



B1 RECORD EXPORT
Receipts hit \$4.76b in March



P6 Grammys 2022
Jon Batiste's "We Are" wins Album of Year



P7 Med Boat Tragedy
Nearly 100 die in int'l waters: UN



P11 World Cup Best XI
Salma Khatun delighted with inclusion



RESILIENCE ... Farmers along with their family members try to salvage as many peanuts as they can at a crop field in Burdeo Haor of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila yesterday. Flash floods inundated several hundred hectares of cropland in the region over the last few days.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

City stung by gas crisis for 2nd day

Bibiyan gas field struggles to fix the glitches

HELEMUL ALAM

For the second day in a row, many neighbourhoods in the capital suffered an acute gas crisis yesterday, as the authorities struggled to fix the technical problems that occurred at Bibiyana Gas Field in Sylhet on Sunday.

Residents of Mirpur, Pallabi, Lalmatia, Shahjahanpur, Mohammadpur, Tejuri Bazar, Razabazar and Dhanmondi complained of severe gas shortage, and said they had to buy food and iftar items from restaurants.

According to Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla), consumers in different city areas have been experiencing shortages or low pressure in gas supply from Sunday following technical glitches at the gas field.

Officials at Chevron Bangladesh, the operator of Bibiyana Gas Field, said, two of the five gas-processing trains and six of the 26 wells at the gas field faced technical problems around 1:15am on Sunday, reducing the field's gas production to around 800 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) from 1,250 mmcf.

One of the two trains was fixed on Sunday night while

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SRI LANKA SHAKE-UP AMID ECONOMIC CRISIS

Opposition rejects unity govt offer

Demands president's resignation as protests continue

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's opposition yesterday dismissed the president's invitation to join a unity government as "nonsensical" and instead demanded he resign over the country's worsening shortages of food, fuel and medicines.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's overture came as armed troops looked to quell more demonstrations over what the government acknowledges is the country's most severe economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948.

Police fired tear gas and water

cannon to disperse thousands of protesters trying to storm the private home of the prime minister – the president's elder brother and the head of the family political clan – in Tangalle, once a bastion of support for the Rajapaksa in the island's south.

The president asked opposition parties represented in parliament to "join the effort to seek solutions to the national crisis," after the late-night resignation of nearly all cabinet ministers to pave the way for a revamped administration.

But the leftist People's Liberation Front (JVP) responded by urging Gotabaya Rajapaksa

and his once popular and powerful family to immediately step down.

"He really must be a lunatic to think that opposition MPs will prop up a government that is crumbling," JVP lawmaker Anura Dissanayake told reporters in Colombo.

The main minority opposition party, the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), also dismissed the idea of their joining a Rajapaksa-led administration.

"His offer to reconstitute the cabinet with opposition MPs is nonsensical and infuriates the people who have been demanding his resignation,"

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Biden hopes for stronger Dhaka-Washington ties

Writes to Hasina; Momen, Blinken meet in DC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US President Joe Biden yesterday expressed his wish to watch the Dhaka-Washington ties scale new heights over the next 50 years based on the solid foundation laid over the past five decades.

The two nations are linked through familial, academic and commercial ties since 1958, when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman participated in a 30-day exchange programme in the US, he said in a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to mark 50 years of bilateral relations, reports BSS.

Bangladeshis and Americans share the ideals of democracy, equality and respect for human rights that are the foundation for healthy, secure and prosperous societies.

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Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky, 4th from left, stands in the town of Bucha, northwest of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, yesterday. Zelensky said on Sunday the Russian leadership was responsible for civilian killings in Bucha, outside Kyiv, where bodies were found lying in the street after the town was retaken by the Ukrainian army. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: AFP

Cop suspended for harassing teacher over wearing 'teep'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid outrage on social media and beyond, Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday suspended constable Nazmul Tareque, who was accused of harassing a college teacher for wearing a "teep" on her forehead.

DMP has taken the move hours after its Teigaon Division identified the constable from CCTV footages and intelligence information, confirmed Md Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner of DMP, to The Daily Star.

A probe body, comprising additional deputy commissioner of protection unit and assistant commissioner of Teigaon Division of DMP, was also formed to investigate the incident.

The committee was instructed to submit a report within three working days, according to an order signed by Mostaq Ahmed, deputy commissioner (protection unit) of the DMP.

Earlier on Saturday, Teigaon College teacher Lata Samaddar filed a general diary with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station saying a policeman harassed

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

2 inmates die in prison

Family of one alleges negligence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Two inmates of Chattogram Central Jail died yesterday at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) after both fell sick.

One of the deceased was identified as Md Rafiq, 58, who landed in jail on March 27 in a case filed with Chandanish Police Station over a clash between two rival groups.

Around 4:00am yesterday, he fell sick and the on-duty guards took him to the prison's hospital, said Dewan Md Tariqul Islam, the jailor of Chattogram Central Jail.

As Rafiq's physical condition deteriorated, he was taken to the CMCH, where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Rafiq's family maintains his death was due to the negligence of the jail authorities and the police in giving him proper treatment.

"We have a longstanding rivalry with our political opponent in our area. On March 26, our opponent group attacked us with lethal weapons -- my brother was seriously injured in the attack," said Jamal

"My brother was not given proper treatment in the police station. Rather, he was sent to jail the next day with his physical injuries."

Uddin, Rafiq's elder brother.

Rafiq managed to flee the scene of violence and went to the Chandanish police station for safety.

But the police locked him up on the charge of his involvement in the bout. His rivals went to the police station and beat him up in the absence of the officer-in-charge, Jamal said.

Later, Rafiq was shown arrested in a case of violence filed by the other side.

"My brother was not given proper treatment in the police station. Rather, he was sent to jail the next day with his physical injuries," Jamal added.

Anwar Hossain, the OC of Chandanish police station, denies the allegations of an attack on Rafiq inside the police station.

Rafiq and their rival group locked into a clash in the village and the police registered cases against both groups. The OC, however, did not elaborate on the incident.

In a separate incident, Md Babul Mia, 38, died at CMCH after complaining of chest pains in the early hours of yesterday.

Babul, who landed in jail on November 18 last year in a drug case field with Chandanish police station, was taken to the prison hospital. Later, he was shifted to the CMCH's emergency ward, where he died.

Both the bodies were sent to CMCH morgue for autopsy, Islam said.



A trader brings live chicken to the capital from Savar by a battery-run rickshaw via the busy Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday. Such slow-moving vehicles are banned on the highway but the authorities concerned seem unable to properly enforce it.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ensure proper use of water

Urges Sheikh Hasina

UNB, *Dhaka*

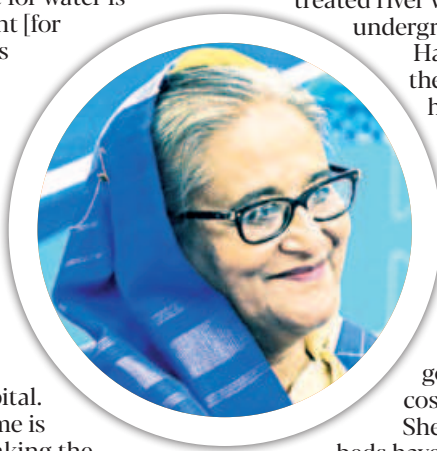
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has adopted plans to ensure better use of surface water and the reduction of its underground extraction.

"Another name for water is 'life'; it is important [for us] to preserve this resource. We have taken plans to increase the use of surface water," she said while addressing a programme on World Water Day 2022, organised by the water resources ministry at Pani Bhaban in the capital.

This year's theme is "Groundwater, making the invisible visible".

Attending the event virtually from the Gono Bhaban, the PM mentioned that two billion people in the world are suffering from a lack of safe drinking water.

"If we can use this resource properly, then there will be no suffering for our country's people and we will be able to supply [safe]



water to the world [market]. We have to do our work keeping that in mind."

Hasina said the government has already begun supplying river water after purification. Even at the district level, the government is supplying treated river water to save underground water.

Hasina mentioned the government has given the highest priority to dredging, which will not only increase navigability, but also improve waterways. "We will be able to transport our goods at lower costs."

She said river beds have silted for a lack of dredging for a long time. As a result, rivers have widened unnecessarily.

"We can reclaim land through dredging and reduce the river widths. We have already reclaimed a good amount of land this way."

Hasina said earth generated from dredging must not be put on arable land and can instead be preserved by

creating pockets in rivers.

She also asked to make sure that there will be no obstruction on water flow due to any development project.

While constructing any building, the premier said, "We have to consider some preservation of rainwater and having a water reservoir."

She mentioned that if the underground water is used excessively, probability of earthquakes may increase in the country as Bangladesh situated on a plate under which stability is achieved due to the water level.

Hasina said unplanned and indiscriminate construction of dams have to be restricted.

"In the name of increasing the height of dam, I know, the amount of expenditure will be increased and some people will get commission. This kind of mentality has to be shunned. Plans that benefit the country have to be made."

The PM urged all to maintain austerity in using pipe water and stop the misuse of water for any purpose. "We all have to remain alert in this regard."

State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooq, Deputy Minister AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem and Senior Secretary Kabir Bin Anwar also spoke.

Headmaster beats student, fractures her hand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

A schoolgirl fractured her hand as she was beaten up by the headmaster at Tarash Government High School in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila on Saturday.

Mahiya Rahman, a 10th grader at the school, is currently undergoing treatment at home.

According to her father Mojibar Rahman, Mahiya refused to take private tuition from headmaster Ali Hasan, which angered him. "He tortured my daughter inhumanly."

After hearing about it, Mojibar rushed to the school and took his daughter to Tarash upazila health complex, where doctors said her hand was fractured and there were injury marks elsewhere on her body.

Mahiya is undergoing treatment at home.

Headmaster Hasan Ali said, "I heard she was using a mobile phone in school. When I told her to hand it over, she used foul language with me. So, I beat her with a stick. It wasn't as bad as to fracture her hand."

Meanwhile, Majbahul Karim, upazila nirbahi officer, said a three-member committee, headed by Upazila Education Officer Jakir Hossain, was formed to probe the allegation and submit a report within three working days.

Madrasa teacher killed in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

A madrasa teacher was killed while trying to stop a clash between people of two villages in Sylhet's Jaintapur upazila yesterday.

The dead, Mawlana Saleh Ahmed, was a teacher of Tahfizur Quran Madrasa of Sylhet's Majortila area and a resident of the upazila.

The clash started at Haripur bazaar, over land dispute between Rafique Ahmed of Hadpara village, and Rashid Ahmed, of Shyampur village.

As it went on all night, a group of local Islamic clerics, Imams and teachers came to the spot to settle the matter around 7:00am. However, the violence intensified and Saleh was beaten to death by a group.

Lutfur Rahman, additional superintendent of Sylhet District Police, said, "Police brought under control...A case is being filed in this regard and we are trying to arrest those behind the killing."

Furniture seller shot dead in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Brahmanbaria*

A furniture seller was shot dead by unidentified criminals in Brahmanbaria's Nabinagar upazila early yesterday.

Aminur Rashid, OC of Nabinagar Police Station, said the incident took place in Baghaura village in Shibpur union around 5:00am.

Atiqur Rahman Sumon, 28, lived in a rented house in the village and ran a furniture shop in Baghaura bazar. When he left his home for sehri, some people shot him and fled. He died on the spot.

On information, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Brahmanbaria General Hospital for autopsy.

City stung by gas crisis

FROM PAGE 1

the other was likely to be brought back to operation early today, said Sheikh Jahidur Rahman, communications manager (corporate affairs) at Chevron Bangladesh.

A gas-processing train filters gas extracted from wells and also controls the pressure of gas.

"We hope to fix the technical glitches at three of the six wells tonight or early today. It will take some time to complete the repair work at the other three wells," he told this newspaper last night.

Ali Mohammad Al-Mamun, director (operation and mines) of Petrobangla, said they sent a high-powered team to the gas field in Sylhet on Sunday to assess the situation.

"Engineers are working

to fix the problem. We hope the situation will return to normal very soon."

He said Petrobangla usually gets 1,250 mmcf/d gas from Chevron. But it was receiving around 800 mmcf/d since the gas field was hit by technical problems.

Petrobangla data shows that three state-owned firms -- Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd, Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd and Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company -- and two international oil companies -- Chevron and Tullow Oil plc -- add 2,380 to 2,395 mmcf/d gas to the national grid. But on Sunday, the supply decreased to 2,023 mmcf/d.

"We used to provide 1,100 to 1,150 mmcf/d gas to power plants. But it was brought down to 1,000 mmcf/d since Bibiyana Gas

Field ran into problems on Sunday," he said.

In a statement, Petrobangla apologised to its subscribers for their sufferings due to the gas crisis and hoped the situation would get back to normal soon.

Haronur Rashid Mullah, managing director of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company that distributes gas to 28.74 lakh households, said the capital and its adjoining areas bore the brunt of the shortage of around 400 mmcf/d gas.

Residents of Gazipur, Savar, Narayanganj, Narsingdi and Mymensingh also suffered due to the shortage.

Suraiya Parveen, a resident of Mirpur-12 in the capital, said she had to wait until 12:30am yesterday to cook sehri items as the gas supply in her area became

normal after midnight.

"I couldn't get enough sleep as I had to leave home for college early in the morning to take classes. When I returned home around 3:00pm today, I found that there was no gas..." said Parveen, a teacher at a private college in the city's Dhanmondi.

Lutfunnahar Begum, who lives in Shahjahanpur, said, "Today, the pressure of gas is so low that it's not possible to cook iftar items... we have no other option but to buy iftar items from restaurants."

Some residents chose electric burners to cook food.

One of them, Babul Hossain, a resident of Pallabi in the city, said they would use the electric burner he purchased a few years back to cook food and iftar items.

Biden hopes for stronger

FROM PAGE 1

The drive, resourcefulness and innovation demonstrated by Bangladeshis in rebuilding after the 1971 war and the country's present-day economic growth and development serve as a model for the rest of the world, he said.

At present, the two countries are working together to address the climate crisis, help the Rohingya survivors of genocide and support the UN peacekeeping missions worldwide.

"Our defence cooperation is stronger than ever," he said, adding that the Bangladesh Coast Guard and Navy are invaluable partners in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region, contributing to the regional effort to end the trafficking of people and illicit drugs.

Biden, who took office on January 20 last year, went on to cite the US's donation

of about 61 million doses of coronavirus vaccine and \$131 million in assistance to Bangladesh to weather the challenges of the global coronavirus pandemic as examples of cooperation between the two countries.

"We are proud of our partnership on development, economic growth and counterterrorism. I am confident our partnership will continue to flourish for the next 50 years and beyond," he added.

Meanwhile, in a video message shared on his Twitter account, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cited the Sears Tower as an example of what cooperation between the two nations can achieve.

Now known as the Willis Tower, the Sears Tower in Chicago was designed by Bangladeshi-American Fazlur Rahman Khan.

The building, which is the third-tallest building in the US, is

just one manifestation of what Americans and Bangladeshis can do together, he said.

The US would continue close cooperation with Bangladesh to strengthen the economy, investment, combat climate change, regional security, peacekeeping and sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

Blinken welcomed the continuous dialogue on Biden's foreign policy principles of labour rights, religious freedom, human rights and democracy.

Citing Bangladesh's export worth \$8.3 billion to the US in 2021, he went on to encourage Bangladesh to make progress on workers' rights to deepen the robust economic partnership.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told reporters before his meeting last night (Bangladesh time) in Washington DC with Blinken that he would

request the US to make more investments in areas of blue economy, IT and pharmaceuticals to diversify Bangladesh's exports.

American investors can benefit from the opportunities created by Bangladesh's fast-growing economy.

Momen said he would also request the US to reinstate the Generalised System of Preferences facility, which was suspended in 2013, and the sanctions imposed on RAB and seven of its current and former officials in December last year.

"We don't see any tension. We have good relations with the US and therefore they can share their observations, if any, with us without hesitation. If needs be, we will take remedial measures."

Momen said he would also request Blinken to return Bangabandhu's killer Rashed Chowdhury, who is residing in the US.

Opposition rejects unity govt offer

FROM PAGE 1

TNA spokesman and lawmaker Abraham Sumanthiran told AFP.

The main opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party made no formal statement, but its leader Sajith Premadasa vowed Sunday that it would not join any government featuring members of Rajapaksa's family.

Every member of Sri Lanka's cabinet except the president and his elder brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, resigned late Sunday.

The country's central bank governor Ajith

Cabraal -- who has long opposed the International Monetary Fund bailout now being sought by the country -- also stepped down yesterday.

The departures cleared the way for the country's ruling political clan to seek to shore up its weakening position and attempt to stem growing public protests.

But the president has already reappointed four of the outgoing ministers -- three of them to their old jobs -- while replacing brother Basil Rajapaksa as finance minister with the previous justice chief.

Political analysts said the offer of a unity government did not go far enough to address the economic crisis or restore confidence in the Rajapaksa administration.

"This is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic," Bhavani Fonseka, political analyst and human rights lawyer, told AFP. "This is a joke."

Political columnist Victor Ivan added that a cabinet reshuffle in the guise of a national government would not be acceptable to the public.

"What is needed is a serious reform

programme, not just to revive the economy but address issues of governance," Ivan told AFP.

A critical lack of foreign currency has left Sri Lanka struggling to service its ballooning \$51-billion foreign debt, with the pandemic torpedoing vital revenue from tourism and remittances.

The result has been unprecedented food and fuel shortages along with record inflation and crippling power cuts, with no sign of an end to the economic woes.

14,111 shut down during pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

detailed and critical analysis to know the reason behind the fall in the number of so many teachers in one year."

Although the number of students at government primary school increased, the rate of enrolment in all kinds of primary-level institutions dropped in 2021.

Many DPE officials blamed it on Covid-19 situation in which many guardians did not send their kids to pre-primary schools.

The reports also say there were 2,15,51,691 students in all primary schools in 2020 and the number came down to 2,00,90,057 last year.

One of the DPE directors mentioned that about 39 lakh pre-primary students got enrolled in 2020 and it was 31 lakh last year.

Not necessarily all of these students dropped out as many might have gone to English-medium schools or Qawmi madrasas, and the DPE doesn't have any data about them, said directorate

officials.

Monsurul Alam, director general of DPE, added, "There was a propaganda from a vested quarter that primary schools will never reopen, and many parents sent their children to Qawmi madrasas. But all of them are now returning to primary schools."

Contacted, Primary and Mass Education State Minister Zakir Hossen said the government does not have any plan to give incentives to schools that

shut doors to students.

"We don't have any plan to restart all these private schools and kindergartens. We are working for the betterment of government primary schools. Most of the students of these [private] schools are moving to government primary schools," he told The Daily Star.

"If needed, we will set up institutions in the areas that do not have government primary schools," he added.

‘Does your training rule out respecting women?’

Protests rage on demanding punishment of harasser cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protests continued against the harassment of Tejgaon College faculty member Lata Samaddar by a police officer for wearing teep for the second day yesterday.

At a rally in Shahbagh, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNS) and Jonouddiyog demanded punishment of the harasser.

Shahnaj Sumi, deputy director of BNS, said communal forces’ ill-attempts have long been in place to impede women’s free movement, in the form of hurling abusive comments for their attire.

Horendra Nath Singh, assistant organising secretary of National Adivasi Forum, also spoke.

Meanwhile, 16 eminent citizens issued a statement condemning the incident.

“Does the training rule out respecting women?” asked the statement to the top brass of police.

The statement mentioned that a central minister of the Ayub Khan government in the 1960s made scurrilous comments on Bangalee women for wearing teep.

“The repetition of such an incident in independent Bangladesh is unfortunate.”



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Protesting the harassment of a teacher, for wearing a teep on her forehead, by a police official, a group of women form a human chain in front of the capital’s Jatiya Press Club yesterday. At the programme, they also put teep on protesters’ forehead to show solidarity with the teacher.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Sweden, TIB sign 5-yr grant deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to strengthen the existing cooperation in preventing corruption, Sweden Embassy in Dhaka and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) signed a five-year grant agreement yesterday.

Under the agreement, TIB will implement its core project “Participatory Action against Corruption: Towards Transparency and Accountability” (PACTA) during 2022-2026, says a TIB press release.

Sweden will contribute around \$5.34 million or 50 million Swedish Kronor for the project. TIB is supported by the Foreign, FCDO of the UK and the Swiss Development Cooperation of Switzerland in the project.

The event was held at Swedish embassy with Head of Development Cooperation at the embassy in Dhaka, Christine Johansson and TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, as signatory parties.

Don’t hold exams on Easter Sunday

Urges Christian Association

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Christian Association yesterday urged the authorities not to hold examination on Easter Sunday.

They demanded that the day be declared a general holiday, said a press release. Nirmal Rozario, president of the association and Hemanto Ai Koraiya, secretary general, said they came to know that the examination has been scheduled to be held on April 17, the day the Christian community celebrates Easter Sunday.

“We’ve long been urging the government to declare the day as general holiday, though it is now an optional holiday,” it said.

PRAYER TIMING		APRIL 5			
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:29	12:45	4:45	6:20	7:45	
JAMAAT 4:39	1:15	5:00	6:30	8:15	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IF TAR TIMING		APRIL			
RAMADAN	SEHRI	IF TAR			
3	5	6:20			
4	6	4:24	6:20		
5	7	4:23	6:21		

Small vehicles BIG PROBLEMS

Public transport in a shambles, as bikes, cars dominate roads

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Fewer than three percent of registered vehicles in Dhaka city are buses and minibuses, exposing the poor public-transport situation of the capital, where over two crore people live.

In contrast, around 70 percent of registered vehicles comprise motorcycles and private cars, which are considered as major reasons behind traffic congestion and road crashes.

The picture is grimmer in other parts of the country, shows government data.

Only 1.51 percent of registered vehicles across the country are buses and minibuses. This has led to a boom of illegal and unsafe small vehicles, like easy-bikes and locally-made three-wheelers.

Over 70.15 percent of the country’s vehicles are motorcycles, while 7.54 percent are private cars, show data of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

Traffic congestion is a perennial problem for Dhaka city, but it has intensified, as the capital returned to normalcy after the Covid-19 situation improved and all educational institutions reopened. Following the start of Ramadan, commuters are suffering even more.

SMALL VEHICLES: ROOT CAUSE OF JAMS, CRASHES

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said small vehicles are a major reason behind traffic congestion in Dhaka city. If the number of such vehicles can be reduced, buses and minibuses will get more space on the roads, leading to more trips.

Instead of discouraging small vehicles, the government policy actually encourages them, he said.

The government has halved bike registration fees and is providing loans to its officials for buying cars. Cars are also being procured under different projects,



Fewer than 3pc Dhaka’s vehicles buses, minibuses; 1.51pc across country

Dhaka’s traffic consists of 70pc motorcycles, private cars

Lack of public transport behind boom of illegal, unsafe three-wheelers

Discouraging use of small vehicles, increasing buses, minibuses the solution, say experts

said Prof Shamsul, former director of Buet’s Accident Research Institute.

In this situation, Dhaka’s traffic jams will not reduce but increase, he said. Increasing the number of buses without reducing the number of small vehicles will not improve traffic.

The government has to discourage usage of small vehicles and quickly introduce the bus franchising system, he added.

He said lack of public transport is a reason behind the boom of illegal and unsafe three-wheelers, which is a major reason behind the rise in road crashes.

According to Road Safety Foundation, at least 589 people were killed and 647 injured in 458 road crashes during the last

month, which means 19 people were killed every day on average.

Bikes were involved in 22 percent of accidents, while locally-made three-wheelers were involved in 16.12 percent of crashes, the organisation said yesterday.

The more alarming fact is that bikes were involved in 37.52 percent of accidents that resulted in death, it said.

A total of 5,084 people were killed in 5,472 road crashes in 2021, 30 percent higher than the previous year, according to a police report.

Road safety organisations put the figure much higher.

POOR SHOW OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A total of 51.10 lakh vehicles have been registered with BRTA across the country till February this year, of which only 49,673 (0.97 percent) are buses and 27,617 (0.54 percent) minibuses. In contrast, 35,85,488 bikes (70.15 percent) and 3,85,113 (7.54 percent) private cars have been registered.

In Dhaka, 18.10 lakh vehicles have been registered till February, of which 37,593 (2.08 percent) are buses and 9,891 (0.55 percent) minibuses. A total of 9,14,817 (50.53 percent) bikes and 3,17,509 (17.54 percent) private cars have been registered, shows BRTA data.

In the first two months of this year, only 315 buses and 72 minibuses were registered across the country, in contrast to 84,583 bikes and 3,123 private cars.

Contacted, BRTA Chairperson Nur Mohammad Mazumder said people are buying more private cars as their financial condition is improving and they are getting easy loans from banks.

Meanwhile, ride-sharing services are the reason behind the rise of bikes in the city, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Procuring vehicles for government employees is nothing new, he said, as the

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Can’t extract sand from Meghna: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday stayed a High Court verdict that allowed a local Awami League leader, Selim Khan, to extract sand from the Meghna river in Chandpur.

The stay order means that no sand can be extracted from the river in the district, and if Selim Khan or any other person does it further, the local administration can take legal action against them, Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hassan told The Daily Star.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the SC’s Appellate Division, passed the stay order following a petition filed by the state seeking cancellation of the HC directive.

The judge also sent the petition to its full bench for hearing on April 25.

Following a petition, the HC on April 5, 2018 allowed Selim Khan, now chairman of Chandpur’s Laxmipur union and also the Awami

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Easy bikes cannot run on highways

SC passes order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday allowed three-wheelers, known as easy bikes, on roads in rural areas across the country. The apex court order means such vehicles cannot run on the highways.

The Appellate Division of the SC passed the order, modifying a High Court directive.

The HC on December 15 last year had directed the government to identify illegal three-wheeler easy-bikes plying and to take necessary steps to remove them.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why their inaction in restraining import of illegal three-wheeler easy bikes and their manufacturing in the country should not be declared “illegal”.

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MOTIVE BEHIND SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

HC set to hear 10-year-old rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to hold a hearing soon on a 10-year-old rule over the government’s move to identify the motive behind the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

The Bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Ahmed Sohail yesterday ordered the officials concerned to include the matter in its hearing list. It passed the order following a prayer moved by petitioner’s lawyer Manzill Murshid.

Murshid told The Daily Star that the HC may start hearing on the rule within a few days as it will be added to today’s cause list.

Following the petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC on February 28, 2012 issued the rule asking the government to explain within two weeks why it should not be directed to identify the motive behind the murders of Sagar and Runi and bring the killers to justice.

Murshid told this correspondent that the authorities concerned of the government are yet to reply to the HC rule.



Almost half the length of a bundle of steel rods dangle out the back of a pickup truck. At any point, an accident can occur if the vehicles behind do not notice the rods. Though illegal, such a risky way of carrying construction materials continues due to indifference of authorities concerned. This photo was taken at Science Lab intersection.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Star journo injured in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagaran Chakma, a staff reporter of The Daily Star, was critically injured when a truck rammed him on the capital’s Airport Road on Sunday night.

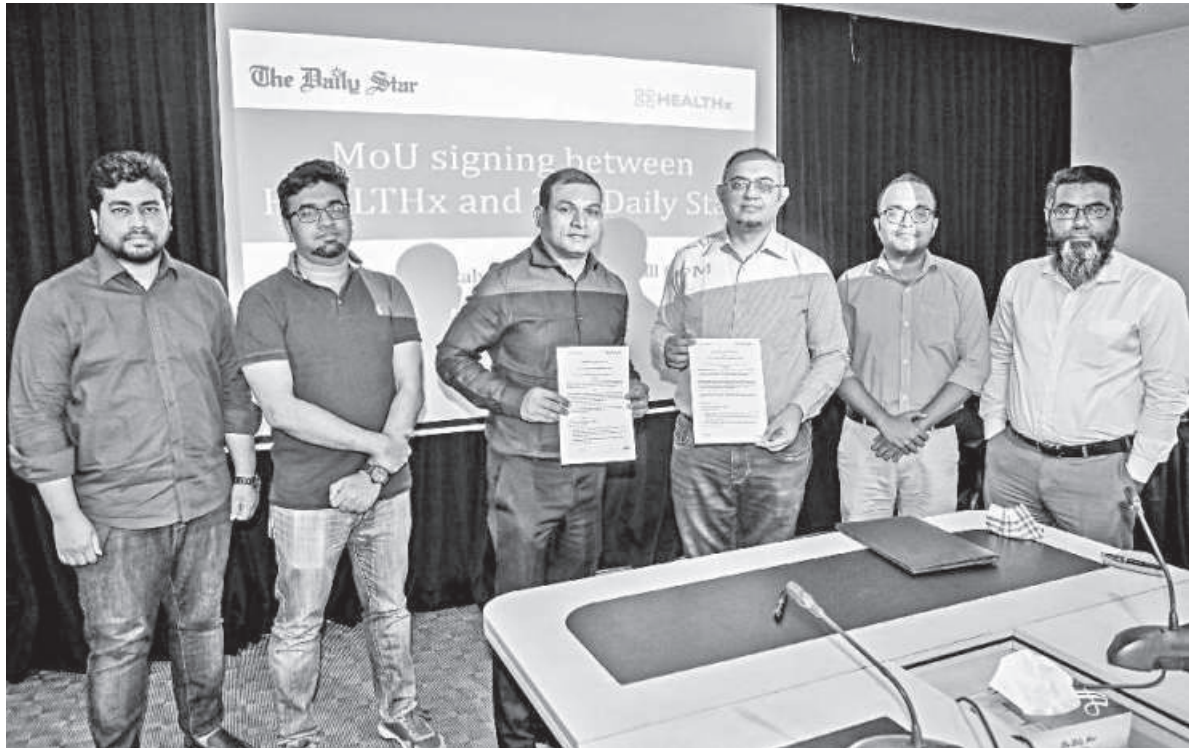
He is currently undergoing treatment at Square Hospitals in Dhaka.

The accident took place when he was going to Uttara on a motorbike with Mahfuz Ullah Babu, a journalist of The Business Standard.

Jagaran’s right leg got fractured and he was shifted to the ICU (general). Babu received minor injuries.

They were rescued by airport police.

Contacted, OC Aslam Uddin of Airport Police Station, said they were yet to identify the truck or the driver.



The MoU signing event between HEALTHx and The Daily Star was held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. As per the agreement, HEALTHx will offer a comprehensive healthcare package to employees of The Daily Star. From left, The Daily Star's Md Istiak Ahmed Bappy, executive, administration; Shuvashish Roy, head of business; and Mizanur Rahman, head of operations and CFO; and from HEALTHx, Mustafa Hasan, founder and CEO; Md Niamul Karim Rafi, specialist, brand and growth; and Md Faisal Khan Shamim, head of operation, were present on the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR



Islami Bank
Bangladesh Limited
Based on Islamic Shari'ah

OPERATIONS WING
PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER HARDWARE
AND ACCESSORIES DEPARTMENT (PCHAD)
20 Dilkusha C/A (9th floor), Dhaka – 1000.

Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from reputed Manufacturers/ Local Agents/ Companies/ Dealers/ Distributors/ Resellers for supplying 10,00,000 units EMV VISA Chip Card under the following terms and conditions:

The intending bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing tender document to supply 10,00,000 units EMV VISA Chip Card for IBBL. The tender document will be sold upon payment of Tk.3,000/- only in cash (non refundable) from 05.04.2022 to 19.04.2022 during office hours. Tender will be received at the office of the undersigned during office hours up to 02.20 PM on 20.04.2022 and Technical offer(s) will be opened at 02:30 PM on the same date at the same place in presence of the Bidder(s) or their representatives (who may like to attend). Details information relating to the Tender are available at Bank's website: www.islamibankbd.com or in the form of hard copy in the office of the undersigned.

FAVP & Head of Department



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার স্মরণার্থি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.0000.726.07.072.2022.424 Date: 4/4/2022

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES-SELECTION OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS)**

Country: Bangladesh: (Credit No: 6327-BD)
Name of Project: Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)- Additional Financing
The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost for the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP-II)- Additional Financing and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services for the Project by some Individual Consultants. The experience and other requirements are given below:

Package No.	Post & tentative duration	Minimum qualification	Minimum experience	Remarks
AF-S9.1	Media Consultant (9 months)	Masters Degree in Mass Communication, Journalism, Media Studies or relevant subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least 8 years experience in media and communication and managing public education program creation or mass media activities or mass communication; preferably but not exclusively in developing countries with a comprehensive and in-depth expertise in development project implementation.At least 5 years experience in the mass media development and multiplication.Demonstrated experience in building constructive relationships between Government agencies, civil society and other stakeholders;Proven experience to develop strategic documents like Standard Operating Procedure for Media and Communication and Advocacy Strategy;Proven experience to develop storyline, documentary and photo story as well;Skill in writing and editing reports, news items, case studies, speeches and related publications;Proven experience in design and conduct training on media, communication and educational campaign issues;Demonstrated experience in applying participatory methods and conflict mitigation;Experience of working in development sector.	Details specified in the ToR

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites eligible Individual Consultants ("Consultants") to selection of their interest in providing the services. The service includes to provide professional expertise on media campaigning and public awareness, but also manage the events and produce products and services useful for the project and LGED. He/she will raise widespread public awareness regarding project activities, implementation procedures and results of RTIP-2 (AF) and LGED achievements at national and local levels. Main scope of the task consists of development of communication strategies and information, education and communication (IEC) materials required for the public awareness regarding the project and LGED. Consultants are requested to submit supporting documents in support of the abovementioned criteria, qualification requirements and the information required as mentioned in the ToR. The attention of Interested Consultants in drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 (Revised November 2017) ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Selection of the abovementioned consultants will follow the procedures for selecting Individual Consultants described in the "The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 revised in November 2017". Interest Candidates are requested to collect Terms of Reference (ToR) and Curriculum Vitae form to understand detail requirements and tasks for each position from the office of the undersigned. The advertisement is also available on the website of LGED (www.lged.gov.bd) Further information may be obtained at the address below during office hours. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by 19/04/2022 up to 5:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time).

Md. Sohrah Ali
Project Director
Second Rural Transport Improvement Project
LGED Bhaban, Level-11, Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-9120218, Fax: +880-2-58157511
E-mail: pdrip2.lged@yahoo.com

GD-653

Does your

FROM PAGE 3

Rights activists Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, TIB executive director Iftekharuzzaman, Asif Nazrul, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, advocate Rana Das Gupta, Meghna Guhathakurta, advocate ZI Khan Panna, Sanjeeb Drong, Dr Abul Barakat, advocate Tabarak Hossen, barrister Sara Hossain, Dr Mesbah Kamal, Kajanl Devnath, advocate Subrata Chowdhury and Shamsul Huda signed the statement. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), in a statement, echoed the same sentiments.

Tougher

FROM PAGE 5

port area causing damage to water animals or pollution to water or environment, the person or vessel will be punished under the Environment Conservation Act, 1995.

As per the bill, the punishment for harming the environment by polluting water, land and coast has been raised to one year imprisonment or a fine of Tk 5 lakh or both. The fine is Tk 50,000 in the existing ordinance.

According to a new provision incorporated in the bill, the punishment for dodging toll, fee and other charges of the port will invite a one-year jail term or a fine of Tk 1 lakh or both. If anyone defies the law, he will be sentenced to six months in jail or be fined Tk 2 lakh or by both. The punishment is only a six-month jail and a fine of Tk 50,000 in the existing ordinance.

According to the bill, there will be a seven-member board to run the port. The number of the board members is now four.

Small vehicles

FROM PAGE 3

government used to buy cars for them earlier, and is now providing loans for doing so.

Asked about experts' opinion of discouraging small vehicles, he did not give a direct answer.

Factories and mills should not be inside Dhaka. Public transport should be available for every school and college, and all students must enrol into educational institutions in their areas, he said.

Can't extract sand

FROM PAGE 3

League president of the union unit, to extract sand from the Meghna in Chandpur Sadar and Haimchar areas.

DAG Kazi Mynul said Selim had taken the HC directive by misleading it (HC) as he said in the petition that sand extraction from Meghna river is necessary for keeping its navigation and to save the government's money. He also said Selim

reportedly is extracting sand from the Meghna to run his sand business though such extraction is illegal and damages the environment.

Selim's lawyers MK Rahman and Momtaz Uddin could not be reached for their comments, despite repeated attempts over phone.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin appeared for the state during the hearing yesterday.

Easy bikes cannot

FROM PAGE 3

Yesterday, a three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the modified order following a petition filed by Bangladesh Electric Three-Wheeler Manufacturing and Merchant Association.

Other two judges of the bench are Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice M Enayetur Rahim.

The apex court bench also asked the HC to dispose of the rule as early as possible. Lawyer Tanya Amir appeared for the association.

বসুন্ধরায় কর্ণার পুট বিক্রয়

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ASE JSC hereby notifies of an open tender for the right to conclude a contract for the performance of construction and installation works on the lot: 19677-720-RUP-22 "Buildings and structures of cooling water system of essential loads. Auxiliary pumping stations. Wells of the water supply system" (Lot 0301). The documentation is available on the official website of the State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom (<http://zakupki.rosatom.ru>). Procurement number No. 220325/0591/511.

23-36

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
Shrimp Research Station, Bagerhat, Under BFRI

Memo No. 33.02.0000.1077 Date: 04/04/2022

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

Tender/ proposal ID No.	Name of works & package description	Last selling date & time	Opening date & time
680599	Repair & Renovation work of Office building at Shrimp Research Station Bagerhat, Under BFRI.	18-Apr-2022 17:00	19-Apr-2022 11:45

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

Nilufa Begum
Principal Scientific Officer
Shrimp Research Station
Bagerhat, Under BFRI

GD-645



World Health Organization
Bangladesh

VACANCY NOTICE


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

- National Consultant for developing the Public Health Service Standard for Public Health Facilities in Bangladesh / External consultant**


For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified *female candidates* are highly encouraged to apply.

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



শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
নোংকোপা-২৪০০



তারিখঃ ২১ চৈত্র ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৪ এপ্রিল ২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি


শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর নিম্নোক্ত শূন্য পদসমূহে বাংলাদেশের প্রবৃত্ত নাগরিকদের নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাদি পূরণ সাপেক্ষে নিম্নলিখিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র প্রদান করা যাবে।

ক্রমিক	পদের বিবরণী	পদের সংখ্যা
১.	পদের নামঃ রচয়িতা বিভাগঃ বাংলা, ইংরেজি, অর্থনীতি ও কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইন্ট্রিনিয়ারিং প্রোগ্রামিং বেতন স্কেলঃ ২২,০০০-৪২,০৮০/- বয়সঃ অনধিক ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর	০১ ইংরেজি- ০১ অর্থনীতি-০২ সিস্টেম-০২
২.	পদের নামঃ উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল) প্রোগ্রামিং বেতন স্কেলঃ ১৯,০০০-৩৮,৬৪০/- বয়সঃ অনধিক ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর	০১
৩.	পদের নামঃ অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর প্রোগ্রামিং বেতন স্কেলঃ ৯০০০-২০,২৯০/- বয়সঃ অনধিক ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর	০৪
৪.	পদের নামঃ অফিস সহায়ক প্রোগ্রামিং বেতন স্কেলঃ ৮২৫০-২০,০১০/- বয়সঃ অনধিক ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর	০৫
৫.	পদের নামঃ নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী প্রোগ্রামিং বেতন স্কেলঃ ৯৮৫০-২০,০১০/- বয়সঃ অনধিক ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর	০২


বিঃদ্রঃ-পূর্ণিত পদসমূহের আবেদনের শর্তাদি, নির্দেশনা ও আবেদন ফরম শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট www.shu.edu.bd-এ পাওয়া যাবে।
নিয়োগ সাক্ষাৎ তত্ত্ব-ইন্টারভিউ জন্য ই-মেইলঃ recruitment@shu.edu.bd ও ফোনঃ ০২৪০০০০৭২০ -এ যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে-
অধ্যাপক ড. সুজিত কুমার অসিত
প্রিন্সিপাল ও রেজিস্ট্রার (সে, সা.)

জিডি-৩৪৫

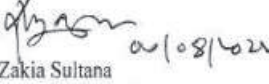


Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Board of Revenue (NBR)
iVAS Administrative Unit
IDEB Bhaban (7th Floor), Kakrail, Dhaka-1000
Email: pdvatonline@gmail.com, Phone: +8802-8321308



INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1	Ministry/Division	Internal Resources Division (IRD), Ministry of Finance
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Member(VAT: Policy)
4	Procurement Entity Code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Supply, installation and distribution of VPN data link between iVAS Unit and All Customs Excise and VAT Commissionerates, All Customs Excise and VAT Division Offices, All Customs Excise and VAT Circles and National Board of Revenue along with Broad Band Internet Connection among all above mentioned offices and Data Center & Disaster Recovery Center for 3(three) years.
7	Invitation Ref No	08.01.0000.068.11.005.12(18)2021.47
8	Date	05/04/2022
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	NCT Open Tendering Method
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Government Budget (GOB)
11	Development Partner	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project / Programme Code	N/A
13	Project / Programme Name	N/A
14	Tender Package No.	Package-01
15	Tender Package Name	Supply, installation and distribution of VPN data link between iVAS Unit and All Customs Excise and VAT Commissionerates, All Customs Excise and VAT Division Offices, All Customs Excise and VAT Circles and National Board of Revenue along with Broad Band Internet Connection among all above mentioned offices and Data Center & Disaster Center for 3(three) years.
16	Tender Publication Date	05/04/2022
17	Tender Last Selling Date	10/05/2022
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	11/05/2022 Time: 02:00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	11/05/2022 Time: 02:30 PM
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address(s) Joint Commissioner iVAS Administrative Unit IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Meeting Date: 24/04/2022 Time: 11:00 AM Queries Submission Date: 20/04/2022, before 5:00 PM Place: Conference Room, iVAS Administrative Unit IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Qualification criteria described in the Tender Document.
23	Brief Description of Goods & Service	Supply, installation and distribution of VPN data link between iVAS Unit and All Customs Excise and VAT Commissionerates, All Customs Excise and VAT Division Offices, All Customs Excise and VAT Circles and National Board of Revenue along with Broad Band Internet Connection among all above mentioned offices and Data Center & Disaster Recovery Center for 3(three) years.
24	Tender Document Price	Tk. 3000/- (Taka Three Thousand) only.
25	Lot No.	Identification of Lot
26	Single Lot	Supply, installation and distribution of VPN data link between iVAS Unit and All Customs Excise and VAT Commissionerates, All Customs Excise and VAT Division Offices, All Customs Excise and VAT Circles and National Board of Revenue along with Broad Band Internet Connection among all above mentioned offices and Data Center & Disaster Recovery Center for 3(three) years.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Zakia Sultana
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Member(VAT: Policy), National Board of Revenue
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	National Board of Revenue, Rajashaw Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 8321308 Email: tender@vat.gov.bd
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	


Zakia Sultana
Member (VAT: Policy)
National Board of Revenue (NBR)
Rajashaw Bhaban
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
Phone: 8321308
Email: zakiasultananbr@yahoo.com

GD-649

Victims of land-grab ostracised

Two Hindu families living in fear for raising allegations against local influentials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Two Hindu families in Dinaipur are now passing days in fear of reprisal from local influentials – including the local lawmaker's brother, land officials and police – against whom the families have brought allegations of land grabbing.

The victims, who have already been ostracised, are now facing continuous threats of eviction from the vested quarters.

Some people appointed by the influential quarters are also holding processions and human chains, citing that the allegations against them are politically-motivated.

Bikash Roy of Phulbari upazila's Pukhurihat village and Ram Tudu of Faridabad village held press conferences at Dinaipur Press Club recently.

Bikash alleged Mushfiqur Rahman Babul, general secretary of Awami League's Phulbari unit and younger brother of the local lawmaker, runs a land-grabbing gang. Bikash's ancestors acquired a pond covering around 2.40 acres at Pukhuri Mouza in Phulbari from the local zamindar. However, it was listed as a vested property in 2003-2004 unlawfully, he said.

"We came to know about it in 2012. We filed a case against it. The case is currently under trial," he said.

Phulbari's incumbent assistant commissioner (AC-land) Shamima Akter and former AC-land Kaniz Afroz leased out the pond to a local influential, who is a close aide to Babul. Subsequently, Babul took possession of the pond, said Bikash.

Phulbari Police Station's officer-in-charge Ashraful Islam was also involved with the process, alleged Bikash.

Bikash said he was being harassed by the influential quarters for raising his voice about the issue. They also filed four "false" cases against him. "We don't feel safe even inside our home. Locals have stopped selling food to us."

Ram Tudu brought similar allegations saying his ancestors had 1.20-acre land at Faridabad. But the land was enlisted as a vested property in 2012. The officials leased out the disputed land to Babul's close-aides and four "false" cases have also been filed against him.

Contacted, Shamima Akter said she leased out the land as per law. OC Ashraful Islam said the allegations against him are baseless. Babul also denied the allegations and said he does not know anything about it.



Patients are being administered saline at Barishal General Hospital. Like Dhaka, Barishal city has also seen a spike in diarrhoea cases in the last few weeks. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Two killed in Dhaka road accidents

Three more die in crashes across the country

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Dhaka's Gulshan and Rampura areas yesterday.

The deceased are Abdul Latif (48), a vegetable seller, and Sadman Sakib (31), a private service holder.

Latif, on a vegetable-carrying pickup van, was heading towards Nadda from Karwan Bazar around 5:00am. He sustained head injuries when the van hit a road divider, said his brother-in-law Manik Mia.

He was rushed to DMCH, where he died around 9:00am.

Meanwhile, Sakib sustained critical injuries after being hit by a covered-van while he was crossing the road near Rampura BTS Station around 5:30am, said SI Sazzad Hossain of

Rampura Police Station. Police seized the covered van and detained its driver.

Besides, three people were killed and three were injured across the country yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Joypurhat town, a former LGED engineer was killed after a speeding motorbike hit him on Joypurhat-Bogura Road. The deceased is Halimur Rashid (65).

He used to work at LGED in Joypurhat.

In Panchagarh, madrasa teacher Md Abdullah (42) was killed after his bike hit a tree on Boda-Pachpir Road.

In Dinaipur, a youth was killed, and two were hurt, after two motorbikes collided in Hajimor area on Dinaipur-Parbatipur Road, said police. The deceased is Sanwar Islam (20).

Man fined for hoarding 3,080-litre soybean oil

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A mobile court yesterday fined a man Tk 50,000 for illegally stocking 3,080 litres of soybean oil in Bagerhat.

Rakib Hasan Chowdhury, assistant commissioner of the district administration, slapped the fine as an executive magistrate, after raiding "Siam Enterprise", the store of Mokbul Hossain, in Nagerbazar area of Bagerhat town.

Rakib said the district administration is conducting regular mobile courts in Bagerhat to keep prices of daily essentials normal during Ramadan. They will continue campaign against illegal hoarders.

Shedding light on higher edu landscape

British Council holds symposium CITY DESK

To explore different issues related to the country's higher education scenario, a symposium was organised by the British Council at a city hotel on March 29.

The symposium was an attempt to find answer to the question – how do you improve the quality of higher education and make it more relevant to labour market demands?

Prof Dr Biswajit Chanda from UGC, the UK Trade Envoy to Bangladesh, Rushanara Ali and Dr Mokhlesur Rahman from the World Bank attended the event, presided over by Tom Miscioscia, director, British Council Bangladesh.

পরিচালক (প ও উ) এর কার্যালয় ফোনঃ ০২-৪২১৪২১৬৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৪২১৪২১৬৬ No. JUST/Physics/10(22)606		যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় যশোর Date: 02/04/2022
Invitation for E-GP (OTM) Tender		
Tender ID 681777	JUST/Physics/10(22)606 Date: 02/04/2022	Tender published 05/04/22 at 9.00am
Tender ID 681781	JUST/APPT/PG-1(22)1 Date: 02/04/2022	Tender published 05/04/22 at 9.00am
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System.		
Paritosh Kumar Biswas Director GD-647 Planning, Development and Works, JUST, Jashore		

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Madaripur Phone and Fax: 0661-61266 E-mail: eemrhdh@gmail.com					
Memo No: 425		Date: 03/04/2022			
e-Tender Notice					
e-Tender is being in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:					
Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1.	678982 (e-GP-29)	Supplying & fitting fixing of Traffic Sign, Sign Post, Directional Sign: Overhead, Cantilever, On land at Sheikh Hasina Regional Highway (R-860) from Ch. 00+000 to Ch. 16+000, Pachchar-Sibchar-Madaripur Regional Highway (R-862) from Ch. 00+000 to Ch. 34+000, Kotalipara-Rajoir Road (Z-8032) from Ch. 17+100 to Ch. 27+900, Kathalbari Ferryghat Road (Z-8013) from Ch. 00+000 to Ch. 2+874, Madaripur (Iteerpool)-Pathariar Par-Gosherhat-Dasher-Agailjhara Road (Z-8603) from Ch. 00+000 to Ch. 13+506, Madaripur-Kalkini-Bhurgahata Road (Z-8604) from Ch. 00+000 to Ch. 18+585, Dasher Thana Connecting Road (Z-8611) from Ch. 00+000 to Ch. 02+910 & Kotalipara (Radhaganj)-Pirerbari-Dakshin Dasher Road (Z-8035) from Ch. 14+100 to Ch. 23+800 along with Reflecting sheet, overhead Cantilever & Sign with Post at Hazi Shariatullah (Ch. 54+500) toll Plaza & from Ch. 88+325 to Ch. 115+000 of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Mawa-Bhanga-Barisal-Patuaakhali National Highway (N-8) under Madaripur Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	19/04/2022 at 17:00	20/04/2022 at 14:00	20/04/2022 at 14:00
2.	678983 (e-GP-30)	Construction of 1.00 No. R.C.C Box Culvert of Single vent Straight 2.00m Clear, 3.00m height & 10.25 width at Ch. 07+500 of Madaripur-Kalkini-Bhurgahata Road (Z-8604) PMP (Minor) under Road Division Madaripur during the year 2021-2022.	19/04/2022 at 17:00	20/04/2022 at 14:15	20/04/2022 at 14:15
1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal. 2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. 3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).					
Md. Rafiqul Islam ID No. 601951 Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Madaripur GD-646					

চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন সচিবালয় বিভাগ সংস্থাপন শাখা (www.ccc.gov.bd) নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের স্মারক নং- ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০৭১.১১.০০১.২০১২(অংশ-১).৭৮ তারিখঃ ২৬/০১/২০২০ এর নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুমোদিত অর্গানোগ্রামমুক্ত নিম্নে বর্ণিত শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ				
ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতনক্রম ও গ্রেড	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুর)	২২০০০-৫০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯)	৬টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে পুরকৌশলে অন্যান্য দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি। (খ) বাংলাদেশের ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইনস্টিটিউট এর সদস্য হইতে হইবে।
শর্তাবলীঃ				
১। প্রার্থীদের বয়স ১৮ থেকে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়স হবে ৩২ বছর। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোনক্রমেই এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।				
২। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সত্যায়িত সদ্য তোলা ৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের ছবি, জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র, অভিজ্ঞতা (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ত্রয়ালিপি প্রথম শ্রেণির কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়নপূর্বক সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।				
৩। মেয়র, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন বরাবরে ১০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্যমানের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।				
৪। প্রার্থী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা হলে এ সম্পর্কে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।				
৫। ক্রটিপূর্ণ বা অসম্পূর্ণ দরখাস্ত বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।				
৬। প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন বরাবরে আবেদন করতে হবে।				
৭। লিখিত পরীক্ষা ও সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টি.এ/ডি.এ দেয়া হবে না।				
৮। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যোগাযোগের নির্ভুল ঠিকানা সফলিত স্ট্যাম্পসহ 'ফেরত খাম' দিতে হবে।				
৯। সরকারি পরিপত্র অনুযায়ী বিভিন্ন কোটা সংরক্ষণ করা হবে।				
১০। আবেদনপত্র আগামী ১৮/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সচিবালয় বিভাগের সংস্থাপন শাখায় (৪র্থ তলায়) জমা দিতে হবে।				
চলিকা/জস/-১১৫/২১-২২ সাহিজঃ ৬"×৩ কঃ জিডি-৬৫৬				
প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন				

ZILA PARISHAD FENI www.zpfeni.gov.bd		শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি		
Memo No-ZPF/ENG.SEC/07(1)2021-22/144(30)		Date: 04/04/2022		
Invitation for e-Tender Notice No-05/2021-22				
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal(http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)for the procurement of following works. Details are given below:				
Sl No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Tender Security Last Submission (Date/Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date/ Time)
1	681882	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-01	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
2	681883	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-02	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
3	681884	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-03	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
4	681885	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-04	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
5	681886	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-05	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
6	681887	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-06	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
7	681888	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-07	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
8	681890	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-08	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
9	681891	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-09	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
10	681892	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-10	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
11	681893	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-11	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
12	681894	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-12	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
13	681895	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-13	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
14	681896	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-14	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
15	681897	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-15	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
16	681898	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-16	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
17	681899	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-17	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
18	681900	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-18	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
19	681901	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-19	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
20	681902	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-20	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
21	681903	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-21	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
22	681904	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-22	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
23	681905	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-23	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
24	681906	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-24	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM
25	681907	e-Tender/ADP/ZP/FENI/21-22/W-25	21-04-2022 1.00 PM	21-04-2022 4.00 PM

- Source of fund : ADP Fund.
- This is an online Tender, Where only e-Tender will accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches **date up to 21/04/2022 at 12.00 Noon.**

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

08/08/2022
(Abu Daud Md.Gulam Mustafa)
Chief Executive officer
Zila Parishad, Feni

GD-654



(L-R) BTS perform their hit song, "Butter". Silk Sonic, winner of Record and Song of the Year for 'Leave the Door Open', perform at the ceremony. Lady Gaga performs the song "Love for Sale". Billie Eilish performs the song "Happier Than Ever".

PHOTOS: REUTERS

Grammys 2022: Who won on music's biggest night?

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a surprising appearance to ask for support from everyone during these unfortunate times.

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

The 64th Grammy Awards was a night of wonder and as pointed out by host Trevor Noah, a concert where awards are doled out and people's names are kept out of people's mouths. It was an intentional jab at Will Smith infamously slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars.

Jon Batiste's lyrically evocative "We Are" won Album of the Year while Silk Sonic won Record and Song of the Year for their hit song "Leave the Door Open". As expected, Olivia Rodrigo bagged the award for Best New Artist and Best Pop Vocal Album.



Olivia Rodrigo accepts the Grammy award for Best Pop Vocal Album for 'Sour'.



Ukrainian singer Mika Newton performs.

and Jungkook faced minor slip-ups during the performance, they recovered effortlessly. Rodrigo performed her hit single - one of the biggest earworms of the past year - "Driver's License" and also won Best Pop Solo Performance for this song.

Doja Cat and SZA scored a memorable win with their Best Pop Duo/Group Performance award. It was a big night for H.E.R. as she won Best Traditional R&B Performance award and delivered a soaring rendition of "Are You Going to Go My Way", accompanied by iconic guitarist Lenny Kravitz, and Travis Barker on drums.

Lil Nas X entertained with a rousing medley of his biggest hits while Lady Gaga sang a duet with Tony Bennett from their latest album "Love for Sale". Justin Bieber gave a stilted performance of the feel-good pop song "Peaches" and Billie Eilish belted

out a touching rendition of "Happier Than Ever".

Arooj Aftab became the first Pakistani artiste to win a Grammy. She took home the prestigious trophy for her song "Mohabbat" in the Best Global Performance category.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a surprising appearance to ask for support from everyone during these unfortunate times. It was followed by a poignant performance from John Legend, who shared the spotlight with Ukrainian singer Mika Newton, musician Siuzanna Igidan and poet Lyuba Yakimchuk to sing "Free", and give a visual salute to Ukraine.

During the In Memoriam segment, Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins was honoured along with musical legend Stephen Sondheim.



(L) Arooj Aftab poses with her Grammy for Best Global Music performance at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards. (R) Jon Batiste accepts the Grammy award for Album of the Year for 'We Are'.



However, the talk of the town is not about her big wins but her surprise cameo during BTS's exuberant performance of their massive hit "Butter". Although singer J-Hope

Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor to get married this month?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood stars Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor are reportedly set to tie the knot in an intimate ceremony this month, Indian media reported.

According to *India Today*, the much-awaited wedding will finally happen in mid-April.

The lovebirds will tie the knot in a private wedding ceremony with close friends and family in attendance. Their wedding will take place in Mumbai, as per reports.

Earlier, there were reports the couple would get married in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

On the work front, Alia and Ranbir will next be seen in "Brahmastra" together. The film is scheduled for release on September 9, 2022.



Prosenjit-Mithila's 'Ay Khuku Ay' to hit theatres on May 27

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned Indian actor Prosenjit Chatterjee will be seen in a different avatar in Sauvik Kundu's forthcoming feature film "Ay Khuku Ay". Celebrated Bangladeshi actress Rafiath

Rashid Mithila makes a guest appearance in the film, sharing the screen with him.

"Ay Khuku Ay" is slated for release on May 27. The screenplay of the film is jointly written by Sugata Sinha and Sauvik Kundu.

The movie revolves around a father and daughter, played by Prosenjit and Ditipriya Roy, respectively. Renowned West Bengal actor Jeet, who co-produced the film under the banner of Jeet FilmWorks, reportedly has a cameo in it.



COUNTRYWIDE

RATNAI BRIDGE

A disaster waiting to happen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Ratnai Bridge on Lalmonirhat-Mughalhat road in Durakuti area of Sadar upazila has turned risky as it has tilted on the west end.

The bridge over the Ratnai river may collapse at any time and cause major accidents.

Locals said the bridge has been lying in a precarious condition for long and there have been no visible steps from the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) yet. Two years ago, the 20-kilometre stretch of the road was widened and revamped spending Tk 28 crore.

But the risky bridge was not repaired or replaced with a new one to facilitate the movement of heavy vehicles. Currently the road is off limit to heavy vehicles.

Shaha Alam, a businessman from Mogholhat area, said as trucks cannot cross the bridge they have to bring goods on light vehicles increasing the



transportation costs.

Chairman of Mogholhat Union Parishad Habibur Rahman said that Ratnai Bridge is very old. It should have been declared abandoned long ago. The pillars of the bridge are now in grave danger.

The authorities concerned have been contacted on several times but no solution has been found so

far, said the chairman.

Khalid Saifullah Sardar, executive engineer of RHD in Lalmonirhat, said they have got the approval and funding for the construction of a new bridge over the river at Durakuti point.

The construction work of the new bridge will start by September this year, he added.



Tobacco leaves being dried in the sun along both sides of this village road, putting the health of local residents, who use this road, at risk. The photo was taken from Fakirpara village in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila last week.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Global

FROM PAGE 12

Ukraine says it has evacuated thousands of civilians in recent days from the city, a main target for Russia's current offensive and surrounded by areas in the hands of Russian-backed separatists in the Donbas region.

Ukraine was preparing for what its general staff said were about 60,000 Russian reservists called in to reinforce the offensive there, while British military intelligence also said Russian troops, including contractors from the Wagner private military company, were moving to the east.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Russian President Vladimir Putin and his supporters would "feel the consequences" of events in Bucha.

Western allies would agree on further sanctions against Moscow in coming days, he said, though it was not clear how quickly a new package could come together or if it would include Russian energy exports.

France's Macron said new sanctions were needed, including on oil and coal, and there were very "clear clues pointing to war crimes" by Russian forces.

Mominul

FROM PAGE 12

different," said Mominul to the media after the game yesterday.

Mominul, however, was happy with the way youngsters applied themselves in the game, especially credited Mahmudul Hasan Joy for becoming the first Bangladeshi to score a hundred in South Africa in the first innings.

Bangladesh will take on South Africa in the second and series-deciding Test on April 7 at Port Elizabeth.

Cop suspended

FROM PAGE 1

and verbally abused her after seeing a teep on her forehead while she was going to the campus.

The incident drew huge public attention, and people, both men and women, posted photos of themselves wearing teep on social media as a form of protest.

Biplob Kumar Sarker, deputy commissioner of the Teigaon division, said, "We have identified the policeman... He admitted that an incident occurred with college teacher Lata Samaddar."

"Now we will carry out a proper investigation on the basis of the general diary filed by the teacher."

He added that police have been working tirelessly to identify the culprit after Lata filed the GD.

Constable Tareque had been working with the protection division of DMP.

Replying to a query, the DC said, "We don't need to take him in custody. He is a policeman... We will talk to him whenever necessary during the investigation."

Biplob said they found

that the motorcycle, mentioned in the GD, belongs to the constable and has valid papers.

DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said departmental action would be taken against the constable once the investigation is done.

According to sources, DMP's Teigaon Division first collected the CCTV footage and sent it to all divisions to identify the policeman after the GD was filed. The protection division was the one to identify him.

Rubaiyet Zaman, additional deputy commissioner of Teigaon Division, told The Daily Star that on the day of the incident, Tareque was on his way to work, adding that they would talk to him about his alleged behaviour.

"We will find out what actually happened after talking to both parties."

Contacted yesterday, Prof Malay Bala of Dhaka University, husband of Lata, said he was content that the DMP could identify the policeman and has taken action against him.

Iran blames US for halt to Vienna nuke talks

REUTERS, Dubai

The United States is responsible for the pause in talks between Tehran and world powers in Vienna aimed at reviving their 2015 nuclear deal, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

"America is responsible for the halt of these talks... a deal is very much within reach," Saeed Khatibzadeh told a weekly news conference.

"Washington should make political decision for the deal's revival," he said, adding that Tehran would "not wait forever".

The US State Department said on Thursday that a small number of outstanding issues remain in the nuclear talks, adding that the onus was on Tehran to make those decisions.

Iran has said that there are still outstanding issues.

Secondary

FROM PAGE 12

ministry official said that the decision to change the date was taken keeping different discussions in mind.

Earlier, the primary and mass education ministry decided that all primary schools and colleges will remain open till the 20th of Ramadan (April 22), with the aim to make up for the pandemic-induced learning loss.

In-person classes in schools resumed in full swing in the middle of March after over 720 days of closure in two phases between March 17, 2020 and March 2022.

politically motivated. My father-in-law is a union level Awami League leader. There was a feud over who would head the local mosque committee, which he currently leads."

Both Dollar and the imam of the mosque were arrested by Rab.

"I want my husband back before Eid. Please let him celebrate Eid with his children," pleaded Pinky, as her four-year-old son Jalsan and one-and-half-year-old son Afrahim gambolled around the room, playing with balloons, oblivious to the danger that their father might be in.

Man's phone last

FROM PAGE 12

English, they said it was because everyone could understand. Why would anyone in Bangladesh need our statement in English?"

Pinky and her family refused to sign the document, because they did not understand what was written in it, she said.

Despite repeated attempts, Rab's legal and media wing director Khondoker Al Moin could not be reached over phone for comments on the matter.

Dollar had previously spent 26 days in prison in 2020, after being accused in a case. "The case was

REUTERS, Washington

US-based South Asia experts said that Pakistan's political crisis is unlikely to be a priority for President Joe Biden, who is grappling with the war in Ukraine, unless it led to mass unrest or rising tensions with India.



Protestors hold banners and placards during a demonstration against the surge in prices and shortage of fuel and other essential commodities in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. Sri Lanka's president offered to share power with the opposition, as protests escalated across the country demanding his resignation over worsening shortages of food, fuel and medicines.

PHOTO: AFP

AFP, Geneva

Fresh data from the UN health agency showed that every corner of the globe is dealing with air pollution, although the problem is much worse in poorer countries. "Almost 100 percent of the global population is still

"The evidence base for the harm caused by air pollution has been growing rapidly and points

"After surviving a pandemic, it is unacceptable to still have seven million preventable deaths and countless preventable losses of years of good health due to air pollution," Neira said.



AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam announced yesterday that she will step down in June, ending a divisive term that saw democracy protests squashed and strict pandemic curbs plunge the business hub into international isolation. Ending months of speculation, Lam confirmed she would not seek a second term when a committee made up of the city's political elite chooses a new leader next month. "I will complete my five-year term as chief executive on June 30, and officially conclude my 42-year career in government," Lam told reporters. Lam said China's leaders "understood and respected" her choice not to seek another term and that she wanted to spend more time with her family.

AFP, Geneva

people from a life raft in the Mediterranean early Saturday morning, the Doctors Without Borders charity said. "We know from our initial contact with Alegria 1 that the survivors reported being at sea for at least four days on a boat with nearly 100 people on board," the charity, which goes by its French

acronym MSF, said in a tweet. According to a transcript of the logbook of exchanges with the tanker, seen by AFP, the tanker said “around 96 people died in the water.”

REUTERS

The result: global emissions are on track to blow past the 1.5 degrees C warming limit

FROM PAGE 12

President Alvi has dissolved the National Assembly (NA) on the advice of Prime Minister Khan, minutes after Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri rejected a no-confidence motion against the premier, who has effectively lost the majority in the 342-member lower house of Parliament.

At this point, only severe emissions cuts in this decade across all sectors, from agriculture and transport to energy and buildings, can turn things around, the report says.

Ahsan Bhoon, President Supreme Court Bar, said that the action of the prime minister and deputy speaker was against the constitution and "they should be prosecuted for treason under Article 6 of the constitution".

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

National Board of Revenue (NBR)

iVAS Administrative Unit

IDEB Bhaban (7th Floor), Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

Email: pdvatonline@gmail.com, Phone: +8802-8321308

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1	Ministry/Division	Internal Resources Division (IRD), Ministry of Finance		
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR)		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Member(VAT: Policy)		
4	Procurement Entity Code	N/A		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Hardware (Server, Storage, Load Balancer etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related services for 03(Three) years.		
7	Invitation Ref No	08.01.0000.068.11.005.12(18)/2021.48		
8	Date	05/04/2022		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	NCT Open Tendering Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Government Budget (GOB)		
11	Development Partner	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project / Programme Code	N/A		
13	Project / Programme Name	N/A		
14	Tender Package No.	Lot - 01		
15	Tender Package Name	Hardware (Server, Storage, Load Balancer etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related services for 03(Three) years.		
16	Tender Publication Date	05/04/2022		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	11/05/2022		
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	12/05/2022 Time: 02:00PM		
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	12/05/2022 Time: 02:30PM		
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address(s) -Selling Tender Document (Principle) -Selling Tender Document (Others) -Receiving Tender Document -Opening Tender Document		
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Joint Commissioner iVAS Administrative Unit IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Meeting Date: 26/04/2022 Time: 11:00 AM Queries Submission Date: 21/04/2022, before 5:00 PM Place: Conference Room, iVAS Administrative Unit IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Qualification criteria described in the Tender Document.		
23	Brief Description of Goods & Service	Hardware (Server, Storage, Load Balancer etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related services for 03(Three) years.		
24	Tender Document Price	Tk. 3000/- (Taka Three Thousand) only.		
25	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Completion Time
	Single Lot	Hardware (Server, Storage, Load Balancer etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related services for 03(Three) years.	As per schedule section-6	12,00,000 (Twelve Lac) As per tender document
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Zakia Sultana		
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Member(VAT: Policy), National Board of Revenue		
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	National Board of Revenue, Rajashaw Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000		
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 8321308	Email: tender@vat.gov.bd	
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			

Zakia Sultana

Member (VAT: Policy)

National Board of Revenue (NBR)

Rajashaw Bhaban
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.

Phone: 8321308

Email: zakiasultanabr@yahoo.com

GD-650

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

National Board of Revenue (NBR)

iVAS Administrative Unit

IDEB Bhaban (7th Floor), Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

Email: pdvatonline@gmail.com, Phone: +8802-8321308

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

1	Ministry/Division	Internal Resources Division (IRD), Ministry of Finance
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Member(VAT: Policy)
4	Procurement Entity Code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Network equipments (Router, Switch, Firewall etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related jobs for 03 (Three) years.
7	Invitation Ref No	08.01.0000.068.11.005.12(18)/2021.49
8	Date	05/04/2022

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Method	NCT Open Tendering Method
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds	Government Budget (GOB)
11	Development Partner	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project / Programme Code	N/A
13	Project / Programme Name	N/A
14	Tender Package No.	Lot - 02
15	Tender Package Name	Network equipments (Router, Switch, Firewall etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related jobs for 03 (Three) years.
16	Tender Publication Date	05/04/2022
17	Tender Last Selling Date	16/05/2022
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	17/05/2022 Time: 02:00PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	17/05/2022 Time: 02:30PM
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address(s)
	-Selling Tender Document (Principle)	Joint Commissioner
	-Selling Tender Document (Others)	iVAS Administrative Unit
	-Receiving Tender Document	IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
	-Opening Tender Document	
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Meeting Date: 28/04/2022 Time: 11:00 AM Queries Submission Date: 21/04/2022, before 5:00 PM Place: Conference Room, iVAS Administrative Unit IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of Tenderer	Qualification criteria described in the Tender Document.			
23	Brief Description of Goods & Service	Network equipments (Router, Switch, Firewall etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related jobs for 03 (Three) years.			
24	Tender Document Price	Tk. 3000/- (Taka Three Thousand) only.			
25	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security (BDT)	Completion Time
	Single Lot	Network equipments (Router, Switch, Firewall etc.) Support Service and Maintenance at Data Center in BCC and Disaster Recovery Center at Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka West and Other related jobs for 03 (Three) years.	As per schedule section-6	12,00,000 (Twelve Lac)	As per tender document

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Zakia Sultana	
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Member(VAT: Policy), National Board of Revenue	
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	National Board of Revenue, Rajashaw Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000	
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 8321308	Email: tender@vat.gov.bd
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.		

Zakia Sultana

Member (VAT: Policy)

National Board of Revenue (NBR)

Rajashaw Bhaban

Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.

Phone: 8321308

Email: zakiasultanabr@yahoo.com

GD-648

Make emergency helpline service more efficient

Install automatic location identification system, address manpower crisis

WHAT'S the point of having a national emergency helpline if citizens don't have help coming their way on time? According to a report published by this daily, the helpline 999—which allows citizens in trouble to call and ask for help from police, fire service or ambulance service providers in case of any crime, accident or other emergencies—responds to distress calls at a much slower pace than that of the developed countries. While the average response time of the 999 unit in Bangladesh is about 20 minutes, it is only seven minutes in countries such as the US, the UK, and Japan. Many service-seekers even alleged that they had to wait for hours after calling the helpline.

While the helpline unit, which started its operation in December 2017, initially received 8,000 to 12,000 calls every day, now there are around 30,000 calls. And while the unit is expected to have the capacity to attend to at least 500 calls at a time, it can only take 100 calls. This is because it doesn't have sufficient manpower, or the technological/logistical support necessary to cater to the increased number of service-seekers.

The unit, importantly, doesn't have the automatic caller identification and location system, which can locate a caller's exact address instantly and significantly cut down the response time. This system, crucial for any emergency helpline, hasn't been installed even after a decision by the authorities to do so in August 2019. As a result, too much time is lost in trying to identify the locations of service seekers as the callers themselves have to provide all the information that service providers need before the latter can send a team to help them.

Also, everything—from pinpointing their locations to communicating with the various service providers to finally assigning a team to rescue or help them—is currently done manually, which is a time-consuming process. This is another example of the inefficiency of the system.

The authorities must upgrade it according to international standards. In order for the helpline to work efficiently, greater coordination among all the ministries and departments concerned is needed, because getting the required information from all is key to making the system work. In addition, the manpower crisis identified by the relevant officials must be addressed on a priority basis if the people are to get any service from the helpline. Awareness must also be raised about the importance of such an emergency service so that no one abuses the system or the service providers through blank or prank calls. These measures and reforms are vital for the system to do its work.

A real tragedy is unfolding in Sri Lanka

It should serve as an alarming lesson for us in Bangladesh

WE are heartbroken by what is happening in Sri Lanka. Years of mismanagement and nepotism, followed by the Covid-19 pandemic and global economic instability because of the war in Ukraine, have left its economy in shambles. We sympathise with the Sri Lankans, who after years of turmoil due to civil war, have once again been thrust into great difficulty, even though they have no blame for what is currently transpiring in their country.

The island nation of nearly 22 million people has been grappling with rolling blackouts for up to 13 hours a day, as the government scrambles to secure foreign exchange to pay for fuel and other essential imports. Sri Lanka's acute foreign currency shortage has largely been driven by sharp declines in tourism and remittances—its two main sources of foreign currency. Failing to diversify its export basket over the years has pushed Sri Lanka into the worst economic turmoil in the country's history since its independence in 1948. The family-based politics practised in Sri Lanka have also led to years of nepotism and unchecked corruption, and years of poor debt management ultimately overburdened the economy to the point of complete collapse.

According to experts, what's happening in Sri Lanka should serve as a strong lesson for Bangladesh, which suffers from many of the same problems that its government high-ups refuse to even acknowledge, let alone address. And one can only hope that our government officials have the capacity to take heed of it before it's too late. While Sri Lanka is somewhat a victim of Black Swan events, its leaders totally failed to prepare the country's economy to face any unpredictable economic shocks—which somewhat predictably is bound to happen at some point. Similarly, we have also seen government high-ups in Bangladesh come out when things go wrong and claim that there was no way of them predicting the external circumstances, so what happened was not their fault. While the former might be true to some extent, there is no excuse for not establishing strong economic pillars in the country that can automatically absorb most external shocks.

The tragic collapse of the Sri Lankan economy, followed by the civil strife and mass resignation of its cabinet members, should wake us up to the grave danger that we ourselves could face. We must work towards diversifying our exports and securing our macroeconomic stability, and send a strong message to our political class of the danger of them living in their own bubbles, ignoring experts' warnings and people's concerns.



How can we stop migrant workers' deaths abroad?



ON THE SHORES OF (IN)JUSTICE

Dr CR Abrar is an academic and heads the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU).

CR ABRAR

SHOBUJ, a young man from Tangail, in his late twenties, was reluctant to comply with his supervisor's instruction to enter a sewage pipe for maintenance work without an oxygen cylinder. He thought it was too risky. He had been in the Middle East for more than a year and, despite fulfilling the stipulated obligations of his work contract, his company was not issuing him the *Iqama* (residence card tied to employment). Shobuj was aware that the document was critical to prove his bona fide stay and employment in that land, and failure to show it on demand to the members of law enforcement agencies might entail a prison term for irregular stay. After weighing the pros and cons of not doing the task—that bore the risk of termination and deportation—and his supervisor's reassurance that the matter of his *Iqama* would soon be sorted out, Shobuj descended into the unsafe sewage pipe with a couple of his workmates. Soon, they suffered from asphyxiation (presumably from entrapped gas), and Shobuj subsequently succumbed to it.

To this day, Shobuj's family has not received any explanation as to why no appropriate safety equipment was provided to him, nor what precluded the company from issuing him the *Iqama* for such a long time. No less important was the absence of any explanation as to why the family would not get any compensation for the death of an employee in an accident while performing a task that was assigned to him.

Shobuj's case is not an isolated one. Each year, thousands of workers from the Asian region die in the countries where they go to earn a livelihood. While a section of these mostly young men and women die due to road accidents and explainable causes, many such deaths cannot, in reality, be attributed to "natural causes" (that are marked in the official records), and are deemed to be "avoidable" if appropriate mitigating measures were taken by the authorities concerned.

About 70-80 percent of the 58 million migrant workers who work in the Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are engaged in low paid sectors: domestic work, hospitality or construction. A good section of them work under the open sky—those in construction sites, maintenance tasks, orchards or tending animals. Their exposure to heat, humidity and dust storms is relatively higher than those who work in covered compounds. Despite periodic expressions of concerns by a few international rights bodies and limited reporting in the mainstream media, there is a paucity of organised information, data and research on this important issue. A recent multi-country research and advocacy initiative, named the Vital Signs, produced a report titled "The Deaths of Migrants in Destinations" and helped trigger discussions at the national level in a few countries of origin, including Bangladesh.

The principal focus of this initiative is to gather evidence about the experiences of migrant workers who often work and live in difficult and unsafe conditions that can lead to their deaths. It also attempts to engage with members of the workers' families to understand the

Job insecurity, unhygienic living conditions, lack of access to redress mechanisms, and pressure of debt repayment expose migrant workers to long-term chronic psychosocial stress and are likely to have a detrimental impact on their mental and physical health.

trauma and uncertainties they endure when often the sole breadwinners in their families meet untimely and unwarranted deaths. The study and the related national consultations of stakeholders that were held in Bangladesh, India and Nepal in March 2022 have noted that the lack of recognition of the migrant workforce's contributions in the economic development of the countries of destination (CoDs) and the absence of a right-based regime for workers increase their vulnerability. The destination states' lack of initiative for protection of low-skilled migrant workers, and their ability to source workers from another country if one country insists on better protection of its nationals, accord them with undue economic and political leverages over the sending countries. In addition, competition among the labour sending countries to secure a share of the Gulf labour market and the perceived benefits of outward migration (most importantly in the form of remittances) have often discouraged those countries to collectively articulate the demand for better protection of their migrant workforce in the regional and global forums and processes.

Over the years, right groups, trade unions, academics and the media have made detailed documentation of serious abuses of workers and the gaping holes in the protection systems of the destination countries. They also underscored the critical gap in research pertaining to how many workers are dying and the reasons for their deaths. Allegations have been rife that the Gulf states have largely avoided structural labour reforms, while the countries of origin (CoOs) have been unable to ensure proper protection for their citizens abroad.

Studies have claimed that none of the Gulf states have laws to adequately mitigate the risks faced by outdoor workers in extremely harsh climates, and have only addressed the issue with rudimentary blanket ban for stipulated hours during summer. Recent findings in medical research have noted that migrant workers engaged in strenuous work in harsh climatic conditions are likely to suffer from chronic kidney disease (CKD). There is also growing evidence that links poor air quality with acute mortality.

All these, compounded by the challenging—if not abusive—working conditions, including excessive working hours, also take toll on the physical and mental well-being of the migrant workers. Feelings of alienation and isolation and the lack of rest and leisure also contribute to their sufferings. Job insecurity, unhygienic living conditions, lack of access to redress mechanisms, and pressure of debt repayment expose migrant workers to long-term chronic psychosocial stress and are likely to have a detrimental impact on their mental and physical health. There is a growing body of evidence that highlights dangers inherent in work and lax occupational health and safety practices in sectors that employ low-skilled migrant workers. Psychiatric experts in the Gulf have noted that the mental health of migrant workers in the region "is underdocumented, underresearched and underreported."

Demanding and long working hours without rest, leisure and weekly or annual holiday, having to serve in more than one establishment, lack of privacy and private space, and lack of freedom to move and communicate with relatives and friends (including over phone) contribute to the alienation and isolation felt by female workers. In some instances, this is further compounded by physical, verbal and sexual abuse by their employers, followed

by distrust and mental torture inflicted by their partners residing in their home countries. All these take a toll on female workers' mental and physical well-being.

The condition of workers with irregular status is particularly dire. Their insecurity of job and poor working and living conditions harm their mental health. The constant worry of being apprehended, incarcerated and subsequently deported precludes them from accessing healthcare services when they fall sick. It may be noted that in many instances, irregularity in status of migrant workers is not a matter of choice for the concerned workers.

The Covid pandemic has further exacerbated the pre-existing fissures in the healthcare services for low-skilled migrant workers in the CoDs. In view of the fresh evidence generated by the multi-country study on the deaths of migrant workers, both CoOs and CoDs need to take measures to mitigate the health and safety problems that contribute to the untimely and unfortunate deaths of a section of low-skilled migrant workers.

The CoDs need to establish specialised teams of inspectors and medical examiners to ensure that all deaths of migrant workers are investigated and certified in accordance with best international practices. They should commission independent investigations into the causes of migrant workers' deaths, and examine the possible role played by heat and humidity, overwork, air pollution, psychosocial stress, and the workers' ability to access healthcare. There is also the need to take account of circumstances and contexts where invasive autopsies are not possible, and introduce non-invasive and verbal autopsy procedures after consultation with experts.

The CoOs should pass legislation to address the occupational risk of heat stress and ensure mandatory break times. They should also conduct widespread screening and treatment programmes for hypertension and institute studies to find the prevalence of CKD or early-stage kidney disease among low-paid migrant workers.

Destination countries should make primary and emergency healthcare for low-paid migrant workers free of charge, irrespective of their immigration status, and ensure that they have access to mental as well as physical healthcare. CoDs also need to improve the quality of available data on mortality statistics for migrants disaggregated by age, gender, occupation, nationality, date of death, and underlying cause of death—for example, when they are certified without further context or explanation to "natural causes," "cardiac arrest," "acute heart failure" or "acute respiratory failure"—they should be attributed to the ICD code that refers to "ill-defined or unknown cause of mortality" in government records.

The CoOs need to strengthen the capacity of their embassies to deal with death cases and ensure that families can secure compensation when they are entitled to it. The countries of origin should ensure that the issues of investigation into their migrant workers' deaths, protection from risks to migrant workers' health, and migrant workers' access to healthcare are on the agenda of regional processes such as the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the Colombo Process.

A travesty of democracy



Zahid Hussain
is a Pakistani
journalist and
author.

ZAHID HUSSAIN

FACING the ignominy of being voted out, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has taken an unprecedented step—advising the president for dissolution of the National Assembly and calling for early elections. In what many believe to be a blatant violation of the rules, the deputy speaker declared the no-confidence motion illegal on the basis of what he described as a “foreign conspiracy,” thereby scuttling the much-anticipated vote that would decide whether Imran Khan remained in office or not.

Reacting in the immediate aftermath of Sunday morning's events, Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, who heads the think tank Pildat, pointed out in a TV broadcast that Fawad Chaudhry had hardly finished asking Qasim Suri for a ruling that the former deputy speaker began to read out a ruling—no doubt prepared in advance—showing that there had been no “application of mind” to the matter and a pre-prepared plan had been followed.

It was evident that with the crumbling of the ruling coalition and defeat looming in the numbers game, the prime minister had lost the confidence of the house, and that this was a last-ditch attempt to escape his imminent ouster. The development has now plunged the country into a constitutional crisis. The Supreme Court has taken *suo motu* notice of the matter, and the whole country is awaiting its ruling over the government action.

Lawyer Faisal Chaudhry, who is the brother of former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, said there were judgments of the Supreme Court that put Article 5 of the constitution “above all other matters.”

Speaking on a TV channel, he also said that the court would have to have a deeper look into the “Lettergate” affair—a reference to the “threat letter” from a foreign country that Prime Minister Khan has repeatedly alluded to as proof that the no-confidence move

was a part of a global conspiracy. Last week, the PTI government had approached the military leadership to salvage the situation. Over the past several months, the security establishment had taken a step back, leaving the government to fight its own political battles with a re-energised opposition alliance. This



decision seemed to encourage the opposition to step up its attacks on the government.

It also triggered an unravelling of the fragile coalition and led to a rise in the number of dissidents within the ruling party's ranks. The PTI government has been floundering for some time, but no one expected it to unravel so quickly. The rising number of party defectors had also shaken the government and things were looking extremely grim for the embattled prime minister.

By his own admission, the ISI chief had reportedly given Imran Khan three options: face the no-confidence vote, resign or go for elections. Imran Khan apparently opted for the third option, provided the opposition withdrew the no-confidence motion. The shrewd opposition, however, refused and asked for the prime minister's resignation in order to end the showdown. That, many believe,

was the end of the arbitration move involving the security establishment. Meanwhile, the prime minister piloted a fresh narrative: that the opposition's no-confidence motion was part of a “US-backed conspiracy.” He also claimed that he was being threatened for not accepting foreign dictation and for pursuing an

change in Pakistan. The line that most people point to in the communiqué issued after the meeting is, “The committee concluded that the communication amounted to blatant interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan by the country in question, which was unacceptable under any circumstances.”

However, any expert will tell you that this is standard diplomatic parlance whenever a third country comments on matters considered internal by any sovereign state.

But the contention was used by the government to throw out the no-confidence motion.

What is most troubling is that the PTI government is using the issue to declare opposition leaders “foreign agents” and “traitors.” The use of this “ultra-nationalist” card could prove to be extremely dangerous for the country and could harm Pakistan's national interest. The prime minister has been using religion to galvanise his right-wing support base. He has declared the unfolding power struggle “a battle between good and evil”—rhetoric that has made the political environment extremely volatile.

Imran Khan's latest move is a further demonstration of his contempt for parliament and the democratic process. Such unconstitutional steps will only weaken democracy further. Surely, elections are the only solution to current political crisis in the country, but the “apparently unconstitutional” means employed to block voting on the no-confidence resolution sets a bad precedent and cannot be tolerated.

In the words of Deputy Attorney General Raja Khalid Mehmood Khan, the federal government has “toyed” with the law of the land. In his view, the deputy speaker's action was totally in violation of the constitution.

What we witnessed in the National Assembly on Sunday was a travesty of democracy, and what the prime minister doesn't realise is that his surprise “trump card” could easily turn into a nightmare for him if the Supreme Court deems the government's actions “not kosher.”

This article was first published in Dawn, an ANN partner of The Daily Star, on April 4, 2022.

▲
Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan may have avoided getting ousted on April 3, 2022, but his country is now in a constitutional crisis.

FILE PHOTO:
REUTERS

independent foreign policy.

The story of foreign interference in Pakistan's internal political matters was built around a cable from a Pakistani diplomat, based on his conversations with certain American officials. Although the contents of the letter were reportedly shared with some journalists, there is little evidence to substantiate the government's claims that the no-confidence motion was sponsored by foreign forces.

The government, it would seem, purposely exaggerated an informal, undiplomatic expression by an American diplomat to build a narrative that suited their political needs and tried to paint the opposition's “wholly democratic” move as some kind of foreign conspiracy.

Even the statement issued after the national security committee meeting did not directly mention any such foreign-backed conspiracy for regime

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

Ensure equal opportunities for hijras

People of the third gender, known as hijra, are one of the most discriminated against and vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. In our society, the term “hijra” is stigmatised and used as an insult. They are often the targets of jokes and stereotyped as hostile. Normalisation of such behaviour has resulted in their exclusion from society as a whole,

which is a blatant violation of their basic human rights. Radical changes are needed in our society to ensure that hijras have equal rights and opportunities. They have as much potential as any other citizens to contribute to our country's development.

Farhin Tasnim, IUB

Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207

Tender No. 06

Date: 04/04/2022

Invitation for Tender

01	Ministry/Division	Health Services Department, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
02	Agency	Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.		
03	Procuring entity name	Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.		
04	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
05	Tender name	"Supply of Cardiac Mechanical Devices & Cardiac Disposable Items"		
06	Invitation Ref No.	BSHI(M)/2022/ME/01		
07	Date	04.04.2022		
08	Procurement method	OTM (NCT)		
09	Budget and source of fund	Development Budget (GOB)		
10	Development partner	Prime Minister's Relief & Welfare Fund.		
11	Tender publication date	05.04.2022		
12	Tender last selling date and time	08.05.2022, During the office hour within 02.00pm		
13	Tender closing date and time	09.05.2022, 12.00pm		
14	Tender opening date and time	09.05.2022, 01.00pm		
15	Name and address of the office(s)	Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
16	Name and address of the office(s) Selling tender document	1. Primary Place: Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. 2. Secondary Place: Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Thana, Agargaon, Dhaka.		
17	Name and address of the office(s) Receiving tender document	1. Primary Place: Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. 2. Secondary Place: Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Thana, Agargaon, Dhaka. Or by post/courier service/by hand		
18	Name and address of the office(s) Opening tender document	Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute (Board Room), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
19	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	All requirements described in the Standard Tender Document (STD)		
20	Brief description of goods	Lot-01, Cardiac Mechanical Devices Lot-02, Cardiac Disposable Items		
21	Price of tender documents	Tk 5000/- (five thousand only)		
Package No. GD-06	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount in Taka
	01	Cardiac Mechanical Devices	Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute	2.5% of bid amount
	02	Cardiac Disposable Items	Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute	2.5% of bid amount
22	Name of official inviting tender	Prof. (Dr.) Md. Jahangir Alam		
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute		
24	Address of official inviting tender	Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
25	Contact number of official inviting tender	55050451-60		
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject the tender proceedings			
27	Tendering method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
The tender notice can be seen at website: www.dsh.org.bd and www.cptu.gov.bd				
Prof. (Dr.) Md. Jahangir Alam Director Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute				

GD-651

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Dhaka Export Processing Zone
Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka-1349.
(www.bepza.gov.bd)

Ref. No. 03.06.2672.333.018.002.20- 7463

Date: 04-04-2022

Auction Notice (2nd Time)

Sealed tenders (2nd Time) are hereby invited from the interested National/Foreign Buyers/Companies in order to sell Inventoried & Valuated Structure, Machinery & other Materials of a terminated Sweater, Cardigan and Pullover manufacturing industry named M/s. A-One (BD) Ltd., Plot # 114-120, DEPZ (Old Zone) "as and where basis" and also to operate the factory as per the terms & conditions stated below (It was 100% foreign compliance factory located on 3.5 acres of land having 160,000 Sq. feet (Approx.) production floor space. This factory is equipped with state of the art Machinery, Boiler, Generator, Chillers and has Gas connection, which is ready for production):

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested Organizations/Persons/Existing enterprises of EPZ(s) (Local/Joint Venture/Foreign) or any other interested persons/organizations from outside EPZ can take part in this auction who are interested to operate the enterprise in Dhaka EPZ by observing the existing rules and regulations in this regard.
- Successful bidder will have to pay VAT, TAX and other payable fees as per custom rules for the duty free imported materials of the industry to be taken out to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).
- Auction documents attached with a pay order/bank draft/FDD from any schedule bank of an amount of 10% as earnest money (refundable) of the total quoted price must be submitted in favour of BEPZA. Auction documents without earnest money will be treated as rejected.
- Structure, Machinery & other Materials under the inventory list may be seen on 19/04/2022, 20/04/2022 & 21/04/2022 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Information regarding the visit and the list of materials may be collected by contacting with the Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ directly.
- Successful bidder will have to pay the remaining 90% amount of the quoted price along with applicable TAX & VAT within 15 days to BEPZA if the tender is accepted. Accordingly, the delivery of Structure, Machineries & other Materials will have to be taken as per Customs & BEPZA rules.
- Auction Schedule of the company shall be bought by paying Tk. 5,000.00 (non-refundable) within 24/04/2022 during office hours (9:00 am to 3:30 pm) from the Accounts Department of Dhaka-EPZ, Chattogram-EPZ, Adamjee-EPZ & Accounts Department, BEPZA Executive Office, Dhaka.
- Auction schedule shall be dropped on 25/04/2022 on or before 12.00 noon into the auction boxes kept at the office of Executive Director (IP), BEPZA, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 6, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, Executive Director, Dhaka-EPZ, Adamjee-EPZ & Chattogram-EPZ.
- Submitted Auction/Tender documents will be opened on 26/04/2022 at 11.00 am at the office of Executive Director, Dhaka-EPZ in presence of the bidders (If any).
- Successful bidder will be allowed to operate the industrial unit in the EPZ subject to fulfillment of the project sanctioning procedure of BEPZA.
- Persons/Organizations/Investors who are interested to operate this industry will get priority in auction.

The Authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all of the submitted tenders without showing any reason. The Authority also preserves the right to cancel the Auction and accordingly take next action if the desired rates are not obtained.

(Md. Abdu Sobhan)
Executive Director
Phone: 02-996689002
E-Mail: ed.depz@bepza.gov.bd

GD-652

YOUTH IN ACTION

A global movement EMPOWERING WOMEN

Recently, SheDecides Bangladesh hosted an exhibition called, “Art-vism”, which incorporated art and activism to promote bodily autonomy and rights.

USRAAT FAHMIDAH

SheDecides is a global political movement that was launched as a response to defend women’s fundamental rights and bodily autonomy against a policy imposed by former US President Donald Trump, which restricted funding for NGOs in foreign countries that supported abortion advocacy.

The global movement, which empowers women at societal and policy-making levels, has now spread over to 27 countries, including an active chapter in Bangladesh, which started out in 2019.

It aspires to create a society in Bangladesh where women and girls are empowered through raising awareness on bodily autonomy and human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and gender based violence, engaging feminist and youth leadership.

“Young girls face even more blockades to care than older adolescents, in terms of access to proper services and information,” explained Samara Mortada, Movement



Key team members of SheDecides Bangladesh at “Art-vism”.

PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

Supporter at SheDecides.

Samara started out as the Regional Movement Supporter for the Asia region. Now, her current role entails supporting 15 grassroots collectives globally, starting from Portugal, Northern Ireland, Namibia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh, among other countries.

“All our initiatives, which include a radio show ‘In her shoes’, art therapy sessions, debate competitions and collaboration with influencers and activists to create awareness about bodily autonomy— were able to get the attention of the young people, especially young women who are looking for a platform to express their feelings and thoughts around bodily autonomy. SheDecides Bangladesh is planning to hold many more activities to engage young people,” added their Core Project Lead Najia Jarin.

SheDecides has made connections with

activists across the world who champion women empowerment. In Bangladesh too, it has created a space for young people to come together and work on sexual reproductive health and rights.

Recently, SheDecides Bangladesh hosted an exhibition called, “Art-vism”, which incorporated art and activism to promote bodily autonomy and rights. The two- day event involved live painting and community art therapy sessions, alongside different performances.

“We are in the process of designing our new strategy. We will be able to talk more about it when things are finalised. But SheDecides will continue to be a safe space for activists, champions and young people to be able to work towards a world where women decide their futures,” concluded Samara.

The author is a freelance journalist.

GUIDES

5 interesting podcasts for university students

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

One of the best parts about university is having meaningful conversations and coming across fresh ideas. For your daily dose of knowledge, podcasts are a great resource. Just by listening, you can connect to broader discussions and gain new perspectives that will not only help you in your academics but also shape you as a person.

The Bangladeshi Perspective

This Bangla podcast intends to introduce amazing Bangladeshis from all over the world so that listeners can learn from their habits, traits, philosophies, and life lessons. Hosted by Secam Shahid Noor, this podcast contains over 70 interviews. Each episode features an individual from a different industry as they talk about how they grew as an individual, what they learnt along the way and leave valuable suggestions for the young audience.

99% Invisible

99% Invisible, produced and created by Roman Mars, is a weekly exploration of the process and power of design and architecture. The show intends to expose the unseen and overlooked aspects of design, architecture, and activity in the world. Each episode generally focuses on a single topic or specific example, often including interviews with

architects, experts, or people who have influenced or been influenced by a given urban, industrial, graphic or other design. New episodes are added every week.

TED Talks Daily

Every weekday, TED Talks Daily presents the latest talks in audio format. The show’s

host, journalist Elise Hu, is well known for bringing thought-provoking ideas on every subject imaginable; right from artificial intelligence to zoology, and everything in between. This podcast is all set to challenge perspectives, ignite curiosity, and learn something new, one episode at a time. Most TED talks are just as good in audio form as they are in the video, so listeners do not miss out on the overall experience.

Brain Science

Through this podcast, Dr Ginger Campbell, an experienced emergency physician, teaches listeners about the latest findings in neuroscience. It follows her passion for exploring how recent discoveries in neuroscience are revealing how human brains work. What makes it unique is the fact that people from every background can understand and relate to the said discussions and enjoy her interviews with eminent neuroscientists from around the world. With new episodes being added every month, this podcast definitely serves the purpose of gaining more knowledge.

The Tim Ferriss Show

Having authored the bestseller “The 4-Hour Workweek”, Ferriss is already popular for his approach towards work and entrepreneurship. His podcast looks at things through the same unique lens, busting myths and offering practical tips on how to succeed in a business environment. Each episode deconstructs a renowned performer to extract the tactics, tools, and routines that made them stand out. This includes everything from their favourite books, morning routines, time-management tricks, and much more.



ILLUSTRATION: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

PHOTO: SYED HASIB RAHMAN

TALESPEOPLE SPIELS

Once more, with feeling

Dear Reader, Another Ramadan is upon us, and for some of us, that means the return of Sehri Tales. Now entering its fifth year, the humble self-challenge has crossed borders, so that we now have Talers writing in from around the world.

SABRINA FATMA AHMAD

Last year, we got to see some stellar writing and some incredible art. What was more inspiring than the quality of work produced during the holy month, was the community that was formed in the process. There were some people who joined Talespeople to read the fresh stories. They took it upon themselves to cheer on the writers, encouraging the tentative first-timers. It is because of this selfless support that we were truly able to foster a warm, nurturing safe space for our participants. My first shout out this season, therefore, goes to our tireless cheerleaders. You made a fun event so much more meaningful.

When I created the challenge, I hadn’t thought much beyond the intrinsic rewards of producing original writing, but at Talespeople, we wanted to give our participants a little more motivation. Thanks to our collaboration with Star Youth, we got the opportunity to showcase the best writing every day on this wonderful platform provided, and to bring these stories to you! A big heartfelt thank you to The Daily Star for joining us for an encore.

A fifth year is a milestone indeed, and we hope to celebrate with some neat surprises. So stay tuned for more announcements, and more importantly, please stay hydrated.

The author is the founder of the Sehri Tales annual creativity challenge



INTERVIEW

Blending creativity with development communication

We did a workshop in Rajshahi this year with icddr,b under USAID ACTB (Alliance for Combating Tuberculosis) Project which helped to raise awareness for TB.

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Adnan Mehedee Khan is the Director of Project Development & Communication in Jolputul Puppets, a non-profit organisation that hosts puppet shows. He also works with mPower Social Enterprises Limited as Manager of Communications & External Relations.

Adnan is currently pursuing a post-graduation diploma from Pathshala South Asian Media Institute in Film and Television under the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Fellowship. He has earned a place in the Dhaka Hub Global Shapers 2021 Cohort. The Global Shapers are a community of young leaders and changemakers aged between 20 and 30, curated by the World Economic Forum. The Dhaka Hub was founded in 2014.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Adnan shared his career journey, valuable insights and more.

What does Jolputul Puppets do? How did you become involved with them?

While transitioning from theatre to puppetry, Jolputul Puppets caught my attention. It is a misconception that puppetry is children’s entertainment. In fact, the kind of activities and campaigns we do attract audiences of different demographics, and work as an effective medium to convey messages about social stigma. We did a workshop in Rajshahi this year with icddr,b under USAID ACTB (Alliance for Combating Tuberculosis) Project which helped to raise awareness for TB.

What does your work as Manager of mPower Social Enterprises Limited entail?

This job gave me the opportunity to work in USAID’s Youth Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Support (YES) Activity Programme. As I am leading a team of communication professionals in projects that empower the youth, I get firsthand experience

of how today’s youth think about society and empowerment.

How did you avail the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Fellowship?

It was offered to me for my engagement in in radio, audio visual media, and puppetry. Getting connected with an international hub of professionals from all around the world has been very rewarding.

How has being a part of Dhaka Hub benefitted you?

I had the scope to connect with passionate development workers from multiple disciplines. Collaborations like these were very rewarding for me. From youth engagement to sports, the diversity is boundless.

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



PHOTO: COURTESY/TUTUL NESAR



South Africa's Keshav Maharaj, en route to a seven-wicket haul, gets through the defenses of Yasir Ali on the fifth day of their first Test at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday. Bangladesh's second innings ended abruptly at 53, resulting in a 220-run loss for the Tigers.

PHOTO: AFP

‘We couldn’t handle the pressure’

“We still want to play in conditions where you play three seamers, an all-rounder and a spinner. Fast bowling is our prime source of attack.”

Dean Elgar

South Africa captain

SCORES IN BRIEF (DAY-5)

South Africa: First Innings- 367 all out and Second Innings- 204 all out. **Bangladesh:** First Innings- 298 all out and Second Innings- 53 all out (Shanto 26, Taskin 14; Maharaj 7-32, Harmer 3-21)

Result: South Africa won by 220 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Keshav Maharaj.

BANGLADESH'S LOWEST TOTALS IN TESTS

43 - against West Indies in North Sound, 2018

53 - against South Africa in Durban, 2022

62 - against Sri Lanka in Colombo, 2007

86 - against Sri Lanka in Colombo, 2005

87 - against Pakistan in Mirpur, 2021

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's innings ended in cataclysmic fashion, bundled out in 13 overs of the fifth and final day in Durban for their second-lowest Test score of 53. Most importantly, all of Bangladesh's second innings wickets fell to spin with Keshav Maharaj bagging seven and Simon Harmer scalping three. The 53 Bangladesh managed was also the lowest score by any team at the Kingsmead and only the third time that South Africa have managed to get all 10 wickets in an innings through spin.

However, the last four days of the match had seen the Tigers go toe-to-toe with the Proteas in trying to wrest back control of the match. The visitors were effective, to a certain extent, as they bundled South Africa out for 204 in their second innings but losing three wickets in a six-over spell on day four had proved to be the fatal error as Bangladesh's fourth innings reminded of their past debacles.

Having played spinners in surfaces that are more conducive to spin, it was surprising that Mominul Haque and his troops were not up to the mark with the bat, having fought so well over four days.

“We couldn’t handle the pressure of losing three wickets yesterday very well. I don’t see any other reason,” Mominul said at a press conference yesterday after Bangladesh’s 220-run loss.

“I think it’s a crime to give wickets to spinners on foreign soil. You should not give wickets to spinners while playing overseas. And that’s why

I think I am the one most accountable for such a plight. Obviously, it is a batting failure,” the skipper added.

That Bangladesh gave South Africa a fight for four days and had a real opportunity in the game, chasing 274 in the fourth innings, could also be seen from the way South Africa tried to provoke the Tigers, often in verbal terms. Mominul felt that the on-field behaviour from the Proteas often went overboard. South Africa however managed to rile up the Tigers, who had been frustrated with a few umpiring calls on day four.

“It is normal that there will be sledging on the field. But if sledging crosses the line, then it’s a problem,” Mominul opined on the matter.

Despite the controversial issues, Bangladesh can take heart from their performances in the first Test. Mahmudul Hasan Joy’s 137 – becoming the first Bangladesh batter to score a Test ton against South Africa –

showed how to handle pressure situations and Khaled Ahmed’s four-fer in the first innings made pacers’ contribution more pronounced.

Mominul felt his team will be able to bounce back from this match but it remains to be seen whether experienced heads such as his and Mushfiqur Rahim’s, who batted during those crucial stages when Bangladesh were dwindling to spin, can take up the challenge and put up better contributions in the next Test at Port Elizabeth on April 8.



Bangladesh’s 53 in the second innings against South Africa in the first Test is the Tigers’ second-lowest total in Tests and also the lowest by any team in Durban.

Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer’s 10 wickets in the second innings is only the third instance of South Africa’s spinners taking all the wickets in an innings.

It is the first time in 72 years that South Africa scalped all 10 wickets in an innings in Tests with spinners.

It was the first time in over 100 years that a seamer didn’t bowl a single delivery in a completed innings for South Africa.

Bangladesh’s second innings lasted for 114 deliveries. There have only been five instances of a complete innings lasting fewer deliveries in the last 50 years.

Salma delighted with WC recognition

SPORTS REPORTER

Having represented the nation for over a decade, veteran off-spinner Salma Khatun’s long-cherished dream finally came true as Bangladesh took part in their maiden ODI World Cup last month. And her joy knew no bounds when she learnt that she was included in the Most Valuable Team of the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2022. “All my teammates, including myself, have been dreaming to play the World Cup for a long time. So being inducted into the Most Valuable Team of the event, that too in the first-ever World Cup, means a lot to me,” Salma told The Daily Star yesterday.

Apart from the historic victory against Pakistan, the Tigresses impressed one and all with multiple close encounters against bigger opponents. Nonetheless, Salma earmarked her feat against Australia as her favourite memory from the tournament.

“Australia are a very difficult side to play against. So, bagging three big wickets against them, especially those of Alyssa Healy and skipper Meg Lanning, were very special for me,” Salma said. “I’m grateful that the board is much more serious about women’s cricket than any time in the past. If you see how we took preparation for the World Cup and came to New Zealand a month early to adjust with the condition, these are very positive signs.”



Adjah miss spares Russel’s blushes

SPORTS REPORTER

Big budget outfit Sheikh Russel survived another scare in the Bangladesh Premier League when they came from behind to play out a 1-1 draw against Rahmatganj MFS at the Bashundhara Kings arena yesterday.

However, the successive draw under interim coach Julfikar Mahmud Mintu helped Sheikh Russel come out of the drop zone and stay just above relegation-threatened Muktijoddha Sangsad with seven points from 10 matches. Federation Cup runners-up Rahmatganj were in eighth position with nine points.

Rahmatganj took a fourth-minute lead when Sunday Chizoba collected a left-flank cross from Wali Faisal and shrugged off Aizar Akmatov to drive home from inside the six-yard box.

The lead, though, lasted only two minutes as Mohammad Jewel levelled the margin with a clever shot from inside the box after a long throw-in from Rahmat Mia came his way via a deflection.

Rahmatganj got another opportunity to restore their lead when Philip Adjah was brought down inside the box by Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana, but the Nigerian striker floated his effort over the crossbar in the 12th minute. Sunday rattled the crossbar in the 48th minute before another effort from the Nigerian was saved by Rana in the 66th minute.

At the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla, hosts Mohammedan played out a goalless draw against Bangladesh Police to stay in the seventh position with 14 points, two less than fifth-placed Bangladesh Police.

Benfica target another European scalp

Guardiola promises new tactics against Atletico Madrid

AGENCIES

Benfica face a gargantuan task in the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday but after already knocking out Barcelona and Ajax, there is belief they can spring another surprise against Liverpool.

Many circled Benfica as the kindest opponent available when the draw was made in Nyon last month, with this the furthest the Portuguese club have gone in the Champions League in six years.

The last time Benfica made the semis, they went on to reach the final, in 1990, when a team coached by Sven-Goran Eriksson lost 1-0 to AC Milan and missed out on lifting their third European Cup.

That was the last time Benfica really belonged with Europe’s elite and it would be the shock of the round if they were to upset Liverpool, who, along with Manchester City, are surely this year’s tournament favourites.



“We know it’s Liverpool, but we have to fight, we can play better,” interim coach Nelson Verissimo said on Friday.

Meanwhile, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola admitted that he overthinks and comes up with “stupid tactics” in the Champions League but would not have it any other way as he prepares for Tuesday’s quarter-final tie with Atletico Madrid. Guardiola, a two-time winner of the

competition as a manager with Barcelona, has not won the trophy in 11 years and his teams have often fallen in the knockout stages due to unexpected tactical tweaks and team selection which have caused his system to fail.

“In the Champions League I always overthink – new tactics, tomorrow you will see a new one. I overthink a lot, that’s why I have very good results in the Champions League,” Guardiola told reporters on Monday.

“It would be boring if I always played the same way. If people think I play the same against Atletico and Liverpool, I don’t like (that).”

“The movements are different, the players are all different with different personalities. That’s why I overthink and create stupid tactics. Tonight I take inspiration and I’m going to (come up with) incredible tactics tomorrow.”

Liverpool’s Mohamed Salah attends a training session ahead of tonight’s Champions League first-leg quarterfinal against Benfica in Lisbon.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER



A man harvests honey in the Sundarbans recently after the forest department permitted honey collection between March 15 and May 30. Of myriad varieties of honey, those extracted from Kolshi and Goral flowers are most sought-after in the country.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Mominul takes the blame for Durban debacle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It took just 55 minutes and 13 overs for South Africa to wrap the game up on the fifth day of their first Test against Bangladesh as Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer spun the hosts to a crushing 220-run victory at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday.

Resuming the final day on 11 for three in chase of a 274-run target, Mominul Haque and his troops were bundled out for just 53 – the Tigers’ second-lowest total in Tests. This is also the lowest ever second-innings score by Bangladesh.

Left-arm spinner Maharaj registered his best bowling figure at home, picking up his eighth five-wicket haul. He bagged seven wickets for 32 runs in 10 overs. Off-spinner Harmer, who too scalped seven wickets in the game, bagged three in the second innings as the two spinners accounted for all the ten wickets of the visitors.

Maharaj and Harmer shared 14 wickets between them in the Test as the Bangladeshi batters surrendered helplessly on the final day despite remaining competitive till the fourth day of the match.

The game was not free of dispute as questions were raised by the Bangladesh team management over a few decisions by the umpires. Bangladesh players were also not happy with the sledging faced during the game.

Bangladesh skipper Mominul, however, admitted that he was unable to lead from the front and held himself accountable for the debacle in the second innings.

“Being the captain, I am the one most accountable. I could not take responsibility in both innings. So, I take full responsibility. As a captain, I could not lead from the front. If I were able to lead from the front in both the innings, the result of the match would have been

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN PAKISTAN

Imran nominates ex-CJ as caretaker premier

Move comes as SC adjourns without ruling on his decision to dissolve parliament, call for snap polls

AGENCIES

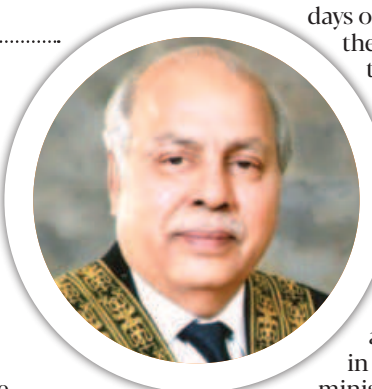
Embattled Pakistani leader Imran Khan yesterday nominated former chief justice Gulzar Ahmed for the office of caretaker prime minister, as the top court adjourned without deciding on the legality of Khan’s actions in blocking an opposition attempt to oust him.

Former information minister and senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party Fawad Chaudhry said that Khan made the decision after approval from the party’s core committee.

The announcement comes after President Arif Alvi sent letters to Khan and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif yesterday seeking suggestions for the appointment of a caretaker prime minister.

“In response to the President’s letter, after consultation and approval by the PTI Core Committee, Prime Minister Imran Khan has nominated Pakistan’s former chief justice Gulzar Ahmed for the post of caretaker Prime Minister,” Chaudhry said.

In his letter, President Alvi told them in case they do not agree on the appointment within three



days of the dissolution of the Parliament, they shall forward two nominees each to a committee to be constituted by the Speaker, comprising eight members of the outgoing assembly, or the Senate, or both, having equal representation from the treasury and the opposition, reports The Dawn online.

The Constitution has empowered the president to appoint a caretaker prime minister in consultation with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition in the outgoing National Assembly, the President’s Secretariat said in a statement.

Imran Khan is supposed to continue as Prime Minister until a caretaker premier is appointed, according to the notification issued by President Alvi.

Meanwhile, Shehbaz Sharif said that he would not take part in the process and termed it “illegal”, saying that the President and Khan had broken the law and questioned how they could approach the opposition, reports NDTV online.

Reacting to Sharif’s decision, outgoing information minister Fawad Chaudhry said: “Pakistan is gearing up for the elections... Shehbaz

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

CIVILIAN KILLINGS NEAR KYIV

Global outrage spreads

Moscow denies accusations of war crimes

AGENCIES

Global outrage spread yesterday at civilian killings in north Ukraine, including evidence of bound bodies shot at close range and a mass grave found in areas retaken from Russian troops, as fighting raged on in the country’s south and east.

Taras Shapravskyi, deputy mayor of Bucha, a town around 40 km northwest of Kyiv city, said 50 of some 300 bodies found after Kremlin forces withdrew late last week were the victims of extra-judicial killings carried out by Russian troops.

Ukrainian authorities said they were investigating possible war crimes there, a description also used by French President Emmanuel Macron. The Kremlin categorically denied any accusations related to the murder of civilians in the town.

Reuters reporters in Bucha saw one man sprawled by the roadside, his hands tied behind his back and a bullet wound to his head. A mass grave at a church

remained open, with hands and feet poking through red clay heaped on top. Pictures of the destruction and civilian deaths in Bucha looked set to galvanise the United States and Europe into fresh sanctions against Moscow.

The images were also poised to overshadow peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, due to restart by video link yesterday against a backdrop of artillery bombardments in Ukraine’s south and east, where Russia says it is now focusing its operations after withdrawing from around Kyiv.

Ukrainian television showed smoking fuel tanks and fire trucks near the Black Sea port of Odesa.

In Mariupol, another strategic southern port that has been under siege and shelled for weeks, the skeletal remains of residential tower blocks and other buildings surrounded by white cement dust and debris dominated the skyline, Reuters images showed.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A man prints blocks on a piece of cloth while a woman watches in the capital’s New Market yesterday. As people were not able to properly celebrate Eid throughout the pandemic, this one holds special value for customers and traders alike. Tailors, designers and sellers are working twice as hard to cater to the growing demands as they expect their biggest sales since 2020.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Secondary schools to remain open till April 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday decided that all secondary schools and colleges will remain open till April 20.

This means that secondary schools and colleges will be open till the 18th of Ramadan.

Abul Khair, the ministry’s public relations officer, confirmed it.

An earlier decision had said they were to remain open till April 26 to recover the learning loss caused by the pandemic-induced school closure, according to an order issued by the Secondary and Higher Education Division on March 28.

A top education

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5