

# Cholera breaks out in city

Breaches in Wasa supply lines largely to blame

ZYMA ISLAM and MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

A cholera outbreak seems to have returned to the city and is being transmitted by the Wasa water supply system.

So far, the worst affected area is Dakshinkhan, with Jatrabari trailing right behind. Other top areas include Mohammadpur, Sabujbagh and Mirpur.

"In my 36-year-long career, I have never seen so many diarrhoea patients," said Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

"I would call this an outbreak."

The 350-bed hospital has been seeing three times more inpatients coming in daily, while tents strung up on the premises are having to house the rest -- a vast majority of whom should be able to go home within 24 hours.

"About 23 percent of all the diarrhoea patients coming in were found to be infected with the bacteria called vibrio cholerae," said Dr Md Nazmul Islam, line director of Communicable Disease Control department of the Directorate General of Health Services, citing figures from March 8 to 15.

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Exhausted after losing a lot of fluid, five-year-old Fatema falls asleep in a bed at the icddr,b where she was admitted yesterday. The hospital in the capital's Mohakhali has been dealing with a high number of diarrhoea patients over the past few days.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## SANCTIONS ON RAB Abominable move: PM



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down heavily on the US for imposing sanctions on Rab and some of its officials saying that this has been an abominable move.

"I think imposing sanctions after all these successes [containing militancy, drugs, robberies and terrorism] is very much an abominable act," she said while speaking at the 18th founding anniversary of Rab at Shaheed Lt Col Azad Memorial Hall of the force headquarters.

Joining the event from the Gono Bhaban virtually, the PM said Bangladesh has provision of punishment if a member of a law enforcement agency gets involved in any kind of crime.

"But it's a matter of regret that they [the US] imposed sanctions on some Rab members without any fault or cause. In their country they don't take any action against any member of their forces for their criminal activities."

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# Govt chokes on air pollution measures

Clean Air Bill turned into rules

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Bangladesh's air quality has been the worst in the world for two years in a row -- a worrying development that will only become more acute if strict measures are not taken now such as specific legislation to check the menace.

But the government's stance on

checking the menace appears to be half-hearted at best: it set out to enact a requisite act to ensure cleaner air but took a detour mid-way.

The act has now been converted to rules, which stipulate two years' imprisonment and Tk 2 lakh fine for emitting harmful substances into the air.

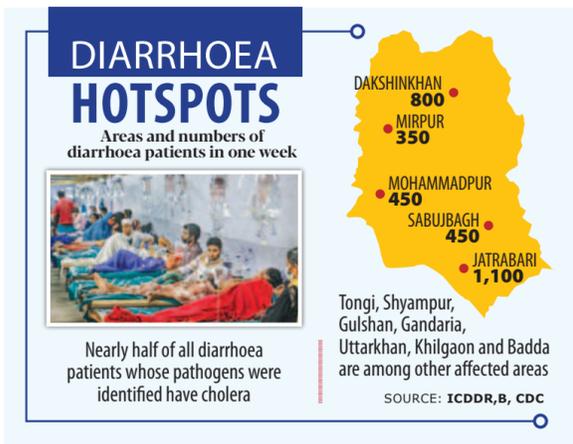
"An act is robust but the rules are

not -- it is just more stringent," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

In 2019, BELA helped the Department of Environment draft the Clean Air Bill, about eight years after the World Bank had recommended one.

An act would be enacted through

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# BANGLADESHI JOURNO, ENGINEER Now in custody of Libyan authorities

SHARIFUL HASAN

Bangladeshi journalist Zahidur Rahman and expatriate engineer Saiful Islam Tipu, who went missing in Tripoli on March 23, are now in the "safe custody" of the Libyan authorities.

The Bangladesh embassy in Libya said it was trying to get them released but couldn't confirm when and how that would be done.

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Zahidur's son Farhan Asif Rahman said State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Md Enamur Rahman told them in the evening that his father was in the custody of the Libyan authorities.

Earlier, the Libyan authorities communicated it to the embassy, said Farhan, a third-year student at a private university.

Zahidur, a special correspondent of private TV channel NTV, is also a director of Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. Enamur is the founding chairman of the private hospital.

Major General SM Shamim-Uz-Zaman, Bangladesh ambassador to Libya, has confirmed the development.

He told The Daily Star last night, "We are in constant contact with

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ZAHIDUR



SAIFUL

# Ukraine pauses evacuations Cites provocation from the Russian side

AGENCIES

Ukraine said yesterday it was pausing evacuations of civilians from war-scarred regions of the country because intelligence reports suggested invading Russian troops were planning attacks on humanitarian routes.

"Our intelligence has reported possible provocations by the occupiers on routes of humanitarian corridors. Therefore, for reasons of public safety, we are not opening humanitarian corridors today," Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said in a statement on social media.

Ukraine also warned that the humanitarian crisis in the pulverized city of Mariupol was now "catastrophic", while signalling grounds for compromise ahead of new face-

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32W602D	(৩২" ইন্টারনেট টিভি)	৩৫,৯০০	৩০,৯০০	ZV-1	(Compact Camera)	৮৩,৯০০	৬৯,৯০০
43W660G	(৪৩" ইন্টারনেট টিভি)	৫৪,৯০০	৪৮,৯০০	Alpha E10L		৯৫,৯০০	৭৯,৯০০
50X75	(৫০" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি ৪K)	৯৪,৯০০	৮৩,৯০০	Alpha 7C		২,০৩,৯০০	১,৬৯,৯০০
55X80J	(৫৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি ৪K)	১,০৯,৯০০	৯৯,৯০০	Alpha 7M3		২,০৯,৯০০	১,৬৯,৯০০
55X85J	(৫৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি ৪K)	১,২৯,৯০০	১,০৯,৯০০	Alpha 7M4		২,৯৯,৯০০	২,৪৯,৯০০
65X80J	(৬৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি ৪K)	১,৫৯,৯০০	১,২৯,৯০০	৫০mm F1.8		২৮,৯০০	২৩,৯০০
65X85J	(৬৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি ৪K)	১,৬৯,৯০০	১,৩৯,৯০০	৪৫mm F1.8		৩৫,৯০০	২৯,৯০০
75X80J	(৭৫" এন্ড্রয়েড টিভি ৪K)	২,৪৯,৯০০	১,৯৯,৯০০	10-18mm		৩৫,৯০০	২৯,৯০০
				24-70mm F4		১,০৯,৯০০	৮৯,৯০০

০৫ বছর সার্ভিস, ০২ বছর ব্যালেন্স ও প্যাসি এর সার্ভিস রয়েছে।

## BENAPOLE PORT 20 hurt in attack on workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Benapole

At least 20 people were injured as miscreants hurled crude bombs on the workers of Benapole Land Port in Jashore's Sharsha upazila, triggering a clash over the responsibility of the port's cargo handling work yesterday.

Import and export between Bangladesh and India and the loading and unloading of goods were halted at the port after the clash broke out and lasted for around three hours till 1:30pm.

Wahiduzzaman Wahid, contractor of cargo handling workers and president of Sharsa Juba League, said a group of miscreants on two minibuses came in front of the main gate of the port around 10:30am and attacked the port workers' union office.

Loading and unloading inside the port stopped immediately as the miscreant started hurling bombs, he said.

Locals said the workers began fighting back immediately, adding that around 70 crude bombs went off during the clash and left at least 20 people, including workers and pedestrians, injured.

Wahid has been involved in a long-standing feud with Rasheduzzaman Rashed, a councillor of Benapole municipality to take over cargo handling work in the port, they said.

Benapole police and officials from Sharsha and Jhikargachha police stations, on information, rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said Jewel Imran, assistant superintendent of Jashore police.

"Rashed led the attack and police are currently looking for him. Three of the attackers have already been arrested."

This correspondent tried to contact Rashed for comments but found his mobile phone switched off.



Ukrainian servicemen walk past the wreck of a Russian tank in the village of Lukyanivka outside Kyiv on Sunday as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues.

PHOTO : REUTERS

### TIPU MURDER

# Motive, mastermind yet to be known

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are yet to find a satisfactory answer from the alleged shooter on the motive and mastermind behind the recent double murder.

Many of the information provided by alleged hitman Masum Mohammad alias Akash in primary interrogation contradicts the findings of detectives, said an official of the Detective Branch of Police.

"A professional shooter and a cool-headed hitman like Masum may mislead us with the information," he told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

A DB officer who is involved with the investigation said they are yet to find the exact motive and the masterminds as the murder plan were executed through the cut-out systems, where people at several layers are involved.

The officer hopes to identify those involved in the second level after the arrest of Masum's associate who drove the motorcycle in which the hitman fled after shooting down former Motijheel Thana Awami League general secretary Jahidul Islam Tipu.

A college student, Samia Afran Jamal Prity, was also killed in the incident at Amtala Masjid

in Shahjahanpur on Thursday.

The hunt for the associate, whose name Masum has disclosed, is on.

Since the murders were perpetrated in the cut-out system, those involved at different levels might be killed to wipe out evidence. So law enforcers have mounted extra vigil in the Motijheel area.

Tipu's wife Farhana Islam Doly, a women councillor in the Motijheel area, yesterday said she along with her children have been living in a sense of insecurity as the masterminds are yet to be identified and arrested.

Rifat Rahman Shamim, the deputy commissioner of the Motijheel division of DB, told The Daily Star that during the preliminary interrogation, Masum admitted that he shot Tipu but could not give a satisfactory answer to the motive behind the killing.

He said he agreed to kill Tipu as those who assigned him promised to get him off the cases he has been facing. But it did not seem logical.

Masum has been placed on a seven-day remand after Mohammad Yasin Sikder, the investigation officer of the case filed over the murders, placed him before a Dhaka court with a 15-day remand prayer.



## Suu Kyi 'in quarantine' after staff tests positive

AFP, Yangon

Detained former Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has skipped three days of her trial in a junta court after Covid-19 was detected among her staff and she was placed in quarantine, a source with knowledge of the case said yesterday.

The 76-year-old's civilian government was ousted in a coup last year that triggered mass protests, and she faces a raft of charges that could see her jailed for more than 150 years.

Currently on trial for alleged corruption, breaching Myanmar's official secrets act and pressuring the election commission, Suu Kyi has not appeared in court since last Thursday, the legal source told AFP.

"Some people in her company have been infected by Covid-19... and so she's kept in quarantine, although she's not infected," the source said.

## Schools to stay open in Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday directed secondary schools and colleges to remain open 24 days into Ramadan, which is likely to begin on April 2.

Schools and colleges usually remain closed throughout the arabic month. But the decision was made to recover the learning losses caused by the coronavirus restrictions, the Secondary and Higher Education Division said in a circular.

The institutions will close on April 26.

In-person classes in schools fully resumed in mid-March after over 720 days of closure in two phases.

The primary and mass education ministry earlier directed primary schools and colleges to remain open until the 20th Ramadan.

## Govt announces Ramadan work hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Work hours at government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions during Ramadan will be from 9:00am to 3:30pm.

Banks will remain open from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

The decision was made yesterday at a cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

## JMB man sentenced to life in prison

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A court in Lalmonirhat yesterday sentenced Ruhul Amin Babu, a member of banned militant outfit JMB, to life in prison.

District and Sessions Judge Mizanur Rahman delivered the verdict.

The convict is from Shamsnagar Munsirhat village in Patgram upazila of the district.

In 2018, Rab members arrested him with a foreign pistol, a magazine with bullets, 77 extremist books, and 250 books related to militancy.

Public Prosecutor Akmal Hossain Ahmed said Ruhul was found guilty of anti-state activities, he said.

## Bill to curb banking fraud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Payment and Settlement Systems Bill 2022 was placed in parliament yesterday with a provision to punish top bank officials for fraudulence committed digitally.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal placed the bill which has provisions for up to five years in prison or a fine of up to Tk 50 lakh, or both for banking fraud.

The owner, director, chief executive, manager, secretary or any other official of a bank can be removed from their position by the Bangladesh Bank, the bill states.

## Govt chokes

FROM PAGE 1

the parliament with a separate entity to execute it. The entity will be held responsible for failing to make the act effective.

But rules can remain ineffective if a clause contradicts any other law. "The rules would be treated as an additional duty of DoE."

Hasan cited the case of China that have managed to fight air pollution after adopting the Air Pollution Control Act in 2013. Between 2013 and 2019, there has been a 29 percent drop in particulate matter pollution on average in China.

"The quality of air has been dropping each year -- there is no scope to sit idle," she added.

Kamruzzaman Majumder, chairman of the Department of Environmental Science at Stamford University and also the founder of the Centre for Atmospheric Pollution Studies, echoed the same.

With the level of air pollution that Bangladesh faces, an act was the need of the hour, he said.

The law ministry initially accepted the bid for a separate clean air bill, said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the environment, forest, and climate change ministry.

But the cabinet division was in favour of rules under the existing law.

"A law is always superior to rules. However, even if rules are executed strictly, there will be a change in the current condition of our air," Chowdhury added. Majumder echoed the

same.

**WHAT'S IN THE RULES**  
The law ministry is now sitting on the draft of the 'Clean Air Rules' under the Environment Conservation Act-1995. Once vetted, the rule will come into effect through a gazette notification.

A National Executive Council (NEC) would be formed. The 26-member council will be empowered to advise, instruct and recommend the ministries, directorates, organisations, establishments and individuals to control air pollution.

The cabinet secretary and additional secretary (pollution control) of the environment ministry will lead the NEC.

The NEC can recommend the restriction on people's outdoor movement, the closure of industries, schools and colleges in particular towns, regions and cities in consideration of air pollution levels.

The director-general of the DoE can direct the potential source of air pollution including industries and projects to set up air quality monitoring mechanisms. Those will be connected to the central monitoring system of the DoE.

The rules also have provisions for measuring the emission level of vehicles during licence renewal. The DoE can recommend the BRTA prevent polluting vehicles from plying on the road.

The law ministry will take the necessary steps to make the rules effective, Abdul Hamid, the director-general of the DoE, told The Daily Star.

## Cholera breaks out in city

FROM PAGE 1

least half of the other half, whose pathogens could be identified, have cholera.

Dr Ahmed points out that summer-time diarrhoea and cholera flare-ups are normal, but this time, it is the scale that made the difference.

On March 26, approximately 1,200 patients visited the hospital, while around the same time last year, there were 600.

In March 2021, it saw a staggering 750 patients in one day.

However, this year the hospital has been logging over a thousand patient visits every single day since March 13.

In Jatrabari's Shuti Khalpar, locals say every other house has diarrhoea. Nearly 30 percent of all patients who visited the emergency ward of the Islamia General Hospital on Dhalpur Road were suffering from diarrhoea, intake records show.

Shuti Khalpar is an area where vehicles are a rare sight, but pedestrians through the broken tarmac. Hawkers with baskets sit smack-dab in the middle of the road, despite it being a major street.

Anybody in the locality, who can afford a Tk 30 five-gallon water canister, purchases their drinking water here.

As a severely dehydrated Sohel Rana was hooked on an IV saline, listless in bed, his colleague wondered what caused this.

"We are bachelors sharing a flat. We work as collectors for a

microfinance NGO. We buy our drinking water, but we use supply water for washing and [sometimes for] drinking," said Rana's colleague.

Nazma Begum, a resident in Shuti Khalpar, held up a glass of supply water with greenish-brown tinge. It smelled mildly of urine, suggesting cross-contamination with sewage lines.

In 2019, Jatrabari's water sample was tested by the local government and rural development (LGRD) ministry. The tests found both coliform and heterotrophic bacteria -- vibrio cholerae is a type of the latter.

Based on their reports, the High Court had demanded an explanation from the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority.

Dr Ahmed said the water is perfectly safe at the source but gets contaminated when being supplied through the network.

Abdul Khaleque, operator of Dakshinkhan's Mollapara water pump, explained how the supply water gets contaminated: "A new pipeline has been introduced a week ago. We have to stop supplying water to the old one when we supply to the new. As a result, sewage water seeps into the pipelines because of negative pressure."

Taslina, a 40-year-old homemaker, gets the supply water in her house. She had just returned home following her treatment at icddr, a few hours before the filing of

this report.

Her block in Mollapara houses 15 families living in adjacent rooms in a row. It had six diarrhoea patients.

"I used to drink boiled water, but I still got sick. The toilet water often gets mixed with the supply water," she said.

Md Muzahidur Rahman, executive engineer of Zone 9, which includes Dakshinkhan, said, "The problem will be solved once the [pipeline] work is finished. We have been notified by the icddr about the outbreak. The situation may improve within a week."

Meanwhile, in Jatrabari's Gobindapur area, the breaches in supply lines are directly caused by the residents.

Hosepipes flow out directly from the side of the Gobindapur water pump and run across the road and to residences. They are stomped on by pedestrians and run over by rickshaws. Resultant holes are temporarily fixed with only duct tape.

Pradeep Kanti Das, a resident in the area, said, "We had to resort to this [hosepipe] because our water comes from another pump from across the highway. As so many heavy vehicles ply the road, we get no water [from there]. All the homes get their water through hosepipes." Pump operator Shipon Miah, standing next to Pradeep while he talked, feigned ignorance about the pipes.

"All our pipes run five feet underground. They are illegal. I know nothing

about this... I came here three months ago," he said.

Pradeep countered, "Wasa officials know about this. None of this is free water. We pay monthly bills for it."

Al Amin, Wasa's executive engineer in Zone-1, said, "We have heard about a diarrhoea outbreak from icddr and have ramped up monitoring. We have checked our systems and found nothing wrong."

"We have still asked the chlorination department to be vigilant. There is a lot of water demand during the summer; so if there are leaks in the pipe, negative pressure causes sewage to seep in. Furthermore, water reservoirs are often unclean."

## Turkey says second mine found floating off its coast

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey yesterday said a second mine which could have come from Ukraine was discovered off its coast near Bulgaria, adding that experts had been sent to defuse it.

Russia had warned more than a week ago that some aged mines that Ukrainians had deployed in the Black Sea against its invading troops had become dislodged from their cables by storms and could drift as far as the Straits of Bosphorus and the Mediterranean Sea.

## Ukraine pauses

FROM PAGE 1

to-face peace talks with Russia in Turkey.

On the ground, there was no sign of respite for civilians in besieged cities, especially in Mariupol, whose mayor said 160,000 people were still trapped inside.

In the southern town of Mykolaiv, under heavy assault for weeks, the bombardments appeared to be easing.

One person was killed and another wounded by overnight Russian bombardment in the Lugansk city of Rubizhne, according to regional Ukrainian officials.

A senior Turkish official said the Istanbul talks were set begin yesterday, but the Kremlin later said they were not likely to begin till today, adding it was important they take place face to face despite scant

progress in negotiations so far.

Mykhailo Podolyak, head of the Ukrainian delegation, told Reuters the start time depended on when the delegations could get there.

Ukrainian officials have repeatedly suggested in recent weeks that they believe Russia could now be more willing to compromise, as any hope Moscow may have held of imposing a new government on Kyiv slipped away in the face of stiff Ukrainian resistance and heavy Russian losses.

Russia's military signalled last week it was shifting focus to concentrate on expanding territory held by separatists in eastern Ukraine, a month after having committed the bulk of its huge invasion force to a failed assault on Kyiv.

Some Rab officials without any crime," she said. In last December, the US Treasury Department slapped sanctions on Rab and seven of its serving and former officials for alleged grave violation of human rights, triggering protests from Bangladesh.

Yesterday, Hasina inaugurated battalion headquarters of Rab-2, -10, -13 and -14, Rab Forces Training School, Rab Heritage Museum having a "Mujib Corner" and also laid the foundation stone of Rab-3 battalion headquarters.

## Abominable

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina said Bangladesh is the only one in the whole world where anyone (from the law enforcement agencies) involved in any crime gets punished.

She added that she does not know whether they (the US) are hurt by the successes achieved against militants, drugs, robbers and terrorists.

"We told them they have to send them [war criminals and killers] back. They gave shelter to them in their country protecting the criminals. But they imposed sanctions on

## Honouring innovators in entertainment

'Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2021' unveiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To honour innovators in the OTT industry and digital space, the "Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2021" was unveiled yesterday.

The awards – presented by The Daily Star and Ispahani – will be the first major attempt in the country at honouring ground-breaking content creators in these spheres of entertainment.

"Content creators, in this era, have access to endless possibilities – they have the freedom to make projects within the scope of their budgets," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"The most wonderful part about OTT is its ease of access and distribution. It takes a lot of determination and courage to open your own OTT platform, and gain popularity within a short period, as many have done. We are proud to be partnered with Ispahani Tea Limited, who are also helping us promote the talented individuals and stars of the digital arena," he added.

Omar Hannan, general manager, marketing at Ispahani Tea Limited, said, "OTT platforms are somewhat new for our audience. Amidst the pandemic, many Bangladeshi contents have done well in the streaming platforms. We felt like these content creators need to be rewarded, and thus, we took the initiative alongside The Daily Star."

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PHOTO: STAR

The unveiling of "Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2021" took place at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The awards will honour content creators across 36 categories, including "Best Film and Dramas", "Individual Category", "Critics Choice", "Director's Choice" and "Music or Songs".

## 'Hold at least one meeting every week'

DNCC mayor directs councillors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam yesterday directed all DNCC councillors to hold at least one coordination meeting every week.

The mayor announced the directive at its 11th board meeting at Gulshan's Nagar Bhaban.

"We have been elected with the mandate of the people, and we must ensure their protection. This responsibility should not be neglected in any way," said the mayor.

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## Highways set to get 'smart'

Intelligent Transportation System to be introduced on Dhaka-Mawa Expressway for traffic management, road safety

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Large LED displays will be set up on highways to notify road users about changes in road and weather conditions, including traffic congestion, accidents and foggy atmosphere. They can also get the information through a mobile app and a dedicated website.

Speed and other vehicular metrics will be detected using a specialised piece of equipment. In case vehicles over-speed, the incidents will be automatically reported to relevant authorities for action.

All these are features of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) that the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is set to introduce for the first time in the country.

On pilot basis, ITS will be introduced on a 40-kilometre section of Dhaka-Mawa Expressway, under a Tk 115-crore proposed

### PILOT PROJECT

ITS to be introduced on 40km section of Dhaka-Mawa Expressway

Cost of proposed project Tk 115cr

Koica to provide Tk 77cr as grant, technical support

RHD authorities expected to start operation within September

Masterplan for ITS to be developed under project

### FEATURES

LED displays to inform highway users

Vehicle speed, other metrics to be detected using specialised equipment

If vehicles over-speed, incidents to be automatically reported to authorities

project. Korean International Cooperation Agency (Koica) will provide Tk 77 crore as grant and technical support.

RHD authorities are expected to start operation of the pilot project within September this year.

An inception ceremony of the project, titled "Improving the reliability and safety on national highway corridors of Bangladesh by introduction of ITS", was held at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Under ITS, modern information and communication technologies are used to facilitate transport infrastructure and vehicles to improve traffic management and safety, as well as reduce traffic jams and road maintenance costs, engineers said.

After attending the ceremony, Nazrul Islam, secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division, said ITS is being used

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## Biman to resume Dhaka-New York flights soon

Says state minister for civil aviation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has taken all preparations to resume direct flights on Dhaka-New York route soon, State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahub Ali has said.

The state minister said this while speaking at an event organised by Biman and Bangladesh High Commission in Canada on the occasion of experimental flight of Dhaka-Toronto route at a hotel in Toronto on Sunday.

He said: "We have come a long way to resume direct flights on Dhaka-New York-Dhaka route."

Besides, he said, the national flag carrier's flights to Japan's Narita, Sydney, Male and Guangzhou will be launched too, the civil aviation ministry said in a press release.

He said Biman will procure state-of-the-art aircraft like other countries.

"Operating flights to Canada was our prestige issue," he said. "Many big countries of the world did not get a slot to fly to Toronto. It is a matter of pride that we have got it," he added.

Dhaka-Toronto flight will be operated three days a week from next June, he added.

About enhancing the country's airport facilities, he said the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will be inaugurated by mid-September, 2023.

The runway of Osmani International Airport in Sylhet has also been extended and work on a new international airport is underway, the minister said.

Cox's Bazar Airport is being developed to international standard to promote international tourism, he added.

"We have brought some reforms in Biman. During pandemic, we have also earned Tk 273 crore even after paying off the debts of 2019," the state minister said.

Meanwhile, RAM Ubaidul Moktarir

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## 'Bangladesh an important partner in diplomacy'

Says EU ambassador at event marking 50yrs of Bangladesh, Germany relationship

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union considers Bangladesh a very important partner in the regional and global diplomatic landscape, as the country has been able to demonstrate its economic and diplomatic strengths in recent years, EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley said yesterday.

The ambassador made the remarks while addressing a discussion on the 50 years of Bangladesh-Germany relationship at a city hotel, organised jointly by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh.

He also said the European Investment Bank is looking to provide sizable low-cost loans to Bangladesh for development financing.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Construction works for a drain are ongoing right outside the boundaries of Central Veterinary Hospital on Old Dhaka's Kazi Alauddin Road. However, as the walls of the hospital have become weaker due to the works, DSCC decided to precariously balance them on a few bamboos.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAR 29



	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

ডিউরেবল প্লাস্টিক লিমিটেড-এর  
পরিবেশক সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে তুরস্কে



আন্তর্জাতিক  
পরিবেশক  
সম্মেলন ২০২২  
চলি একসাথে নতুন উদ্যমে



Durable Plastic Limited (DPL), a concern of RFL Group, manufactures and markets household products. Our first International Distributors' Conference was held at a renowned hotel in Istanbul, Turkey on 24 March. 63 distributors from around the globe attended the conference where Group's Managing Director R N Paul spoke about RFL realising its ambition on becoming a global brand. Executive Director Md. Toukirul Islam, Senior General Manager (Sales) Mohammad Shahalam, and Deputy General Manager (Brand & Marketing) Muhammad Rashed ul Alam participated with other high officials of DPL.

Documentary screening starts at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five documentaries on people's daily lives, occupations and survival will be screened today at the RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University. The exhibition is being organised by the production company "Alo-Chobir-Nri Bhabna", which will also start its official journey through the event. The documentaries to be screened are - Ifat Jarin's "An Untold Story of Banaras", Sharmin Akter's "Hijab", Biplob Roy's "Bede", Noor Jannat's "Banglabazar" and Dipti Sarkar's "Happiness". All the filmmakers are students of different universities.

Biman

FROM PAGE 3 Chowdhury, chief of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation, said the launch of Biman's flight to Toronto will further enhance the friendly relations between the two countries. Faruque Hassan, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said the Dhaka-Toronto flight will be beneficial for Bangladeshi businessmen, students and expatriates. Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, managing director and CEO of Biman, also spoke at the event.

Highways set to get

FROM PAGE 3 for traffic management and is ensuring road safety in developed countries. The government has built the country's first expressway on Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga route and is expanding all major highways connecting Dhaka to six lanes, he said. "In line with the development and practices of developed countries, we are going to introduce this system on a pilot basis for better road management and safety," he told this correspondent. RHD Chief Engineer AKM Manir Hossain Pathan said after successful completion of the pilot project, they will replicate the system on other major highways. Lee Jang-keun, Korean ambassador, and Doh Youngah, country director of Koica, also

spoke at the programme. **THE PILOT PROJECT** An RHD official, who is aware of the project's plans, said they have already sent the project proposal to the Planning Commission for approval. Apart from implementing the system on pilot basis, a master plan for ITS will be developed under the project, he said, wishing not to be named. Eight sets of variable message signs (VMS) will be installed on the 40-km highway, which will display various messages, the official continued. A website will also be developed, from where people will be able to know all the relevant information. Besides, people can also get the information by using a mobile app, he added. Besides, 60 vehicle detection systems (VDS), 24 sets of CCTV cameras

and eight sets of speed enforcement equipment will also be installed on the highways, he informed. The information from these devices will automatically be transmitted to the traffic management centre (TMC), to be established at RHD's headquarters, he added. The information will then be relayed to highway police for the next course of action. This means that authorities can get information about accidents as soon as crashes take place, while the system can help take quick measures. Another RHD official said the equipment has already been prepared in South Korea, as the country will provide them as a grant. Project authorities have already submitted an application for advance

procurement. "It will not take long to do these preparatory works. So, we're hoping to start operation of the pilot project within September, given the project is approved soon," he added.

Hold at least

FROM PAGE 3 Atiul also directed the councillors not to go abroad without permission of the city corporation. The meeting also decided to provide a monthly allowance of Tk 25,000 from DNCC's fund to the family of Md Ahsan Kabir Khan, to bear his children's education expenses till they acquire master's or equivalent degrees. Ahsan died after a DNCC garbage truck ran him over in Panthapath in November last year.

Bangladesh an important

FROM PAGE 3 "The EU and Bangladesh are working on how to smoothen the transition to GSP Plus after the country graduates from its LDC status," said Whitley. He said European businesses are showing more interest in Bangladesh due to its significant social and economic growth. German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Tröster said Germany is offering a specialised climate development partnership to Bangladesh. "Bangladesh is one of the 10 countries being offered the same. The partnership will undertake joint activities to reduce climate vulnerability." Foreign Ministry DG

(West Europe and EU) Faiyaz Murshid Kazi said Bangladesh is looking forward to an enhanced strategic relationship with the EU. Former Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain in his keynote speech said, "Bangladesh-Germany relationship has moved from aid to trade, generally emphasising on core values of democracy, human rights and governance." "As Bangladesh is graduating from its LDC status, it needs skilled human resources now more than ever. Germany - with its technical and vocational education - can come forward to help improve this kind of

education in Bangladesh." He suggested Germany help Bangladesh with Rohingya crisis, technology transfer in industries and climate change. Parliamentary standing committee chairperson on foreign ministry Col Faruk Khan (ret); former ambassador Nasim Ferdous; Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce and Industries Committee Chair Abdul Mukhtar; CGS Chairman Dr Manjur A Chowdhury; FES Bangladesh Representative Felix Kolhitz; and filmmaker Rubaiyat Hossain spoke at the event, moderated by CGS Executive Director Zillur Rahman.

Five killed in road

FROM PAGE 5 died on the way to Khulna Medical College Hospital." Police seized the covered van but its driver fled, he said. In Bandarban, Chotan Sheel (28) from Alikadam upazila, was killed after a SUV hit his motorbike in Lama upazila yesterday morning, said witnesses. The crash killed him on the spot at Badurjhir area on Chakria-Lama road around 10:00am. Sub-inspector Anwar Hossain of Lama Police Station said the body was sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital for autopsy. In Joypurhat,

Moshiur Rahman (38), a veterinarian hailing from Panchbibi upazila, was killed after a pickup van hit his motorbike in the upazila on Sunday night, police said. Polash Chandra Deb, OC of Panchbibi police station, said Moshiur was returning home on his motorcycle. As he arrived at Ramchandrapur village, his vehicle crashed into a speeding pickup around 11:00pm, leaving him injured critically. Later, he died on the way to Panchbibi Upazila Health Complex. The pickup fled the scene after the accident.

Don't click that link!

FROM PAGE 5 Bachchu admitted to have looted huge sums of money by hacking online bank accounts of a number of people, said investigators. For the crime, the arrestees used store-bought pre-registered SIM cards, said a high official of CTTC unit. After hacking a victim's account, Faruk would transfer the money to different MFS accounts, which were withdrawn by Bachchu, the official told this newspaper, requesting anonymity. "We have come to know that Faruk learned the techniques from one of his neighbours, who has around four to five more members in the gang and is wanted in several cases filed over hacking MFSs," said AC Chatak Chakma. "We are now conducting drives to arrest the other gang members," he said. Meanwhile, it was known that Rabby started off as a social media hacker, said investigators. The CTTC team arrested him on March 05. During interrogation, he admitted that he used to hack social media accounts and extorted money from victims before handing the accounts back again. Recently, he started hacking credit cards using details collected from

social media accounts of different people, said CTTC AC Chatak. "Rabby was locally known as hacker Rabby. We've found two separate cases filed against him - one under the narcotic control act and another under digital security act," he said. Chatak also said Rabby has been involved with criminal activities since 2015. On January 18, Rabby hacked credit cards of two separate banks and withdrew around Tk 80,000 and Tk 46,000, separately over three transactions. AC Chatak Chakma said the option of including "add money" on MFS services has opened a loophole for hackers to exploit. Several groups have already become involved with crimes that make use of this, he said. To stop this, "Users must set secure passwords, two-factor authentication and avoid using common passwords that match with personal or family details," said the officer. Cyber Crime Division of CTTC also said they are so far getting complaints from users only. If bank authorities also come forward to work together then such crimes can be stopped.

Honouring innovators

FROM PAGE 3 Didarul Hasan, head of marketing at Ipsahani Tea Limited, talked about the importance of segregation in categories in this event. "We should not confine OTT within the genres of just music, drama and cinema. Entertainment could be anything - starting with travel vlogging, kids' shows and sports. We want to highlight all the positive changes that are happening in the digital space. We want to motivate people to create content, which brings changes in society," he mentioned. Shuvashish Roy, head of business, The Daily Star, talked about the various categories of the OTT awards. "There are a total of 36 categories, starting with 'Best film

and Dramas,' 'Individual Category,' 'Critics Choice,' 'Director's Choice' and 'Music or songs'. People who have uploaded songs on YouTube can also apply in the music and songs category. The eminent jury and audiences will determine the winners from the nominees," said Shuvashish. Sakib R Khan, Hoichoi's country head, and Ajoy Kumar Kundu, COO, Mediacom Limited, also spoke at the event. At the unveiling programme yesterday, renowned directors, media personalities and celebrities were also present. Ashfaq Nipun, Tancem Rahman Angshu, Shawki Syed, Shankha Dasgupta, Shafayet

Mansoor Rana, and Shohel Rana, launched the jingle of the OTT awards at the programme. Prominent actors, including Shohel Rana, Nazifa Tushi, Moutushi Biswas, Khairul Basar, and the cast of Bachelor Point season 4, including director Kajal Arefin Ome, Mishu Sabbir, Ziaul Haque Polash and Chashi Alam were present at the event. Artists will have to submit their nominations through www.ottdawards.thedailystar.net, and they can submit as many nominations as they want. Any content released between the period of July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 is applicable for the awards. The last date for submission is April 31, 2022.

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**e-Zone**  
Servicing Change Managers

E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions. We have a formal agreement with one of the United Nations agency to provide outsourcing services under a third party contract.

We are now seeking applications for a UN Organization from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following vacancies under third party outsourcing contract modality. For detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.

**Title: VACW Planning Officer**  
Duty Station: Dhaka. Contract Duration: 11.5 Months.  
Number of Vacancies: 1 (One), Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.  
Last Date of Application: 4th April, 2022

<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un88.html>

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Principal  
Bhola Technical School & College, Bhola  
Ref No. 37.03.0918.001.07.001.22.103 Date: 24/03/2022

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender has been invited through the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) as follows:

Tender ID No.	Description of works	Invitation date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
677993	Supply of Others Stationary	29/03/2022	12/04/2022	13/04/2022
677432	Supply of Raw Materials & Spare Parts	12:00	17:00	12:00
677441	Supply of Chemical Materials			
677442	Supply of Engineering & Other Accessories			
677445	Supply of Office Accessories	29/03/2022	12/04/2022	13/04/2022
677447	Supply of Education & Learning Materials	12:00	17:00	12:30
677448	Supply of Furniture			
677451	Supply of Sports Materials			

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

Principal  
Bhola Technical School & College, Bhola

The killing

FROM PAGE 5 beside his father's grave in Rangpur yesterday. A large number of villagers took part in the prayers. DMP Mirpur division deputy commissioner ASM Mahtab Uddin said they have made significant progress in the investigation and are very close to cracking the case. Police investigators said they have identified a person involved in the mugging and talked to one of his relatives. Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Mustafizur Rahman of Mirpur police station said they were yet to arrest or detain anyone for interrogation. He said there was no CCTV camera at the spot of the incident.

**World Health Organization**  
Bangladesh

**VACANCY NOTICE**

**World Health Organization (WHO)** invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

**- Executive Assistant - HR & Travel / SSA**

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>  
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.

**WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.**

**United Nations Development Programme**  
জাতিসংঘ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী

**Procurement Notice: Request for Proposal (RFP)**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is in need for the requirement of proposal from interested Companies for the following requirements:

- RFP-BD-2022-006: Contracting a firm for reviewing/developing training curriculum and modules on emergency management systems and developing agency specific Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and their respective Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for functional Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) management. Deadline for submission of proposal is at 4:30 p.m. (Bangladesh Local Time), 12 April 2022.**

Proposals may be submitted on or before the deadline indicated by UNDP in the e-Tendering system. For submission through online e-Tendering system kindly use the following link: <https://etendering.partneragencies.org> and use the username and password provided below to start the registration for the e-tendering. **Username:** event.guest **Password:** why2change

The complete user guide can also be downloaded from the UNDP Bangladesh website in the link below: <https://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/procurement.html>

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Noakhali  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.7500.000.07.007.22-850

**Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 41/2021-22**

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

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
1	677080	LTM	Improvement of Yasin Hazirhat-Sahapur Bazar Road Via Narayan Pur Rik. High School, Sibrampur Bazar Road (Ch. 1935-2320m & 5005-5690m) under <b>Chatkhil Upazila</b> , District Noakhali, (Road ID-475103014) (Salvage price: 164545.00 taka), (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-48)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm
2	677081	LTM	Improvement of Babupur-Amirity road via. Poranpur Madrasha road (Ch. 1875-2875m), under <b>Chatkhil Upazila</b> , District Noakhali, (Road ID-475104050) (Salvage price: 81837.00 taka), (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-49)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm
3	677082	LTM	Improvement of Baishshindur Grammen Tower to Kazi Bari house to East Porkot Hamid Ali Mounshil Bari in front road, (Ch. 0.00-800m) under <b>Chatkhil Upazila</b> , District Noakhali, (Road ID-475105260) (Salvage price: 81837.00 taka), (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-50)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm
4	677083	LTM	Maintenance of Bansa Razzakpur Hazi Bari to Gopal Bari Road-DM Road (Ch. 0.00-1010m) under <b>Chatkhil Upazila</b> , District Noakhali, (Road ID-475105096) (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/MW-51)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm
5	677084	LTM	Maintenance of Islampur Bazar-Shaharasti connecting Road-Dasbandh Road (Ch. 0.00-700m) under <b>Chatkhil Upazila</b> , District Noakhali, (Road ID-475105279) (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/MW-52)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm
6	677085	LTM	a) Improvement of Aboloshi Jamadhar bari-Dhanpur Road (Ch. 0.00-650m) Under <b>Sonaimuri Upazila</b> , Dist: Noakhali (Road ID-475885263) b) Construction of 1 No. 0.625m x 0.600m Culvert at ch. 280m on the same road. (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-53)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm
7	677090	LTM	Improvement of Char Kakra 2 No. GPS to Akota Bazar Road (Ch. 00-950m) under <b>Companiganj Upazila</b> , District: Noakhali, (Road ID-475214063) (Salvage price: 58168.00 taka), (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-60)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm
8	677092	LTM	a) Improvement of Lemua Padua-Bandatta GPS via Karambox Bazar Road (Ch. 00-2000m) Under <b>Kabirhat Upazila</b> , District: Noakhali (Road ID-475905152). b) Construction of 1 No. 0.900m x 0.900m Culvert at ch. 1881m on the same road. (Package No: IRIDP-3/NOA/DW-61)	13-04-2022 12:00pm	13-04-2022 14:00pm	13-04-2022 16:00pm

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

Md. Ekramul Haque  
Executive Engineer  
Phone: 0321-61340  
E-mail: [xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd)

Five killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT  
At least five people were killed in road accidents in three districts during the last two days, according to our correspondents.

In Gopalganj, three people, including two students, were killed after their motorbike collided with a covered van at Sikir Bazar in Kotlipara upazila around 9:30am yesterday morning.

The deceased are Rudra Mahamud (20), Murad Gazi (22) and Nayem Sheikh (21). Rudra and Murad were students of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman Degree College, said police.

Quoting locals, Md Jillur Rahman, OC of Kotlipara police station, said, "Rudra and Murad died on the spot, and critically injured Nayem

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Protesting an alleged attack on one of their leaders, tank lorry workers blockaded Khulna-Jashore highway for two hours from 2:00pm yesterday. This created heavy traffic congestion on both sides of the road. The photo was taken from Khulna city's Khalishpur area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Worker dies in gas explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ngani

A worker died and another was injured in an explosion caused by accumulated gas at an aluminium factory in Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased is Mokhes Uddin (35) and the injured Ripon Fakir (25).

Fatullah Model Police Station OC Rakibuzzaman said the explosion happened at Arafat Metal factory in Nandalalpur area around 8:00am.

Mokhes died on the spot while Ripon was sent to National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

The OC said the explosion was caused by accumulated gas inside the furnace. Legal action will be taken following an investigation.

Contacted, Jalal Uddin, factory manager, said there was no gas on Sunday. The supply started yesterday morning and accumulated in the furnace which caused the explosion.

Don't click that link!

MFS, credit card hacking syndicate busted

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Using the "add money" option of mobile financial services (MFS), several syndicates are looting money by hacking into users' online bank accounts and credit cards.

Since February, the cyber-crime division of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit has received complaints from users of at least five different banks, according to officials.

Within eight to 10 minutes of hacking the accounts, the hackers manage to transfer the money to their own MFS accounts, the officials said.

To accomplish this, the syndicate use "phishing links", which are attractive links and messages to social media users. Once clicked, a victim's personal and accounts details fall right into the hackers' hands.

Another hacking technique involves pure guesswork, termed the "guessing technique", whereby they try to crack a user's name and password by randomly inputting different combinations.

For these, the hackers are using special apps like the "Dictionary Attack App".

CTTC's cybercrime division has disclosed the findings after arresting three hackers in two separate drives, on charge of

hacking an online bank account and credit cards of two more banks.

Based on information, CTTC arrested Omar Faruk (33) and Md Bachchu (27) from Chattogram and Rabby Islam (21) from Natore, Chatak Chakma, assistant commissioner of cybercrime division, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On February 18, Faruk gave confessional statement in court in a case filed with Pallabi Police Station on February 2. He said he was an expatriate who came back home last year.

During interrogation, Faruk and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'The killing was planned'

Say family, friends of dentist Bulbul, demand proper probe

STAR REPORT

Police are yet to arrest or interrogate any accused for the murder of dentist Ahmed Mahi Bulbul in the capital's Shewrapara area on Sunday morning.

When police are still treating the case as a mugging incident, his family, batchmates and friends said the killing was planned, as the dentist, also a construction contractor, recently got hold of a project in Noakhali worth Tk 18 crore.

On Sunday, Bulbul (40) was heading for Noakhali for his contracting work and was killed after leaving the house, when unidentified criminals stabbed his thigh. They snatched a smartphone from him.

However, police said the victim's family is yet to inform them about any suspicion.

At a press conference in Rangpur yesterday, his family, batchmates and friends protested the killing and demanded justice.

Dr Mostafa Alam, a batchmate of Bulbul, said the victim was a friend of the society's poor. As a doctor, he had no enmity with others. But as he owned a construction company, there might have been a dispute.

They urged the government to arrest the killers and demanded compensation for the family, as Bulbul was the breadwinner.

Replying to a journalist's question, Dr Mostafa said M/s Bulbul and Brothers, the deceased's company, got construction work in Noakhali worth Tk 18 crore.

They urged police to take the issue into consideration during the investigation.

The victim's mother Bulbuli Begum was also present at the conference.

**BULBUL LAID TO REST**

Bulbul, son of a freedom fighter, was buried

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



- The syndicate uses "phishing links", which are attractive links and messages to social media users. Once clicked, a victim's personal and account details fall right into the hackers' hands
- Another hacking technique involves pure guesswork, termed the "guessing technique", whereby they try to crack a user's name and password by randomly inputting different combinations
- For these, the hackers are using special apps like the "Dictionary Attack App"



## Janata Bank Limited

### Head Office

Information & Communications Technology Department-System  
110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000  
Tel: +88-02-223356514, Fax: 88-02-9564644, Telex: 675840 JBD BJ  
Website: www.jb.com.bd

### Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

1. Ministry/Division/Institution	Janata Bank Limited
2. Procuring Entity	Information & Communications Technology Department-System
3. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
4. EOI for Selection of	Consulting Firm (National)
5. EOI Ref No.	JBL/ICTDS/Proc-239/PCIDSS/QCBS/2022
6. Date	28-03-2022
<b>Key Information</b>	
7. Procurement Sub-Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method
8. Budget and Source of Fund	Bank Own Fund
<b>Particular Information</b>	
9. Project Name	Selection of consulting firm for PCI DSS Consultation, Compliance and PCI DSS Certification for Janata Bank Limited.
10. Place of EOI Submission	Information & Communications Technology Department-System, Janata Bank Limited, Head Office (20 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Interested firm may view the notice at the website of the Bank. (Website: www.jb.com.bd)
11. Brief Description of the Assignment	PCI DSS for all the card (Debit/Credit/Prepaid) related transactions performed through any interface (i.e. ATM, Internet Banking, e-commerce, mobile banking and digital banking apps if applicable) of payment Switch.
12. EOI Closing Date & Time	20-04-2022 at 12:30 PM
<b>Information for Applicant</b>	
13. Eligibility of Consultancy Firm [Related documentary evidence should be submitted]	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brochures/Company Profile submitted by the Applicants summarizing their facilities and areas of expertise;</li> <li>Descriptions of at least 02 (Two) similar assignments conducted in local banks/ Financial Institutions within last 05 (Five) years (Completion certificate should be submitted);</li> <li>At least 05 (Five) years of overall Experience in similar operating environment and conditions. In case of participating as Joint Venture, each member of Joint Venture should have minimum five (05) years overall business experience and all legal notarized documents related to Joint Venture should be submitted according to Rule-54 of Public Procurement Rule-2008.</li> <li>The Company (Qualified Security Assessor) must qualified by the PCI Security Standards Council (In case of Joint Venture, all the Companies must qualified by the PCI Security Standards Council).</li> <li>The Project Manager should be PCI QSA/CISSP/CISM/CISA certified professional with minimum five (5) years of experience.</li> <li>Detail Organizational Structure.</li> <li>Average Annual Turn Over of the firm(s) during the last five (05) years should be mentioned (Summary sheet of Turnover statement and year wise Audited financial reports of the firm(s) should be enclosed).</li> <li>Must have minimum 10 (ten) employee which at least 02 (Two) PCI QSA should be in the organization as a regular employee. Having more PCI QSA will be preferred.</li> <li>Must have own/partner registered office in Bangladesh.</li> <li>Registration of firm(s) including following legal documents                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VAT registration certificate.</li> <li>Up to date Trade License.</li> <li>Certificate of Incorporation (If any).</li> <li>Latest Income Tax clearance certificate.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>If the applicant fails to submit any of the above (Serial 13.1-13.10) required documentary evidences, their tender/application/proposal would be treated as Non-Responsive.</p>
<b>Procuring Entity Details</b>	
14. Name of Official Inviting EOI	Md. Abdul Alim Khan
15. Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Deputy General Manager
16. Address of Official Inviting EOI	Information & Communications Technology Department-System, Janata Bank Limited, Head Office (20 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
17. Contract details of Official Inviting EOI	Phone: +88-02-223356514, e-mail: dgmitsystem@janatabank-bd.com
18. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOI's.	



(Md. Abdul Alim Khan)  
Deputy General Manager  
Information & Communications Technology Department-System  
Janata Bank Limited

HO-18/2022

GD-600



## BANGLADESH SMALL & COTTAGE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION (BSCIC)

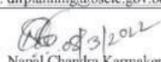
398 Mayor Anisul Haque Road, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208  
www.bscic.gov.bd



মুজিববাহুর স্মরণে  
টেকসই শিল্পায়ন

Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of a firm for i) Feasibility Study of the Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum ii) Drawing, Design and cost estimation of Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries
2. Agency	Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)
3. Procuring Entity Name	Napal Chandra Karmaker, Director (Planning & Research), BSCIC, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
4. Procuring Entity Code	None
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Expressions of Interest for Selection of firm	i) Feasibility Study of the Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum ii) Drawing, Design and cost estimation of Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum
7. EOI Ref No	36.02.0000.034.99.016.22
8. Date	29-03-2022
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9. Procurement Sub Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
10. Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
11. Development Partners	N/A
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
12. Project / Programme Code	N/A
13. Project / Programme Name	i) Feasibility Study of the Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum ii) Drawing, Design and cost estimation of Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum
14. EOI Closing Date and Time	Expression of interest shall be submitted by 12:30 pm (BST) on 17/04/2022 in sealed envelope delivered to Director (Planning & Research), BSCIC and be clearly marked on the top of the envelope "Expression of Interest for Selection of a Firm for i) Feasibility Study of the Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum ii) Drawing, Design and cost estimation of Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum"
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
15. Brief Description of the Assignment	i) Feasibility Study of the Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum ii) Drawing, Design and cost estimation of Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Salt Research Institute & Salt Museum
16. Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Requirement	<p>This is a national project with utmost importance towards the sustainable developed Bangladesh goal, hence the bidder must prove that they have solid feasibility studies experience background and operational strength to undertake and take this work forward without any hindrances. Bidder must also have adequate technical ability, resources, human resources and processes. As such, following are defined as minimum eligibility criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 05 years' experience in Feasibility study and Design &amp; construction business as a registered company/entity in Bangladesh</li> <li>Registered entity with Registrar of joint stock &amp; companies (RJSC) in Bangladesh. Must submit updated Trade license, Income tax and VAT certificate.</li> <li>Must have 04 years practical experience of developing feasibility study for development project and drawing, design &amp; estimation</li> <li>Companies having experience of working with feasibility study/ drawing/ design for development project related to public service delivery and international experience in relevant area will be an added quality.</li> <li>Vendor needs to have at least one existing running or previous (last 6 months) enterprise feasibility study/ drawing/design/cost estimation in Bangladesh in any large corporate Sector.</li> <li>Needs to have full time experienced human resource in business analysis, data analysis and design, EIA assessment specialist, Financial Analyst, Civil Engineer, Architect, Environment Specialist, Planner, management, project management and in support management</li> <li>Assignments, experience, availability of appropriate professional staff and experience among applicant's staff, resources to carry out the assignment.</li> <li>The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the firm shall be Tk.20 (Twenty) lakh.</li> <li>Audit report of the previous year. Yearly turnover of the firm shall be at least Tk.1 (one) crore.</li> <li>Multiple Companies having technical and legal competency for developing such product can bid jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one company needs to master.</li> </ol> <p>Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) authority now invites Eligible Applicants to express the interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants/Vendors are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. This shall require substantiation through submission of brochures and other documents describing similar assignments, experience availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among applicant's staff, resources to carry out the assignment, financial logistical capability, etc.</p> <p>An applicant may associate with other consultants to fulfill their qualifications.</p> <p>A shortlist of consultants will be prepared upon evaluation of EOI's of the eligible applicants and "Request for Proposal along with TOR" document will be issued in their favour. A Consultant/Vendor will be selected using the Quality and Cost Based (QCBS) method. It is expected that the services will commence in 30/04/2022. Total duration of the contract will be for 06 Months. Interested applicants may obtain further information on the requirements including the criteria of short listing by applying to the address below/e-mailing: info@bscic.gov.bd/contacting 01722025849 during normal office hours till 13/04/2022.</p>
18. Other Details (If Applicable)	Not Applicable
19. Association with other firms	Encouraged
20. Phasing of Services	01(one) phase
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
21. Name of Official Inviting EOI	Napal Chandra Karmaker
22. Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director (Planning & Research)
23. Address of Official Inviting EOI	BSCIC Head Office, 398, Mayor Anisul Haque road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
24. Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Phone: 02223351247 E-mail: dirplanning@bscic.gov.bd
25. The procuring entity reserves the absolute right to accept or reject all EOI's	



Napal Chandra Karmaker  
Director (Planning & Research)  
BSCIC, Dhaka

GD-598



(L) Will Smith accepts Best Actor award at the ceremony. (M) The cast and crew of CODA after winning Best Picture, Photo: Reuters. (R) Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for 'The Eyes of Tammy', Photo: AP.

## 94TH ACADEMY AWARDS

# A showcase of masterpieces, memories, and mishaps

**This year's Academy Awards, hosted by Amy Schumer, Wanda Sykes, and Regina Hall, was a ceremony like no other. With the recent surge in Covid-19 cases, the organisers ensured that the guests were fully vaccinated and had two negative PCR tests in order to attend the much-awaited show.**

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Beyonce kicked off the ceremony from a tennis court in Compton, in honour of tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams, whose childhood is the main theme of "King Richard". Billie Eilish performed a powerful rendition of "No Time to Die", the theme song from the latest James Bond film. The track also earned Eilish and Finneas the Oscar for Best Original Song. This marks the third consecutive Academy Award for music in the long-running espionage franchise.

Sian Heder's "CODA" made history by being the first film from a major streaming



Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi accepts Oscar for Best International Feature Film for 'Drive My Car' PHOTO: REUTERS

service to win an Oscar for Best Picture. The film has been critically acclaimed for fully capturing the heart and soul in its empathetic portrayal of the deaf community. Besides the Best Picture win, "CODA" got recognised for Best Adapted Screenplay and a Best Supporting Actor honour for Troy Kotsur. Kotsur also made history as the first deaf actor to receive an Academy Award.

Jessica Chastain won the Oscar for Best Actress for her transformation into a controversial televangelist in "The Eyes of Tammy Faye". Will Smith received the Oscar for Best Actor for his role as Richard Williams, the ambitious father and coach

of tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams, in the film "King Richard".

Jane Campion's win made her the third female winner of the Best Director award. Ryusuke Hamaguchi's "Drive My Car" became the second Japanese film in history to win an Oscar for International Feature Film.

Eight out of the 23 major awards, including Original Score, Production Design and Film Editing were not presented live during the telecast to make room for more comedy and musical numbers.

Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi blockbuster "Dune" swept six Oscars for cinematography, production design, editing, original score, sound, and visual effects.

The Academy showed solidarity for the people of Ukraine with Reba McEntire's brilliant performance of her nominated song "Somehow You Do". Legends Francis Ford Coppola, Robert De Niro, and Al Pacino reunited on stage in honour of the 50th anniversary of "The Godfather".

Chris Rock was on stage to announce the best documentary feature when he joked about Jada Pinkett Smith appearing in a sequel to "G.I. Jane" because of her hairdo, which was the result of alopecia. In a bizarre and embarrassing fiasco, Will Smith slapped Rock on the face for the joke. Sadly, Smith's big win will be eclipsed by this one moment of weakness.



The slap that overshadowed the awards: Will Smith slapped host and comedian Chris Rock for a joke directed towards his wife, Jada. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## A R Rahman to perform today at Sher-e-Bangla Stadium

BSS

Renowned folk artist Momtaz Begum and legendary band Miles will perform, alongside international musical sensation A R at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium today, in honour of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The event, titled the A R Rahman concert, is being organized by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). BCB was scheduled to host the concert in March 2020, but the plan had to be shelved due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.



## KGF: Chapter 2 trailer promises more fireworks

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As KGF: Chapter 2 looks to have its much anticipated release on April 14, the trailer dropped recently to increase audience expectations. The three-minute long trailer starred Yash, Srinidhi Shetty, Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon and Prakash Raj.

The first film, with the amalgamation of a great storyline, bombastic action sequences and immersive soundtrack broke Indian box office records. With the addition of mainstream Bollywood star, the sequel looks to surpass previous records.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## Unstoppable doctor

Vows to carry on treating patients despite challenges

SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Things were going alright for Jabbar Howladar but fate followed with less rewarding things as his both hands and legs had to be amputated due to gangrene infection.

Jabbar, 59, a resident of Korara village under Azimnagar union of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur, had to go to undergo surgery 21 times for gangrene.

But an ever resilient Jabbar didn't lose hopes and continues to serve the villagers.

Jabbar is locally known as a village doctor and he also runs a pharmacy in Shimulbazar area of the same upazila, one kilometre away from his house. Every day he goes to the pharmacy by a rickshaw with the help of his wife.

Locals come to Jabbar to get free treatment of minor health problems like fever, cold, headaches and stomach ache. Jabbar does not take any fees from his patients. Besides, the patients can buy medicines from his shop at a cheaper rate.

Jabbar's wife Helena Begum, 52, helps him running his medical practice. She also nurses him, feeds

him and helps him move.

The couple has three daughters and a son. Two elder daughters have been married off. His son Sohel Rana, 15, is a ninth grader at a local school and the youngest daughter Subarna Aktar, 6, is a first grader.

Jabbar completed his SSC in science group from Pulia High School in 1984. He accidentally cut a small part of finger while making a bird cage for his younger brother in 1986.

Later, the finger got infected. After that he met a doctor at Mitford Hospital (now Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital) in Dhaka. The doctor gave him some medicines. But the medicines did not work. Consequently, doctors amputated three fingers of his right leg in 1987 after a year of his marriage.

However, the infection could not be contained. Since 1986, infections have spread to different toes of one foot after another and the toes have been surgically removed.

The gangrene infection could not be reversed even after surgeries.

Jabbar said, "My treatment cost near about Tk 13 lakhs. On the other hand, I have been disabled

forever. But I did not want any help from anyone. I always try to stand my own feet even though I have no feet."

"To be self-employed, I started learning how to sell drugs sitting at Al-Amin Pharmacy, owned by one Rokon Akand in Pulia bazar. I garnered the idea about the names of drugs, purchase and sale of medicines till 2009. In 2002, I passed LMAF (Local Medical Assistant and Family) from the Local Health and People's Development Society in Jatrabari area of Dhaka. When Rokon Akand left his drug business, I started my own business in 2009," he said,

"I started my medicine business with Tk 50,000. Now, I have medicines worth Tk one lakh fifty thousand in my shop. I married off two of my daughters and built a one-storied house from this business. Every day I attend 50-60 patients," he added.

Helena Begum said, "I married Jabbar when he was a fit man. It is an irony of fate that his both legs and hands had to be amputated for gangrene. We have passed very hard time after his surgery. We have had to sell our four bighas of land. But now we are happy."



Jabbar Howladar at his pharmacy in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila. Despite losing his hands, legs and land property, the village doctor has turned around pinning on hopes. PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

## Media

FROM PAGE 12

day festival leave each year, 15-day recreation leave every three years, and six-month maternity leave instead of the existing eight weeks.

If any individual or organisation violates the provisions, she/he/it will be fined Tk 50,000-Tk 5 lakh.

Under the proposed law, the government will be able to cancel the licence or registration of a media outlet. Media outlet owners will also face punishment for flouting the law.

Once the new law is passed and signed by the president, jobs of media employees will no longer be regulated by the labour law.

Currently, journalists and employees of media outlets are called "workers" under the labour law.

According to the proposed law, the government can constitute wage boards for media professionals. The wage board will fix their salaries and allowances in line with the salary scale of government employees.

## Slap that overshadowed

FROM PAGE 12

M o m e n t o u s achievements in their own right, these women had their spotlight hijacked, I would argue, by a slap that not only resonated across the world, but also hindered the credibility of this year's Oscars.

The air in Dolby Theatre was stifled when Will Smith, otherwise known as a gentle and tolerant man, slapped comedian Chris Rock on stage. The comedian had compared Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who suffers from alopecia, to G.I. Jane, a character who also happens to be bald.

In a true moment of

irony, he claimed to be a "vessel of love" when he won the award for Best Actor during the programme – after an apology of sorts.

Not all, however, was lost, as many still recognised what the women had accomplished in that fateful night. Jacinda Ardern, prime minister of New Zealand, wished Jane Campion, saying:

"Thank you for once again putting New Zealand on the world stage, displaying just how beautiful our country is with her talent, her skills and her storytelling. It's a phenomenal outcome

and I know we're all very proud of her."

Jane Campion was already a trailblazer, as she was the first female director in the Academy Awards, nominated twice in the category. She was previously nominated in 1994 for The Piano.

The bottom line is, perhaps, that Will Smith and Chris Rock can resolve their problems after the events, at any manner of their mutual consent.

The stars who broke new ground in cinema this year, however, will never have their moment at the 94th Academy Awards back.

## Pickets, police clash

FROM PAGE 12

were preparing to bring out processions. Among them were six LDA activists, who were detained from in front of Khulna Diabetic Hospital, said Khulna Sadar Police Station OC Hasan Al Mamun.

All the detainees were released later, the OC added.

In Narayanganj, at least 10 LDA activists were

injured as police used batons on them in the city's Chashara Gol Chottor area around 6:30am, said Nikhil Das, convener of LDA in the district.

Shahzaman, OC of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, said they dispersed the LDA activists after they blasted crude bombs.

In Chattogram, police barred LDA activists

from holding a rally in New Market area in the morning.

Anny Sen, president of Chattogram district Bangladesh Chhatra Union, said police used batons on demonstrators.

CPB General Secretary Ruhin Hosain Prince told The Daily Star in the evening that police released all detainees at different times throughout the day.

## Now in custody of Libyan authorities

FROM PAGE 1

various Libyan authorities to get updates on Zahidur and Saiful. Around 6:30pm on Monday [Bangladeshi time], we got information from the Libyan authorities that the two were taken into safe custody.

"We haven't met them yet. But the positive thing is that they are safe since they are in the custody of the authorities. This is the first time any government agency has confirmed this. As soon as I learnt about it, I communicated it to the foreign minister in Dhaka. We are trying to have the two Bangladeshis

released."

Libyan driver Mohammad Khaled, who was also missing, has been released, sources said, but officials from the embassy haven't been able to contact him.

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 on March 21, said his family.

He, along with Saiful and Khaled, visited several places in Tripoli and took pictures. All three were picked up from the city on March 23.

Hailing from Narsingdi, Saiful's father Darul Islam, a businessman, has been living in Libya for

34 years. Talking to this correspondent last night, he said they came to know yesterday that his son and the journalist had been in the custody of the Libyan home ministry.

It has also been communicated to them by the embassy, he said.

"Please pray for my son. Pray that he returns to us soon," Saiful's mother Sajeda Khanam said over the phone.

Zahidur's wife Taslima Rahman also demanded

that her husband be returned as early as possible.

[Shariful Hasan is a journalist writing for The Daily Star]

## Ex-president

FROM PAGE 12

According to the case statement, Mosharrarf took a Toyota Land Cruiser worth about Tk 95.58 lakh as gift and 5,000 Canadian dollars as bribe from Niko in 2005. Kashem helped Mosharrarf to cause loss to the government exchequer, it said.

## Taliban ban Afghan women flying alone

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban have ordered airlines in Afghanistan to stop women from flying unless accompanied by a male relative, in the latest crackdown on basic human rights by the country's new rulers since seizing power.

The hardline Islamists have imposed sweeping restrictions on freedoms, mostly targeting women, and on Sunday also ordered local television channels to stop broadcasting BBC news bulletins.

Over the weekend, they also decreed that men and women could not visit parks in the capital on the same days. A spokesman for the Taliban's religious enforcers denied ordering the flight ban, but two travel agents told AFP they had stopped issuing tickets to solo women travellers.



Civilians, who volunteered to join the Territorial Defence Forces, receive a weapons training by an instructor, in Lviv, Ukraine, yesterday. More than 3.8 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion a month ago, UN figures showed yesterday, but the flow of refugees has slowed down markedly.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## BID TO REMOVE PAK PM No-trust motion moved in House Debate on March 31

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's parliament took up a no-confidence motion moved by opposition lawmakers yesterday in a bid to remove Prime Minister Imran Khan, pushing the South Asian nation closer to political turmoil.

The House will begin a debate on the motion on Thursday and a vote is to be held within seven days.

"The prime minister ceases to hold his office after he has lost the confidence of this house," opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif said, reading from the no-confidence motion telecast live on television.

The vote comes as Pakistan faces a recurring economic crisis, with Khan's government banking on the International Monetary Fund to release the next tranche of a \$6 billion rescue package to shore up dwindling foreign currency reserves.

Khan, 69, a former captain of Pakistan's national cricket team, lost a parliamentary majority with a series of defections from his party, and a united opposition is calling on him to step down. He has vowed to fight to stay put.

He has blamed a foreign-funded conspiracy for trying to topple his government. China is a long-time supporter and Pakistan, a traditional ally of the West, abstained from voting as the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly reprimanded Russia for invading Ukraine.

Nearly 20 of Khan's lawmakers have defected and his main coalition partners have suggested that they might join the opposition, making him short of 172 votes, a simple majority needed in parliament to hold on to power.

The opposition says it commands 163 votes and can get more.

The government has sought a court intervention to bar the defectors from voting against the party under an anti-defection law.



"A new round of negotiations is ahead, because we are looking for peace. Really. Without delay. As I was informed, there is an opportunity and a need for a face-to-face meeting already in Turkey."

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky

## WORRIES OVER IRAN US, ME allies show unity in Israel



AFP, Sde Boker

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a show of unity with Middle East allies at a rare Israeli-hosted summit yesterday, hoping to allay their misgivings about an emerging Iranian nuclear deal and Washington's commitment to the region.

The two-day desert retreat was further clouded by US-Russia tensions over Ukraine, an Islamic State-linked attack in Israel and health worries as Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett was diagnosed with Covid-19 after meeting Blinken.

The foreign ministers of United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco, which normalised ties with Israel in a 2020 US diplomatic drive, attended the summit in Sde Boker - where the founding Israeli prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, is buried.

Also there was the foreign minister of Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel.

"The (region's) moderates are convening to talk and to form a front against the extremists," Gil Haskel, an official with Israel's Foreign Ministry, told public broadcaster Kan, referring to Iran's hardline Islamist rulers.

"There are nuances, different perspectives being discussed or argued about, there is some agreement about some issues and less so about others - but there's no doubt in this room around the table that Iran must not be nuclear," Haskel added.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Sherpur Sadar, Sherpur  
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8900.000.00.001.22-286 Date: 28-03-2022

**e-Tender Notice**  
Invitation for Tender (LTM)  
(Notice Number: 05/2021-22)

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of scheme	Publication date & time	Closing date & time
1	676545	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-01	(a) Construction of C.C Road on Chan Mia House to Tufan House under Vatshala Union, (b) Construction of Soling Road Nur Islam house to Mukti Miya shop under Bazikhila union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
2	676546	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-02	(a) Construction of C.C Road on Fotamari Khunuya Baltali Road to Tota Chairman Bari under Roha Union, (b) Construction of C.C Road on Pakuria Pucca Road to High School under Pakuria Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
3	676547	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-03	Construction of 2x4.50x4.00m Span RCC Box Culvert Near Tarakandi Eidgah Field at Sheekhali Khal under Kamaria Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
4	676548	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-04	Improvement of Atiur Rahman Model Alim Madrasa Moddoboira under Vatshala Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
5	676549	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-05	(a) Improvement of Hijla Abason Floor Pucca under Kamaria Union, (b) Improvement of Kothorakanda Jame Mosque Slab under Vatshala Union, (c) Construction of RCC Pillar Moddho Boyra Kanashakhola Jame Mosque under Vatshala Union, (d) Repairing work of Nalbaid Dakhin Para Masjid Ozukhana under Char Mocharia Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
6	676550	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-06	(a) Construction of C.C Road on Hati Agla Porba Para Jamal Shop to Primary School Road under Losmonpur Union, (b) Construction of R.C Road on Charkhar Char Gain Bari Road to Primary School under Batmani Gugrakandi Union, (c) Repairing work of Nalbaid Boro Masjid under Char Mocharia union, (d) Improvement of Milfaut Zannat Nurane Hafiza Mohila Madrasa at 7 No. Char under Kamaerchar Union, (e) Construction of Boundary wall & Gate at Modho Boira Eidgah Field under Vatshala union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
7	676551	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-07	(a) Construction of C.C Road at Fotamari 1 No. Ward Hobior Rahman house front side to Dr. Nojim Uddin house under Rouha Union, (b) Construction of C.C Road at Gorpara GPS front side to LGSP Road East side under Rouha Union, (c) Construction of Bath Room and Ojukhana at Ghugurakandi Hajipara Jame Mosque under Batmani Gugrakandi Union, (d) Construction of C.C Road at Surjodi Late Montaz house to Late Bir Muktiyudha Abdur Rashid house under Kamaria Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
8	676552	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-08	(a) Construction of Boundary wall in Bolayerchar union Complex Bhaban under Bolayerchar Union, (b) Construction of C.C Road from More of Bachu Dokander Pucca Road to H/O Abdul Mazid at Kandapara Road under Gazirkhamar Union, (c) Construction of C.C Road from H/O Lutfor to H/O Inal at Bakerkanda Dokhinpara Road under Dhola Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
9	676553	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-09	(a) Construction of C.C Road on Moddohoboyra Namapara Hafiz house to Mosto House under Vatshala Union, (b) Construction of Brick flat Soling Road 8th No. Ward Mudipara Siraj Mia house to Malek house under Bazikhila Union, (c) Construction of Toilet in secretary room in Boundary Wall on Pakuria Union Complex Bhaban under Pakuria Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30
10	676554	e-Tender/ADP/ISHE/SADA/2021-22/W-10	(a) Construction of C.C Road on Porbo Para Taleb All house to Muktiyudha Akkas All house under Char Sherpur Union, (b) Construction of C.C Road on Losmonpur Dakhin Para Rafiqul house to Nurul Islam house under Losmonpur Union, (c) Construction of C.C Road on Al-Amin shop to Humayon house under Charpokhimari Union Upazila Sadar, District-Sherpur.	29-Mar-2022 10:00	13-Apr-2022 13:30

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. Document last selling date and time is 12-April-2022, 17.00.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Jahangir Hossain  
Upazila Engineer  
Sherpur Sadar, Sherpur  
Phone: 0931-61272  
E-mail: [ue.sherpur-sg@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.sherpur-sg@lged.gov.bd)

আব্দুল্লাহ আল বাসেদ  
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার  
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৫৪৫৫  
জিডি-৫৯৩

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
BDBL BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK LTD  
Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000  
IT Operation Department

Reference: 11.2/254/ Dated: 27/03/2022

**Tender Notice No. BDBL/ITOD/OTM/2022/01,001 (e-Tender)**

e-Tenders have been invited in the National e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following Goods.

S/N	e-Tender ID	Description	Method of procurement	Scheduled tender publication date and time	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Tender closing date and time	Tender opening date and time
01	679099	Supply of 35 Nos. Network Laser Printer	(OTM)	27-Mar-2022 16:30pm	17-Apr-2022 20:30pm	18-Apr-2022 16:00pm	18-Apr-2022 16:00pm
02	679203	Supply of 06 Nos. Legal Page Document Scanner	(OTM)	27-Mar-2022 16:30pm	17-Apr-2022 20:30pm	18-Apr-2022 16:30pm	18-Apr-2022 16:30pm

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to banking hours on 17/04/2022.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)), (01762625528-31), (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Saifuddin Ahmad  
Deputy General Manager  
Tel: 02-57160451

GD-599

**Chittagong Dry Dock Limited**  
Bangladesh Navy  
East Patenga, Chattogram, Bangladesh  
Phone: +88 02333301117, Mobile: +8801769744452  
Fax: +88 02333301123, E-mail: [commerce@cdcl.gov.bd](mailto:commerce@cdcl.gov.bd), Website: [www.cdcl.gov.bd](http://www.cdcl.gov.bd)  
23.02.1565.341.53.006.22.151 Dated: 29/03/2022

**Invitation for Open Tender**

01.	Procuring entity name	Chittagong Dry Dock Limited.
02.	Invitation for	Purchase of 02 (two) sets Bilge Pump with Associate Accessories.
03.	Invitation Reference No.	23.02.1565.341.53.006.22.152 Dated: 29/03/2022
04.	Procuring method	Open Tender.
05.	Budget & source of funds	Own finance.
06.	Tender last selling date	29 March 2022 to 26 April 2022 at 12:00pm (office time only).
07.	Tender closing date and time	27 April 2022 at 12.15pm.
08.	Tender opening date and time	27 April 2022 at 12.30pm.
09.	Name and address of the office(s) for selling, receiving and opening of tender documents	Cash Section, Accounts Department, Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram.
	a. Selling tender document	
	b. Receiving tender document	Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd.
	c. Opening tender document	(1) Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd., Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram. (2) Tenderers and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend.
10.	Price of tender document	1,000 (one thousand) Tk each (non-refundable).
11.	Contact details	Phone: +88 02333301117 Mobile: +8801769744452 Fax: +88 02333301123, E-mail: <a href="mailto:commerce@cdcl.gov.bd">commerce@cdcl.gov.bd</a>
12.	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

Head of Commerce Department  
For Managing Director

GD-597

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## One step closer to 'Digital Bangladesh'

We expect great things from our innovators at BHTC

IT is exciting to note that Bangladesh now has its own centre for high technology and innovation. As reported by this newspaper on March 28, the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City (BHTC)—a 355-acre industrial park in Gazipur's Kaliakair upazila—has been prepared to offer a developed and ready space with all the necessary amenities for tech-based industries. So far, 70 tech companies have invested millions of dollars in BHTC to produce world-class tech-based products in Bangladesh. Out of these companies, 44 have been allotted plots in the park, and many have also started to construct their factory buildings.

The government has already set up the necessary roads, electricity and gas lines, 48 core fibre optic cable network, lighting, power station, sewerage line bridges, and culverts in the park. Construction of other sites such as a mosque, shopping centre, several other buildings and a picturesque artificial lake is currently underway. According to the managing director of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA), the high-tech city will be completed within the next two years. By 2025, all the companies are expected to start their operation with around 50,000 skilled workers, while investment in the city has also been made quite easy and hassle-free.

From these developments, as well as comments made by those involved, it seems that the BHTC has the potential to take Bangladesh to the next level in terms of producing cutting-edge technologies of the future. This is further supplemented by the fact that 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 high-tech city, which could provide them with some competitive advantages. Additionally, the authorities are also working with banks to arrange loans on easy terms for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs at BHTC, as well as arranging trainings and other opportunities.

With the Fourth Industrial Revolution right around the corner, the timing of this project couldn't have been better. We have seen Bangladesh already make great strides in adopting the latest digital technologies over the past decade. And the park will provide an even greater opportunity for the next generation of tech entrepreneurs. We hope our entrepreneurs and innovators will make the best use of it, and ensure that Bangladesh becomes a significant player on the global stage of technologies and reaps all its benefits.

## Children belong in schools, not factories

Govt must bring back school dropouts and help their families

AS we build our way to becoming a middle-income country, it is saddening that our children's education is so vulnerable to a pandemic. While, in most countries, schools were often the last to be shuttered in the event of a lockdown during the last two years, quite the opposite has been observed in Bangladesh. Though many children were able to somewhat keep up with online classes and other remote learning materials, most have not been as fortunate. For example, in Dhaka, according to a new study by Educo Bangladesh, 57 percent of child labourers attended schools before the pandemic hit—but 89 percent of them dropped out afterwards.

While the study had a relatively small sample size, its findings are still quite illustrative and show how the pandemic has exacerbated the child labour problem. The global situation has been equally disconcerting. In July 2021, the International Labour Organization and UNICEF reported the first increase in global child labour over the last two decades, with 160 million children engaging in labour. Of them, a staggering 79 million were found to be engaged in categorically hazardous work. The Educo study brings further insight into this reality, unveiling that children are engaged in labour chiefly because of pandemic-induced financial hardships and school closures.

Clearly, at the root of this issue is the fact that children in low-income families had to forgo education to support their families financially, as many had lost their jobs or other sources of income. It is proof, yet again, of the failure of government policies to reach out to the most deserving beneficiaries of its welfare schemes. We wonder why the government couldn't provide these families with necessary funds. Even so, perhaps this high rate of dropouts could have been avoided had schools not remained shut for so long.

If their education is ensured and if skills development trainings are provided to them, these children from low-income families can actually grow up to be self-reliant, escape generational poverty and help their families in the long run. We urge the government to take proper steps to not only get these children back to schools, but also to make sure they never have to go back to working unless they are of age. It is unacceptable that while physical infrastructures worthy of a fast-rising nation are being built, a large number of children are falling through the cracks, never to reach their potential. We must direct children towards education for that, and away from labour for their survival.

# Bangladesh can stay ahead of global inflation, if it acts now



Selim Jahan is a former director of the Human Development Report Office and Poverty Division at the UNDP.

SELIM JAHAN

"INFLATION is as violent as a mugger, as frightening as an armed robber, and as deadly as a hitman"—these were the words of Ronald Reagan during his campaign for the US presidency at the beginning of 1980s. Inflation was a major development challenge at that point in time, and the trade-off between inflation and unemployment was at the centre of policy debates. Later on, inflation was tamed around most of the world (except for extreme cases such as Zimbabwe), and jobless growth dominated the policy arena of a number of countries. In fact, inflation was in hibernation for almost three decades.

But after decades lurking in the shadows, inflation is back globally, and price spirals remain a real fear for people, both in the developed and the developing worlds. Some stylised facts: in the US, the inflation rate reached 7.5 percent in January 2022, a level not seen since the 1980s; in Britain, it was 6.2 percent last month, the highest since 1997; in the eurozone—the 19 countries using the euro—consumer price index hit 5.1 percent in January, the highest levels since records began in 1997. Among developing countries, the inflation rate in Brazil reached 5.03 percent last month—well above the target of 3.0 percent. South Africa experienced an inflation rate of 5.7 percent last month, and the corresponding figure for India was 6.1 percent. And for Bangladesh, it is estimated to be 5.7 percent. The extreme case, however, is Pakistan, as inflation in that country soared to 13 percent two months ago, just as the rupee, the national currency, is devaluing.

The re-emergence of inflation is often blamed on the Ukraine crisis, but it is only partly true. Inflation in many countries has been brewing for quite some time because of production disruptions and supply chain issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic. There is also increased demand globally. Because of Covid, productions and outputs have been lost, putting pressure on the prices of essentials. Covid, by negatively impacting the transport sector and the intra- and inter-country movement of commodities, has disrupted the supply chains, thus contributing to global inflation. Because of increased demand, global oil prices were up by 77 percent in January 2022 compared to its price in December 2021. In emerging markets and developing economies, because of the lower flow of foreign capital, inflation rose for imported goods.

But there is no denying the fact that the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has contributed to the surge of inflation. Disruptions in global oil markets such as sanctions on Russia, a major oil- and natural gas-producing country, and Saudi Arabia's refusal to increase its production have resulted in price hikes in the global market. The war is also affecting food prices. Ukraine contributes to about 12 percent of the world's total food production, while Russia's share is 16 percent. Ukraine also supplies 17 percent of the world's corn

export. With disruptions in production and global supply chains of wheat and corn due to this war, prices of bread and corn may go up sharply in the coming months.

In this broader global context, the critical question is: How would these developments impact Bangladesh's economy?

First, global inflation has adversely impacted mostly food and energy prices,

children's education or healthcare services.

Third, if domestic inflation rises to a certain level, Bangladesh's competitiveness in the world may suffer. Our exportable commodities may become costlier in international markets, reducing export volumes. This will reduce our export earnings, shrinking our foreign exchange.

Fourth, because of Covid, a number of

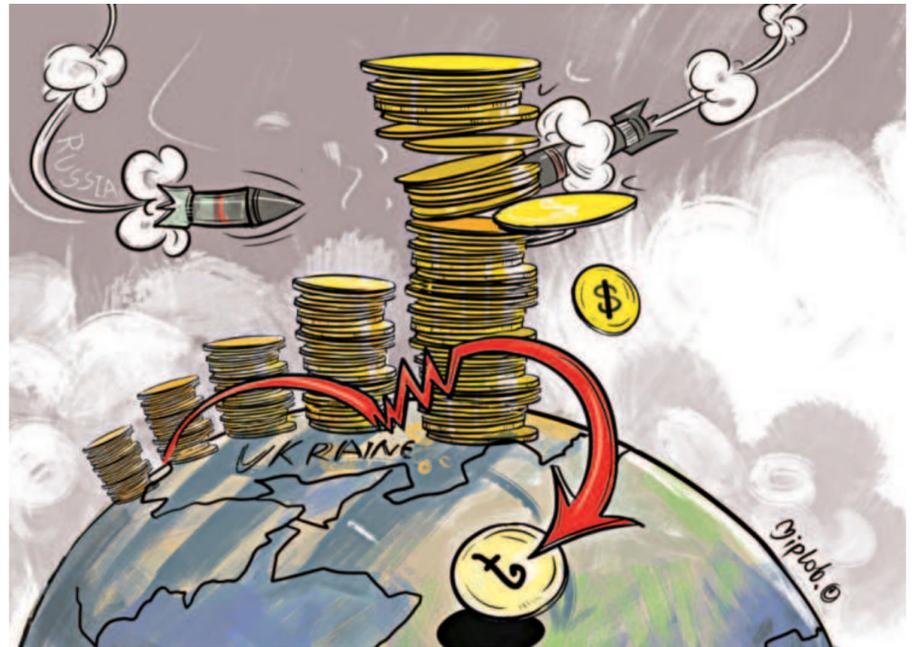


ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

**The re-emergence of inflation is often blamed on the Ukraine crisis, but it is only partly true. Inflation in many countries has been brewing for quite some time because of production disruptions and supply chain issues related to the pandemic.**

and Bangladesh is not immune to that. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has estimated the food inflation to be 4.9 percent in the urban areas of the country and 6.0 percent in its rural areas. Experts, however, opine that the actual inflation rates are much higher. Since the average food consumption constitutes more than 60 percent of the total consumption expenditure of marginal households, increased food inflation in Bangladesh would affect the poor and vulnerable households more. As Bangladesh is a petroleum importing country, the increased prices of petrol in the global market have already been reflected in domestic prices. Diesel and kerosene prices were raised from Tk 65 to Tk 80 per litre last year. As a result, sectors like transport and agriculture have been adversely affected, and it is the common people who have to bear the brunt of it.

Second, as poor and marginalised groups would be disproportionately affected by inflation, inequalities and disparities between the rich and the poor will increase, not only in terms of outcomes (for example, incomes and nutrition), but also in terms of opportunities. Because of inflation, the real income and wage of poor people would erode more sharply compared to the rich, and the income inequality between the rich and the poor will diverge. Furthermore, because of the rising prices of food, energy, and other essentials, poorer and vulnerable households will have to spend even more on food and energy, which would, in many cases, impede their ability to afford their

small businesses have already suffered losses in terms of jobs and income. Inflation would be an added injury as small businesses would experience increases in input prices, higher costs of loans (with interest rates going up), and even decreased demand. The viability of such businesses, particularly informal sector activities, may be at stake.

Finally, inflation will adversely affect women. With a tight budget, they may face more difficulties in managing household expenditures, especially in choosing consumption commodities while ensuring proper nutrition for their children. Difficulties in making the ends meet may cause frictions and tensions within the family, giving rise to domestic violence.

Given the overall situation, early policy interventions are a must-do now; pre-emptive actions and strengthening the central bank's independence are some such actions. Furthermore, a dual target of inflation reduction and employment expansion should be the central bank's priority. Monetary instruments must be used to reduce inflation, to manage the value of taka in order to ensure export competitiveness of the economy. Fiscal policies may help ensure employment, continue economic activities and protect the vulnerable. A combined set of relevant monetary and fiscal policies would help combat the inflation as well as ensure non-shrinkage of the economy. Pursuing a pro-poor growth policy would also help—the social protection programmes and structures must be strengthened. But the time to act is now.

## Learning to Love Dhaka



Debra Efroymsen is the executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh, and author of 'Beyond Apologies: Defining and Achieving an Economics of Wellbeing.'

DEBRA EFROYMSEN

THE other day, a Dutch friend of mine and I were having lunch when I mentioned how chaotic I'd heard the Dhaka airport was now. "Frankly," she said, "I never notice the airport. I'm always so sad to be leaving the country." We continued chatting over our lunch, but my mind lingered on what she'd said.

This is a friend who has visited Bangladesh for work a few times over the last several years, staying for a few months at a time. She moves around Dhaka by bus, laguna, rickshaw and boat. She has spent the night in a *bosti* and fails to understand why others are surprised at that. She finds the simplest hole-in-the-wall places to eat and appreciates the quality of their *daal*. She suffers, of course, from the traffic and the heat, but the other impressions—the vibrant colours, the flavours of the food, the friendliness of the locals, the lush beauty of the countryside—all seem to make a greater impact.

We recently attended a wedding together. She had hoped to go to a beauty salon so that experts would wrap her saree for her, but the salon in

question was closed. She then found an instructional video on YouTube and spent the next 45 minutes cursing the slippery georgette saree and the saree instructor, particularly when the instructor cheerfully commented that fixing the pleats was easy.

Of course, as a six-foot tall blonde woman wearing a beautiful saree, most people were not concerned about whether she had gotten the pleats right. At the venue, she greatly enjoyed the *biriyani* and *borhani* as well as conversations with bright young locals.

I watch her in admiration, but also can't help reflecting on how it can be easier for a foreigner to love this city than for the locals. I just finished Orhan Pamuk's *Istanbul*, where he writes about how the locals simultaneously wish to become more Western/modernised and long for something that makes them uniquely Turkish, and how the prevailing dirt and poverty depress people. Something similar seems to operate here, where people are too busy feeling embarrassed about the traffic, the dust, the filthy air and the chaos even to notice the many charms that Dhaka has to offer. For so many people, modern means Western. Out with the rickshaw, in with the private car. Ban the street vendors and promote supermarkets. But the final achievement will never be a faithful copy of a Western city, but in the attempts to achieve it, much that is valuable will get destroyed.

On our way to the restaurant where we had lunch, we had to take several detours

due to the overflow of worshippers at Friday services. We ended up leaving our rickshaw and having to walk farther than if we had just done the whole trip on foot. Then again, we got to wander down unknown lanes and alleys and enjoy asking people for directions. We savoured their visible pleasure at directing two *bideshi*. The sun didn't reach the back streets; it was midday on Friday, so traffic was still light. So both being pedalled on the rickshaw and wandering the lanes on foot was actually pleasant. I commented on how hard it was to agree with the common assessment that Dhaka is one of the world's least liveable cities.

"I guess it depends which part of Dhaka," my friend suggested. Partly that, yes, but it also depends on our perspective. Are we dreaming of another place and constantly holding Dhaka up in comparison and cataloguing its shortcomings? Or are we actually paying attention to what makes the city pleasant and distinctive—its own place rather than another imitation of a tired model that brings its own costs and downsides?

Strolling at a lake, riding on quiet streets on a rickshaw, watching small groups gather at a tea stall, enjoying savoury street food, hearing the excited shouts of children playing outside—all those moments bring home to me how lovable Dhaka—and Bangladesh—can be.

But sometimes it takes an outsider to remind us.

**Are we actually paying attention to what makes the city pleasant and distinctive—its own place rather than another imitation of a tired model that brings its own costs and downsides?**

# Will Rohingya repatriation ever happen?



**BULBUL SIDDIQI**

Dr Bulbul Siddiqi is an associate professor and a member of the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) at North South University (NSU).

*"I can see my homeland when I gaze upon the distant hills from the top of a hill where I live in the refugee camp. I want to return to my home. Home is where I can breathe, and I can feel the smell of my country. You cannot call this a life; it's just surviving."*

THIS is what a middle-aged Rohingya man, living at a makeshift camp in Cox's Bazar, who crossed over to Bangladesh during the 2017 exodus of Rohingyas fleeing military persecution in Rakhine, Myanmar, said when I asked him how he was. It is easy enough to see the desperation of these displaced people to return to their homeland, as well as the frustration because they are not able to. Every time I visit the Rohingya refugee camp for my research, I come across people who have not yet given up hope of returning to their home in the Rakhine state. I even met a man who, having lived in a registered camp for 35 years, has not yet lost his hope to return to his homeland. He spent most of the golden time of his life struggling to survive in Bangladesh. He would be waiting till his death to return to Rakhine.

However, the harsh reality is that there remains a significant challenge for a dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas. Restrictions related to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the post-military coup situation in Myanmar have made their repatriation even more uncertain. One positive development is that the two parties have agreed to initiate a dialogue, and to this end a meeting was held virtually between Bangladesh and Myanmar on January 27, 2022. Verification of the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh has started, which is a positive sign. A report published by *The Independent* on January 28, 2022 said that, so far, the Myanmar authorities have verified only 42,000 out of the 830,000 sets of biometric data of the Rohingyas



that Bangladesh has provided.

According to a report by Somoy TV on March 15, 2022, Myanmar has expressed interest to begin the repatriation process by taking in only 700 people. This shows the unwillingness and reluctance on Myanmar's part to accept the Rohingyas as their citizens. The denial of citizenship of the Rohingyas has been at the centre of the prolonged Rohingya crisis. The Myanmar authorities enacted the 1982 citizenship law that excluded the Rohingyas and denied them citizenship in Myanmar. The question now is: if the situation in the Rakhine state does not improve, and if they do not grant the citizenship rights of the Rohingyas and ensure their safety, would repatriating this tiny group of a huge displaced population bring any positive impact?

Another interesting recent development was the US formally determining that Myanmar's military had committed genocide. This long-awaited acknowledgement is another milestone in fighting for the rights of the Rohingyas. If Bangladesh can effectively use this opportunity to put pressure on Myanmar, the process of repatriation can be facilitated.

Repatriation in the context of the refugee crisis is a lengthy process—the situation with the Rohingyas is no

different. And previous attempts have not been successful in ensuring effective and voluntary repatriation. Several studies show that only a few initiatives of repatriation were successful. Besides, there is a claim of involuntary Rohingya repatriation between 1992 and 1997. Given the complexities, the Rohingya refugees may end up in a situation of "Repatriation delayed, repatriation denied." Neither Bangladesh nor the Rohingya community would want this. However, if the world does not prioritise the Rohingya repatriation, the fate of this huge marginalised, displaced population would remain shrouded in uncertainty. Besides, the current global refugee situations, including the Afghan and the Ukraine crises, may shift the global attention away from the Rohingya crisis. If that happens, there would be a fear of a shortage of funding that may create significant challenges for managing and ensuring essential services to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. A report in *The Daily Star* titled "Funding

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

on decline, challenges up" on August 25, 2021 said that the decline in funding for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh was leading to difficulties in providing education services, shrinking of income-generating activities for the refugees, rise in domestic violence, drug trades, and so on.

If the repatriation is delayed further, it would also bring challenges for Bangladesh to take any interim and mid-term measures to manage the Rohingya crisis. The delay in repatriation would also increase the sufferings of the Rohingyas living in the camps. The living conditions in the congested camp environment are not the same as their lives in their home. Home is where they can breathe. The lack of social cohesion between the host and the Rohingya communities is also evident, as my research suggests a growing dissatisfaction and declining sympathy among the host community towards the Rohingya refugees. Many locals in Cox's Bazar have raised the issue of price hikes in their neighbourhoods. Lower wage is another problem for the host community as many Rohingyas work outside the camp to earn extra cash at a lower rate. This is why many people from the host community prefer to hire a Rohingya instead of a local individual.

We may need to think about a few things as ways forward. A holistic approach has to be taken to continue the efforts in pursuing global and regional powers to keep pressure on Myanmar to repatriate its displaced citizens. The second one is to keep mobilising the funds and grants to ensure a dignified life for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh. The third is to hold regular dialogues with Myanmar to keep on the pressure. Besides, as for an interim measure, income-generating opportunities could be increased along with life skill training for the Rohingyas to improve their living standards, ensuring a dignified life in camps.

Finally, it is time to develop a comprehensive refugee management policy as Bangladesh has witnessed a series of refugee influxes from Myanmar over the years.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to [letters@thedailystar.net](mailto:letters@thedailystar.net)

### Be humane, not blind

Most people abhor wars in which innocent lives are lost and people are maimed and injured. And so, all wars should be condemned.

Ever since Russia attacked Ukraine, western countries and commentators have been up in arms about it. My question to these people is, where were your sympathies when the US attacked Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Palestine, etc. where millions of people have been killed?

The death toll in Iraq and Afghanistan were much greater than in Ukraine. So why did these people vigorously support those invasions, if human lives really mattered so much to them? It is sickening to see them shed their crocodile tears when, at

the very least, they supported wars that led to the killings of millions of people—if not actively propagated and allowed for these killings.

And what is worse is that they twist the truth and spread their propaganda by exploiting the most basic human emotion of other good-hearted people, to be sympathetic towards the sufferings of others. That is why, people should be humane and sympathise with others. But they should find the truth for themselves, instead of blindly following what they are told by known liars. That is what would be most beneficial for all.

**Nur Jahan Chattogram**

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla  
**Invitation for Tenders (Works)**  
Limited Tendering Method (LTM)  
Tender Notice:10/2021-2022

Memo No. 46.02.1967.000.14.99.073.21-254		Date: 27-03-2022				
1	Procuring entity & code	Upazila Engineer, Upazila: Adarsha Sadar, District: Cumilla.				
2	Procuring entity district	Cumilla.				
3	Invitation for	NCB				
4	Procurement method	LTM				
5	Source of funds	GOB				
6	Development partners	N/A				
7	Program name (code)	N/A				
8	Tender publication date	27/03/2022	9. Tender last selling date: 11/04/2022			
10	Tender closing date	12/04/2022	Time: 1.00pm			
11	Tender opening date	12/04/2022	Time: 3.00pm			
12	Name & address of selling tender document	(a) Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, District: Cumilla	(b) Office of the Upazila Engineer, LGED Upazila Adarsha Sadar South, District: Cumilla	(c) Office of the Upazila Engineer Upazila: Adarsha Sadar, District: Cumilla.		
13	Name & address of receiving tender documents	Office of the Upazila Engineer, LGED Upazila Adarsha Sadar, District: Cumilla.				
14	Name & address of opening tender documents	Office of the Upazila Engineer, LGED Upazila Adarsha Sadar, District: Cumilla.				
15	Place of pre-tender meeting	Office of the Upazila Engineer, LGED Upazila Adarsha Sadar, District: Cumilla.	Date and time	05/04/2022 12.00pm		
16	Eligibility of tenderer	As described in Tender Document.				
17	Description of work					
Tender Package No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Taka)	Tender security (Taka)	Price of tender document (Taka)	Completion time (month)	Tender validity period
1	UPCR/Kalirbazar/ CUM-S/2021-22/01	Repair of Kalir Bazar Union Parishad Complex Bhaban under Adarsha Sadar Upazila Dist: Cumilla.	65,000/-	1,700/-	100/-	30 days 60 days
2	UPCR/Durgapur(S)/ CUM-S/2021-22/02	Repair & Maintenance of Durgapur South Union Parishad under Adarsha Sadar Upazila Dist: Cumilla.	10,00,000/-	25,000/-	500/-	45 days 60 days
3	UPCR/Pachthobi/ CUM-S/2021-22/03	Repair of Pachthubi Union Parishad Complex Bhaban under Adarsha Sadar Upazila Dist: Cumilla.	5,25,000/-	14,000/-	500/-	45 days 60 days
4	UPCR/Jagannathpur/ CUM-S/2021-22/04	Repair of Jagannathpur Union Parishad Complex Bhaban under Adarsha Sadar Upazila Dist: Cumilla.	10,00,000/-	25,000/-	500/-	45 days 60 days
18	Name of official inviting tender	<b>Md. Saiful Islam.</b>				
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Upazila Engineer, LGED, Upazila: Adarsha Sadar, District: Cumilla.				
20	Address of official inviting tender	Office of Upazila Engineer, LGED, Upazila: Adarsha Sadar, District: Cumilla.				
21	Contact detail of official inviting tender	081-63449				
	Email:	ue.cumilla-s@lged.gov.bd				

Tender shall be valid for a period of 60 days after tender opening and must be accompanied by the tender securing specified above. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in cash from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

**Md. Saiful Islam**  
Upazila Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla  
ue.cumilla-s@lged.gov.bd

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- |                   |                  |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>     | 29 Puts down     | 6 Long swimmer   |
| 1 Craving         | 33 Neighbor of   | 7 Pig part       |
| 7 Uttered         | Libya            | 8 Shuttle        |
| 11 Broad street   | 34 Matt of       | compartment      |
| 12 Riviera resort | movies           | 9 Cube holder    |
| 13 Artist         | 35 Big truck     | 10 Stop          |
| Duchamp           | 36 Groom's garb  | 16 Sullen sort   |
| 14 Valuable rocks | 37 Notorious     | 18 College study |
| 15 Periphery      | czar             | 20 Hold out      |
| 16 Prefix with    | 38 Starting bid  | 22 Have faith in |
| media or grain    | 39 Reduced       | 23 Puzzles       |
| 17 Spotted        | amount           | 24 Kicked back   |
| 18 Goes driving   | 40 Interfere     | 25 Throat mass   |
| 19 Shower need    |                  | 28 Blood lines   |
| 21 Purr producer  | <b>DOWN</b>      | 30 Add a change  |
| 22 Chewy snack    | 1 Titled women   | to               |
| 25 Toe count      | 2 Steer clear of | 31 Alpine trill  |
| 26 Course cry     | 3 Suit material  | 32 Sleep sound   |
| 27 Twist of       | 4 Fragrant smoke | 34 Take in       |
| fiction           | 5 Regrets        | 36 Huck's pal    |



## YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS





Rehnumah at the Blue Pearl of Morocco.



Rehnumah enjoys breakfast at Alcione Residence, Positano.

NURTURING DREAMS

# The globetrotter who broke barriers

**Rehnumah often comes across questions about when she plans to 'settle down' or how she affords to travel so much. "I have no problem answering these queries as most of the time, they come with good intentions, but I am sure male travellers do not have to face such questions," she added.**

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Rehnumah Insan, a travel blogger and lawyer, has visited 40 countries till date. Currently, she is working as a manager in the UK Civil Service, dealing with legal and policy implications for post Covid-19 business transitions.

As her parents are keen travellers, she grew up going through their albums, looking at the beautiful places they visited, and listening to stories about different cultures.

Rehnumah started travelling after getting into university, whereby she discovered her passion for photography and writing. She started blogging with her trip to Italy around five years ago, and has never looked back since then.

Her photo album, "Around the world with my hijab", created quite a stir among travel enthusiasts across the world, and is still trending on various social media platforms. "It dawned upon me that girls find it daunting to step out of their comfort zones in hijabs," she shared. Through this album, she has beautifully portrayed how girls can travel around the world, while maintaining their religion and culture.

While Rehnumah has been fortunate enough to have a supportive family, she often comes across questions about when she plans to 'settle down' or how she affords to travel so much. "I have no problem answering these queries as most of the time, they

South Asian women. "I recently visited South Italy where I met a woman who recognised me from Instagram. She kept asking me about my life, and I was more than happy to share my background as a British-Bangladeshi. I am very rooted to my culture," she recalled.

Rehnumah also uses social media (@the\_travelette) to bust myths related to travelling alone. "In a world where women are capable of achieving so much, it is disappointing to see that people think we need to rely on someone else's bank account to travel," she said.

When travelling alone, Rehnumah carries a small tripod or simply asks others to take her photos. "If you are married, people assume that you must always be travelling with your husband. Couples lead different lives and have different jobs. We simply cannot take each other on every trip," she added.

Moving forward, she wishes to explore more underrated places and luxury hotels around the world.



Rehnumah Insan.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

come with good intentions, but I am sure male travellers do not have to face such questions," she added.

Travelling has given her the opportunity to meet new people and eliminate misconceptions that people have about

The author is a freelance journalist who likes reading, scribbling, and blogging. Email: mislammonamee@gmail.com.

INTERVIEW

## Harnessing data analytics for social good

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Working first-hand with the Health Ministry and icddr, Shayan Chowdhury led data analysis projects that traced the Covid-19 outbreak, hospitalisations, deaths, and mobility to inform actionable policy for lockdowns, public health communications, and healthcare decisions.

He is also the Co-founder of Reach4Help, a non-profit organisation that facilitates volunteer help worldwide. For his humanitarian work, he has earned a place in the Dhaka Hub Global Shapers 2021 Cohort.

The Global Shapers are a community of young leaders and changemakers aged between 20 and 30, curated by the World Economic Forum. The Dhaka Hub was founded in 2014.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Shayan discussed his experiences in data analytics, and more.

**What does your work as a data analyst entail?**

I interpret large data sets to determine pain points for exercising policies and the effectiveness of crisis intervention strategies. We worked with Grameenphone and Robi to track locations of people who tested positive for Covid-19 so we could predict which areas the virus will be spreading to.



Shayan Chowdhury.

PHOTO: COURTESY

**You are a research assistant at Columbia University. What are you currently working on?**

I am working on a novel approach to monitor fetal well-being using electrocardiogram (ECG) signals. We use data analytics and machine learning models to detect stress and anxiety patterns in pregnant women.

**Tell us about Reach4Help.**

It is an open source software development initiative that gives people better and quicker access to resources, and allows organisations to control risks and therefore, be more resilient. We are working with data streams to connect NGOs with displaced Ukrainian refugees so they can be provided with food and shelter, among other resources.

**What inspired you to get into this field?**

Growing up, I did not have the popular video game Minecraft, so I thought if I cannot play it, why do not I develop a game from scratch? I taught myself how to code and it opened up a whole avenue of possibilities for me. I garnered experiences through an internship at the NY Genome Center, then I also worked with Nobel Laureate Joachim Frank's lab at Columbia University and completed a mentorship at Google.

**How has being a part of Dhaka Hub enriched your experience?**

It gives me immense pleasure that I can represent Bangladesh on a global platform. I was incredibly inspired by the brilliant insights of the entrepreneurs, community leaders and designers I met through Dhaka Hub.

The author is a student of BRAC University, and a freelance journalist. Email: shanzaychowdhury@gmail.com.

EVENT

## UIU National Job Festival concludes



Moinuddin Hasan Rashed, Chairman and Managing Director, United Group Ltd, attended the closing ceremony as the chief guest.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF UIU

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

The UIU National Job Festival 2022, a two-day event organised by United International University (UIU), concluded on March 14. The closing ceremony of the fair was held at the UIU auditorium.

Moinuddin Hasan Rashed, Chairman and Managing Director, United Group Ltd, attended the ceremony as the chief guest. Md Arfan Ali, President and Managing Director, Bank Asia, and Emranul Haq, Managing Director and CEO, Dhaka Bank, among many others, were also present at the event.

"Honesty, sincerity and hard work, these three are the key to a successful career," said Arfan Ali. "There are no shortcuts in life. Be sincere towards your organisation and I invite you all to work for us at Bank Asia."

"This is the first job festival after two years of Covid-19 restrictions," said Moinuddin Hasan Rashed. "The fair

will play an important role in building relationships between academics and industries as well as assisting job seekers."

"120 companies conducted spot interviews, screenings, and recruitment sessions in our fair," said the Vice Chancellor of UIU Prof Dr Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman. "Nearly 20,000 candidates attended the fair just from UIU and I would love to know ratio of students who got jobs from the fair."

United Group, Pakiza Technovation Ltd, Bank Asia, Pragati Insurance Ltd, BKash, Dhaka Bank Ltd, Prime Bank Ltd, Banglalink, Uttara Motors Ltd., Arla Foods Bangladesh Ltd, ACILtd, BRAC, Navana Group, and many other enterprises conducted recruitment sessions at the event.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the chief guest and the Vice Chancellor of UIU handed out crests to all participating companies.

YOUTH IN ACTION

## Empowering communities with menstrual hygiene management

USRAAT FAHMIDAH

Shuchita aims to make resources for menstrual hygiene management accessible to women in marginalised communities of Bangladesh through different campaigns. Since their inception in 2020, the initiative has completed 13 workshops across the country.

"It started in Satkhira when a lady requested sanitary pads because there was no access to clean sanitation in her village. It occurred to me that we did not consider something basic like hygiene packs as a necessity in our relief goods until then. We went with relief goods to the Amphan stricken village, but not with sanitary pads," explained Fatiha Polin, an Acumen fellow and CEO of Shuchita.

"I have always worked with people and for people. Her words stayed with me, and I wanted to come up with a sustainable solution."

She believes menstrual health should not be inaccessible to underprivileged communities. Polin, who is also an architect at PERCEIVE, the mother organisation of Shuchita, has been involved with Covid-19 relief work from the start of the pandemic.

Menstrual health is a crucial issue in different parts of Bangladesh due to affordability and inaccessibility to proper sanitation and clean water. "Even if we provided sanitary pads, people might not know how to use them or dispose of them in rivers. We wanted to teach people safe menstruation practices," Polin explained.



Since their inception in 2020, Shuchita has completed 13 workshops on menstrual hygiene management across the country.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

Upon returning to Dhaka, she researched and developed Shuchita's own reusable sanitary pads within months after finding the available market options unsatisfactory. The result was 400 reusable sanitary pads in the first batch, all of which were distributed in Satkhira.

Now, Shuchita has three production hubs in Dhaka, Khagrachari, and Dinajpur. Polin explained that they equip women with different, necessary life skills. "We want underprivileged women to earn incomes so

they can be self-reliant. We want them to feel benefited from our workshops," she added.

Their workshops cover everything from safe menstrual practices and skill training to producing reusable pads. With a network of over 65 volunteers, Shuchita has conducted workshops in Rohingya camps too.

Moving forward, Polin hopes to reach out to 32 districts of Bangladesh through her efforts.

"Funding and resource mobilisation is a major issue. But so far, the response we have gotten from the communities has helped us," she concluded.

The author is a freelance journalist.



PHOTO: BFF

## MSC down Sheikh Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Title challengers Mohammedan Sporting Club continued their winning run with a five-wicket victory over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at BKSP-4 yesterday. The win also brought an end to the winning run of Sheikh Jamal, who succumbed to their first loss in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League (DPL).

Nazmul Islam's spin caused early damage, removing opener Shykat Ali for naught in just the second delivery of the innings. Shuvagata Hom then picked up Saif Hassan and Imrul Kayes for low scores and Nazmul returned to action to pick up two more wickets, returning measly figures of nine runs conceded in six overs, as Sheikh Jamal slumped to 61 for 7. Rearguard innings from Taibur Rahman and Sunzamul Islam eventually saw Sheikh Jamal post 185 all out.

Mahmudullah Riyad, appearing in his first DPL game this season, managed 20 runs but fifties from Rony Talukdar

**Brothers rallied behind Imtiaz Hossain's 106 from 114 deliveries but Qazi Onik, who picked up crucial wickets despite being expensive with the ball, defended 19 runs in the last over to give Gazi victory.**

and Mohammad Hafeez saw Mohammedan coast to victory.

In a closely fought contest at BKSP-3, Gazi Group overcame Brothers Union by six runs. Gazi batted around Farhad Hossain's 94-ball 92 before a 23-ball 42-run cameo from skipper Akbar Ali got them to 297 for eight. Brothers rallied behind Imtiaz Hossain's 106 from 114 deliveries but Qazi Onik, who picked up crucial wickets despite being expensive with the ball, defended 19 runs in the last over to give Gazi victory.

Meanwhile, Legends of Rugganj's Naeem Islam struck his second successive ton in the DPL, having gotten out in the 90s on three occasions this season. Naeem and Chirag Jani's 238-run stand for the third-wicket against Rugganj Tigers Cricket Club in chase of 295 at ULAB saw them pick up a 29-run win by D/L method after rain stopped play. Naeem remained unbeaten on 114 while Chirag struck a 109-ball 122 to offset Zakir Hasan's 91 for Rugganj Tigers earlier.

# Can Cabrera conjure up a CONVINCING ACT?

ATIQUÉ ANAM FROM SYLHET

As Bangladesh take on Mongolia in a FIFA friendly match at the Sylhet District Stadium today, there will be a lot of focus on whether the team can bounce back from a 2-0 defeat against Maldives last week.

The match in Male wasn't available on TV in Bangladesh, so the team might have escaped some of the scrutiny it usually hogs. But when playing against Mongolia in front of a local crowd and the match being telecast live, there won't be any hiding for Javier Cabrera and his men.

Expectations from the locals will be no less than a victory against a side pretty similar in their world standing but obviously at a disadvantage of playing in conditions that are foreign to them.

When asked how crucial a win was for him to retain the backing of the federation, the Spaniard was rather diplomatic.

"It's always important (to win). Our goal and objective against Maldives was to win. But we need to do it the way we are working, we need to do it the way our game idea we are developing. It's important for the team" Cabrera said, emphasising on the process and style he wants to implement with the team, during the official pre-match press meet at the match venue.

Cabrera is still inexperienced at this level, having been in charge of academies in his native Spain apart from a spell as an assistant coach in an Indian club. He was kind of trusted with the responsibility of guiding Bangladesh as the temporary resorts by the Bangladesh Football Federation did not yield success since the termination of long-term coach Jamie Day towards the end of last year.

Day, too, was a rookie when he was handed the reins of Bangladesh in the middle of 2018. The team made noticeable improvements under the British coach in the first two years before results started to dwindle.

Cabrera, too, is a similar experiment by the BFF, although judging by the football philosophy, it's a different direction that Bangladesh wants to tread now.

Ditching the no-nonsense, tough-tackling physical football of Day, Bangladesh want to adopt the possession-based attacking football, espoused briefly by Oscar Bruzon.

Captain Jamal Bhuyan spoke of the similarities between the two Spaniards but did not want to elaborate on the gameplan or the coach's ideas.

"Each coach has their own style of

playing, each coach wants to implement their own style. It's up to the players to adapt to the style. His style and that of Oscar (Bruzon) is a bit similar," Jamal said.

While the Mongolia match will only be the second match under Cabrera, it will also be the last one that Bangladesh play before the crucial Asian Cup Qualifiers in June when they will meet Bahrain, Malaysia and Turkmenistan. The players will, after today, go back to their clubs and will be available to the coach only around 10 days ahead of the qualifiers.

Now fraught with having to choose between testing his ideas/personnel and winning the game, Cabrera said he wants to win for the country, but it was more important to be convinced at what they were doing.

That convincing, though, needs taking place not only inside the team, but also among the general people and the football federation.

Given that Bangladesh, as a team, is constantly losing ground to oppositions and losing appeal to its own people, the young Spaniard will need no less than a handsome victory – a victory with style and conviction – to convince everyone, at least for the time being.

## 'This is not the Bangladesh side of old'

AFP, Durban

South African Test captain Dean Elgar said on Monday he was "comfortable" with the decision of key players to make themselves unavailable for a Test series against Bangladesh, which starts at Kingsmead in Durban on Thursday.

Earlier this month Elgar called for players contracted to the Indian Premier League to put country ahead of club. But all South Africa's IPL-linked players opted to play in the lucrative Indian franchise tournament, which started at the weekend.

South Africa will go into the Bangladesh series without their front-line fast bowling attack of Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and



Marco Jansen, as well as the injured Anrich Nortje. They will also be without batsmen Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen.

Elgar said it was time to move on. "They're not here with us and we have to make do with our next best in the

country, which I'm still very confident with. We've lost a few Test caps but it's a great opportunity for those guys to stand up and put those other players under pressure."

Elgar said that although he was not involved in South Africa's one-day series defeat against Bangladesh, he shared the hurt felt by the local players which he said would make them hungry to turn the tables in the Test matches.

"We know this is not the Bangladesh side of old," he said. "It's a new team with a westernised coaching staff who have obviously changed their mindset with regards to how to play cricket in South Africa. The contest is going to be a good one," said Elgar.

# Selectors face sweet dilemma before SA Tests

SPORTS REPORTER

The surface at the Kingsmead in Durban will play a major role in Bangladesh forming the team combination for their first of the two-match Test series against South Africa on March 31.

Following the historic Test win in Mount Maunganui against New Zealand earlier this year, the Tigers' pace unit comprising the likes of Ebadot Hossain, Shoriful Islam and Taskin Ahmed – all of whom were instrumental in the win over Kiwis – have been in formidable rhythm.

Alongside the aforementioned pace trio, off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz was the lone spinner in that game as the team management opted for a pace-heavy lineup with only four specialist bowlers, keeping in mind the pace-friendly condition in New Zealand.

For the upcoming series, it is almost certain that the hosts, who lost the ODI series, will come up with an aggressive intent and would probably bank on their seamers to exploit the pace-friendly conditions in Durban.

However, with pacers in top notch form and Bangladesh having formed a settled eleven over the past few months, the

Bangladesh selectors now face the sweet headache ahead of deciding on an eleven for their South Africa challenge.

"Look it will be very difficult to comment on who will be in the playing eleven or what will be our team combination for the first Test. We all know the South African conditions suit pacers and it won't be surprising if they come up with a green top against us. So, we have to wait until the day before the Test match to assess the pitch," chief selector Minhajul Abedin told The Daily Star yesterday.

In absence of star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, it will probably be Miraz who would once again have to play the role of the only specialist spinner in the side. Like in New Zealand, skipper Mominul Haque and Najmul Hossain Shanto, however, could also chip in with a few overs against the Proteas at times.

Also, Miraz's recent all-round showings in the fifty-over format also give him the edge over more experienced left-arm spinner Taijul Islam in getting a nod for the eleven.

Despite bagging thirty wickets and remaining the highest wicket-taker for the Tigers in 2021, Taijul had to sit out both the Tests in New Zealand mainly because of the team combination and the seaming

## A nerve-wracking night in store

AGENCIES

Will Cristiano Ronaldo head to Qatar to play in his fifth and probably final World Cup or will it instead be North Macedonia, who eliminated Italy, the winners of four World Cup titles, from the running to secure a place in the 32-team tournament?

Also, can Robert Lewandowski break the Sweden jinx to take Poland to Qatar?

Tuesday night clashes in the World Cup qualifiers will provide answers to all these questions.

Ronaldo's Portugal side, who preceded Italy as European champions in 2016, might have been bracing themselves for the prospect of a decisive showdown with the Azzurri but instead North Macedonia will be the visitors to the Estadio do Dragao in Porto, with the winners going to Qatar.

For Portugal, failing to qualify for the World Cup would be little short of a scandal given the quality in their ranks – Atletico Madrid's Joao Felix was only on the bench against Turkey,

for example. For Ronaldo, the all-time leading international goal-scorer at the age of 37, this will surely be his last World Cup if Portugal do get there. The other World Cup qualifying play-off final in Europe on Tuesday sees Poland host Sweden in the southern Polish city of Chorzow, with the Poles looking to end a run of six straight defeats against their opponents.

Meanwhile, it's still all up for grabs when it comes to African nations qualifying as 10 teams have begun the third – and last – round of qualifying. The most riveting of all the five African nations clashes will certainly be the one between Egypt and Senegal as it pits Liverpool stars Mohamed Salah of Egypt and Sadio Mane of Senegal against each other with Egypt protecting a 1-0 lead over their opponents.

## Hand-timing again for National Swimming Championships

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangabandhu 31st National Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Championships is set to get underway at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex in Mirpur today.

The competition will, however, not feature the electronic board, yet again, since a part of the newly-installed electronic device has been malfunctioning, according to BM Saif, general secretary of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation. Thus, several records are likely to tumble, much like how the championships' last edition had popped 11 national records in the swimming category, all registered by hand-timing.

"The electronic board was officially not yet handed over to us by the national sports council. So, we can't use the electronic board, which has some problems with generating accurate time, thus we are forced to opt for hand-timing," informed Saif at a press conference yesterday.

Saif further informed that as many as 21 players, who have been in the national camps for the upcoming South Asian Games, will participate in the 38-event competition, featuring a total of 580 participants, alongside 42 swimmers, who have been scouted for advanced training.



However, with pacers in top notch form and Bangladesh having formed a settled eleven over the past few months, the

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## Teacher 'marries' 10th grader son to fifth-grader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushia*

A primary school teacher in Chuadanga recently arranged the "marriage" of her 10th grader son with a fifth grader of her school.

The matter, kept secret for a few days, was found out by neighbours Sunday evening after the boy went to the girl's house.

When local reporters went to the girl's house yesterday morning, the boy ran away from them.

The reporters then went to the school and found the fifth grader wearing a burqa in her classroom. She still had the henna on her hands. She told reporters that the "marriage" took place over a week ago.

She said she had tried to stop the arrangement, but no one listened to her.

The teacher went to her house and the ceremony happened through a formal proposal in the presence of family members, she said.

The so-called marriage was mostly a performance of rituals as it had not been registered by the authorities.

Asked how she could do such a thing being a teacher, the woman didn't say anything.

The ceremonies were conducted by a madrasa teacher. Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamim Bhuiyan yesterday said there will be an investigation into the matter and action will be taken.

The Daily Star collated information from 41 upazilas of 13 districts between March 17, 2020, and September 12, 2021, and found about 11,000 school children were married off by their families.

A proper survey would have revealed a much greater number.



Police baton-charging members of the Left Democratic Alliance, who observed a half-day strike in many parts of the country yesterday to protest the price hike of daily essentials. The photo was taken in the morning at the capital's Paltan intersection.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Media employees' bill placed in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill-2022 was placed in parliament yesterday, which stipulates the job facilities of journalists and employees of media outlets.

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.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud placed the bill, which was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry concerned for scrutiny.

The parliamentary watchdog has been asked to submit its report within 60 days.

As per the bill, journalists will be called "media professionals", not "workers".

It also stipulates that the wage board will be applicable for journalists and employees of all media outlets, including print and electronic.

According to the bill, the minimum working hours for media employees will be 48 hours a week. They will be entitled to casual leave of 15 days instead of 10 days. They will earn one day of earned leave for every 11 days of work.

It also says if any journalist or employee works beyond the stipulated time, he or she will be entitled to overtime.

Besides, the journalists and employees will enjoy 10-

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## HALF-DAY HARTAL

# Pickets, police clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) clashed with police and also were attacked allegedly by ruling Awami League supporters in the capital and some other major cities during its nationwide half-day hartal yesterday.

However, the strike in protest of spiralling prices of daily commodities received a lukewarm response from the people as bus, launch and train services ran almost normal during the strike.

The alliance announced nationwide processions and rallies for today protesting the attacks and detentions of its activists by law enforcers.

Police used teargas and water cannons to break away hartal supporters at the capital's Paltan. They also dispersed processions in the city's Mirpur, Narayanganj, Chattogram, Barisal, Khulna and some other districts.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Shah Alam alleged that activists of the ruling AL and its associated bodies attacked pro-hartal protesters in Mirpur and Mohammadpur in capital and also on the Rajshahi University

campus.

LDA coordinator Saiful Haq told reporters that around 100 activists of the alliance were injured in "attacks by police and AL men". He said police detained at least 30 hartal supporters from different places in the country.

Shah Alam said general people were facing hardship as the government failed to check the soaring prices of daily commodities.

The CPB chief said their demands include breaking the "business syndicate" that manipulates the market of daily essentials, issuing ration cards and opening fair price shops.

He told this newspaper that they would continue their movement to press home the demands.

Witnesses said LDA activists blocked the Paltan intersection in the capital around 6:30am yesterday, brought out processions in the area and sang patriotic songs sitting on the road.

The pickets allowed vehicles to cross the intersection around 11:00am. As the LDA convenor was about to start his concluding speech at a protest rally around 11:30am, a scuffle broke out between

the demonstrators and law enforcers.

At one stage, police used batons and teargas to disperse the protesters. Law enforcers used water cannons against demonstrators after brick chips were thrown at them, triggering a clash.

Police intercepted a pro-hartal procession at Mirpur-10 around 6:30am and detained nine demonstrators, including Dhaka North City CPB President Sajedul Huq Rubel and its Kafrul unit President Ali Kawsar Mamun, said CPB President Shah Alam.

LDA leaders alleged that Jubo League and Sramik League activists attacked a procession at Mirpur-10 while AL men attacked another one near the Mohammadpur bus stand in the morning.

Pickets blocked some important intersections in the capital, including Paltan and Shabagh, causing huge traffic jams in parts of the city.

Being caught in long tailbacks, many commuters got off buses and walked to their destinations.

In Khulna, police picked up several people from different areas of the city when they

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS JP, BNP MPs lambast govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party and BNP MPs yesterday engaged in a debate over the rising prices of essentials and deterioration of law and order with their counterparts in the ruling party during the 17th session at parliament.

JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said he regularly went to the market and that the prices of goods have gone up a lot.

"The government initiative is not working. I don't think the government has any control on the market," Chunnun said, speaking on a point of order.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, BNP Joint Secretary General Harunur Rashid and BNP MP Rumeen Farhana criticised the government for prices of essentials, deteriorating law and order situation, and widespread corruption.

In response, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud said the JP leader was making false claims in parliament, adding that the prices of soybean oil and onions have started to fall following government initiatives.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present at the session while Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury was in the chair.

Meonon demanded a parliamentary enquiry over the recent dismissal of Anti-Corruption Commission deputy assistant director Sharif Uddin.

Menon said Bangladesh is moving forward on the path of development. But corruption in our country has come to the fore as an extreme challenge.

## BUSINESS

### Stop relying on duty-free regime

Says Dominican Republic envoy

Bangladesh should abandon the mentality of having a duty-free regime and focus on making products competitive as the country approaches graduation from the group of least-developed countries in 2026. "My first suggestion for you is: do not wait. Plan it now. It is not only for the LDC graduation but also for the latter stages," says David Puig, ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Dhaka.

STORY ON B4



People jostle to enter the Nagar Shasthya Kendra (city health complex) in Khulna city to get their second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine under the "One Crore A Day" countryside campaign. Many of the 1.34 lakh people who took the first dose in the campaign have all returned for the second, creating chaos at the centre yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## NIKO GRAFT CASE Ex-president of company jailed for 5yrs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Kashem Sharif, former president of Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd, to five years' rigorous imprisonment for taking bribe from Niko, a Canadian Oil and Gas Exploration Company.

Former state minister for energy AKM Mosharruf Hossain, the prime accused, was relieved from the charges as he is dead.

Judge ASM Ruhul Imran of the Special Judge's Court-2 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in absence of the convict and also fined him Tk 50,000, in default of which he will have to suffer six months more in jail.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

## A slap that overshadowed achievements

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ



The 94th Academy awards were historic, but not in the sense that you are probably thinking.

It was only the third time that a female filmmaker had won the Best Director.

Sian Heder's "CODA" and her team took home Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay, on the same night that

Ariana DeBose became the only homosexual woman of colour to win Best Supporting Actress.

Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for her unforgettable performance in "The Eyes of Tammy Faye".

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