



NBR SERVER BREACH

Probe leaves puzzles

Found irregularities, yet held no customs officials responsible

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

A probe report on the breach of NBR server that saw the release of 11 import consignments last year has raised more questions than it answered.

Despite finding irregularities in every step, from import to unloading, it gave clean chit to the customs officials who had their signatures on release and assessment documents of the consignments.

The 48-page report also did not recommend legal action against any of the importers although it observed that four of them "can't avoid their liabilities".

Between June and October last year, cybercriminals broke into the highly sensitive server of National Board of Revenue, using the login IDs and passwords belonging to two customs officials.

In the process, nine of the consignments were released and the fraudsters made away with at least 153 tonnes of goods worth crores of taka from the Chattogram port, also submitting fake documents.

Customs authorities, however, managed to seize two other consignments at the last moment.

The nine consignments were released evading a large sum of duty -- the amount could not be estimated. As per the declaration, they contained yarn, woven and polyester fabrics, the duty of which is around 89 percent.

The Daily Star published a report headlined "NBR server breached, again" on November 15 and the Chattogram Custom House later formed a probe committee, which submitted its report on January 16 this year.

The probe report did not provide any information about the IP addresses

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Experts fear the main culprits will go unpunished if some pertinent questions are not answered. They also termed the probe report incomplete and an apparent attempt to protect the culprits.



Nine-year-old Ohi holds her father and repeatedly asks for her mother, at the DMCH emergency yesterday after she, her mother and younger sister were in a road accident on the way to her school. The little girl was still unaware of her mother's passing.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

School run turns tragic

Mother killed as bus hits rickshaw with her and daughters on board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine-year-old Humayara Yeasmin Ohi could hardly care about the wounds on her knees and elbows -- the wounds from an accident that turned her world upside down.

Instead, she grew restless, aching to see if her mother was okay.

Around 3:00pm yesterday, she was seen refusing medicine for her pain and holding her father, Rafiqul Islam, tight.

With tears streaming down, she kept asking, "Where is Ma? Call her. Where did you keep her? Take me to Ma. Which room is she in?"

Little did she know that her mother was never to return.

Ohi, a fourth grader, was on her way to Navy School with her mother Sabina Yeasmin, 31, and sister Rafia Yeasmin Mim, 6, on a battery-run auto-rickshaw.

She had an exam to sit for and Mim had tagged along with her and their mother as she had no one to look after her at home, locals said.

They were in front of Navy Market in Mirpur 14 around noon when a passenger bus of Trust Paribahan rammed the rickshaw from behind, making all three of its passengers fall to the ground.

The two little girls survived with

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GRAFT AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Political affiliations of VCs to blame

Say opposition MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition lawmakers yesterday slammed the government for failing to control corruption and irregularities at public universities.

Vice chancellors appointed for their political affiliations is a reason why there are widespread irregularities at the universities, they said while

discussing a bill for a university in Pirojpur.

The issue was discussed in parliament at a time when several public university vice-chancellors are under investigation by the University Grants Commission.

The allegations are mostly of nepotism, corruption and negligence of duty.

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Be ready to fight if enemies attack

PM urges armed forces

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the armed forces to remain ever prepared to thwart any threat to the country's independence and sovereignty.

"We have to remain prepared. If enemy from outside attacks us, we must resist that in a befitting manner," she said while inaugurating the Sheikh Russell Cantonment in Shariatpur's Jazera.

Joining the event virtually from the Gono Bhaban, Hasina said Bangladesh believes in "friendship to all, malice to none", the foreign policy formulated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We don't want to fight with anyone. We will not engage in war, but we have to remain prepared," she said.

In this connection, the PM said the government has taken steps to upgrade the armed forces through training and more resources.

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiqul Islam also spoke at the programme.

Hasina listed the measures the Awami League government had taken after coming to power in 1996 for the first time in 21 years.

Besides, she said the then AL government first recruited female officers in army, navy and air force in 2000.

The PM said after winning consecutive elections since 2008, the government has been implementing short, medium and long term plans to build a trained and up-to-date armed forces.

For this "Forces Goal 2030" has been launched on the basis of National Defence Policy-1974 formulated by Bangabandhu, she said.

In addition, Hasina said the government established Bangladesh Peace Building Centre in 2016 and formulated "National Defence Policy-2018".

She extended her gratitude to the chief of army staff and members of army for naming Mawa and Jazera cantonments as "Sheikh Russell Cantonment".

She said her younger brother Russell had aspired to be an army officer.

Hasina said the 99 Composite Brigade and the cantonment has been established to ensure the security of the Padma Bridge.

At the programme, the PM also received a state salute from a smartly tuned contingent of 99 Composite Brigade.

General Officer Commanding of 9th Infantry Division and Commander of Savar area Major General Shaheenul Haque presented a brief description of Sheikh Russell Cantonment.

An audio-visual documentary on Sheikh Russell Cantonment was also screened.



People and rescuers gather near a destroyed part of a Ukrainian government administration building following a bombing, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia, Ukraine hold 'meaningful' talks

Moscow agrees to reduce attacks on key cities; dozens of Russian diplomats expelled from Europe

AGENCIES

Russia said it would scale down fighting around two Ukrainian cities following "meaningful" talks with Ukraine yesterday, as officials raised the prospect of a meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents. The outcome of the face-to-face talks at a palace in Istanbul raised hopes around the world after more than a month of conflict that has left thousands dead and forced millions from their homes.

On the ground, Ukraine said seven people were killed by a Russian strike on a regional government building in the southern port city of Mykolaiv.

But Ukrainian negotiator David Arakhamia said there were now "sufficient" conditions for talks between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Arakhamia also called for "an international mechanism of security guarantees where guarantor countries will act in a similar way to Nato's article number five -- and even more firmly".

Russian Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin meanwhile said there had been progress in talks on "the neutrality and non-nuclear status of Ukraine".

Therefore "a decision has been made to radically, by several times reduce the military activity" around the capital Kyiv and the city of Chernigiv, he said.

Russia's chief negotiator Vladimir Medinsky also said there had been "meaningful discussion" and raised the prospect of a Putin-Zelensky meeting.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu called the talks the "most significant progress" since Russia's invasion began on February 24.

US President Joe Biden discussed the "latest developments" with the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Italy in a call that lasted just under an hour.

Following Tuesday's announcements, European stock markets lifted and oil prices fell by five percent as supply fears eased while the ruble surged 10 percent against the dollar.

The fighting has already forced more than 10 million from their homes and according to Zelensky has killed an estimated 20,000 people.

Ukrainian forces have pushed back Russian forces from around the city in recent days and have recaptured territory in other parts of the country, including in the suburban town of Irpin outside Kyiv -- an important gateway to the capital.

Ukraine has also resumed evacuations from areas in the south of the country occupied by Russian forces.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had opened the talks at the sprawling Dolmabahce palace, recognising "legitimate concerns" on both sides but urging them to "put an end to this tragedy".

Russian oligarch and Chelsea Football Club owner Roman Abramovich, who has been hit by Western sanctions, was also in attendance. The Kremlin said he was acting as an intermediary and denied reports that he had been poisoned during a previous round of negotiations in Ukraine.

CEC for hassle-free NID card service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal yesterday asked the Election Commission officials to remain alert so that people needing correction and change of information in the national identity card don't face hassles.

Speaking at a workshop at the Electoral Training Institute in the city, he also asked the officials to work as friends of the people, not as masters.

Awal said the NID card is a highly needed document. Correcting errors in NID cards has become an important matter, he added.

The CEC said the EC's reputation was being tarnished due to the activities of certain individuals. "If the Election Commission officials do not work efficiently and honestly, then the entire Election Commission will have to take the responsibility for that bad image. This issue needs to be monitored."

Teacher suspended for marrying son to schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An assistant teacher of Begumpur Government Primary School in Chuadanga has been suspended over marrying off her 10th grader son to a class 5 schoolgirl.

The action was taken yesterday after an investigation by the upazila education officer found the allegation against the teacher to be true, said Shamim Bhuiyan, Chuadanga sadar upazila nirbahi officer.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the teacher said, "I made a mistake. I apologise unconditionally."

Three held over murder of woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested three men, including an air conditioner technician, over the murder of a woman in the capital's Sabujbagh four days ago.

The arrestees are: AC technician Bappi, 31, and his associates Sumon Hossain Ridoy, 22, and Rubel, 42.

Police first picked up Bappi from Jhalakathi on Monday night and the two others from the capital's Rampura yesterday, Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner (Motijheel division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press briefing in the city.

The trio entered the house of Tania Afroz Mukta to service an AC and attempted to steal cash and gold jewelry from the closet when she was in the kitchen. As the woman screamed for help seeing them ransacking the closet, Bappi grabbed her and stabbed her with a machete, Ahad said.

Police later recovered Tania's body from the house.

Body recovered from Chattogram school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of an elderly man from a school in Chattogram's Satkania upazila yesterday morning.

The identity of the deceased, aged about 65, could not be confirmed till last evening, said Tarek Md Abdul Hannan, OC of Satkania Police Station.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from Khagaria Multipurpose High School around 7:00am, the OC said, adding that the body bore no injury marks.

Probe leaves puzzles

FROM PAGE 1

used by the cybercriminals, the physical examination reports of the consignments, the list of vehicles that carried the goods, and the current location of the empty containers.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the report recently.

When the scam took place, the two IDs used by the criminals to enter the system were supposed to be inactive. One of the officials got transferred while another was on suspension over bribery -- so none had the authorisation to use the IDs.

Yet the committee didn't hold anyone responsible for the IDs remaining active.

After investigating for two months, the probe body recommended filing a forgery case against two officials of Prottoy International, the clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent for releasing the 11 consignments on behalf of the importers.

This was the second cyberattack on the NBR server after a gang had similarly released about 4,000 consignments using the active IDs of two former customs officials in 2019.

Experts fear the main culprits will go unpunished if some pertinent questions are not answered. They also termed the probe report incomplete and an apparent attempt to protect the culprits.

The probe, however, found discrepancies between the information in shipping documents and customs documents. The fraudsters also submitted

fake import permission copies, shipping agents' papers and product lists, the report said.

The import permission numbers also did not match with shipping and customs documents.

"The forgery could have been averted had the port and customs officials properly checked the documents and also verified the authenticity of the import permission," the report observed.

THE IMPORTERS

Nine companies, whose names surfaced over the import of 11 consignments before the probe, in written statements to the committee claimed they were not involved in the forgery. They also denied any wrongdoing when contacted by this correspondent.

Four of the companies -- Grameen Knitwear Ltd, Shanta Denim Limited, Kong Keng Textile (Bangladesh) Co Ltd and Actor Sporting Limited -- "can't avoid their liabilities" as both the shipping and customs documents for four consignments were submitted in their names, the report said.

It, however, did not recommend any punishment against the four companies except for "monitoring their future import activities".

The probe committee cleared MGL Company BD Limited, Helicon Limited, Gold Shine Industries, Tigero Limited and Brothers Plastic Industries Limited -- who were named only in customs documents for seven consignments. The authorities could

prevent release of two of the seven consignments.

Interestingly, five other companies were named as importers in shipping documents, which the committee found authentic.

They are Electro Pack, Hassan & Brothers, ARH Knit Composite Limited, Medina Corporation and Ma Stretch. Of them, Electro Pack responded to the inquiry committee hearing.

Regarding the four absentees, the probe body recommended their explanations be sought.

The Daily Star could not reach these five companies but learnt that they were not named in customs documents.

Proprietor of Prottoy International Md Hafizur Rahman said he had filed a case against some of his staff with Chattogram Bandar Police Station after being informed about this forgery.

"They have committed irregularities using my licence," he told The Daily Star.

Customs law does not allow use of licence on a rental basis.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

The committee did not mention anything about nine documents which reportedly went missing from the Customs House.

The probe committee could have obtained copies of the missing documents from alternative sources, said customs insiders.

The committee ignored the issue of finding the internet protocol (IP) addresses of the scammers

who entered the NBR server. An IP is a unique address that identifies a device on the internet or a local network.

Regarding the server breach incident in 2019, the NBR investigation committee was able to identify seven cybercriminals by collecting IP addresses.

The probe report for last year's scam also did not reveal which officers were involved in physical testing of the consignments all the way to the last stage of releasing goods.

Besides, the customs have no information about the whereabouts of empty containers although those were supposed to be returned to customs depots 15 days after goods reached the destinations.

The investigation committee did not collect the information of the vehicles that carried those consignments from the port although the gate officials have detailed information about those transport companies.

By ignoring this, the insiders said, the probe body wasted an opportunity to get an idea about the destinations of the goods.

Then there is the issue of IDs of the two officials.

"The ID of a transferred officer should not be active unless those in charge of IT section are negligent or involved," former NBR officer Maruful Islam told The Daily Star.

Maruful, also former commissioner of Chattogram Customs House, said, "I retired eight years ago and my ID was

deactivated immediately."

Talsir Uddin Bhuiyan, the convener of the probe committee, acknowledged that it would have been better to have these issues in the report.

He, however, does not think that the main culprits would be able to escape.

"We could not look into these issues due to lack of time and other limitations," said Talsir, also joint commissioner of Chattogram Customs House.

House Commissioner Fakhru Alam said it was not possible to identify the main culprits and the destinations of the goods in the investigation due to some limitations.

"However, I believe it will come out in the police investigation."

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "It is frustrating that the main culprits remain unidentified due to poor customs investigations."

In order to prevent recurrence of such crimes, he added, it is indispensable to bring to justice all three parties -- the C&F agents, customs officials and the importers who are the principal beneficiaries of the illegalities.

Gujarat gets India's first 'steel road'

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Research and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) with help from the Ministry of Steel and Policy Commission

School run turns tragic

FROM PAGE 1

wounds and scrapes, but their mother Sabina could not make it.

Talking to The Daily Star, the victim's uncle Zamilur Rahman, who runs a shop in the Navy Market, said locals pulled the rickshaw aside and rescued the three. They then took them to a nearby hospital, which referred Sabina to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Doctors declared her dead upon arrival at the DMCH emergency unit around 2:20pm, said Bachchu Mia, inspector of the hospital police outpost.

Zamilur added that she was alive at the previous hospital and lost consciousness on the way to DMCH. As there were no injury marks on her body, doctors suspect she died from haemorrhage. They said the cause of her death can only be confirmed after an autopsy.

Sabina's body is now at DMCH morgue for an autopsy today.

Her daughters and husband were still at the hospital till the filing of this report at 8:00pm yesterday. "Let's go home with mother," Ohi kept insisting while her father Rafiqul, a retired Navy official, silently took care of hospital and legal formalities.

He could not break to

his daughters that they lost their mother and refused to talk to reporters to protect his children's feelings for as long as he could.

Family members and witnesses said Rafiqul too had broken down upon reaching the hospital, but as time passed, he gained his strength and remained silent for his children.

Locals near the Navy Market claimed both the auto-rickshaw and the bus drivers were reckless.

Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bhasantek Police Station, told The Daily Star that they got the news of the accident at least three hours after it occurred.

"A police team then visited the spot and came to know that a Trust Paribahan bus hit the rickshaw. The driver, however, fled the area with the vehicle by then.

"We are now trying to identify the bus through CCTV footage, and a drive to arrest the driver is underway," he said, adding they have told the family to file a complaint in this regard.

Contacted, a top official of Trust Paribahan said he knows nothing about the accident.

Hailing from Sirajganj, the family used to live in a rented flat at the Bhasantek Rehabilitation Project housing. After retiring from

the navy two years ago, Rafiqul started working at a private firm in Mymensingh and would visit his family in Dhaka once every month.

Sabina's uncle Zamilur said Rafiqul last spoke to his wife just as he started out for Dhaka on Monday night. He heard about the accident while he was on the road.

SCHOOLGIRL KILLED BY TRUCK

In a separate incident, a schoolgirl was crushed under the wheels of a truck on the Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid Highway in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila yesterday noon.

The victim, Munira Khatun, 10, a fifth grader of Pukuria Government Primary School, was on her way home from school with her friends for lunch break.

Quoting locals, Chowdhury Jubair Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, said the accident occurred around 1:30pm when a Chapainawabganj-bound truck from Sonamasjid ran over Munira and killed her on the spot.

Police were able to seize the vehicle but the driver and helper had both managed to flee.

Following the incident, people blockaded the highway and stopped traffic for an hour.

and has six lanes. It is made using 100 percent process steel aggregate and substitutes the usual materials. According to CSRI, the thickness of the road has also been

reduced by 30 percent. It is believed that this new method can prevent the roads from any damage caused during the monsoon season.

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Speakers at the discussion on "Violence against indigenous women and girls: the case study of Bangladesh" at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The event was organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, BIWN and Kapaeng Foundation. PHOTO: STAR

VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Most perpetrators not from community: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only about 12 percent of all rape incidents involving indigenous women and girls have been perpetrated by those from indigenous communities.

Most perpetrators belong to the majority.

Kapaeng Foundation revealed the statistics after examining 460 incidents of violence against indigenous women and girls between 2009 and 2020 in 39 districts.

In only four percent of cases of murder after rape, the culprits were

indigenous themselves.

None of the "attempt to rape" incidents were perpetrated by indigenous people.

A majority of the rapes were done by neighbours, said the report.

The statistics were unveiled in a discussion organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network (BIWN) and Kapaeng Foundation, titled "Violence against indigenous women and girls: the case study of Bangladesh", at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

In only 128 out of the 460 incidents, legal cases were filed with

police, stated the findings.

"Powerful perpetrators create pressure on the weak and poor victims to withdraw the case," found the study, citing interviews with participants. "Perpetrators also exert pressure and even give bribes to doctors for giving negative medical reports. The police and administration can also play a biased role to save perpetrators."

The study was funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). Khagrachhari by far had the worst law and order, according to the figures. The district logged 128

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The culture of impunity has worsened the situation of violence against indigenous women and children.

Dr Mizanur Rahman
Former chairperson, NHRC

লেজার পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা অপারেশন, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, পলিপ, কোলোনস্কপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোস্কপি

পেটের খাদ্যনালী ও মলদ্বারের (Colon, Rectum and Anus) বিভিন্ন সমস্যা যেমন- মলত্যাগের পর রক্ত যাওয়া, মলদ্বারের বিভিন্ন সমস্যা, ফিস্টুলা, এনালফিস্থার, রক্ত আশ্রয় (Ulcerative Colitis), লেজার পাইলস অপারেশন, সর্বাধুনিক ল্যাপারোস্কপি পদ্ধতিতে পাইলস অপারেশন, মলদ্বারের বারো বার অপারেশন ব্যর্থ হওয়ার কারণ, বাধামুক্ত মল ত্যাগের জন্য (Obstructed Defecation) STARR অপারেশন, পেটের ভেতর খাদ্যনালীর ক্যান্সার (Colon Cancer), Colonoscopy, পায়ুপথ ক্যান্সারে (Rectum Cancer) মলদ্বার না কেটে অত্যাধুনিক স্ট্যাপলিং পদ্ধতিতে পেটে ব্যাগ না লাগিয়ে অপারেশন, ল্যাপারোস্কপি পদ্ধতিতে পেট না কেটে কোলন ক্যান্সার অপারেশন, শিশুদের পায়খানার সাথে রক্ত যাওয়া ইত্যাদির অত্যাধুনিক ও বিশ্বমানের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে জানতে হলে বইটি পড়ুন।

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CRP opens branch in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The authorities of the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) yesterday launched its new branch in Manikganj.

State Minister for Social Welfare Md Ashraf Ali Khan inaugurated it through a programme in the town's West Dashtra area.

CRP Executive Director Dr Mohammad Sohrab Hossain presided over the inaugural ceremony that was addressed by CRP founder Valerie A Taylor and Director General of the Bureau of NGO Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office KM Tariqul Islam.

Sohrab said the construction of a two-storey building was completed at a cost Tk 10.29 crore. The government spent Tk 8 crore and the CRP Tk 2.29 crore. The project started on July 15, 2020.

Most perpetrators

FROM PAGE 3

cases of violence against indigenous women over the period.

To compare, Rangamati saw 94 cases, while Bandarban witnessed 45 cases.

Dr Mizanur Rahman, former chairperson of National Human Rights Commission, said, "The culture of impunity has worsened the situation of violence against indigenous women and children."

He said a shift in public mindset regarding indigenous communities and lifestyles needs to occur. "We must work harder in this regard, so that our voices reach the institutions that can make the changes."

Dr Sadeka Halim, professor of sociology at Dhaka University, said indigenous women are further marginalised because of the remoteness of their residence.

She said victim blaming is

quite prevalent in the society, and everyone must put an end to this practice.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said because the justice system is not women-friendly, marginalised women face even more problems when seeking justice.

She said the findings are being disseminated to help the state take necessary measures to improve the situation.

Sohrab Hossain, joint editor of Prothom Alo, commented that in many cases, violence against women is used as a tool to grab land in the hill tracts.

Sanjeeb Drong, secretary general of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum; Falguni Tripura, coordinator of BIWN; and Pallab Chakma, executive director of Kapaeng Foundation, also spoke at the event.

BNP incited left parties to call hartal

Says Hasan Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said BNP instigated left-leaning political parties to enforce hartal, which protested price hike of essentials.

He was addressing an extended meeting of Rangunia upazila unit of Awami League in Chattogram.

The minister said when people breathed a sigh of relief, as the price of daily essentials has decreased, BNP inflamed the situation.

Abdul Monaf Sikder, vice president of Rangunia upazila unit of AL, presided over the meeting.

Leaders of Left Democratic Alliance observed the half-day nationwide hartal on Monday.

WB approves

FROM PAGE 5

The project will also undertake road safety pilots in selected urban areas and district roads.

It plans to help modernise the capacity of the Traffic Police and highway patrol by installing CCTVs, electronic messaging, and physical measures to slow down traffic speed, including patrol vehicles and crash scene clearing equipment.

The project also plans on improving post-crash care and setting up an ambulance service via a

toll-free number.

It will also upgrade emergency care services in selected district hospitals and upazila health complexes along the two national highway corridors.

ICT systems will support the integration of existing information systems and databases of vehicle registration, driver licensing, and payments.

The project has provisions for undertaking campaigns to create road safety awareness and behavioural change among the common people.

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স Biman Bangladesh Airlines
H.S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH.
PHONE-8901500-19, 8901640-54, www.biman-airlines.com

PROCUREMENT & LOGISTIC SUPPORT DIRECTORATE
REF: DACPF/INTL TENDER/032/2021-2022 DATED: 29-03-2022

International Tender Notice

Sealed tender is invited for supplying the following equipment to Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.:

S/N	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
01	DAPF/INTL TENDER/032/2021-2022 DT. 29-03-2022	Aircraft Self-Propelled Conveyor Belt Loader.	06 units

Tender schedule with detailed specifications, Terms & Conditions will be available at the office of Manager Accounts, Cash & Banking, Balaka, Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka and Biman's outstation in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai & London on all working days up to 18/04/2022. A formal application in bidder's letterhead pad mentioning Tender Number and date shall be required for purchasing the tender schedule(s). The purchase price of each tender schedule is BDT 3500.00 (BDT Three thousand five hundred only) or equivalent foreign currency (non-refundable). Tender schedule and other related information may also be viewed at Biman's website www.biman-airlines.com.

The last date of submission of tender is on 19/04/2022 at 11:00 hrs. (BST).

Mustafa Miandad Mehedi
Manager Commercial Purchase

GD-607

DUJA gets new committee



Tushar Rubel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mamun Tushar of daily Alokito Bangladesh and Sirajul Islam Rubel of The Daily Star have been elected as the new president and general secretary of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) for the next one year.

Other office bearers are vice-president Al Sadi Bhuiyan of Jagonews24.com; joint secretary Md Asif Howladar of Prothom Alo; office secretary Nasimul Huda of Bangladesh Pratidin; treasurer Mahdi Hassan of daily Jugantor; and executive members Obaidur Rahman Sohan of New age, Mohiuddin Muzahid of BSS, and Monirul Islam of Newsbangla24.com.

Strike halts

FROM PAGE 5

protest, the workers also held rallies on the streets and blocked roads.

Union president Mir Moksed said, "We lifted the blockade [on Monday] on assurance of police. However, the accused have not been arrested so far. That's why we enforced the strike." The strike will continue until the attackers are arrested, he added.

Govt laxity

FROM PAGE 5

costs and retail prices shows that our markets are not consumer friendly, which is very unfortunate. The huge gap reflects unjust business policy," he said.

Saying that "government patronised syndicates" were involved in price hikes, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the government is mocking the hartal, which was observed by left-leaning parties to protest price hikes.

"Does this mean they do not want to reduce prices?" he said, adding that prices will not drop unless the government steps aside from power.

Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Kafi Ratan said due to extortion on the roads, which transport vehicles have to face, commodity prices shot up.

"Tomatoes that are sold at Tk 2 per kilo in Kurigram are sold at Tk 40 per kilo [in Dhaka]. How is that possible?"

Extortion on the roads is the major reason for the hike," he said.

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said the government would be liable to the people, if it had to beg for votes after every five years. That scenario is only possible through fair and free elections.

বসুন্ধরায় কর্ণার পুট বিক্রয়

বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় আই-ব্লকে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব-উত্তর ১২ কাতার কর্ণার পুট বিক্রয় হইবে। পুটটির রেজিস্ট্রেশন, মিউটেশন ও বাউন্ডারী ওয়াল কম্পিউটিকৃত, এখনই বাড়ী করার উপযোগী। যোগাযোগ: ০১৭১৫৪৬৬৮৭, ই-মেইল: mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com

BUILDING & LAND SALE
(Suitable for Factory/ Hospital/University)

Two Buildings (each 6 Storied @ 90,000sqft) total 1,80,000sqft, Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory running at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta.
Contact: 01711-525563, Email: dilan@capital-bd.com

World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization Emergency Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh invites proposals/bids using "Two-envelope system" from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. **CXB_RFP/2022/010:** WASH-FIT Training for Health Care Facility Managers/Doctors/Nurses/PC personnel in Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals Settlements and adjacent host communities at Cox's Bazar

Deadline for the submission of RFPs: **16:00hrs, 13 April 2022.**

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from:
https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Emergency Sub-Office, Hotel Sea Palace Ltd. (western plaza-1st floor), Kolatali Road, Cox's Bazar-4700, Bangladesh.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক এর কার্যালয়
সড়ক বিভাগ, শরীয়তপুর
☎ - ০৬০১-৬১৪০৬
ই-মেইলঃ eesar@rhd.gov.bd

শ্রাবক নং: ৩৫.০১.৮৬.৬৯.৪৬৮.০৭.০০২.২১-০০৬ তারিখ: ২৯-০৩-২০২২

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work/package description	Last selling date & time	Opening date & time	Remarks
679396	e-GP/30/EE/SRD/2021-2022	Installation of Mounted Overhead, Double Side Cantilever, Reflective Road Stud, Road Marking, Traffic Sign, Sign Post at Different Chainage of Mostafapur-Madaripur-Shariatpur (Monohar Bazar)-Ibrahimpur-Horina-Chandpur (Bhatialpur) Road (R-860), Monohar Bazar More-Shariatpur (Premitola) Road (R-861) & Sheikh Hasina Highway Road (R-860) under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year-2021-2022.	13-04-2022 16:00am	13-04-2022 14:00pm	Only online tender
679391	e-GP/31/EE/SRD/2021-2022	Supplying of 1 st Class Bricks, Local Sand (F.M. 0.50), Coarse Sand F.M>2.50 (Sylhet Sand), 20mm down well graded Stone Chips (Pakur) at RHD Stackyard Shariatpur for Maintenance work of Different km of Different Road under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year-2021-2022.	13-04-2022 16:00am	13-04-2022 14:30pm	Only online tender

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Bhuiya Redwanur Rahman
ID No. 602254
Executive Engineer (c.c.), RHD
Road Division, Shariatpur

GD-608

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka
28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani
Tejgoan, Dhaka-1208

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Land (MoL).
2	Agency	Directorate of Land Records and Surveys.
3	Procuring entity name	Zonal Settlement Officer, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Desktop Computers (Brand PC).
7	Invitation Ref No.	31.03.2692.022.30.007.21.65
8	Date	23/03/2022
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	GoB.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	N/A.
14	Tender Package No.	01
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Desktop Computers (Brand PC).
16	Tender publication date	04/04/2022
17	Tender last selling date	17/04/2022
18	Tender closing date and time	18/04/2022 1.00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	18/04/2022 02.00pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	307, Floor 2nd, Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka. Directorate of Land Records and Survey, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka-1208.
	Selling tender document (principal)	307, Floor 2nd, Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka. Directorate of Land Records and Survey, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka-1208.
	Selling tender document (others)	
	Receiving tender document	307, Floor 2nd, Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka. Directorate of Land Records and Survey, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka-1208.
	Opening tender document	307, Floor 2nd, Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka. Directorate of Land Records and Survey, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka-1208.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	As described in the tender document(s).
23	Brief description of goods	As described in the tender document(s).
24	Brief description of related services	As described in the tender document(s).
25	Price of tender document (TK)	Price of the hard copy of tender document is Taka 1000.00 (one thousand) only (no refundable) for each lot. Tender advertisement can be viewed from the website of Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka (www.zsodhaka.gov.bd). Money receipt for purchasing the Tender document(s) must be submitted with the tender.

Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks	
26	01	Procurement of Desktop Computers (Brand PC)	307, Floor 2nd, Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka. 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka-1208.	3 (three) percent of the total value of the item(s) quoted by the tenderer	03 (three) weeks from the date of issuing NOA

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

27	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Ashraf Hossain.
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Zonal Settlement Officer, Dhaka.
29	Address official inviting tender	307, Floor 2nd, Zonal Settlement Office, Dhaka. 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka-1208.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 02-8170067 Email: zsodhaka@dls.gov.bd
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Zonal Settlement Officer, Dhaka
Tel. No. 02-8170067
Email: zsodhaka@dls.gov.bd

GD-602

Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Rajshahi

Admission Open
21th Batch (2021-2022)

MBA (Evening) Program

Eligibility Requirements : The applicants must have a Bachelor degree in any discipline (Business, Engineering, Medicine, Agriculture, Science, Social Science, Law, Arts etc.) from any recognized University. The minimum qualifying point for applying is 6 (six) with no more than one 3rd division in any public examination. The qualifying points are calculated on the following basis.

Certificate / Degree	Division / CGPA		
	1st / 3.5 or above	2nd / 3.0 to below 3.5	3rd / 2.0 to below 3.0
SSC or equivalent	3	2	1
HSC or equivalent	3	2	1
Bachelor Degree (pass)	4	3	2
BBA, Bachelor Degree (Hons) or Engineering, Medicine & Agriculture	5	4	2
Master Degree	1	1	1

Features of MBA (Evening) Program

- Total credit 63.
- Class schedule : From 6:00 p.m. to 9:10 p.m. in 4 days of a week except Friday and Saturday.
- Structured academic program is based on well defined time frame.
- Classes are conducted by experienced faculties.
- Medium of instruction is exclusively English.
- Guest faculties are arranged from academics, industrialists and experts.

Admission Test :
May 20, 2022
Friday, 10:00 am-11:00 am
Venue: IBA Bhaban, R.U.

Written Test on :
English, Mathematics and Aptitude.

Deadline for Application:
May 18, 2022.

Application Procedure :

- Application forms and other information are available at room no. 203, 1st floor, IBA Bhaban on payment of application fee of Tk. 800/- (non-refundable) from April 03, 2022.
- The application form can also be collected by post from IBA office by sending (i) a bank draft/pay order of Tk. 800/- drawn in favor of " Director, IBA, R.U." from any scheduled banks (ii) a 10"x8" size self addressed envelope with a postage stamp of Tk. 35/-. The filled-in-application form should reach the IBA office by **May 18, 2022** during office hours (from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm).
- Attested photocopy of all academic certificates, one copy passport size and one copy stamp size photographs must be attached with application form during submission.

N.B. The students who have already enrolled in other MBA programs of IBA, RU, are not eligible to apply for this program.

Professor Dr. Zeennat Ara Begum
Director

Contact : IBA Office- 0721-711167, 0721-711286
Website : www.iba-ru.ac.bd

GD-608

Rab last resort in rescuing victims of abduction: DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion's success in combating crime while upholding humanity is unprecedented in the world, said its Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun yesterday. "I can firmly say that Rab is the last resort when it comes to rescuing abducted victims," he said while speaking at a programme on "Rab Memorial Day" organised at the force's headquarters to commemorate those who died while performing duties.



He highlighting the force's success and sacrifices of the deceased members, asked Rab personnel to perform their duties — upholding human rights — and going beyond individual interests.

So far, 328 robbers have surrendered to Rab. Rab did not only convince them to surrender but also took measures for their rehabilitation, he said, adding, "There is a breeze of peace in the Sundarbans now."

The Rab DG also highlighted the force's achievements in curbing different crimes including drug trade and militancy, and in recovering firearms in recent years.

"In the past few years, anti-drug drive was one of the toughest challenges for Rab. In the special anti-drug operations, 100 drug dealers were dead in exchange of fire while six Rab member sustained bullet injuries," he said.



Billal, the sole bread earner of his family of six, used to work as a temporary worker at Khalishpur Jute Mill. Since the mill's closure, he has been selling children's toys to support himself and his family. He makes Tk 400-500 each day. The photo was taken yesterday from Khulna city's Khalishpur Prabhati School field.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Govt laxity to blame

Speakers say some traders creating artificial crisis by hiking price of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taking advantage of the government's laxity, dishonest traders are pocketing huge amounts of money by creating an artificial supply crisis, said speakers yesterday.

The government needs to take initiatives immediately to keep prices of daily essentials at a tolerable level

during Ramadan, they added.

They made the remarks at a discussion on "Essentials' Price Hike, Public Sufferings and Solution", organised by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Mentioning that there is lack of coordination among relevant ministries and organisations,

Consumers Association of Bangladesh Vice President SM Nazer Hossain said due to this, traders are getting opportunities to make extra profit.

The government has withdrawn VAT on edible oil, but it should look into whether consumers are getting the benefit, he added.

"The huge gap between production

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

WB approves \$358m for safer roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Bank yesterday approved \$358 million to help Bangladesh improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injuries from accidents on selected high-risk highways and district roads.

This is the first dedicated road safety project in South Asia supported by the World Bank.

MERCY TEMBON
WB country director for Bangladesh, Bhutan

The project will help Bangladesh achieve the SDGs on road safety by 2030, according to a press release.

On two national highways — N4 (Gazipur-Elena) and N6 (Natore to Nawabganj) — the project will pilot comprehensive road safety measures, including improved engineering designs, signing and marking, pedestrian facilities, speed enforcement, and emergency care.

These measures will help reduce deaths by more than 30 percent on these two highways, according to the World Bank.

"This is the first dedicated road safety project in South Asia supported by the World Bank," said Mercy Tembon, World Bank country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

PRAYER
TIMING
MAR 30



	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



Cargo ships from Dhaka take popular snacks like chips to districts like Khulna, Faridpur and Kushtia, for their fans are scattered all across the country. Once the ships reach their destination, workers carry the goods to trucks for distribution. They earn Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000 per month for the work. This photo was taken in Barishal's Chandmari Kheyaghat area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

SUNAMGANJ MAYHEM

72 denied bail, sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sunamganj court yesterday denied bail plea of 72 persons accused in a case filed following the mayhem in Noagaon village of Sunamganj's Shalla upazila on March 17 last year.

Sunamganj Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Abdur Rahim denied their plea after a hearing and ordered to send them to jail, said Advocate Nazrul Islam, additional public prosecutor of the court. All 72 are named accused in the case filed by Bibekananda Majumder, a resident of the village. After the attack, they were arrested from different areas.

The mayhem reportedly started after Jhumon Das, a resident of the village, posted on Facebook, criticising Hefajat-Islam leader Mamunul Haque. Several hundreds of local Hefajat supporters attacked the village.

However, Jhumon was detained a day before the attack and was later sued in a case filed by police under Digital Security Act. He got bail in September.

The mob, allegedly led by local union council member Shahidul Islam Swadhin, vandalised and looted 90 houses of Hindu people along with four temples.

After the attack, two cases were filed with Shalla Police Station — one by Bibekananda and another by police. In Bibekananda's case, 72 named, including Shahidul Islam, and 1,500 unnamed persons were sued.

Strike halts fuel supply in 15 districts

Khulna tank-lorry workers protest attack on union leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Supply of fuel remains suspended in 15 districts as tank-lorry workers enforced an indefinite strike in Khulna division from yesterday morning.

The strike came demanding arrest of those who attacked one of their leaders.

The lifting and transportation of fuel from the state-run Padma, Meghna and Jamuna oil depots at Khalishpur in Khulna city has been halted, said Khulna Divisional Tank Lorry Workers Union Mir Moksed Ali. As a result, oil is not being transported to 15 districts including five under Barishal division, he added.

As about 450 oil tankers remain away from the roads, this will make it difficult for farmers to irrigate their paddy fields during the boro season.

The workers said Al-Amin, the line secretary of the union, was attacked by some unknown attackers on Nayabati Road in Khalishpur at 12:30pm on March 21.

He was later admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital. On Monday, workers blocked the Natun Rasta Mor on Khulna-Jashore highway from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. During the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
"Feasibility Study And Detailed Design for Introduction of Electric Traction (Including Overhead Catenary, Sub-Station) In Between Narayanganj-Dhaka-Chattogram Section of Bangladesh Railway" Project, Bangladesh Railway CRB, Chattogram

Invitation for Re-Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Railways.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Railway.			
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for Introduction of Electric Traction (Including Overhead Catenary, Sub-Station) in between Narayanganj-Dhaka-Chattogram Section of Bangladesh Railway Project.			
4	Invitation for the work				
	Package No.	Name of the works			
	WD/1	WD-1 Rental of Vehicles for Project Management Unit.			
5	Invitation for Tender No.	54.01.1500.115.07.102.22			
6	Invitation Reference No. & date	54.01.1500.115.07.102.22, Date: 29.02.2022			
KEY INFORMATION					
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
8	Tender publication date	30.03.2022			
9	Budget and source of fund	GOB Revenue.			
10	Period and last date for selling of tender document	On all office days within working hour from 9:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs. from the date of advertisement of the tender notice up to 10.04.2022.			
11	Time for submission of tender	Up to 12:00 hrs. of 11.04.2022.			
12	Time for opening of tender	At 12:30 hrs. on 11.04.2022.			
13	(a) Name and address of the selling tender documents (principal)	i) Office of the Project Director, "Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for Introduction of Electric Traction (Including Overhead Catenary, Sub-Station) in between Narayanganj-Dhaka-Chattogram Section of Bangladesh Railway" Project. Room No. 418, CRB, Chattogram. ii) Office of the Divisional Electrical Engineer, Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.			
	(b) Name & address of the receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director, "Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for Introduction of Electric Traction (Including Overhead Catenary, Sub-Station) in between Narayanganj-Dhaka-Chattogram Section of Bangladesh Railway" Project.			
	(c) Name & address of the opening tender document	As above.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
14	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderer eligible to provided service according to PPA/2006 & PPR/2008 and other relevant laws of Bangladesh.			
15	Brief description of the works	WD-1: Rental of Vehicles for Project Management Unit.			
16	Price of tender documents (Taka)	Tk 1000/- (Taka one thousand) only for each package tender document (non-refundable).			
17	Package No.	Identification of Package.	Location	Tender security amount (Taka)	Completion time in weeks/months
	WD/1	WD/1	Project Director Office, CRB, Chattogram	Tk 50,000/- only, (In the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft with MICR shall be submitted in favour of FA & CAO (Project), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka).	16 (sixteen) months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
18	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Habibur Rahman.			
19	Designation of official invitation tender	Project Director.			
20	Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for Introduction of Electric Traction (Including Overhead Catenary, Sub-Station) in between Narayanganj-Dhaka-Chattogram Section of Bangladesh Railway Project. Room No. 418, CRB, Chattogram.			
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Mobile: 01711-506127 E-mail: pdetnc@railway.gov.bd			
22	The procuring entity reserve the right to accept or reject all tender or part thereof.				
23	Special instruction (A) If the office remains close on the last date of selling of the tender documents, date of dropping and opening of the tender, the next following working day shall be deemed as the last date of selling of the tender documents, date of dropping & opening of the tender respectively. (B) Bank guarantee is not acceptable as tender security.				

Md. Habibur Rahman
Project Director
"Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for Introduction of Electric Traction (Including Overhead Catenary, Sub-Station) in between Narayanganj-Dhaka-Chattogram Section of Bangladesh Railway" Project
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

S(22) (87)
GD-610

Frustrated with delays on release dates: Mim

“We are husband and wife” is the story of the modern-day couple and the usual problems they face on their day-to-day lives. It was a wonderful experience working with Tahsan bhai again. He is an incredible actor, and audiences love seeing us together.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Bidyā Sinha Mim is currently busy shooting for her Eid tele-fiction, alongside Tahsan in Mabruur Rashid Bannah’s “We are husband and wife”.

Amidst her packed schedules, the “Shap Ludu” actress talked about her upcoming ventures, movies, and more.

You have returned to Eid projects after a year. How does it feel working with Tahsan again?

My last Eid fiction was “Hello Baby”, which was released at the end of 2020. After that, there was a huge gap, as I only wanted to work on projects which intrigue me as an artiste.

“We are husband and wife” is the story of the modern-day couple and the usual problems they face on their day-to-day lives. It was a wonderful experience working with Tahsan bhai again. He is an incredible actor, and audiences love seeing us together.

Previously, we worked together in endorsements, but the audience will see something truly special here.

How was your honeymoon in Maldives?

Maldives was one of those places that I wanted to visit for the first time with my husband. The trip was something that I will remember for ages.

It was such a surreal experience living in a beautiful small hut amidst the crystal-clear sea. We even had a wonderful candle light dinner, and even caught beautiful coloured fishes during our outing.

Is this your first work after marriage?

No, I did a couple of advertisements and a special ad-film for Women’s Day, called “Dekhiye Dao”.

Directed by Mahathir Spondon, the film raises awareness on people’s remarks against female attires. Through such ad-films, I want to break the bias holding up against us.

Your last released film was “Shapludu”, in 2019. When will “Poran” and “Antarjal” be released in theatres?

I am frustrated with the continuous delays of my movies. They tell me one date, and next thing I know it has been postponed again. I think its best if you ask the directors regarding the theatrical release of the movies.

What are your upcoming projects?

I am currently in talks to star in a movie, which is based on a real-life incident. We will officially inform about the movie soon.



PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK

Deepika Padukone bags Time100 Impact Award

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Deepika Padukone was recently honoured with a feature in the Time100 Impact Awards.

She has not only proved her mettle in acting, but she is also one of the first Bollywood actresses to disclose her struggle with depression.

The actress took to Instagram and shared a post about being included in the esteemed list of global personalities that made significant contributions in different fields.

The *Gehraiyaan* star was featured for her work in the mental health space.

The LiveLoveLaugh Foundation, which Padukone launched in 2015, works towards destigmatising mental health struggles and raise awareness. It has seen a tremendous growth over the years.

American actress Courtney Coffey to star opposite Shakib Khan in ‘Rajkumar’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The first look of Shakib Khan’s upcoming film, “Rajkumar”, directed by Himel Ashraf, was launched on the superstar’s birthday at World Fair Marina Convention Hall, New York.



American Actress Courtney Coffey will share the screen with Shakib Khan in the film. She has appeared in an American television series before. “Rajkumar” is her first Bangladeshi film.

Under the banner of SK Films, the movie is produced by Zakaria Masud and Kazi Riton, both of whom are Bangladeshi expatriates in the USA.

Apart from Bangladesh, it will be released in the USA, UK, Middle East, Canada, and India.

Shooting of the film is expected to run until July. Production teams from India and America are working on it.

COUNTRYWIDE

Authorities blamed for 3 kids dying in landslide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three children have fallen victims to mindless soil extraction from hills in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.

A pal of gloom descended at Islamnagar village in Vatera union of the upazila where three children were killed as a large chunk of earth from a hill suddenly fell on them on Saturday.

Locals said mindless hill cutting is responsible for the deaths of the children.

The deceased were Nurul Amin Sumon, 13, son of Tasibur Rahman, Nahid Islam, 12, son of Abdus Salam of Islamnagar village and Kabir Hossain, 7, son of Abdul Karim. The trio died on the spot while they were searching for a bird’s nest. All of them were madrasa students.

Victim Sumon’s mother Monowara Begum said, “My son is gone. What will I do now? He was my dearest son. After the Zuhur prayers, he left the house without eating rice and he won’t return ever.”

“Why did I let my son go out that day?” lamented victim Kabir’s father Abdul Karim, sobbing uncontrollably. The entire village was mourning the death of the three children.

Kamruzzaman, assistant manager of Vatera Rubber Garden, said soil was being cut freely.

“We don’t know who is cutting the soil. However, a sand-filled pickup van was seized 15 days ago,” he said.

But he did not answer the question as to why legal action was not taken against that clique.

Vatera UP Chairman Syed AKM Nazrul Islam said the soil of the hills became soft due to the morning rain and the tragic accident happened.

“I have provided Tk 5,000 to the three families immediately after the incident as per the instruction of the UNO,” he added.

Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) AIM Farhad Chowdhury said, “We have run mobile courts in different areas including Vatera to stop razing hills in Kulaura and have imposed fines on those involved. The families of the victims will be given financial assistance of Tk 10,000 by the district administration.”

Contacted, Bodrul Huda, assistant director of the DoE in Moulvibazar, said “We are getting a lot of complaints of hill cutting from Vatera. I visited different spots last year and found that hills had been razed without permission. All the hills in the area are being razed with the help of the local UP chairman. I also wrote a letter to my higher authority accordingly.”

Abdul Karim Kim, an executive member of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan, said local influential and rubber plantation authorities are directly involved in cutting these hills and sand lifting. That is why there have been many fatal accidents. And in this rainy season, it will increase manifold.



A pall of gloom descended in Islamnagar village under Vatera union of Moulvibazar’s Kulaura upazila following the deaths of three children. Villagers live in fear of landslides because of unabated razing of hills, however, no effective administrative actions have yet to be taken to curb the menace. PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka, UN seek to raise \$881m Ex-BB high-ups spill

FROM PAGE 12 reforestation and energy interventions.

Hyde said the solutions to the Rohingya crisis ultimately lie within Myanmar, but steadfast support from the international community is crucial to delivering

lifesaving protection and assistance services for the refugees until they can return to Myanmar.

At the launch, Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, said the international community, including the UN, must intensify their focus on

the permanent solution – the sustainable return and reintegration of Rohingyas in Myanmar.

“We urge the international community to do everything possible to arrange their [the Rohingyas] early, voluntary and sustainable repatriation,” he said.

Tk 179,198cr lost

FROM PAGE 12 About 24 lakh people got sick or injured during the period, leading to medical bills amounting to Tk 3,942 crore.

Of them, about 15 lakhs were children. They were affected by diarrhoea, dysentery, skin disease, jaundice and many more.

During disasters, people have to depend on pharmacies and village doctors for treatment, the study said, adding that

only 14 percent managed to get the services of MBBS doctors at that time.

The lowest income group of disaster-prone areas is 10 times more vulnerable than the top quintile in exposure to damage and loss.

As much as 97.17 percent of the bottom quintile’s income vanishes for damage and loss while it is only 9.33 percent for the top quintile, it said.

However, in the same period, the knowledge and

perception about climate change rose 5 percentage points since 2015, standing at 60 percent. In 2015, 38 percent did not know about climate change; that came down to 23 percent in 2020.

About 49 percent of people were getting electricity as the main source of lighting in 2015, which rose to 94 percent in 2020. The toilet facilities and safe drinking water facilities improved during the year.

Political affiliations

FROM PAGE 1 Education Minister Dipu Moni said, “There are criticisms about the activities of some of the vice chancellors... And action is being taken against them. But it would not be wise to make wholesale comments regarding all vice chancellors.”

The minister placed the “Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University of Science and Technology, Pirojpur Bill-2022” in parliament yesterday.

Opposition lawmakers demanded the bill be withdrawn and sent to the selection committee to solicit public opinion.

BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid said the government is founding public universities one after another. “But what state are the universities in? In some cases, vice chancellors

needed police protection to leave the campus. Scandalous information regarding the appointment of RUET [Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology] VC has surfaced.”

Qualified educationists should be appointed as VCs, he added.

The quality of education has deteriorated, he further said, adding that no teacher or employee has been recruited in schools and colleges in the last 10 to 15 years without the exchange of bribes.

The number of unemployed graduates are on the rise because of the absence of quality education, he said.

BNP MP Rumeen Farhana said the universities are playing almost no role in creating employment. Jatiya Party MP Mujibul

Haque Chunnu said, “There was a time when people bowed down in respect before university vice chancellors. But now we feel ashamed for the vice chancellors’ involvement in corruption and irregularities.”

“We often read in the news that VCs recruit their family members and relatives to their universities.”

The JP secretary general then demanded appointment of VCs without political considerations.

Dipu Moni said academic excellence, research and the ability to lead an institution are considered when an individual is picked as the possible VC.

The government is working to improve the standard of education, she added.

FROM PAGE 12 institution and market then.

“They gave some important information. Some top officials of the inspection division of the Bangladesh Bank had good relations with PK Halder,” the ACC official said.

Chowdhury and Alam declined to respond to journalists’ queries after the interrogation. “We have already given our statements to the investigation officer,” Chowdhury said.

On February 23 last

year, the National Board of Revenue directed banks to provide information on the accounts of Chowdhury and Alam and their spouses.

In March last year, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit issued a similar directive. That month, the High Court asked why Chowdhury and Alam were not arrested yet for aiding Halder.

In July last year, the NBR directed banks to freeze the accounts of Chowdhury and his wife Suparna on suspicion of tax evasion.

Embarrassing

FROM PAGE 12 project is attractive to investors.

Instructed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, BBA started the feasibility study in September 2018. Led by Spanish firm TYPSA, a consortium conducted the study.

Speaking at the event before Quader, DSCC Mayor

Taposh said the current bus fare in the city is Tk 2.15 per km. “Why would the passengers pay more for travelling on the subway?”

“I don’t think the feasibility study is correct if the cost [of travelling on the subway] is more than Tk 2.15 [per km]. So, the commercial survey has to be done.”

Bangladesh yet

FROM PAGE 12 for the first time, went for a \$250 million currency swap when Sri Lanka faced difficulties. “Sri Lanka is still facing difficulties. So, we extended the time for the repayment.”

It was the first-ever loan to any country from Bangladesh under the currency swap agreement inked by the Bangladesh Bank and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) on August 3 last year.

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Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px;">Old Address</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Ataturk Tower (8th Floor) 22, Kemal Ataturk Avenue Banani, Dhaka-1213.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 2px;">New Address</p> <p style="font-size: small;">House No. 10, Level-2 & 3, Road No. 17A Block-E, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh. Tel: +88 02 8836324, 8836325, 0222281663 Email: info@baffa-bd.org Website: www.baffa-bd.org</p>
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Trump likely obstructed Congress

Says US judge over the ex-president's efforts to overturn 2020 polls

AFP, Washington

A federal judge has ruled that former US president Donald Trump "more likely than not" engaged in criminal conduct with his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Judge David Carter leveled the explosive accusation in a ruling dealing with subpoenas issued by the congressional committee investigating the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol by Trump supporters.

"Based on the evidence, the court finds it more likely than not that President Trump corruptly attempted to obstruct the Joint Session of Congress," Carter said in a blistering 44-page ruling.

In his ruling, Carter noted that Trump had repeatedly urged Pence to throw out Electoral College votes from contested states and had done so in a fiery speech to his supporters shortly before the storming of Congress. Pence resisted the pressure, and Biden was certified the winner.

The judge's ruling may increase pressure on Attorney General Merrick Garland to bring charges against the 75-year-old Trump over the Capitol riot, which left at least five people dead and 140 police officers injured.



REGIME CHANGE

Strategy US no longer wants

AFP, Washington

The United States says it is not seeking a "regime change" in Russia, hasty clarification that shows the strategy once popular among neoconservatives has become a hot button issue after negative experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

President Joe Biden caused a stir Saturday when, during an impassioned speech in Warsaw, said his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin "cannot remain in power."

The White House rushed to downplay the phrase, which was not part of Biden's prewritten remarks, insisting the US leader was not suggesting a regime change in Moscow.

But Biden refused to walk back the comment Monday, although he said he was only expressing his "moral outrage," not outlining a policy to overthrow Putin.

Even hinting at such a tactic appears taboo in Washington.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has made refusing regime change a central tenet of his diplomatic approach, promising as early as March 2021 not to "promote democracy through costly military interventions or by attempting to overthrow authoritarian regimes by force."

"We have tried these tactics in the past. However well-intentioned, they haven't worked," he said.

The history of US foreign policy is littered with such attempts both clandestine and overt -- and more or less successful -- to resolve a crisis by replacing the leaders of an adversary country.



US President Joe Biden attends a meeting on Russia's war in Ukraine with Ukrainian ministers in Warsaw, Poland, on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

It first took place in Latin America, when the CIA played a role, particularly during the Cold War, in military coups aimed at overthrowing left-wing presidents.

But the regime change strategy did not disappear with the rise of the Iron Curtain: now the only global superpower, and confident of being untouchable, the United States began asserting its power even more overtly at the turn of the 21st century. American intervention to promote the democratic model gained traction.

The September 11 attacks accelerated the shift. The "war on terror" quickly led to the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Soon after, Washington put its words about Saddam Hussein into action during the 2003 Iraq War, by overthrowing him after wrongly accusing him of hiding weapons of mass destruction.

In Libya, the 2011 intervention by Washington and its European allies was officially to protect rebels who took up arms against Muammar Gaddafi during the Arab Spring uprising. But the mission was actually extended until the death of the Libyan dictator.

In Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, the primary objective of bringing the regime down appeared to have been quickly achieved.

On the other hand, the goal of "nation-building", or the necessary construction of a stable -- and Western-allied -- state to succeed the fallen power, ended in failure at best.

The jihadist Islamic State group took advantage of Iraqi instability in the mid-2010s. Twenty years of costly military presence in Afghanistan ended in fiasco.

Libya is still unable to extricate itself from a decade of chaos.

Russian mercenaries deployed to Ukraine

AFP, London

Russia's Wagner Group has deployed its mercenaries to eastern Ukraine, the UK's ministry of defence said Monday, adding that over 1,000 would likely take part in fighting following Russian setbacks. Reputed to be close to President Vladimir Putin, the Wagner Group and its mercenaries are suspected of abuses in Mali, Libya and Syria. Britain last week slapped more sanctions on Russian individuals and entities, including the Wagner Group, over the February 24 invasion of Ukraine.

UK cops to issue 20 'Partygate' fines

AFP, London

British police investigating breaches of coronavirus lockdown laws by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his staff in Downing Street yesterday announced it would be issuing 20 initial fines. London's Metropolitan Police said it would not be disclosing the number or identities of those being fined, but Johnson is reportedly not among those hit in the first wave of sanctions. The news nevertheless risks reviving the so-called "partygate" scandal that left him fighting for political survival after a number of lawmakers from his ruling Conservatives called for his resignation. The London force is investigating claims that Johnson and his Downing Street officials organised and attended at least a dozen alcohol-fuelled events in 2020 and 2021 that violated Britain's then-strict virus curbs. Johnson has already apologised for the parties.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Mymensingh.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.6100.000.07.001.22-1195

e-Tender Notice: 52/2021-22

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

No	Package No. & Scheme Name	Tender ID	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time	Tendering Method
1	MRRDP/22/MYM/F BARIA/BRDG/VR/366 Construction of 32.0m Slab Bridge on Kandania Jaded Mondal Ghat Road Near Joypur Makhal House-Dumla Mission Pucca Road at Ch. 0+940km Under Fulbaria Upazila, District Mymensingh (Road ID: 361205179)	677670	Date: 25-Apr - 2022 Time: 13:00	Date: 25-Apr - 2022 Time: 14:00	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The e-Tender Security Submitted last Date & Time from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd) also from E-mail: xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd or Cell to 091-66376, 091-66110, 091-64365.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

(Md. Ashrafuzzaman)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Mymensingh
xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd

GD-601

I make no apologies for my personal feelings.

US President Joe Biden on Putin 'can't stay in power' comment

CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 30 & 31 March (Wednesday and Thursday), 2022 for Corporate Booking.

From 01 April (Friday), 2022 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

Contact: 01969910100

FANTASY KINGDOM CONCORD WATER KINGDOM CONCORD

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Pirojpur
www.eedmoe.gov.bd

Tender No. XEN/EED/PIROJ/237 Date: 29/03/2022

e-Tender Notice No. e-GP/16/EED/PIR/New.SNGS/2021-22, Date: 29/03/2022

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP Web Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below:

SL. No.	Package No. & Tender ID No.	Description of works	Last selling date & time	Last submission (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
1	e-Gp/G-40/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. D No. 676210	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Vogirathpur Secondary School Mathbaria Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
2	e-Gp/G-39/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676208	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Amragachia Secondary School, Mathbaria, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
3	e-Gp/G-38/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676207	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Parerhat R.L. Secondary School, Indurkani, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
4	e-Gp/G-37/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676206	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Pattashi Janakalyan Secondary School, Indurkani, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
5	e-Gp/G-36/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676204	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Mugarjhor Secondary School, Nazirpur, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-01)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
6	e-Gp/G-35/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676203	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Baburhat Secondary School, Nazirpur, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-01)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
7	e-Gp/G-34/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676191	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Udayon Secondary School Mathbaria Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
8	e-Gp/G-30/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676190	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Tushksali Adarsha Girls Secondary School, Mathbaria, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
9	e-Gp/G-33/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676189	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Gulishakhali G.K. Secondary School, Mathbaria, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
10	e-Gp/G-32/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676142	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Jankhali Secondary School, Mathbaria, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
11	e-Gp/G-31/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676141	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Dakkhin Sonakhali Girls Secondary School, Mathbaria, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00
12	e-Gp/G-29/EED/PIR/Fur/New.SNGS/2021-22. Tender ID No. 676139	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Razarhat Shaheed Bachchhu Secondary School, Mathbaria, Pirojpur. (CATEGORY-06)	17-04-2022 17:00	18-04-2022 12:30	18-04-2022 13:00

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Balaram Kumar Mondol
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Pirojpur

GD-604

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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Dhaka Wasa must answer for cholera outbreak

Why has it failed to fix breaches in its supply lines?

IT'S alarming to know that the cholera outbreak in Dhaka has already overwhelmed many hospitals, particularly the one run by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr). The 350-bed hospital is struggling to tackle the rising number of diarrhoea patients and has had to set up tents on its premises to accommodate them. According to our report, since March 13, over a thousand patients have been visiting the hospital every day. On March 26, the number was approximately 1,200, while it was just 600 around the same time last year. While diarrhoea and cholera flare-ups are normal during this time of the year, it is the staggering number of patients that is worrying us.

Our reporters have visited many affected areas in the city and found breaches in Dhaka Wasa's supply system to be the main reason behind the outbreak. In many areas, residents are getting contaminated water through taps—often the water is greenish-brown or yellowish and smelly, which suggests cross-contamination with sewage lines. Cross-contamination may have happened due to leaks and breaches in the supply lines, or while replacing old, derelict pipes with new ones. In other water-starved areas, illegal hose pipes are used to get water directly from pumps. These pipes are often full of holes through which all kinds of germs mix with the water. This is most unacceptable.

Among the areas hit by the outbreak, Dakshinkhan and Jatrabari are the worst-affected. In 2019, water samples from Jatrabari were tested by the local government and rural development ministry, which detected the presence of both coliform and heterotrophic bacteria. *Vibrio cholerae*, which is causing cholera among the patients at present, is a type of the latter. We don't know what steps Wasa took to address the issue, neither the status of its project to replace old, dilapidated pipes—which are apparently causing the contamination now. Clearly, not enough has been done.

The question is, isn't it Wasa's responsibility to ensure safe water for all the residents? Why do people still have to buy drinking water or spend money to purify it? A study by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in 2019 found that 91 percent of Dhaka's population had to boil water to drink it and, in the process, burn gas worth Tk 332 crore a year. The extent of Wasa's failure is really inconceivable.

About the current cholera outbreak, we think Wasa must shoulder the responsibility instead of trying to deny it. It must look into its supply lines and fix the breaches as soon as possible. Otherwise, the outbreak might totally go out of control soon.

A good example of plastic recycling

With proper support, the recycling industry can flourish

IT is heartening to see ordinary people in the country's northern region taking it upon themselves to turn hazardous waste, such as discarded PET bottles and disposable syringes, back into raw materials for other products through recycling. The dumping of plastic waste into waterbodies and rivers has long been a menace for Bangladesh. And with rapid urbanisation, the problem has been getting worse.

According to a 2020 World Bank study, Bangladesh's plastic consumption in urban areas tripled over a span of 15 years. Of the 977,000 tons of plastic consumed in 2020, only 31 percent were recycled, according to the report. The other 69 percent ended up in landfills, rivers and canals, as well as drains and unserved areas. This unmanaged plastic waste can seriously pollute the environment and have far-reaching consequences on human health. Despite Bangladesh becoming the first country in the world to ban plastic shopping bags in 2002, due to a lack of enforcement by the authorities, the plastic problem has continued unabated. And not only has the government failed to enforce the ban as well as comply with a 2020 High Court directive to ban single-use plastic in coastal areas and all hotels and motels across the country, but it has also been incapable of managing all the plastic that is produced and used.

Amid such a crisis, it is the ordinary people in areas such as Rangpur and Dinajpur regions who are leading the way. Not only are these recycling hubs doing a fantastic job of recycling plastic waste, but through their successful operation, they have also managed to provide locals working at these factories with decent livelihoods. According to a report in this newspaper, nearly 1,000 plastic recycling factories have opened up across eight districts in the region. This has allowed people, starting from ragpickers to the factory workers, to earn some money—daily or monthly—while contributing to cleaning up the environment.

This is a wonderful example of how creative the people in our country are, and it is they who hold the key to creating an environmentally clean and prosperous Bangladesh through their hard work and innovativeness. However, it is also a matter of fact that recycling needs to take place on a much broader scale. Therefore, we call on the government to incentivise entrepreneurs and businesses who are involved in recycling through policy or financial supports, so that Bangladesh can quickly overcome the challenge of plastic pollution while creating employment for people at the same time.

Pre-election promises, post-election disappointments

Lack of free elections is what ties the two together



THE OVERTON WINDOW

Eresh Omar Jamal is an Assistant Editor at The Daily Star. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

ERESH OMAR JAMAL

ACCORDING to a recent report, due to the insistence of lawmakers, the government is going to repair religious establishments and build new bridges across the country at a cost of Tk 5,132 crore. Under two separate projects, 17,321 mosques, temples and pagodas will be renovated, while bridges will be constructed in 35 districts of the eight divisions. The timing of this is most interesting, as it comes with the next parliamentary elections barely a year and a half away.

There is nothing wrong with the government renovating public places of worship—even though given the number of problems that we currently have, particularly the crisis of skyrocketing prices of essentials amidst rising poverty, it could be argued that the people would be better served with the government focusing these resources elsewhere, and leaving the renovation job to the devotees. Equally, there is nothing abnormal about the government trying to win people's hearts by announcing such feel-good projects with the elections nearing—it happens nearly everywhere in the world.

The issue is with how efficiently the government utilises these public resources and how well it delivers on its promises. It is perhaps here that the main worry starts.

Before the 2009 elections, the current ruling party promised that people would be able to buy rice at Tk 10 per kg—a promise that never materialised. The question is, why promise something that cannot be delivered?

Similarly, before the last general elections, this newspaper reported how people in the char areas of Lalmonirhat felt abandoned because of broken electoral promises about their development as announced over the decades. According to 100-year-old Afsar Ali, "When election comes, agents of political parties and MPs come with a list of promises and seek votes but all of it vanishes as soon as the results are out." According to another resident of the area, before the 2014 elections, the supporters of one MP promised them "electricity and dyke in the river but nothing has been done till date [even though four years had passed]."

Before the 2018 general elections, with many significant promises from previous election campaigns still remaining on paper, the ruling Awami League came out with a number of fresh and ambitious

promises. Among them was following a policy of zero tolerance for corruption, forming a stronger electoral system through reforms, alleviating poverty, creating employment, ensuring a service-oriented and accountable administration, and putting more focus on infrastructure development. Pointing to the protest for safer roads that was still fresh in our minds at that time, the prime minister

report, Bangladesh has one of the highest road construction costs in the world, even though the quality of these roads was really bad. According to Sarwar Jahan, a professor of urban and regional planning at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), a major issue here is the involvement of politicians with many construction firms. People are extremely reluctant to hold these firms accountable



ILLUSTRATION: TEENI AND TUNI

herself vowed to bring discipline in Dhaka's transport sector by introducing "modern bus services to curb indiscipline in Dhaka's mass transport service." Sadly, looking at the state of Dhaka's roads today, one may find it hard to believe that such a promise was ever made.

Politicians breaking electoral promises is an age-old problem. However, the way that problem is supposed to be counteracted is through voters holding their elected representatives accountable. It is the fear of being voted out that primarily keeps public representatives honest. But to expect that they'd deliver on their words out of the goodness of their hearts is at best naive, and history testifies to that.

It is here that we've failed. Because our elections are mostly not free and fair, and thus deny people their right to vote out public representatives who made false promises, the problem of politicians not delivering on their words continues to plague us. And the cost of this—besides depriving people of their most basic democratic right to choose their own representatives—is proving to be more and more enormous by the day.

Over the years, the endless number of government projects that have seen their cost and deadlines revised is simply ridiculous. If we look at just the road sector, according to a 2017 World Bank

as they are backed by individuals having significant political clout.

And who can blame them? If politicians could be held accountable—through fair elections—then these firms could be held accountable too, which would then have the incentive to finish projects on time, stay within the cost estimates and provide high-quality work (as they might otherwise fear losing future government contracts). But that is not the case. As a result, most development projects finish much later than originally scheduled, while their costs double, triple or even quadruple.

The amount of public money that continues to get wasted could truly transform this country. But the truth is, it is the tendency of politicians to be corrupt, apathetic, and lacking in vision and wisdom that is holding us back. The only way to reverse this is to regain our right to freely vote for whoever we want to represent us. That, however, is easier said than done.

In the meanwhile, it is the responsibility of the independent media to continue highlighting the broken promises of political parties and their members. The public should also strongly voice their disapproval of such a state of things, and clamour for the restoration of their rights and for the wastage of their hard-earned money to stop.

The amount of public money that continues to get wasted could truly transform this country. But the truth is, it is the tendency of politicians to be corrupt, apathetic, and lacking in vision and wisdom that is holding us back.

Is Ukraine collateral damage for the US?



Dr Sayeed Ahmed is a consulting engineer and the CEO of Bayside Analytics, a technology-focused strategy and management consulting organisation.

SAYEED AHMED

IN 1985, at the height of the Cold War, Hollywood produced a movie called "Rocky IV", a typical good-American-bad-Russian story. It revolves around a boxing battle between Ivan Drago, a six-foot-four, 261-pound fighter from the erstwhile Soviet Union, and Rocky Balboa, an American boxer. Drago is a killing machine, trained with high-tech equipment and regular doses of anabolic steroids. Rocky, on the other hand, is a humane person, trains in deep snow over mountainous terrains utilising antiquated farm equipment.

Although Rocky is no match for Drago in physical strength, he eventually wins through sheer grit. That was the time of the Cold War. The Washington-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Moscow-led Warsaw Treaty faced off each other, fuelled proxy wars, toppled governments, and tortured political activists all over the world. Both treaties or forces claimed to be defence arrangements.

In 1989, the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving the USA as the sole superpower. The Warsaw Treaty followed suit, and NATO had no one to defend itself against. In his 1992 book, "The End of History and the Last Man," American political scientist Francis Fukuyama wrote that humanity had reached the endpoint of ideological evolution and the universalisation of Western liberal democracy as the ultimate form of human government. Many thought that NATO's reason for being was

over, and it would soon become irrelevant, especially because it was formed with the Soviet Union as its stated enemy.

But NATO not only continued to exist, but also expanded eastward towards Russian borders despite its commitment not to do so. Washington actively carried on with its aggressive, interventionist approach including establishing military bases in far-off countries. The US military needed to strike the first blow by deploying armed force at a distance, as Professor David Vine at the American University in Washington, DC states in his book "The United States of War". War is ingrained in Washington's foreign policy, and by granting NATO membership to Eastern European countries, it has craftily lured Putin into invading Ukraine—a godsend for the USA as it can now repair its pride damaged in Afghanistan. Those who criticised Joe Biden for the haphazard retreat there now realise that his eyes were on Ukraine, the next theatre of the global war.

The Ukraine saga has made Washington the global conscience, a role poles apart from the previous one it notoriously earned in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and many other countries. But there are more rewards that its corporate elites are going to reap.

Huge amounts of capital have left the Chinese and European markets since Russia's Ukraine invasion. Many foreign investors have recently sold off their Chinese government bond holdings. USD 23.4 billion in stock funds has left Western Europe soon after the invasion. Meanwhile, investors have put USD 40.5 billion into US stock funds over recent weeks, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Crude oil price reached USD 139 a barrel at one point—the highest level for almost 14 years—while wholesale gas prices for next-day delivery more than doubled. That will nicely feed into the corporate profit of

the global oil giants.

Then, there is the lucrative European hydrocarbon market which Russia has long benefitted from. In 2021, Europe bought about 81 percent of all Russian exports. The sanctions imposed after Ukraine invasion will put a big dent in it. By contrast, for the USA, which is producing gas at a record level but doesn't have buyers, Europe is a potential customer that can pay premium prices once the Russian supply stops. The European Union has already signed a deal with the USA for purchasing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) that will significantly reduce its dependence on Russian supply.

Europe will also turn to the USA for advanced defence equipment. The most notable is Germany, which for years played down the role of its military in foreign policy. It has already raised its defence spending by 100 billion euros and plans to spend over 2 percent of GDP on this sector. The Ukraine situation has created a sense of insecurity that will only increase Europe's defence spending, benefitting the American military-industrial complex.

Looking at the global scenario, China is the third player in this conflict, albeit still a silent one, anxiously watching the developments. It has refused to condemn Russia for the Ukraine invasion and is critical of NATO's eastward expansion. Beijing can't miss that NATO is closing in on China's western borders and the Central Asian region. It is already wary of the recently formed Quad and the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the USA (AUKUS), as both strengthen American military presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Washington's Afghan adventure, partly motivated by its intention to control the Eurasian heartland, ended in a dismal failure. Biden is now on a more ambitious mission that includes encircling both Russia and China. Ukraine is just collateral damage in this geopolitical game.

The Ukraine saga has made Washington the global conscience, a role poles apart from the previous one it notoriously earned in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and many other countries. But there are more rewards that its corporate elites are going to reap.

Air pollution is an existential threat for us. We must act.



AHMAD KAMRUZZAMAN MAJUMDER

Dr Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder is dean at the Faculty of Science, Stamford University Bangladesh, joint secretary at Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), and chairman at Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS).

EVERY year, the Economist Intelligence Unit publishes a list of liveable cities in the world, where Dhaka is inevitably placed near the bottom. Air pollution is one of the major reasons ruining Dhaka's prospect as a liveable city. It is also one of the issues we've struggled to deal with for a long time. So, what makes Dhaka's air so polluted?

According to the Department of Environment, brick kilns are responsible for 58 percent of Dhaka's air pollution. Another major source of pollution is dust from continuous road digging as well as unplanned and uncoordinated construction works. Throughout the year, roads are dug in different parts of the city, which often remain in that state for extended periods of time. This is exacerbated by the many construction projects that are underway. Old, obsolete vehicles producing black fumes as well as heavy traffic jams across the city are equally responsible for its poor air quality. Indoor air pollution, particularly through the use of wood or coal stoves in slum areas, has also been identified as a health threat.

If we look at the bigger picture, we will understand that what's happening in Dhaka is not unique; other major cities and districts are also susceptible to the air pollution. According to the Centre for Atmospheric Pollution Study (CAPS), the highest level of pollution has been observed in Gazipur district, followed by Dhaka and Narayanganj. Only 10 districts across Bangladesh have good air quality, while 36 districts have moderate levels of air pollution and 18 districts have high levels of air pollution.

After CAPS analysed the US Embassy AirNow data from 2017 to 2021, it

has been found that the average air pollution increased by 9.8 percent in 2021, compared to 2020. It has been also found that, in the last six years in Dhaka, residents got only 38 days of good air. For 510 days, they got moderate air, alongside 577 days of sensitive air (which is harmful for people with respiratory issues, children and pregnant women). During the same period, there were 443 days of unhealthy air, 385 days of very unhealthy air, and 37 days of extremely unhealthy or hazardous air.

On November 15, 2019, the High Court issued a directive asking the two city corporations of Dhaka to spray water over different roads twice a day and to cordon off construction sites. Again, on February 15, 2022, the HC directed the authorities concerned to identify and make a list of the main activities responsible for air pollution across the country. The HC also asked the authorities to prepare a time-bound mitigation plan to install Continuous Air Monitoring Stations (CAMS) in appropriate places, introduce a system to save people from exposure to unhealthy air, and also asked them to develop an action plan about switching to substitutes for baked bricks and to submit a report to the HC within four months. We don't know what the government did in response, but it surely wasn't enough to reduce air pollution.

We need to understand that to effectively control air pollution, everyone, from individuals to institutions, has to work together in an inclusive, scientific, and coordinated manner. The importance of awareness cannot be overestimated. We have entered an era when facemasks should be used not just for protection from the coronavirus, but from poor air as well. Babies, elderly people, sick people and pregnant women need to be especially careful.

Water-spraying in the streets at least twice a day, in the morning and the afternoon, should be a regular practice. The city corporations can also ask building owners to spray water on the streets in front of their respective



ILLUSTRATION: FAHIM ANZOOM RUMMAN

buildings every day. In order to avoid wasting water, they could reuse the water expelled by air conditioners (AC) for this purpose. More than three lakh ACs are used in Dhaka city. An AC with the capacity of a ton produces at least three litres of water every two to three hours as a by-product.

Additionally, all construction sites should be fenced off and construction materials should be covered during transportation. Vehicles without fitness must be removed from the streets. Since traffic jam is a major source of air pollution, we must find innovative ways

to control it and reduce the number of automobiles plying our streets. Also, air pollution forecasting should be introduced, and suction trucks can be used to collect dust from the roads.

In addition, construction works need to be better coordinated and better timed (for example, allowing work only at night in the busiest of areas). A service company may be allowed to dig as many roads at once as they can in two or three days. Moreover, advanced technologies have to be used in the brick kilns. As an alternative to baked bricks, the use of blocks can be gradually increased. And, the Clean Air Act 2019 must be enacted as soon as possible.

Among other things that we can do are: further developing the public transport system and limiting the use of private vehicles; developing a proper waste management system including using "incinerators" so that energy can be generated from waste; considering artificial rain in the dry season, especially where the air is particularly hazardous; ensuring the use of renewable fuels; ensuring proper management of electronic products and car batteries; and planting lots of trees across the city.

People should be encouraged to do roof-gardening. The annual budget allocation of the Ministry of Environment needs to be increased to create environmental awareness. An environmental officer has to be appointed in every upazila, and to ensure this, the position of an environmental cadre can be included in the Public Service Commission. Above all, arranging more information-based programmes on air pollution in various media can further raise public awareness of the issue as well as create pressure on the competent authorities to act properly.

If we make a serious effort to prevent air pollution, we can leave behind a liveable city for the next generation. This will of course increase people's average life expectancy, but more importantly, it will guarantee healthier living for us all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.com



Filth on the roads

I was really embarrassed to read my uncle's post on social media, where he wrote that his trip to Bangladesh was a great one but he didn't like the state of the drainage system and the roads of some cities. It made me feel bad thinking of the impression a foreigner must have about my country.

We can't always blame the authorities because it is our lack of consciousness which also causes pollution. We don't think twice before throwing a wrapper into an open drain. In Dinajpur, there are places where people have left their

houses due to the failed drainage system. Dirty water and filth come out of those drains and flow into the roads. As a result, the roads are damaged and unusable. The auto-rickshaw drivers also don't want to cross those roads. Therefore, better disposal systems should be put into place, and we should also be careful about what to dispose of and where—or else we will cause others to always get a bad impression about our beautiful country.

Neha Sabnam, Dinajpur

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Artery problem
 - 5 Terrible
 - 10 Doily stuff
 - 11 Polishes
 - 13 Genesis garden
 - 14 Muscle connector
 - 15 Speedily
 - 17 One — time
 - 18 Lease signers
 - 19 Keg need
 - 20 Stage prompt
 - 21 Maryland player, for short
 - 22 Fish features
 - 25 Lingerie item
 - 26 Out of the wind
 - 27 Prohibit
 - 28 Hamm of
- DOWN**
- 1 Fissure
 - 2 Soup server
 - 3 Shark's home
 - 4 Octopus arm
 - 5 Shrewd
 - 6 Sharpens
 - 7 Fish feature
 - 8 Chronologically
 - 9 Dancer's garment
 - 12 Memorably concise
 - 16 Burden
 - 21 Vine parts
 - 22 Ranges
 - 23 "Great ideal!"
 - 24 Student
 - 25 Zesty flavor
 - 27 Decapitate
 - 29 Rich cake
 - 30 Like poe tales
 - 31 Catcher
 - Castro
 - 32 Get to one's feet
 - 36 Purpose



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



RAJSHAHI KRISHI UNNAYAN BANK
Head Office, Information and Communication Technology Department
272, Banalata C/A, Airport Road, Rajshahi

EOI Ref. No. RAKUB/HO/ICTD-106/2021-2022/896 Date: 29.03.2022

REQUEST FOR EXPRESIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Tenders are hereby invited under the provisions of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 (with latest amendments) for the Selection of Information Security Service Providing Firm for ISO 27001 Consultancy, Implementation and Certification for IT System of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Tender Document:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
01. Ministry/Division	Financial Institutions Division.			
02. Agency	Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.			
03. Procuring entity name	Deputy General Manager (DGM).			
04. Title of Service	ISO 27001 Certification Consultation & Certification for Bank and Cyber Security Capacity Building of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.			
05. Procuring entity district	Rajshahi.			
06. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Information Security and IT Auditing Service Providing Firm (Time Based).			
07. EOI Ref. No.	RAKUB/HO/ICTD-106/2021-2022/896			
08. Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29/03/2022			
KEY INFORMATION				
09. Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10. Budget and source of funds	Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank's own source of funds.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
11. EOI closing date and time	17/04/2022			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT				
12. Brief description of assignment	1. Submit a work plan on the basis of TORs within 10 working days of joining and provide monthly written progress report, in addition to final report. 2. Review of existing network diagram, data flow diagram and perform network segmentation testing as required by ISO. 3. Submission of all testing tools generated logs and test results in raw and processed format in electronic media. ...Detailed in TOR (www.rakub.org.bd)			
13. Experience, resource & delivery capacity required	The following minimum experience, resources & delivery capacity are required: 1. Should have minimum five (05) years overall business experience of the consulting firm. 2. a. Consulting firm must have registered office in Bangladesh. 3. Should have satisfactory experience of providing ISO certification services to at least two (02) organizations (banks/financial institutions) in last five (05) years. ...Detailed in TOR (www.rakub.org.bd)			
14. Other details (if applicable)	No data information will be allowed to be taken outside bank in any form.			
15. Association with foreign firm is	Encouraged.			
Time Frame				
16. Ref. No.	Phasing of services	Location	Indicative start data (month/year)	Indicative completion date (month/year)
17. Onsite Service: ISO 27001 Scope optimization, Capacity Building, Pre Audit and Gap Assessment.	Phase-1	Rajshahi	Duration: 09 weeks	
18. Onsite service: Gap Remediation & Review of ICT related Policies/procedures, etc. ...Detailed in TOR (www.rakub.org.bd)	Phase-2	Rajshahi	Duration: 28 weeks	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
22. Name of the official inviting EOI	Md. Abul Kalam.			
23. Designation	Deputy General Manager.			
24. Address	ICT Department, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Head Office, 272, Banalata C/A, Airport Road, Rajshahi.			
25. Contact	Tel: 0247-860054, Cell: 01729-282197. E-mail: dgmict@rakub.org.bd			
Appropriate authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs				

Md. Abul Kalam
Deputy General Manager

GD-605



Does end justify the means?

Housing project for destitute families being carried out by cutting a hill in Ctg



SIYAYET ULLAH

There's little doubt about the nobility of the Ashrayan-2 housing project. Under the project,

houses will be constructed and handed over to destitute families as the prime minister's gift, allowing them to live in comfort.

However, when the project is undertaken by allegedly violating environmental rules, question arises whether it could have been done any other way, without harming nature.

In Chattogram's Anwara upazila, the

Around 50 houses of the Ashrayan-2 project have already been built, with locals further alleging that at least 1,000 trees have been cut down in the area to implement the project.

According to the Bangladesh Environment Preservation Act 1995, cutting of hills is prohibited without approval from the authorities concerned. If anyone breaks the law, the punishment is up to two years' imprisonment or Tk 2 lakh fine, or both, for the first time. For the second time, it is up to 10 years' imprisonment or Tk 10 lakh fine or both.

However, the district administration officials claimed that cutting this particular

Asked why this particular piece of land was chosen, the DC replied, "We chose this land for the project to save it from encroachment."

However, the Department of Environment (DoE) officials maintain that the local administration is simply cutting the hill without obtaining permission from them.

"Permission is required to cut down any hill, regardless of land class change or whatever," said Mufidul Alam, director of the DoE (Chattogram region). The Deyang hill is being cut by Anwara upazila administration without the permission of the DoE, he said.

But there are more twists to this story.

Contacted, Jamirul Islam, project implementation officer (PIO) of Anwara Upazila, said, "We started the works after the assistant commissioner (land) office handed over the land to us. But the upazila land office is dealing with the issue, so I don't know the details of the hill cutting."

Tanvir Hasan Chowdhury, AC land of Anwara upazila, said, "Part of Deyang hill is being cut to build 130 new houses under the Ashrayan-2 project in Guchhgram area of Barkhain Union."

When asked whether written permission has been obtained, the AC land said, "The district administration office verbally allowed the construction works to start on the land."

Contacted, Dr Mohammad Kamal Hossain, a professor of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science of University at Chittagong, said, "Many people are illegally occupying government land all over the country. The Ashrayan project houses could be built on government land. This project should not have been implemented by cutting down the hills."

"Besides, those who are implementing the project think no one will tell them anything..." he added.

The number of hills in Bangladesh is much less than what is needed for ecological balance. Chattogram region has some hills but if these are not protected, the habitats of plants and animals will be destroyed, he said.



district administration is at it constructing houses under the project by razing a 50-60 feet high hill.

Locally known as "Deyang Pahar", the hill is located in Hajigaon area of Barkhain Union.

The hill is being razed for the last one and a half months. When this correspondent visited the area recently, he saw it was being cut off with an excavator, with the soil being taken elsewhere on trucks.

hill is not illegal as the class of the land is being changed from "hill" to "bhita" for the project.

Mohammad Mominur Rahman, deputy commissioner (DC) of Chattogram, told The Daily Star, "We have forwarded a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to change the current class of the hilly land."

"There is a guideline that the class of any land could be changed to implement the Ashrayan project," claimed the DC.

Syndicate identified after 10yrs probe

They used to import high-end vehicles under carnet facility, says PBI

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) has identified an importer and forwarding (C&F) agent involved in importing a BMW car through Chattogram Port by submitting fake documents in 2010.

Shahidul Islam, of British-Bangladeshi origins, imported the car under the carnet facility.

Kamrul Hasan, owner of HK International, was responsible for redesigning the car from the port on behalf of the importer, PBI sources said.

The sources also said though PBI has interrogated Shahidul over phone, they could not arrest him as he's living in England.

PBI identified the syndicate while investigating a case filed with Bandar Police Station by Chattogram Customs House in 2012.

Though there are 119 such car owners, who imported vehicles using the carnet duty-free facility, submitting fake documents, this is the

Though there are 119 such car owners, who imported vehicles using the carnet duty-free facility, submitting fake documents, this is the first time a culprit was identified, that too after 10 years of investigation.

first time a culprit was identified, that too after 10 years of investigation.

According to the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the vehicles were imported using the "UN Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles of 1954" facility, with a duty-free privilege called Carnet de Passages, between 2008 and 2012.

According to the NBR, a total of 369 vehicles were imported under carnet till 2013, although Bangladesh was not a signatory to the treaty under which the Carnet de Passages facility is given.

Later, NBR realised this issue and took steps to stop the practice in 2013.

Before the embargo, 129 cars were shipped back to their countries of destination, 120 cars were abandoned at the port, while 119 cars stayed in the country, of which only one paid its due tax.

According to the facility, if the owners still wanted to use the cars in Bangladesh, they would have had to pay between 150 and 833 percent of the cars' value in tax.

Chattogram Customs House filed the case against Shahidul accusing him of wrongful information -- PBI sources said both addresses mentioned by him in Bangladesh and UK were fake -- and over unpaid revenues worth around Tk 3 crore.

PBI has seized the car.

The 119 posh cars, including BMWs, Land Rovers, Lexus and Jaguars, are now being used in the country dodging tax of over Tk 400 crore, according to customs documents.

A tribute to revolution and resistance

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

In the port city's Dampara area, stands a 14 feet tall red building with a single door -- bearing the history of a revolution's inception. The building -- a British armoury back in the time -- was attacked by a group of young revolutionaries under the leadership of Surya Sen on April 18, 1930, following which Chattogram was cut off from the rest of British India for four days.

The structure still stands with all its revolutionary glory and pride and has currently been turned into a museum by Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The history of revolution attached to this red building doesn't just come to halt at the armoury raid of 1930. On March 28, 1971, Pakistan armed forces attacked Dampara Police Lines in the early hours. The attack was valiantly resisted by Bengalee policemen on duty, with the most minimal arrangement of resources. SP Shamsul Haque, OC Abdul Khalek and 49 other policemen sacrificed their lives in the fight.

The memories of these two battles, along with those of the 82 CMP policemen martyred in different battles throughout the Liberation war, are well preserved in the new museum with uniforms, firearms, rank badges, caps, and radios used by the then policemen.

The museum also has a Bangabandhu Corner, an audiovisual corner and a leaser show portraying the history of police starting from the Mughal to the modern era.

This correspondent visited the museum on March 26 and found people from all walks of life coming in to visit the museum with joy and curiosity.

"I saw the Liberation War from up close. I came here to recall the horrors and bravery attached to this history. The museum is unique in all senses," said 70-year-old Md Rizvi Bakar Ibnul Mann.

"The intention is to pass on the glorious and revolutionary history to the younger generations with the museum," said CMP Commissioner Saleh Mohammad Tanvir.



VENOM: let there be cure

CMC research centre dedicated to finding anti-venom for the snake-bitten

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Venomous snakes. In boxes, inside a laboratory.

Not just one or two, a total of 60 of them, belonging to various species of cobra, krait and vipers, are being reared with utmost care at the Venom Research Centre of the Department of Medicine in Chattogram Medical College (CMC).

To feed the snakes, rats and lizards are also being reared in the centre. Chicks are also brought in for them.

The snakes are part of a research, the first of its kind for the country, which aims to produce anti-venom for the treatment of snake-bitten patients.

The government has taken up the project under the non-communicable diseases control programme, with 15 researchers from CMC Medicine Department and Chittagong University's zoology department jointly implementing it.

The five-year project started in March 2018.

Dr Aniruddha Ghosh, principal investigator of the project and professor of CMC's medicine department, told The Daily Star around six lakh people fall victim to snake bite every year in Bangladesh.

The anti-venom available in hospitals



doesn't work in many cases, resulting in the death of many snake bite victims, he added.

Currently, the country's anti-venom is usually imported from India.

He mentioned that the World Health Organization (WHO) has found in a research that properties of snake-venom may vary according to geographical location.

"The anti-venom which works for snakes of one country may not work the same in another country," he said.

Dr Aniruddha also said, "In 2017, WHO took up a resolution that snake-bite patients would have to be treated with anti-venom produced in their own country."

The government has initiated the project in this light.

He also said the CMC Venom Research

Centre now has stock of venoms of all the medically important venomous snakes of the country.

"The WHO has already contacted with us over collecting venoms as we're the only research centre which can supply them all types of venoms found in the country. WHO officials directly contacted us, but we've asked them to come through government channel," Dr Aniruddha said.

Abdullah Abu Sayeed, assistant professor



of CMC's medicine department and co-investigator of the project, said, "We have collected venom from all sorts of common venomous snakes in the country."

"We are conducting studies on the structure of the venoms and are looking into variation among them with respect to the snakes' age and habitat location," he added.

Ram Krishna, Diya strike gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Ram Krishna Saha retained the title of the men's individual recurve bow event at the Teer 13th National Archery Championships, handing a 6-4 defeat to Rakib Miha in the final at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi yesterday.

Meanwhile, Diya Siddique regained the women's individual recurve bow title after beating teammate Fahmid Sultana Disha 6-0.

Diya and Disha, along with Umay Ching, later struck gold in the women's recurve bow team event



Having failed to reach the individual recurve bow final, star archer Ruman Sana teamed up with Afzal Hossain and Sakib Mollah to beat BKSP 5-3 and claim gold in the men's recurve team event.

with a straightforward 6-0 win over the Bangladesh Army Archery Club.

Having failed to reach the individual recurve bow final, star archer Ruman Sana teamed up with Afzal Hossain and Sakib Mollah to beat BKSP 5-3 and claim gold in the men's recurve team event.

In the mixed recurve event, Bangladesh Police Archery Club beat Bangladesh Ansar 5-4 to bag the gold medal.

In compound events, Bangladesh Police Archery Club grabbed gold in the men's compound team event with a 231-228 win over BKSP.

Bangladesh Police Archery club also secured the gold medal in the women's compound team event by beating Bangladesh Ansar 214-13. But the gold medal in the mixed compound event went to Bangladesh Army Archery Club, who beat Bangladesh Police Archery Club 154-153.



SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa has historically remained the toughest of places for away teams due to the pace and seam-friendly conditions that the hosts exploit to great effect and Bangladesh's track record reflects that, with the Tigers having lost all six of their Tests in South Africa in the past.

However, the scenario appears to be quite different ahead of the first of the two-match Test series starting in Durban from tomorrow. A historic Test win at Mount Maunganui against New Zealand earlier this year and a maiden ODI series victory against South Africa has provided the Tigers with extra confidence.

"We definitely have the confidence that we can win matches and we will play to win. We don't have control over the result but our intensity will reflect our desire to win," a confident Taskin Ahmed said yesterday.

The Bangladesh pace attack will once again have to take responsibility in the upcoming Test series, where apart from Taskin, Mount Maunganui hero Ebadot Hossain and Shoriful Islam are expected to play crucial roles in the pace-bowling unit.

"To be honest, all the fast bowlers have been working hard over the past two years or so and it's going well for us. But we still need to improve a lot. We want all our bowlers to become world class and we have that ability as



Domingo banking on new-found confidence

Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo expected the upcoming Test series in South Africa to be difficult but said the Tigers are improving which gives them hope.

"We take the positive from the ODI series but it's a different format. We have a lot of improving to do in this format so we expect a very tough series against South Africa," Domingo said.

"We drew the Test series at New Zealand. South Africa are a tough side to beat at home. We do come in with a bit of confidence. I do feel that our Test match cricket is improving along with the results. We have a more balanced team and we know our best players are in the Test match format."

well. We are bonding and our coaching staff is also helping us," Taskin added.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo was wary of the threat from the hosts but added that the Test squad's 10-day conditioning camp in Cape Town prior to the series had helped them a lot in adapting to the surface.

"We had great preparation in Cape Town, where we trained on similar wickets [to what we expect in the Test] and the team benefited from that. Although the wicket here will be bouncy, there won't be too much pace," Domingo said.

Dean Elgar's hosts will be without four of their top sacers as the likes of Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje and Marco Jansen will miss the Test series in order to take part in the Indian Premier League.

It will be crucial for both teams to secure valuable points in the World Test Championship and the hosts will be under pressure to secure the maximum points from the home series before travelling to England later this year.

"They still have depth in the side because they have got some young players, especially in the pace battery. They [South Africa]

will be under some pressure as those players will be looking to secure a place in the team. That is an added advantage for us but they will still represent South Africa which means they will pick the best players to face us," Domingo added.

After the maiden series win in ODIs against South Africa, the question was asked whether the Tigers were also hoping to seal another historic win in the Test series. Domingo replied: "I didn't create history, the boys did it. South Africa are very good at home and it will be a tough series for us, but we are here to compete."

Cabrera finds positives despite missed chances

ATIQUE ANAM FROM SYLHET

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera declined to blame his players, instead claimed that the team has made good progress and are adopting to his ideas, following a goalless draw against Mongolia in a FIFA friendly at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

The 37-year-old Spaniard, who saw his side suffer a 2-0 defeat against Maldives away from home last week in his first assignment, said a win would have been a fairer result but he was satisfied nevertheless with the effort of his charges.

"I think we should be happy and proud of our players today," Cabrera said. "We achieved what we wanted, which was to have initiative with the ball."

For a change, Bangladesh dominated an international match in terms of possession and creating chances, but none of those efforts managed to find the target, either through profligacy of the strikers or the lack of precision in the attacking third. Simon Reza, the top local scorer in the league last season, was to blame for spurning at least two gilt-edged chances.

The coach, however, was happy with the effort and wasn't too concerned with the outcome.

"I'm really happy with the team that we have, with the forwards that we have. We had many chances today and that's a really strong thing," the



Spaniard said. "The crucial part was converting the chances but I'm happy with the work the strikers put in today."

There were moments in the match when Bangladesh players seemed to have too much of the ball, but little idea of what to do with it as the team seemed to try high-pressing football against an opponent happy to defend. Generally used to defending and playing on the counter-attack, the players failed to make a smooth transition to keeping possession of the ball with incisive passing.

It seemed like an odd mixture of old school long-ball football with an attempt to build the game from the back and passing the ball around. The outcome was neither very effective nor pleasing for the eyes. The coach, though, believes the players are making good progress in adapting to his style.

"I think we have made a lot of progress. These players are already playing at a good level and many of them have already adapted the style of football I want them to play," the coach said.

Even the substitutions that the coach made – Nabib Newaz Jibon, who is more used to playing at a support striker's position for centre-forward Sumon, attacking midfielder Biplu Ahmed for the distributor Jamal Bhuyan – raised some eyebrows.

Eventually those substitutions failed to make any impact, but the coach said he felt the situation demanded those substitutions and he was happy with the performance of those who came in.

'Need to improve our mentality first'

Nigar Sultana Joty captained Bangladesh in their ODI World Cup debut and showed maturity as captain as the Tigers got their first win at the World Cup against Pakistan. Although Bangladesh did not get any further wins, Nigar divulged her sweetest memory from the tournament as well as what was required to take things to the next level in an interview with The Daily Star's Ashfaq Al Mushfiq. The excerpts are below:

The Daily Star (DS): You wanted to make memories during Bangladesh's maiden Women's ODI World Cup. What were your most memorable moments?

Nigar Sultana Joty (NS): I think we made many memories and there are more good memories than bad. Salma [Khatun] apu's and Rumana Ahmed's 50-wicket milestone in ODIs and Fargana Hoque Pinky's 1000 runs in the format and scoring our highest ODI total are very sweet memories. A first World Cup is always very special. Even though we couldn't perform overall, the bowlers performed tremendously and it drew praise from the world cricketing fraternity.

DS: What is the biggest lesson from the World Cup?

NS: We have gained a lot of experience from the World Cup. I believe the batters have to run more on a stage of such gravity. If we can post a good score on the board, I believe the bowling unit we have can always put in the effort to defend it. So, we need to score more runs and the batters need to be more skilled. We also need to work on how to bat in pressure situations against big teams.

DS: What are the issues you want to focus on to improve the batting unit?

NS: I think we need to improve our mentality first. We already have skills, but we need to work on taking more singles because we gave away too many dot balls.

We should also put extra focus on power-hitting because having a few power-hitter would be very beneficial for the team.

DS: Do you have any fond memories with players from other teams?

NS: The bio-secure bubble forced teams to stay separate so most of the conversations we had were during matches. My favourite memory was meeting my all-time favourite wicketkeeper-batter Alyssa Healy during our match against Australia. I follow her style a lot. We had a conversation and I told her I followed her style and was her fan. She replied that she was also my fan. I was surprised and asked why. She replied: "Why not? I've been following you for a long time and you've been leading your team very well and you've been keeping and batting very well. So I think I am becoming your fan!" To me, it was a sweet memory.

DS: What do you see in the future of women's cricket in Bangladesh?

NS: We have played a lot of T20Is in the past but the amount of ODIs is very less. Obviously, practice and camping is very important but we need to play more competitive matches so that we can experience tougher situations and sharpen our skills. The more matches we play, the more composed we will be in these situations. I am confident that if we strengthen our batting unit, we can play in the semifinals of the next ODI World Cup.





LOAN FOR LANKA Bangladesh yet to decide on \$250m

UNB, Colombo

Bangladesh is looking into cash-strapped Sri Lanka's request for another loan of \$250 million but no decision has been made yet in this regard, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"They have made another approach and we will look into it. It will be another loan but it's not decided yet," he said here yesterday while responding to a question on the island nation's deepening financial crisis on the sidelines of the 18th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting.

Regarding the global uncertainty, the minister said it is not clear how things will work out (after the current situation in Ukraine).

Momen said Bangladesh mostly depends on imported energy. "So, we're watching it and seeing how we can help each other."

He said Bangladesh,

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What looks like a polluted canal is actually a street in the capital's Shyampur area. It has long been under dark water discharged into clogged drains by fabric dyers. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

ROHINGYA CRISIS Dhaka, UN seek to raise \$881m Assistance mainly for refugees and host communities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and UN agencies yesterday presented their Joint Response Plan 2022, seeking to raise \$881 million in humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas and the Bangladeshi host communities.

This is the first time the JRP sought \$100 million for the Rohingyas in Bhasan Char, where the government has set up a housing facility at the cost of \$360 million for one lakh Rohingyas.

So far, about 26,000 refugees have been relocated there.

The JRP 2022, virtually launched in Geneva, will support approximately 1.4 million people -- 918,000 Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, and 540,000 Bangladeshis in neighbouring communities.

Presented by UNHCR Director of External Relations Dominique Hyde, the JRP 2022 wants to make sure that the Rohingya situation does not become a forgotten crisis.

"It is therefore vital to ensure continued funding and support to meet the needs of the refugees and surrounding host communities."

The JRP highlights the need for enhanced efforts towards disaster risk management and climate change mitigation, including through

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'DHAKA UNLIVABLE' Embarrassing, painful: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is painful and embarrassing that Dhaka is one of the most unlivable cities and the most polluted one in the world, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Bangladesh is one of the 11 countries with fast progressing economies, but buses in Dhaka city are rundown, he said.

Terming Dhaka an unplanned city, the minister said a subway network should be built for it. "We have been able to build the Padma Bridge and we are able to construct the subway."

They were speaking at a seminar at a hotel organised to reveal the draft final report of the feasibility study and preliminary design for construction of the subway.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said the project should be "cost-effective."

The draft report recommended a 258-km subway network to ease congestion. There will be 11 subway routes in the city and its outskirts. The routes will be constructed in three phases.

It would require \$41,306 million for constructing four routes of around 105km in the first phase.

Around \$34,477 million would be required for building four other routes in the second phase (2030-2040) and around \$27,025 million for another three routes and expansion of two of the four routes constructed in the first phase by 2050, reads the document.

Consultants, who carried out the feasibility study on behalf of Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), opined that Dhaka subway is socio-economically feasible and financially sustainable with partial public support. The

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Freedom of expression still curtailed in Bangladesh Says Amnesty

STAR REPORT

Freedom of expression continued to be heavily curtailed by draconian laws in Bangladesh in 2021, Amnesty International said.

The rights organisation mentioned this in its 2021/22 report titled "The state of the world's human rights," released yesterday.

The report, based on the rights situation in 154 countries, also presents Amnesty's documented concerns and recommendations for governments and others, according to its website.

It said, "The authorities carried out serious human rights violations including enforced disappearances, unlawful detention, torture and extrajudicial executions."

It added that peaceful protests by opposition political parties and students were prevented and suppressed.

Tk 179,198cr lost to natural calamities

Finds a BBS survey from 2015-2020

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Natural disasters like floods, drought, cyclones and river erosion have caused almost Tk 30,000 crore in damages a year between 2015 and 2020, found a first-of-its-kind government survey.

"We were once known as the land of natural disasters but we have overcome that and forged ahead," said Planning Minister MA Mannan at the launch of the survey report styled 'Bangladesh Environment Statistics 2020'.

The survey, which was conducted from 2015 to 2020 on five crore people in disaster-prone areas of 64 districts by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, found direct economic losses amounting to Tk 179,198 crore.

This is equivalent to 1.32 percent of national GDP, as a result of natural disasters.

The country was able to overcome the damages by dint of people's hard work, he said, adding that he once advised the disaster-prone US state of New Orleans to consult with Bangladesh to learn how to handle natural calamities like flood and hurricanes better.

The disasters mostly degrade the land and cause damage to crops, infrastructure, livestock, fisheries, poultry and homestead forestry. Floods caused the most damage (56 percent), followed by river or coastal erosion (14.99 percent) and cyclones. Water-logging, drought, hailstorm, salinity, landslide, thunderstorm, tornado and storms also led to economic losses.

The disasters kept people idle for 21 days on average in a year, found the study.

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TK 2,500 CRORE SCAM Ex-BB high-ups spill the beans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The names of top officials of the central bank, including former and current deputy governors and executive directors, have come up in the embezzlement of Tk 2,500 crore from International Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (ILFSL).

"Former deputy governor SK Sur Chowdhury and executive director Shah Alam have revealed their names before the investigation officer," said a top official of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on the condition of anonymity.

Chowdhury and Alam were quizzed yesterday for about five hours at the ACC's headquarters in Segunbagicha by its Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Prodhan.

Fugitive and former managing director of NRB Global Bank Proshanto Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, who is made the prime accused in 34 cases filed over embezzlement of money from ILFSL and another non-bank financial institution FAS Finance, is held as the mastermind behind the misappropriation of the money.

Earlier, in a confessional statement in connection with a case, former ILFSL MD Rashedul Haque said Halder had a close relationship with Chowdhury.

Haque also said that he gave Tk 2 lakh per month to Shah Alam, who was the general manager of the BB's department of financial

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Joty reflects on maiden WC

Tigresses captain demands more from her troops



Regime change

The strategy the US no longer wants



Gujarat gets India's first 'steel road'



NDTV ONLINE

Nineteen million tonnes of steel waste produced by different plants around India each year that usually go to landfills may soon be found a use - to make roads that not only utilise an unused resource but also be more durable.

Under the first such project as part of a research, a road made with steel waste has come up in the city of Surat in Gujarat at the Hazira Industrial Area.

It is sponsored by the Council of Scientific and

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim 1st Death Anniversary Marhum S.S. Nizamuddin Ahmed

First Anniversary of death of Eminent banker and social worker Marhum Shahzada Syed Nizamuddin Ahmed Shaheb will be observed on 30th March 2022, Wednesday. To mark the day Milad Doa Mahfil and Mezban will be arranged at Gausia Rahmania Nizamia Darbar Sharif (Maizbandar Sharif) on 30th March, Wednesday, after Magrib prayers.

All his friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to attend the function and pray to Allah Subhanu Tala for the salvation of the departed soul.

Rashida Begum and her affectionate daughters and sons in law

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর শিক্ষা সহায়তা ট্রাস্ট

সমন্বিত উপবৃত্তি কর্মসূচি

বাড়ি-৪৪, সড়ক-১২/এ, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৯

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এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য উল্লেখ করা যাচ্ছে যে, একটি প্রতারণাকার মোবাইল ফোনে মেসেজ প্রেরণের মাধ্যমে শিক্ষার্থীদের উপবৃত্তি প্রদানের মিথ্যা তথ্য দিয়ে শিক্ষা বোর্ডের নাম ব্যবহার করে শিক্ষার্থীদের নিকট থেকে অর্থ হাতিয়ে নেয়ার চেষ্টা করছে। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর শিক্ষা সহায়তা ট্রাস্ট থেকে সমন্বিত উপবৃত্তি কর্মসূচির আওতায় বছরের নির্ধারিত সময়ে অনলাইনে শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে আবেদন গ্রহণ করে উপবৃত্তি কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করা হয়। এক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষার্থী বা অভিভাবকের সাথে সরাসরি যোগাযোগের কোন অবকাশ নেই। শিক্ষার্থী, অভিভাবক ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানকে এ বিষয়ে সর্বোচ্চ সতর্কতা অবলম্বন এবং একই সাথে প্রতারণাকারকে চিহ্নিত করা গেলে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

১৫/৩/২০২২

নাসরীন আফরোজ

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত সচিব)

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর শিক্ষা সহায়তা ট্রাস্ট

জিডি-৬০৩