. Prices of many essential commodities have increased by more than 25 percent. About 30 percent of Bangladesh’s economy is integrated with the global economy through exports and imports. Hence, high global prices are passed on to our domestic consumers. But price hikes in our local markets are not entirely fuelled by high import prices—market manipulation by a small group of traders is also a major reason for such hikes at times of crises.

Other concerns include current account deficit and negative trade balance. Since July 2021, our export growth has been robust. But imports grew at a higher rate than exports. During July-February of FY2022, export growth was 30.9 percent while import growth was 46.2 percent. Remittances have seen a sharp decline since May 2021. During July-February of FY2022, remittance growth was negative



ILLUSTRATION: SUSHMITA S PREETHA

The recovery of Bangladesh’s economy will depend on how the global economy does in the coming months. The challenges that have emerged are not only immediate in nature, but also have medium- and long-term implications.

(-)19.5 percent. Hence, the current account deficit reached to USD 10 billion during July-January of FY2022, compared to USD 1.5 billion in the entire FY2021. This is also creating a pressure on the foreign exchange reserve, and it is expected to increase in the coming months given high import payments and low remittance inflow. In June 2021, Bangladesh had the forex reserve equivalent to about 10 months of import payments. This has now come down to 5.5 months due to high international prices and low remittance inflow. High demand for foreign currency has appreciated the US dollar against the Bangladeshi taka. The Bangladesh Bank has intervened in the forex market to keep it stable by pumping dollars into the market. However, the exchange rate of USD in the interbank money market has been increasing since August 2021. There is a demand for devaluation of taka against USD to support exports and remittances.

The recovery of Bangladesh’s economy will depend on how the global economy does in the coming months. The challenges that have emerged are not only immediate in nature, but also have medium- and long-term implications. Advanced economies have been on the recovery path even though they have also been facing pandemic inflation. With the Russian invasion in Ukraine, production and supply disruptions could reduce growth. Therefore, the global economy might experience stagflation, which occurs when there is high inflation but low growth. This is a situation the world economy has not experienced since the 1970s. So, if the growth of large economies stagnates, other countries will also face a similar situation, resulting in unemployment and further inequality.

In Bangladesh, these circumstances call for effective government interventions on many fronts. The purchasing power of people will have to be enhanced by putting money into their hands. It will boost

aggregate demand in the economy. Higher government expenditures on productive activities are required so that people have employment with decent income. With expansion of the economy, the demand for higher public expenditure has increased. In recent years, large investments have been made on infrastructures, which have created job opportunities. In the current circumstances, public projects which are going to be completed soon should be prioritised. However, public expenditure must be made judiciously, and wastage of public resources should be curtailed.

The government should also extend higher support to the poor and low-income households through increasing supplies of commodities in the market. Along with adequate public spending in social sectors, the delivery system should be made efficient and corruption-free. Stimulus packages should be continued to the poor and small enterprises.

During the first six months of FY2022, there has been fiscal surplus in the budget due to slow expenditures. The government can use this resource for direct cash transfer to the poor, and provide subsidies to important sectors such as fuel, power, and agriculture for a few months. Of course, there is a need for subsidy rationalisation, and a gradual attempt must be made to withdraw subsidies since it distorts markets and encourages wastage of resources. Most importantly, fuel and energy subsidies are harmful for the environment and contribute to climate change.

In the coming FY2022-23, the government will have to work hard to enhance revenue generation to finance the increased resource requirements. In this regard, revenue targets set out in the national budget will have to be fulfilled through strong monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. Most importantly, the unfinished agenda to reform the tax system needs to be addressed.

Sustainability’s biggest sell? It’s profitable



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

SUSTAINABILITY should not be a hard sell. And yet, in our industry, so many garment makers continue to look at it as a financial burden—a potential drain for their businesses. At its heart, however, sustainability is about future-proofing your business. It is also about good housekeeping. Confused? Please, bear with me.

Growing up, many of us were taught the value of taking care of precious resources. Don’t leave the lights on; don’t waste electricity; separate household waste streams into recyclables; don’t throw things away when they can be used again. These thrift techniques are passed down from one generation to another. To use an English phrase, “If you look after the pennies, the pounds will look after themselves.”

Most smart business owners take these lessons to their trade. In fact, the most successful business owners will often walk around the factory floors and spot instances of waste, whether it be a leaking tap or a piece of equipment that has been left running unnecessarily. These people might be successful business owners—they could be multimillionaires—but they hate seeing resources being wasted.

The flip side of this is that the owner who loses sight of these small things, their business begins splurging money on unnecessary luxuries. Too much fat and poor use of resources will catch up with any business eventually—especially one where margins are tight, such as garment manufacture.

The most successful business owners will often walk around the factory floors and spot instances of waste, whether it be a leaking tap or a piece of equipment that has been left running unnecessarily.

I said sustainability is about good housekeeping. To this end, it represents a financial opportunity. How so?

A few examples spring to mind from the ready-made garment (RMG) industry. The first is a recent study that found that RMG factories in Bangladesh have huge potential to harvest rainwater for use in production. The study, conducted by WaterAid and the RAIN Forum, suggests that some factories are already meeting up to 60 percent of their production requirements using harvested rainwater. The report found that many factories have the potential to harvest 10,000 cubic metres of rainwater, while larger factories could harvest anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 cubic metres every year. Obviously, factory owners have to make an initial investment in water harvesting technology, but after that, the savings soon become apparent (and the investment is relatively small).

But I hear people say: factories don’t pay for water, so why does it matter? Actually, I do believe that, one day, our industry will begin to put a large monetary price on water, especially for industrial use. When that day comes, the factories that harvest rainwater will be well placed financially. Until then, owners will be able to sleep well with the knowledge that they know they are doing the right thing for the planet.

Secondly, many businesses in fashion are now looking to partner with factories that are actively working on sustainable operations. Thus, there is a financial return on these kinds of investments in terms of securing and maintaining business relations with international apparel brands.

The second example of sustainability having a financial incentive is in terms of energy and chemical savings in apparel production. As well as using excess water, clothing production often wastes energy and chemicals, which is a prime example of bad housekeeping. Many businesses in our industry waste huge amounts

of money each year on excessive use of resources. It’s remarkable, isn’t it, that at a time when we should all be thinking about how we can save resources, many factory owners are inadvertently wasting them?

It need not be this way. A series of programmes funded by organisations such as the World Bank over the years have shown that huge amounts can be saved in energy, chemicals (and water) by investing in more sustainable and efficient methods of production.

Often, the steps that factory owners need to take are relatively simple and would be regarded as low hanging fruit where sustainability is concerned. Lots of small steps can often have a large net effect. They might include retrofits and the replacement of old production technology with more efficient equipment. To offer some perspective, one study found that energy consumption in Vietnam’s textile sector alone could decrease nationwide by 30 percent with technology upgrades and improved efficiency. Thirty percent! Vietnam has a similarly sized textile industry like Bangladesh, so the comparison is relevant.

What are we waiting for, then? Well, there are plenty of things holding our industry back from making these changes. Arguably the biggest is our mindset and attitude. Like I said before, too many owners still see sustainability as a financial burden. Perhaps, sustainability needs to be marketed differently. Perhaps, those selling it need to start with the question: Is your manufacturing operation haemorrhaging money? Is it spending too much on energy or textile chemicals? Is it failing to maximise operational efficiencies and having an excess of waste, harming profit margins?

So many businesses are failing in these areas. They think they have a sustainability problem, but in reality, they have a financial problem.

In the modern world, the two are, in many cases, two sides of the same coin.

What does the Ukraine conflict mean for West Asia?



Talmiz Ahmad is a former Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE.

TALMIZ AHMAD

WESTERN commentators are struggling to describe the significance of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Fareed Zakaria has described it as a “seismic event,” and believes it marks “the end of an age.” Francis Fukuyama has called it “a critical turning point in world history.” Thomas Friedman simply says, “Our world is not going to be the same again.”

These cataclysmic prognostications from Western sources have not had the same reverberations in West Asia. Four years of the anarchy wreaked in the region by Donald Trump, followed by one year of Joe Biden’s insipid and shaky presidency, have already created a diplomatic churn, with regional states pursuing fresh engagements and alignments, interactions that are independent of the US. The region, in short, has come of age and is anxious to define its own interests, and shape its own policy approaches and alignments.

This is best exemplified by the first reactions of the region’s principal role-players—despite many being long-standing US allies, not one of them, besides Kuwait, has sided with the US in sharply condemning Russia; not one of them has imposed harsh sanctions to cripple the Russian economy.

Regional responses to the war

On February 23, a day before the Russian invasion, the UAE and Russian foreign ministers spoke telephonically about regional and international developments and emphasised their “keenness to enhance the prospects of UAE-Russian cooperation.” On February 25, the UAE abstained on a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution that was critical of Russia. Two days later, it again abstained on a procedural resolution to refer the invasion to the UN General Assembly. Soon thereafter, Russia rewarded the UAE by abstaining on a UNSC resolution that described the Houthis in Yemen—who fired drones on Abu Dhabi on January 17 this year—as a “terrorist” organisation.

Saudi Arabia, a US ally from 1945, in response to the US’ sanctions on energy exports from Russia, refused to increase its oil production to bring down global oil prices. In fact, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia and his UAE counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, both refused to take calls from Biden when he was seeking to make personal appeals to them to increase oil production. Later, both of them took calls from President Putin and also spoke to Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in an apparent mediation effort. A little later, when an American journalist asked Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman if Biden had misunderstood him, the prince answered, “Simply, I do not care.”

Qatar, the world’s major gas producer, has been courted by both the US and Russia. The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, was the first Gulf leader welcomed in Biden’s White House in January this year, with his country being conferred the status of a “major non-Nato ally.” Biden’s interest was to encourage Qatar to divert some of its gas to European markets to make up for reduced Russian supplies following the energy-related sanctions that the US imposed on March 8. In response, Putin addressed a letter to the emir setting out how bilateral relations could be expanded. Rather than choose sides, the Qatari foreign minister took the mediation route by making calls to his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts.

Turkey, a Nato member with close political, military and economic ties with Russia, has been manoeuvring through a diplomatic minefield. It criticised Russia’s recognition of the two break-away republics, and later, described the invasion as a “state of war,” but announced no punitive sanctions.

Israel, perhaps the US’ closest ally in West Asia, has opted for what an Israeli scholar, Eran Etzion, has called “strategic selfishness”—adopting a neutral posture and then diverting attention from its failure to back the US through some hectic interventions in Moscow and Kyiv as part of its “mediation” effort.

The Iranian president, Ebrahim Raisi, in his response to the Ukraine invasion, said Iran “opposed both war and domination.” The last was a reference to Russian concerns relating to Nato’s eastward expansion. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was more categorical: on March 1, he referred to the Biden presidency as a “mafia regime” and said, “All sorts of mafias control their country and bring presidents to power. They create crises in the world to maximise their power.” He added that “the root of the crisis in Ukraine is US policies that create crisis.

Ukraine is a victim of these policies.”

West Asia’s distancing from the US

The near-total absence of support for the US from across the region appears to have surprised many of its officials and even some commentators. But the factual position is that distancing from the US has been a steady process for some years.

In Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the first concerns emerged in the early days of the Arab Spring—they saw the toppling of Hosni Mubarak, with the US doing nothing to back its old ally. This was followed by what they saw as US failure to intervene in the Syrian conflict and affect regime change. Later, in September 2019, they saw the Trump administration not responding to the serious attack on Saudi oil facilities, allegedly by the Houthis, but clearly with Iranian support.

The final straw was the ignominious US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, under Biden, with the US being viewed as again abandoning an ally—the government in Kabul.

Even as US credibility as a security provider plunged to new depths, many regional states simultaneously built substantial political, energy, economic and logistical connectivity ties with Russia and China. Russia built its regional credibility during the chaotic Trump



period. After ensuring, through the use of its military, that no regime change would occur in Damascus, Moscow emerged as the go-to capital for almost all regional leaders who found Putin effectively serving their diverse interests.

For Israel, Russia was the only player capable of restraining the presence of Iran and Hezbollah at its northern borders with Syria, even as it periodically provided the green signal for Israeli attacks on Iranian assets in Syria.

In contrast to the Trump presidency, Biden was hostile to Saudi Arabia and its crown prince throughout his election campaign, when he referred to the country as a “pariah” and then, early in his administration, announced he would not interact with the crown prince; for good measure, he also released the CIA report that strongly suggested that the crown prince was behind the Jamal Khashoggi murder.

On the other hand, Saudi Arabia and Russia have been partners from 2016 in the management of oil supplies in world markets by the “OPEC +” coalition that brings together OPEC members working in tandem with Russia and a few other oil producers: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan, and Sudan.

This grouping, through considerable internal discipline, was able to ensure adherence to national quotas by member-states and successfully weathered the challenge of low prices in the face of shale oil production.

Turkey’s outreach to the region has been more fruitful. Ankara hosted the UAE national security adviser, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed, in August 2021, and then, in November, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed. The latter announced UAE investments of USD 10 billion in Turkey’s ailing economy, after which the UAE central bank placed USD 5 billion in a swap arrangement in Turkey to bolster the national currency. Turkey has also made diplomatic overtures to Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Besides the impetus provided to

these engagements by possible US disengagement from the region, other motivating factors are the reduced sense of concern emanating from political Islam among the Gulf leaders and Egypt and, linked with this, the need to adopt a fresh approach to the conflicts in Syria and Libya, which have reached a military stalemate.

The Ukraine war has created a fresh churn in regional diplomacy.

Turkey’s tight-rope diplomacy

Erdogan had every reason to be deeply concerned about the Ukraine war: his economy is in dire straits, he is under considerable US pressure to play a role as a Nato member even as he has been reluctant to alienate the Russian leader, and, above all, he faces national elections in June 2023.

As of now, Turkey is crucially dependent on Russia—the latter supplies about half of Turkey’s natural gas, two-thirds of its wheat imports and a big chunk of its tourism revenue. Russia is also building Turkey’s first nuclear power plant and is a partner in the Syrian peace process. But Turkey has close ties with Ukraine as well: it is a valued market for its military products and a partner in the development of certain defence items. Hence, the need for tight-rope diplomacy.



Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Russia’s President Vladimir Putin speak during a meeting at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, on June 28, 2019.

FILE PHOTO:
REUTERS

The near-total absence of support for the US from across the region appears to have surprised many of its officials and even some commentators. But the factual position is that distancing from the US has been a steady process for some years.

UAE’s diplomatic activism

As the UAE abstained on the UNSC vote criticising Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, its commentators appeared to be in a triumphant mode. Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, who is believed to reflect official thinking, wrote that the UAE vote followed from the country’s “foreign policy activism,” which in turn emerged “from being confident in its decisions and approach” to regional and global affairs. He added that this approach might not please Washington, “but that’s the way things are going to be from now on.” Abdulla went on to describe the present scenario as a “post-American world [and] post-America Gulf,” which “translates into also more of China, in the region and throughout”.

Iran and the JCPOA negotiations

Towards the end of February this year, the talks in Vienna on reviving the nuclear agreement with Iran, technically called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), that had started in April 2021, seemed to have reached their final stage. Following the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine from February 24, the negotiators attempted to insulate the discussions in Vienna from the conflict, even though Russia was a member of the P4+1.

On March 5, the Ukraine war seeped into the conference room when Russia sought written guarantees that the sanctions imposed on it due to the war would not affect its role in the implementation of JCPOA. The reference here was to the JCPOA provision that Iran would ship its extra enriched uranium to Russia, and the latter would also help to downgrade the Fordow nuclear facility to shift it from its weapons potential to medicinal use.

It took 10 days for this matter to be resolved—with Russia’s role in the JCPOA being reconfirmed. During this period, Russia was castigated in the Western media for seeking to deliberately scuttle the agreement at the last moment. That this was just posturing became clear when, nearly a fortnight after the Russian

issue was resolved on March 14, the nuclear agreement has not been finalised.

Israel and some Arab states, possibly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, want the talks to fail so that the sanctions on Iran are not lifted, and Iran’s role in regional affairs remains restricted. But the argument against this position is that it is far better to restrict Iran’s weapons programme than live with the constant threat of it opting to develop nuclear weapons. US withdrawal from the JCPOA only encouraged Iran to violate the JCPOA provisions and enrich uranium up to 60 percent—just short of weapons grade.

The challenge of food security

While political positions, engagements and alignments are being pursued among different actors in West Asia and North Africa (WANA), the dark cloud haunting the entire region is the threat to its food security. Russia and Ukraine together provide 40 percent of the region’s wheat imports. The dependence of some countries is even higher. The conflict has exacerbated the existing problem of hunger: 55 million people in WANA experience hunger, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Linked with the disruption in food supplies is the problem of rising prices; in war-torn Yemen, Australia has quoted for wheat supplies at USD 600 per tonne, as against the pre-war Ukrainian price of USD 255 per tonne. Given the sensitivity of food prices in a country where a third of the population is below the poverty line, in Egypt the staple flat bread is heavily subsidised, with consumers paying just a tenth of the production cost: the annual subsidy on bread is USD 3.2 billion; in the 2021-22 financial year, the additional cost will be nearly USD 700 million.

Not surprisingly, given that the Arab Spring uprisings a decade ago were triggered by a region-wide economic crisis, some commentators are suggesting that the Ukraine war could aggravate popular discontent.

Outlook for WANA

A month after the commencement of the Ukraine war, the principal feature of politics in West Asia has been the attempts of the principal regional states to maintain a balance as between the US and Russia, basing their position variously on “strategic diversity,” “strategic selfishness” or just plain hedging. Despite considerable US pressure and behind-the-scene cajolery, none of the states concerned has rushed to the US embrace—an extraordinary exhibition of independence of action.

What the region has witnessed has been a flurry of interactions, with national leaders sitting in bilateral and even trilateral conclaves to exchange views and assessments. Their most immediate concerns relate to the Ukraine war and the JCPOA and, related to that, Iran’s role in regional affairs. The most interesting conclave has been the one that brought together Egypt, the UAE and Israel at Sharm el Sheikh, but, before the Ukraine conflict we had seen Iraq, Jordan and Egypt announcing an economic and political partnership, while Iran could still bank on its support bases in Syria and Iraq, even though the latter was wearing thin under popular pressure.

What is different about these alignments from the Trump era is that, earlier they had constituted conflictual battle lines—Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt were ranged against Iran, Iraq, Syrian and the militia, Hamas and Hezbollah. At present, none of these alignments is inherently conflictual.

The second change in the region is that the influence of political Islam, as represented by the Muslim Brotherhood and its diverse affiliates, has largely abated. This absence of ideological competition has opened opportunities for new interactions, with Turkey and Qatar now open to fresh interactions with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt, as also with Israel.

The third feature of regional affairs is the long-term value that each regional player attaches to ties with Russia and China: based on the solid foundations of energy, trade, investment and logistical connectivity initiatives, for each country these ties have begun to include a strategic content—increasing dialogue on political matters and expanding defence ties. These relations, taken together, constitute a significant change from a few years ago when the US was the sole go-to partner for most regional states.

Commentators are generally baffled about the shape of things to come. Most suggest, somewhat lazily, that the present-day assertions of autonomy by regional states will be short-lived and they will fairly soon re-join the US alliance. This assessment has misread the powerful signals emanating from national capitals—West Asia has truly changed.

A longer version of this article has been published on the India Narrative, a news and views website.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Engineering Division

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

Memo No. 12.21.0000.035.02.724.22.5118

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ

America, Grassroots Activism and the Creation of Bangladesh

It is incumbent upon historians to do more than simply compile documents and reprise well-worn statements like “Nixon and Kissinger were against us, but the American people were with us.” What is needed is a much greater focus on integrating the story of the Liberation War into broader histories of the post-Second World War period and positioning it in conversation with other comparable conflicts to understand how international society responded (or failed to respond) to such emergencies.

SAMUEL JAFFE

Henry Kissinger once wrote that “history is the memory of states”. In this vision of the past, it is the decision-makers and occupants of the seats of political power whose thoughts and feelings matter. This, in my view, is a myopic vision of history. The memories of a state are not enough to understand the past. They exclude the powerful, everyday stories of ordinary people.

As historian Howard Zinn wrote: “If history is to be creative, to anticipate a possible future without denying the past, it should...emphasize new possibilities by disclosing those hidden episodes of the past when, even if in brief flashes, people showed their ability to resist, to join together, occasionally, to win.”

It is this spirit that animates my recently published book, *An Internal Matter: the United States, Grassroots Activism, and the Creation of Bangladesh* (UPL, 2021), which draws upon new interviews and previously unexamined archival materials to chart the efforts of hundreds of American activists who supported Bangladesh’s cause in 1971. To glimpse this spirit in practice – consider the following two perspectives.

In May, 1971, the scholar Mary Frances Dunham sat down at her home on New York’s Upper East Side to write a letter to the First Lady of the United States. Her reason for writing, she explained, was the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh where for the past two months the forces of Pakistan’s military government had been attempting to suppress the widely supported Bengali movement for self-determination. Advising Mrs. Nixon that American support for Pakistan was fuelling the suffering of millions, Mary Frances wrote:

“Like funerals, the recent disasters in East Pakistan (the cyclone and revolution) have brought together Americans who once lived and worked there. We are deeply concerned that our country not repeat past mistakes and that we act more wisely and more firmly than we have in the past in view of the present tragedy.

Widely scattered geographically, informally silenced by organizations for whom we work, it has been especially difficult to make

a missive to local newspapers, also calling for the US to rethink its support for Pakistan:

“The struggle that is now going on in Bangladesh is part of the general world-wide movement for liberation from colonial domination. It is no different from the struggle that the American people waged against their distant rulers two centuries ago.

Like the British colonies in America, East Pakistan is being bled white in the interests of alien rulers a thousand miles away. Like you, we are having to pay taxes to a distant government indifferent to our welfare, without any right of representation. Like you, we have decided to exercise our right of self-determination. Like you, we will prevail, no matter the cost.

Knowing the great traditions of the American people, the people of Bangladesh have no doubt that the American government and people will do their best to arrest the monstrous genocide in Bangladesh.

Time, however, is of essence. If innocent human beings have to be saved, the time for action is now. In the name of humanity, we appeal to you to use your influence as a world

What bound all activists who mobilised in America during the Bangladesh crisis was a deep sense that the crisis occurring thousands of miles away in East Pakistan was layered in injustices. The injustice of the democratic aspirations and rights of a people being stifled by a military dictatorship, the injustice of seeing their friends and families driven from their homes by military force, and the injustice that moved the Nixon administration (and numerous other governments) to treat such acts of violence and genocide as “an internal matter” for Pakistan. For these activists, the East Pakistan crisis was not some small feature of internal Pakistani politics, but was, rather, a matter for all humankind and something which compelled those who opposed militarism and genocide to speak out.

Motivated by these injustices, throughout the nine months of the war, activists mobilised across America to raise awareness about the struggle in Bangladesh and press American lawmakers to challenge the Nixon administration’s continued support for Pakistan. Initial efforts in the wake of Operation

legislation that would cut off aid to Pakistan as they sensed that Bangladesh was quickly shifting from being an idea and a slogan into a reality. The assistance of a delegation of diplomats from Bangladesh’s government-in-exile in Washington and at the UN in New York helped very much in making the country’s case to other nations. In the event, however, the birth of Bangladesh came before the new laws, which activists had spent thousands of hours raising awareness about and supporting, could come into effect. This was far from failure, however, and many rightly felt that their efforts to keep the American public and senior politicians informed throughout the conflict had made an important difference in pressuring the US (and ultimately other nations) to soften their support for Pakistan, thereby supporting Bangladesh’s victory.

The foregoing passages should indicate the range and depth of actions that characterised American activists’ efforts during the creation of Bangladesh. But what next for histories of the Liberation War overseas? In my view, as a new generation of Bangladeshi scholars takes up the task of understanding the defining event in their country’s past and ever greater numbers of foreign scholars “discover” the Liberation War, it is incumbent upon historians to do more than simply compile documents and reprise well-worn statements like “Nixon and Kissinger were against us, but the American people were with us.” What is needed is a much greater focus on integrating the story of the Liberation War into broader histories of the post-Second World War period and positioning it in conversation with other comparable conflicts to understand how international society responded (or failed to respond) to such emergencies.

Here, several other opportunities also come to mind. First, there is a pressing need to examine the non-governmental side of the conflict in greater depth and use such organisations’ archival collections, which are invariably located abroad and which historians have largely ignored. The archives of Oxfam and CARE in Oxford and New York, respectively, are rich with materials relating to 1971, but remain relatively unexamined. Scholars must access and traverse these materials, asking how humanitarian NGOs, development organisations, and international institutions responded to the Liberation War and shaped the process of post-war reconstruction.

Moreover, the tendency that Srinath Raghavan notes in his global history of 1971 to temporally extract the war from all its surrounding contexts except the inevitable march of Bengali nationalism has a stifling effect on the ways in which historians can envision the Liberation War. Attempting to view the cyclone, the war, and immediate period of reconstruction as a single, interconnected whole would, I feel, have a positive effect on the range of stories that historians can tell about the conflict.

In any event, although historians have hitherto paid them little attention, the activists who mobilised for Bangladesh in America during the Liberation War cannot forget the events of 1971 and nor should we. From sewing Bangladeshi flags in living rooms to briefing the highest officials in Congress and the World Bank. From carrying guitars at the Concert for Bangladesh to editing speeches for Edward Kennedy. From the invisible labour of private lobbying to inescapably visible statements of protest: people fasting in front of the White House and using mock “sewer activists” like Bengali refugees, in canoes trying to block ships from docking to collect weapons, and marches through the streets of New York. Each action and each activist, motivated as they were by a profound sense of injustice at the events in Bangladesh and the US government’s callous response, contributed in their small way to the struggle for and the creation of Bangladesh.

Samuel Jaffe is an independent scholar based in New Zealand. He holds a dual MA/MSc in International and World History from Columbia University and the London School of Economics. “An Internal Matter”: The United States, Grassroots Activism and the Creation of Bangladesh is his first monograph and is available to be purchased via UPL, Amazon and Rokomari.



Protesters chant slogans in Philadelphia against the US government’s policy on supporting the Pakistani military dictatorship, 1971. Photo: Courtesy of Arif Yousuf



George Harrison performs at the Concert For Bangladesh, 1971.

power to stop the indiscriminate killing of thousands of innocent civilians.”

Two pleas – one to perhaps the most powerful woman in the country, the other to the American people at large. United in their concern for a conflict that drew comparatively little attention from most Americans compared with the more pressing Vietnam War, the words of Mary Frances Dunham and the A.L.B. offer a glimpse into the grassroots response and activism that the conflict in Bangladesh provoked in the USA.

While many activists fought to help create Bangladesh, a new country that would be free from what they saw as decades of Pakistani tyranny, others were more concerned with the damage that US support for Pakistan would do to America’s reputation abroad and for the stability of South Asia. Yet the stories of such activists, the many Bengalis and Americans who spoke out for Bangladesh and against US policy in 1971, remain relatively hidden in existing histories of the war.

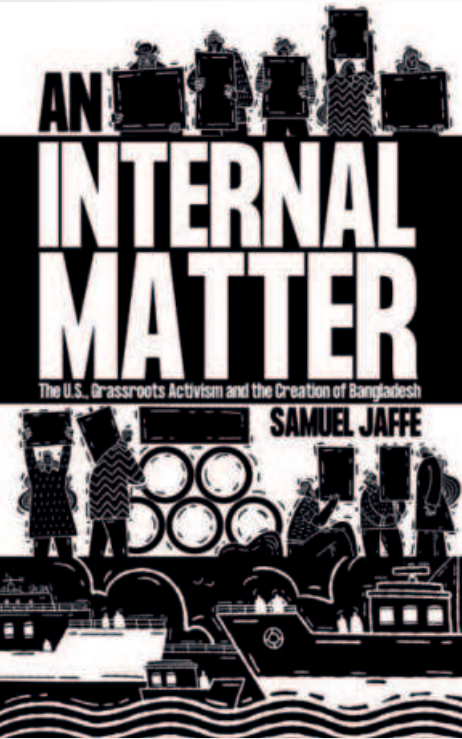
Searchlight focused on channeling first-hand information from Bangladesh to the halls of power in Washington.

This concerted lobbying effort saw Bengalis and Americans working together to provide sympathetic politicians with an alternative picture of what the US State Department dismissed as “an internal matter” for Pakistan – one in which American economic and military assistance was actively fuelling the brutal repression of Bengali nationalism and damaging America’s reputation around the world. Encouraging lawmakers to support legislation that would cut off all aid to the Pakistani regime was the primary aim of many such grassroots lobbyists.

What transformed the crisis in Bangladesh from yet another far-away conflict that Americans could ignore into something that attracted major humanitarian concern, however, was the flight of millions of refugees into India throughout the summer. Indeed, Indira Gandhi said in mid-1971 that, due to the “cruel tragedy” unfolding in “Bangla Desh,” the refugee crisis could no longer be treated as an “internal problem” for Pakistan, arguing instead that it was both “an Indian problem” and a “world-wide problem” which threatened the peace and security of the entire region.

Again, grassroots activists played an important role in making the plight of Bengali refugees known to the American public and to US lawmakers who could try to influence foreign policy. As had occurred during the Nigeria-Biafra crisis in the late 1960s, refugees emerged as physical objects of humanitarian concern (they were far less abstract than sterile debates about foreign assistance legislation), inducing a host of different activists to raise awareness and funds for refugee relief. Accordingly, the summer of 1971 witnessed major rallies (including the Concert for Bangladesh), advertising campaigns and editorial wars in newspapers between Bangladeshi and Pakistani activists, and substantial fundraising activities. The visits of US politicians to refugee camps were also particularly helpful to activists’ efforts. In June, for example, Cornelius Gallagher became the first high profile US congressman to visit India and tour the refugee camps near Kolkata, saying that “after meeting some of the evacuees I am now convinced that terrorism, barbarities and genocide of no small magnitude have been committed in East Bengal.”

The final months of the war saw a renewed focus on activists supporting the passage of



Cover of Samuel Jaffe’s book “An Internal Matter”: The United States, Grassroots Activism and the Creation of Bangladesh.

ourselves heard. Yet we have insights and information which only persons who have lived for some length of time in Bengal can have. We are educated and intelligent Americans, former employees of the US Government, of international agencies, of a wide variety of missions, private foundations and companies – professors, doctors, specialists.

We who have lived there have witnessed the chronic misunderstanding between the West and East Pakistanis and the oversimplified aid pattern from America which only encouraged an economic rift between them. We were not heeded in Pakistan, and we desperately want to be heeded now. The lives of many million[s] [of] people and one of the world’s richest cultures hang in the balance.”

For Mary Frances, who along with her family had lived in Dhaka from 1960-67, the tragic conflict in East Pakistan was anything but remote. It cut to the core of America’s role in the world. Singling out the influence of continued US economic and military assistance to Pakistan and the dangers of short-term political thinking, she impressed upon Mrs. Nixon the importance of allowing Americans with an intimate knowledge of East Pakistan to be heard: “without wisdom [American] generosity will be misused again.”

Around the same time, on the other side of the country in Glendale, California, a group of Bengali students and professionals, the American League of Bangladesh (A.L.B.), issued



With canoes and dinghies, the Americans and their Bangladeshi friends, risking their lives, surrounded a Pakistani freighter and stopped it from reaching the Port of Baltimore for collecting weapons, 1971.

Tigresses exit with heads held high

SPORTS REPORTER

England secured a place in the ICC Women's World Cup semifinals with a crushing 100-run victory over Bangladesh in their final group stage match in Wellington yesterday while India were denied a place in the final four by South Africa after a last-ball thriller in Christchurch.

Defeat spelled the end of Bangladesh's maiden ODI World Cup campaign, but the debutants did well as they finished seventh in the table and with a historic nine-run win over Pakistan to their name. The Tigresses lost all their other matches, but showed glimpses of brilliance with the ball during thrilling encounters against West Indies, Australia and South Africa. Meanwhile, players from the West Indies were seen dancing and celebrating



Prime Bank's Anamul Haque achieved the third-highest individual score in Bangladesh's List A cricket as he shone during his 142-ball 184 against Shinepukur Cricket Club at BKSP's ground 4 in a Dhaka Premier League match yesterday. However, he would be gutted to have missed out on surpassing Soumya Sarkar's record 208-run knock for Abahani in 2019.

PHOTO:FIROZ AHMED

SEMI-FINAL FIXTURES
March 30: Australia vs West Indies
March 31: South Africa vs England



Bizarre incidents in SPOTLIGHT AGAIN

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

While Bangladesh fans are allowing themselves a rare moment of joy after the Tigers' historic ODI series triumph in South Africa, the focus yesterday turned sharply back to the domestic circuit for all the wrong reasons.

While Anamul Haque Bijoy struck a magnificent 184 for Prime Bank against Shinepukur Cricket Club, it was overshadowed by the circumstances that had been prevalent in the domestic circuit for a long time. In fact, both games played yesterday were subjects of controversy.

In the 40th over of the game between Prime Bank and Shinepukur, Mohammad Mithun was batting with Anamul on 183 at the non-striker's end. Mithun skied an Alauddin Babu delivery and the batter was so sure the catch was going to be taken by wicketkeeper Mahidul Islam Ankon, he proceeded to walk away to the dressing room.

However, Ankon leisurely got under the delivery and appeared to just let the catch go, not even getting a hand on it. The wicketkeeper immediately signalled that the sunlight had hit his eyes as Alauddin stared on in disbelief.

While there is obviously no conclusive evidence of foul play, it appeared the wicketkeeper was not keen to take that catch. Mithun went on to add 30 more

runs from 16 deliveries before Prime Bank won by a massive 111 runs.

The other game saw an incredible leg-before decision being given when the ball had actually taken an inside-edge. Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity were batting in chase of Abahani Limited's 261 for nine when an Arafat Sunny delivery took Hasanuzzaman's inside-edge and ran down to fine leg.

No appeal was made by the bowler, who

Ankon leisurely got under the delivery and appeared to just let the catch go, not even getting a hand on it. The wicketkeeper immediately signalled that the sunlight had hit his eyes as Alauddin stared on in disbelief.

instead looked to be contemplating just how close he was to getting a wicket. A few fielders went up with half-hearted appeals but on-field umpire Masudur Rahman raised the finger. Much to his surprise, Sunny turned around to find he got a wicket. The match ended in a 20-run win for Abahani at BKSP.

The two incidents became immediate topics of discussion on social media,

with the umpire's call even going viral. The latter incident also came under the notice of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM). It informed to The Daily Star that the umpiring committee had been notified and the umpire in question had been called for a hearing.

"We were notified about the incident and it also went viral on social media. The umpire in question is a very good umpire with a good track record. He has been called to a hearing tomorrow to shed light on the incident," CCDM chairman Salahuddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

Incidents such as these have over the years given rise to doubts about whether the Dhaka Premier League is truly competitive.

Last year, Mohammedan's Shakib Al Hasan kicked down the stumps in anger during a DPL match. While his behaviour was admonished around the cricket community, it brought fresh realisations of the inconsistencies in the country's domestic circuit.

Anamul, who secured his 14th List A ton during a smashing 142-ball 184 and could have been the second batter after Soumya Sarkar to score a double ton in Bangladesh's List A cricket should have been the focus of the day, but DPL incidents turned attention to darker realms.

Kane moves closer to goal record

AFP, LONDON

Gareth Southgate says Harry Kane deserves to be ranked among England's all-time greats after he moved closer to becoming the Three Lions' record goalscorer with the decisive penalty in Saturday's 2-1 friendly against Switzerland.

Kane netted from the spot late in the second half at Wembley to reach 49 England goals, moving him ahead of Gary Lineker and into a second-place tie with Bobby Charlton.

Only Wayne Rooney, with 53 goals, has scored more times for England and it would be little surprise if Kane broke the record later this year.

England captain Kane, who made his international debut seven years ago this month, has reached 49 goals in just 68 appearances, while Manchester United legend Charlton took 101 to hit that total.

"The names he is amongst are incredible. He would appreciate that history and it will mean a lot to him. You would have to say he looks favourite to do that. I don't want to put a curse on it by saying anymore!" Southgate said.

While Kane admits he would love to break Rooney's record, it is the World Cup winners' medal earned by Charlton in 1966 that would mean the most to the Tottenham star.

"I always say it's amazing company to be with. I'm proud to be doing that and to be among those names," Kane said.



West Indies clinch series with 10-wicket victory

AGENCIES

West Indies clinched the Botham-Richards Trophy with an emphatic 10-wicket victory over England in the deciding Test of the series on day four in Grenada on Sunday.

Kyle Mayers was the unlikely destroyer of England's second innings with a first-ever five-wicket haul after Joshua da Silva's maiden Test century.

Chasing a token target of 28 in their second innings, West Indies reached it without loss, captain Kraigg Brathwaite hitting the winning runs to seal a 1-0 series triumph.

It was a stunning result for the home team after being outplayed in the first two drawn Tests, and ensured another barren England trip to the Caribbean. England have only one series win in the West Indies in the past half-century, a 3-0 victory in 2003-04.

With the ecstatic home fans dancing in the stands, the England players shook hands with Brathwaite and John Campbell.

Even before the England team trudged off the field in dismay, however, commentators were calling for Joe Root to step down as captain.

Although one of the world's best batters, with a test average of nearly 50, Root has rarely looked a natural leader and has earned a reputation as an unimaginative captain.

Onus on openers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's openers will have a task as crucial as the pace-bowling department's, with both expected to play major roles as the Tigers seek a first-ever Test win in the tough South African conditions when the two-match Test series begins from March 31 in Durban.

Although Bangladesh have lost all six of the Tests they have played in South Africa, the recent ODI series win over the hosts raised the bar. Coupled with the historic Test win in New Zealand earlier this year, the Tigers can afford to dream bigger than ever this time around.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy showed glimpses of his ability as an opener in the Mount Maunganui Test, facing 228 deliveries during his 78-run knock in the first innings. More importantly, the 21-year-old showed great technique and temperament in dealing with a quality New Zealand pace attack,

Although Bangladesh have lost all six of the Tests they have played in South Africa, the recent ODI series win over the hosts raised the bar. Coupled with the historic Test win in New Zealand earlier this year, the Tigers can afford to dream bigger than ever this time around.

providing the assurance needed to negotiate the new ball.

According to selector Habibul Bashar, the team management's challenge is to find a settled opening pair for the upcoming series, a task perhaps made easier by the return of the experienced Tamim Iqbal, who played his last Test against Sri Lanka in 2021.

"Look we have got a very good opening pair in ODIs with of Tamim and Liton [Das], but we are looking to find a settled opening pair for Tests and T20s as well. Mahmudul

has just started, so it would be too early to comment on him. But Tamim's inclusion is certainly a big boost for us, not just because of his experience but the skill he offers. It will certainly help us get stability at the top," Bashar told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

The rain in Durban over the past few days continued yesterday, forcing the Tigers to spend time in the gym. Those overcast conditions may provide more assistance to pacers and the extra movement from the surface may compound the pace threat that Bangladesh will face.

"It might sound different, but it's a fact that our batters play better when the ball comes onto the bat than they do on slower tracks. If there is seam movement, the batters will have to face the challenge, but that is true for both teams.

"We are prepared for fast and bouncy tracks. It will be important to negotiate the new ball in the initial 10-15 overs because the ball can do a lot in such conditions. If we get that solid platform at the top, it will help us stamp our authority," he said.



A group of porters unloading watermelons from a boat in the capital's Sadarghat. Traders purchase every 100 watermelons for Tk 17,000 from the vessel. This thirst-quenching fruit is always in demand during the peak of summer.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Justice Sinha 'has 3-storey building in New Jersey'

ACC claims he laundered money to buy home

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Seven months after tendering his resignation on November 10, 2017 from the post of chief justice, Surendra Kumar Sinha had bought a three-storied building in the US for \$280,000.

Investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission found he bought the house in Paterson, New Jersey with illegal money.

Of the \$280,000, \$256,468 was transferred from Indonesia and Canada to Sinha's younger brother Ananta Kumar Sinha's account with Valley National Bank's Paterson branch between March and April of 2018.

The bank found the transactions to be suspicious and froze the

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Voter list update begins on May 20

EC workers to go door-to-door

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission (EC) will start updating the voter list from May 20 and this would be the last registration of prospective voters before the 12th parliamentary election.

Enumerators of the EC will go door-to-door for three weeks from May 20 to collect information on prospective voters in 135 upazilas, Ashok Kumar Debnath, additional secretary to the EC, told The Daily Star.

Once all information has been collected in the 135 upazilas, the enumerators would move to the remaining districts.

This time representatives of EC would collect data of citizens who were born on or after January 1, 2005, and they would gradually be included in the electoral roll when they turn 18, he said.

Citizens who will be announced voters in March next year will be able to cast their votes in the next general election to be held late next year or early 2024, he added.

Bangladesh currently has over 11.32 crore voters.

The commission will take special measures to prevent Rohingyas from registering as voters, Debnath said.

Talking to The Daily Star, EC officials yesterday said they would form special committees in 32 upazilas of Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts to implement their plan.

Bangladesh already has a list of Rohingyas as they have been brought under biometric registration. The EC would cross-check the list with the updated voter list to identify Rohingyas, they added.

During the door-to-door campaign, enumerators will also collect data of dead voters to deduct them from the voter list.

Enumerators will give prospective voters the dates for visiting nearby registration centres to have their photographs and fingerprints taken for the voter list.

Usually, the EC gets information on eligible voters by going door-to-door.

The EC last collected information in 2019 of people born between January 1, 2001, and January 1, 2004.

A Bangladeshi citizen gets an NID card after enrolling upon turning 18.

The NID card is needed for multiple essential public services such as obtaining utility connections, getting mobile SIM cards, passports and bank accounts.

Foreign powers behind 'conspiracy' to topple govt Pak PM tells rally ahead of no-confidence vote

AGENCIES

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday claimed that foreign powers were involved in the "conspiracy" to send his coalition government packing through a no-confidence motion tabled by the country's joint opposition.

Terming a letter as "evidence" of his claims, Imran said foreign elements are using local politicians and using money to "mend the country's foreign policy".

"I rarely write my speeches... but I wrote this speech today so that I don't get emotional and say anything which can affect our foreign policy," said the premier while claiming that foreign elements were involved in changing regimes in Pakistan.

The embattled prime minister said this while addressing his PTI party's "historic" public gathering in Islamabad amid looming no-trust voting against him in the National Assembly.

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Inspire new gen with our history Says prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for spreading the country's history among the new generation to inspire them to take the country ahead with the spirit of patriotism.

She made the call while inaugurating Mujib Corner at the Special Security Force (SSF) headquarters at the Prime Minister's Office.

Hasina said many of the new generations don't still know the true history of the independence movement as anti-liberation forces tried to erase it for 21 years since Bangabandhu's assassination on August 15, 1975.

"But, truth can't be erased and today it has been proved again... That day is back again," she said.

She said Bangladesh has become a developing country due to the long-term efforts of the government.

The PM said that a lot of historical information has been highlighted in this corner (Mujib Corner) and therefore, those who will come to discharge their duties will be motivated by patriotism.

Prime Minister's Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Affairs Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, her Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus, SSF Director General Major General Md Majibur Rahman, among others, was present.



FARMERS' SUICIDE

Accused 'on the run'

Claim police; lawmaker says inaction of cops 'strange'

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The deep tube-well operator, who is being held responsible by the family of Santal farmer Abhinath Mardi for instigating his suicide in Rajshahi's Godagari Wednesday, has gone into hiding, said police.

Locals said Sakhawat Hossain, operator of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority's (BMDA's) deep tube-well in Ishwaripur village, did not supply water to Abhinath's paddy field which was badly needed.

They added that they saw Sakhawat, also president of a ward unit Krishak League at Deopara union of the upazila, in the locality before Abhinath's wife filed a suicide provocation case against him with Godagari Police Station Friday night.

"We sent a police team to arrest the accused. But the accused somehow got the information that the victim's wife went to the police station to file a case and he fled," Rajshahi SP ABM Masud Hossain told The Daily Star Sunday afternoon.

He said, "It would have been unwise for police to arrest anyone before being accused in a case."

On Friday when police were yet to act on the claim of the victim's family, Rajshahi-2 lawmaker

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Firefighters and locals trying to douse a fire that broke out in a launch at Sadarghat terminal in the capital yesterday morning. No casualties were reported. Launch staffers said the fire might have originated from the air-conditioning unit of a cabin.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

৫০তম ব্রাহ্মের মাইল ফলক, বিডিবিএল এখন মিরপুর-১০ এ

২৮শে মার্চ, সোমবার

শুভ উদ্বোধন

ঠিকানা: কামাল টাওয়ার (২য় তলা)
১৩৯, সেনপাড়া পর্বতা,
রোকেয়া সরণি, মিরপুর-১০, ঢাকা।
(আল-হেলাল হাসপাতালের বিপরীতে)

বেনারসি পল্লী, মিরপুর

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