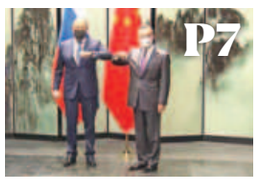
YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 31, 2022

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXII NO. 76 | CHAITRA 17, 1428 BS | www.thedailystar.net | SHABAN 27, 1443 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS SHOUT: TK 12.00


P7 **'A just world order'** Lavrov hails China-Russia ties

P8 **Dhaka's traffic problem** A citizen's solution

P11 **Warne remembered** State memorial service held at MCG

B1 **Automation in garment** Manufacturers using modern machinery

UNGA VOTES ON RUSSIA

Dhaka stood for humanity

Abstained when it was against particular country, PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh abstained from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution reprimanding Russia for invading Ukraine as it was against a particular country.

But Bangladesh stood for humanity in the UNGA, the premier told parliament.

"When voting was held on a particular country [Russia], we abstained. But when the human rights issue came up in the second proposal of the United Nations General Assembly, Bangladesh voted in favour of it," she said clearing the country's stance on the issue.

The leader of the House was replying to a supplementary question from Jatiya Party MP Mujibul Haque Chunnu (Kishoreganj-3) regarding the vote on the UNGA's second proposal.

"As the issue of human rights was involved, Bangladesh stood in favour of it. It is quite clear and no one should be in any doubt about it."

The premier said the Ukrainian people were becoming refugees and children were also suffering due to the war.

Hasina said when the first proposal was tabled in the UNGA, Bangladesh found that there was no human rights issue, no initiative to stop the war and no other issues rather than only a vote against a country. "Seeing it, I decided not to vote."

"Russia stood by us in our bad times and we would surely stand by them. But if they do anything wrong, we won't accept it."

The PM said the war didn't begin on its own, rather there might be someone who was provoking and forced the start of the war. She questioned why one country would be condemned.

Hasina mentioned that Russia is a friendly country to Bangladesh and it stood by Bangladesh when the Seventh Fleet was sent towards Pakistan during the Liberation War in 1971.

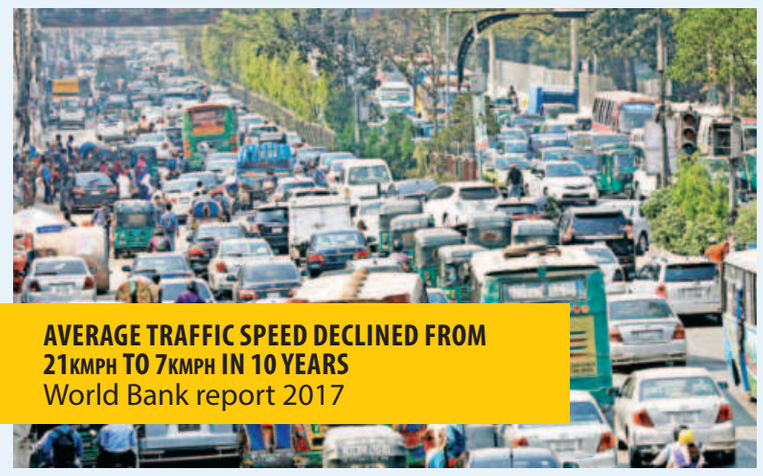
"Russia stood by us in our bad time and we would surely stand by them. But if they do anything wrong, we won't accept it," she said.

US SANCTIONS ON RAB

Responding to a question on the US sanctions on Rab, the prime minister blamed a section of Bangladeshi people for it.

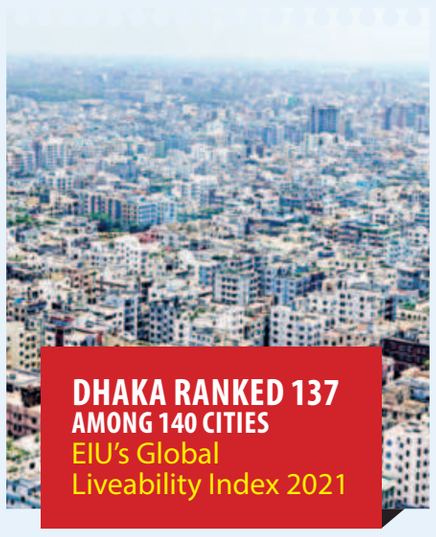
"There is nothing to say if the country's people defame their own country abroad.... the sanctions on Rab was imposed as a group of people from our country worked for it."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



AVERAGE TRAFFIC SPEED DECLINED FROM 21KMPH TO 7KMPH IN 10 YEARS
World Bank report 2017

SECOND WORST CITY
World Air Quality Report 2021



DHAKA RANKED 137 AMONG 140 CITIES
EIU's Global Liveability Index 2021

LIVING IN DHAKA

Water supplied to 57 areas was polluted because of faulty pipes
Wasa report in 2019

DHAKA NOISIEST CITY IN THE WORLD
United Nations Environment Programme Report

FALLING GROUNDWATER LEVEL

1980	9 metres
1990	22.5 metres
2000	41.5 metres
2020	74 metres

SOURCE: BWDB

This city's a mess

Dhaka's liveability hits rock-bottom as multifaceted problems cause immense sufferings to dwellers

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA *and* WASIM BIN HABIB

If you want to lead a quality life in a city, Dhaka is not the place you should be looking for.

The air is more toxic than ever, drinking water in many areas unsafe, traffic congestion a daily nightmare, noise pollution unprecedented, and population density very high -- enough to make the capital uninhabitable.

Even Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader felt embarrassed with the fact that Dhaka is one of the most unliveable cities and the most polluted one in the world.

The capital of Bangladesh is seen as a frenzied economic engine with the city's skyline thrusting up aggressively and the sprawling markets bustling with activities.

But the city with an estimated population of over 20 million falls far behind in the crucial features essential for the quality of life.

The 2021 World Air Quality Report by IQAir ranks Dhaka as the second most polluted city while Bangladesh the most polluted country in the world.

The average PM2.5 concentration in the capital is 78.1 micrograms per cubic metre, which is 15 times higher than the limit set by the World Health Organization. Particulate matter (PM) is the sum of all solid and liquid particles suspended in air, many of which are hazardous.

The city has been listed by several other global reports as one of the cities with the worst air quality for the past several years, thanks to vehicular emissions, factory fumes, brick kiln smoke, and dust accumulations.

The issue of unsafe drinking water is no less worrying.

Water, from both surface and groundwater sources, has been contaminated with toxic metals, coliforms and other organic and inorganic pollutants.

A 2019 report by the local government and rural development (LGRD) ministry found the water supplied by four out of Wasa's 10 MODS zones, and two out of its four source points was contaminated with harmful bacteria.

The report, which was placed before the High Court, said eight out of the 34 samples -- three from each of the 10 MODS zones and one from each of the four source points -- were found contaminated with bacteria.

The same year, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority admitted that its water supplied to 57 areas was polluted because of faulty pipes.

Although the situation improved over the last few years, currently the capital is witnessing a cholera outbreak,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Killers wanted to silence the freethinkers

Court says in blogger Ananta murder verdict, sentences four to death

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, *Sylhet*

The killers of Ananta Bijoy Das wanted to stop him writing and also to silence those who champion the cause of free speech.

Judge Muhammad Nurul Amin Biplob of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Sylhet made the observation yesterday while handing down death sentence to four for killing Ananta, a science writer and blogger, on May 12, 2015.

The tribunal also fined each of them Tk 20,000.

One of the accused was acquitted as the charges against him could not be proven.

Ananta, who was the editor of Jukti, a magazine promoting freethinking, was attacked by four men with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Khan's hold on power weakens

Key ally switches sides ahead of no-trust vote

AGENCIES

A main ally of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan quit his ruling coalition yesterday and joined forces with the opposition seeking to oust him, robbing Khan of his majority in parliament as he faces a looming no-confidence vote.

Khan had been due to address the nation in the evening, but it was later postponed without a reason.

NDTV reported the decision came after Pakistani army chief and the head

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Dentist a victim of mugging

Say detectives after arresting four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dentist Ahmed Mahi Bulbul was stabbed to death by muggers in the capital as he tried to resist them on Sunday, said police.

The Detective Branch of police revealed it yesterday, hours after arresting four alleged muggers from Pallabi and Savar in connecting with the killing.

The arrestees are Raihan alias Sohel alias Apan, 27, Rasel Hossain Hawlader, 25, Ariyan Khan Hridoy, 23, and Solaiman, 23.

The muggers are professional, AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press briefing.

The law enforcers also recovered a mobile phone mugged from the victim and a knife used to kill him from the arrestees, he said.

Bulbul, 39, bled to death after being stabbed on his thigh in Mirpur's Kazipara on Sunday morning.

His family suspected that Bulbul, also a contractor, was killed due to professional enmity.

Asked about it, the police officer said they would also focus on the family's allegation during investigation.

According to detectives, five muggers, including the four, were on Begum Rokeya Sarani when an auto-rickshaw carrying Bulbul was passing the area.

Three of them intercepted the vehicle and attempted to mug him. As Bulbul resisted, one of them stabbed him in the thigh, they said.

Raihan is the ringleader of the gang. He was arrested in February last year but got released on bail in recently. Rasel was arrested and also got released last month, said Hafiz.

Asked about any negligence in treatment of Bulbul by Al Helal Hospital, Hafiz said they would also look into it.

After an iron bridge gave way, this sand-laden truck fell into the Chitra river on Jhenidah's Kaliganj-Khajura road yesterday. With the frail constructions of Bailey bridges, such accidents occur almost regularly in different districts of the country. PHOTO: STAR

CONSERVING BIG CATS OF SUNDARBANS

Comprehensive survey on tigers, preys from April

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government is going to undertake a major survey to assess the animals that Bengal tigers prey on in the Sundarbans and also monitor the current situation of the habitat under a new project of the forest department.

The authorities will also conduct a tiger census in the world's largest mangrove forest and take measures to reduce human-tiger conflict with an aim to ensure a safe environment for the big cats in the Sundarbans.

The three-year-long project, styled "Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project" and undertaken by the forest department, will be implemented from April 2022 to March 2025 at an estimated cost of Tk 35.93 crore, said project officials.

The current tiger population in the country is yet to be known as there have been no surveys since 2018. The last survey put number of tigers in the Sundarbans at 114.

In 2010, at a summit in Russia, Tiger Range Countries committed to double the global tiger population by 2022. Bangladesh was among the 13 countries where tigers still roam in the wild.

The summit had also decided that the countries would conduct surveys every four years.

"Keeping in mind the next tiger summit, we have decided to conduct the census in the Sundarbans and are hopeful to start from October this year," Dr Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain, divisional forest officer of Sundarban West Division of Khulna, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"For the first time we are going to conduct a tiger prey animal survey along with the tiger census under this project."

He said in the project they will also see the health condition of the animals and if anything of concern is found, actions would be taken based on the findings.

The major threats to the Bengal tiger are poaching of the animal and its preys, including deer, and habitat loss.

Bangladesh has taken several steps for tiger conservation, including the Tiger Action Plan 2009-2017 and National Tiger Recovery Programme. The second phase of the Tiger Action Plan, which started in 2018, will continue till 2027.

Project officials said camera trapping method, with the installation of over 200 cameras, will be used to provide data for their movement in the Sundarbans.

They said that under the project, members of village tiger response teams and community patrol group will be trained to raise awareness to reduce human-tiger conflict – one of the major concerns in tiger conservation.

"These two groups are inactive for a long time. So now we are planning to motivate them and make them aware," Mohsin said.

Under the project, the capacity of the forest department in tiger conservation will be enhanced through training and purchase of necessary equipment.

Mohsin said in some spots of the Sundarbans, the male-female ratio of tiger is not balanced, so an initiative may be taken to install a satellite collar on the body of a tiger in the Sundarbans to monitor where there are few or no tigers in the forest.

He said satellite collar will be installed in two tigers to identify the no tiger zone.

Contacted, Dr M Monirul H Khan, chairman of the zoology department at Jahangirnagar University, said it seems that the study is very comprehensive and it would give a clear idea about the Sundarbans tigers and its habitats.

UKRAINE WAR IMPACT

Transport, agri production costs may spike

Foreign minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fuel prices would rise further in the international market if the Russia-Ukraine war prolongs, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday.

That would lead to increased transport and agricultural production costs, he said in response to a question from Awami League MP Shafiul Islam in parliament.

Bangladesh currently imports 50 lakh tonnes of diesel, 13 lakh tonnes of crude oil, 2 lakh tonnes of furnace oil and 1.20 lakh tonnes of octane every year.

The fuel price is now at a nine-year high, said Momen, who is now on a four-day visit to Sri Lanka.

The ministers' answers to the lawmakers' questions were tabled in the House.

The foreign minister said the country now incurs a loss of more than $15 crore every day through buying fuel at the current international price and selling it in the local market.

Although Bangladesh does not import much wheat from Russia and Ukraine, the supply would be affected due to the global market situation, he added.

Momen said if the war continues, there is a risk of an increase in freight rates and insurance fees for cargo ships.

He said Bangladeshi companies that have agreements with Russia must be careful when making payments due to the SWIFT ban.

The Rooppur nuclear power plant construction project could be adversely affected, Momen said.

In 2018, Bangladesh inked a $1,138 crore loan agreement with Russia for its construction.

Discussions are going on between Russia and Bangladesh on what could be an alternative system to financing and repaying loans for the ongoing projects, he added.

UNIVERSAL PENSION

Allowance to be disbursed thru' e-transfer

Says draft law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pensioners will receive their monthly allowance on time under the Universal Pension Scheme by way of electronic fund transfer thanks to a clause in the draft National Pension Authority Act-2022.

For this, a centralised and automated pension disbursement infrastructure will be created, according to the draft law, which has been uploaded on the finance division's website for opinions and suggestions.

Once enacted, the national pension authority law will pave the way for a National Pension Authority (NPA), the statutory body that will launch the universal pension scheme and ensure its management.

Headquartered in Dhaka, the NPA will be comprised of an executive chairman and four

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Dhaka stood

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina said the US after 9/11 suggested countries curb terrorism and the then BNP government established Rapid Action Battalion as per their advice.

The PM said there is no doubt that the BNP used Rab indiscriminately, but the elite force worked to curb terrorism, militancy, repression on women, and conducted investigations into murders during the tenure of the Awami League government.

She said some people in the country remain well whenever an "unusual government" stays in power as they become persons of very high importance at that time. "When any democratic process continues in the country, they engage themselves against it."

The leader of the House said some representatives of that vested group went to the USA and filed complaints with the justice department and other offices during meetings. She said no official of the Bangladesh embassy was allowed in those meetings. "And the sanctions came."

Hasina said whenever any Rab member did anything wrong, he was brought to justice immediately. "Even a minister's son-in-law, who was an army officer, was not spared. He was brought under trial."

The PM mentioned that there is a group of people in the country such as intellectuals or various types of organisations, who job is to earn money by speaking against Bangladesh.

"Whatever you say they don't like it because their income or consultancy will be stopped if they don't speak or defame Bangladesh abroad."

She said those people actually don't want to see Bangladesh move forward.

PM'S HAPPIEST MOMENT IN LIFE

Replying to another question, Hasina said the government is giving houses to the homeless and landless people of the country on the occasion of the "Mujib Borsho".

She said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's dream was to ensure houses and land for each people of the country.

The PM said she gave a house to a landless person and saw smile on the recipient's face, which was the happiest moment of her life.

This city's a mess

FROM PAGE 1

which is partly blamed on the water supply system.

Dhaka is also experiencing fast depletion of groundwater table and pollution in the surface water sources -- mainly the rivers in and around the city.

Besides, an invisible killer is wreaking havoc: sound pollution.

The latest report of the United Nations Environment Programme found the city was the world's noisiest in the world with noise level twice the tolerable standard.

The report stated that the average noise frequency in Dhaka stood at 119 decibels, the highest among 61 major cities of the world.

According to the WHO guidelines, the permissible noise level is 55 dB (decibels) for outdoor residential areas and 70 dB for commercial areas and where there is traffic.

Sound pollution from traffic, construction sites or loudspeakers poses a serious public health risk since regular exposure to high levels of noise causes hearing loss and other health complications.

What makes the city dwellers suffer further day in and day out is the horrendous congestions on roads.

Traffic jams at certain hours are quite common in megacities around the world but what the commuters face in Dhaka is a total chaos and mismanagement.

In the World Traffic Index 2020 of user-contributed database Numbeo, Dhaka has ranked 10th in terms of poor traffic management among 228 cities.

The major factors behind this are absolute shortage of roads and inefficient traffic management. Besides, the existing public transport system fails to address the desirable mobility needs of the people in terms of reliability, comfort, speed and safety.

The list of problems doesn't end here.

Waterlogging is acute and the drainage system is precarious. Because of unplanned urbanisation, illegal occupation and encroachment of wetland and water bodies and indiscriminate dumping of garbage, a couple of hours' rainfall inundate most of the roads.

The shortage of parks, playgrounds and green spaces have turned Dhaka into a gloomy city.

So, what can be done?

Urban experts suggest the government needs to go for simple, practical, people-oriented policy interventions to achieve sustainable urban environments.

Cutting down the pollution by switching to environment friendly and renewable resources, enforcing strict road traffic laws, increasing investment in the public transport system, discouraging the use of personal vehicles and making the stakeholders accountable could be some steps, they said.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said Dhaka has become unlivable due to the lack of political will.

"It is possible to make the city liveable. It would not take more than two to three years to cut the air and noise pollution by around 60 percent," he said, stressing the need for adopting newer approaches.

ABM Badruzzaman, civil engineering professor of Buet, said the way the city is running, it seems nobody is there to take care of the things.

"The whole Dhaka city is a mess. I don't see any light at the end of the tunnel. There are a number of laws but their implementations are almost absent."

Badruzzaman, also a noise pollution researcher, said to make the city liveable, improving the public transport system should be given priority. Another crucial task that needs to be done is decentralisation, he added.

Communications expert Md Shamsul Hoque said a coordinated effort along with the determination to change is required to make the city liveable.

He noted that Dhaka is a victim of "scattered development" and the regulatory authorities should be held accountable.

"Integrated planning is required to make the city liveable. All it requires is the government's strong will alongside policymakers' good intention," he added.

Killers wanted to stop him from writing

FROM PAGE 1

machetes near his home in Sylhet city's Subidbazar area. A banker by profession, he was on his way to Pubali Bank's Jawbazar branch in Sunamganj.

In a tweet, banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team claimed responsibility for the murder. But the prosecution could not prove the killers' link with ABT, said the court.

The convicts are Abul Khaer Rashid Ahmed, Abul Hossain alias Abul Hussain, Harun Ur Rashid and Faisal Ahmed.

Of them, Rashid is now in jail. The rest are on the run.

The one acquitted is Shafiur Rahman Farabi, who is in jail in connection with the murder of blogger Avijit Roy.

'CONVICTS BELIEVED IN RADICAL IDEOLOGIES'

The murder of Ananta was part of a series of attacks on freethinkers, writers and bloggers.

Ahmed Rajib Haider, also known as Thaba Baba, was killed on February 15, 2013. He was the first one to be killed by militants in such attacks.

According to media reports, 48 people, including 20 foreign nationals, were murdered till June 2, 2016.

Ananta's brother Ratneswar Das filed a murder case a day after his brother was killed. The court has delivered the verdict around seven years later.

The verdict was pronounced around 12:45pm, a few minutes after Rashid and Farabi were produced before the court amid tight security.

The judge said the convicts killed Ananta for his writings as they believed in radical ideologies. They targeted those who spoke in favour of science and liberal thoughts.

The judge also observed that the convicts deserve capital punishment. If they are not given that penalty, others with similar beliefs will be encouraged to commit similar crimes, he said.

Ananta's brother-in-law Somor Bijoy Shee said, "We now want the execution of the verdict as soon as possible. We also urge the authorities to arrest the absconding convicts immediately."

He said they would go to the High Court to challenge the acquittal order.

Ananta's father Rabindra Kumar Das died in 2019, and his mother Pijush Rani Das has long been suffering from old age complications.

On October 2, 2016, CID Inspector Arman Ali, investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet in the case, but the court rejected it. It then ordered the CID to reinvestigate the case and submit a supplementary charge sheet, which was filed in May 2017.

The charge-sheeted accused were Farabi, Mannan Yahya alias Mannan Rahi, Abul Khaer Rashid Ahmed, Abul Hossain alias Abul Hussain, Harun Ur Rashid and Faisal Ahmed.

Of them, Mannan Yahya, the only accused to have confessed before the court his involvement in the murder, died on November 2, 2017, after he fell ill at Dhaka Central Jail.

The trial started in Sylhet Additional Metropolitan Judge's court and later in 2020, after the formation of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal, the case was transferred to the tribunal.

The tribunal recorded testimonies of 24 witnesses out of 29 named in the charge sheet. The trial ended on March 14 and the tribunal that day set yesterday for delivery of the verdict.

Iran again bans women from football stadium

AFP, *Tehran*

Iran has once again denied women entry to a football stadium to watch an international match, leaving hundreds of ticketed fans locked out, Iranian media said.

The World Cup qualifier against Lebanon on Tuesday night, won 2-0 by Iran, was played at the Imam Reza stadium in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

Two UK judges resign from Hong Kong's top court

AFP, *London*

Two UK Supreme Court judges yesterday resigned from Hong Kong's top court, as the government in London said it was "no longer tenable" for its judges to serve in the former colony.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said senior UK judges continuing their roles risked "legitimising oppression" following the imposition of China's controversial national security law in 2020.

Only 34pc third graders can read

Says Unicef report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 34 percent of third graders in Bangladesh have foundational reading skills, and only 18 percent have foundational numeracy skills, according to a new report of Unicef.

Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are even worse off, the UN organisation said in its report released yesterday.

In Bangladesh, one of the countries featured in the report, children endured one of the longest school closures in the world due to Covid-19, missing almost 18 months of in-person education.

"Even before the pandemic, children in Bangladesh faced education hurdles. Children in Bangladesh need full access to flexible and remedial learning to help make up for the time lost," said Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

School closures in Bangladesh, from March 2020 to September 2021, and again in February 2022, have disrupted education of around 37 million children. They have also exacerbated worrying gaps in basic literacy and numeracy skills which existed before the pandemic began, the report said.

Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday accorded reception to 11 Bangla and English dailies for continuing to publish their newspapers for at least 25 years. The newspapers are The Daily Sangbad, The Daily Ittefaq, The Daily Azadi, The Daily Purbanchal, The Daily Karatoa, The Daily Purbakone, The Daily Inqilab, The Daily Bhorer Kagoj, The Daily Janakantha, The Daily Star and The Daily Financial Express. Among others, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Information Minister Hasan Mahmud were present at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Misuse of law stifles press freedom

Say speakers; Noab honours 11 newspapers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's newspapers have made significant contribution to the Liberation War struggle, creating a nation as well as establishing democracy, said speakers yesterday.

The discussants also said there should be no hurdles to practicing independent journalism.

They were speaking at a programme to honour 11 Bangla and English dailies for hitting the stands for at least 25 years. Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) organised the event at the Dhaka Club.

At the programme, Noab accorded reception to The Daily Sangbad, The Daily Ittefaq, The Daily Azadi, The Daily Purbanchal, The Daily Karatoa, The Daily Purbakone, The Daily Inqilab, The Daily Bhorer Kagoj, The Daily Janakantha, The Daily Star and The Daily Financial Express.

Speaking as the chief guest, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said newspapers have played an important role in expansion and practice of the freedom of speech. Press is the fourth pillar of democracy and its watchdog, she said.

"However, we can see how false news, misinformation and propaganda are flooding social media sites. Against this backdrop, ethical and responsible journalism is essential and it can bring positive change to society," she said.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said newspapers played a significant role in the Liberation War struggle. It also played an important role in making the country's democracy strong.

"Although print media is facing various challenges, I will keep its importance above all other media," the minister said.

The minister said media should focus on the country's development and positive changes. "No government can be 100

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Indo-Bangla ties vital for South Asia's stability

Shahriar Alam tells seminar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Constructive Bangladesh-India ties could be a major stabilising factor for South Asia, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, insisting on resolving the irritants and harnessing the potentials of the two countries.

He said this while speaking at a seminar titled "Bangladesh-India Relations: Confluence of Ideologies and Evolving Perspectives".

At the event organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) yesterday, he said India and Bangladesh have resolved major disputes regarding land and maritime boundary and progressed a lot in terms of trade and connectivity, but some irritants are still pending.

> **It is the need of the hour to introspect the strengths, retrospect the mistakes, acknowledge the challenges and draw a roadmap to take this relationship to new heights**

He said the death toll of Bangladeshis on the border has become a major stain on this bilateral engagement. Also, the thorny water-sharing issue of transboundary rivers -- 54 of them -- remains another cause of debate regarding the Bangladesh-India ties.

"As a downstream country, Bangladesh wants more water from the Teesta river. We would also like to have a framework agreement for optimal utilisation of waters from six rivers, namely Muhuri, Manu, Gumti, Khowai, Dudhkhumar, and Dharla," he said.

Shahriar Alam said India and Bangladesh are destined to grow together. The bilateral economic ties have huge untapped possibilities, with a trade potential of $16.4 billion.

Referring to a World Bank report, he said seamless transport connectivity between India

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

PRAYER TIMING MAR 31

	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

Trader dies as truck hits rickshaw-van

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A chicken trader died after a truck hit a battery-run rickshaw-van in Dhaka's Paltan area early yesterday.

Deceased Sohag (26) used to live in Tilpapara area of Khilgaon.

The accident occurred near Rajuk building around 1:00am when Sohag was going to Khilgaon from Kaptan Bazar area on a van, said Borhan Uddin, a sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station.

The van driver, Abdur Rahim, who also suffered minor injuries, took Sohag to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctor declared him dead around 2:00am, the SI said.

The truck driver fled the scene soon after the accident.

The body was kept at DMC morgue for autopsy, the police official said.

Country needs more than 20,000 midwives

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was the start of a usual day at work for Zinkhee Sharma, a midwife at Bandarban's Ruma Upazila Health Complex.

As soon as she entered her workstation on July 31 last year, she was faced with a devastated man. He said he had left his expecting wife in the middle of her delivery on a boat in Sangu river ghat and rushed to the hospital, some 15 minutes away from the spot, to call for help.

"The mother had a three-hour journey by boat. The baby's head could be seen, but she was too tired to complete the process," recalls Zinkhee.

"It was a life-threatening situation for both of them. So my colleague Swamkim Bwon and I rushed to the boat and helped her complete the delivery."

Zinkhee shared her experiences at a seminar organised by Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), the British High Commission and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at a city hotel yesterday.

The seminar was organised to reflect on the progress of midwifery in the country over the past decade.

"The country needs more than 20,000 midwives. The government has devised a plan to create 5,000 new midwifery posts and we hope to carry it out soon," said Siddika Akter, DGNM director general.

Around 2,557 midwives like Zinkhee are deployed in 407 upazila health complexes and perform 87 percent of all deliveries. Midwives

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Frame specific policy to appoint VCs

Says UGC member Prof Muhammed Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission member Prof Muhammed Alamgir yesterday recommended a specific and transparent guideline to appoint vice chancellors at universities.

Prof Alamgir -- while attending a training programme for UGC officials -- said currently there are no specific guidelines on the appointment of VCs, pro-VCs and treasurers of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

নোটিশ !

প্রিয় গ্রাহক,

আমাদের সেবার মান আরও সহজ, স্বাচ্ছন্দ্যময় ও নিরাপদ করার লক্ষ্যে ব্যাংকিং ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রম চলছে। সিস্টেম উন্নয়ন ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ এর জন্য ০১ এপ্রিল থেকে ০৬ এপ্রিল, ২০২২ পর্যন্ত ব্যাংকের সব ধরনের আর্থিক লেনদেন ও সেবা স্থগিত থাকবে (ক্রেডিট কার্ড ব্যতীত)। আপনাদের এই সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

বিস্তারিত জানতে ১৬৭৪২ অথবা ০৯৬১০০০৫৬৭৮ এ কল করুন। ভিজিট করুনঃ www.jamunabankbd.com

আমাদের সাথে থাকার জন্য যমুনা ব্যাংকের সকল গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই কৃতজ্ঞতা ও আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।

JAMUNA BANK

Prominent Dealers from home and abroad attended **RFL Plastic Limited's** first ever International Dealer Conference in **Istanbul, Turkey** on 24 March, 2022.
At the International Dealer Conference, RFL Group's Managing Director Mr. R N Paul remarked,
"Having won the hearts of our countrymen, today RFL is a renowned global brand".
Director of RFL Plastics Ltd. Md. Moniruzzaman and Executive Director Md. Jahangir Alam were also present among other high officials of the company.

Malaysia's role in Rohingya issue lauded

UNB, *Dhaka*

Malaysia's strong support to Bangladesh in the Rohingya crisis was lauded at a webinar that focused on shared heritage and good relations between the two countries.

The webinar titled "Bangladesh-Malaysia Relations: Prognosis for the Future" was hosted by Cosmos Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Cosmos Group.

The opening remarks were delivered by Cosmos Foundation Executive Director Nahar Khan.

The session was chaired by Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, former adviser on foreign affairs to the last caretaker government.

Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Haznah Md Hashim was the keynote speaker at the dialogue.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with former prime minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Dr Siti Hasmah at Mahathir's office in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. Prof Yunus visited Malaysia to attend the inaugural convocation ceremony of Albukhary International University (AIU) in Alor Setar, Kedah.

Misuse of law

FROM PAGE 3

percent perfect. You should not only focus on mistakes." He said many countries have enacted laws to give their people security in the digital sphere. "The government is alert so that none, including journalists, face any kind of harassment due to misuse of the Digital Security Act," he said.

The minister said the proposed Mass Media Employees (services and conditions) Bill-2022 was prepared as per demand of media workers. "We held discussion with stakeholders. We will also hold discussions to finalise, keeping in mind interests of media workers," he said.

He made the comments about an hour after Noab President AK Azad at the onset of the programme requested him to bring amendment to the DSA as the law minister has said that there were some "misuse" of the law and he also hinted at amending it.

AK Azad said, "Newspapers are publishing news for the benefit of people for the last 50 years. But recently some laws are creating obstacles to work independently such as the Digital Security act." He urged the government to hold discussions with all stakeholders before passing the bill.

The Daily Sangbad Editor Altamash Kabir said no one should face any obstacle while publishing accurate and credible news. The government should make sure that there is no misuse of law.

The Daily Ittefaq Editor Tasmima Hossain said the government should look into the facilities and issues of newspapers so that newspapers do not face tax burden and pressure of wage board. Also, the government should release the dues for its advertisements published by the newspapers.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said they want more cordial relations with the government. "We, journalists, perform our duties professionally, aiming to contribute to the country's development."

"We also celebrate success. But we also focus on failure, shortfalls... Many think we only portray negative things. I humbly want to say that we give attention to things that remain out of focus; things that no one pays heed to. Through independent journalism, we reach that information to the government so that their works become more effective and better."

He said media is working cordially and with enthusiasm to be a part of the country's development. "But many laws are being enacted and implemented that are disputing independent journalism."

MA Malek of The Daily Azadi, Mozammal Huq of The Daily Karatoa, Ramizuddin Chowdhury of The Daily Purbakone, AMM Bahauddin of The Daily Inqilab, Tariq Sujat of The Daily Bhorer Kagoj and Shamsul Huq Zahid of The Daily Fianancial Express also spoke at the event.

Noab member Dewan Hanif Mahmud moderated the event and its vice president ASM Shahidullah Khan Badal gave vote of thanks.

Frame specific

FROM PAGE 3

universities. "If they were appointed following a specific guideline, debates over such issues will reduce," he said.

He suggested that the government ask for UGC's opinions while appointing a VC for any university.

During Tuesday's parliament session, opposition lawmakers slammed the government for failing to control corruption and irregularities at public universities.

Indo-Bangla ties

FROM PAGE 3

and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17 percent in Bangladesh and 8 percent in India. Another study indicates a 297 percent increase in Bangladesh's exports to India and a 172 percent increase in India's exports to Bangladesh if transport connectivity improves and both neighbours sign an FTA.

Also, both traditional and non-traditional security issues shaping this maritime geography will be implicated in the evolving Delhi-Dhaka dynamic.

"It is the need of the hour to introspect the strengths, retrospect the mistakes, acknowledge the challenges and draw a roadmap to take this relationship to new heights," he said.

Ravi Kumar Sawhney, distinguished fellow at Vivekanand International Foundation, said no relationship is perfect in the world and if there are complaints, it means the relationship is working. "Together we can do wonders," he said.

Dr Sreradha Dutta and Dr Arvind Gupta of the Vivekananda International Foundation, India, BIISS Chairman Kazi Imtiaz Hossain and BIISS DG Maj Gen Mohammad Maksudur Rahman, and Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies Chairman ASM Shamsul Arefin also spoke.

Country needs more

FROM PAGE 3

like her have helped improve women's access to safe childbirth, especially in rural areas.

A total of 8,646 midwives have completed a three-year diploma course from 60 public and 105 private institutions so far. The diploma was introduced in 2021 by the health ministry.

Besides, around 400 midwives, who graduated from Brac University, have been deployed in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

Saiful Hassan Badal, secretary of the medical education and family welfare division at the health ministry, said, "The national midwifery programme has greatly contributed to the reduction of maternal and newborn deaths, as well as caesarean section rates."

He said the government has plans to deploy more than 3,000 midwives as soon as possible.

Matt Cannell, development director of the British High Commission in Bangladesh, and Eiko Narita, UNFPA country representative, also spoke.

Trust Bank

Head Office, Shadhinata Tower, Bir Sresttha Shaheed Jahangir Gate Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206

TENDER NOTICE

1. TBL intends to procure **100000 units of VISA EMV COMBAT Debit Card** through open tender. Sealed technical & financial bids are invited by TBL from suitably reputed and qualified firms/companies.
2. Tender Schedule with details will be available on TBL website **https://www.tblbd.com/tender**

Note: TBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders, in part or full.

Purchase & Procurement Division

PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON
DHAKA
The Oasis of Luxurious Hospitality and Tranquility

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from bona-fide contractors/ manufacturers/dealers/distributors/ suppliers for supply of the following items. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

SL No.	Name of the Items	Schedule Price (Non-refundable)
1	Imported Dry Food, Can Food and Frozen Food items	Tk.3000
2	Garbage Collection and Cleaning	Tk.1000
3	Tailoring Work	Tk.1000
4	Cloth Slipper	Tk.1000

Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to **April 17, 2022** during office hours. Tender will be received up to **02:00pm** on **April 18, 2022** and will be opened on the same day at **02:30pm** in presence of bidders, if any.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164

To Let

Commercial rental space 1st floor, 1553sft. 2nd floor 2190sft. available in Gulshan on Gulshan Avenue by Azad mosque. For more information please contact **01711950400, 01720370486** D-33

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

Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Textile & Jute
2.	Agency	:	Bangladesh Handloom Board
3.	Procuring Entity Name	:	Chairman, Bangladesh Handloom Board
4.	Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka
5.	Invitation for	:	Selection of agency for the procurement of manpower on outsourcing basis for the Self Earned organizations controlled by Bangladesh Handloom Board
6.	Invitation Ref. No	:	24.05.0000.511.11.054.16-897, Date: 28-03-2022
7.	Procurement Method	:	Open Tendering Method (OTM), NCT
8.	Budget and Source of Funds	:	Self-Earned Fund
10.	Tender Package No.	:	BHB/Outsourcing/2021-22
11.	Tender Publication Date	:	30-03-2022
12.	Tender Last Selling Date	:	13-04-2022
13.	Tender Closing Date and time	:	17-04-2022 at 12.00 PM
14.	Tender Opening Date and time	:	17-04-2022 at 12.00 PM
15.	- Selling Tender Document	:	Cash Counter, Head office of Bangladesh Handloom Board
	- Receiving Tender Document	:	Office of the Director (Administration), Bangladesh Handloom Board, BTMC, Bhaban (4th floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka
	- Opening Tender Document	:	
16.	Eligibility of Tenderer	:	1. Any Manpower supplying agency having Up-to-date Trade license, Income Tax submission certificate, Vat registration certificate and License from Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments. 2. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 3 (three) years. 3. The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least ONE contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of three (3) years each with a value of at least of Tk 20,00,000.00 (Twenty lac) shall be required. 4. The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 15,00,000.00 (Fifteen lac) over the last three years. 5. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e., working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 10,00,000.00 (Ten lac) [bank account statement will not consider as liquid asset] 6. Other qualifications as mentioned in the Tender documents.
17.	Brief Description of Services	:	Lot-1: Supply of 15 (fifteen) no's manpower for Cloth Processing Center at Madhabdi, Narsingdi (Self-Earned organization) for the position of Mechanic (1), Production Supervisor (2), Account Assistant (1), Electrician (1), Boiler Attendant/Operator (2), Jigger Dying Machine Operator (2), Jet Dying Machine Operator (1), Fabric Mercerizing Machine Operator (1), Washing Range Machine Operator (1), Loop Steamer Machine Operator (1), ETP Operator (1) and Rotary Printing Machine Operator (1) Lot-2: Supply of 14 (fourteen) no's manpower for Handloom Service Center at Kalihati, Tangail (Self-Earned organization) for the position of Office Assistant-cum-computer Typist (1), Office Shohayok (1), Production Supervisor (1), Assistant Mechanic (1), Electrician (1), Package dyeing Machine Operator (1), Spray Type Hank dyeing Machine Operator (1), Yarn Mercerizing Machine Operator (1), Dryer Machine Operator (1), Winding Machine Operator (2), Yarn Twisting Machine Operator (1), Boiler Operator (1) and ETP Operator (1).
18.	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	:	Tk. 1,000.00 (One thousand) only.

19.	Pkg. No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security	Completion Time
	01/CPC	Supply of 15 no's manpower for CPC, Madhabdi, Narsingdi	Narsingdi	Tk. 90,000.00 (Ninety Thousand)	12 months
	02/HSCK	Supply of 14 no's manpower for HSC, Kalihati, Tangail	Tangail	Tk. 90,000.00 (Ninety Thousand)	12 months

20.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	:	Phone: 58157229, E: skumar1717@gmail.com,
21.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.		

28.03.2022
(Sukumar Chandra Saha)
Director (Administration)

মুজিববর্ষের আহবান
সেবায় মিলবে পরিত্রাণ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর
উপ-তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়
সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), নেত্রকোণা
Web: sspb.netrokona.gov.bd

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	সমাজ কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	এজেন্সি	:	সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক পরিচালিত সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), নেত্রকোণা।
০৩	সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বার নাম	:	উপ-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), নেত্রকোণা।
০৪	সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বার জেলা	:	নেত্রকোণা।
০৫	যে কাজের দরপত্র	:	২০২২-২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক পরিচালিত সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), নেত্রকোণা এর নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল), শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, সাধারণ পোশাক, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
০৬	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	নং-৪১.০১.৭২০০.০৩৫.০৭.০১৩.২২.২৪ তারিখঃ ২৮-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ।
০৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	:	৩০-০৩-২০২২খ্রিঃ
০৮	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও. টি. এম)।
০৯	বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস	:	রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি ও বি।
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা	:	০৩টি
১১	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	:	প্যাকেজ নং-১-গ্রুপ "ক" খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল)। প্যাকেজ নং-২-গ্রুপ-'খ' শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, সাধারণ পোশাক, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য। প্যাকেজ নং-৩-গ্রুপ-'ঙ' বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
১২	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	১৩-০৪-২০২২খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ		১৪-০৪-২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	১৪-০৪-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতা বা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে)।
১৫	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়, গ্রহণ ও খোলার কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ		
	ক. দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়	:	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার, (বালক) নেত্রকোণা
	খ. দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ	:	জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা ও জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা
	গ. দরপত্র দলিল খোলা	:	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা
১৬	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	(১) বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। (২) পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সচ্ছলতার সনদ, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভ্যাট প্রদান সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে।
১৭	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য জমা দিতে হবে	:	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য ট্রেজারি চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ তে (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।

১৮	গ্রুপ	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	দলিলের মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
	ক.	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল)	২০০০/-	দলিল মোতাবেক	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার, (বালক) নেত্রকোণার জন্য প্রযোজ্য
	খ.	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, সাধারণ পোশাক, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য	৮০০/-	দলিল মোতাবেক	ঐ
	ঙ.	বিবিধ মালামাল	১০০০/-	দলিল মোতাবেক	ঐ

১৯. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম : তারেক হোসেন।
২০. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী : উপ-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক।
২১. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: উপ-তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), নেত্রকোণা।
২২. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নাম্বার: ০১৩০৩-৬৫৩৯৬১/০১৭২২-৩০৫৯৪২
২৩. শর্তাবলীঃ
(ক) পি.পি.এ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
(খ) গৃহীত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উর্দ্ধত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
(গ) "ঙ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
(ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
(ঙ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্রের দলিলে বর্ণিত আছে।

26/03/22
তারেক হোসেন
উপ-তত্ত্বাবধায়ক
মোবাইলঃ ০১৭২২-৩০৫৯৪২
dys.sspb.netrokona@dss.gov.bd

GD-612

Everyone cries at 'Kannakatir Mela'

S DILIP ROY, *Lalmonirhat*

For five hours yesterday, a no mans' land in Lalmonirhat was transformed into a witness of bittersweet, short-lived reunions.

The spot, at border pillar-925 besides Maldah river under Gorol union of Kaliganj upazila, was thronged by thousands of people from Bangladesh and India as the border was kept open for five hours from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, marking the Ganga Puja at India's Ververi area.

What made yesterday's occasion even more special was that this was the first time the border fair, locally known as "Kannakatir Mela" (a festival of tears), took place after two years of suspension due to the pandemic.

Locals told The Daily Star the fair has been taking place since the Pakistan period. Bangladeshis and Indians who were separated come together on this day to meet their loved ones from across the border.

It is held on the bank of Maldah, right besides barbed-wire fences, during the Bengali month of Chaitra every year. It is said that everyone cries during the fair, which is why it came to be known as Kannakatir Mela.

Bangladeshi Protap Chandra Roy (75), of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, came with his son Bishnu Chandra Roy (48) to meet his daughter Narayani Rani (45), who is an Indian citizen. As soon as they met, Protap broke down in tears. "My health is getting worse by the day. I may not be here for too long. There's no way I would miss out on the fair this year. I'm meeting my daughter after four years," Protap said.

Nayerhat village's Ratan Chandra Roy (65) told The Daily Star that he came to the border to meet his younger brother Suresh Chandra Roy (60), who lives in India.

Gorol UP chairperson Nurul Amin said several thousand Bangladeshis from Lalmonirhat and adjoining districts come to the border fair every time it takes place.

This year's "Kannakatir Mela" took place after two years due to the pandemic. This deprived families, separated by the border, from meeting each other at the only place where they get to be together. They broke down in tears as soon as they met at yesterday's fair at Ghongagachhi border in Lalmonirhat's Gorol union. PHOTO: STAR

Two students killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Two college students were killed as their motorbike and a truck collided head-on on Nakla-Chandrakona road in Pagli Market area in Nakla upazila of Sherpur yesterday.

The deceased are Rabbi Alam (22) and Wasim Islam (18) from Nakla.

Both the victims studied at Nakla Government Hazi Jalmamud College, said OC Md Mushfiqur Rahman of Nakla Police Station.

Rabbi died on the spot. Wasim was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he died around 8:00am.

Meanwhile in Netrakona, Abdul Khaleq Munshi (80) died when a fish-laden pickup hit him on Kendua-Atharabari Road at Horinagor in Kendua on Tuesday.

Ashrayan project keeps spreading smiles

DIPAN NANDY, *from Savar*

Twenty years ago, Mominul Islam lost his house in Chilmari, Kurigram to river erosion. In search of fortune, he migrated from there to Savar's Shimulia union. Although it was no easy task, he managed to eke out a living working on other people's land.

But the good times are about to arrive for Mominul. As part of the Prime Minister's Office's Ashrayan project, he is set to have a house of his own again.

Along with Mominul, 65,474 families have been allotted houses in the second phase of the project, as a Mujib Borsho gift from the prime minister for the landless and homeless.

After the houses are completed, the PM will officially handover these semi-permanent houses, along with 200 acres of land, free of cost at a convenient time.

Mominul spoke to this correspondent while inspecting the project site at

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Gohailbari in Shimulia yesterday.

"I lost everything and came here 20 years ago," he said. "I was running my family by farming on other people's land. I cannot believe I'm about to get a house of my own, that too as a gift from the prime minister."

Sixty-four families will be provided single houses at the project site at Gohailbari. Twenty four of them have already been selected through lottery, while the rest are to be picked soon as well.

Each house will be brick-walled, roofed with colourful tin-shed. Floors will be made of concrete, while there will be two bedrooms with a tin canopy, a kitchen, a toilet and an open front porch.

Abu Saleh Mohammad Ferdous Khan, project director of Ashrayan-2, told The Daily Star that it will be the first and largest instance of providing free housing to so many people in the history of the world.

"Special care is being taken in land selection. Taking experience from the first two phases of the project, the houses are being made in even more sustainable manner," he said.

In the third phase, the cost of constructing each house has increased, with each set to cost Tk 259,500, compared to Tk 171,000 for the first phase and Tk 195,000 for the second.

However, as a result of being exempt from tax and VAT, the houses can be constructed at a cheaper price than the market price, said officials concerned.

Jubo Dal leader dies in Ctg jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A Jubo Dal leader died in Chattogram Central Jail yesterday while he was undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

The deceased is Md Shahjahan (47) from Kulgaon area in the port city.

Dewan Mohammad Tariqul Islam, jailer of Chattogram Central Jail, said Shahjahan was arrested in a drug case on October 19, 2021.

Shahjahan had been undergoing treatment at the jail hospital since March 26 with multiple physical complications, including TB, added the jailer.

"He was feeling unwell on Tuesday noon and was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment."

He died around 12:00am there," he told this correspondent.

The body was sent to CMC morgue for autopsy, said the jailer.

Contacted, Mohammad Shahed, general secretary of Jubo Dal Chattogram metropolitan unit, said six false cases were filed against Shahjahan.

"The drug case was filed against him for harassment," he added.

"We don't know whether Shahjahan was provided with proper treatment," he said.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank
Divisional Office
KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritobabu Road, Mymensingh
মুজিব বর্ষের প্রতিশ্রুতি
আর্থিক খাতের অগ্রগতি

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Financial Institutions Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Krishi Bank.
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Divisional Office, Mymensingh.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Mymensingh.
6	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Note Counting Machines for 25 Branches of BKB, Mymensingh Division.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	BKB/DO(Mymen)Admin-1(17)/OTM(NCM)-02/2021-2022/3647
8	Date	29/03/2022.
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	BKB's Own Fund.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	N/A.
14	Tender Package No.	02/2021-2022.
15	Tender publication date	29/03/2022.
16	Tender package name	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Note Counting Machines for 25 Branches of BKB, Mymensingh Division.
17	Tender last selling date	24/04/2022 up to 02.00pm.
		Date / Time
18	Tender closing date and time	25/04/2022 02:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	25/04/2022 02:15pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	-Selling tender document (principal)	BKB, Divisional Office, KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritobabu Road, Mymensingh.
	-Selling tender document (others)	Do.
	-Receiving tender document	Do.
	-Opening tender document	Do.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	No pre-tender meeting will be held.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have minimum of 03 (three) years of overall experience and minimum of 02 (two) years of specific experience in the supply of goods and related services. 2. Manufacturer's authorization letter (original) is required. 3. The minimum supply value of similar goods under a single contract in the last 3 (three) years to any scheduled bank should be minimum Tk 15.00 (fifteen) lac only. 4. Minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility should be Tk 20.00 (twenty) lac. 5. All other qualification will be applicable as specified in TDS.
23	Brief description of goods	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Floor Mount Type Note Counting Machine with Fake Note Detection Facility.
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1000/- + VAT (One thousand Taka only + VAT) (non refundable).

26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
	01	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Floor Mount Type Note Counting Machine with Fake Note Detection Facility.	BKB, Divisional Office, KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritobabu Road, Mymensingh.	Tk. 65,000/- (Sixty-five thousand) only	08 (eight) weeks from date of contract signature

27	Name of official inviting tender	Zamil Ahmed.
28	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager.
29	Address of official inviting tender	BKB, Divisional Office, KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritobabu Road, Mymensingh.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	02996664205 Email address: gmmymensingh@krishibank.org.bd
31	Special instructions	i. The procuring entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or to reduce the scope of the requirements for concerned procurement without assigning any reason whatever. ii. All condition should be implemented as per PPR-2008 and next amendment for tender. iii. Tender will be opened in presence of the tenderer/representative (if any). iv. The tender notice will also be found in BKB's website.

Zamil Ahmed
General Manager
Bangladesh Krishi Bank
Divisional Office, Mymensingh

GD-618

Local seeds for local needs

Female farmers of Khulna exchange varieties at fair

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

Seeds of local varieties -- preserved by families for generations -- have been the most adaptive way of cultivation for the distinct climatic conditions of the country's coastal areas.

In what is considered a yearly tradition, female farmers exchange the seeds at the "seed fair", organised every year by the local farmers' organisation and non-government development organisation LoCos at Gangarampur Union Parishad ground in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila.

In yesterday's edition, local women displayed, exchanged and distributed over 200 varieties of seeds in the fair's 53 stalls.

One of them was Laxmi Rani Mondal (53), of Gangarampur union's Jharvanga village. She has been preserving seeds for 16 years. Her motivation came from not being able to cultivate on vast lands owned by her husband for lack of quality seeds.

Laxmi has preserved around 248 local seeds so far. "Over 300 women in the locality preserve local seeds, just like me," she informed.

Laxmi is not the only example of beneficiaries from the practice. Shamoli Sarker of the same village became self-reliant by selling seeds and vegetables. She has been able to preserve 78 varieties of local seeds and sow them in her cultivable land.

Robiul Islam, upazila DAE officer of Batiaghata, told this correspondent, "Preserving seeds helps people carry out organic farming."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Natore Sadar, Dist: Natore
www.lged.gov.bd
শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.6963.000.07.007.20.137 Dated: 29/03/2022

e-Tender Notice: 01/2021-22

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering method
1	2	3	4	5
1	680508	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/01	Improvement of HBB Road from Srikrishnapur Pucca Road-towards H/O. Professor Ashrafuzzaman Road (Ch. 00.00-170.00m) Under Union: Tabaria, Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM
2	680509	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/02	Improvement of Road by Carpeting and Palisading near Par Atghoria Culvert – towards up to H/O. Judge Mr. Mahabur Rahma via H/O. SP Humayan Kobir Road (Ch. 0.00 – 385.00m) Under Union: Laxmipur Kholabaria, Upazila: Natore Sadar, District: Natore	LTM
3	680510	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/03	Improvement of Palisading work beside Gunarigram GPS for breach protection Under Union: Boro Horishpur, Upazila: Natore Sadar, District: Natore	LTM
4	680511	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/04	Procurement and Distribution of Ripple Galvanized Iron Corrugated Sheet for subsequently Disaster under Upazila: Natore Sadar, District: Natore	LTM
5	680512	ADP (Rev. Ex.)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/05	Improvement of HBB Road from Tea Stall of Ismail Hossain in front of H/O. Babu Shonkor Gobindo Chowdhury – up to H/O. Shamol Professor (Ch. 0.00m-87.00m) Under Union: Chatni, Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM
6	680514	ADP (Rev. Ex.)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/06	Improvement of HBB Road from beside Dorappur Muktijoddha Technical College – towards H/O. Sangbadik Kalidas (Ch. 00.00 – 308.00m) Under Union: Laxmipur Kholabaria, Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM
7	680513	ADP (Rev. Ex.)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/07	Improvement of Road by HBB from Jolarpara Bridge near H/O. Nazir – towards West Charpara Road Under Union: Kafuria, (Ch. 0.00m-250.00m) Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 4.00pm date: 17/04/2022.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (E-mail: ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd Or Call to 0771-66665).

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Sk. Md. A. S. Mostafezur Rahman
Upazila Engineer
LGED, Natore Sadar, Natore
Phone No. 0771-66636
E-mail: ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd

GD-614

A generational talent graced Dhaka, what was our reaction?

While it is difficult to argue with some points, in no way is it acceptable to direct the criticism towards A R Rahman himself, who bared his soul during his performance set of 35 songs.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

It has always been difficult to please everyone, especially in the age of social media -- where everyone feels not only entitled to an opinion, but also entitled to share it regardless of how crude or unfiltered it may be.

A R Rahman, also known as the Mozart of Madras, a two-time Oscar winner, frankly did not need the aforementioned award from the West to solidify his legacy in music. He performed at the "Cricket Celebrates Mujib 100" concert at Mirpur Sher-e Bangla Stadium on Tuesday, along with our own legends -- Momotaz Begum and Miles.

However, the melody that resonated at the Sher-e Bangla was almost drowned in negativity from people around it – either from the unfortunate commuters who were caught in a traffic jam because of the arrangement (our city is admittedly not ideal for a large-scale concert as such), or listeners who simply felt that the concert did not do enough to promote Bangladesh and our local music.

While it is difficult to argue with some of the points made above, in no way is it acceptable to direct the criticism towards A R Rahman himself, who bared his soul during his performance set of 35 songs. The tasteless remarks made on the social media livestream, made it an embarrassing affair for everyone who tried to enjoy the concert through the internet.

From a purely musical standpoint, the concert did produce the atmosphere that BCB and Bashundhara Group were hoping for, despite the rain delay and various blunders made throughout the event. The sudden halt in live-streaming due to 'technical difficulties' during the performance was head-scratching, to say the least.

However, Rahman singing "Kun Faya Kun" with all his soul was to wash away many of the complaints that the live audience had up till that point.

Sivamani's drum solo, where he used a water filter found in every nook and cranny of the city to provide astounding beats, was also a remarkable sight, as was the legendary Hariharan's surprise appearance, recreating his own timeless melodies.

As a long-time fan, witnessing the world famous music director sing about the Father of the Nation was special –

"Pahar Eshe Shurjo Eshe Abar Dekhe Nik
Mujiber Shei Torjoni Tai Abar Dekhaye Dik"

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Zulfiqer Russell's lyrics came to life in the hands of the maestro, certainly a proud moment for the veteran lyricist.

Like most things in life, the concert certainly was not perfect. Even though most of the songs in the line-up were performed live, some pre-recorded tracks stuck out like a sore thumb. The omission of Momotaz Begum and Miles from the event tickets was simply baffling.

Our artistes certainly deserve more respect, and it would have been great to see some of them collaborate with A R Rahman for the programme, which would have left more of a message of a bilateral friendship than Aditya Narayan simply saying "I wish we could leave instantly, so that we could come back again."

In the end, regardless of all the negativity, it is hard to change the facts – A R Rahman performed in Dhaka, he performed with all his heart. As we develop as a country, many of the logistical problems will hopefully fade away, leaving only the memories of a universally beloved musician serenading us.

Banglavision to celebrate its 16th birth anniversary today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular TV channel Banglavision will celebrate its 16th anniversary today, with festivities and special programmes.

Banglavision has lined up a series of special programmes- Shakib Khan and Bidya Sinha Mim starrer movie "Amar Pran er Priya" at 10:30 am, special live concert at 2:20 pm, "Gulshan Avenue-season 2" at 8:15 pm, and special tele-fiction "Great Girlfriend" at 9:05 pm.

The channel began its transmission in Bangladesh with the theme 'Drishti Juure Desh' on March 31, 2006.

Mahiya Mahi dispels pregnancy rumors

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Rumours were circulating about Mahiya Mahi expecting a child, after she came back from Umrah.

The actress tied the knot with businessman Kamruzzaman last year. She was unreachable for quite some time, and absent during the promotions of many of her projects. Even producers and directors were unable to reach her.

The actress also backed out from a number of films, including Chayanika Chowdhury's "Kagojer Bou", among others.

Mahi finally broke her silence on the matter, refuting rumours about her pregnancy.

According to reports, she is set to open a restaurant named Farishta in Gazipur. She is also shooting for director Badiul Alam's film, "Officer", opposite DA Tayeb.

NEWS

Allowance to be disbursed

FROM PAGE 2

members appointed by the government.

Under the law, a governing board will also be formed for the authority comprising the finance minister as chairman, the NPA executive chairman as member secretary and 13 other members.

Senior secretaries or secretaries, the Bangladesh Bank governor, and chairmen of the National Board of Revenue and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission will be the board members.

The board members will also include heads of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the Bangladesh Employers Federation, and the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

The NPA will also manage the investment of the fund's accumulated money, according to the draft law.

Alongside ensuring management of the universal pension scheme, the NPA will protect the contributors' interests and ensure the safety of money deposited by them.

The long-awaited universal pension scheme, one of the pledges of the ruling Awami League's 2008 election manifesto, is expected to take off within a year.

On February 23, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said they were expecting the scheme's implementation to start within six months to a year.

Any citizen, including expatriate Bangladeshis, aged between 18 and 50 can sign up for the scheme.

According to a government estimate, a pensioner can receive a monthly pension of Tk 64,776 after the age of 60 and start to contribute towards the scheme with a monthly instalment of Tk 1,000 from the age of 18.

The government is yet to decide whether private organisations will have to contribute to the pension fund if their employees come under the scheme, Kamal said yesterday.

Such a decision will be made after consultation with different stakeholders, he told journalists after a cabinet committee on government purchase meeting.

One in 10 MFS users victims

FROM PAGE 12

About 95 percent of the fraud victims who had their complaints solved in a day continued to use MFS, while those who never had their complaints looked into abandoned the platform for good.

"So, the satisfactory redress actually shapes whether the customers will continue the service," Rahman said.

The frauds are not specific to any gender or locality, according to the study, conducted with funding from Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

The incidence of fraud is relatively higher for users with no higher educational degrees, implying that educated users can better recognise fraudulent activities in their MFS accounts, according to the paper titled 'The state of DFS (digital financial service) consumer protection in Bangladesh'.

Almost four out of five agents have received some sort of training before becoming an agent.

Findings also show that untrained agents are more vulnerable to fraud than trained agents, underscoring the need for training for mitigating fraud.

"The fraud is limiting the expansion of the MFS market," Rahman said.

About 45 percent of the population are not MFS users, and of them, 32 percent do not use the service due to fear of fraud.

Digital literacy and financial literacy among citizens before financial inclusion are very crucial and the private sector and the government can work together, said Sonia Bashir Kabir, founder and managing partner at SBK Tech Ventures and SBK Foundation.

"We are talking about consumer protection here, but the fact of the matter is that there are no consumer rights in the country," she added.

The potential of MFS is huge and growing, but fraud is a major challenge here, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of PRI.

"It's a big number that 9.3 percent of the consumers and 12 percent of the agents faced fraud. If we want to increase the users from 55 percent of the population to 85 percent, we have to address the fraud issue," he added.

Telecom Minister Mustafa Jabbar, PRI Chairman Zaidi Sattar and bKash Chief Executive Officer Kamal Quadir also spoke.

Khan's hold on power weakens

FROM PAGE 1

of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) met with Khan earlier in the day. The army and the ISI heads again met with the PM later in the evening, it added.

No prime minister in the country's history has seen out a full term, and Khan is facing the biggest challenge to his rule since being elected in 2018, with opponents accusing him of economic mismanagement and foreign-policy bungling.

Debate on the no-confidence motion is due to start today, leaving Khan scrambling to keep his own Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members on side -- as well as a slew of minority parties.

On paper Khan's ruling PTI and coalition partners have 176 seats in the 342-member assembly, but yesterday the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) said its seven lawmakers would vote with the opposition, which has a combined 163 seats.

Khan's party does not have a majority in the National Assembly by itself and has relied on the support of coalition allies.

"We have sent our resignations to the prime minister," Amin-ul-Haq, a member of Khan's cabinet from the MQM, told local television channel Geo News.

Khan's ouster would likely mean another round of instability in the nuclear armed south Asian country, in which the military has a long record of intervening in politics.

Opposition leaders Shahbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, standing alongside MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, called on Khan to resign before the vote now that he had lost his majority with the defection of the MQM.

"It is a tradition that if you lose majority, you should step down," said Sharif, who is widely believed to be the opposition's candidate for the next prime minister should Khan be ousted.

"We have 175 votes against the required 172," said another opposition leader, Fazl-ur-Rehman.

More than a dozen PTI lawmakers have also indicated they will cross the floor, although party leaders are trying to get the courts to prevent them from voting on Sunday.

"He will fight until the last over and the last ball," Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told reporters, using a cricket analogy to describe Khan -- one of the sport's all-time international greats before he entered politics.

The PML-N and PPP dominated national politics for decades until Khan forged a coalition against the usually feuding dynastic groups.

He was elected after promising to sweep away decades of entrenched corruption and cronyism, but has struggled to maintain support with inflation skyrocketing, a feeble rupee and crippling debt.

Some analysts say Khan has also lost the crucial support of the military – a claim both sides deny.

There have been four military coups -- and at least as many unsuccessful ones -- since independence in 1947, and the country has spent more than three decades under army rule.

One card up Khan's sleeve could be to call an early election -- the next one must be held before October 2023.

"The best option in this situation would have been fresh elections to enable the new government to handle economic, political and external problems faced by the country," said political analyst Talat Masood, a retired general.

12 hurt

FROM PAGE 12

Chhatra League were seen breaking mobile phones of those who were capturing the incident.

Some tried to snatch the mobile phone of a Daily Star correspondent, but could not as a police official intervened.

Police fired several teargas canisters to take the situation under control around 10:20pm. Vehicular movement started around 10:40pm.

Tension was simmering till filing of this report at 12:25pm.

Tigers' chance to break

FROM PAGE 12

hosts. Also, the fact that this very side had broken the New Zealand barrier, by beating the Kiwis in a Test in their own backyard in January, will only provide Mominul's troops the added confidence and belief of pulling off something similar in South Africa.

The Tigers will also be boosted by the return of opener Tamim Iqbal, who is set to play his first Test in about 10 months.

Bangladesh also outweigh the hosts when it comes to experience in the side. Other than Shakib Al Hasan, who had to skip the Test series due to personal reasons, Bangladesh have all their experienced players in the side.

South Africa, on the other hand, had to announce a squad with as many as four uncapped players after Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen, Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen opted for IPL over national duty.

Who's to blame

FROM PAGE 12

seen no development for us."

Contacted, GM Selim Parvez, chairman of Fulchhari Upazila Parishad and president of Fulchhari Awami League, said, "Around 70 percent of Fulchhari upazila's more than 1.5 lakh people live on chars. There is no road, no doctor, no clinic and hospital in any of those areas and during dry seasons, patients have to be carried on foot."

Dr Md Rafikuzzaman, Fulchhari Upazila Health and Family planning officer, said, "This is indeed a pathetic situation. We have no sub-health stations in the Fulchhari union. However, we do have community skilled birth attendance [CSBA] in the chars. If Helena's family had taken her there, she could have survived."

However, upon asking locals of the char areas, this correspondent came to know that none were aware of the existence of any CSBA there.

While many such incidents have gone unreported, around two years ago, Taslima Nasrin, 23, died after giving birth through normal delivery while she was on her way to the health complex from her home on Char Kochkhali in Gaibandha's Sadar upazila. She too died of excessive bleeding and no medical help.

At least five

FROM PAGE 12

of police's Detective Branch, said police's other units were also working on the arrest of the criminals involved in the murder.

Around 10:15pm on Thursday, Tipu was returning home at the capital's Khilgaon Bagichha by his microbus from his restaurant.

As the vehicle got stuck in a traffic jam in Shahjahanpur, unidentified assailants fired shots at the microbus. Tipu, his driver Monir Hossain Munna, 34, and rickshaw passenger Samia Afran Jamal Prity, 22, were hit by bullets.

The three were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Tipu and Prity dead.

Tipu's wife Farhana Islam Doly filed a murder case with Shahjahanpur Police Station accusing unidentified criminals.

Trump asks Putin to help dish dirt on Hunter Biden

AFP, *Washington*

Donald Trump has called on Russian President Vladimir Putin, who launched an invasion of Ukraine last month, to reveal any compromising information he might have on US President Joe Biden's son, Hunter.

‘Ukrainians are not naive’

Says Zelensky as Russia bombards key cities despite promise to scale back

Residents walk past a damaged Russian tank in the northeastern city of Trostianets, which Ukrainian forces recaptured this week. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

REUTERS

Russian forces bombarded the outskirts of Kyiv and a besieged city in northern Ukraine yesterday, a day after promising to scale down operations there in what the West dismissed as a ploy to regroup by invaders taking heavy losses.

Nearly five weeks into an invasion in which it has failed to capture any major cities, Russia said it would curtail operations near Kyiv and the northern city of Chernihiv “to increase mutual trust” for peace talks.

But Reuters journalists in Kyiv heard intensified bombardment on Wednesday morning from the direction of frontline suburbs. The capital itself was not hit overnight, but windows rattled from the relentless artillery on its outskirts.

Chernihiv’s Mayor Vladyslav Astroshenko said Russian bombardment had intensified over the past 24 hours, with more than 100,000 people trapped in the city with just enough food and medical supplies to last about another week. Reuters could not verify the situation in Chernihiv.

In an overnight address, Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskiy made clear he took nothing Moscow said at face value.

“Ukrainians are not naive people,” he said. “Ukrainians have already learned during these 34 days of invasion, and over the past eight years of the war in Donbas, that the only thing they can trust is a concrete result.”

Zelenskiy adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said Moscow was shifting some forces from northern Ukraine to the east, trying to encircle the main Ukrainian force there. Some Russians would stay behind near Kyiv to tie Ukrainian forces down, he said.

Russian forces also hit industrial facilities in western Ukraine in three strikes overnight, a regional governor said.

Around a quarter of Ukrainians have been driven from their homes by the biggest attack on a European country since World War Two. The United Nations said that the number who have fled the country had risen above 4 million. More than half of those refugees are children and the rest mostly women.

Russia says it is carrying out a “special operation” to disarm and “denazify” its neighbour. It says Ukraine has crossed a redline by intending to Join Nato. Western countries say Moscow launched an unprovoked invasion, which included a full-scale assault on the capital that was repelled by fierce Ukrainian defence.

Half of global pregnancies unintended

Says UN

AFP, *Paris*

Nearly half of all pregnancies worldwide are unintended, the UN reproductive health agency said yesterday, warning that the war in Ukraine could further exacerbate what it called a “human rights crisis”.

Out of 121 million unintended pregnancies every year -- 331,000 a day -- more than 60 percent end in abortion, almost half of them unsafe, the United Nations Population Fund said in a new report.

The UNFPA said the report was not about “unwanted babies or happy accidents”, but how a combination of gender inequality, poverty, sexual violence, and lack of access to contraception and abortion robbed women of “the most life-altering reproductive choice -- whether or not to become pregnant”.

UNFPA executive director Natalia Kanem said studies estimated that more than 20 percent of displaced women worldwide experience sexual violence.

The report said seven million women had to be hospitalised each year after unsafe abortions, which are one of the leading causes of maternal death.

Pak school teacher killed for ‘blasphemy’

AFP, *Peshawar*

A teacher at an all-girls religious school was killed by a woman colleague and two students who accused her of blasphemy, Pakistan police said yesterday, the latest murder in the country related to the hugely sensitive issue. The latest incident took place Tuesday in Dera Ismail Khan in the country’s ultra-conservative northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan. Police said two students and a teacher ambushed Safoora Bibi at the main gate of the school and attacked her with a knife and stick. The girls told police a relative had dreamt the dead woman “had committed blasphemy”, officers said, adding they were also investigating if the main suspect, Umra Aman, had a personal grudge.

Israel on high alert after gunman kills 5

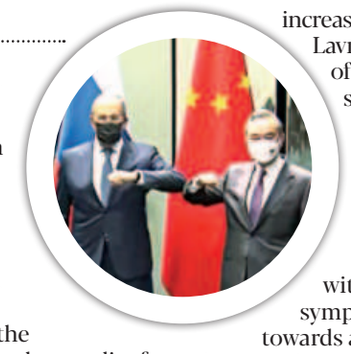
REUTERS, *Jerusalem*

Israeli security forces were on high alert yesterday after a Palestinian gunman killed five people in a Tel Aviv suburb. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Israel was facing a “new wave of terrorism” and called a security cabinet meeting, as police beefed up their presence in Israeli cities. The shootings on Tuesday in Bnei Brak, a Jewish ultra-Orthodox city, raised to 11 the number of people killed by Arab attackers in Israel over the past week. Police said the gunman was a Palestinian from Ya’bad, a town in the occupied West Bank. He was shot dead by police during the shooting spree.

‘A just world order’

China, Russia bat for multipolar world; Lavrov to visit India

AFP, *Beijing*



Beijing and Moscow advanced a vision of a new world order yesterday as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov made his first visit to key ally China since the invasion of Ukraine.

Moscow’s top diplomat landed in the eastern city of Huangshan earlier for a series of meetings about the future of Afghanistan.

Beijing has refused to condemn the invasion and has provided a level of diplomatic cover for an increasingly isolated Russia.

Lavrov painted a picture of a new world order, saying the world was “living through a very serious stage in the history of international relations”.

“We, together with you, and with our sympathisers will move towards a multipolar, just, democratic world order,” Lavrov said in a video released by the Russian foreign ministry ahead of a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

A readout from the Chinese foreign ministry quoted Wang Yi as saying that “China-Russia cooperation has no limits”, repeating a line used by President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to characterise ties.

From China, Lavrov will visit India for a two-day visit beginning from today. India has abstained from UN resolutions censuring Russia and continues to buy Russian oil and other goods.

Lavrov’s trip coincides with visits by British foreign secretary Liz Truss and Daleep Singh, Washington’s chief sanctions strategist. Truss and Singh were expected to urge India to assist in Western efforts to isolate Russia economically.

N Korea faked new ICBM launch: South

AFP, *Seoul*

North Korea faked the launch of what analysts have dubbed its “monster missile” last week, Seoul’s military said yesterday.

North Korea last Friday claimed to have successfully test-fired a Hwasong-17 missile -- a long-range ICBM that analysts say may be capable of carrying multiple warheads -- which it first unveiled at a military parade in 2020.

But South Korea’s defence ministry told AFP that Seoul and Washington have now concluded that the launch was actually of a Hwasong-15, an ICBM that Pyongyang test-fired in 2017.

Both ICBMs are potentially capable of hitting the mainland United States.

Seoul and Tokyo had separately confirmed at the time that the March 24 missile had flown higher and longer than any previous test -- but analysts later pointed to discrepancies in North Korea’s account.

The false announcement was likely an attempt by Pyongyang to compensate for a failed launch on March 16, when a missile, which analysts said was actually the Hwasong-17, exploded shortly after launch.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur
Rajabari Road, Sherpur
Website: www.sherpurgovtcollege.edu.bd

Memo No. CEDP/IDG/SGC-1084/W-2(re)/ad(01)/21 Date: 31/03/2022

e-Tender Notice 02/2021-2022

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of package	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	668314	Interior Design at Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur (Retender)	13-April-2022 01:00pm	13-April-2022 02:00pm

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 12-April-2022 04:00pm.

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

Professor Md. Abdur Rashid
Principal
Sherpur Govt. College, Sherpur
Phone: 02997781462
E-mail: sgovcollege@yahoo.com

GD-619

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন
আইসিটি ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়
২৪, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

সুখে দু:খে আপনজন
জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন

বীমাকৃত জীবন
নিরাপদ জীবন

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশনের ২০২২-২০২৩ সনের কম্পিউটার হার্ডওয়্যার, নেটওয়ার্ক এক্সেসরিজ, ইউপিএস, আইপিএস, প্রিন্টার, প্রজেক্টর, সফটওয়্যার, সফটওয়্যার লাইসেন্স সামগ্রী সংগ্রহের জন্য সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশনের কম্পিউটার হার্ডওয়্যার, নেটওয়ার্ক এক্সেসরিজ, ইউপিএস, আইপিএস, প্রিন্টার, প্রজেক্টর, সফটওয়্যার, সফটওয়্যার লাইসেন্স সামগ্রী সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত আগ্রহী প্রকৃত কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী বিক্রয় ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে কর্পোরেশনের তালিকায় অন্তর্ভুক্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। শর্তাবলীসহ নির্ধারিত ফরম আগামী ০৪ এপ্রিল, ২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নগদ টা: ২০০.০০ (টাকা দুইশত মাত্র) মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দফতর হতে পাওয়া যাবে এবং ১২ এপ্রিল, ২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। আবেদনপত্রে বর্ণিত সকল শর্তসমূহ যথাযথ পালনপূর্বক আবেদন করতে হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন বা সকল আবেদন গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

GD- 620 ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার-আইসিটি

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

International Tender Notice of Goods

Memo No.44.01.0000.024.01.009.2021-425 Date:30March 2022

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/Principals/Local Agents for purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police. Manufacturers/Principals/Local Agents must read and fill up the tender documents cautiously, so that the offered package complies with the tender documents. Conditional or alternative offer shall not be evaluated.

1.	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Home Affairs/ Public Securtity Division
2.	Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3.	Head of Procuring Entity Name	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh
5.	Invitation for	**Vehicles for Bangladesh Police**
6.	Invitation Reference No	44.01.0000.024.01.009.2021/06 (FY-2021-2022)
7.	Date	30 March 2022
	KEY INFOMATION	
8.	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope method (International)
	FUNDING INFORMATION	
9.	Budget Code	Gov. Revenue Budget
	PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
10.	Tender Publication date	31 March 2022
11.	Tender Selling last date	11 May 2022.
12.	Tender closing date and time	12 May 2022 at 12.00 pm
13.	Tender opening date and time	12 May 2022 at 12.30 pm
14.	Name & Address of the officer (Procuring Entity)	Addl. DIG (Transport), 5th Floor, Police Headquarters, Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.
	Selling Tender Document	Addl. DIG (Transport), 5th Floor, Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
	Receiving Tender Document	
	Opening Tender Document	
15.	Place, date & time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	25 April 2022 at 03.00 pm NCCOM, 5th Floor , Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000
	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
16.	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) Up to date trade license (ii) VAT registration Certificate (iii) Up to date income tax clearance certificate (iv) Manufacturers or Local Agents shall not be black listed by any other organization in Bangladesh and (v) Other Conditions shall be described in standard document (STD).
17.	Brief Description of goods	**Vehicles for Bangladesh Police**
18.	Price of tender document (BDT)	Each Lot TK. 5000.00 (Five Thousand) Only (non-refundable).
19.	Identification of Goods	

Lot No	Identification of lot	Tender Security	Completion Time
Lot-1	APC (Wheeled/Armed/Class-ii)	$ 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) USD or equivalent	180 days
Lot-2	Police Crowd Control Vehicle	$ 12,000 (Twelve Thousand) USD or equivalent	
Lot-3	Double Cabin Pickup	$ 4,500 (Four Thousand Five Hundred) USD or equivalent	
Lot-4	Fork Lift (Min 8 Ton)	$ 4,200 (Four Thousand Two Hundred) USD or equivalent	
Lot-5	Truck (2.5 Ton)	$ 3,500 (Three Thousand Five Hundred) USD or equivalent	

	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
20.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Sarwar Murshed Shamim
21.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Addl. DIG (Transport)
22.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Addl. DIG (Transport), 5th Floor, Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
23.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 88 02 9564779, Fax: 88 02 9575663 E-mail: addldigtrans@police.gov.bd
24.	Important Conditions: a. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all/any tenders or annul the tender proceeding. b. If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time & same venue c. The Procuring Entity also reserves the right to omit, increase and/or decrease the quantity of any item (s) from the tender depending on final approval from the Ministry of Finance d. The bidder must abide by the decision of the HOPE. e. The entire procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Regulation 2008.	

30/3/22
(Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM)
BP 7401020793
Addl. DIG (Transport)
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
Phone: +88029564779, Fax: +88029575663
Email: addldigtrans@police.gov.bd

GD- 613

The Daily Star
FOUNDER EDITOR: **LATE S. M. ALI**

VCs shouldn't be appointed on political considerations

Demands made in parliament must be taken seriously by govt

IT is encouraging that opposition lawmakers in parliament have recently discussed some important issues regarding higher education at our public universities. While pointing to corruption and various kinds of irregularities plaguing the universities—and blaming the government for its failure to control such malpractices—they also made a very important demand: that vice-chancellors (VCs) must not be appointed on political considerations. Instead, the lawmakers suggested that the government appoint true educationists as VCs to improve the overall quality of education.

We believe that the sentiment of the lawmakers is shared by the general public, who send their children to public universities to be educated and guided by honest and competent teachers. Over the past few decades, our public universities have lost their reputation and prestige due to various kinds of corruption, nepotism and anomalies in teacher and staff recruitments, plagiarism, and also due to their controversial process of VC appointments.

Apparently, we do not have any specific rule for the appointment of VCs. In its absence, a teacher's loyalty to—or affiliation with—the ruling party seems to have become the main qualification for someone to hold the top position. An investigative report published by this daily earlier this year found that at least 39 out of 48 VCs of public universities held posts in different pro-government teachers' wings during their career. The report also mentioned that the chances of getting appointed as a VC rose exponentially if the candidate was tagged with the AL-backed Blue panel at Dhaka University, which apparently produced the highest number of VCs for our public universities.

Thus, the question that naturally arises is: Can these VCs, appointed on political consideration, play their role neutrally for the overall good of a university and its students? The answer is: No. Recent incidents at many of our public universities, including SUST, have proved this quite clearly.

Against this backdrop, there is no alternative to appointing prominent and honest educationists without any political affiliations as VCs, if we want to improve the educational environment and the quality of higher education at our public universities. The education minister, however, said that such honest personalities are not interested in working as VCs and becoming a part of a corrupt system that does not encourage imparting knowledge to students. The government, therefore, should seriously consider the demands and suggestions made by the lawmakers and create an environment where true educationists are encouraged to become VCs and work for building a better educational environment at the public universities.

Why does justice elude indigenous female victims of violence?

Police must protect all citizens, not just the powerful

WHILE violence against women in general is prevalent across the country, the situation is worse on all fronts for indigenous women. They are doubly victimised because of their gender and their ethnicity. In a recent event jointly organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network (BIWN), and Kapaeeng Foundation, statistics were unveiled which show how poorly indigenous women victims of violence are treated by the law and order forces. Reportedly, legal cases were filed with police in only 128 of the 460 incidents of violence faced by indigenous women and girls between 2009 and 2020 in 39 districts.

Another disturbing finding of the study was that around 88 percent of incidents of rape were perpetrated by non-indigenous individuals. It also found that police and administration are often biased towards powerful perpetrators (who belong to the majority Bengali community), and that doctors are even pressurised or bribed to create negative medical reports of indigenous survivors of sexual abuse. Of course, besides underreporting being prevalent, politically connected criminals often force victims to withdraw their cases. Earlier reports by this daily also state how the scopes for reporting violence and seeking treatment and rehabilitation are also inaccessible for indigenous women in remote areas—which further enables the miscreants to commit sexual violence against them.

What is most alarming is the indication that the widespread violence against indigenous women is taking place with the implicit or explicit endorsement of state institutions. What else explains the systematic reluctance of the police to even record cases of indigenous women and girls, much less investigate those cases without bias? The fact that even doctors and hospital authorities are too biased—or too scared—to issue authentic medical reports paints a deeply troubling picture of their impossible struggles.

We wonder why the government cannot take concrete steps to counter sexual crimes and end the impunity enjoyed by powerful groups. It is shameful that crimes against women based on their gender and ethnicity are being committed with so little resistance from government bodies. The law enforcement agencies and administration must remember that they are mandated to protect *all* citizens of the country, not just the majority or a powerful few. As the above study demonstrates, the issue of violence against indigenous women cannot be looked at separately from the wider political issues concerning indigenous communities in the CHT, so the government must resolve the longstanding tensions in the region for peace and security of indigenous women and girls.

Let no one remain outside electricity coverage

A CLOSER LOOK

Tasneem Tayeb *is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem_tayeb*

TASNEEM TAYEB

BANGLADESH has recently achieved a unique milestone: it has become the first country in South Asia to have 100 percent electricity coverage. India has brought 98 percent and Pakistan 74 percent of their respective populations under electricity coverage. For Bangladesh, hitting the 100 percent mark is significant indeed, given how, even a few years ago, the country was scrambling to provide electricity to its people. In 2009, Bangladesh's electricity generation capacity was 4,942MW, with a mere 47 percent coverage. It now stands at 25,514MW.

However, there is an underside of this success. To understand it, we must first understand what 100 percent coverage means. Despite what it sounds like, it doesn't mean that every single household in the country now has access to an electricity connection. Officials of the ministry of energy, power and mineral resources have also tried to clear the air by saying that they provided connections to all customers who had applied for it. "We have electricity coverage in every area of the country either by national grid or the solar home system... We have coverage, but if anyone didn't apply, we can't force them," said Mohammad Hossain, director general of Power Cell, a technical arm of the ministry.

With the prices of commodities and utilities increasing steadily, electricity has gone beyond the purchasing capacity of many. Retail power tariff has doubled from Tk 3.60 per unit in 2009 to Tk 7.13 in 2021. This means, those who aspire to have new connections will have to think twice before applying. While the government claims that electricity has reached even char areas through the use of submersible cables, many living there will not be able to afford electricity due to its price. In an interview with *Prothom Alo*, M Shamsul Alam, senior vice-president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said, "Those getting power connections in these isolated areas [chars] will be hardest hit by the high costs of fuel. The income of the marginalised has decreased even further during the pandemic. So, the challenge for the government is to ensure that 100 percent of the people actually get power connections and that they do not face power outages."

The problem is not just the high commodity prices. There is an acute problem of overcapacity in the power sector, which is further inflating the price of electricity. According to Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), the country's power system utilisation fell down to 40 percent in the fiscal year 2019-2020 from 43 percent in FY 2018-2019. Going by this data, there is about 60 percent underutilisation of our power capacity, which is significantly higher than the Power Sector Master Plan's target of 25 percent. According to media reports, in FY 2018-19, the government had to pay Tk 9,000 crore as "capacity payment" to the electricity producers. In the end, it is the public who has to bear these additional expenses.

VISUAL: **TEENI AND TUNI**

Bangladesh's achievements in overcoming the power crisis of the early 2000s is indeed remarkable. But unless systemic problems are fixed, many people will remain outside the electricity coverage.

This pain point—both for the government and the public—must be addressed at the earliest. "The government is moving towards a no-electricity-no-payment approach, and this could be a good solution to the capacity payment issue, if implemented effectively," said former World Bank lead economist Dr Zahid Hussain, referring to the government's new modality for renewing contracts of five rental power plants.

There is another side to our electricity coverage problem: inefficient power distribution. While sufficient electricity is being produced, it often does not reach the users due to glitches in the grids and distribution channels. Whenever there is a rain or storm, power goes out. Often, due to system maintenance, power is cut off resulting in load shedding and subsequent public suffering. Power outage, particularly in rural areas, is still a persistent problem.

The fact is, in the last few years, we've spent little on enhancing the capacity of our power distribution system. Since 2009, according to BPDB, while around USD 15 billion has been spent in electricity generation, only USD 2.6 billion has been spent in distribution and USD 1.5 billion in transmission. Inefficient distribution and transmission are clearly taking a toll on our power generation and utilisation capacity. These issues need to be resolved if we want to make the most of our capacity.

At this point, we also need to look at our sources of energy. As one of the countries hardest hit by climate change, we need to consider how we can move towards cleaner sources of energy. In this regard, Dr Hussain suggested that while, in the last 15 years or so, we've had to resort to short-term palliatives—regardless of their environmental costs—we need to work towards reaching greater equity and sustainability now. "We may not completely erase the usage of fossil fuels from the energy mix, but we need to consider if can we be more efficient. Gas is cleaner than coal, and we need to look at whether we can retrofit the 30-40-year-old power plants that we have through technical upgradation to enhance their efficiency," he said.

Bangladesh's achievements in overcoming the power crisis of the early 2000s is indeed remarkable. But we can only be cautiously optimistic about its impact on our overall growth prospects. The power sector is riddled with systemic problems which will keep adding to the electricity costs, taking it further beyond the purchasing capacity of the common people. Unless those are fixed, many people will remain outside the electricity coverage and power outages will continue to be an issue.

It is high time the authorities addressed these longstanding issues so that the entire nation can reap the benefits of the 100 percent electricity coverage. To become self-sufficient in electricity in the real sense of the word, we still have a long way to go.

A citizen's solution to Dhaka's traffic problem

Md Asif Iqbal *is a barrister-at-law currently working as an intern at Dr. Kamal Hossain & Associates.*

MD ASIF IQBAL

RECENTLY, the mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation recommended an odd-even-car-rationing solution to Dhaka's perennial traffic problem. Previously, a similar method was adopted in New Delhi. Its benefits and drawbacks, as experienced by residents in India's capital, are more or less known. However, when we compare the public transportation facilities and overall civic facilities in both capitals, we find massive disparities. In Delhi, people can rely on public transportation, but in Dhaka, there simply aren't enough roads, railway tracks, and public spaces, not even a functioning traffic monitoring system.

To be frank, there can be no single, universally applicable solution to the traffic problem, so allow me to drop my two cents in this regard with some recommendations that I think we can implement. While I'm just a citizen and no expert on traffic management, I think these and other solutions as offered by experts indicate the sense of urgency that must go into any effort.

First, I think each institution with more than a hundred students or employees who commute on a daily basis—such as schools, universities, corporate houses, factories, etc.—must have a shared transportation system on a common route. Students should be supplied with enticing perks such as free passes and well-behaved, well-educated transit staff to encourage them to use public transportation. Many students from wealthy families use private cars to get to and from school, as seen on the streets of Dhaka. Our children should be taught the virtues of sharing for the sake of the city. It is our responsibility to teach them how to use and protect public facilities and spaces.

Second, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) has a vital role to play in road network mapping and, therefore, traffic control. Since every city should have an adequate quantity of public spaces, roads, and recreational facilities, city managers and planners including RAJUK should be more innovative and offer solutions that are future-proof. Before approving new offices, factories, schools, shopping malls and other establishments, RAJUK should consider our existing challenges and resource constraints. All departments working with the city's spaces, buildings and networks should coordinate with each other before formulating and implementing any policy in this regard.

Is there no end to Dhaka's crippling traffic problem?

PHOTO: **STAR**

Third, I would advocate for the expansion of Dhaka's existing railway networks. The express railways should be expanded further. Dhaka's external zones should be connected and designated as such. Rail services should be integrated with the metro lines, with trains running every 2–5 minutes inward and outward. The metro train services and stations in Dhaka city will need to be expanded to places where people can easily get on buses or other public vehicles.

Fourth, the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) should be more careful about the condition of motor vehicles and the training of its staff. It is the job of the BRTA to make sure that public transportation workers have decent wages, adequate facilities, education, and training. A separate entity as part of the ministry could be set up to do these things. A special law should be passed that would require bus owners to provide certain facilities for their workers. The roadworthiness of any vehicle plying our streets, and the eligibility of drivers, should be kept in mind.

Fifth, automation of vehicle entry doors, fee payments, and a centralised system of monitoring are paramount. Considering the sheer size of this city and the number of public buses that operate here, a central monitoring system, combined with a digital payment system, will address practically all of the difficulties that we face. These goals can be achieved by using existing technologies with the help of local professionals. Aside from that, the road safety law should be properly and evenly implemented to bring some semblance of order to our otherwise chaotic transport sector. It will also help if bus owners are held accountable for any accident or disorder caused by their vehicles, drivers and other staff.

Finally, there should be more U-loops, underground passages and such structures that can help large crowds of people move without putting additional burden on the roads.

Dhaka is one of the most populated cities in the world with extremely inadequate road coverage, so bringing discipline on its roads and reducing traffic jam would be a herculean task. We can only tackle the challenges of maintaining this massive population hub by sharing and correctly utilising our resources.

Can BIMSTEC rise to meet the new challenges?

SELIM RAIHAN, GANESHAN WIGNARAJA, NIHAL PITIGALA, PRABIR DE, POSH RAJ PANDEY, ACHYUT BHANDARI, *and* **WATCHARAS LEELAWATH**

Selim Raihan *is the Executive Director of SANEM.*

Ganeshan Wignaraja *is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore.*

Nihal Pitigala *is a Senior Fellow at InReach Global.*

Prabir De *is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India.*

Posh Raj Pandey *is the Chairman of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal.*

Achyut Bhandari *is the Founder, Centre for Research on Bhutanese Society, Bhutan. And*

Watcharas Leelawath *is Honorary Advisor, Bolliger & Company, Thailand.*

COLLAGE: STAR

THE 5th summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) ended on March 30, 2022 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The summit adopted a charter for the first time since its inception in 1997, and signed three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Mutual Cooperation Between Diplomatic Academics/Training Institutions of the BIMSTEC Member States, and Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility in Colombo, Sri Lanka. According to the newly adopted BIMSTEC Charter, the summit will now take place every two years, while the meeting of the foreign ministers of member states will take place every year.

Though BIMSTEC's progress in terms of regional integration, even after 25 years of its existence, has been slow, a successful implementation of the agreements of the 5th summit can pave the way for greater integration in the region.

BIMSTEC provides a unique opportunity for its members from South Asia and Southeast Asia to collaborate for mutual benefits. By global standards, the platform is a relatively new regional organisation, its seven members coming from a variety of geographical, historical, cultural, and developmental backgrounds. They account for around 22 percent of the world's population and 4 percent of world GDP, which demonstrates the platform's considerable potential. Its members have proceeded gradually and carefully to build the institution and foster regional cooperation in a step-by-step manner.

In 2014, for example, a permanent secretariat was formed in Dhaka, led by a secretary-general and staffed by seven country directors appointed by the members. Several key areas of collaboration were identified, and recently consolidated into seven major themes, and some BIMSTEC centres were also set up on priority subjects for the region.

There is no doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic, followed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has drastically altered the global economy's recovery prospects. The global economy is about to enter a new, more uncertain period marked by increased geopolitical, economic, and pandemic-related threats. Many countries in South and Southeast Asia, particularly the smaller ones, are extremely vulnerable to these threats, and face a bleak future of slower growth, limited market opportunities, rising inflation, and increased poverty.

South Asia looking east, and Southeast Asia looking west, offers a pathway to mitigate multiple risks and exploit opportunities for trade-led growth in Asia—a potential that remains largely untapped. International experience suggests that effective regional governance is necessary for economic development and for achieving a peace dividend.

More has to be done, however, to build on these achievements and position BIMSTEC as an effective organisation tuned to the needs of the emerging uncertain era. For a start, there is the long-standing unfinished agenda item of concluding a BIMSTEC Free Trade Area (FTA), which has been under negotiation since 2004. A comprehensive BIMSTEC FTA can help reduce barriers to trade and investment and assist businesses to join global supply chains. At the 5th summit, all heads of BIMSTEC governments/states expressed a strong desire to conclude the BIMSTEC FTA negotiation. Therefore, we must bring this to a successful conclusion within a reasonable timetable.

In the spirit of solidarity and common purpose, the more advanced members of BIMSTEC must support the less developed ones so that the benefits of regional integration are spread among all the members.

The region displays significant complementarity among the members, which bodes well for a mutually beneficial trade. The foundation of BIMSTEC's economic growth has been the rules-based, open multilateral trading system. Along with it, the FDI must move freely in the region if we want to promote national growth as well as the regional and global value chains.

The 5th summit also highlighted the importance of energy connectivity, transport connectivity, digital connectivity, and people-to-people connectivity.

Seamless and sustainable multi-modal transport links and synergy with other connectivity frameworks, like the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity 2025, are what BIMSTEC needs in the post-Covid era. Improving trade facilitation can also speed up the BIMSTEC integration process. Accordingly, moving to a regional single window in customs and a paperless trade regime can help to reduce trade costs and facilitate cross-border business.

Furthermore, significant work is needed to prepare BIMSTEC members to embrace the potential of the fast-moving digital economy. This means investment in digital technologies and related infrastructure, a business-friendly regulatory approach to e-commerce, and investing in digital skills. It's important to ensure greater gender equality in education and the workplace for women. It will foster jobs, income and entrepreneurship across BIMSTEC countries.

These countries differ not only in size, geography, population and level of development, but also in financial resources, technical skills and development capacity. Most of the members face such constraints that may be further exacerbated for those who are slated to graduate from the group of least developed countries by 2026. In the spirit of solidarity and common purpose, the more advanced members must support the less developed ones so that the benefits of regional integration are spread among all the members.

Fulfilling the economic promise of the BIMSTEC Charter and the proposed development agenda under the "new normal" may not be achieved without empowering BIMSTEC Secretariat. The Secretariat needs to be adequately resourced and should have sufficient power to fulfil its role as a coordinator of activities across BIMSTEC members. It is very encouraging that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India would provide USD 1 million to BIMSTEC Secretariat to increase its operational budget. With the increased resources, there is now a need to develop a roadmap for the capacity building of the Secretariat.

Finally, efforts to overhaul the integration process in the BIMSTEC region require normative dialogues about the desirable and substantive form of regional architecture in this region. The time is ripe for fresh thinking on BIMSTEC's priorities and developing the required institutional capability for the new era. The success of the regional integration initiative will be guided by a strong "political will" in the BIMSTEC countries to carry the integration agenda forward. The 5th summit creates the optimism that such "political will" will finally be translated into a reality.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Scheme on Improvement of Public Financial Services Delivery through Implementation of BACS and iBAS++
Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban, (4th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000

EOI Ref. No-07.00.0000.000.11.002.19-1502 Date: 30/03/2022

Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Finance
Agency	:	Finance Division
Procuring Entity Name	:	National Program Director Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Procuring Entity Code	:	Not used at present
Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka
Expression of Interest for Selection of	:	Individual Consultant (National) (Time-Based)
KEY INFORMATION		
Procurement Sub-Method	:	Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
Budget and Source of Funds	:	GoB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
Program Name	:	Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)
Scheme Name	:	Scheme on Improvement of Public Financial Services Delivery through Implementation of BACS and iBAS++**
EOI Closing Date and Time	:	EOI shall be submitted to the SPFMS program office on or before **2:00 pm, 25/04/2022** in sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of [Name of the position]". Contact address with email and mobile no of the applicant should be written on the left side of the A4 size envelope. Necessary documents in support of educational qualifications, experience and skills have to be submitted.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

Title Of Service	No. of Service*	Minimum Qualification	Minimum General Experience	Brief Description of Assignment
Deputy Team Leader (IT)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 15 years' experience in IT field with at least 5 years in managing an IT team; Experience in developing and implementing IT systems for government organization, preferably in financial management sector	System requirements analysis, quality assurance and testing of Integrated Budget and Accounting System (iBAS++), system documentation and implementation management, and preparing process reports.
Senior IT Consultant	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 10 years' experience in IT field; Experience in developing and implementing IT systems preferably in financial management sector.	System design and front end (dot net)/backend programming of Integrated Budget and Accounting System (iBAS++).
Senior IT Consultant (IT Security)	1	Graduation in Computer Science/Engineering, Information Security or related subject	Minimum 10 years' experience in IT field Minimum 08 years' of experience in working with security technologies in Vulnerability Scanning, Firewalls & Log Analysis, Host-based detection tools, Security Event and Incident Management (SEIM), Antivirus, Network Packet Analyzers, malware analysis and forensics tools. Experience in analyzing audit logs, router logs, firewall logs, IDS logs and TCP/IP headers.	Design, implement and monitor security standards. Ensure security and safety of iBAS++ and other related systems.
Senior IT Consultant (Quality Assurance)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 10 years' experience in IT field with 5 year experience in software quality assurance.	Ensure that iBAS++ modules meet international quality standards and are released for live operation after adequate testing and validations.
Senior Consultant (Training and Planning)	1	Graduation in any discipline	Minimum 15 years' experience in Government service; Experience in developing and implementing training plans and programs. Experience in implementing IT systems will be given preference.	Map out training strategy, schedules and implement training programs. Assess and plan the priority need for the further development of Integrated Budget and Accounting System (iBAS++) and Budget and Accounts Classification System (BACS) and implementation.
Senior Functional Consultant (Asset & Treasury Challan Management)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Accounting/ Finance	Minimum 15 years' experience in Financial Management, preferably in asset management. Service in Public Sector will be given preference.	Help to develop a classification system for all fixed assets and related module of Integrated Budget and Accounting System (iBAS++). Also help to develop Treasury Challan Management system to strengthen revenue collection. Prepare rollout strategy, implement and coordinate the rollout of newly developed modules throughout the country.
Senior Consultant (Accounting Code & Manual)	1	Graduation in any discipline	Minimum 15 years' experience in Government service, preferably 3 years' in financial management.	Update accounting code and manuals and prepare detailed manual of new chart of accounts.
IT Consultant (Programmer)	3	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 8 years' experience in software development; Experience in government financial management system will be given preference.	Front end (dotnet) and back end (Oracle) programming of Integrated Budget and Accounting System (iBAS++).
IT Consultant: (System Documentation)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 8 years' experience in IT with 2 years' experience in technical documentation.	Documentation and maintenance of technical design and user manuals of all developed systems and modules.
IT Consultant (Safety Net)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 8 years' experience in software development; Experience in government financial management system will be given preference.	System development and maintenance support of the Safety Net Database.
IT Consultant (Network Management)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Vendor certification of renowned network equipment manufacturer. Minimum 8 years' experience in network management.	Installation, configuration, maintenance and support for servers, LAN & WAN related to iBAS++. Coordinate with BCC, Finance Division, Bangladesh Bank, CBs and CGA to ensure smooth network operation.
IT Consultant (UI/UX Designer)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 8 years' experience in IT including 2 years' experience in UI/UX design.	Graphical user interface design and related programming of iBAS++ to improve user experience.
IT Consultant (Testing)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Minimum 8 years' experience in IT including 2 years' experience in software testing.	Prepare detail software test plans, execute testing and document test results for all additions/changes in iBAS++ and other systems developed by the project.
Consultant (iBAS++ Implementation)	1	Graduation in any discipline preferably in Accounting/ Finance	Minimum 10 years' experience in government service, preferably in financial management systems.	Help planning and provide support for iBAS++ rollout and implementation and prepare functional specification.
Jr. IT Consultant (Network Administrator)	1	Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Engineering	Vendor certification of renowned network equipment manufacturer Minimum 5 years' experience in network management.	Installation, configuration, maintenance and support for servers, LAN & WAN related to iBAS++.
Jr. IT Consultant (SAE, SOE & Other Module Implementation and Support)	1	Graduation in any discipline preferably in IT	Minimum 5 years' experience in providing software implementation support, preferably for GoB.	Provide user level support for SAE & SOE and other modules of iBAS++ rollout and implementation.
Jr. Consultant (iBAS++ & BACS Implementation)	2	Graduation in any discipline	Minimum 5 years' job experience, preferably in implementing classification.	Provide support for iBAS++ rollout and BACS implementation.
Junior Consultant (Executives)	1	Graduation in any discipline	Minimum 5 years' experience as office executives.	Data processing, documentation, publication, file management, process invoices, support training arrangement, transport and catering services.

* No of post may vary
**iBAS++ is Government Integrated Financial Management System of Bangladesh

Other Details (if applicable)	:	A copy of the terms of reference (TOR). Request for Application (RFA) and necessary forms may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during 09.00 to 17.00 hours till **25/04/2022** and website of Finance Division **(www.mof.gov.bd)** and SPFMS program office **(www.spfms.gov.bd)** within the stipulated date.
Association with foreign firms is	:	Not Applicable

EoI Detail Information

Ref No	Phasing Of Services	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
02	Single: Time Based	Dhaka	May, 2022	June, 2023 (to be extended to June, 2025

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
Name of Official Inviting EOI	:	Tahmid Hasnat Khan
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	:	National Program Director (Additional Secretary)
Address of Official Inviting EOI	:	Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban, (4th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000
Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	:	Phone : 55110546-55, Email : nazmamobarek@yahoo.co.uk

The procuring entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all EoIs

30/03/2022
(Tahmid Hasnat Khan)
National Program Director (Additional Secretary)
Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery, (SPFMS)
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Phone: 02-55110546-55, Website: www.spfms.gov.bd

GD-609

GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Office of the Superintendent
Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital
Sector 6, Isakha Avenue, Uttara, Dhaka-1230

Ref: No- KBFGH/Outsourcing/Tender/2021-2022/471 Date: 30/03/2022

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

01	Ministry/Division	**Ministry of Health and family Welfare**			
02	Agency	Director General of Health Service			
03	Procuring Entity Name	Superintendent, Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital.			
04	Procuring Entity Code	1270209111668			
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka-1230			
06	Invitation for	Supply of Outsourcing Manpower at KBFGH			
07	Invitation Reference No	KBFGH/ Outsourcing/Tender/2021-2022/471 Date: 30/03/2022			
08	Date	30/03/2022			
		KEY INFORMATION			
09	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
		FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget & Source of Fund	Revenue Budget (GoB)			
		PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11	Office Code	1270209111668			
12	Office Name	Superintendent, Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital.			
13	Tender Package No	KBFGH/Outsourcing/2021-2022/471			
14	Tender Package Name	Supply of Outsourcing Manpower at KBFGH			
15	Tender Publication Date	31/03/2022			
16	Tender Last Selling Date	16/04/2022 (Office hour)			
17	Tender Closing Date & Time	17/04/2022, Time:12:00 pm			
18	Tender Opening Date & Time	17/04/2022, Time:12:30 pm			
19	Name & Address of the office				
	Selling Tender Document	Office of the Superintendent, Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Sector 6, Isakha Avenue, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.			
	Receiving Tender document	1. Office of the Superintendent, Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Sector 6, Isakha Avenue, Uttara, Dhaka-1230. 2. Office of the In-charge, Uttara East Police Station, Sector#4, Uttara, Road-7, Dhaka 1230			
	Opening tender document	Office of the Superintendent, Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Sector 6, Isakha Avenue, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.			
		INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
20	Eligibility of Tenderer	Necessary paper to be submitted complying the condition mentioned in the Tender documents.			
21	Brief Description of Goods	Supply of Outsourcing Manpower at KBFGH			
22	Pre- Tender meeting	03/04/2022 At 11.00 AM (Office of the Superintendent, Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Sector 6, Isakha Avenue, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.)			
23	Price of Tender Document	Supply of Outsourcing Manpower. Tk. 2000.00			
24	Treasury Challan code	The purchase price of above mentioned tender documents is to be deposited in the Bangladesh Bank/Sonali Bank by **treasury challan in code no. 1-2711-0000-2366** (Not Re-Fundable) in favor of Superintendent, Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Sector 6, Isakha Avenue, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.			
25	Package No	Identification	Location	Security Amount	Completion Time in work
	01	Outsourcining Manpower at KBFGH	KBFGH, Uttura, Dhaka	Tk. 6,00,000 /-	Direction of hospital authority /One year from contract sign
		PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Mohammed Shehab Uddin			
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Superintendent			
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Sector 6, Isakha			
29	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 02 48958919, Email: kbfgh@hospi.dghs.gov.bd			
30	**The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatever.**				

Note: (1) If the date of selling ,receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively. (2) The bill will be paid on receipt of allotment.

29.03.22
(Dr. Mohammed Shehab Uddin)
Superintendent
Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Uttara, Dhaka.

GD- 615

BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD (BREB)
Invitation for
Request for Expressions of Interest (EoI)
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Power Division.
2	Agency	**Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB).**
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Modernization and Capacity Enhancement of BREB Network (Khulna Division)
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	EOI for Selection of	Consulting Firm (National) (Lump-Sum)
6	EOI Ref No	27.12.0000.212.07.005.21- 343; Date: 30/03/2022
KEY INFORMATION		
7	Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) (NCT)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Fund of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
9	Project Program Code	N/A
10	Project/Programme Name	Design, Implementation & Supervision Consultancy of the Construction of PBS Head Quarter : 3-Storied Office Building-cum-Warehouse of 5-Storied foundation (Total approx. 900.00 sqm. Floor Area) at Bagerhat, Khulna.
11	Package No.	MCEP/BREB/KD-S-2
12	Submission of EoI	Expression of Interest (EoI) must be submitted in Print Copy (One in Original and One in Copy) and Soft Copy mentioning the Name and Package No. of the Project on the envelope or cover page to the address given of Sl. No.-19 and 22. The EoI applications will be opened on Date: 18/04/2022, Time: 12:45 PM. Bangladesh Local Time in presence of the representatives of the EoI Applicant (if any). Detailed scope of the work will be available in the Terms of Reference (ToR) which must be collected by the interested firms on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TK 500/- (five hundred) in the form of Pay Order or Demand Draft from any schedule bank of Bangladesh (except the Bank debarred by BREB) in favor of the "BREB" from the office of the undersigned during the office hours (9:00 to 17:00 BST) from the date of publishing of EoI. Short listing will be made in accordance with the "Rule-115 of Public Procurement Rule (PPR)-2008." Interested applicants may obtain further information from our office during the mentioned office hours.
DATE		
13	EoI Publication date	Within 31/03/2022.
14	Last Date and Time of issuing ToR	Date: 17/04/2022 up to 17: 00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time.
15	EoI Closing & Opening Date & time	Date: 18/04/2022; Closing Time: 12:30 PM., Opening Time: 12:45 PM. (BST)
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
16	Brief Description of the Assignment	The Procurement of the Consultancy Services for the Project "Construction of PBS Head Quarter : a 3-Storied Office Building-cum-Warehouse of 5-Storied foundation (Total approx.. 900.00 sqm. Floor Area) at Bagerhat, Khulna". The Assignment will include following Scope of Services : i. To prepare Architectural and Engineering design/drawings/documents and detail Cost Estimates with Bill of Quantity (BOQ). ii. To provide Construction Supervision Services .
17	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity of the Consulting Firm	i. Minimum seven (07) years of working experience related to Design, Documentation and Construction Management of building project. ii. Updated valid Registration from the Concern Authorities. iii. Updated Trade License, IT and VAT Registration. iv. Turnover for last three years. v. The Consulting Firm has to give the list of office/survey/drawing equipment and logistics of the firm to assess the capacity of the Firm whether they are self-sufficient with equipment and logistics. vi. The Consulting Firm has to give a clear picture about the organization and support stuff to assess the organizational capacity. vii. The Consulting Firm has to submit a work plan, phasing of works in relation to the preparation of plan, design, documents and construction management.
18	Duration of the Assignment	i. Design Phase : 03 Months ii. Construction Phase : 18 Months
19	Place of EOI Submission	Office of the Project Director, 5th floor, BREB Executive Building, Nikunja-2, Joar shahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
20	Name of the Official inviting EOI	Syed Mahbubur Rahman.
21	Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Preject Director, MCEP (Khulna Division), BREB, Dhaka.
22	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Office of the Project Director, 5th floor, BREB Executive Building, Nikunja-2, Joar shahara, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229.
23	Contact Details of the Official inviting EOI	Phone : +88 02-8900336 E-mail: pdmcep.kd.reb@gmail.com
24	**Special Instruction**	The Procuring Entity shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Firms in connection with the preparation and delivery of the EOI. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all applications without assigning any reason.

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
বাপবিবো/ জন -(২২০৩-২২৯) ২০২১-২০২২

Preject Director, MCEP (Khulna Division)
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka.-1229.
Phone : +88 02-8900336
E-mail: pdmcep.kd.reb@gmail.com

GD- 617

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
"Seaweed Culture & seaweed Product development in Bangladesh coast" (1st revised) Research Project
Marine Fisheries and Technology Station, Coxs'Bazar

Memo: 33.04.0000.124.02.010.20.164 Date: 30.03.2022

Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice

This is for the notification of all concerned that tender ID no.669927 of Construction of Barbed wire fencing boundary wall (278 RM) with main gate of the e-tender notice publication on last 21/03/2022 (Ref. No. 33.04.0000.124.02.010.20.151 Date: 21/03/2022) in this newspaper will be Construction of Barbed wire fencing boundary wall with main gate instead of Construction of Barbed wire fencing boundary wall (278 RM) with main gate. Other information's published on that mentioned e-Tender notice will remain unchanged.

30.03.2022
(Md. Mohidul Islam)
Project Director

GD- 616

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority
Road Transport and Highways Division
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Nagar Bhaban, Level-12, Dhaka

EOI Ref No:- 35.02.0000.008.11.002.21-129 Date: 28/03/2022

Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Senior IT Consultant & IT Consultants

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) has been allocated public funds from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh towards the cost of engaging IT Consultants. DTCA wishes to engage individual consultants for 24 (twenty-four) months. Interested individual consultants are invited to provide information indicating they are qualified to perform the service.

1.	Ministry/ Division	Road Transport and Highways Division
2.	Agency	Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority(DTCA)
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority.
4.	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6.	Expression of interest for selection of Individual Consultant (National)	1. Senior IT Consultant----------Position: 01 (National) 2. IT Consultants----------Position: 02 (National) (Time Based)
KEY INFORMATION		
7.	Procurement Method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)
8.	Sources of Fund	GOB (Revenue Budget)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
9.	Program Name	N/A
10.	Scheme Name	N/A
11.	EOI Closing date and time	EOI shall be submitted on or before **19.04.2022 at 5.00 PM** in sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for selection of Individual Consultant… (name of position)……"

Package No	Position
SR 12	Senior IT Consultant for Clearing House Operation and Management
SR 13	(i) IT Consultant for Rapid Pass System Operation, Maintenance & Development
	(ii) IT Consultant for Clearing House operation, maintenance & Development

Necessary documents in support of educational qualification and experience and skills shall have to be submitted.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

12.

Package No	Title of service	No of service	Minimum Qualification	Minimum Experience	Brief Description of Service
SR 12	Senior IT Consultant for Clearing House Operation and Management	01	**(i)**Consultant must have Bachelor's degree in CSE/CS/ICT /Applied Physics from any recognized university and Master's degree in CSE/CS/ICT. **(ii)**Age should not be more than 62(sixty two) years.	**(i)** Minimum 10 (ten) years working experience in IT related job. **(ii)** Minimum 5(five) years working experience in any Clearing House operation or Card Division of any renowned Bank. **(iii)**Documentary evidence must be produced.	**(i)** Main responsibilities are: establishment & run the Clearing House System smoothly. **(ii)** Smooth operation of Rapid Pass system & maintain relation among Public Transport Operators (PTO), Overseas Experts, Clearing House Bank & DTCA. **(iii)** Details responsibilities are included in Terms of Reference (ToR).
SR 13	1. IT Consultant for Rapid Pass System Operation, Maintenance & Development	01	**(i)**Bachelor's degree in CSE/CS/ICT from any recognized University and Master's degree in CSE/CS/ICT. **(ii)**Age should not be more than 40(forty) year.	**(I)** Minimum 8 (eight) years working experience in IT related job. **(ii)** 3 (three) years working experience in any clearing House operation or Card Division of any renowned Bank. **(iii)**Documentary evidence must be produced.	**(i)** Main responsibilities are: establishment & run the Clearing House System smoothly. **(ii)**Perform Necessary software development, API Development & IT integration of Clearing House with PTOs. **(iii)**Details responsibilities are included in Terms of Reference (ToR).
	2. IT Consultant for Clearing House operation, maintenance &Development	01	**(i)**Bachelor's degree in CSE/CS/ICT from any recognized University and Master's degree in CSE/CS/ICT. **(ii)**Age should not be more than 40(forty) year.	**(i)** Minimum 8 (eight) years working experience in IT related job. **(ii)** 3 (three) years working experience in any clearing House operation or Card Division of any renowned Bank. **(iii)**Documentary evidence must be produced.	**(i)** Main responsibilities are: establishment & run the Clearing House System smoothly. **(ii)**Perform Necessary software development, IT Integration, high security & increase storage capacity of Clearing House Database. **(iii)**Details responsibilities are included in Terms of Reference (ToR).

13.	Other Details	Applicants are requested to submit hard copies of application with necessary documents at DTCA office Nagar Bhaban, Level (12), (Room No: 1317)Fulbaria, Dhaka during 9 am to 5pm within deadline. A copy of Terms of Reference (TOR) and necessary forms of the assignments may be obtained from the website http://www.dtca.gov.bd
14.	Procuring Entity Details	Neelima Akhter Executive Director (Additional Secretary) Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority(DTCA) Nagar Bhaban, Level-12, Fulbaria ,Dhaka
15.	Name of official inviting EOI	A K M Hafizur Rahman
16.	Designation of official inviting EOI	Additional Executive Director (P&P)
17.	Address of official Inviting EOI	Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority(DTCA), Nagar Bhaban, Level-12, Room No: 1317,Fulbaria, Dhaka
18.	Contact details of official inviting EOI	A K M Hafizur Rahman , Additional Executive Director(P&P) Phone: +880-2-9568831, Email: hafizur1966@gmail.com

The Procuring entity reserves the rights to accept or reject all EOI.

২৯/৩/২০২২
AKM Hafizur Rahman
Additional Executive Director (P&P)
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
Nagar Bhaban (Level-12),Fulbaria,Dhaka-1000
Phone: +880-2-9568831

GD- 611

Star SPORT
DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 31, 2022, CHAITRA 17, 1428 BS

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
South Africa vs Bangladesh
1st Test, Day 1
Live from 02:00 PM
STAR SPORTS 1

IPL
Lucknow vs Chennai
Live from 08:00 pm
STAR SPORTS 2
ICC Women's World Cup
South Africa vs England
Live from 07:00 AM
SONY SIX
Pakistan vs Australia
2nd ODI
Live from 04:00 PM

Nahid breaks Ahmed's 17-year-old record

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudunnabi Nahid broke a record that stood for the past 17 years, clocking in at 25.69 seconds in the 50m butterfly event of the Bangabandhu 31st National Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Championships at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

The previous mark of 25.74 seconds was set by Jewel Ahmed in 2005.

Nahid -- also a part of Bangladesh Navy's 4x100 freestyle relay team that broke a record on the opening day of ongoing championships -- finished well ahead of the others. Anik Islam of Bangladesh Navy won silver with a time of 26.10 seconds (hand-time) while Titu Miah of Bangladesh Army bagged bronze with a time of 26.70 seconds.

Nahid believes he was reaping the rewards of the hard work in the national camp since November.

"I was confident I could make a national record. I think this record should have been broken much earlier,"Nahid told reporters.

"I know my time is not good enough for a gold in the South Asian Games. But if the national camp continues going as it is, I believe I can improve," Nahid, who won bronze in the last SA Games in Kathmandu, added.

Former record-holder Jewel Ahmed shared the opinion that the record should have been broken earlier. "As new records were being set year after year, I wondered who would break mine," Jewel said.

Four other national records were broken on the second day of the championships by Kajal Mia (200m individual medley), Jewel Ahmed (200m backstroke), Juthi Akhter (200m backstroke) and Sadi Mohammad Mohsin (one-meter springboard).

Bangladesh suffered heavy defeats in all six Tests they played in South Africa. The Tigers suffered innings defeats in five of those Tests.

South Africa have four uncapped players in their current Test squad. In 2017, they fielded two debutants in the Potchefstroom Test, the most against Bangladesh.

In the four Tests against Bangladesh, South Africa Test skipper Dean Elgar has scored 405 runs – the highest among the players from the current squads of the two sides.

Elgar, who scored his career-best 199 against Bangladesh in Potchefstroom back in 2017, also boasts a staggering 101.25 average against the Tigers which is also the most among players of the two sides.

Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim is just behind Elgar in the top-scorers' list. The right-handed batter scored 331 runs in the eight Tests he played against the Proteas.

With eight wickets in two Tests, Keshav Maharaj is the active South African player with the most number of wickets against Bangladesh in the format.

'We need to start from scratch'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will be looking to continue their upward trend in Tests away from home after the Mount Maunganui triumph earlier this year against New Zealand, with a confident Mominul Haque and Co. unsurprisingly eyeing a maiden Test win against South Africa in their den.

The first of the two-match Test series, starting in Durban from today, is expected to test Bangladesh's ability to continue to follow the right process, especially given the backdrop of an ODI series win against the Proteas.

More importantly, valuable points in the ICC World Test Championship will also be up for grabs.

"We will play to win this series but to do that it's important to follow the process. If we can dominate and play well over five days, the result will definitely come our way. When you come to play a full series and win the first series as we did in the ODI series, confidence levels increase," Mominul told the media during the pre-match press conference yesterday.

"However, there are differences in the red and white-ball formats and we have to start fresh. We need to put forward what process we followed in New Zealand and we need to work on the mistakes from that series. Overall we are confident, but we need to start from scratch."

> **"There's no point in thinking too much about the wicket. It could aid the pacers but still be good for batting. Spinners may come into play as the match progresses."**
>
> **MOMINUL HAQUE**
> Bangladesh Test captain

Once again, Bangladesh's rising pace-bowling department is expected to play a major role in the upcoming Test series, especially on a seam-friendly Durban track. The forecast also suggests rain for the first four days, which will surely provide extra assistance.

Taskin Ahmed has been in terrific touch, getting player of the series in the ODI series, while the hero of the Mount Maunganui Test victory, Ebadot Hossain, and left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam are expected to play vital roles.

"It is important for fast bowlers to perform if a team wants to win Test matches abroad. If they can give early breakthroughs and bowl in the right areas, it becomes easy. A few of our pacers have played in the ODI series and had a good rest. I think our pacers are in a relaxed mood," Mominul added.

However, a lot will depend on how the Bangladeshi batters deal with a rather inexperienced South African bowling line-up that will be without premier fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje and Marco Jansen.

"We have worked on the short-ball strategy. When nothing happens, opponents tend to come out hard with the short-ball strategy. But that doesn't last for more than ten overs so it's important how we handle that pressure," he said.

The Tigers will miss star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan after he opted to skip the Test series for personal reasons but the return of experienced opener Tamim Iqbal will surely provide stability at the top alongside youngster Mahmudul Hasan Joy.

'Thank you for all you did for us'

AGENCIES

Shane Warne was remembered as "mesmerising" and a "genius" at a state memorial service in Melbourne Wednesday attended by tens of thousands of spectators and legendary players, with music superstars Elton John and Chris Martin performing by video link.

The well-loved Australian cricketer died at a luxury resort in Thailand this month from a suspected heart attack, aged 52, eliciting shock and grief from his millions of fans as well as prime ministers, rock stars and fellow players.

The larger-than-life "king of spin" was honoured at a two-hour service at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with more than 50,000 free tickets handed out. It was beamed live to cricket grounds across Australia and watched around the world.

"Shane said of himself, 'I smoked, I drank and I played a little cricket,'" Keith Warne said in a eulogy at his son's home ground, where he took a hat-trick and his 700th test wicket.

"Mate, your mother and I can't imagine a life without you. You have been taken too soon and our hearts are broken. Thank you for all you did for us."

Warne's son Jackson said there was "no other better place in the whole world" to hold the memorial than the famous MCG where Warne made so many memories, including a hat-trick in an Ashes Test against England and taking his 700th Test wicket.

"It's very special for a lot of us, especially our family," he said.

A stand at the ground was officially re-named after Warne, who in the eyes of many is second only to Bradman in Australia's long list of sporting greats.

Some fans attending wore their cricket kit, while others donned Warne t-shirts with emotions running high as they snapped pictures in front of his statue outside the venue.

One woman showed off her new thigh tattoo of Warne, which she had done last week.

Mark Taylor, who captained him for Australia, said the huge interest showed "how admired Shane Warne was".

"The fact he had that rough diamond character about him made him what people like to see. People like to see something a bit different, and they got that with Warnie," Taylor told reporters.

Fellow Australian captain Allan Border called him "a genius".

"I don't know how the Oxford dictionary defined genius, but he's as close as I've been to genius, the way he developed his game and just transcended everything," he said. "He's left us with a flood of memories and such great times."

Current Australian Test captain Pat Cummins released a moving tribute online, reading a poignant poem written about Warne while one-day skipper Aaron Finch pointed to his fellow Victorian's charity work.

"His cricketing ability was one thing, but his generous heart for second to none," Finch said from Pakistan.

Music stars Elton John, Martin, Robbie Williams and Ed Sheeran all played songs via video link.

Drama and upsets in final night

REUTERS, CAPE TOWN

The final night of African qualifying for the World Cup produced high drama and upsets on Tuesday, though the continent's line-up in Qatar will have a familiar look about it.

Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia participated at the last finals in Russia in 2018, while Cameroon and Ghana were at the finals four years before that.

Both Cameroon and Ghana produced unexpected away success to qualify, eliminating the more fancied Algeria and Nigeria.

Cameroon secured their place with the last kick of the match, deep in extra time in Blida, as Karl Toko Ekambi swept home a speculative cross.

It left Algeria, who were African champions in 2019 and had breezed through the earlier stages of the World Cup preliminaries, crestfallen.

Ghana profited from a goalkeeping error to also advance on the away goals rule, their 1-1 draw in Nigeria setting off rioting by home fans in Abuja.

Senegal repeated their penalty shootout success over Egypt as Sadio Mane again got the better of his Liverpool team mate Mohamed Salah. Dakar's new stadium was filled to capacity hours before the clash which saw Senegal beat Egypt 1-0 for a 1-1 draw on aggregate after extra time.

That set up another shootout between the teams, some six weeks after Mane had netted the decisive kick to win the Africa Cup of Nations finals in Cameroon.

He was again the talisman as he fired home to give Senegal a 3-1 shootout victory. Salah had put Egypt's first effort well wide of goal.

Tunisia denied Mali a first World Cup finals appearance with a 1-0 aggregate triumph while Morocco enjoyed an emphatic 4-1 win over the Democratic Republic of Congo in Casablanca after a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

Portugal, Poland grab finals spots

Portugal's Bruno Fernandes celebrates with teammates after scoring his first goal during their 2-0 victory over stubborn visitors North Macedonia. [Inset] Robert Lewandowski stroked home a second-half penalty, which he termed as one of the most difficult of his career, as Poland booked their place in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar in front of a fervent home crowd in Chorzow. PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER

PARIS, *France*

Portugal beat North Macedonia 2-0 and Poland saw off Sweden by the same score in play-off finals on Tuesday to book their places in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Bruno Fernandes scored both goals for Portugal to overcome the Balkan nation that had knocked out European champions Italy in a stunning result last week.

Fernandes set Portugal on their way at the Estadio do Dragao by finishing off Cristiano Ronaldo's pass in the first half and then put the victory beyond doubt in the second, connecting with a sublime cross from Diogo Jota.

The victory means Portugal extend their run of qualifying for all six of the World Cups since the turn of the century while Manchester United forward Ronaldo is on course for his fifth, aged 37. Ronaldo's best previous result was reaching the semi-finals in 2006, when Portugal were beaten by Germany.

One in 10 MFS users victims of fraud

Finds PRI survey on 7,279 users

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About one in ten mobile financial services users said they have been victims of fraud, found a survey, underscoring the need for boosting the security of the platform to thwart social engineering.

"If you extrapolate it to the national statistic of the sector, it literally means millions have suffered from fraud," said Ashikur Rahman, senior economist at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), which surveyed 7,279 MFS users from 45 districts and 2,000 agents from 13 districts.

Of the respondents, 87 percent use bKash, 41 percent Nagad, 15 percent Rocket and 4 percent SureCash. As much as 91 percent of the respondents have their own accounts, while 5.6 percent were dependent on the agent for MFS transactions.

About 56 percent of the MFS users who were victims of fraud said either their PINs were compromised or the scams involved impersonation; 13 percent said their accounts were compromised.

The average size of loss from MFS fraud was about Tk 9,000.

About 30 percent of the fraud victims never had their complaints resolved.

The study found a strong link between the time required to address victims' complaints and their decision to continue to use MFS.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Sisters-in-law of Helena Khatun wail next to her dead body while it was being taken back to Char Kalurpara in Fulchhari union of Gaibandha's Fulchhari upazila on a horse cart yesterday. As there is no medical facility within 40km of the char, and no roads or vehicles available either, Helena died on her way to the upazila health complex yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WHO'S TO BLAME *for Helena's death?*

Emergency patients of Fulchhari union suffer due to lack of medical facility

MOSTAFA SHABUJ, *from Gaibandha*

Helena Khatun, 25, was about to give birth to her third child.

Due to sudden bleeding around 9:00am yesterday, she needed emergency care at a hospital.

Her husband Suja Mandal and nephew Asadul arranged "Jalchouki", wooden planks held up by ropes and carried on the shoulders, and placed her on it. They then started towards the hospital on foot from their home in the remote Kalurpara Char in the Jamuna in Gaibandha's Fulchhari upazila.

However, as the nearest medical facility -- Fulchhari Upazila Health Complex -- was almost 40km away, Helena ultimately bled to death by the time she could reach Fulchhari launch terminal (30km from the complex) around 1:00pm.

Kalurpara Char is located around 10km off the bank of the mighty Jamuna.

As four hours had passed for Helena to be carried to mainland, they took her to a "pharmacy doctor" at the Fulchhari terminal.

There, Helena and her unborn baby were both declared dead.

Suja, distraught after the loss of his wife and child, still had to manage a horse cart from the local bazar to carry her body back to the char for burial.

"With no roads or vehicles to commute from the mainland to the char, I had to arrange the horse cart. When that was not available earlier to carry her to a hospital, I had to manage the Jalchouki," he said.

On their way back to the char, Helena's sisters-in-law Taslima Khatun and Sonabhan Begum were seen wailing next to her idle body.

Sonabhan said, "Only if there was a hospital, clinic or even a doctor in the char, Helena and her child could live. Like many other women of our locality, she died because there are no facilities for emergency patients."

Her sister Taslima added, "The women in char areas are unfortunate and have to go through normal deliveries as there is no scope for hospital treatment."

Abdul Hannan Mandal, chairman of Fulchhari Union Parishad, told The Daily Star Kalurpara Char falls under the Fulchhari union.

"It is almost impossible to provide proper treatment to pregnant women in case of emergencies. The whole union parishad is located on the chars in the Jamuna.

"It is like a different planet here and we have

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

12 hurt in clash over 'having tea'

Incident involves students of Dhaka College, TTC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Crude bomb explosions and violent clashes took place last night as students of Dhaka College and Teachers' Training College attacked each other.

The clash, which halted traffic movement for hours, took place after physical assault of three students of Dhaka College during an altercation "over tea".

Twelve Dhaka College students were injured in the incident and they took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"We are working to control the situation ... But the students are not listening to us," Gias Uddin, an inspector of New Market Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Police said the clash broke out around 8:30pm when students of Teachers' Training College beat up three Dhaka College students over having tea in Central College.

Visiting the area, it was seen that Dhaka College Chhatra League activists with rods, sticks and machetes were surrounding Teachers' Training College.

Inside, crude bombs exploded one after another.

All entrances to the college were closed due to the clashes. Students were throwing brick chunks from the roof of the academic building, while Dhaka College BCL activists from Mirpur Road.

Some students wearing t-shirts of Dhaka College

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

TIPU MURDER

At least five took part in the killing mission: probe

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least five people took part in the killing of Jahidul Islam Tipu, former general secretary of Motijheel Awami League, in the capital's Shahjahanpur a week ago.

Except for the "shooter", Masum Mohammad Akash, two others were also carrying arms as backup team members who would step in if Aksah failed to shoot Tipu or any other problem appeared at the scene.

A senior police official, involved in the murder probe, confirmed this to The Daily Star yesterday.

Investigators said the three were carrying one 7.65mm pistol each. The arms were supplied from a single source and those were returned after the killing.

Akash collected the arms and bullets from near Kamalapur area. He fled after returning the arms, said a police official, requesting anonymity.

Law enforcers arrested Akash on Sunday.

Investigators said they were checking role of a former ward councillor from Sabujbagh in supplying the arms.

Sources said the murder could be solved following the arrest of one Sumon Shikder Musa, who hired Akash for the killing and now believed to have left the country.

"Those who gave the contract for the murder used a 'cut-out' strategy and that's why it has become difficult to ascertain who first called whom and how many people were involved," said an investigator.

According to police officials, 7.65mm pistol is an automatic gun and it can carry about 16 bullets in two chambers.

Once loaded, shots can be fired from the pistol one after another just with a single pull of the trigger. This feature of the firearm had enabled the shooter to open around 11 shots just within five to seven seconds.

A senior police official said these arms are made abroad and each of them costs up to Tk 5 lakh.

AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

A rickshaw, with a mother and her two children on board. on the wrong side of the capital's Old Airport road yesterday. Such risks taken by pullers may end in tragic accidents. Just two days ago, a woman died while taking her daughters to school on a recklessly-driven rickshaw.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Tigers' chance to break new ground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the kind of year Bangladesh have already had, it is only logical to say that the Mominul Haque-led side will back themselves to break further ground by sealing a maiden Test win on South African soil when the two sides meet in the first of two-Test series at Kingsmead in Durban today.

The match is scheduled to begin at 2:00pm [BST].

With Bangladesh losing big in all of their six Tests played in South Africa and the two draws at home being their best achievement against the Proteas in all of the 12 outings in the format, records remain largely against the Tigers.

Despite the ragged history, Bangladesh go into the series hot on the wheels of a historic 2-1 ODI series victory against the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Today is the 51st Death Anniversary of
S N H Rizvi

We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul

EDITOR & PUBLISHER : MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 9117796, Fax: 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, for Advertisement: 01711623910, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net, advertisement@thedailystar.net