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The Daily Star

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AZAD TO AVIJIT

Deadly cost of freethinking

Verdict over DU professor's murder due tomorrow; families of slain bloggers yet to find closure

SHARIFUL ISLAM, ASHUTOSH SARKAR, EMRUL HASAN BAPPY

Both of them championed the causes of freethought and secularism. And both met the same fate.

They came under machete attacks by extremists near the Bangla Academy while returning from the country's biggest cultural and literary festival, Amar Ekushey Boi Mela.

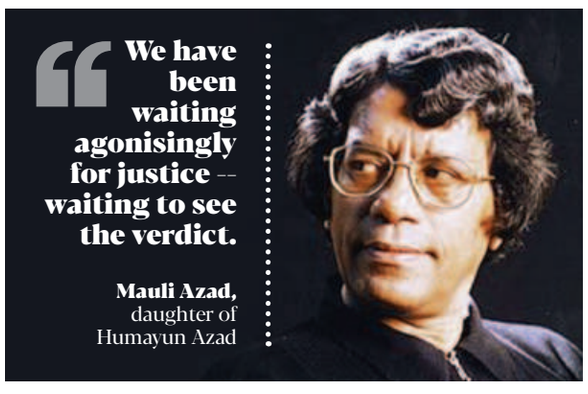
Scholarly writer and academic Prof Humayun Azad was fatally wounded in a machete attack on February 27, 2004.

Exactly 11 years later, on February 26, 2015, writer-blogger Avijit Roy was hacked to death. His wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya suffered serious stab injuries when she tried to save her husband.

Militants also launched fatal attacks on at least six other secularist bloggers and freethinkers in a similar manner in Dhaka and Sylhet between 2013 and 2016. Four of them were killed within just seven months in 2015.

The motive of the attacks, as police investigation revealed, was to muzzle their secular voice, views and freethinking.

None of the families of the victims have yet got justice as four cases filed over the murder of as many secularist bloggers, including Bangladeshi-American Avijit Roy,



remain pending with different courts.

Prof Azad's family didn't even get the lower court verdict though 18 years have gone by.

"We have been waiting agonisingly for justice -- waiting to see the verdict," Mauli Azad, daughter of Humayun Azad, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

Finally, a Dhaka court is set to deliver a verdict in the case tomorrow.

According to the police probe, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operatives swooped on 56-year-old linguist Azad, an acclaimed writer and Bangla professor at Dhaka University, as he was trying to catch a rickshaw to go home from the book fair.

He suffered critical stab wounds to different parts of his body. A day after the attack, his brother Manjur Kabir filed an attempt-to-murder case with Ramna Police Station against some unnamed people.

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Commuters boarding a water taxi in the capital's Gulshan area yesterday. The water taxi service in Hatirjheel is becoming popular as commuters can travel between areas, including Gulshan, Rampura and Karwan Bazar, in a short time, without having to suffer in the perennial gridlock on the streets. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'I forgive my students, will return to classroom'

Hriday Mondal, the teacher who spent 19 days in jail on charges of hurting religious sentiment, tells Star

ZYMA ISLAM

"I will go back to the classroom and continue teaching my students. Forgiving them for their mistakes and helping them differentiate between right and wrong is my job."

This is what Hriday Chandra Mondal, maths teacher of Munshiganj's Binodpur Ram Kumar High School, told The Daily Star yesterday, after spending 19 days in jail.

"There are some young, impressionable students who are being led astray. It's my job to tell them what is right," he also said.

Just weeks ago, Hriday was thrown in jail "for his own safety" after a crowd of locals hurled rocks at his house and beat the door down with stakes.

His son still cannot go to his school. He is being continuously taunted and bullied. Hriday's wife recently told this daily that they were passing days in fear.

Having suffered so badly, Hriday refuses to step back from his role as a teacher, which he has performed for 25 years.

"I faced similar things in the past. Some locals, probably students, threw brick chunks at my house. One day, some boys hurled abuse at me as I was walking by them. As I confronted them, they denied speaking anything abusive."

There were several instances when he found the lock of his cupboard in the school broken. "I used to keep students' fees and the receipts in the cupboard. Now, I take the receipts home."

Hriday believes he had to face all these because he did not agree to students' request to pass them

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BTRC failing to stop hatred on Facebook

HC blasts the regulator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted BTRC for its failure to prevent the spread of hateful contents on Facebook, which has caused disruptions in social and communal harmony in the country.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Khizir Hayat said if the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission had taken measures to stop the spread of fake news on Facebook, the communal attacks, militant activities and chaos during the Durga Puja festival last October would not have happened.

"There are specific provisions under Section 8 of the Digital Security Act, 2018 based on which the BTRC can regulate Facebook and remove or block publication and dissemination of hateful contents from the social media platform.

"But why does the BTRC need order from this court each and every time to remove such content from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NID may be required for advance Eid train tickets

Sale starts April 23

HELEMUL ALAM

The Bangladesh Railway is likely to make National Identity Cards or any other valid identity card mandatory for buying advance train tickets – the sales of which will begin on April 23 – ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

It is also considering an only-women compartment in each inter-city train during the Eid rush.

Advance tickets would be sold from counters at four spots -- Kamalapur Station, Old Station at

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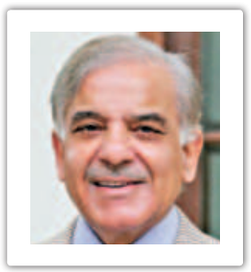
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A school rickshaw-van carrying children going against the traffic in the middle of a busy street in the capital's Mohakhali area. Drivers of such vans often put lives in danger this way just to reach their destination in time. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

'Evil has been defeated'

Says Shehbaz after being elected new Pak PM, announces raft of populist measures

AGENCIES



Pakistan lawmakers yesterday elected Shehbaz Sharif as the country's new prime minister following the weekend ouster of Imran Khan, who resigned his national assembly seat -- along with most of his party members -- ahead of the vote.

Khan was dismissed Sunday after losing a no-confidence vote, paving the way for an unlikely alliance that faces the same issues which bedevilled the cricket star-turned-politician -- a weak economy, rising militancy, and soured relations with the West.

Shehbaz immediately announced a raft of populist measures, including a new minimum wage of 25,000 rupees (around $135), pay rises for civil servants, and development projects in rural areas.

He also said he wanted better relations with neighbour India, but a solution needed to be found for Kashmir -- the contested Himalayan territory at the heart of decades of their conflict.

Shehbaz, leader of the centrist Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), was the only candidate for premier

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Star BUSINESS

NOTICE

Don't miss today's special issue on Cashless Shopping & Dining.

PM laments lack of strong opposition

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her frustration for not having a strong opposition in the country as the two main opposition parties, created by military rulers, don't have a base among the mass people.

She said this at a views exchange meeting with the officials of the Prime Minister's Office.

The three-and-a-half hour meeting was held at the PMO with Hasina in the chair.

Regarding the BNP and Jatiya Party, she said both were created by the military dictators, who grabbed the state power defying the Constitution. "They don't have any interest in the country and its people," she said.

Students of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts busy making colourful masks with motifs from the Bangla heritage for the celebration of Pahela Baishakh on Thursday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Save us from dishonest deep tube-well operators

Aggrieved farmers write to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Aggrieved farmers in Rajshahi yesterday appealed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for saving them from dishonest deep tube-well operators of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA).

They forwarded a memorandum to the PM through Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Md Abdul Jalil.

In the memorandum, they said the operators turned most of the deep tube-wells into tools for exploiting farmers because of lax monitoring by BMDA officials.

They added that the deaths of two Santal farmers in Godagari upazila by suicide for not getting water was the result of exploitation.

Around 500 farmers and their family members, mostly from different ethnic groups, also demonstrated on the DC's office premises.

They also laid siege to the BMDA office in Ambagan area, demanding removal of corrupt BMDA officials.

BCL man files complaint against teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A complaint has been filed against a college teacher in Rangpur over his alleged indecent Facebook post on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comments.

Imran Hossain, 24, general secretary of ward-28 of Rangpur city unit Chhatra League, on Sunday night lodged the complaint with Tajhat Police Station accusing Delwar Hossain, 42, a teacher of information and communication department at Rangpur City College.

According to the complaint, Delowar made the post on April 8.

This correspondent could not contact the teacher for comments.

Nazmul Kader, officer-in-charge of the police station, yesterday said they sent the complaint to the Cyber Crime unit. Action will be taken after investigation, he said.

Five trawlers gutted at dockyard

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Five fishing trawlers were gutted in a fire that broke out at a dockyard in Barguna's Patharghata upazila on Sunday night.

The origin of the fire could not be known immediately, said Shahjahan Sikder, an official of Patharghata Fire Service Station.

Quader, owner of Maulana Abdul Quader dockyard, said, "I don't know how the fire broke out as I was not there at that time. Someone may have set it on fire over enmity."

The loss caused by the fire could be around Tk 1.5 crore, the fire service official speculated.

BNP demands probe into 'law minister-adviser convo'

Files complaint with ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has demanded that the Anti-Corruption Commission probe a leaked conversation allegedly between the law minister and an adviser to the prime minister over a government project.

It also demanded the ACC disclose the names of those who had laundered money abroad.

Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, the party's joint secretary general, along with Taiful Islam Tipu, its assistant office secretary, submitted two letters with the demands to the anti-graft body yesterday.

Talking to reporters later, Moazzem said, "We've recently learned about a leaked conversation between Law Minister Anisul Huq and Salman F Rahman. It [the conversation] is sensational and it primarily gives proof of the highest level of corruption.

"We have asked them [ACC] to carry out a vigorous investigation. We'll help them [if needed]."

On the other hand, Awami League leader Khandaker Mohtesam Hossain

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'Tens of thousands' killed in Mariupol

Claims President Zelensky, accuses Russia of slowing evacuations

AGENCIES

Ukraine said yesterday that tens of thousands of people have likely been killed in Russia's assault on Mariupol and Russian forces have slowed down evacuations from the besieged southeastern city, where conditions are desperate.

"Mariupol has been destroyed, there are tens of thousands of dead, but even despite this, the Russians are not stopping their offensive," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address to South Korean lawmakers.

Reuters has confirmed widespread destruction in Mariupol but could not verify the accuracy of his estimate of those killed in the strategic city, which lies between Russian-annexed Crimea and eastern areas of Ukraine held by Russian-backed separatists.

If confirmed, it would be by far the largest number of dead so far reported in one place in Ukraine, where cities, towns and villages have come under relentless bombardment and many bodies, including of civilians, have been seen in the streets.

The head of the Russia-backed self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin, told Russia's RIA news agency yesterday that more than 5,000 people may have been killed in Mariupol. He said Ukrainian forces were responsible.

Petro Andryushchenko, an aide to the mayor of Mariupol, said on the Telegram messaging service that numbers of people leaving the city had fallen, not because people

"Mariupol has been destroyed, there are tens of thousands of dead, but even despite this, the Russians are not stopping their offensive."

did not want to escape but because Russian forces had slowed pre-departure checks.

Around 10,000 people were awaiting screening by Russian forces, he said. Russia does not allow military personnel to leave with civilian evacuees. There was no immediate comment from Moscow, which has previously blamed Ukraine for blocking evacuations.

Zelensky also said yesterday that thousands of Russian troops were massing for a new offensive in the east, and Russia said it would not halt its military operation in Ukraine for any further peace talks.

British intelligence said Ukrainian forces had already repulsed several Russian assaults in eastern regions.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit yesterday, clouded by US frustration over New Delhi's neutral stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, reports AFP.

New Delhi has raised concerns in Washington in particular by continuing to buy Russian oil and gas, despite pressure from Biden for world leaders to take a hard line against Moscow.

The United States has already warned that any country that actively helps Russia to circumvent international sanctions will suffer "consequences."

Yet this has not deterred India from working with Russia on a rupee-ruble payment mechanism to enable existing trade obligations in the wake of sanctions imposed on the Kremlin.

BTRC failing to stop hatred on Facebook

FROM PAGE 1

Facebook?" the HC bench asked while hearing a writ petition regarding the issue.

It directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to remove the hateful contents from Facebook and stop their misuse.

The court also issued a rule asking respondents to explain in two weeks why their failure to prevent publishing, disseminating and spreading of despicable contents on Facebook should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the court also asked them to show cause why they should not be directed to regulate Facebook under Section 8 of DSA in order to stop circulation of such contents.

The BTRC chairman; secretary at the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology; senior secretary at the public security division of the home ministry, director general of the digital security agency and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, owner of Facebook, have been made respondents to the rule, petitioners' lawyer Tapas Kanti Baul told The Daily Star.

The writ petition was filed by four citizens -- Saleem Samad, a senior journalist; Dr SM Masum Billah, a teacher of law department at Jagannath University (JnU); George Chowdhury, a Supreme Court lawyer; and Victor Ray, a leader of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council -- in December last year.

A Facebook post on October 13 last year claimed that Hindus insulted the Holy Quran by placing it in a Durga Puja mandap. Videos and photos of the Holy Quran kept at a mandap in Cumilla were circulated widely on social media, mostly Facebook.

Later, communal attacks took place in 27 districts against Hindu establishments from October 13 to November 1, they said in the petition.

I forgive my students

FROM PAGE 1

in exams after they failed.

"On March 20, some students kept prodding me with questions on religion. It was something I had never encountered before," he said yesterday.

"We normally don't have debates on religion and science in classroom. But those students began the centuries-old debate on creationism versus the theory of evolution... I then explained Darwin's Theory of Evolution to them.

"I told them religion is about belief but science is based on proof. But they are free to decide what they will believe."

It was not just one or two questions -- there was a concerted effort to spark an incendiary debate. "This has not happened in my classroom before."

Students usually don't bring mobile phones in his classroom as the device is not allowed there, Hriday said. "At one point of the debate I noticed four to five students huddled together. They were laughing. I didn't release they were recording the conversation. Another group of students kept asking me questions."

Two days later, Hriday was called to the school office where he saw a member of the institution's managing committee sitting next to the headmaster. They asked him why he spoke ill about religion.

"I was accused of saying things which I did not speak. I told them to call the students and hear from them about the matter. They then told me to come back the next day. They told me I was in trouble and I should not go to the school unless asked to go there."

The next day began the attack on his house.

"I heard voices of adults and children. They were shouting at us. My children began crying in panic. We thought they would kill us," he said.

He called the school administration for help, but they came with a letter which said he has been suspended.

"The letter mentioned false allegations against me," he said.

At one point, police arrived at Hriday's house and took him to the nearest police station.

"I told everything to the law enforcers and they advised me to go to jail for my own safety. I was told that I would be charged with some minor offence, so that I can get bail easily. I agreed.

Later a case was filed against Hriday for "hurting religious sentiments" by an office assistant of the school.

The assistant had no issues with the teacher. He simply followed orders, found our correspondent there.

Hriday, however, was not told he was going to be charged under Sections 295 and 295 (A) of the Penal Code. Both carry jail terms up to two years.

Section 295 criminalises vandalism of religious sites, while Section 295 (A) criminalises "deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of the citizens of Bangladesh, by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representations of insults, or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class".

"I did nothing of that sort. I did not vandalise any religious site," said Hriday.

But the truth did not matter -- what mattered to the angry crowds was that Hriday be thrown in jail.

The police apparently appeased them.

Hriday was released on bail on Sunday, after his lawyer proved in court that Hriday did not demean religion.

"This society needs science more than anything," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Deadly cost of freethinking

FROM PAGE 1

Prof Azad died in Munich on August 12, 2004. Reviewing his death certificate, police in the charge sheet said that because of the wounds from the attack in February, Prof Azad suffered hypertension and his health was deteriorating -- which ultimately led to his death.

After his death, the case was turned into that of murder.

Inspector Kazi Abdul Malek of CID submitted a charge sheet to a Dhaka court on November 15, 2007 against five JMB men. But upon appeal by Azad's family, the court ordered reinvestigation.

The CID filed a fresh charge sheet on April 30, 2012 against four JMB men -- Salehin alias Salahuddin, Anwarul Alam alias Anwar, Mizanur Rahman alias Minhaz and Nur Mohammad. Of them, Salehin and Nur are on the run and the other two behind bars.

The investigators had found involvement of six other JMB leaders and activists including JMB chief Abdur Rahman and his second-in-command Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai, but the court acquitted them as they were either executed in other cases or killed in "gunfight".

In the face of massive crackdown and arrest and execution of top JMB leaders in the following years, the banned outfit's activities were largely contained.

But the IS-inspired militant group "Neo JMB" and al-Qaeda-influenced Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), also known as Ansar Al Islam, started carrying out targeted killings between 2013 and 2016.

ABT was responsible for the attacks on writer-bloggers, including Avijit, publishers and LGBT activists.

For the killing of Avijit, a tribunal in Dhaka on February 16 last year handed down death sentence to five militants and life imprisonment to another.

Those sentenced to death are Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque alias Major (sacked) Zia, Akram Hossain, Abu Siddique Sohel, Mozammel Hossain and Arafat Rahman. Life imprisonment was handed down to Shafiur Rahman Farabi.

While the case is still pending with the High Court, Major Zia and Akram remain fugitives and the rest are in prison.

After the verdict, Bonya had said simply prosecuting a few foot-soldiers -- and ignoring the rise and roots of extremism -- does not mean justice for Avijit's death.

The US State Department on December 20 last year announced a $5 million reward for information on the killing of Avijit Roy and the concurrent attack on his wife Bonya.

ABT also brutally killed Faisal Arefin Dipan of Jagriti Prokashani at his Shahbagh office on October 31, 2015. Dipan's company had published Biswasher Virus (The Virus of Faith), by Avijit Roy in 2014.

The same day, Ahmedur Rashid Tutul of Shuddhashwar Prokashani, another publisher of Avijit's books, survived a machete attack by ABT men.

On February 10, 2021, a trial court handed down death sentence to eight ABT leaders and operatives, including Zia and Akram, in the Dipan murder case.

The appeals filed by the convicts and death references (lower court documents for confirmation of death penalties) in the cases filed for the killings of Avijit and Dipan, are now pending with the HC.

Supreme Court spokesperson Saifur Rahman said the hearings and disposals of the death references and appeals in the cases will be held gradually.

The spate of blogger killing began in 2013 with ABT men murdering Ahmed Rajib Haider near his Mirpur house on February 15 when the Shahbagh movement demanding capital punishment of war criminals was in full swing.

A Dhaka court sentenced two ABT members to death and six other operatives to different terms in jail on December 31, 2015 over Rajib's killing.

The High Court upheld the trial court verdict on April 2 in 2017. Rajib's father Nazimuddin expressed disappointment over the High Court judgment saying that he did not get justice.

"The eight accused in the case are self-proclaimed terrorists, but all of them did not get capital punishment," he said after the HC verdict.

The Supreme Court is yet to start the hearing on the appeals filed by the convicts challenging the HC verdict.

Science writer and blogger Ananta Bijoy Das was hacked to death at Sylhet city's Subidbazar on May 12, 2015. The Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Sylhet handed down death penalty to four ABT operatives on March 30 this year.

On March 30, 2015, blogger Oyashiqur Rahman Babu was attacked by three cleaver-wielding ABT members in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area. The case filed over his murder is under trial at a Dhaka court.

Trials of the cases filed over murders of two other bloggers -- Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy in the capital's Goran on August 7, 2015, and Nazim Uddin Samad in old Dhaka on April 6, 2016 -- are yet to begin. Police pressed charges against a number of ABT operatives in the cases.

Khurshid Alam Khan, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, told The Daily Star that due to the long delay of trial proceedings of the cases witnesses lose their interest, evidence gets damaged and justice is hampered.

Every day, the lives of commuters in Dhaka come at a standstill on roads, as vehicles seemingly get stuck in time. Coupled with the heat and dust, the situation becomes agonising. But to date, there is no respite from this daily grind. These photos were taken yesterday from Old Dhaka's Babubazar and Science Lab on Mirpur Road.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'All the roads need is a bit of discipline'

Speakers point out sorry state of transport sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is still possible to significantly reduce Dhaka's traffic congestion with the existing road network, by just bringing discipline in the transport sector, said Ilias Kanchan, chairperson of road-safety organisation Nirapad Sarak Chai.

Addressing a programme organised by Dhaka Utility Reporters Association (DURA) at Dhaka Reporters Unity, Kanchan said Narayanganj's police commissioner solved the traffic congestion problem in the area, which means doing so just needs a bit of effort. The authorities did this in the most traffic-jam prone area by clearing footpaths and disallowing battery-run vehicles to ply.

"So, we have to make a decision and work accordingly. But no one is taking that responsibility," he said.

Responding to a comment of LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam, Kanchan said this government has been in power for the last 13 years, but people are just getting bombarded by dust and have been watching pillars standing idle at airport road for the last five years.

"Why have the pillars been standing idle, with no work being done, for the last five years? The work will have to be done properly. You [government] are even awarding contractors and engineers for not finishing the work timely. Will you find an example like this anywhere else in the world?" he commented.

Questioning the minister's comment on increasing the number of roads, Kanchan said people will not benefit from the roads if major parts of them remain occupied by parked vehicles, an example being the situation in front of Mohakhali bus terminal.

"We can do one thing. We can sit on the roads for two or three days to block the path of VIPs' vehicles, which ply the wrong way. When they'll be unable to move, they'll solve the problem," he added.

Prof Shamsul Hoque of Buet said to solve Dhaka's traffic problem, it is very important to discourage the use of small vehicles and prioritise public transport.

Shamsul said the government will have to stop construction of flyovers in the country and increase infrastructure of public transport.

He emphasised the importance of bus route rationalisation and said as the government is doing "transit-oriented development", there is no scope to discard the plan.

Shamsul said the philosophy of transit-oriented development is to develop cities centring metro stations. In the system, shops, residences and offices will be near the stations. So, a person will get everything within reach and will not need to use cars for transportation.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Work progress ahead of target

Says state minister on 3rd terminal at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the third terminal at Dhaka airport is 1.9 percent ahead of expectations. It is likely to be inaugurated by October next year, said State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali yesterday.

He was briefing reporters after visiting the construction site at Kurmitola.

He said 32.7 percent of the construction work of the terminal was supposed to be completed by April 8. In reality, 34.6 percent has been done by this time.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Extorting money on social media

Hacker who would take control of Facebook profiles and threaten users arrested, says DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Pay up to get your Facebook profile back, or we'll post anti-state and militant content through it."

With such threats, a man was extorting money from social media users, after hacking their accounts using phishing links.

If anyone ignored the threats and did not pay the money, militant content would be posted through the profiles, and then, the hacker would threaten to file cases.

Cyber-crime unit of police's detective branch (DB) yesterday claimed to have arrested the so-called hacker after conducting a drive in Savar's Ashulia.

The arrestee is Liton Islam (28).

Police seized a desktop computer, two mobile phones and 10 SIM cards from his possession.

Harun-or-Rashid, joint commissioner of DB, said Liton used to extort around Tk 10,000 from victims, after taking control of the accounts. The arrestee is a member of an international "hacker-gang".

Around 2,500 local and international Facebook accounts and passwords were also found in his possession, officials said.

Md Najmul Hoque, additional deputy commissioner of DB, said the arrestee was merely a computer operator and used to work in a shop. Watching online tutorials, he learned to create phishing links.

A case was filed against the arrestee with Kadamtali Police Station on March 1, and while investigating the case, police came to know about Liton, said Najmul.

One of the victims, Anowar Hossain, said one "Olyulla Kari" sent a link in his Messenger. When Anowar entered the link, he was directed to a different page, which looked just like Facebook.

Unaware of the trickery, Anowar gave his account details, and soon after, lost all control of his account.

CHAWKBAZAR IFTAR MARKET

The good, the bad and the hype

Anyone going to Chawkbazar for iftar shopping will almost certainly be inundated by the amount of choices in front of them. But a veteran will be able to pick the items that are actually worth it. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

After a two-year break due to Covid restrictions, Chawkbazar iftar market is once again buzzing with people. Every Ramadan, this place is the topic of discussion because of the popular iftar items sold there. They look great in photos, but to find out what they're really like, we paid a visit to the place and checked out the available items for a first-hand experience.

ITEMS THAT STOOD OUT

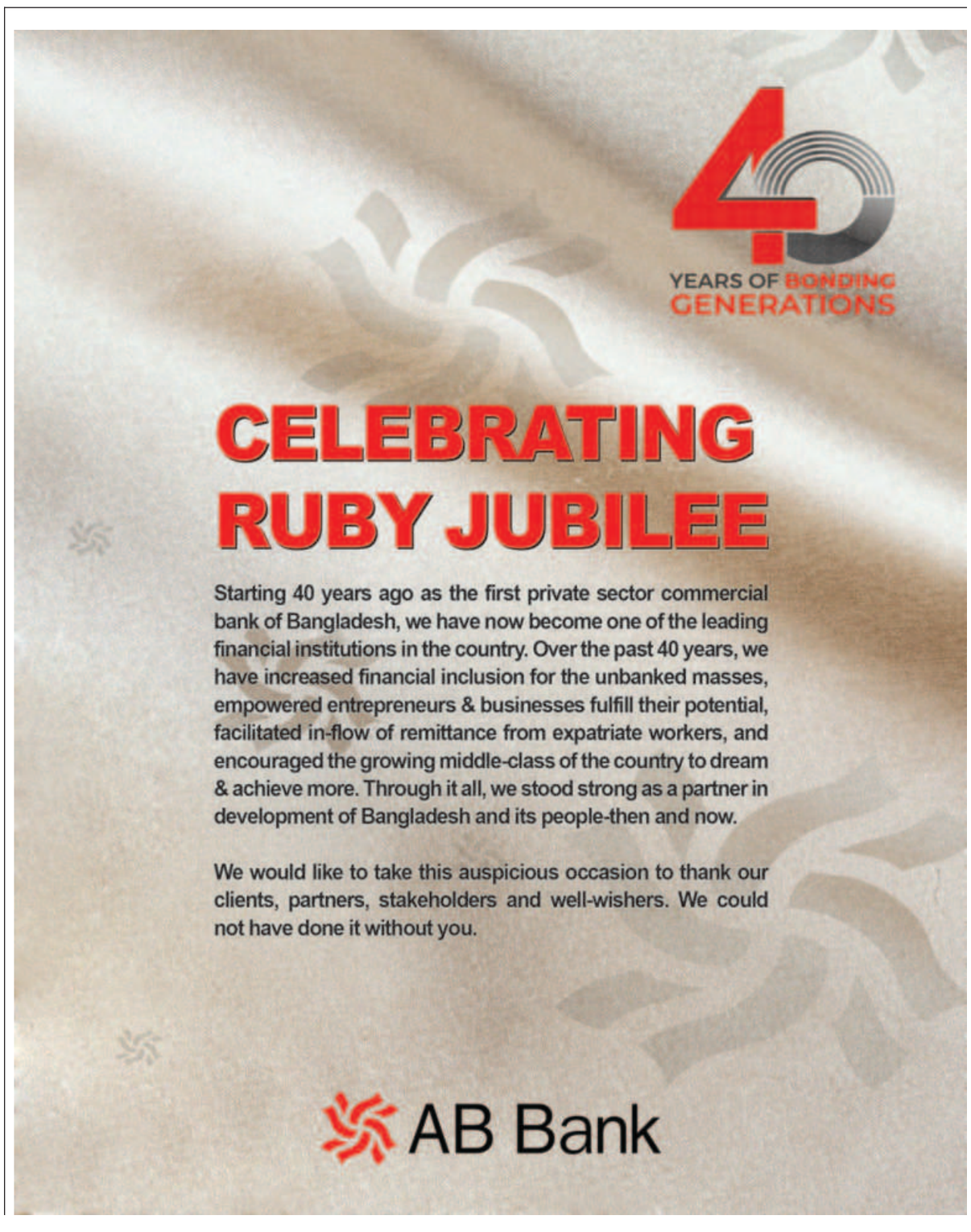
Pesta badam er sharbat: while the market is mostly dominated by kebabs and meat-based items, there are a number of small stalls scattered all over the market that sell matha, badamer sharbat, firni, faluda and other desserts. Matha might not be appealing to some people, but the "pesta badam er sharbat" is highly recommended, and they are often overlooked.

Pigeon roast: if you come to Chawkbazar and don't try a meat-based item, it's not a proper iftar shopping. That being said, there are too many kebab items to choose from. Amongst all them, the pigeon roast was the one that stood out the most, not just by its colour but most definitely by its taste. The flavour is deliciously fulfilling.

Shahi jilapi: they stand out because of their size, and the taste is brilliantly sweet. Even if you don't have a sweet tooth, this item will make an impression. With the enticing colour, the crunchy pieces combined with the sweet taste, the shahi jilapi was the one popular item that actually stood true to its reputation.

Sweet naan: unlike most naans that we are used to, instead of pale

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seek applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following position:

Assistant Director (Public Relations) : 1 (one) position

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview.

Job Description:
- Word processing, graphic designing, desktop publishing (DTP).
- Assisting in content development for NSU website.
- Keeping liaison with social media management for NSU.
- Contributing in the planning and producing NSU branding related materials.
- Any other task assigned by Director (Public Relations).

Essential Requirements:
- Minimum 5 (five) years of experience in relevant field.
- At least a Masters in Arts or Social Science, preferably in Mass Communication and Journalism.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills.
- High level of written and oral communication skills both in English and Bangla.
- Good rapport with print and electronic media.
- Computer literacy with Photoshop & Adobe Illustrator.

Age : Ideally 30 – 40 years.

Remuneration: An attractive salary package with in-house medical services as per NSU policy.

Other Terms and Conditions :
- Willingness to work in holidays and after-hours if necessary.
- Third division/ class/ equivalent GPA in any level of education will not be accepted.

NSU reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all applications without showing any reason.

Candidates should apply from his/her own e-mail address with a complete CV, photograph, copies of certificates, transcripts and writing sample (Bangla and English) by 23rd April 2022.

Those who have applied earlier need not apply again.

Director (Administration)
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Plot# 15, Block# B, Bashundhara, Dhaka – 1229
Email: nsuhr@northsouth.edu, Website: www.northsouth.edu

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.102 Date: 11/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief description of tender	Publication date	Last selling date & time	Opening date
1	683812	Procurement of Various Laboratory Instruments.	11/04/2022	26/04/2022, 2:00pm	27/04/2022

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

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj

GD-733

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
Department of Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION FOR TENDER

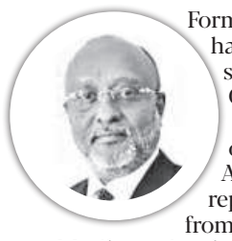
Work: Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 2 x 500KVA Diesel Generators (Prime), Equipment & Accessories with Synchronization Panel and Alternate Power Connection at Dr. A. Majeed Khan Building, IUB.

1. Sealed Bids are hereby invited from the bona fide Contractors / Firms for "Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 2 x 500KVA Diesel Generators (Prime), Equipment & Accessories with Synchronization Panel and Alternate Power Connection at Dr. A. Majeed Khan Building, IUB", Bashundhara, Dhaka. The bidders shall be required to submit a complete offer in two separate envelopes, one for the Technical Offer while the second envelope shall contain the Financial Offer.
2. The bidders shall apply in their Official Letter heads to Director, O&M, IUB, along with the following documents:
   i) Updated Trade License, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, VAT Registration Certificate & Ownership evidence of the Company / Firm.
   ii) Experience certificate of similar type of work (should be minimum 05 years with minimum 1.00 crore in single tender)
   iii) Certificate of Average annual Turnover should be at least Tk.2.00 crore.
   iv) Certificate of General Experience.
3. The bidders shall furnish an earnest money, equivalent to 2.5% of the bid amount, in favour of Independent University, Bangladesh, in the form of a Bank Draft / Pay Order from a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh, as part of the Bid Documents.
4. Interested bidders are requested to collect the Tender Schedule from the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB, between 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM up to 20th April 2022 on payment of a non-refundable amount of Tk. 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only in cash.
5. A Pre-bid Meeting with the intended bidders will be held at 11:30 AM on 21st April 2022 at the Office of the Director, O&M.
6. The Tenders will be received at the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB up to 2:30 PM of 9th May 2022 and the Technical Offers shall be opened at 3:00 PM on the same day & at the same place, in presence of the bidders who may wish to attend the Tender Opening.
7. The Financial Offers of the technically responsive bidders will be opened on a later date with due notification to the respective bidders.
8. All bidders should mention their contact number & email address clearly in the forwarding letter of Generator Tender.
9. IUB Authority reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tenders without any consideration of the lowest bid and shall have the right to reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Engr. A.S.M. Shah Alam
Director, Operations & Maintenance Dept
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
Plot-16, Block-B, Bashundhara, Dhaka

Golam Mosih political secy of Raushan Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Former ambassador Golam Mosih has been appointed political secretary of Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad.

He served as ambassador of Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia and the permanent representative of the OIC from 2015 to 2020. Golam Mosih previously served as the Leader of the Opposition's political secretary in 2014.

Mosih is the third son of the late Abdul Awal, a founding member of Awami League and MLA of Sonargaon in Narayanganj. He was a presidium member of JP till 2013.

All the roads need

FROM PAGE 3

Chief guest at the event, the LGRD minister said it is crucial to stop parking on roads in a scattered manner and setting up shops on footpaths, both of which are the main causes of congestion.

The minister said it is essential to determine how many people can live in the capital. They are preparing a Detailed Area Plan (DAP), considering the matter.

Architect Mubassher Hossain said there are seven ministries and 54 organisations working to provide service in Dhaka city, but all these should come under an umbrella to properly coordinate and get better results.

Work progress

FROM PAGE 3

The construction work will be completed within the stipulated time, he added.

The prime minister in December 2019 inaugurated the construction work of the terminal, which will cost Tk 21,399 crore. When the project was first conceived, its outlay was projected at Tk 13,610 crore.

"Passengers at the third terminal will enjoy the same quality of service they get at London's Heathrow Airport or Thailand's airports," he said.

In reply to a query, he said, construction work of the taxiway at the terminal would be completed within early next month.

The good, the bad

FROM PAGE 3

in colour, the sweet naan had a saturated hue that makes it stand out. This naan is sweet and soft, reminding you of butter naan and most definitely worth trying.

Last but not least, the pitha stalls in the iftar market offer a variety of items such as patishapta, pakan, teler pitha, ful pitha, etc. Interestingly, most of the pithas are delicious, as is the firni.

ITEMS THAT FAILED TO IMPRESS

Every time you see news about Chawkbazar's iftar, you will see the mouth-watering pictures of a mutton leg roast. Unfortunately, this item does not live up to expectations. Because the item is a whole leg roasted, the meat is often not tender enough to be an iftar item. The spices look great on the surface, but the meat underneath lacks juice and spices. In short, it's probably a good item for a kebab party, but not iftar.

Quail roast was another item that looks appealing but was an absolute let-down. The roasted quail flavour is not one you want on your tongue after fasting for a whole day.

Beef/chicken balls and the average ball-like kebab items are not recommended either. You will find doi bora, which is inherently a difficult dish to make. There is a clever play of flavours in a properly made doi bora, but the ones found at Chawkbazar failed to deliver.

ITEMS YOU HAVE TO TRY

Boro baper polai khai: a traditional item that has gained its fame all across the country for its name and the making process. Made with items like chickpea, ox brain, liver, eggs, mutton, flattened rice and more than 40 different spices, it's one of the highlights of the Chawkbazar iftar market that you have to try.

Suti kebab: another popular item that has been sold for ages; both beef and mutton suti kebab are available. It's well suited when you mix it with other items. If you like making puffed rice based iftar with a mixture of chola, bundia, cutlets and all that, suti kebab is a must have item. Remember, kebabs will go bad soon under the scorching heat.

Keep track of time while shopping and try to explore rather than following the hype.

Mohiuddin Ahmed's death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Mohiuddin Ahmed, a Language Movement veteran and Liberation War organiser.

Wreaths will be placed at his grave at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital's Mirpur at 10:30am, said a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers in Dhaka and Mathbaria. On this day in 1997, Mohiuddin died in Dhaka.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল
(নেজারত শাখা)
www.barisal.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-০৫.১০.০৬০০.১১১.১০.০১২.২২-২৪২ তারিখঃ ২৪ চৈত্র ১৪২৮ / ০৭ এপ্রিল ২০২২

সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল, উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় ও বরিশাল সার্কিট হাউজের শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বরিশাল জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখে জেল প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ের নেজারত শাখার ০৫.১০.০৬০০.১১১.১০.০১২.২১-১০৫৫ নং স্মারকে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির নিম্নোক্ত সংশোধনী করা হলোঃ

ক্র. নং	পূর্বের প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্ত/তথ্যসমূহ	সংশোধনী তথ্য/তথ্যসমূহ
১)	জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের বিধি-১ শাখার ১৯.০৮.২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৭০.১১.০১৭.২০.১৪৩ নং স্মারকের নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ২৫.০৩.২০২২ তারিখে সর্বনিম্ন ১৮ হতে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা/নাতি-নাতনীদের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য এবং প্রতিবন্ধী চাকুরী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বিধি মোতাবেক সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।	প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখে ১৮ থকে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা/নাতি/নাতনী বা প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য উল্লেখ্য, জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের বিধি-১ শাখার ১৯.০৮.২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৭০.১১.০১৭.২০.১৪৩ নং স্মারকের নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী বিগত ২৫-০৩-২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখে যাদের বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে ৩২ বছর) তারাও আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
২)	০৩নং শর্তের ঘ) জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি। ঙ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে)।	জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।
৩)	আবেদনপত্র জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশালকে সম্বোধন করে আগামী ২০/০১/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল এর ইসেবা কেন্দ্রে জমা দেয়া যাবে অথবা রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে এ অফিসে পৌছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।	আবেনদপত্র জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল বরাবরে আগামী ২৮/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল এর ইসেবা কেন্দ্রে জমা দেয়া যাবে অথবা রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে এ অফিসে পৌছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোন আবেনদপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যঃ
১। যে কোন রকম তদবির বা ব্যক্তিগত যোগাযোগ প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।
২। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখ করা হয়নি এমন ক্ষেত্রে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক জারিকৃত বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।
৩। আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে পূর্বের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে (নং ০৫.১০.০৬০০.১১১.১০.০১২.২১-১০৫৫, তারিখঃ ৩০ ডিবেম্বর, ২০২১খ্রিঃ) উল্লেখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।
৪। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্তাবলী পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্ধন/সংযোজন/বিয়োজন ও বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
৫। ইতোপূর্বে যে সকল প্রার্থী আবেদন দাখিল করেছেন, তাদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

জসীম উদ্দীন হায়দার
জেলা প্রশাসক
বরিশাল
ফোনঃ ০২৪৭৮৮-৬৪২৫৯
ইমেইলঃ dcbarishal@mopa.gov.bd

জিডি-৭১৯

Rajshahi City Corporation
Engineering Department
Nagar Bhaban, Kadirgonj, Rajshahi
শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)-04/2021-22
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1. Ministry/Division : Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives, Local Government Divisions.
2. Agency : Rajshahi City Corporation.
3. Procuring entity name : Mayor, Rajshahi City Corporation.
4. Procuring entity code : 1370101.
5. Procuring entity district : Rajshahi.
6. Expression of interest for selection of : Consulting firms.
7. Title of service : Prepare detail Design, Drawing & Construction Supervision (Part Time) including other incidental works.
8. EOI Ref. No. : Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.14.281.22.643.
9. Date : 10/04/2022.

KEY INFORMATION
10. Procuring sub-method : Open Tendering Method (OTM).

FUNDING INFORMATION
11. Budget and source of funds : GOB of Project fund & RCC's own fund.
12. Development partners (if applicable) : Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION
13. Project/programme code : --
14. Project/programme name : Development of Hazrat Sha Mukdum (R.) Darga Sharif.
15. EOI closing date and time : 25/04/2022 at 1:00pm.
16. EOI opening date and time : 25/04/2022 at 2:00pm.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT
17. Brief description of assignment : Brief Description of Assignment for selection the consultant may obtain from Download **log in erajshahi.portal.gov.bd**.
18. Experience, resources and delivery capacity required : Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required may obtain from Download **log in erajshahi.portal.gov.bd**.
19. Other details (if applicable) : Not applicable.
20. Association with foreign firms is : Not applicable.
21.

Ref. No./ Package No.	Phasing of services	Location	Indicative start date	Indicative completion date
SW-01	Prepare Architectural Plan and detail Design, Drawing & Construction Supervision (Part Time) including digital survey & other incidental works for construction of Administrative Bhaban of Mazar Complex, Mosque including Minar, Mazar, Boundary wall and Entrance Gate.	Hazrat Sha Mukdum (R.) Darga Sharif	01/08/2022 (Tentative)	30/06/2024 (Tentative)

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS
22. Name of official inviting EOI : Md. Shariful Islam.
23. Designation of official inviting EOI : Chief Engineer.
24. Address of official inviting EOI : Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi City Corporation.
25. Contact details of official inviting EOI : Mobile No. 01716585437, e-mail: ce.rcc.bd@gmail.com
26. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOI's. The selection of consultant shall be guided by the Public Procurement Regulation and Public Procurement Procedures issued by the government time to time.
27. In the event of unavoidable circumstances, if the receiving and opening of the EOI cannot be done of the abovementioned dates, the next normal working day(s) will be treated as the valid date of receiving and opening of the EOI respectively. Time and place shall remain unchanged.
28. Interested consultants may obtain description of works, description of consultant services & scope of consultant services & relevant information from Download **log in erajshahi.portal.gov.bd**.
29. Expression of Interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned shown below and be carefully marked- Request for Expression of Interest for "Selection of Consulting Firm with Ref. No./Package Name.

রাসিক/জশ-৫২(২০২১-২২)
তারিখঃ ১১/০৪/২০২২
১০ X ৩ কলামে
জিডি-৭২৫

Md. Shariful Islam
Chief Engineer
Rajshahi City Corporation

REINSTATEMENT

ACC can't keep Sharif's application pending: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said the application submitted by former official of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Md Sharif Uddin, seeking reinstatement of his job cannot be kept pending for an indefinite period. The ACC can review its decision of dismissing Sharif from the service or can reject his application, the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo said.

The bench said this while hearing a petition filed by Sharif, former deputy assistant director of ACC, challenging his dismissal from the job. The bench kept the petition stand over (waiting for hearing) till May 19.

On February 16, ACC sacked Sharif under section 54 (2) of Anti-Corruption Commission (Servants) Service Rules-2008. According to the section, the commission can terminate any officer either issuing 90-days' notice or paying 90-days salary in cash.

On March 13, Sharif filed the petition saying that ACC has violated his constitutional right by applying the section.

He also urged the HC to order the ACC to reinstate him in the service.

PRAYER TIMING

APRIL 12

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-23	12-45	4-45	6-23	7-45
JAMAAT	4-33	1-15	5-00	6-33	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
10	12		6:23
11	13	4:17	6:23
12	14	4:15	6:23

With one hand pushing her baby's stroller and the other trying to stop oncoming traffic, a woman puts both her and the child's life at risk just to cross the road at the capital's Science Lab intersection. Even though a footbridge is right in sight, it doesn't facilitate strollers or wheel-chairs to be taken up the stairs. This photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HUMAN TRAFFICKING THRU THE BAY

5 including Jubo League leader held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Rab claimed to have arrested five members of a human trafficking syndicate from Cox's Bazar's Rajakhali, who conned people by promising to send them to Malaysia.

The arrestees are Md Ismail (32), Md Saiful Alam (37), Riaz Khan Raju (41), Md Hossen (60) and Md Younus Mazi (56).

Riaz is a top leader of Cox's Bazar's Rajakhali union unit of Jubo League, said Rab.

Rab also seized 31 fake passports from them.

"They used to extract cash from people of lower-income groups in Cox's Bazar and Banskhali by promising to send them to Malaysia on trawlers. They would later leave the migration aspirants in the middle of the Bay of Bengal and St Martins Island, saying that they have arrived in Malaysia," Rab-7 Commanding Officer (CO) Lt Col Md Yousuf said during a press conference yesterday.

The syndicate would also dump them on the Malaysian borders, where many of them were detained by Malaysian border guards.

He informed that the two brothers -- Ismail and Saiful -- would target young and unemployed individuals in rural areas and offered to help them migrate to Malaysia at the cost of Tk 2 lakh.

Before the voyage, half the money should be deposited to the syndicate as an advance. They would promise to take the rest from the families of the migration aspirants after their landing on the Malaysian borders.

"Raju used to make the job seekers' passports for Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000, using his influence as a ruling party activist at the passport office," said Lt Col Yousuf.

When the migration aspirants realised that they were deceived and demanded the money back, syndicate members used to file false cases against them and give death threats, said the Rab officials.

Arrested Hossen's son Emran had taken one Moktar Ali to Mozambique five years ago and got him kidnapped by the syndicate.

Emran then told Moktar's family to pay Tk 7.80 lakh as ransom. Moktar's family complied, but he is still missing.

According to Rab-7, Moktar was murdered by the syndicate soon after the abduction.

The syndicate has several cases filed against them under the Human Trafficking act, said the Rab official.

When the migration aspirants realised that they were deceived and demanded the money back, syndicate members used to file false cases against them and give death threats.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Dhaka, Tokyo to work together

UNB, *Dhaka*

Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa has said that his country would continue to assist Bangladesh in the efforts to repatriate Rohingyas to Myanmar.

He made the assurance when Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen sought more involvement of Japan for an early solution to the Rohingya problem.

During their bilateral meeting at the Japanese Foreign Ministry yesterday, Bangladesh placed the issue and steps taken so far, including voluntary relocation of 30,000 Rohingyas to Bhashan Char.

Minister Hayashi raised the situations in Ukraine, North Korea and in the Indo-Pacific, and sought Bangladesh's understanding and cooperation.

Momen was on transit in Tokyo for several hours and left for Palau on Monday afternoon to participate in the Ocean Conference, to be held on April 11-15, 2022.

The hour-long bilateral meeting was their first official talk after Minister Hayashi took office in November, 2021, according to a message received from Tokyo.

Tragic end of a new beginning

Father, newly-married son die in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

It was supposed to be the tale of a new beginning.

Twenty-five-year-old Arif Hossain didn't get many chances to visit his family for his job at BGB-11 in Bandarban. This time, when he got the chance, a new life awaited him as he got married just two weeks ago on March 24.

The mood was still festive when tragedy struck the family. Arif and his father Abdul Aziz alias Kalu (55), who was a retired BGB official, went out shopping on Sunday afternoon from Panchagarh Sadar upazila's Barbari village.

Around 3:00pm, when they were at Natunbazar on their way home from Chaklarhat, a tractor hit their bike, killing Arif on the spot.

His father succumbed to the injuries on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said OC Abdul Latif Miah of Panchagarh Sadar police.

Youth attempts suicide in court to have case heard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A youth tried to take his life inside a packed courtroom in Chattogram yesterday. However, police foiled his attempt and detained him along with a knife.

The detainee is Md Jafar of port city's Madarbari area. Police, quoting his family members, claimed that the youth has been suffering from "mental illness".

Assistant Commissioner (AC-prosecution) Wahid Ullah Sarkar of CMP said, "The incident took place at the court of sixth Metropolitan magistrate around noon."

"During a case proceeding, Jafar broke into the courtroom and told the judge to listen to him, or else he will die by suicide. He asked the judge to take his case and at one point, took out a knife from his pocket and tried to slice his neck but police managed to foil his attempt," said the AC.

After the incident, police took him to the court jail. About the family's claim, he said they are verifying the information.

GRAFT CASE

HC rejects bail petition of 'Golden Monir'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition filed by Md Monir Hossain, known as Golden Monir, in a money laundering case.

The HC also ordered the criminal investigation department (CID) of police to complete investigation into the case and to submit the report to the trial court in three months.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo passed the order.

Monir was arrested on November 21, 2020. On May 11 last year, CID filed the case with Badda Police Station against 10 people, including Monir.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর
৪৫০, জি. এল. রায়. রোড, পূর্ব কামাল কাছনা, রংপুর

নথি নং-০৮.০১.৮৫০০.২০২.১১.০০১.২১/১০৯২ তারিখঃ /০৪/২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর এর পত্র নথি নং-০৮.০১.৮৫০০.২০২.১১.০০১.২১/১০১৯, তারিখঃ ০৬/০৪/২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ মূলে গত ১০/০৪/২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ তারিখে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটির "আবেদন করার নিয়মাবলি/শর্তাবলি অনুচ্ছেদ-১" এ নিম্নরূপ প্রতিস্থাপিত হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, উক্ত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য অংশ অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

১।

বয়সসীমা	বয়সসীমা নির্ধারণের তারিখ
১৮ হতে ৩০ বছর	যে সকল প্রার্থীর বয়স ৩১/০৩/২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দে ১৮-৩০ বছর সময়সীমার মধ্যে থাকবে, তারা আবেদনের যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাগণের পুত্র-কন্যা ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ১৮-৩২ বছর। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রকার এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

মোঃ সাজ্জাদ হোসেন
উপ কমিশনার
ও
সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি
সভাপতি বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটির পক্ষে
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, রংপুর
ফোনঃ ০২৫৮৯৯৬৪১২৪
E-mail: cevrangcom@yahoo.com

জিডি-৭২৬

Padma Oil Company Limited
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Shadarghat, Chattogram

Ref: 28.22.0000.850.02.451.17/154 Date: 11/04/2022

Corrigendum Notice
For
"Works for Engineering Inspection for Healthiness Certification of Storage Tanks of Main Installation of Padma Oil Company Limited (POCL), Meghna Petroleum Limited (MPL) & Jamuna Oil Company Limited (JOCL) at Chattogram, Depots of POCL & MPL at Godenail and Depots of MPL & JOCL at Fatulla, Bangladesh"

Ref. No. PD/CDPL/HC/POCL-MPL-JOCL/F-850/P-118/21-22, Date: 02/03/2022

This is for information of all concerned that following amendments of Tender Notice have been made:

Sl. No.	Existing		Amended	
18	Tender last selling date	17/04/2022	Tender last selling date	24/04/2022
19	Tender closing date and time	18/04/2022 at 11.00am	Tender closing date and time	25/04/2022 at 11.00am
20	Tender opening date and time	18/04/2022 at 12.00pm	Tender opening date and time	25/04/2022 at 12.00pm

All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document shall remain unchanged.

"সবাই মিলে গড়বো দেশ, দুর্নীতি মুক্ত বাংলাদেশ"
৪"×৩
জিডি-৭৩০

Md. Aminul Haque
General Manager (Projects), Chattogram
For Managing Director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Public Health Engineering
Office of the Executive Engineer
Manikganj District, Manikganj

"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo No. 2197 Date:11.04.2022

Invitation for e-Tender Notice

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

SL No.	e-Tender ID	Work name	Opening & closing date
1	682423, 685642	Construction of One Storied Upazila office Building including additional one story stair case arrangement with Four storied foundation for Department of Public Health Engineering during FY 2021-22 & Installation of 01 (One) No. Production Well (200 x 100 mm), at Manikgonj Sadar Upazilla in Manikgonj District Under 141 revenue budget of Department of Public Health Engineering (F.Y: 2021-2022).	21-Apr-2022 12:30:00 & 28-Apr-2022 12:30

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

Gazi Fatima Ferdous
Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Manikganj District, Manikganj

GD-732

Dhaka South City Corporation
Engineering Department
Electrical Division

"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 46.207.007.09.22.011.2022

e-Tender Notice is invited through e-GP Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following packages:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Description of works	Last selling (date & time)	Closing (date & time)
1	681716	Supply, Fitting & Fixing of Required Spare parts for 7 (Seven) Lifts with Operation and Maintenance for 06 Months at Nagar Bhaban of Dhaka South City Corporation	26-Apr-2022 04:00pm	27-Apr-2022 01:00pm
2	681734	Supply, Complete assemble, erection, Testing & Commissioning of 450Kg Passenger Lift at Jahir Raihan Cultural Center of Dhaka South City Corporation	26-Apr-2022 04:00pm	27-Apr-2022 01:00pm

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and hard copies/offline will not accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
If necessary, information please contact to the PE's Support Desk (02-223386009).

Mahtab Ahmed
Executive Engineer
Electrical Division
Dhaka South City Corporation
Phone: 02-223386009

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২২০/২০২১-২০২২
জিডি-৭২৮

SAINIK FIGHTS on with his tunes

"No matter what I did, it never seemed to matter to some people. I heard from a close source that BDT 8.5 Crore were raised by Telcos from ringtones alone from my songs, from which I did not get a dime. I was dejected and angry. I will never release an album again. However, I will release music on my own terms."

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

It was 1989 when T W Sainik first came from Nilphamari to Dhaka, as a culturally active young man. Even after two decades of successful work as a cinematographer – more than 500 tele-fictions, 40 TVCs and 4 films, we know the artiste as the voice behind "Tumi Amar Ghum", a song that captured the hearts of music listeners regardless of taste.

Sainik, after his arrival to the city, was involved in theatre through Momtajjudin Ahmed's theatre troupe, and music through Chhayanaut. However, his turnabout came when he starred in an ad film as an extra.

"I was awestruck after I watched cinematographer Samir Kushari – his poise, personality and dedication. At that moment, I knew that I wanted to be in the entertainment industry, in whatever medium. "

When he did pick up the camera, the artiste was exposed to many stars in the industry, who encouraged him to sing.

"I started working in Eju Audio Video, where I got exposure to the entertainment business. We did musical programmes for many companies like Benson & Hedges, who was doing a 'star search' at that point."

The likes of Ayub Bachchu, Naquib Khan, Foad Nasser Babu and Labu Rahman encouraged him to sing. Sainik thus contacted Sohel Arman, with whom he had worked on many television projects, to write a lyric for him.

"He brushed me off at first, but I persisted, and he finally wrote 'Tumi Amar Ghum' for me," he said.

The album, which went by the same name, was composed by Ibrar Tipu. Two of the songs were written by Sohel Arman, two by his father, Abdul Wahab, and five by Zulfiqer Russell. "The album was a revelation for me, as everyone in the industry started to admire me."

Owing to the song's popularity, Sainik went on to win the Popular Choice Award at the Benson &Hedges Star Search, the Channel i Music awards, among many accolades.

"Kumar Bishwajit *da* was instrumental in encouraging me to finish the album," continued the singer.

However, the success that Sainik saw did not translate into any monetary benefits. "We did not sign any written agreements with the company which released the album," says the disappointed artiste. "I did not receive any money from the album, that resonated in arguably every household in the country."

The rift between music labels and artistes is a problem that plagues the industry, especially when many artistes cannot even upload their own tracks to streaming services.

After "Tumi Amar Ghum", Sainik's second album "Ghumer Por Megh" came out in 2015, almost a decade after his first hit. After that, "Monchora", a mixed album featuring Sainik, Chanchal Chowdhury and Fazlur Rahman Babu was released.

"No matter what I did, it never seemed to matter to some people. I heard from a close source that BDT 8.5 Crore were raised by Telcos from ringtones alone from my songs, from which I did not get a dime. I was dejected and angry. I will never release an album again. However, I will release music on my own terms."

Despite all that, Sainik fights on for his own music, with songs featuring Hridoy Khan, Sumon Kalyan, Partha Majumdar and Yousuf Khan on the horizon. The music he releases is fuelled by passion, if nothing else.

Mahfuz and Bubly pair up for "PROHELIKA"

Popular actors Mahfuz Ahmed and Shobnom Bubly are set to appear together in Chayanika Chowdhury's upcoming film "Prohelika".

This production also marks the comeback of Mahfuz Ahmed. He last appeared in the single episode "Share Tin Khana Chithi" in 2018.

"Prohelika" explores different emotions and bonds in relationships. The story, screenplay, dialogues are all written by Pantho Shahriar.

Both the artistes are excited to work together. The shooting of this production is slated to begin from June 1.

'Captain Marvel' star Brie Larson joins 'Fast & Furious 10'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Captain Marvel star Brie Larson has joined the cast of "Fast & Furious 10".

Vin Diesel announced the news on his Instagram account.

"You have no idea how timeless and amazing she will be in our mythology. Beyond her beauty, her intellect and her Oscar, there is this profound soul who will add something you might not have expected but yearned for. Welcome to the Family Brie," read a part of his post.

Brie Larson is the latest addition to the hit franchise. Earlier, Jason Momoa and Daniela Melchior joined the cast. Details about Larson's character in the movie has been kept under wraps.

COUNTRYWIDE

GOVT'S 40-DAY JOB SCHEME PROJECT

Wait for wages lingers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Most of labourers in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram have yet to receive wages even after the completion of the government's 40-day job scheme project. As a result, the labourers have run into debt to run their families.

According to district relief and rehabilitation sources, the government has allocated Tk 13 crore 38 lakh and 40 thousand for 8,365 beneficiary labourers in five upazilas of Lalmonirhat and Tk 43 crore and 52 lakh has been allocated for 27,200 beneficiary labourers in nine upazilas of Kurigram.

These allocations were made in mid-December last year. But the project got delayed due to complexities in preparing the list of the beneficiaries by the local representatives. The labourers were given their wages to their respective bank accounts last year but this year they are going to be paid by e-payment system through mobile financial services-- Nagad and bKash.

Alema Bewa, a beneficiary labourer in Burirbazar area under Mahindranagar union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said their work has been completed but they have not received any wages yet.

"We have run into debt as we haven't got wages in time," she said.

Ekramul Haque, another beneficiary labourer of the same village, said they got a wage of Tk 200 in previous years, which has been doubled this year.

Sakhina Bewa, a beneficiary labourer from Nawdanga village in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram, said she was supposed to get Tk 16,000 for working 40 days this year but has not received any wage yet.

Abdul Majid, chairman of Mahendranagar Union Parishad in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said the work of the project was delayed due to some complications in preparing the list of beneficiary labourers.

The concerned department has been contacted regarding the wages of the labourers, he said.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Mashiur Rahman said the wage was paid by the PIO office of the concerned upazila in the past years but it is being paid directly from Dhaka this year.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer in Kurigram Abdul Hai said there was a slight delay in payment of wages as the labourers' mobile numbers were incorrect.

All the labourers will get their wages soon, he hoped.

PHOTO: STAR

Many beneficiary labourers of government's 40-day job scheme project have yet to receive wages even after the completion of the project. The photo was taken from Burirbazar village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

NID may be

FROM PAGE 1

Phulbaria, Cantonment Station and Airport Station -- in the capital.

Fifty percent of the tickets would be sold online.

All these decisions were taken and proposals discussed at an inter-ministerial meeting at the Rail Bhaban yesterday with Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan in the chair.

The minister will brief the media about the decisions on these issues on Wednesday.

With Eid likely to be celebrated on May 2 or 3, depending on the moonsighting, advance tickets for April 27 will be sold on April 23. Tickets for April 28, 29, 30 and May 1 will be sold on April 24, 25, 26, and 27 respectively, meeting sources said.

At the meeting, Sujan directed the authorities concerned to make NID or other valid identity cards mandatory for purchasing advance ticket to check the black marketing of tickets.

However, some BR officials said making identity cards mandatory may adversely affect ticket sales amid the huge rush of holiday-goers.

Rail Secretary Humayun Kabir proposed a compartment dedicated for women in every inter-city train to ensure hassle-free journeys for them.

Several officials argued that ahead of Eid, women usually travel with family and may not prefer travelling separately.

Scientists

FROM PAGE 12

specifically target those to reduce the effects of ageing.

"This approach holds promise for valuable discoveries that could open up an amazing therapeutic horizon."

Time to focus on long-term

FROM PAGE 12

to dredge 14 rivers in the Sylhet region has been taken up.

However, experts opined that dredging a few rivers at random would not solve the problem. A massive dredging plan followed by a complete study is compulsory for a fruitful outcome.

Flash floods first hit haors on April 1. Boro on over 7,000 hectares have so far been submerged, damaging crop worth about Tk 125 crore.

At least three major levees broke and many more are at risk.

Things could take a turn for worse as it has started raining again in the country's north-eastern region and in India's Meghalaya and Assam.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre has forecast flash floods.

AKM Saiful Islam, professor of Buet's Institute of Water and Flood Management, said, "The timespan of flash floods hitting haor areas is advancing which we can relate to the climate change."

"PICs [project implementation committees] must be formed way before the water recedes post-monsoon so that the construction can start and finish early," he said, adding that the dykes' compaction must be done properly.

The professor urged to build up a long-term collaboration with India so that Bangladesh can get information about weather and water level in the rivers upstream.

Ali Muhammad Omar Faruque, director of water resources ministry's Department of Bangladesh Haor and Wetlands Development, said a study was required for long-term steps. "We will be planning a study soon."

Kashmir Reza, president of Haor O Paribesh Unnayan Sangtha, a rights organisation, said, "Rivers upstream must be dredged along with all major rivers downstream so that the excessive water recedes easily."

SM Shahidul Islam, additional chief engineer of BWDB in Sylhet, said, "There is nothing wrong with the compaction of the closures, but the older parts become week over time and break. It needs more budget allocation to construct stronger levees."

State Minister Zaheed yesterday said constructing permanent levees in the haors was not possible.

On the project to dredge 14 rivers in Sylhet region, he said it would increase the capacity of the rivers holding rainwater from upstream.

"We've identified the problems and will start our work in November .. and hopefully there will be no problem next year."

Biman plane

FROM PAGE 12

rescheduled to Monday.

The two aircraft have been sent to the engineering and maintenance unit for assessing the damage, said Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, the managing director and chief executive officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, yesterday.

"We are assessing whether the aircraft is repairable by our engineers and technical persons," he added.

The Boeing 787 damaged at the Sylhet airport will be sent to Singapore for repair.

Md. Mahbub Ali, the state minister for civil aviation, expressed indignation at the incident and questioned whether it was a case of sabotage.

A committee has been formed to identify why the incident happened, who was responsible and to assess the damage.

BNP demands probe into law

FROM PAGE 2

Babar, brother of former minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, is allegedly involved in laundering over Tk 2,000 crore abroad, the BNP said in the letter.

In its letter, the BNP asked the ACC to find out where the money was laundered.

"How much money was laundered in the last five years, who were involved and what measures are being taken by the ACC? What are the problems the ACC has faced in bringing the money back?" the letter asked.

Asked why such complaints were filed with the ACC, Moazzem said they did this out of their sense of responsibility and that they would do so regularly from now on.

ACC's Secretary Mahbub Hossain said anyone can file complaints with them. "We have received the complaints [filed by some BNP leaders]. The next course of action will be taken based on the ACC's act and rules."

Asked, ACC secretary said he was yet to see BNP's complaint.

Shehbaz steps out of shadows to lead Pak

AFP, *Islamabad*

Shehbaz Sharif, who became Pakistan's new prime minister yesterday after leading the opposition alliance that ousted Imran Khan, is a tough administrator with a penchant for quoting revolutionary poetry.

Shehbaz is the younger brother of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who was dismissed then jailed on corruption charges in 2017 and is currently in Britain after being released from prison two years later for medical treatment.

He is a seasoned politician in his own right, however, having served for years as chief minister of Punjab province, the Sharif family's power base, and also president of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N).

The 70-year-old jointly inherited the family's steel business as a young man and was first elected to provincial office in 1988.

Officials were reportedly kept on their toes by workaholic Shehbaz's habit of surprise visits to government offices, which he would inspect clad in a favoured safari suit and hat.

Shehbaz has also been linked to graft and corruption -- charges supporters say sprang from a political vendetta by Khan. Unlike his elder brother -- whose relations with the country's powerful military and his opponents were strained -- Shehbaz is seen as a more flexible dealmaker, capable of compromising even with his enemies.

Zinaida Makishaiva, 82, reacts as she recounts how Russian soldiers treated her, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Borodyanka, Kyiv region, Ukraine yesterday. Zinaida said "They came to my house and said go to the basement, "bitch"." She put a sign on her house reading "there are people here". Soldiers started to shoot around her to scare her. "God saved my life". PHOTO: REUTERS

FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Macron, Le Pen qualify for run-off

AFP, *Paris*

French President Emmanuel Macron and far-right rival Marine Le Pen yesterday embarked on a final fortnight of bruising campaigning for a French presidential election run-off whose outcome is far more uncertain than their encounter five years ago.

With 97 percent votes counted, Macron came in first in Sunday's first round of voting with 27.6 percent of the vote. Le Pen was second with 23.4 percent.

As the top two finishers, they

advance to a second round on April 24.

Far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon came close to beating Le Pen for the second spot, after a late surge gave him a score of just under 22 percent.

The duel between Macron and Le Pen is a re-run of the 2017 election final from which Macron emerged victorious with 66 percent. But this time polls predict a closer contest which will crucially hinge on voters who backed other candidates in the first round.

"Make no mistake: nothing is decided," Macron told cheering supporters at his campaign headquarters Sunday night.

Le Monde daily headlined: "Macron-Le Pen -- A more uncertain Act II."

ANTI-WAR STUNT

German paper hires Russian journo

AFP, *Berlin*

German newspaper Die Welt said yesterday it has hired Marina Ovsyannikova, the Russian journalist who protested against Moscow's military action in Ukraine during a prime-time news broadcast on state TV. Ovsyannikova, 43, "is now a freelance correspondent for Die Welt, reporting from Ukraine and Russia, among other places", the newspaper said in a statement. Ovsyannikova, an editor at Russia's Channel One television, barged onto the set of its flagship Vremya (Time) evening news in March holding a poster reading "No War" in English. After her protest she was detained and questioned for 14 hours before being released and ordered to pay a fine of 30,000 rubles ($280).

Israel army in new operations around West Bank city

AFP, *Jenin*

Israeli forces yesterday launched a third day of operations around the flashpoint West Bank city of Jenin following heavy gun battles in recent days and 20 arrests overnight, the army said. Tensions have soared since a spree of attacks in Israel left 14 people dead in the past three weeks, with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warning the Jewish state is now "on the offensive". Four Palestinians were killed in separate incidents across the occupied territory Sunday, and militant groups in Jenin braced for more battles.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road, Division, Narail
Phone: 0481-62508/Fax: 0481-63307
E-mail: eenara@rhd.gov.bd/eenararhd@gmail.com

Reference: e-GP/2021-2022/1496(32) Date: 11/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID	Tender Package No. and Description	Last selling date and time	Closing & opening date and time
685385	**e-GP/EE/NRD/Rev./24/2021-2022** Supplying of Reflecting Road Studs works Ch: 1+000 to 15+600 & Ch: 21+000 to 21+845 of Narail-Kalia Road (Z-7502) under Road Division Narail during the year 2021-2022.	27-Apr-2022 17:00pm	28-Arp-2022 12:00pm

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- The 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 Member of Schedule Banks for e-GP.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Ashrafuzzaman
ID No. 602164
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Narail

GD-724

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

Office of the Project Director
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
Directorate of Technical Education
F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Tenders for Supplying of Manpower Through Outsourcing

1	Ministry/Division	Technical & Madrasha Education Division.
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Non-consulting Service (Selection of firm for supplying of Manpower).
6	Invitation Ref No. & Date	**57.03.0000.000.07.21.22-51; 10/04/2022**
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
8	Budget and source of funds	GoB Development.
9	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.
10	Project code	P167506
11	Project name	Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET).
12	Tender Package No.	S-31
13	Tender package name	Selection of firm for supplying of manpower (Designer (Graphic), Data Entry Operator, Driver (Light), Electrician cum operator, Office Sohayak, Dispatch Rider, Security Guard, Cleaner) through outsourcing method.
14	Tender publication date	12.04.2022
15	Tender last selling date	26.04.2022
16	Tender closing date and time	**27.04.2022 and 1.00pm.**
17	Tender opening date and time	**27.04.2022 and 2.00pm.**
18	**Name & address of the office(s)**	
	- Selling tender document	Office of the Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
	- Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
	- Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
19	Eligibility of tenderer	Bidders that fulfill the criteria described in the bidding documents.
20	Brief description of services	Selection of firm for supplying of manpower (Designer (Graphic), Data Entry Operator, Driver (Light), Electrician cum operator, Office Sohayak, Dispatch Rider, Security Guard, Cleaner) through outsourcing.
21	Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 2000.00 (two thousand Taka only).
22	Tender security	BDT 2,10,000.00 (two lac ten thousand only).
23	Completion time	For the period of 02 (two) years from the date of Contract Signing.
24	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Mohsin.
25	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director (Additional Secretary).
26	Address of official inviting tender	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET), Directorate of Technical Education, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
27	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 02-41024954
28	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

10.04.2022
Md. Mohsin
Project Director (Additional Secretary)
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET)
Directorate of Technical Education, Dhaka

GD-720

'Evil has been defeated'

FROM PAGE 1

after Khan loyalist Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the former foreign minister, withdrew his candidacy and resigned his seat.

"It's a victory of righteousness, and evil has been defeated," he said in his maiden speech as premier, suggesting no end to what has been a bitter political battle.

Later in the day, Shehbaz was sworn in as the country's prime minister at the President House.

The oath was administered by the chairman of Pakistan's Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani, in the absence of President Arif Alvi, a member of Khan's party, who said he was unwell.

Shehbaz's first task will be to form a cabinet that will also draw heavily from the centre-left Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), as well as find space for the smaller conservative Jamiat-ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F) group.

The PPP and PML-N are dynastic parties that have dominated Pakistani politics for decades -- usually as bitter rivals -- but their relations are sure to fray in the lead-up to the next election, which must be held by October 2023.

"History knows there is no ideological convergence among them," Qureshi said before storming out.

They need to tackle soaring inflation, a feeble rupee and crippling debt, while militancy is also on the rise -- with Pakistan's Taliban emboldened by the return to power last year of the hardline Islamist group in neighbouring Afghanistan.

"The situation is very bad, but I am sure that we will change it with the blessing of Allah and with hard work," said Shehbaz.

Energy, commodity

FROM PAGE 12

In the long term, if the Russia-Ukraine conflict affects the planting seasons in Ukraine, which seems quite likely, then the shortages of wheat, maze and corn could become more acute.

Eventually, it could also put price pressure on rice as some countries start to substitute rice consumption for other grain consumption, he added.

Asia is going to see a 5.2 percent GDP growth this year and 5.3 percent growth next year.

Besides, South Asian countries will see 7 percent growth this year and 7.4 percent growth next year, outperforming their East Asian and Southeast Asian peers.

Among the South Asian nations, Bangladesh will see 6.9 percent growth this year and 7.1 percent growth next year.

On the other hand, ADB's headline forecast on inflation in Asia is "modest", Park said.

To manage the challenges, each government needs to do a "balancing act", Park said.

On the one hand, governments want to support recovery, achieve sustainable development goals and support a green transition.

But at the same time, they are worried about elevated macroeconomic risks, he said.

If inflation stays modest as per the ADB's projection, some central banks in Asian countries might resist raising the interest rates.

However, that could lead to the depreciation of their currencies, Park added.

India can provide some answer to the concerns surrounding food grain supply, said Raimondo Serra, the EU's directorate-general for Agriculture and Rural Development for Asia and Australasia.

The neighbouring country is the world's second-largest producer of wheat but because of its population size, it is not a big player in the global market.

India accounted for less than 1 percent of global wheat exports in the past seven years, he said.

However, there has been a boom in Indian wheat exports between 2021 and 2022, he added.

Pauline Weil, research analyst at Brussels-based think-tank Bruegel; Anintita Praokaew, vice-president of PTT's international trading business unit; and Prinn Panichpakdi, chairman of the advisory committee to the Thai commerce minister, also spoke at the webinar.

ANN Executive Director Pana Janviroj moderated the event.

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seek applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following position:

Deputy Director (Public Relations) : 1 (one) position

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview.

Job Description:
- Word processing, graphic designing, desktop publishing (DTP).
- Assisting in content development for NSU website.
- Keeping liaison with social media management for NSU.
- Contributing in the planning and producing NSU branding related materials.
- Any other task assigned by Director (Public Relations).

Essential Requirements:
- Minimum 10 (ten) years of experience in relevant field.
- At least a Masters in Arts or Social Science, preferably in Mass Communication and Journalism.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills.
- High level of written and oral communication skills both in English and Bangla.
- Good rapport with print and electronic media.
- Computer literacy with Photoshop & Adobe Illustrator.

Age : Ideally 40 – 50 years.

Remuneration: An attractive salary package with in-house medical services as per NSU policy.

Other Terms and Conditions :
- Willingness to work in holidays and after-hours if necessary.
- Third division/ class/ equivalent GPA in any level of education will not be accepted.

NSU reserves the right to accept or reject any one or all applications without showing any reason.

Candidates should apply from his/her own e-mail address with a complete CV, photograph, copies of certificates, transcripts and writing sample (Bangla and English) by 23rd April 2022.

Those who have applied earlier need not apply again.

Director (Administration)
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Plot# 15, Block# B, Bashundhara, Dhaka – 1229
Email: nsuhr@northsouth.edu, Website: www.northsouth.edu

বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
(বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)
শ্রীমঙ্গল-৩২১০, মৌলভীবাজার

"বেশী বেশী চা পান করুন, স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন"।

"বেশী বেশী লিকার চা পানে ক্যান্সার, হৃদরোগ হার মানে"।

স্মারক নং-বিটিআরআই/২/দ:স:/০৮-৫২৭ তারিখঃ ১১/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ

১টি অকেজো জীপ গাড়ির (মৌলভীবাজার-ক-০০২৪) নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, শ্রীমঙ্গল এর নিম্নবর্ণিত ১টি অকেজো ঘোষিত জীপ গাড়ি বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	গাড়ির রেজিঃ নম্বর	গাড়ির বিবরণ	যেখানে অবস্থান	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত
০১	মৌলভীবাজার-ক-০০২৪	জীপ, মিতসুবিশি এম কো. লি., প্রস্তুতকাল-১৯৮৮, ২৬০০ সিসি	বিটিআরআই ক্যাম্পাস, শ্রীমঙ্গল	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা	প্রস্তাবিত মূল্যের ২৫% (পঁচিশ শতাংশ)

শর্তাবলীঃ
(১) দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা ঃ দরপত্র তফসিলে বর্ণিত শর্তাদি পরিপালন।
(২) দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ঃ (ক) বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, শ্রীমঙ্গল (খ) বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, ১৭১-১৭২, বায়েজিদ বোস্তামী সড়ক, নাসিরাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম এবং (গ) বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের লিয়াজো অফিস, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।
(৩) দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ঃ ১৩/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ হতে ২৬/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
(৪) দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান ঃ ২৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইন্সটিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
(৫) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান ঃ ২৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২-১০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইন্সটিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
(৬) দরপত্র জামানতে অর্থ ঃ ফেরতযোগ্য হিসেবে সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত যে কোন তপশিল ব্যাংক হতে পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট অনুকূলে ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
(৭) দরপত্র সংশ্লিষ্ট বিজ্ঞপ্তির তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত রয়েছে।
(৮) দরদাতাগণ দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিলের পূর্বে বর্ণিত গাড়ি পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন। পরিদর্শনের তারিখঃ ২০/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ বেলা ১১:০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, স্থানঃ বিটিআরআই, শ্রীমঙ্গল।
(৯) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অথবা বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী
পরিচালক

জিডি-৭২২

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

Inflation pushing people to the brink

Government needs to wake up and take effective action

THE unabated rise in prices that we have witnessed for months now has really started to take its toll on low- and middle-income groups. Two separate reports published by this newspaper on April 11 reveal the story of ordinary people, who have either been compelled to stop eating meat and fish altogether (if not more food items), stop sending money to their village homes to their parents (who are being forced to live off of loans), cut down on expenditure for their children, and worry about how they can afford basic medical treatment should they fall sick. Amid such suffering, the lack of urgency in action and legitimate concern and sympathy shown by the government towards people is shameful.

For months the media has reported on how terribly the people have been suffering. Reportedly, prices of rice, flour, pulses, oil, fish, meat, vegetables, soap and milk rose by 12 percent in February. Prices of other essentials including edible oil, sugar, red lentils, eggs and onions have risen by 10 to 40 percent in the last one year. If the government, in any way, had an effective market monitoring system, how could this have happened? Experts have been discussing possible solutions to the unbearable rise in prices, which they have said can be mitigated despite unfavourable external factors—if the government adopts proper policies and implements them correctly. And yet, government officials mostly seem to have shut their eyes and stuffed their ears. What else explains their lack of earnestness in taking meaningful action to check inflation and help the suffering people? Is it contempt?

The size of our market dictates that it cannot be controlled by enacting laws alone. It has to be backed up by enforcement. When people are suffering to the extent that they have been, enforcing price controls should have been the government's number one priority. But in its absence, trade syndicates have been having a field day again, hiking prices of essentials during Ramadan.

We urgently call on the government to wake up from its slumber and take note of the reality unfolding before its eyes. Given the situation, having a few sporadic Open Market Sales is not enough. It is not sufficient to cover many of the poor and almost the entirety of the middle class who also need help at this stage.

As around 70 percent of the population, who don't have any financial resilience, are not covered by the government's safety net programmes, it urgently needs to expand its social safety net programmes, and ensure that during this great crisis, these programmes are kept corruption free. For this, it should involve all stakeholders from society. Additionally, it needs to provide services such as electricity, water and gas at affordable prices through better governance and transparency in these sectors.

Why is the birth registration process so chaotic?

Take action against those harassing applicants, make process people-friendly

WE remain cautiously optimistic about the LGRD minister's assurance that the birth registration process would be made simpler and harassment-free. Md Tazul Islam recently told the media that action will be taken against those harassing the applicants who are trying to make or correct their birth registration certificates. We can only hope that he delivers on his promises.

Since the government made online birth registration mandatory for all citizens from January last year—to avail 18 citizen services, including enrolment in educational institutions, registration for secondary school certificate exams, applying for a passport, and driving license—people have been subjected to unbearable sufferings. They have had to deal with numerous difficulties while filling out the forms online as well as face harassment at the relevant government offices where they have to go in person to submit the forms or correct the errors.

According to our reports, applicants who submit the application following due process and without seeking any assistance from the brokers do not get their certificates on time. Thus, in order to avoid further harassment, people are paying the brokers Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 to get the certificates.

Strangely, the government also asked those who previously had a 16-digit birth certificate to apply for new ones as the government is now issuing all the citizens a 17-digit birth certificate. The result is, unbelievable pressure was put on the Office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration (ORGBDR). As of February 10, 2022, the number of pending applications was 17,86,0094. Every day, they are receiving 100,000 new applications, which means there is always a huge backlog. Taking advantage of the situation, brokers are exploiting the applicants and making some easy money.

What this all means is that the digitisation of the application process is not truly efficient and the government has actually forced the citizens to go through this without properly preparing the service delivery system. Experts believe that this huge backlog in delivering certificates and other problems, such as correcting the information errors, could be easily solved by using better and more efficient technology. Could the government not have easily updated the 16-digit certificates to 17-digit ones, instead of wasting so much time and energy to manually update things?

We urge the government to make the digital birth registration process easier, faster and harassment-free. We appreciate the LGRD minister's assurance to stop harassment of the applicants, but it means little without concrete actions by the relevant authorities to stop rampant corruption. The entire process needs to be re-evaluated so that it is people-friendly, as digitised procedures are supposed to be.

Can traffic get any worse than this? Yes, it can.

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin
is senior deputy editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

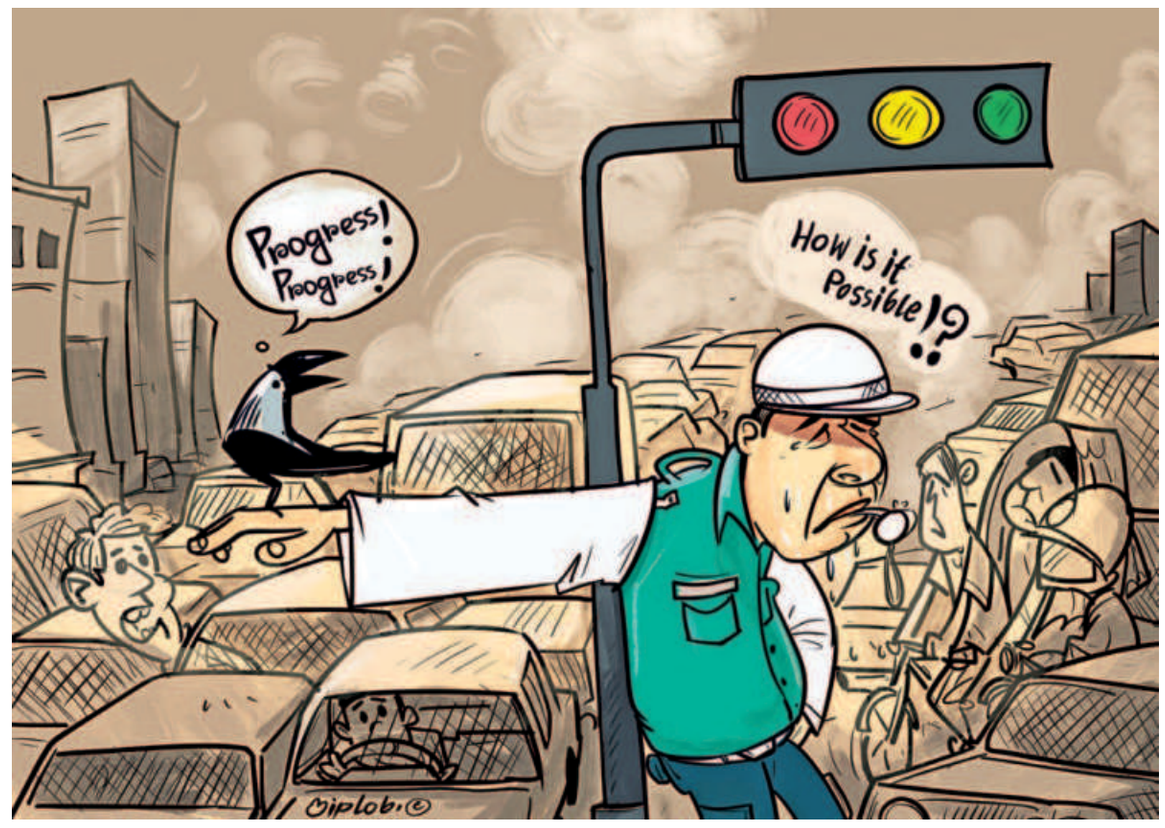
WHY is it that, no matter how many times we have experienced something unpleasant, we continue to do the exact same things we did before, expecting a different outcome? This illogical perspective that is described as insanity cannot be more manifested than in our traffic situation. Before Ramadan, it was bad enough. Travelling from A to B took a minimum of one hour no matter what the location, whether it was from Kachukhet to Gulshan or Gushan 1 to Gulshan 2. Now, with the holy month in progress, public office goers are out by 3 pm, people are already shopping for Eid, and schools have reopened, making an already untenable situation worse.

Dhaka is at a total standstill, most of the time. We hear of school students arriving an hour late for class or commuters from Uttara spending two and a half hours on the road to reach Karwan Bazar, making their total number of travel hours (up and down) around five hours—every day, except maybe Friday. One cannot but reiterate the refrain: How are we to function if we spend so much time just on the road? On top of that, it's hot and dusty thanks to perpetual construction, the air is thick with choking smog—why must something as basic as travelling within the city be such a miserable experience? What happens when there is a medical emergency, how will an ambulance reach the hospital on time before someone's breath runs out?

With most of our energy sapped from being trapped in traffic, we are washed out by the time we reach our workplace, irritable and demotivated, especially because we are already thinking of the gruelling ride back home.

They say that once the metro rail is complete, all problems will be solved. Yes, they could be, to an extent, if most people decide to use the train, especially private car owners. The question is: Will they? And what do we do in the meantime? There are over three lakh private cars plying our roads currently, taking up 60-65 percent of their capacity. How can we get a large number of these vehicles off the roads?

Reducing the number of private cars and motorcycles would be an obvious solution. What about taking off CNG-run private vehicles from the main roads of Dhaka? This is no doubt a controversial suggestion as it will hurt the middle class who can now afford private cars because they are CNG-run. But if people had safe, clean, easily available, and properly-driven buses to use, maybe they would be persuaded to leave their cars at home. And when the metro rail finally arrives, the benefits of a large majority of people using it, even some of those who would otherwise be napping in their fancy fossil fuel-run SUVs, would be huge. As for school-goers, if there were enough safe, reliable school buses, the unnecessary jams near schools could also be avoided.



With most of our energy sapped from being trapped in traffic, we are washed out by the time we reach our workplace, especially because we are already thinking of the gruelling ride back home.

The bottom line is that policymakers must wake up from their slumber and come up with real solutions instead of keeping their eyes closed as their flag-flying cars whiz by while the rest of the population sweats it out in the chokehold of traffic. They must repair the footpaths (so people are not maimed by open manholes, potholes and broken debris from construction) and free them from hawkers who have to pay a fee to the local mafia for a piece of pavement. Many people have already resorted to walking instead of being stuck in hours of traffic, but the broken and encroached upon pavements make it hazardous and difficult to travel on foot. Public transport vehicles must be dramatically increased—we only have 37,593 registered buses for a city of over two crore. Our city fathers, moreover, must give up their indulgence of rickety murir tin buses, owned by powerful quarters, that emit black fumes and stop anywhere and everywhere to pick up passengers. Women in particular must be able to travel without fear whether on a bus, metro or on foot. Though experts have suggested adding widely available women-only buses, all modes of public transport must be made accessible to women.

There are also ways to lessen the burden of people moving around in the city. The Covid experience has given us a logical solution: A hybrid model—with some days working from home and the rest in the workplace. Government offices that deal with processing documents digitally could adopt this model and make sure all applications can be processed online without disruption. Other offices where most or all of the work is done on digital platforms, too, could benefit from this—especially during Ramadan.

These are not difficult measures to implement and it is surprising that most of what has been mentioned constitutes the bare minimum that ordinary citizens can expect from their capital city. Dhaka's population is now around 22,478,000 and is estimated to reach 31.2 million by 2035. One can only shudder to think how Dhaka will cope with another nine million or more city dwellers, most of whom will be moving around the city at any given time. Will those responsible for this city finally take notice of our misery and allow Dhaka's arteries to flow freely again?

Renewable energy, not imported LNG

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SIMON NICHOLAS

ON March 21, 2022, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared 100 percent electricity coverage of the country. As one of the fast-growing economies in the world, Bangladesh needs a reliable energy grid, so this is a milestone moment.

As Bangladesh scales up its energy supply, its leaders face a choice: do they double down on imported fossil fuels, or invest in renewable energy instead?

Last year, it made a major leap forward when it scrapped plans for 10 new coal-fired power plants.

But there are some expectations that at least some of the cancelled coal-fired projects would be replaced with LNG-fired power. There is a distinct possibility that the new Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP)—currently being developed by Japan—will lock in further commitment to LNG-fired power. This would be unsurprising, given that Japan is keen to sell its LNG power technology overseas.

A closer look at fossil fuel markets shows that this approach has major economic risks, and would be a backwards step for a country in need of an affordable and reliable energy system.

Relying on LNG imports means locking into an unstable market and the price spikes that go with it. Even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Asian LNG prices reached their highest level ever late last year. Japan is well aware how such LNG price spikes impact power prices—2021 saw Japan's worst power crisis since the Fukushima disaster, prompted by high LNG prices.

The government's efforts should be redirected to the two things needed to safeguard the sustainability of the power system: grid investments to make better use of existing capacity and scaling up renewable energy.

Now, Russia's invasion of Ukraine means that the fossil fuel market will become even more volatile. Countries who normally source gas from Russia are looking elsewhere, putting supply under pressure. Already, that's driven up LNG prices to new record highs.

That global dash for gas triggers sky-high costs for people, business, and government in Bangladesh. The government has already paid through the nose in subsidies and other losses to soften the blow of huge price rises in 2021. As a result, Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) proposed raising the cost of electricity by 66 percent—a rise that's likely to be passed on, at least in part, to consumers and businesses, too.

Locking into more LNG reliance would mean that Bangladesh is even more exposed to the risks of volatile fossil fuel imports. It's no foundation for growth.

Instead, the government's efforts should be redirected to the two things needed to safeguard the sustainability of the power system: grid investments to make better use of existing capacity and scaling up renewable energy.

Given the power system's already very low overall utilisation rate of just 42 percent, the new IEPMP must focus on grid investment to improve reliability and limit the country's future dependence on expensive, imported fossil fuels.

Overcapacity problems means the PDB is forced to pay high capacity payments to plants, causing worsening operating losses for the government. Investing in the transmission system would get power to the parts of Bangladesh that need it the most and help end the stream of financial losses from the PDB. Fixing this should be a priority in the IEPMP—not importing expensive LNG.

Renewables are a secure energy source, and that's why the world's most powerful countries are now accelerating their investment in renewables amid current geopolitical instability. Take Germany, which has just announced its accelerating its journey towards 100 percent renewable energy after the war in Ukraine exposed the cost and insecurity of relying on gas. Every day Bangladesh doesn't invest in renewables is another day spent paying through the nose for fossil fuels—while ignoring the almost limitless energy sources on its doorstep.

Energy that Bangladesh can control also means more reliable power for its citizens. A USAID report highlighted that only 11 percent of grid-connected houses receive more than 16 hours of energy supply a day. Secure renewable energy solves this by getting reliable power flowing to the businesses and homes that need it at a fixed cost, unaffected by global fossil fuel price volatility.

Bangladesh's Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) has recently proposed that a new clean energy target of 25 percent (including renewable and nuclear) by 2030 be incorporated into the new IEPMP. This target would amount to 10,000MW of power, including 5,000MW of wind power.

Other countries are shifting fast from their reliance on fossil fuels. They're planning for the energy markets of the future—not those of the last century. The recent fossil fuel volatility will only accelerate that transition.

If its new IEPMP wants to prepare Bangladesh for a prosperous, energy-secure future, it will invest in grid upgrades and clean, affordable, and sovereign power. That means renewables, not LNG imports.

Unpacking the story of missing students

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MANZOOR AHMED

THE Annual Primary School Census (APSC) 2021 shows that enrolment in primary schools came down in 2021 from the previous year by almost 1.5 million, while the number of teachers decreased by over 83,000. In addition, over 14,000 primary schools were shut down. Data gathered in the second quarter of 2021 showed some of the impacts after Covid-19 forced school closure in March 2020, which continued until September 2021. The findings have been reported in the media, but the report itself is yet to be formally published.

The numbers collected through questionnaires filled in by head teachers, though subjected to verification, are likely to be an underestimate, especially for non-government schools. The reported number of private kindergarten schools is mentioned as 28,193 in 2021 (with 3.3 million students out of a total of 20.1 million at the primary level). Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, the head of Bangladesh Kindergarten School and College Oikya Parishad, claimed that there were 60,000 kindergarten schools in 2020, of which about 20,000 were closed by 2021, and the remainder were in "bad shape" financially.

The report, pertaining only to primary schools, depicted the situation at the end of the first year of the pandemic. We don't have a full picture of the impact of continuing school closure into the second year, and its impact at the secondary and tertiary levels.

Schools re-opened in mid-September with limited hours and on alternate days for different classes to maintain health and safety rules. Then, there was another month-long shutdown in January-February this year. Official data show that some 40 percent of the primary-level students went to private and NGO-run schools outside the domain of the government primary school system (not counting the Qawmi madrasas). The authorities cannot ignore the educational plight and well-being of all these children.

Various surveys by Education Watch and others as well as anecdotal evidence show that the combined health, economic and mental well-being effects of the pandemic on children, their families and their teachers have made the former vulnerable in multiple ways. Incidence of child labour has increased, the number of early marriage of girls has shot up, more children are subject to child abuse and violence in family, and a proportion of students have moved to Qawmi madrasas for economic reasons.

Children attend a class wearing protective masks at a school in Dhaka.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

Children are afraid and anxious about the uncertainty they face. All the vulnerabilities of the education system that existed before the pandemic have been magnified by it, affecting more children more severely.

Missing children in schools, absent teachers and shuttered schools are only part of a much larger problem of learning loss and not being ready to learn as schools re-open for the majority among those children who are fortunate to be in school. Let's also not forget that even before the pandemic, the majority of students, according to assessments made under government auspices, could not read and count at a basic level after five years of primary education.

Students essentially skipping two school years have been promoted to the next grade. The education authorities are keen to go back to the normal school routine as soon as possible. There is a tendency among the authorities to deny or underplay the massive learning loss that has occurred. This cannot be dismissed as hyperbolic.

Warnings have been sounded by Unesco, Unicef, World Bank and the international education community of the danger in low-income countries. Economics Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee spoke about learning loss as a global threat. He says, "Not measuring learning losses and [not] taking steps to integrate children back into the system will be a 'recipe for disaster'" (The New Indian Express).

The Education Watch 2021 findings, expected to be made public shortly, do provide signs of a looming learning crisis. The cumulative learning loss and the inability to acquire basic competencies (including literacy and numeracy) make the majority of students unprepared to follow their new grade-level lessons. A new generation of students may grow up with permanent learning handicaps.

It is, therefore, necessary to recognise the depth of the problem and take urgent remedial actions. These should include the following:

First, the aim of going back to the normal school routine as soon as possible is totally understandable, but it has to be based on acceptance that there has been massive learning loss after children skipped two years of schooling and were auto-promoted by two grades. The majority of them are not ready for their normal lessons and exam routine.

Second, a two-year learning recovery plan mast be developed and implemented urgently.

Third, the learning recovery plan with its key elements must be the main focus of the work of the education authorities for the next two years. The key elements should include: 1) A grade-wise core skills assessment (Bangla and maths at the primary level, and Bangla, English, maths and science at the secondary level) undertaken in each school rapidly and with simple tools; 2) Assessing and grouping students by skill levels to bring them up to minimum grade-level competency within a year; 3) Developing simple assessment tools to be used in each school and preparing teaching guides and content for remedial lessons by ability groups; and 4) Supporting teachers and schools to carry out the assessment and remedial learning activities.

Fourth, give priority to the recovery and remedial programme by temporarily putting on hold longer-term and other routine activities as much as possible. NCTB, NAPE, NAEM, the Directorates and Education Boards need to give their full attention to the recovery plan. The curriculum reform initiative may be delayed, which will actually benefit from the experience of a successful implementation of the recovery plan.

Fifth, working groups should be formed in each upazila and union for primary and secondary education involving education personnel, local government, education NGOs, and teachers' organisations to carry out the recovery and remedial plan. One important task would be to bring back and keep in school those who have faltered.

Finally, necessary funding must be provided in the education budget of the 22-23 fiscal year for the recovery and remedial plan. Support should be available to government and non-government schools based on local assessment of their needs through the primary and secondary education working groups.

The FY 22-23 budget should be seized as an opportunity to undo or prevent (further) damage in education. It should include funds for teachers' incentives, school budget support, and working with NGOs, especially on recruiting and supporting voluntary para- teachers. A reasonable formula should be devised to support non-government schools outside the MPO net, working with the local working groups. As regards the report, the primary education authorities deserve praise for preparing it. An update is needed now, and similar exercises should be undertaken for secondary and tertiary levels.

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কৃষক পর্যায়ে পিঁয়াজ ও রসুন সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি আধুনিকায়ন এবং বিপণন কার্যক্রম উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প
কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর
খামারবাড়ি, ১ম ভবন, ৫ম তলা, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫

স্মারক নং-১২.০২.০০০০.৫৪৭.২৬.০০১.২২-২৬ তারিখঃ ১২/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ

মোটর সাইকেল সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	এজেন্সী	ঃ	কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর।
৩.	সংগ্রহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	ঃ	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, কৃষক পর্যায়ে পিঁয়াজ ও রসুন সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি আধুনিকায়ন এবং বিপণন কার্যক্রম উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প।
৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিষয়	ঃ	প্যাকেজ ০২: ০৫টি ব্রান্ড নিউ মোটর সাইকেল সরবরাহ।
৫.	বাজেট ও তহবিলের উৎস	ঃ	গভর্নমেন্ট অব বাংলাদেশ (জিওবি)।
৬.	ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া অনুমোদনের সূত্র	ঃ	পত্র স্মারক নং ১২.০২.০০০০.০১২.২৬.০০১,২১-৪৯৬ তারিখঃ ১০/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ।
৭.	কোম্পানী/প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা	ঃ	(ক) হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও আয়কর প্রদানের সনদ। (খ) আগ্রহী কোম্পানী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের বিগত তিন বা ততোধিক বছরের রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত/বিদেশী মিশন/কোম্পানী/সু-প্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত শ্রেণীর মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে। (গ) মোটরসাইকেল আমদানীকারীর নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে। (ঘ) দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা।
৮.	দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, কৃষক পর্যায়ে পেঁয়াজ ও রসুন সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি আধুনিকায়ন এবং বিপণন কার্যক্রম উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প। কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর, খামারবাড়ি, ১ম ভবন, ৫ম তলা, ফার্মগেট, কক্ষ নং-৫১১, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫। ২৫/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৬/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৬/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ০১.০০ ঘটিকায়।
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, কৃষক পর্যায়ে পেঁয়াজ ও রসুন সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি আধুনিকায়ন এবং বিপণন কার্যক্রম উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প। কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর, খামারবাড়ি, ১ম ভবন, ৫ম তলা, কক্ষ নং-৫১১, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১২.	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা	ঃ	প্যাকেজ ০২: GD-২।
১৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	ঃ	মোঃ হেলাল উদ্দিন, প্রকল্প পরিচালক, কৃষক পর্যায়ে পেঁয়াজ ও রসুন সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি আধুনিকায়ন এবং বিপণন কার্যক্রম উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প, কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর।
১৪.	একক সিডিউলের মূল্য (টাকায়)	ঃ	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
১৫.	যোগাযোগ	ঃ	অফিস ফোনঃ ৫৫০২৮৪৪৬, মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১২৬৬৩৭৪৭।
১৬.	মালামালের বিবরণ	ঃ	প্যাকেজ ০২: ০৫টি ব্রান্ড নিউ মোটর সাইকেল (টেন্ডার সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত স্পেসিফিকেশন অনুযায়ী)।
১৭.	দরপত্র জামানত	ঃ	প্যাকেজের আওতায় ০৫টি ব্রান্ড নিউ মোটর সাইকেল সরবরাহকারী আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে প্রকল্প পরিচালকের অনুকূলে ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্র প্রস্তাবের সাথে দাখিল করিতে হবে।
১৮.	মালামাল সরবরাহের স্থান	ঃ	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তর অথবা তাঁর নির্দেশনা মত।
১৯.	সংরক্ষিত ক্ষমতা	ঃ	সংগ্রহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র/আবেদন/সংগ্রহ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
২০.	ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ বিধিমালা	ঃ	সরকারি ক্রয় বিধিমালা-২০০৮ অনুসরণে দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া সম্পাদন করা হবে।

১২/০৪/২০২২
মোঃ হেলাল উদ্দিন
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
ফোন নং-০১৭১২৬৬৩৭৪৭

জিডি-৭২৩

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর
জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, যশোর

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	এজেন্সি	:	সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর।
৩.	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	:	মহাপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, যশোর।
৪.	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার জেলা	:	যশোর জেলা।
৫	যে কাজের বিজ্ঞপ্তি	:	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত বিভিন্ন আবাসিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুষংগিক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
৬	দরপত্র নম্বর তারিখ	:	৪১.০১.৪১০০.০০০.০৭.০২০.২২-৪২৫ তারিখঃ ০৭/০৪/২০২২
৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	:	১২/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৮	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম)
৯	বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস	:	রাজস্ব বাজেট, জিওবি
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	:	৪(চার)টি
১১	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	:	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত বিভিন্ন আবাসিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য খাদ্যানুসংগিক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল 'ক' গ্রুপ-খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল, 'খ' গ্রুপ- শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য 'ঙ' গ্রুপ বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ 'ঘ' সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, যশোর এর খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষাংগিক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল) এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য)।
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	১১/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	১২/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	১২/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতা বা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৫	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা ক. মূল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়	:	সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান ও উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, যশোর।
	খ. দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ	:	সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান, উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, যশোর, পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, যশোর এবং জেলা প্রশাসক এর কার্যালয়, যশোর।
	গ. দরপত্র দলিল খোলা	:	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, যশোর।
১৬	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	(১) বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। (২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেজারী চালানের মূলকপি, পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সচ্ছলতা সনদ, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভ্যাট প্রদান (২০২০-২০২১) সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে।
১৭	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	:	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালান-এর মাধ্যমে কোড-১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬(অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে

গ্রুপ	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	সিডিউল মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
ক.	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষাংগিক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	১,০০০/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	শিশু উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র (বালক), যশোর, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), যশোর এবং সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), ঝিকরগাছা, যশোর।
খ	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য	১,০০০/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	শিশু উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র (বালক), যশোর, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), যশোর এবং সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), ঝিকরগাছা, যশোর।
ঘ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষাংগিক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল) এবং শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য	৫০০/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, যশোর।
ঙ	বিবিধ মালামাল	৫০০/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	শিশু, উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র (বালক), যশোর, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), যশোর এবং সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), ঝিকরগাছা, যশোর।

১৮	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	:	মোঃ তমিজুল ইসলাম খান
১৯	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	:	জেলা প্রশাসক, যশোর
২০	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	:	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, যশোর
২১	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নাম্বার	:	০৪২১-৬৮৫০০ ০২৪৭৭৭৬২৫/০২৭৭৭৬২৫৩৫

২২ শর্তাবলী
ক. পি.পি.এ-২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
খ. গৃহীত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
গ. "ঙ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
ঘ. কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
ঙ. দরপত্র ক্রয়ের তারিখ হতে দরপত্র খোলার নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।
চ. বিগত তিন বছরের মধ্যে অনুরূপ কাজ করার ২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র।
জ. বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।

মোঃ তমিজুল ইসলাম খান
জেলা প্রশাসক
যশোর

জিডি-৭১০

National University

Bangladesh

Ref. No. ENGG17-0/00230/2020(7)/1/3175 Dated: 07-Apr-2022

e-Tender Notice

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing and opening date & time
1	Tender ID: 563674 Package No: EGP-NU-2021-006 Publishing: 10-Apr-2022	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of different building VRF system air-conditioner at National University, Gazipur.	Date: 08-May-2022 Time: 16:00	Date: 09-May-2022 Time: 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

Md. Abu Hanif
Director (Additional Charge)
Engineering Department
National University, Gazipur
Phone: 02996691534

GD-729

জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয়

নারায়ণগঞ্জ

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No: Zpng.ganj/eng/23/2021-2022/201 Date: 11/04/2022

e-Tender Notice OWN No. 08-2021-2022

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Method
1	685257	zp/nganj/2021-22/Rev-93	Finish the unfinished work of 2nd floor of Hakim Contractor Jame Mosque in Deovog Pacca road (Khanka Galli) under Sadar Upazila Dist Narayanganj.	27/04/2022 17:00pm	28/04/2022 14:00pm	OTM

Md. Abu Ashraful Hasan
Assistant Engineer
Zilla Parishad, Narayanganj

GD-727

বাংলাদেশের সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী Bangladesh 50

Chittagong Medical University

Salimpur, Faujdarhat, Chattogram
Phone: 024-4045146, E-mail: info@cmu.edu.bd

Invitation for Tender

1.	Procuring entity name	Dr Bidduth Barua, Deputy Director, Chittagong Medical University.
2.	Procuring entity district	Sitakund.
3.	Invitation Ref. No.	CMU/Procure/2021-22/IFT/GR-10/03
4.	Date	12/04/2022
KEY INFORMATION		
5.	Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
6.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
7.	Eligibility of tenderer	i. Experience of supplying similar goods as below for five years with liquid assets of Tk 10,00,000/- (ten lac). ii. Specific experience of completing at least two (2) jobs in last 3 years with the value of Tk 8,00,000/- (eight lac). iii. Relevant documents according to the list mentioned in Tender Document.
8.	Brief description of service	i. Brand PC ii. Printers
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		**Date** / **Time**
9.	Tender publication date	12/04/2022 / ---
10.	Tender closing date and time	26/04/2022 / 12:00pm
11.	Tender last selling date	25/04/2022 / 2.00pm
12.	Name & address of the office(s)	**Address**
13.	-Selling tender document	Procurement Officer's Room.
14.	-Receiving tender document	Deputy Director's (Planning & Development) Room.
15.	-Opening tender document	26/04/2022 12:30pm
16.	Price of tender document (Tk)	1500/- (fifteen hundred Taka)

17.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security	Completion time in weeks
18.	1	GR-10/01	BITID Building, Salimpur, Faujdarhat, Chattogram	32000 (thirty-two thousand Taka)	3 (three) weeks

19. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

Dr. Bidduth Barua
Deputy Director (Planning & Development)
BITID Building, Salimpur, Faujdarhat
01309034100, drbbaruabd@gmail.com

GD-731

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
Cumilla Road Circle, Cumilla.
Phone: 081-64724
E-mail: secom@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1933.009.174.07.002.22-436 Date: 10-04-2022

Tender Corrigendum Notice No. 01 of Contract No. SE/CUM/Rest Area/CRC-16/2021-2022 invited by this Office will be as follows:

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Completion Time in Weeks/Months	36 Months	12 Months

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of The Tender Document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part of the Tender Document.

10.4.22

Mohammed Ziaul Haider
ID No. 601933
Superintending Engineer (c.c.), RHD
Road Circle, Cumilla

GD-721

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Chattogram
E-mail: ee_chi@eedmoe.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender(OTM)

Tender Notice No. EE/EED/Ctg/e-Tender/2021-2022/47 Date: 10.04.2022

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID & procurement method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
01	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G32	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Pahartoli Girls School & College Sitakunda Chattogram. Category-2**	**683739**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
02	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G58	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at C J M High School Chandgaon Chattogram. Category-1, Co-education**	**683740**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
03	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G60	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Kapashgola City Corporation Girls High School & College Kotwali Chattogram. Category- 2**	**683741**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
04	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G61	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Gulzar A Begum City Corporation Girls High School Kotwali Chattogram. Category- 2**	**683742**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
05	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/21-22/G62	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Kusumkumary City Corporation Girls High School Kotwali Chattogram. Category- 2**	**683743**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
06	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G63	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at T&T High School Doublemooring Chattogram. Category- 2, Co-education**	**683744**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
07	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G64	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Railway Employees Girls School Doublemooring Chattogram. Category- 2**	**683745**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
08	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev 21-22/G65	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Garibe Newaj High School Halisohar Chattogram. Category- 2, Co-education**	**683746**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
09	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G66	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Bashanti Girls High School Pahartali Chattogram. **Category- 2**	**683747**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
10	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G67	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at P. H. Amin Academy Pahartali, Chattogram. Category- 2 Co-education**	**683748**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
11	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G68	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Halisohar Housing Estate High School Halisohar Chattogram. Category- 2, Co-education**	**683749**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
12	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G69	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Bongobesonagar High School Panchlaish Chattogram. Category- 2, Co-education**	**683750**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
13	Ctg/New 3000school/Dev/ 21-22/G70	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Dokkhin Halishohor High School Bondor Chattogram. Category- 2, Co-education**	**683751**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
14	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-121	G-121: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Bangladesh Mahila Samiti Girls' High School and College, Kotwali, Chattogram. (Category-02, Girls)**	**683752**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
15	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-122	G-122: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Hasne Hena Girls High School, Bakalia, Chattogram. (Category-02, Girls)**	**683753**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
16	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-124	G-124: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Goshaildanga Ram Krishna (G. R. K) High School, Bandar, Chattogram. (Category-02, Co-Education)**	**683754**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
17	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-125	G-125: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Munshipara High School, Bandar, Chattogram. (Category-02, Co-Education)**	**683755**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
18	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-126	G-126: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Potenga High School, Potenga, Chattogram. (Category-02, Co-Education)**	**683756**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
19	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-127	G-127: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Nimtala High School, Bandar, Chattogram. (Category-02, Co-Education)**	**683757**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
20	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-128	G-128: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Chattogram Airport High School, Potenga, Chattogram. (Category-02, Co-Education)**	**683758**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30
21	Ctg/New3000/Dev/ 2021-22/G-129	G-129: Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building **at Madhyam Halishahar Begumjan High School, Bandar, Chattogram (Category-02, Co-Education)**	**683759**	24-Apr-2022 16:00	25-Apr-2022 14:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Chattogram
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GD-717

Star SPORT
DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2022, CHAITRA 29, 1428 BS

What to WATCH

TEN 1 & TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Bayern Munich vs Villarreal
Real Madrid vs Chelsea
Live from 01:00 am (Wednesday)

STAR SPORTS 1
IPL
Chennai vs Bangalore
Live from 08:00 pm

'We need a lot of time to improve in Tests'

Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque drew a clear picture of where Bangladesh are as a Test side after their 332-run loss in the second Test against South Africa at Port Elizabeth saw them lose the series 2-0. In his post-match press conference, the disappointed skipper gave indications of where it had all gone wrong. The excerpts are below:

On the lack of fight on the field:
There is only one explanation. We batted really badly and that's all there is to it. As a team, we didn't play the way we wanted. If you look at the previous Test, although we lost we batted well as a team in the first innings. We could not replicate that effort as a team. Team-wise, we couldn't bat from session to session or bat for a long time. Those things were missing.

On the win Test win against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui appearing to be a fluke after such performances:

Bangladesh batter Mushfiqur Rahim walks back to the pavilion after playing yet another reckless shot as the Tigers suffered a 332-run thumping against South Africa on the fourth day of their series-deciding second Test at St George's Park in Gqeberha yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

SCORES IN BRIEF (DAY-4)
South Africa: First Innings- 453 all out and Second Innings 176 for 6 dec
Bangladesh: First Innings 217 all out and Second Innings 80 all out (Liton 27, Miraz 20; Maharaj 7-40, Harmer 3-34)
Result: South Africa won by 332 runs
Player-of-the-match: Keshav Maharaj
Player-of-the-series: Keshav Maharaj

The conditions there were different to conditions here. Whether you say it's a fluke or not is up to you. It's not in my hands. Whether playing in a Test for five days is a fluke or not, I don't know. Perhaps you can say better. However, you can't look for similarities between the conditions in Mount Maunganui and here.

On the change in approach
The thing is that you have to adapt to the conditions quickly. It's not like we don't play on spinning wickets. I think our execution was flawed in one or two areas.

On wavering from Test mentality
Test cricket is the kind of game that demands you improve on a daily basis as a team. You can't just play well for one session or even three days in a Test. You have to play well all five days. You may make mistakes in one or two sessions, but you still have to play well over five days. I think we need to improve more in Test cricket. From the way you speak, it feels like we're already the number one Test team. But I feel we are still in the same place we were before we won the Test [against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui]. Maybe your expectations rose. So did ours, but there is lot to improve on.

Mushfiqur's dismissal and whether anyone talked to him
A reverse-sweep is a cricketing shot. It's not like it's not a cricketing shot. He can play that shot and he will play it according to his game plan. I support him. No one [talked to him regarding that shot]. I will make a request of you because it will benefit Bangladesh cricket. If you emphasise this issue, it will be bad for his mood, for our team and for our country.

On losing wickets to spinners
Everyone knows that we, bar one or two players, are not very good at playing spinners. It sounds bad but that's how I feel. Maybe some play [well], but we don't understand which areas to target square of the wicket.

On being used to Shakib [Al Hasan] and Taijul [Islam] but struggling against Keshav Maharaj
The fundamental thing is the difference between wickets in the subcontinent and here. Side spin is very effective in our country but here it's not so effective. In these conditions, over spin [flighted with top spin] is very effective. Our bowlers' technique would be hampered if they tried over spin after two days.

On not picking a third seamer
Picking five bowlers is difficult for us because it shortens the batting line-up. Bangladesh are number nine or ten in the Test rankings. You can't forget that winning one Test hasn't made us the number one team in the world. You have to understand that we need a lot of time to improve in Tests. Maybe there will be success from time to time, but we can't think we have become number one. When we're number four or five in the rankings, I will be able to play with five bowlers. It's difficult for us with six batters because contributions from the lower-order is still small other than maybe [Mehedi Hasan] Miraz.

Nail-biters in three DPL games

SPORTS REPORTER

All three Dhaka Premier League encounters on Monday saw thrilling finishes, with Mohammedan, Sheikh Jamal and Abahani registering narrow victories.

The game between Abahani and Gazi Group had the most thrilling finish as Abahani registered a slender one-run victory at the BKSP-3 ground. A century by Jaker Ali (109 off 103 balls) and a rapid fifty from Afif Hossain (50 off 32) propelled Abahani to 311 for seven. Gazi, despite quick-fire knocks of 82 and 92 from Mehedi Maruf and Al Amin Jr respectively, could only reach 310 to fall agonisingly short.

The match was halted for about five minutes due to confusion created by a mistake from the scoreboard operators. The incident took place before the second ball of the 40th over during Abahani's innings. The umpire gave a no-ball after Gazi's skipper Akbar Ali had placed five fielders outside the circle as the scoreboard showed 40 overs completed.

"It was a misunderstanding and the fault was neither ours nor the umpire's. A mistake from the scorers created the issue," Akbar told The Daily Star yesterday.

Despite the narrow defeat, Gazi remain well in contention for the Super League spot, in fifth place just behind Abahani.

Meanwhile, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, table-toppers Sheikh Jamal registered a four-run win against sixth-placed Rupganj Tigers. After being asked to bat, opener Saif Hassan's 94-ball 61 and another boundary-laden 50-ball 57 by Ziaur Rahman helped Sheikh Jamal amass 202 all out in 48.1 overs.

For Rupganj, left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed shone with the ball, returning figures of four for 22 runs in 10 overs that included two maidens. However, Asif Ahmed Ratul's 95-run knock went in vain as Rupganj could only muster 198 for eight.

At the BKSP-4 Ground, Mohammedan registered a five-run victory over City Club and are seventh. Fifties from Abdul Majid (64 off 86) and Shuvagata Hom (59 off 57) saw Mohammedan post 228 for nine before bundling out City Club, ninth in the table, for 223 in 10.4 overs.

Bayern Munich superstar Robert Lewandowski will be the man to watch out for in the second-leg quarter-final fixture of the Champions League against Villarreal tonight while Karim Benzema, who is literally in the form of his life, will look to repeat his Stamford Bridge masterclass when Real Madrid welcome Chelsea to the Santiago Bernabeu. PHOTO: TWITTER

Chelsea face 'incredibly high' challenge

Bayern won't play badly twice, promises Nagelsmann

AGENCIES

Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said his team need a "fantastic script" to overturn a two-goal deficit against Real Madrid on Tuesday and qualify for the Champions League semi-finals.

Chelsea's 3-1 defeat in the first leg at Stamford Bridge last week followed a surprise 4-1 home defeat to Brentford in the Premier League, although Chelsea got back on track with a 6-0 thrashing of Southampton this weekend.

"It is one of the biggest challenges to perform away at the Bernabeu," Tuchel said. "We need nothing else than a fantastic script if we want to overcome this. The task is incredibly high," the German said.

Carlo Ancelotti said Real Madrid will not under-estimate Chelsea. "Chelsea are here to bring the fight to us. It will be tough for them of course but they will try. Good teams never give up," Ancelotti said in a press conference.

"I know my players very well," said Ancelotti. "They are well aware of what happened a few weeks ago (against Barca) and what is required tomorrow. We won't be under-estimating anyone. This is a great opportunity to reach the semis but Chelsea are a very good team. We have to respect them."

"It's the only way we can prepare for this game, thinking that Chelsea will be better tomorrow and be ready. There is no other way. We are ready. We know we will have to suffer and we are ready to suffer," Ancelotti added.

Karim Benzema scored a hat-trick against Chelsea last week, with the Frenchman now on 42 goals in 42 games this season.

His scintillating form comes in stark contrast to Chelsea's Romelu Lukaku, who cost the club 115 million euros ($125 million) last summer but has fallen out of favour under Tuchel.

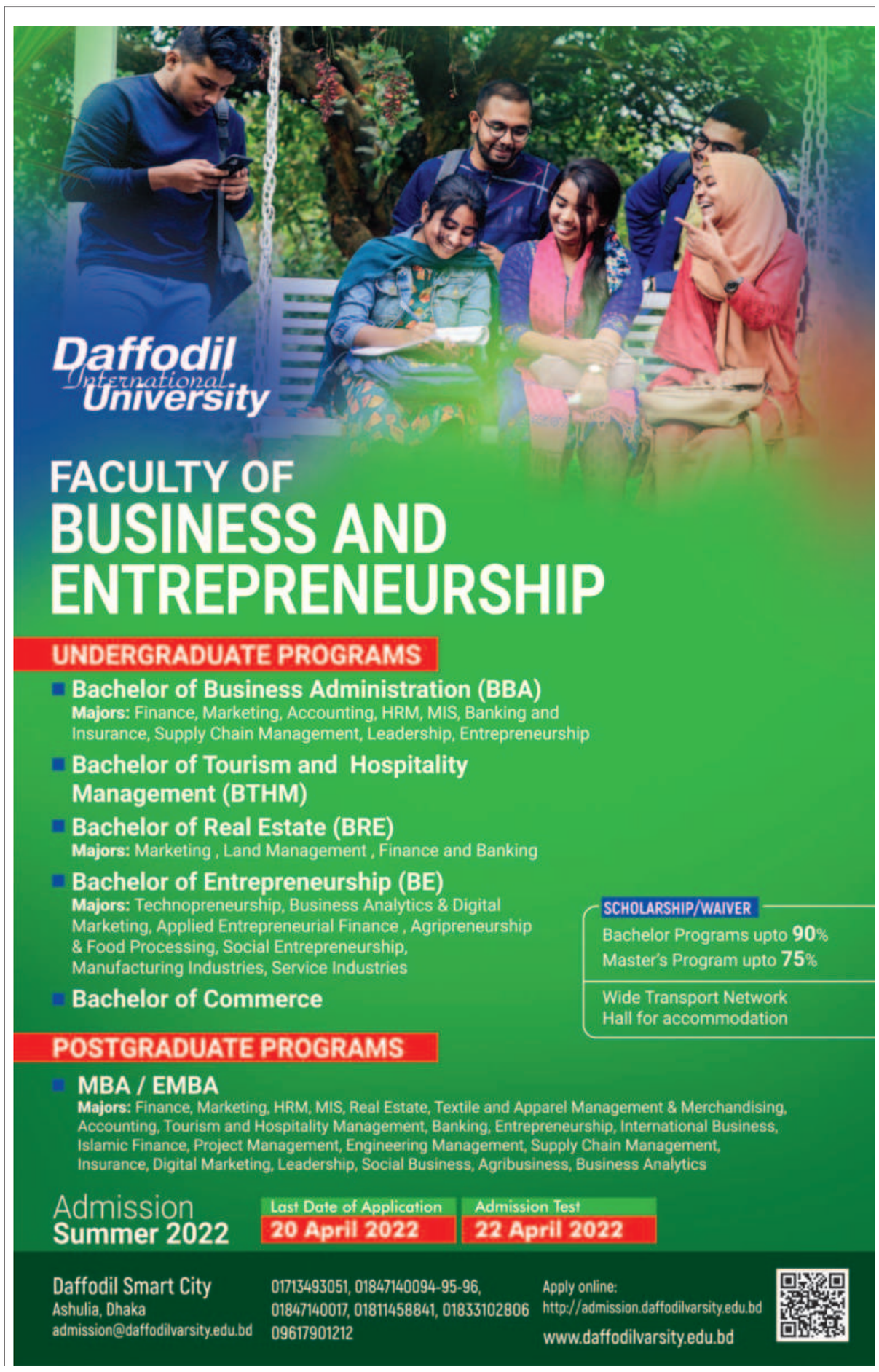
"Karim has to be a modern striker," Ancelotti said. "In the old days strikers would hang around the box and just tap the ball in when they could. Now they have to do more.

"Modern strikers don't just score the tap-ins. They have to defend. They have to fight. In my opinion Karim is the model modern striker."

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich will deliver against Villarreal in their Champions League quarter-final second leg on Tuesday despite a bad first-leg performance because too much is at stake, Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said on Monday.

The Bavarians suffered their first defeat in the competition this season, losing 1-0 in Spain last week with Villarreal the dominant side after also hitting the woodwork and missing several chances to score more goals.

"We played a bad game and they played their best game," Nagelsmann told a virtual news conference. "This will not happen again, to play badly against the same opponent twice."



FLOOD IN HAOR

Time to focus on long-term solutions

Say experts

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, *Sylhet*

Farmers of Sunamganj, Kishoreganj, Netrakona and Sylhet grow Boro on around 4 lakh hectares every year, but the government has been spending money on the vital levees that protect them on a piecemeal basis.

They produce paddy worth over Tk 7,500 crore yearly and the government this year has spent just Tk 159 crore on the levees that save their fields from flash floods.

Experts and activists for years have been saying that it is high time to focus on long-term solutions like river dredging as short-term solutions like constructing levees is not working due to their poor quality.

Zaheed Farooque, state minister for water resources, at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday said a project

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Idris Ali, a farmer of Uptar Haor in Sylhet, shows paddy that went bad due to flash floods. Over 7,000 hectares of Boro crops have been submerged in floodwaters so far this year, causing a loss to the tune of around Tk125 crore. Haors have been been suffering the most and farmers there are not being able to harvest any paddy.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Biman plane tugged into another

Both aircraft out of service with damage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dubai bound flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines was forced to reschedule on Sunday after the aircraft hit the tail of another when entering the hangar after completing regular maintenance.

Both the aircraft -- Boeing 737-800 and Boeing 777-300ER -- were left with scratches after the collision on Sunday at the Dhaka airport and are now out of commission.

This is the third such incident in two months, raising questions about the national flag carrier's fleet maintenance. The accidents are due to carelessness, aviation experts said.

On February 15, a Boeing 737 aircraft of Biman was brought back from Malaysia after a windshield crack was noticed mid-air en route to Kuala Lumpur.

On March 6, another Boeing was damaged when a bird hit an engine of the plane during landing at Sylhet MAG Osmani International Airport.

With the recent accident, as many as four aircraft out of a fleet of 21 are grounded -- a development that will leave Biman's flight schedule in disorder, according to the airline's officials.

For instance, the Dubai flight had to be

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Outrage over torture of schoolboy

Video of the incident goes viral

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Video footage of a child being tied to a pole and tortured by a shopkeeper has shocked many in Chuadanga town.

In the clip that went viral on Facebook, Ali Ahmed is seen hitting the boy in school uniform with a stick. Ahmed later told reporters that he thought the boy had stolen Tk 5 from his shop in the Dost area.

He left the 5th grader of Dost Government Primary School tied to the pole for nearly three hours in scorching heat until the head teacher of his school, Momin Hossain, came to rescue him.

The boy told this correspondent that he went to the shop on lunch break to buy some snacks.

But he didn't like the ones at the shop and was about to leave when Ahmed's 13-year-old daughter accused him of stealing Tk 5 from their shop. Within moments, several other shopkeepers tied him to a pole, he added.

Ahmed came to the shop a little later and started slapping him and hitting him with a stick.

The boy said he went to the shop with a coin of Tk 5 which was his pocket money. But the shopkeepers insisted that he had stolen it.

Hearing the news from locals, head teacher Momin rushed to the spot and rescued the boy.

Contacted, shopkeeper Ahmed said the torture was justified.

AHM Lutful Kabir, officer-in-charge of Darshana Police Station, said legal action will be taken if someone presses charges.

SRI LANKA ECONOMIC CRISIS

3 parties seek interim govt with new PM

REUTERS, *Colombo*

Three political parties that recently withdrew from Sri Lanka's ruling coalition have proposed forming an interim government with a new prime minister replacing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's older brother, they said yesterday.

Facing an economic crisis and dragged down by debt, the island nation of 22 million people is running short of power, fuel, food and medicines due to a lack of foreign exchange for imports. It has reached out to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and countries such as India and China for urgent financial help.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa called for patience and announced the reinstatement of a critical fertiliser subsidy for farmers.

"The president and I are spending every moment to formulate solutions on how to get Sri Lanka out of this current crisis," he said in a televised address, as protesters camped outside the president's office for the third consecutive day.

President Rajapaksa dissolved his cabinet last week and called for a unity government to help tackle the crisis, as 41 lawmakers walked out of the ruling coalition to become independents in the 225-seat parliament. The government has said it retains a majority in the house.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa called for patience and announced the reinstatement of a critical fertiliser subsidy for farmers.

Three parties represented by 16 of the lawmakers told reporters that they had met the president and the prime minister and that more talks were scheduled for today.

"The main proposal is to have an all-party committee to make key decisions and the appointment of a new prime minister and a limited Cabinet," said Udaya Gammanpila, chief of the Jathika Hela Urumaya party.

"We want this before a new election. We have to reverse shortages and stabilise the economy."

Sri Lanka's next parliamentary election is not due until 2025.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), with 14 lawmakers, said the independents would speak with other political parties to come to a consensus, as the government prepares to hold loan discussions with the IMF next week.

"Talks with the IMF will need a stable government capable of implementing clear policies," SLFP General-Secretary Dayasiri Jayasekera said. "This is necessary to repair the economy and bring relief to the people."

In his address, the prime minister said the government would reintroduce a critical fertiliser subsidy to assist farmers who have been hit by crop losses after a ban on chemical fertilisers last year.

Sri Lankans, holding street demonstrations for more than a month, have focused their anger on the Rajapaksa dynasty.

Scientists reverse ageing in human cells by 30yrs

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Researchers have reversed ageing in human skin cells by 30 years, according to a new study.

Scientists say they have developed a method to time jump human skin cells by three decades – longer than previous reprogramming methods, rewinding the ageing clock without the cells losing their function.

Researchers describe being able to partly restore the function of older cells, as well as renew the biological age.

According to the study, in experiments that simulated a skin wound, the partially rejuvenated cells showed signs of behaving more like youthful cells.

Experts suggest that, while in their early stages, the findings could eventually revolutionise regenerative medicine, especially if it can be replicated in other cell types.

Professor Wolf Reik, a group leader in the Epigenetics research programme who has recently moved to lead the Altos Labs Cambridge Institute, said: "This work has very exciting implications.

"Eventually, we may be able to identify genes that rejuvenate without reprogramming, and

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RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Energy, commodity prices may rise in Asia

Experts say at ANN webinar co-presented by Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Escalating global geopolitical tensions arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine could spill over to Asia through sharper-than-expected increases in energy and other commodity prices, said experts yesterday.

"There are several risk factors that really cloud the horizon despite our overall somewhat optimistic take on Asia's economy going forward," said Albert Park, chief economist of the Asian Development Bank, in a webinar hosted by the Asia News Network (ANN).

The Daily Star and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, both members of ANN, an alliance of 20 national media in 19 Asian countries, co-presented the webinar on the "impacts of food and energy crises on Asia" due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was the second of a series of webinars hosted by ANN on the Ukraine crisis.

In his presentation styled "Managing Asia's Economies during Troubling Times", Park said "aggressive tightening" by the US could trigger financial market volatility, capital outflows and currency depreciation, raising financial stability risks in the region.

The emergence of more deadly Covid-19 variants and China's current Omicron outbreak could jeopardise regional growth and supply chains.

Besides, scarring effects of learning losses from continued school closures and high youth unemployment rates could affect future productivity, he added.

Park, however, stressed that Asian countries need to continue investing in digitalisation, green energy and human capital to support sustained growth despite all other challenges that they are facing.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Locals help in rescue operations after a train hit an easy-bike on an unmanned level crossing in Hatia of Tangail's Kalihati upazila yesterday. Three members of a family, including a woman and her 14-month old son, who were passengers of the three-wheeler, were killed in the accident.

PHOTO: STAR

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