



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**FOOLHARDY ...** Even though a footbridge is nearby, a young man jumps over the guardrail of the road divider near New Market on Mirpur Road in the capital yesterday.

**HISTORIC MUJIBNAGAR DAY**

**No ordinary guard of honour**



**MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR**

Amid threats of airstrikes, a turning point in the history of an independent nation was about to unfold and the stage was almost set for a defining moment in Bangladesh's Liberation War.

Everything necessary – the makeshift dais, the flag

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**Russia hits Kyiv, Lviv**

Presses offensive in ruins of Mariupol, warns US of 'unpredictable consequences' of Ukraine military aid

AGENCIES

Russian air raids and missile strikes hit Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other major cities yesterday as Moscow launched more long-range attacks following the sinking of its Black Sea Fleet's flagship.

In the besieged port of Mariupol, scene of the war's heaviest fighting and worst humanitarian catastrophe, Russian troops pressed their advances, hoping to make up for their failure to capture Kyiv by seizing their first big prize of the war.

"The situation is very difficult" in Mariupol, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told the Ukrainska Pravda news portal. "Our soldiers are blocked, the wounded are blocked. There is a humanitarian crisis... Nevertheless, the guys are defending themselves."

"The elimination of our troops, of our men (in Mariupol) will put an end to any negotiations" between Ukraine and Russia, Zelenskiy said in the interview.

Moscow said its warplanes had struck a tank repair factory in Kyiv. An explosion was heard and smoke seen in the southeastern Darnytskyi

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**ILIAS MISSING 10yrs gone, yet no trace**



**ASHUTOSH SARKAR**

"We, the family members of the victims of enforced disappearance, have been leading a miserable life. We want our loved ones to be returned soon for the sake of the families and also to identify the perpetrators

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

**EDIBLE OIL PRICES Even record imports fail to arrest hike**

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Despite record imports of soybean oil in the first quarter, consumers are having to pay an additional Tk 36-38 for every litre of non-bottled soybean oil over the price set by the government.

Each litre of non-bottled palm oil also costs Tk 21 more than the price fixed by the government.

From January to March, businesses imported 10.22 lakh tonnes of edible oils, which is nine percent more than the volume imported during the same period last year, according to data from the National Board of Revenue.

Despite this, wholesalers and retailers claim that supply shortages were driving the prices up.

Market insiders say oil refinery owners, dealers and brokers were creating the artificial crises.

At the end of March, the government fixed the wholesale price of non-bottled soybean oil at Tk 134 a litre and Tk 136 a litre at retail.

But in Khatunganj, arguably the largest wholesale market in the country, the wholesale price yesterday was Tk 164 and retail Tk 174.

Traders said the price of non-bottled soybean oil increased by at least Tk 8-10 over the last week. The price of bottled oil has not increased but there was a crisis of 5 litre and 3-litre bottles.

Contacted, SM Nazar Hossain, president of the Chattogram chapter of the Consumers' Association Bangladesh, blamed poor market and refinery monitoring for the situation. "The government's duty waiver on edible oil is not benefiting the consumers."

The government on March 10 waived 15 percent VAT on oil production and 5 percent VAT on retail until 30 June to cushion the blow of price hike in international market. Market insiders say soybean oil was trading at \$1800-\$1950 a tonne, up from \$1300-\$1400 between January and March.

Nowshad Ahmed, a wholesaler, said a few brokers and traders in Khatunganj were hoarding edible oils. "As a result, we are spending more to buy the oil, which ultimately puts the burden on consumers," he said.

Tariq Ahmed, senior director at TK Group of Industries, a major importer, gave a different explanation. "Many wholesalers are not buying enough at once as some wholesalers are being fined for hoarding."

According to the NBR, over 6.60 lakh tonnes of palm oil and 3.62 lakh tonnes of soybean oil worth \$135.11 crore have been imported through the Chattogram and Mongla ports in the first quarter.

The average import cost of palm oil is about \$1,320 per tonne and soybean oil \$1,405 per tonne, the data said.

Bangladesh imported 6.47 lakh tonnes of palm oil and 2.98 lakh tonnes of soybean oil worth \$89.94 crore in the same period last year.

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**Learning Bangla made easy**

App developed by Bangladeshi-Canadian gaining momentum among immigrants worldwide

TAMANNA KHAN

An amusing incident unfolded on March 30 at Farhana Rajib's home in Minneapolis, US. Her mother-in-law Shawkat Ara Begum received a note from her 12-year-old granddaughter Ella Rajib. Handwritten in Bangla, the note read: "Dida darun boka" (Grandma is very silly).

Instead of being upset, Shawkat Ara gave her granddaughter a big hug, said Farhana.

She said her 74-year-old mother-in-law was surprised because her granddaughter, born and brought up in the US, could hardly speak Bangla, let alone read and write in the language. But within a week of using Banglaskool, Ella learned to write a full sentence in her mother language.

Banglaskool, an app which aims to teach Bangla to children of Bangalee immigrants, was launched in Apple's App Store in February and on Google Play store in March. So far downloaded to more than 1,200 devices,

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Burned cars are seen outside a destroyed building following Russian shelling in Kharkiv, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**Rejoinder, our reply**

Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd has sent a rejoinder to a report run by The Daily Star on January 12 under the headline "Buriganga suffering, Dhaleshwari worse off".

The rejoinder sent on March 20 claimed that the report contained many incorrect and misleading information which tarnished the company's image at home and abroad. It said the information of releasing 15,000 m3 effluent into the Dhaleshwari was misleading and it harmed the leather sector and the country's dignity.

"After completing some pre-treatment inside the tannery, effluents are sent directly to the CETP through conveyance pipelines for treatment. There is no way to discharge untreated effluents into the river. Overflow of incoming effluent occurred to some

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## Deposit funds in domestic banks

### Nepal asks for overseas nationals' help to build up forex reserves amid economic woes

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal is asking citizens living abroad to deposit funds in domestic banks as part of efforts to ensure the financial system has enough liquidity and to preserve foreign exchange reserves, finance minister Janardan Sharma said yesterday.

Speaking to Reuters, he denied Nepal was facing an economic crisis despite the impact of soaring commodity prices as the tourist industry, a key source of revenues, struggles to recover after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nepal, wedged between China and India, this month imposed curbs on luxury goods imports to rein in capital outflows. Foreign exchange reserves fell over 18 percent to \$9.6 billion as of mid-March from mid-July - enough for around six months imports.

By depositing their savings in Nepal, overseas Nepalis would continue to "maintain their link as well as benefit from 6 to 7 percent interest" offered by Nepali banks, Sharma said.

**The economy did not face a crisis and Nepal's situation could not be compared with Sri Lanka.**

Sharma said the economy did not face a crisis and Nepal's situation could not be compared with Sri Lanka. That South Asian country is facing its worst economic crisis in decades and anti-government protests.

In Nepal, remittances by overseas workers, which constitute nearly a quarter of the economy and are crucial for external payments, fell 3.0 percent to \$5.3 billion between mid-July to mid-March, compared with a 5% increase in the same period a year earlier.

Earnings from tourism, which fell sharply after the start of the pandemic in 2020, are slowly picking up, but remain well below pre-Covid levels.

Sharma said if 100,000 Nepali nationals living abroad deposited \$10,000 each in Nepali banks it could go a long way to help Nepal overcome the current liquidity constraints.

Nepal has also decided to accept \$659 million in aid from the United States and about \$150 million in soft loan from the World Bank, Sharma said.

"The money to be received from the United States over five years is a (non-refundable) grant," he said.



As if blocking half the road space were not enough, illegally parked trucks and lorries take up almost the entire width of the footpath with their rear overhang in Tejgaon in the capital. Ironically, the sign on the wall reads that the truck drivers' association prohibits parking in the area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Rab busts human trafficking syndicate

### Four gang members arrested; they took Tk 30cr from 500 people; passports, forged visas, air tickets seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested four members of a human trafficking syndicate, including the ring leader, from the capital's Rampura and Hatirjheel area with 27 passports, 100 forged visas and 125 air tickets.

The syndicate's leader is Kamrul Ahmed, who has embezzled at least Tk 30 crore from about 500 people by promising to send them to the Middle East.

Ahmed has no licence for manpower export but he would target unemployed youth offering to send them to the Middle East for Tk 5-7 lakh.

He would provide them with fake visas and air tickets.

When the unassuming victims went to the airport with the fake documents, they were sent back by airport immigration.

But Ahmed never returned their money. To evade them, the 42-year-

old would change his office and home address often.

Rab started the investigation and intelligence surveillance following victims' complaints, said Arif Mohiuddin Ahmed, commander of Rab-3, while addressing a media

**When the unassuming victims went to the airport with the fake documents, they were sent back by airport immigration.**

briefing after the arrest of Ahmed, Khaled Masud Helal, 36, Tofayel Ahmed, 38, and Md Jamal, 42.

On April 12, the syndicate brought a woman from Moulvibazar promising to send her to Saudi Arabia to work as domestic help. The woman was locked up in a room in Ahmed's residence in the capital's Rampura

area. Arrestee Tofayel, who hails from the same village as the woman, raped her in the room. The woman then informed the incident to Rab over the phone.

A case was filed with Rampura police station regarding the incident under the woman and child repression act and the woman was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital's One Stop Crisis Centre.

Ahmed's associate Jamal is an assistant manager of Mahub International, whose licence was cancelled by the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training for involvement in human trafficking, the Rab-3 commander said.

Arrestee Khaled was in Saudi Arabia from 2001 to 2016. On his return to Bangladesh, he opened a restaurant, which folded after failing to turn in a profit. He then joined hands with Ahmed and started defrauding people.

## 10yrs gone, yet no trace

FROM PAGE 1  
behind these grave human rights violations," said Tahsina Rushdir Luna, wife of former BNP lawmaker M Ilias Ali.

Ilias, then organising secretary of Sylhet division BNP, and his driver Ansar went missing from the capitals' Banani area on the night of April 17, 2012. Since then their families have been facing anxious wait for their return home.

It is very uncertain whether they will have any remedy from either the court or law enforcement agencies, as they (agencies) have informed the High Court through swearing affidavits that they did not pick up or detain the two.

Speaking to The Daily Star on Friday, Tahsina said, "I along with my family members and the people of Bangladesh believe that the government subjected my husband Ilias Ali to enforced disappearance. It is also an open secret that the disappearances

of my husband and those of the other BNP leaders were carried out by the law enforcement agencies of Bangladesh.

"Human rights organisations and international bodies along with countries like the UK, the USA have time and again requested the authorities to bring back the victims. We have tried our best and made our best efforts to reach the top individuals of the government but they have literally turned a blind eye to it this situation by blaming the victims themselves without ensuring justice in any of the disappearance cases."

Tahsina said she was running her family with her pension money. Ilias' wife filed a writ petition with the HC on April 19, 2012 claiming that law enforcers illegally kept her husband in detention. She sought HC orders on them to produce her husband before it.

In response, the HC issued a rule upon the law enforcement agencies to explain within 10 days why they should not be directed to produce Ilias before it or prove that he was not detained by them.

The HC is yet to start holding hearing on the rule as neither the petitioner nor the state has taken any initiative in this regard and therefore, the matter remains unresolved.

However, five law enforcement agencies submitted reports to the HC claiming that Ilias was not in their custody since they did not pick up or detain him, said sources at the attorney general's office.

In May, 2012, five law enforcement agencies submitted as many reports to the HC in line with the rule issued by it on April 19.

In those reports, the agencies claimed the BNP leader was not in their custody since they did not pick up or detain him.

The reports, prepared

by the offices of the inspector general of police (IGP), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Special Branch (SB) of police, and Banani Police Station, claimed that they were making all necessary efforts to establish Ilias' whereabouts.

Following Ilias' case, several others were moved before the HC, seeking necessary directives on the authorities concerned over incidents of enforced disappearance, but no order has yet been issued by the court as a remedy for such incidents.

AM Mahub Uddin Khokon, the lawyer representing Ilias' wife, earlier told this correspondent that he did not take any initiative for holding hearing on the HC rule considering that no remedy would be available as the law enforcement agencies told the court that they did not detain the BNP leader.

Contacted on Friday,

Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star, "I don't know anything about Ilias Ali. So I will not make any comment on this issue."

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin also refused to make any comment on the writ petition filed by Ilias' wife, saying that he did not know anything about the case.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik said, "If the government keeps denying that incidents of disappearance and extrajudicial killings have occurred, our relations with the West will not improve."

The number of such incidents has dropped in the last few months after a sanction was imposed, he told this newspaper on Friday.

Shahdeen, also a rights activist, said it is uncertain whether the victims' families would have any remedy from the court as the law enforcers say they have not detained or picked up the victims.

The minister also assured food support under vulnerable group feeding (VGF) to the farmers who lost their harvest.

"We will also give the seed, fertilizer and agriculture materials in the next harvest season." Being asked about corruption and irregularities in levee construction work to protect the cropland, the minister said, "There are many irregularities in forming the PICs (Project Implementation Committee)."

## Abducted child rescued, 3 held

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Police rescued a child, who was abducted from the port city's Roufabad area on April 13, and arrested three people from Chandpur early yesterday in this regard.

The arrestees are Kulsum alias Sumi, 27; her husband Soheli, 29; and his mother Khorsheida Begum, 55, said police, adding Sumi kidnapped Abdul Khalek's 18-month-old son Arju.

Mohammad Kamruzzaman, OC of Bayezid Bostami Police Station, said Arju was with his elder sister Nazma, 12, while their parents were at work.

"When Nazma was busy, Sumi took the baby and fled. She later took the child to the port city's Amin Colony, where Soheli and his mother waited for her. The trio later left Chattogram to avoid arrest and hid in a rented house in Chandpur's Habiganj."

After a case was filed by Arju's mother Mukta Begum, police scrutinised CCTV footages and later identified the culprits and their location.

## Schoolboy stabbed dead by rival teen gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy was stabbed to death while another was injured by another teenager in Chattogram's Eidgaon early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Fahim, 15, son of mechanic Md Jahir and an eighth grader of Gonopurto High School.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mustafizur Rahman, OC of Pahartali Police Station, said, "Two groups of teenagers clashed earlier at a local fair in Dulhan Community Centre in Halishahar on Friday night. The next day, the two groups decided to settle the matter. When they met again, one of the boys from the rival group suddenly stabbed Fahim and his friend Emon around 11:45pm.

"Fahim's father rushed him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead."

Emon survived with injuries, he said. A case was filed in this regard and police were interrogating all the boys present during the incident to arrest the killer.

## Pharma owner hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A drugstore owner was hacked to death in Tulata area of Patuakhali's Sadar upazila on Friday.

Mizanur Rahman Talukder, local union parishad member, said victim Yusuf Mridha, 45, used to run a drugstore in Ward-9 of Patuakhali municipality. As always, he closed his shop and left for home around 10:00pm.

As he didn't return home, his wife Nurunnahar Begum went to the store to look for him around 11:00pm. On her way back, she discovered him on the road in a pool of blood.

Locals rushed to the spot hearing her screams and took him to Patuakhali Medical College hospital, where he was declared dead.

Moniruzzaman, OC of Patuakhali Police Station, said, "His body has multiple wounds inflicted by sharp weapons. A case is being filed in this regard."

Nurunnahar alleged her husband was killed over land dispute with other locals.

## No ordinary guard of honour

FROM PAGE 1  
to be hoisted, an ensemble ready to sing what would eventually become the national anthem - were prepared for the swearing in ceremony of the first Bangladesh government on the morning of April 17, 1971.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, sub-divisional officer of the erstwhile Meherpur sub-division, during a last-minute inspection of the arrangements for the momentous occasion, found there was no sign of Major Abu Osman Chowdhury, the then commander of the fourth wing of East Pakistan Rifles located in Chuadanga.

Osman was supposed to lead the group presenting the guard of honour to dignitaries of the new independent state.

"What could we do in case Major Osman does not turn up in time?" Tawfiq asked Mahub Uddin Ahmed, the then sub-divisional police officer of Jhenaidah, who was given the status of captain at that time.

Mahub said, "If you want, I can make a snap preparation with the people guarding the BOP [border outpost]. I have been trained in the Police Academy and those people too have been taught how to present a guard of honour..."

"Go ahead," replied Tawfiq, who is now an adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and was one of the organisers of the oath-taking ceremony.

In his book - "Chariot of Life: Liberation War, Politics and Sojourn in Jail" - he recalled the ceremony.

After Tawfiq spoke to him, Mahub immediately started rehearsing the guard-of-honour presentation.

"They all knew something about how to give the guard of honour. In the rehearsal, we all remembered what to do after commands such as 'Attention', 'shoulder arms' and 'present arms'."

Mahub recalled while talking to The Daily Star. Under the guidance of Sahabuddin Sentu, people were practising "Amar Sonar Bangla" at the stage wings.

ASM Abdur Rab, student leader and DUCSU vice president, was present there, said Mahub.

Around 10:00am that day, the dignitaries reached a mango orchard in Baidyanathola, a border area in the present Meherpur district, to attend the oath-taking ceremony, amid secrecy and tight security.

The Mujibnagar government had been formed seven days earlier, with the aim of conducting the Liberation War and officially declaring the independence of Bangladesh, known as the Proclamation of Independence.

The MNAs (Members of National Assembly) and MPAs (Members of Provincial Assembly) present in India also formed a constituent assembly.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was declared the president of the newly born republic.

The oath of office was administered to Syed Nazrul Islam as vice president. Tajuddin Ahmad was sworn in as the prime minister, as were other ministers.

"The crowd burst into cheer and applause, with loud slogans of 'Joy Bangla...' Mahub said.

Baidyanathala was later named Mujibnagar.

After the swearing in, the ceremonial guards led by Mahub, who was given the Bir Bikram gallantry award, took position in front of the dais.

Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam, with MAG Osmani, newly appointed commander-in-chief of Bangladesh Defence Forces, beside him, took the salute and an inspection of the guard followed.

The acting president raised the red, green and yellow flag amid thunderous applause.

It was hoisted with Amar Sonar Bangla sung in a melodious chorus.

The guard of honour was important as it symbolised the soldiers' allegiance to the government, said Mahub.

M Amir-Ul Islam, then a young lawyer and politician who drafted the Proclamation of Independence, recalled the efforts to find an ideal place for the new government's formal inauguration.

The oath-taking ceremony was first planned to be held in Chuadanga on April 15. It changed as the Pakistani army launched an airstrike there.

"We then decided to hold the ceremony at Baidyanathala in Meherpur on April 17. We took the BSF into confidence. We asked for air cover and they agreed to do so and set up anti-aircraft guns there," he said.

The location was ideal because the mango orchard there served as a natural camouflage. The place was easy to reach from the Indian side by a dirt road that connected the border post and any air raid would involve crossing Indian airspace - a risky choice for the Pakistani Air Force.

## Farmers in despair

FROM PAGE 14  
village, said, "I took Tk 1.5 lakh as loan and am now being pressured by the NGO."

"I don't know how to repay as there is no alternative income source in the haor."

Meanwhile, thousands of farmers in the haors were in fear of losing their crops as another flash flood was on the card.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday (Friday) forecasted a flash flood to hit the haor areas

of the districts in the next 24 to 72 hours.

To save the harvest, hundreds of farmers along with concerned officials were now struggling to protect all standing dykes in the haor.

Md Muntasir Hasan, upazila nirbahi officer of Dharmapasha, said, "Some 1,065 hectares were submerged in the upazila alone in the first blow and we are now struggling to protect all risky dykes."

Bijon Sen Roy, general secretary of Haor Bachao

Andolon, said, "The farmers of the haor have only one crop to grow in a year and if the Boro is lost they wouldn't have alternatives. They must be compensated by the government accordingly."

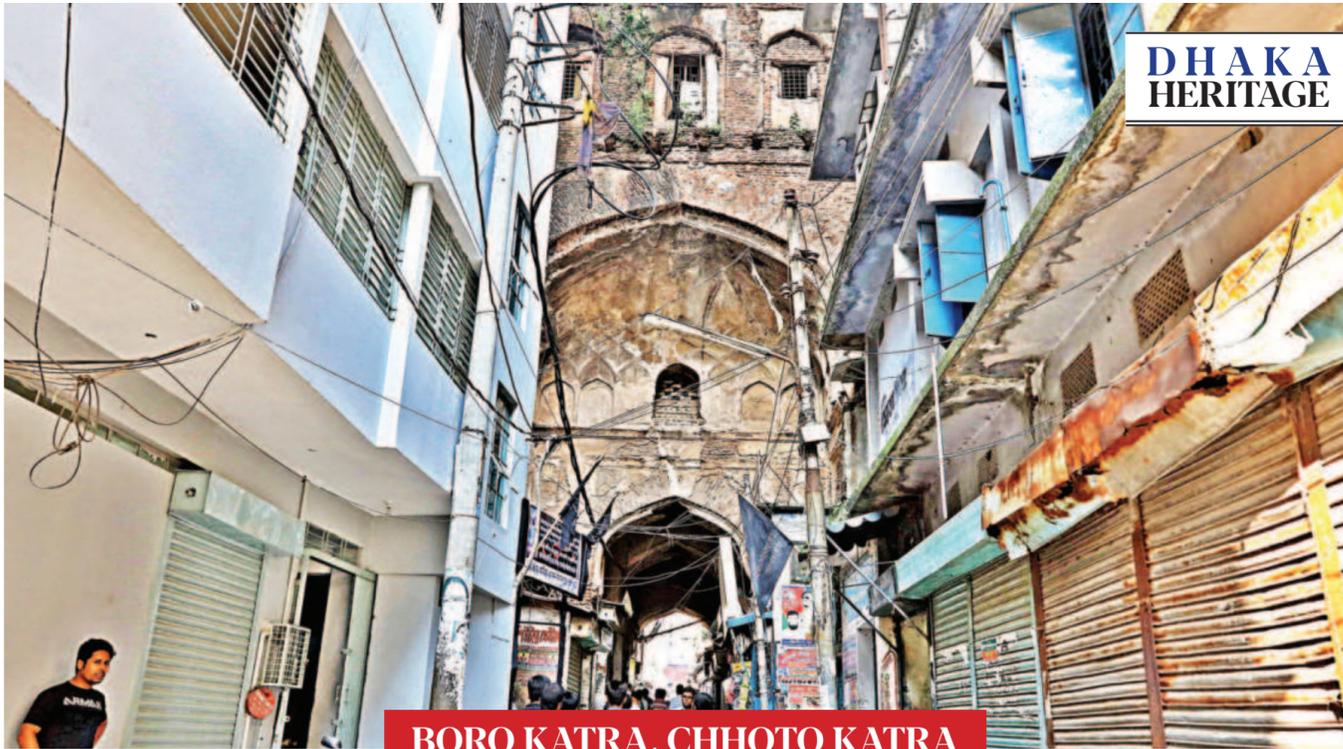
Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday said the rice price would soar if the Boro harvest is damaged.

He made this remark while visiting Chaptir Haor in Sunamganj's Derai upazila where an early flash flood broke a dyke and

thousands of acres of Boro harvest were damaged.

Razzaque said, "Around 12 to 14 lakh tonnes of paddy is produced in the haor but flash floods damage the harvest."

"Farmers should be discouraged to cultivate BRRI-28 due to blast disease and BRRI-29 for its longer timeframe. Rather, the farmers should now consider BRRI-89, BRRI-92 and BINA-17, and the government will hand out the seed to interested farmers."



**DHAKA HERITAGE**

**BORO KATRA, CHHOTO KATRA**

## Historic sites LEFT IN RUINS

TARUN SARKAR

Dhaka city's two ancient structures — Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra — are at the verge of extinction due to rampant encroachment in absence of government measures to preserve those.

The situation has turned so worse that now the establishments are almost invisible from a short distance, as several other concrete structures have been erected.

The occupiers now claim ownership of the ancient establishments and its adjacent lands, though historians and researchers refuted their claim.

The establishments are Waqf estates, which are owned by the government. The occupiers have encroached the area illegally over the years, said researchers. Now, the government bodies concerned are saying that they are planning to acquire the lands to protect the establishments.

Boro Katra was built during the regime of Mughal prince Shah Shuja, and Chhoto Katra was constructed by Mughal Subahdar Shaista Khan.

The Department of Archaeology on December 21, 1989, announced the structures as "Protected Archaeological Site".

In 2020, Rajuk declared the two structures as "Traditional Special Establishments".

The existing rules prohibit any kind of expansion, exclusion and change of such archaeological sites. Even, no permanent establishment can be constructed on their premises or adjacent areas.

However, defying the rules, occupiers

have constructed many structures inside the premises of the two establishments and its adjacent lands.

Researchers said Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra are parts of national history, culture and archaeology. So, the government must take steps to protect them.

There are four historical palaces on the bank of the Buriganga river.

Ahsan Manzil, which was built by Nawab Khwaja Abdul Ghani in 1872 for the family's official residence and zamindar office. The



government in 1992 took over the palace and made into a museum.

Another palace, Ruplal House, was built during the era of East India Company. Recently, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) took initiative for its maintenance.

The rest two are Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra, which are decaying day by day, as the government is yet to take any steps to preserve them.

Multiple palaces were constructed on the bank of Buriganga during Mughal and Nawabi era. But most have already been obliterated, according to

historians.

Some of those historical structures are the palace of Subahdar Islam Khan at Islampur, the palace of Subahdar Shaista Khan at Mitford Hospital area, the palace of Fakhru'l Shiar at Lalbagh's Posta area and the palace of Nawab Hossain Uddin Khan in Nawabganj area.

"Katra" is a Persian word that means caravanserai or roadside inn. Multiple katra were constructed during Mughal and Nawabi era in Dhaka. Of these, Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra are mentionable, according to historians.

Boro Katra is located at a point in between Buriganga river and Chawkbazar. Mughal prince Shah Shuja

**We have been demanding government's effective measures to evict illegal occupiers and preserve the two ancient structures. But no visible steps have been taken so far.**

Prof Muntassir Mamoon

constructed it for his official residence. After construction, the prince did not want to use it as residence, which is why the palace had turned into an inn.

Within a gap of around one and half years, Subahdar Shaista Khan constructed Chhoto Katra in Swarighat area of Chawkbazar.

Chhoto Katra's structural design was almost similar to Boro Katra, said architect Prof Abu Sayeed M Ahmed.

During a recent visit there, it was seen that some parts of this palace have already faded away with time, while another large part was illegally occupied. Local traders have set up multiple concrete structures inside the premises.

Both Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra

are located under Ward-30 of DSCC.

Talking to The Daily Star, the ward's councillor Mohammad Erfan Salim claimed that neither Boro Katra nor Chhoto Katra are heritage buildings, rather those are private properties.

The two buildings have many parts. Each of them has separate owners. Even, several clashes took place in the past, following feuds over ownership.

If the government wants to preserve the buildings, it must conduct thorough land survey in this area and must have court's verdict, he said.

However, historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon claimed that Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra are Waqf estates and none can claim ownership of such properties.

"We have been demanding government's effective measures to evict illegal occupiers and preserve the two ancient structures. But no visible steps have been taken so far," he said.

Researcher Hashem Sufi said at least 250 people have kept Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra occupied and are now claiming ownership of its different parts.

The government should follow strategies applied in the case of preserving Ahsan Manzil.

Firstly, the government must acquire Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra by paying due money to the occupiers. After making it vacant, the government should initiate renovation works for preserving it, said Sufi.

Contacted, State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid said they have plans to preserve Boro Katra and Chhoto Katra. But he could not give details as to when and how the work will proceed.

Rakhi Roy, Dhaka regional director of Department of Archaeology, said they have already taken initiative to relocate those who are staying there, and to acquire the land.

Then, measures will be taken to renovate and preserve the structures,

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## Grabbers beware

Warns Atiqul, DNCC opens 7 parks, playgrounds

STAR REPORT

Seven parks and playgrounds were opened for city dwellers in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) area yesterday.

Mayor Atiqul Islam inaugurated the parks at a programme in Shyamoli, reports UNB.

Addressing the event, he said, "These parks and playgrounds are New Year's gift for the city dwellers, and you need to take care of them now as they are your assets."

The seven parks and playgrounds are: Shyamoli Park, Iqbal Road Park, Humayun Road Park, Banani Block-C Park, Baridhara Park, Banani Block-F Park, Rayer Bazar Baishakhi Playground.

The DNCC mayor warned real estate developers not to grab rivers and canals by filling them with sand. He said action will be taken against grabbers, no matter how powerful they are. He directed officials to form a management committee for maintenance of the parks and playgrounds within the next seven days.

The DNCC mayor said the parks have been designed considering facilities for people of all ages, including those with special needs.

"Arrangements have been made so that these playgrounds never get waterlogged," he said.



## Work impartially, independently BNP urges judiciary

UNB, Dhaka

BNP standing committee has called upon the judiciary to work neutrally and independently instead of "helping the government to gain its narrow political interests".

At a virtual meeting on Friday, the committee also voiced deep concern as the Appellate Division dismissed a leave to appeal petition filed by Dr Zubaida Rahman, wife of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP chairperson's Gulshan office, the BNP secretary general said their standing committee members observed that "unfortunately, there is a perception in the public mind that the judiciary is unfairly cooperating with the illegitimate, usurper and unelected government to serve the narrow purposes of the ruling party instead of protecting the independence enshrined by the constitution."

The BNP leader said their meeting strongly condemned and protested such despicable efforts.

"We call upon the judiciary to carry out its judicial functions independently with an impartial attitude upholding the main character of the constitution," said the BNP secretary general.

Fakhru'l said Dr Zubaida is a non-political physician and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has implicated her in the case with a political motive.

"The case has been filed without any basis only to harass and humiliate the Zia family," added Fakhru'l.

The BNP leader also alleged that the government has been making efforts to eliminate political institutions using the "false" cases by establishing its "control and influence" over the judiciary.

"In the same way, they (government) are trying to keep our leader Khaleda Zia and acting chairman Tarique Rahman away from politics by unlawfully convicting them in false cases out of political vengeance," Fakhru'l observed.



## WB report proves poverty rise info fictitious: minister

BSS, Dhaka

Referring to a World Bank (WB) report stating that Bangladesh has further reduced poverty, Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the report has proven that some so-called research and social organisations have published fictitious and motivated reports of increasing poverty in the country during the pandemic to create confusion.

"The report has proven that some of the country's so-called research and social organisations have published fictitious and motivated reports... I hope that the propaganda will stop now."

He said this while exchanging views with journalists on the WB report "Bangladesh Development Update - Recovery and Resilience amid Global Uncertainty" at his official residence on Minto Road. The report states that poverty in Bangladesh has reduced by 0.6 percent from 2020 to 2021, and the poverty rate now stands at 11.9 percent, which was 12.5 percent, he said.

"So, I hope that the newspapers, which published fictitious and motivated reports... will be more cautious."



For the vehicles of Dhaka, zebra crossings have always been an alien concept. This scene of two pedestrians trying their best to stop buses and cars while walking on the stripes seems to prove just that. With no authority present to enforce rules, all drivers get a free pass to do as they please. This photo was taken yesterday near Asad Gate.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Buet entry test June 4, 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first-year admission test for the academic session of 2021-22 at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will be held on June 4 and 18.

The university authorities issued a notice setting the date yesterday.

The tests will be taken in two steps. The preliminary test will be taken in two shifts on June 4.

Candidates who pass the preliminary test will take part in the final admission test on June 18, added the notice.

Online registration for the admission test will remain open from 10:00am on April 16 till 3:00pm on April 25, read the notice.

Application fees can be submitted through mobile or online banking till 3:00pm on April 26.

## Shabnam Huq's death anniversary today

CITY DESK

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Shabnam Huq, wife of Arham Masudul Huq, chief executive officer of Dhaka Bank Foundation, said a press release. Her relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



## Lt Col Qadir's anniversary of death today

CITY DESK

Today is the 51st death anniversary of valiant freedom fighter and intellectual Lt Col Muhammad Abdul Qadir.



On this day in 1971, he was killed by the Pakistan army, says a press release.

Qadirabad Cantonment in Natore was named after him for his contributions to the Liberation War.

Qadir's grave was found in 2007 and he was reburied with full state and military honour at Qadirabad Cantonment in 2011. His two sons -- journalist Nadeem Qadir and Naveed Qadir -- and daughter Rubina Qadir Hussain requested all to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Historic sites

FROM PAGE 3

she added. She also could not give any time-frame of when the work would start. Rajuk Chairman ABM Amin Ullah Nuri said he would look into the matter immediately and take necessary measures. The DSCC mayor could not be contacted over phone, despite repeated attempts.

[Tarun Sarkar is a freelance journalist and researcher]

## Office Rent

Modern office in Dhanmondi of about 2000 sq. ft. on first floor of 2-storied building available.

Contact # 017 265 02 473



Protesting price hike of daily essentials, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) held a rally at Paltan Intersection yesterday. They also demanded the number of TCB trucks be increased, salary and arrears of workers be cleared before Eid and democracy and voting rights of people be restored.

PHOTO: STAR

## Schoolgirl killed in road accident

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and two others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Cox's Bazar, a schoolgirl was killed and two others were injured after a battery-run three-wheeler, known as easy bike, hit them in Kutubdia upazila.

The deceased is Mehrunnesa (7), a student of Manoharkhali Government Primary School and daughter of Badsha Mia, said OC Omar Haider of Kutubdia Police Station.

The accident happened in front of the school around 2:00pm. The injured were admitted to Kutubdia Upazila Health Complex, he said.

In Chapainawabganj, a motorcyclist was killed after a vehicle hit his bike in Sadar upazila.

Mohammad Rasel (20) from Char Baro Roshia died on the spot, said police.

Quoting locals, OC Mozaffar Hossain of Sadar Model Police Station, said the accident occurred around 8:45am. Soon after, the driver fled the spot with the vehicle.

## Teknaf, Ukhia

FROM PAGE 5

Around 41 scrap dealers and more than 404 firewalls are also supported by the project to increase the recyclable material supplied to industries in Dhaka and Chattogram.

To this end, the country's first two scrap dealers' associations were created in Ukhia and Teknaf.

In the district's refugee

camp, the project has constructed a sanitary landfill for about 750,000 people, which is designed to only dispose of waste that cannot be recovered (30 percent of the total).

"With significant space constraints in these camps, this facility offers an alternative to harmful waste management practices," said Marta.

## Even record

FROM PAGE 1

AHM Safiquzzaman, director-general of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, said, "It is not possible for us to control the market with limited manpower unless the SO [supply order] sales pattern of edible oil is changed.

Refinery owners now sell SOs to a limited number of their dealers and brokers and they change hands several times before products of those SOs go to the wholesale market. As a result, the price goes up several times before

the product reaches the market from the mill gates."

Safiquzzaman, also an additional secretary (IIT) of the commerce ministry, said that market control would be difficult if the number of intermediaries is not reduced and local administration plays an important role to ensure market stability.

Sumani Akhter, deputy magistrate in Chattogram, said multiple teams of the district administration are monitoring the market regularly.

## Russia hits

FROM PAGE 1

The mayor said at least one person had died and medics were fighting to save others.

The Ukrainian military said Russian warplanes that took off from Belarus had fired missiles at the Lviv region near the Polish border and four cruise missiles were shot down by Ukrainian air defences.

The western city has been relatively unscathed so far in the conflict and serves as a haven for refugees and international aid agencies.

In Mariupol, Reuters journalists in Russian-held districts reached the Ilyich steel works, one of two metals plants where defenders have held out in underground tunnels and bunkers. Moscow claimed to have captured it on Friday.

The governor of Kharkiv province in the east said at least one person had been killed and 18 were injured in a missile strike. In Mykolaiv, a city close to the southern front, Russia said it had struck a military vehicle repair factory.

The attacks followed Russia's announcement on Friday that it would intensify long-range strikes in retaliation for unspecified acts of "sabotage" and "terrorism", hours after it confirmed the sinking of its Black Sea flagship, the Moskva.

Kyiv and Washington say the ship, whose sinking has become a symbol of Ukrainian defiance, was hit by Ukrainian missiles. Moscow says it sank after a fire and that its crew of around 500 were evacuated.

## The waste keeps

FROM PAGE 5

According to a baseline survey conducted by the Department of Environment in 2013, the projected waste generation in the district for 2021 was 50 tonnes. This implies that the current numbers exceed the projection by a margin of 40 tonnes.

According to a World Bank survey, titled "Towards a Multisectoral Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management in Bangladesh" published last year, waste at the landfill consists of 16 percent organic and compostable waste, 38 percent reusable waste and 17 percent recyclable plastics.

Of the plastic waste, 78 percent is low-density polythene.

Besides Kasturighat, the study identified Laboni Beach, Shugondha Beach, and Inani Beach as hotspots for plastic pollution.

The survey also observed that the landfill site gets flooded during high tide

due to lack of embankment around it.

Municipality conservancy officer Kabir said they have built a compost-making factory in Ramu's Mithachhari in 2017, operated by a private company. However, its operations stopped during the pandemic.

Besides, 500 people, including staffers, drivers, 300 cleaning workers and 179 female sweepers work at Cox's Bazar Municipality to manage waste in the town, he said. The municipality is also equipped with two excavators, eight dump trucks, 18 rickshaw vans and 38 carts.

Contacted, Prof Md Khair Uddin of Jahangirnagar University's environmental sciences department said plastic often ends up clogging rivers, sea and other waterbodies, degrades over time into microplastics that are released into the environment, and pose a significant risk to humans

and ecosystems, said. If plastic or polythene is burnt in the open air, they omit dioxin and furan, which are carcinogenic materials, he said.

However, plastic or polythene can be completely burnt through proper incineration, he said.

"Since plastic is convenient and cheap, in spite of its adverse impact on the environment, we should control its use and only use plastic products made with over 0.5-micron thickness. These are recyclable and also have market value," he added.

Contacted, AKM Tariqul Alam, chief executive officer of Cox's Bazar Municipality, said, "We have no other system to manage waste in Cox's Bazar other than the current one." "We are thinking of implementing a more advanced waste management system, though it might prove to be too costly in Bangladesh's context," he said.

**Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation**  
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road  
Chattogram, Bangladesh

INVIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL QUOTATION FOR IMPORT OF GASOIL 0.005% (50 PPM) 'S', JET A-1, MOGAS 95 RON, HSFO 180CST AND MARINE FUEL 0.5% 0.5% 'S' DURING JULY-DECEMBER 2022.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.				
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)				
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)				
4	Procuring entity district	Chattogram, Bangladesh				
5	Invitation for	Procurement of 8,429-8,877 Million Barrels (11,30,000-11,90,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% Sulphur, 1,280 Million Barrels (160,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1; 75,000-125,000 Metric tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 CST; 1,075-1,290 Million Barrels (125,000-150,000 Metric Tons) of Mogas 95 RON and 30,000 Metric tons of Marine Fuel 0.5% Sulphur (+/-10%) for each grade at Buyer's Option).				
6	Invitation Ref No./Date	28.03.0000.041.01.003.2022; 17th April, 2022.				
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>						
7	Procurement method	Request for International Quotation.				
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>						
8	Budget and source of funds	Own Source of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation/ GoB fund.				
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>						
9	Procurement name	Procurement of 8,429-8,877 Million Barrels (11,30,000-11,90,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% Sulphur, 1,280 Million Barrels (160,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1; 75,000-125,000 Metric tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 CST; 1,075-1,290 Million Barrels (125,000-150,000 Metric Tons) of Mogas 95 RON and 30,000 Metric tons of Marine Fuel 0.5% Sulphur (+/-10%) for each grade at Buyer's Option).				
10	Notice publication date	17/04/2022				
11	Document last selling date	25/04/2022; 1530 hours (BST)				
12	Closing date and time of submission of quotation	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> <tr> <td>26/04/2022</td> <td>1400 hours (BST)</td> </tr> </table>	Date	Time	26/04/2022	1400 hours (BST)
Date	Time					
26/04/2022	1400 hours (BST)					
13	Quotation opening date and time	26/04/2022 1415 hours (BST)				
Name & address of the office(s)						
14	(a) Selling place of quotation document	(I) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh. (II) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. (III) Document is available in BPC's website ( <a href="http://www.bpc.gov.bd">www.bpc.gov.bd</a> ). Document original money receipt must be enclosed with bid document during submission.				
	(b) Receiving and opening place of Quotation	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh.				
<b>INFORMATION FOR BIDDER</b>						
15	Eligibility of bidder	(I) The bidders must own Refinery(s) and its processing capacity must be at least 3.00 million metric tons per year. (II) The satisfactory completion of export of Petroleum Products of minimum 2.00 million Metric Tons per year in last 03 (three) years. Bidder must submit year-wise export quantity & name of destination/organization. (III) Annual turnover of the bidders during last 3 (three) years must be equivalent to minimum US\$ 3.00 billion. (IV) The bidders must have minimum 05 (five) years' experience in the export of petroleum products. Experience certificate mentioning year & the country of supply must be submitted along with bid documents. (V) The bidders must be free from any interdictory from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (VI) The bidders must have to comply with international safety standard and environment compliances. (VII) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US\$ 2.00 billion. (VIII) The bidders must have to fulfill all terms and conditions of quotation documents.				
16	Brief description of goods	(i) Package-A: The total quantity to be supplied 4,326-4,550 Million Barrels (580,000-610,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% Sulphur and 0.640 Million Barrels (80,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option). (ii) Package-B: The total quantity to be supplied 4,103-4,326 Million Barrels (550,000-580,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% Sulphur and 0.640 Million Barrels (80,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option). (iii) Package-C: The total quantity to be supplied 75,000-125,000 Metric tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 CST (+/-10% at Buyer's Option). (iv) Package-D: The total quantity to be supplied 1,075-1,290 Million Barrels (125,000-150,000 Metric Tons) of Mogas 95 RONS (+/-10% at Buyer's Option). (v) Package-E: The total quantity to be supplied 30,000 Metric tons of Marine Fuel 0.5% Sulphur (+/-10% at Buyer's Option).				
17	Quotation document price	BOT 10,000.00/- US\$ 120.00 non refundable by Cash/Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favor of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.				
18	Quotation security amount/bid bond	US dollar 2.00 (two) million.				
19	Type of payment for security amount	As per quotation document.				
20	Mode of payment	Through Letter of Credit (L/C).				
21	Mode of shipment	CFR Chattogram, Bangladesh.				
22	Determination of quantification	The quantity of the products delivered shall be determined by the independent inspector by measurement of the Vessel's tanks immediately upon arrival at the customary anchorage at the discharge port.				
23	Validity of the offer	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2022 at 1700 at 1700 Hours (BST)				
24	Submission of quotation	Quotation should be inserted in closed envelope bearing the name and address of the Quotator, Ref No. and date and be addressed to the procuring authority. 01 (one) marked as "ORIGINAL" and other as "COPY" in separate envelope in the form of book/spiral binding. Both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" shall have to be inserted in a single envelope. All submitted papers and quotation documents must be signed and sealed by authorized official of Bidder. The document must be well organized and table of contents must be included.				
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>						
25	Name of official inviting quotation	Mustafa Qudrat-Elahi				
26	Designation of official inviting quotation	General Manager (Commercial & Operations).				
27	Address of official inviting quotation	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh.				
28	Contact details of official inviting quotation	Telephone: +88-031-716121, Mobile: 01755587628 E-mail: gm.com.bpc@gmail.com				
29	Incomplete, conditional quotation and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all quotations partly or wholly without assigning any reason.					
GD-764						

**বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এন্ড সার্জানস্**  
**Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons**

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা কলেজের ফেলো ও মেম্বারদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ৫-৬ই জুন ২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ কলেজের সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী এবং ৭ই জুন ২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখে ১৪তম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে।

উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানসমূহে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন করার শেষ তারিখ আগামী ২১শে এপ্রিল ২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত এবং আগামী ৩০শে এপ্রিল ২০২২খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত বিলম্ব ফি প্রদান করে রেজিস্ট্রেশন করার সুযোগ থাকবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য BCPS-এর Website ভিজিট করুন: (<https://bcps.edu.bd>)

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অনারারি সচিব  
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**বুকিং চলছে! বুকিং চলছে!!**

চা-এর দেশ শ্রীমঙ্গলে ফাইভ স্টার স্ট্যাডার্ড, লাক্সারিয়াস রিসোর্ট, গ্র্যান্ড পার্ভেন প্যালেস এ মাত্র ৫০টি বাংলা বুকিং চলছে। সারাজীবন থাকা লক্ষ টাকা আয় বুকিং মানি মাত্র ৫,০০,০০০/- (পাঁচ লক্ষ) টাকা বুকিং দিলেই গ্র্যান্ড সুলতানে ২ দিন থাকা খাওয়া ফ্রি।

মোবাইল: ০১৬১১-৮৮৮৬১১, ০১৬১১-৮৮৮৬১২  
০১৭৯৩-১১১২২২, ০১৬১১-৮৮৮৬১৪

**ঢাকা শিক্ষা বোর্ড ল্যাবরেটরি স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ** (EHN: 10R223)  
প্রিন্সিপাল আবুল কাশেম সড়ক, নিরপু-১, ঢাকা-১২১৬। ফোন ০২-৪৮০০৪৪৭২

**অধ্যক্ষ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পদের ধরণ ও শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা	বেতন স্কেল ও গ্রেড
অধ্যক্ষ, এমপিওভুক্ত, শূন্যপদ স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি/সমমান। অথবা স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রি/সমমান।	উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের অধ্যক্ষ/উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক কলেজের অধ্যক্ষ/ডিগ্রি কলেজের উপাধ্যক্ষ পদে এমপিওভুক্ত হিসেবে কর্মরত। অথবা এমপিওভুক্ত হিসেবে সহকারী অধ্যাপক পদে ন্যূনতম ০৩(তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মোট ১২ (বার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। অথবা এমপিওভুক্ত হিসেবে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়/উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক কলেজে জ্যেষ্ঠ প্রভাষক পদে ন্যূনতম ০৩(তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মোট ১২ (বার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।	স্কেল ৪৩,০০০-৬৯,৮৫০/- গ্রেড-৫

সমস্ত শিক্ষাজীবনে ০১(এক)টির বেশি ওয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সম্মান গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

**শর্তাবলী:**

- সকল প্রকার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কটোকপি, তিন কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত কটোকপি ও ঢাকা শিক্ষা বোর্ড ল্যাবরেটরি স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ, ঢাকা-১২১৬ বারবার অধ্যক্ষ পদের জন্য ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকার সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ থেকে ক্রয়কৃত পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটসহ (অফেরতযোগ্য) আবেদন পত্র আগামী ১৬/০৫/২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে কলেজের ঠিকানায় পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের স্বধায কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত এবং অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন কোন ক্রমেই গ্রহণযোগ্য হবেনা এবং তা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

সত্যাপ্তি  
গভর্নিং বডি  
ঢাকা শিক্ষা বোর্ড ল্যাবরেটরি স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ

**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Position Vacancy Announcement**

**Position: Project Management Specialist (M&E and Budget), FSN-10**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Project Management Specialist (M&E and Budget)** in the Office of Education (EDU).

Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: May 15, 2022

For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website:  
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D-41

'Jabbar er Boli Khela' to be held on April 24-26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram City Corporation have decided to hold the 11th edition of popular wrestling competition "Jabbar er Boli Khela" from April 24 to 26 on the Kotwali to Andarkilla road in the port city.

CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury made the announcement in a press briefing yesterday. On April 13, the committee announced suspension of this year's event as the traditional site for arranging the competition, Laldighi playground, was being renovated.

Rezaul said, "The previous announcement disheartened people and they requested us not to suspend it. The competition will be held on the road in front of the Laldighi playground area."

The event remained suspended for two years due to the pandemic.

"Boli Khela" was introduced in the early 20th century by Abdul Jabbar Saodagar, a local trader. He wanted to cultivate a sport that would prepare youths to fight the British.

The traditional form of wrestling was named after Jabbar. The first competition was held in 1909.



The usual hustle and bustle surrounding the tourism industry in Cox's Bazar often sidelines a huge crisis: its struggles with waste management. The average amount of waste can weigh up to 130 tonnes during peak season. Amidst this alarming situation, UNDP's solid waste management project in Ukhia and Teknaf comes as a beacon of hope.

PHOTO: STAR

Teknaf, Ukhia show the way

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

For shopkeepers in Cox's Bazar's Ukhia, the day starts with rigorous cleaning. As part of the process, they put a pair of buckets -- one green and the other blue -- in front of their shops.

Later on the day, some three to four people in vests come to sweep the road, who collect the buckets and pour their content in separate chambers in a van.

One of them told this correspondent their job entails collecting waste from the shops and separating organic waste kept in green buckets from the rest kept in blue buckets.

After the collection and separation, garbage is taken to a facility -- where perishable waste is turned into compost, while the rest gets recycled or dumped into a sanitary landfill.

This solid waste management project comes as a beacon of hope at a time when Cox's Bazar, the country's largest tourist spot, is struggling with its waste management.

The project is implemented by UNDP with local partners Brac and Practical Action. It began in 2018 with finance from the Swedish government. It is being implemented with coordination from the UP chairperson, market committees, WATSAN committees and NGOs.



"The project has introduced basic waste collection systems in market areas and helped prevent littering in open spaces and drains," said Marta Kucharski Duran, project manager from UNDP's end in Cox's Bazar.

"The project aims to change people's perception towards waste. Waste is a resource that can generate incomes and job opportunities, and this is the idea we want to work on," she said.

Currently, waste is being collected from 5,390 shops of 14 marketplaces and 5,093 households in Ukhia and Teknaf under the project.

After segregating organic and recyclable waste, around 30 percent of the residual waste is disposed of at a landfill, maintaining hygiene concerns.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

The waste keeps piling up

Cox's Bazar struggles with garbage management

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Business and recreation go hand-in-hand in Cox's Bazar. But amidst all the usual frenzy, the tourist town fights a silent battle every day -- to make its waste management work.

In a recent visit to Bandarmokam in Cox's Bazar, also known as Kasturighat, where a landfill stands in the heart of the town, this correspondent saw a huge pile of solid waste collected from households, hotels and restaurants.

Two excavators were seen working to level the waste. There was smoke at the foot of the heap, burning the piled up garbage.

Plastic products for temporary use make up most of the heap, said Kabir Hossain, Cox's Bazar municipality's conservancy officer. This is concerning, as plastic is one of the most hazardous objects for the environment, particularly the ecosystem and biodiversity of Cox's Bazar.

"The compostable waste has melted and only plastic is left here. We level the landfill with the excavators to accommodate more waste," said Kabir.

The municipality collects 90 tonnes of waste on an average from the municipal area every day. The amount can go up to 130 tonnes during peak tourist season, he added.

However, they are not capable of handling all this waste due to lack of staffers and logistics.

The conservancy officer informed that waste collected from the municipality consists of 50 percent compostable and 30 percent plastic.

And as tourists keep pouring in, the waste keeps on piling every where -- the beach as well as roads and alleys, alleged locals.

They said the authorities must come up with a permanent solution to this problem, otherwise the beach town will soon be turned into just another "dirty old town".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

PRAYER TIMING

APRIL 17

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:17	12:45	4:45	6:24	7:45
JAMAAT 4:27	1:15	5:00	6:34	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
15	17		6:24
16	18	4:11	6:25
17	19	4:10	6:25



Life has become harder for fishers in Savar, thanks to rampant pollution of rivers and canals in the area. There was a time when they could fish all year long, which has now come down to two months, as no aquatic animals can survive amid the polluted water.

PHOTO: STAR

A threat to livelihood

Rampant pollution of rivers, canals in Savar forcing fishers to change hereditary profession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Mahadev Rajbangshi (60) used to fish throughout the year in Bangshi river and used to make his living by selling fish.

However, now he only gets to fish for two months during the entire year. The reason is the dense pollution of the river by industrial liquid waste.

Thousands of fishermen in Savar are passing days in hardship, while the majority of them have already left their hereditary profession.

According to Savar Upazila Fisheries Office, there are more than 2,000 fishermen in Savar. There are three rivers and 18 government canals in the upazila, as per the information acquired from the UNO's office.

During a recent visit to Bangshi, Turag and Dhaleshwari rivers and many of the canals in Savar, this correspondent found none of them free from pollution.

Senior Fisheries Officer Kamrul Islam Sarkar also expressed concern over the pollution.

"During my visits, I found no difference between

river water and sewer water. No fish, as well as aquatic creatures, can survive in such polluted water. Two dolphins died and floated on the Turag two months ago. We suspect that they died in the contaminated water," said Kamrul.

"To reduce pollution, the authorities concerned, including the Department of Environment (DoE) must be vocal," he added.

Contacted, Zahirul Islam Talukder, Dhaka district deputy director of DoE, said they regularly inspect the factories and often impose fines on them for polluting the rivers and the canals.

Asked why the pollution continues despite regular monitoring, he said, "Apart from the tannery industry, there are about 120 dyeing factories and 60 washing factories in Savar. They are open 24 hours a day, while we can only monitor them for eight hours. We have a huge human resources crisis."

"Factory authorities run CETP (Common Effluent Treatment Plants) during our visit and stop running them afterwards, which leads to the pollution. We are working on this issue as well," he added.



Apart from the tannery industry, there are about 120 dyeing factories and 60 washing factories in Savar. They are open 24 hours a day, while we can only monitor them for eight hours. We have a severe human resources crisis.

Zahirul Islam Talukder  
Deputy Director of DoE, Dhaka district

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Quality Assurance Manager  
Quality Control Lab  
Department of Fisheries, Dhaka.

Memo No: 33.02.0000.314.22.125.16-670 Date: 13.04.2022

**Invitation for Tender (Goods)**  
**e-Tendering Notice No: 03/2021-2022**

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Goods, details are given below.

Sl. #	Tender ID #	Package #	Name of works and location	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
01.	686197, 33.02.0000.314.22.280.22-665	GRF 1	Procurement of Fish Estradiol ELISA kit and Oxolinic acid Elisa kit for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-April-2022, 15:00	28-April-2022, 14:00	28-April-2022, 14:00
02.	686209, 33.02.0000.314.22.224.22-666	GRF 2	Procurement of Equipment and Spare parts for Rotary Evaporator and Fat Extractor for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-April-2022, 15:00	28-April-2022, 14:00	28-April-2022, 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to 27-April-2022,15:00. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)).

(Md. Manik Mia)  
Quality Assurance Manager  
Quality Control Laboratory  
Department of Fisheries, Dhaka.  
E-mail: [qamdaha@fisheries.gov.bd](mailto:qamdaha@fisheries.gov.bd)



A man walks past the remains of a house at KwaNdengezi township outside Durban, south Africa, on Friday. South Africa's flood-ravaged east was hit by more rain yesterday after the deadliest storm to strike the country in living memory killed nearly 400 people and left tens of thousands homeless.

PHOTO: AFP

## Covid-19: More Chinese cities tighten controls

REUTERS, Shanghai

Shanghai reported a record number of symptomatic Covid-19 cases yesterday and other areas across China tightened controls as the country kept up its "dynamic clearance" approach that aims to stamp out the highly transmissible Omicron variant. The Zhengzhou Airport Economic Zone, a central Chinese manufacturing area that includes Apple Inc APPL.O supplier Foxconn, announced a 14-day lockdown on Friday "to be adjusted according to the epidemic situation". In northwestern China, the city of Xian on Friday urged residents to avoid unnecessary trips outside their residential compounds and encouraged companies to have employees work from home or live at their workplace, following dozens of Covid-19 infections this month. Shanghai itself, which is at the centre of China's recent Covid surge starting in early March, on Saturday reported a record 3,590 symptomatic cases for April 15, as well as 19,923 asymptomatic cases. The asymptomatic case number was up slightly from 19,872 cases a day earlier. The city's case tally makes up the vast majority of cases nationwide even as most of its 25 million residents remain under lockdown.

## Pakistan elects new Speaker

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's new ruling alliance took control of the lower house of parliament yesterday with the election of a new speaker, cementing control of the assembly after former premier Imran Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote. The previous speaker and his deputy, both Khan allies, had attempted to block and then delay the vote, only for the country's top court to deem their actions illegal. The lower house of parliament eventually voted in favour of removing Khan from office on Sunday. The new ruling alliance has already elected their candidate, Shehbaz Sharif as the new prime minister. The new speaker is Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, a former prime minister who belongs to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), part of the new ruling alliance. He was elected unopposed in the absence of Khan's party, which resigned en masse from the house on Monday. The resignations are yet to be fully processed. If accepted, Pakistan faces the prospect of close to 100 by-elections within two months, a major distraction for Sharif and his coalition partners and a potential platform for Khan to mobilise support. Sharif is expected to name his cabinet in the coming days with a number of policy challenges facing the new government, in particular dealing with an economy in deep trouble.



## RAID ON JERUSALEM'S AL-AQSA MOSQUE Fear of new conflict rises

AGENCIES

Almost one year after confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in Jerusalem led to war in the Gaza Strip, escalating tension in the city during the holy month of Ramadan has raised fears that events of 2021 could repeat.

At least 158 Palestinians were wounded when Israeli riot police raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on Friday where they were met by stone throwing and hurled firecrackers.

The Al-Aqsa compound sits on a plateau in occupied East Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed in a move not recognised by most in the international community.

For Muslims, the compound hosts Islam's third-holiest site, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock, a seventh-century structure believed to be where the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.

The compound is also where Jews believe the Biblical Jewish temples once stood and is known to them as Temple Mount.

The contested site has been the focal point of the decades-long Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

"Jerusalem is perhaps the number one issue that has the potential of triggering wide-scale violence," said Khalil Shikaki, director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. "We have seen that in the past," he said.

Deadly attacks on Israelis by Palestinians in the past two weeks and Israeli soldiers killing Palestinians in the occupied West Bank has caused outrage and the temperature in the holy city is reaching boiling point as the festivals of Ramadan, Passover and Easter are all marked this month.

At a rally in Gaza, a spokesman for Hamas, which rules the enclave, said that Israel's use of force at the holy site would not go unanswered.

Almost a year ago in May 2021, Palestinian armed groups fired rockets into Israel after Hamas demanded Israeli police withdraw from Al-Aqsa and the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah, where a court threat to dispossess Palestinian residents led to protests and confrontations. In the 11-day war that followed, 250 Palestinians in Gaza and 13 people in Israel were killed.

The Israeli army has killed 47 Palestinians so far this year.

## Rockets fired by Pak forces kill 6 Afghans

AFP, Kabul

At least five children and a woman were killed in an eastern Afghan province when Pakistani military forces fired rockets along the border in a pre-dawn assault yesterday.

Since the Taliban seized power last year in Afghanistan, border tensions between the neighbours have risen, with Pakistan alleging militant groups were carrying out attacks from Afghan soil.

"Five children and a woman were killed and a man wounded in Pakistani rocket attacks in Shelton district of Kunar," an official told AFP.

Hundreds of civilians of Khost poured into the streets chanting anti-Pakistan slogans later yesterday, Afghan media reports said.



The shortest way to peace is to supply weapons to Ukraine. From the international community, we need three things: weapons, weapons and weapons.

Former Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko appeals to the international community

## Learning Bangla made easy

FROM PAGE 1  
The app is getting the attention of Bangladeshi children growing up abroad.

The idea of the app occurred to Razeeb Hasan Chowdhury, CEO of Banglaskool, from his own experience of trying to teach the language to his son. When Razeeb migrated with his family to Canada in 2016, his son Jeeyon Chowdhury, who was only four then, spoke Bangla.

But gradually as he started school, Jeeyon started forgetting Bangla, said Razeeb. When Razeeb discovered that children, exposed to modern technologies, do not relate to the language the way it is traditionally taught.

Razeeb adopted new ways. He shuffled the letters around and instead of starting with the vowels, Razeeb started with an easy to write consonant like 'Bo', which is basically a triangle, he said. Then he incorporated games in the learning process to make it enjoyable.

The new method caught up with Jeeyon in less than three weeks. It also worked with some of his friend's children there.

"So, the question came: Why can't we make it a product that can be accessed all over the world?" Razeeb said.

The first module of the app has 52 lessons, each of which teaches one letter or one sound with video tutorials, writing modules and games. The app also has an e-book library with easy



to read books.

One of the challenges in the development process was finding e-books without "juktakhor" (compound letters) for beginners, said Razeeb.

Thankfully, many Bangladeshis from home and abroad came forward to help Razeeb create the contents for the app by writing books and illustrating often at prices lower than the market. He said most people helped him out of love for the language.

Mashroof Hossain, additional superintendent of police, is one of them. Mashroof said Razeeb's endeavour inspired him to write. He recently wrote "Sada Bhoot" (White Ghost) for Banglaskool.

The friendly face in the video tutorials is that of Rafia Mahzabin, a young Bangladeshi-Canadian living in Vancouver. She flew to Toronto for the shoot with Razeeb's son Jeeyon.

"They were looking for someone who can speak Bangla, understand it and also can talk to kids from here," Rafia said, explaining that children growing up abroad are used to a different style of interaction.

"They look for a certain type of enthusiasm," she added. Since the app was launched, Rafia said she received a lot of positive feedback from people whose children are using Banglaskool.

In fact, Rafia's sister-in-law, 26-year-old Fariha Khondaker, who moved to Canada with her parents at the age of four, is also using Banglaskool.

Growing up, she too could not learn Bangla, although she speaks and understands the language.

Now as a grown up she feels disconnected with the culture at times. "When my friends send me memes or some funny pictures or videos, I can never understand it. They have to translate it for me," she said.

Though Banglaskool is meant for children aged five to 14, Fariha said the game Bagadoolia is a motivation even for adults.

"Watching the videos, you learn how to say the words, then the next stage is to write the words and the next stage is you play a game. So you are more motivated to learn the words so that you can play these games," she said. In fact, Singularity, the

Bangladeshi firm that transformed the app from a concept to a digital product, had to incorporate millions of words in the app's database.

Zafir Shafee, co-founder of Singularity, said they had to reschedule the launching date several times to manage the enormous task of transforming Banglaskool from a concept to a product by integrating different types of resources from different places around the globe.

Soon subscribers will be able to pay for the app not just directly through their android but also their Apple devices, he added.

Currently, the first class is free and then each subsequent class costs \$10. The app and all the services now being offered cost \$275.

Talking about her motivation for spending money to teach Bangla to their kids, Farhana pointed out that a common language bridge is necessary to continue the legacy of Bangla from one generation to the next. Until Banglaskool, she did not find anything that her children would like or at least try, she added.

Razeeb expressed his hope that the competitive aspect of the app would also make it interesting to children of English medium schools in Bangladesh.

"I think this is the only language learning app focusing to teach a mother tongue and to make the mother tongue cool to the newer generations," he said.

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

### অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ গাজীপুর।

স্মারক নং-শহীদতাজউদ্দীনমেডিকেল/২০২২/৫৬০

### উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর এর ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ, বাজেট অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক মালমাল সরকারের নিমিত্তে পিপিএ ২০০৬ ও পিপিআর ২০০৮ আইন ও বিধিমালা ২০২১ সংশোধিত অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশ প্রকৃত অভিজ্ঞ টিকাদার/প্রতিষ্ঠানের দিকট সীলনামা ঘোষন দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রাথমিক অনুমোদন প্রাপ্ত স্বাস্থ্যকর্মী/ব্যক্তিদের প্রাধান্য দেয়া হবে।

ক্র. নং	বিভাগ/বিভাজ	স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
১.	এজেন্সি	স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর
২.	সংস্থা সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর।
৩.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
৪.	বাজেট ও অর্ডার টিস	রাজস্ব বাজেট
৫.	দরপত্র সিটিউল সংগ্রহের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	পরিচালক বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রকাশের পর হতে ০৮/০৫/২০২২ খ্রি সপ্তাহ ৮:০০ হতে ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৬.	দরপত্র সিটিউল গ্রহণের স্থান	অত্র দপ্তরের প্রশাসন শাখা হতে সিটিউল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
৭.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর-এ রফিক দরপত্র বাজেট ০৯/০৫/২০২২ খ্রি সপ্তাহ ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা-১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৮.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর সন্ধ্যেন কক্ষ তারিখ ০৯/০৫/২০২২ খ্রি বেলা-১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
৯.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিসের ঠিকানা	শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর।
১০.	দরপত্র কার্যের বিবরণী	ক্র. নং. প্যাকেজ. প্যাকেজের বিবরণ
		০১. প্যাকেজ নং-৫. কলিকাতার ও আনুষ্ঠানিক
		০২. প্যাকেজ নং-৬. বাইরের ও সাময়িকী
১১.	দরপত্রের সিটিউল সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি	অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর এর অনুসূচক ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা প্রিজারী চালানোর মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৫১১-০০০০-২০০৬ তে যে কোন সিটিউল বাজেট জমা দানের পূর্বে উক্ত চালানের সত্যায়িত কপি মাধ্যমে অফিস ইমারতসীলন সফল ৮.০০ হইতে দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অত্র দপ্তরে প্রকাশ করা হবে।
১২.	দরপত্রের সঠিক জমা দিতে হবে (প্রত্যেক প্যাকেজের জন্য আলাদা আলাদাভাবে)	(১) হাসানামা নথায়নকৃত স্মারিত কার্যের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (২) হাসানামা আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (৩) চলতি বছরের হাসানামা ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রেরণ আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। (৪) স্মারিত কার্যের হাসানামা সূচী সংযোজন কর সনদ (ব্যবসার প্রকৃতি পরিচয়) সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। (৫) সিটিউলের সূচী বাস্তব নিম্নে উল্লিখিত অর্থের (অফিসব্যয়) চালানের সূচী কপি জমা দিতে হবে। (৬) স্মারিত কার্যের কমপক্ষে তিন বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (প্রমাণক সহ) (৭) সিটিউলে বর্ণিত কার্যের পছন্দ/শর্তাদি মোতাবেক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। (৮) নিম্নলিখিত প্যাকেট আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র জমা করতে হবে। কেবলমাত্র স্ব.স প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানাধীন দরপত্র জমা করিতে পারিবেন। (৯) দরপত্রের সাথে সমুদয় সর্ভ ও নিয়মাবলী অনুযায়ী। (১০) সর্বক্ষেত্রে পিপিএ ২০০৬ ও পিপিআর ২০০৮ আইন সংশোধনী ২০২১ অনুসরণ করা হবে।
১৩.	দরপত্র ন্যস্তার যোগ্যতা	১। প্যাকেজ নং-৫-এ কলিকাতার ও আনুষ্ঠানিক-৮২,০০০/- (বিরাশি স্বাস্থ্য) টাকা নিরাপত্তা জামানত হিসেবে বাজেট প্যারাফি/পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর এর অনুসূচক জমা দিতে হবে। ২। প্যাকেজ নং-৬-এ বাইরের ও সাময়িকী - যে কোন তফসিলিভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে নিয়মাবলী অনুসূচক ৩০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) টাকা পেমেন্ট করা দিতে হবে।
১৪.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১। প্যাকেজ নং-৫-এ কলিকাতার ও আনুষ্ঠানিক-৮২,০০০/- (বিরাশি স্বাস্থ্য) টাকা নিরাপত্তা জামানত হিসেবে বাজেট প্যারাফি/পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর এর অনুসূচক জমা দিতে হবে। ২। প্যাকেজ নং-৬-এ বাইরের ও সাময়িকী - যে কোন তফসিলিভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে নিয়মাবলী অনুসূচক ৩০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) টাকা পেমেন্ট করা দিতে হবে।
১৫.	দরপত্র জামানত	১। প্যাকেজ নং-৫-এ কলিকাতার ও আনুষ্ঠানিক-৮২,০০০/- (বিরাশি স্বাস্থ্য) টাকা নিরাপত্তা জামানত হিসেবে বাজেট প্যারাফি/পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর এর অনুসূচক জমা দিতে হবে। ২। প্যাকেজ নং-৬-এ বাইরের ও সাময়িকী-১,০০,০০০/- (একলক্ষ বিশ হাজার) টাকা নিরাপত্তা জামানত হিসেবে বাজেট প্যারাফি/পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের মাধ্যমে অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর এর অনুসূচক জমা দিতে হবে। ৩। উক্ত জামানতের অর্থ ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।
১৬.	সর্বোচ্চ ক্ষমতা	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকৈ যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ আবদুল কাদের
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা	অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর।
১৯.	অন্যবিধ কারণ বশত নির্ধারিত দিনে দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলা না হলে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে উপস্থিত সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসাবে গণ্য হবে।	

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শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ  
গাজীপুর।  
ফোন-০৯-২৭২০২১, ফ্যাক্স-০৯-২৬১৪২৩  
ই-মেইল-stamc@ac.dghs.gov.bd



France's President and La Republique en Marche (LREM) candidate for re-election Emmanuel Macron wave supporters during an election campaign meeting in Marseille, southern France, yesterday, ahead of the second round of voting in France's presidential election.

PHOTO: AFP

40,000 more Ukrainians flee war: UN

AFP, Geneva

Many of the nearly five million people who have fled Ukraine will not have homes to return to, the United Nations said yesterday as another 40,000 fled the country in 24 hours.

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, said 4,836,445 million Ukrainians had left the country since the Russian invasion on February 24 -- a number up 40,200 on Friday's total.

The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) says nearly 215,000 third-country nationals -- largely students and migrant workers -- have also escaped to neighbouring countries, meaning more than five million people in all have fled Ukraine since the war began.

Nearly two-thirds of all Ukrainian children have been forced from their homes, including those still inside the country.

Beyond the refugees, the IOM estimates 7.1 million people have left their homes but are still in Ukraine.

## Lost warship dents Russian pride, capability

AFP, Paris

Russia's loss of its flagship cruiser Moskva represents a dent in the operational capabilities of the Russian navy and a severe wound to Russian pride at the height of the war against Ukraine, analysts say.

The Moskva sank on Thursday after an explosion and fire that Ukraine claimed was a successful missile strike and Russia said was the result of exploding ammunition.

Until the sinking of the Moskva, nobody had good reason to doubt Russia's supremacy in the Black Sea during the conflict with Ukraine but these calculations have now changed.

"In symbolic terms this is a great loss," said ex-admiral Pascal Ausseur, director general of the Toulon-based Mediterranean Foundation of Strategic Studies (FMES).

The 12,000-ton ship should have been able to withstand one missile impact or more and get a fire under control, but instead went under in just 12 hours, he told AFP.

"That was not part of the plan," Ausseur said, adding that the Moskva probably housed the command post for the naval group which now will have to find a new home.

Coming after successive setbacks for President Vladimir Putin in the 52-day-old war -- including an unexpectedly weak air and land combat record -- the loss of the Moskva will also have a real impact on the Russian navy's ability to attack Ukrainian targets and keep its fellow fighters safe.

The 186-metre (610-foot-) long cruiser was equipped with 16 surface-to-surface Bazalt/Vulcan missiles used against ships as well as Fort missiles, which are navy-adapted versions of long-range S-300s, and short-range Ossa missiles.

Able to carry a crew of 680, its role was to give air cover to other ships during their

crucial for Russian capabilities as Moscow cannot dispatch a replacement for the Moskva while Turkey keeps the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits closed to warships.

This, some analysts say, may not make a huge difference to the current phase of the war which has seen the Russian navy play a limited role.



operations, especially during the bombing of targets on the coast and landings, according to a Telegram post by Sergei Brachuk, a spokesman for the Odessa regional military administration.

But beyond representing a body blow to Russian military prestige, the Moskva's loss is probably not a game changer for the Russian campaign, Western analysts said.

"The rest of the Black Sea Fleet remains a puissant force," said Nick Brown at British intelligence analysis firm Janes. The remaining force is all the more

But the ship's loss could force Moscow to revise any plans to give the navy a bigger role in the future, said Maia Otarashvili at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

The full story of what caused the Moskva's demise are unlikely to be known soon, as experts will need to examine its hull which is now somewhere in the depths of the Black Sea.

But it's already clear that the disappearance of the Moskva "reveals a real vulnerability" of the Russian navy, Ausseur said.

## Bidens report \$600k in 2021 income

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden -- who pledged transparency around his personal finances while in office -- and his wife Jill Biden reported a bit more than \$600,000 on their federal tax returns for 2021, the White House said Friday. The couple paid \$150,439 in taxes on \$610,702, for a tax rate of 24.6 percent, the White House said. In publishing their tax information, the president and first lady -- the first to work outside the White House, as a professor -- are bringing back a custom dating back to the 1970s but interrupted by previous president Donald Trump. Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband Doug Emhoff declared a 2021 income of \$1.6 million on their federal returns, and paid a tax rate of 31.6 percent, or \$523,371.



## Finance minister to succeed S'pore PM

REUTERS, Singapore

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday said that Finance Minister Lawrence Wong would succeed him as the city-state's leader. Wong was chosen as leader of the ruling People's Action Party's (PAP) so-called fourth generation team, according to an announcement on Thursday, paving the way for him to become prime minister. "The plan is for Lawrence to succeed me as PM, either before or after (if the PAP wins) the next General Election. It is due in 2025 and will surely be a tough fight," Lee said in a social media post yesterday. Lee, whose father Lee Kuan Yew was the island nation's independence leader, has been prime minister since 2004. Stability has long been one of wealthy Singapore's major strengths, making it a haven for investors and businesses in a region where political upheaval is not uncommon.

## Fuel-laden ship sinks off Tunisia

AFP, Tunis

A tanker carrying 750 tonnes of diesel fuel from Egypt to Malta sank yesterday in the Gulf of Gabes off Tunisia's southeast coast, sparking a rush to avoid a spill. "The ship sank this morning in Tunisian territorial waters. For the moment, there is no leak," local court spokesman Mohamed Karay said. The Equatorial Guinea-flagged Xelo was headed from the Egyptian port of Damietta to the European island of Malta when it requested entry to Tunisian waters on Friday evening due to bad weather. Tunisian authorities evacuated the seven-member crew. The last maritime accident involving the country was in October 2018, when Tunisian freighter Ulyse slammed into the Cyprus-based Virginia anchored about 30 kilometres off the northern tip of the French island of Corsica, sending hundreds of tonnes of fuel spilling into the Mediterranean.

## CHINA'S 'SPACE DREAM'

# A Long March to the Moon and beyond

AFP, Beijing

The return to Earth of three astronauts yesterday after six months at China's new space station marks a landmark step in the country's space ambitions, ending its longest crewed mission ever.

The world's second-largest economy has put billions into its military-run space programme, with hopes of eventually sending humans to the Moon.

China has come a long way in catching up with the United States and Russia, whose astronauts and cosmonauts have decades of experience in space exploration.

Here is a look at the country's space programme, and where it is headed:

Soon after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik in 1957, Chairman Mao Zedong pronounced: "We too will make satellites."

It took more than a decade, but in 1970, China launched its first satellite on a Long March rocket. Human spaceflight took decades longer, with Yang Liwei becoming the first Chinese "taikonaut" in 2003.

As the launch approached, concerns over the viability of the mission caused Beijing to cancel a live television broadcast at the last minute.

But it went smoothly, with Yang orbiting the Earth 14 times during a 21-hour flight aboard the Shenzhou 5.

China has launched seven crewed missions since.

Following in the footsteps of the United States and Russia, China began planning to build its own space station circling the planet.



Left, Officials stand near the capsule of the Shenzhou-13 spacecraft after it returned to earth carrying three Chinese astronauts in China's Inner Mongolia, yesterday. Chinese astronaut Ye Guangfu is assisted by officials to leave the capsule.

The Tiangong 1 lab was launched in 2011. The craft was also used for medical experiments and, most importantly, tests intended to prepare for the construction of a space station.

That was followed by the "Jade Rabbit" lunar rover in 2013, which initially appeared a dud when it turned dormant and stopped sending signals back to Earth.

It made a dramatic recovery, however, ultimately surveying the Moon's surface for 31 months -- well beyond its expected lifespan.

In 2016, China launched its second orbital lab, the Tiangong-2. Astronauts who visited the station have run experiments on growing rice and other plants.

Under President Xi Jinping, plans for China's "space dream" have been put into overdrive.

Beijing is looking to finally catch up with the United States and Russia after years of belatedly matching their milestones.

Besides a space station, China is also planning to build a base on the Moon, and



PHOTO: AFP

the country's National Space Administration said it aims to launch a crewed lunar mission by 2029.

But lunar work was dealt a setback in 2017 when the Long March 5 Y2, a powerful heavy-lift rocket, failed to launch on a mission to send communication satellites into orbit.

That forced the postponement of the Chang'e 5 launch, originally scheduled to collect Moon samples in the second half of 2017.

Another robot, the Chang'e 4, landed on

the far side of the Moon in January 2019 -- a historic first.

This was followed by one that landed on the near side of the Moon last year, raising a Chinese flag on the lunar surface. The unmanned spacecraft returned to Earth in December with rocks and soil -- the first lunar samples collected in four decades.

And in February 2021, the first images of Mars were sent back by the five-tonne Tianwen-1, which then landed a rover on the Martian surface in May that has since started to explore the surface of the Red Planet.

A trio of astronauts docked successfully in October with the core Tianhe module of the Chinese space station, which was placed in orbit in April 2021.

The astronauts stayed at the station for six months before returning safely to Earth on Saturday, ending China's longest crewed mission to date.

The Chinese space station Tiangong -- meaning "heavenly palace" -- will need a total of around 11 missions to bring more parts and assemble them in orbit.

Once completed, it is expected to remain in low Earth orbit at between 400 and 450 kilometres (250 and 280 miles) above our planet for at least 10 years -- realising an ambition to maintain a long-term human presence in space.

While China does not plan to use its space station for global cooperation on the scale of the International Space Station, Beijing said it is open to foreign collaboration.

It is not yet clear how extensive that cooperation will be.

## Sue the fraudulent exporters for money laundering

In-depth investigations needed to identify all involved in the scam

IT is alarming that fraudulent agro companies have been taking incentives from the government and laundering money by showing false exports. According to a report by this daily on April 16, at least 20 such companies have pocketed 20 percent export incentive given by the government (farm sector exporters are entitled to the government benefit that aims to boost export of certain goods) over the last five years through ghostly shipments of 965 consignments worth about Tk 451.5 crore. One of the companies, identified by the customs authorities, is Dhaka-based Mamun Enterprise, which alone has drawn over Tk 6.2 crore in incentives against agro exports between August 2018 and September 2020. Investigations found that the company did not ship any of the 142 consignments against which it pocketed the incentive.

Clearly, there is a big syndicate—including the exporters and the customs and NBR officials—involved in the scam. Otherwise, how would the companies breach the NBR website so easily and export non-existent goods through the port without any inspection? Investigations by the Chattogram customs authorities have by now unearthed a lot of the facts behind the scam. They have found that companies are laundering huge sums of money with the help of some customs officials and C&F (clearing and forwarding) agents.

According to the customs documents, at least 20 C&F agents helped the exporters obtain customs officials' IDs and passwords to create fake export entries on the NBR server. And the ghost exports were done just by changing the status of the shipments on the NBR server. Although until now no involvement of the banks—where these companies opened their LCs and made transactions and received the incentives—have been found, the chances of the banks' involvement in the scam have not been ruled out by the investigating authorities.

Over the last few years, money laundering has become a major problem for our economy. But not much has been done by the authorities to address it. In case of these fraudulent agro companies, it is good to know that imports and exports by them as well as the licences of their C&F agents have been suspended. But further investigations are needed to know how the money entered the country without exporting goods.

We urge the central bank and the commerce ministry to file criminal and money laundering cases against the identified scammers. The authorities should also take action against the bank and the audit firm concerned for their involvement in any illegal payment. Lastly, our export process should be made more rigorous, with three to four phases of inspections, to stop such big scale forgery from happening in future.

## Migrant workers deserve so much from us

Establishing a dedicated centre for them is a good first step

IT is good to see the government establishing a dedicated centre for migrant workers to reduce the hassles they face while going abroad or returning home. It's a long-overdue initiative. Over the years, the migrants' contribution to our economy has been nothing short of extraordinary. In the last fiscal year alone, Bangladesh received remittances worth USD 24.77 billion because of its migrant workers. Yet, we have seen these same people being exploited year after year both at home and abroad, without anyone so much as batting an eyelash. That is very unfortunate given how much they've sacrificed and the vital role they've played in turning Bangladesh into a developing country.

According to a report published in this newspaper on April 16, the centre will hold pre-departure briefings for outbound workers on issues related to destination countries and different services offered by the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB). Returning workers will also be briefed on reintegration for socio-economic development. Migrant workers coming from outside of Dhaka can stay at the centre for a maximum of two nights before boarding their flights out of the country. This will surely be helpful to many. However, the number of workers that it can currently accommodate—only 50—should be increased. Similarly, workers who land at the Dhaka airport can also find accommodation at the centre using their necessary paperwork. This will be of particular help to migrant workers who fly into the country late at night, as it is even more difficult for them to arrange decent accommodation.

Establishing this centre is a good first step in providing our migrant workers with the support that they deserve. However, it should by no means be the end of it. Our migrant workers have sacrificed plenty of themselves for their families and their country. But the process of migrating from Bangladesh is still fraught with many challenges as well as dangers of being scammed or trafficked, with very little chance of receiving substantial or meaningful assistance from the government. That should change. For now, this centre can be a hub that migrant workers can turn to for a host of other migration-related facilities. And we call on the government to use it to build a safer and easier path for our workers to migrate abroad and work without being exploited for a better future for themselves, their families and their country.

# Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022: Can it fit the purpose?



Iftekharuzzaman,  
Executive Director, Transparency  
International Bangladesh.

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN

THE draft Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022 was placed in parliament on April 5, 2022. Long years of civil society engagement and advocacy with the government have catalysed this initiative.

The stated objective of the bill is to prevent discrimination in order to ensure respect for human entity, equal rights and dignity. It is also stated to be inspired by the need to establish equality and social justice towards an exploitation-free society in Bangladesh established through a historic Liberation War. Reference is made rightfully to the need to make legal provisions to prevent discrimination consistent with articles 27, 28 and 29 of the Constitution. Therefore, it should be commended as a concrete step towards fulfilling the dream of generations for a discrimination-free society.

Whether and to what extent the expectations raised by the bill will be met remain to be seen, however. A key concern is that it can even be counterproductive as the draft fails to criminalise discrimination. In terms of redress for discrimination, the series of provisions made in the draft are short of any concrete and effective punitive action, and instead bank on "resolution through consultation" or at best "due redress" by the district, divisional and national committees to be created for the purpose. Even an appropriate court, which may be resorted to, will issue an order to "duly redress", with the only provision of an unspecified amount of pecuniary sanction.

These are far from deterrent enough to fit the purpose of the proposed law. Credible research shows that by seeking redress, the victims of discrimination often become further targets of harassment and discrimination. They are threatened, deprived, or at best advised to "survive with the reality". Take, for instance, parents of Dalit students being told that they should not touch educational materials in school because mainstream children don't like it; or that complaint against delivery of less than allocated amount results in elimination from the list of social safety net beneficiaries; or official order being issued to restaurants to arrange separate seating arrangements including crockeries and cutleries for customers of a particular marginalised community, and so on. In a context where mutuality of interest is quite common between the perpetrators of discrimination and those who are mandated to address complaints, the provision for resolution through consultation without any deterrent punishment for the perpetrators can yield hardly anything other than legalisation of

discrimination.

The three sets of institutional arrangements proposed in the draft (paras 5, 6, 7) for monitoring, overall implementation, and fulfilment of the objectives of the law are fraught with absence or lack of clarity of terms of reference. There are risks of mutual overlap and duplication as well as lack of

not be discriminatory.

The definition of public place (para 2) does not include roads and bridges, rivers and canals, sea beaches and other tourist attractions, parks and entertainment facilities. The draft (para 3) misses some commonly discriminated sections of the society like persons living with HIV/AIDS or victims of acid violence. It includes



PHOTO:  
COLLECTED

**In terms of redress for discrimination, the series of provisions made in the draft are short of any concrete and effective punitive action, and instead bank on "resolution through consultation" or at best "due redress" by the district, divisional and national committees to be created for the purpose.**

coordination between the three which can create a crippling effect on the purpose of the law.

More importantly, the three bodies are overwhelmingly bureaucracy-dominated in formation, composition and functioning, whereas as per international good practices, implementation, monitoring and grievance redress including deterrent actions are reposed in independent authorities such as commissions created by law. Although the experience of commissions in Bangladesh leaves little scope of optimism for independent and effective functioning, provision should nevertheless be made to entrust the tasks to a thoroughly revamped, truly independent and appropriately resourced National Human Rights Commission, reconstituted as the National Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission.

The draft rightly provides (para 12) that owners or senior officials of a company will be liable for acts of discrimination. But it remains silent about other entities, especially the whole range of state and non-state institutions, who are often involved in discriminations on the basis of various markers of identity, in terms of access to services, rights and entitlements, recruitment, promotions, transfers, etc. Thus, the draft is itself discriminatory.

Provision has been made for awareness programmes, almost as an exclusive domain of the government. It misses the opportunity to create the legal mandate to involve non-governmental and civil society actors and media. The National Curriculum and Textbook Board has been mandated to convey, through textbooks, ideas on acts of discriminations, but not to ensure that contents of the textbooks shall

third gender but leaves out other sexual minorities. Similarly, unmarried, separated and divorced persons and widows who are often subjected to discrimination have been excluded. Skin tone must be included in the list as persons with dark skin tone are discriminated in many different ways motivated by a culture of glorifying fair skin tone, especially by aggressive marketing of skincare products. Specific provision must be made to prevent discrimination based on skin tone through any means including advertisements and other means of communication.

Para 3 of the draft makes a provision that depriving anyone of legally mandated right to land shall be treated as discrimination. However, no scope has been created to prevent discrimination in terms of customary land rights of indigenous communities.

Discrimination in any society is an outcome of power imbalance. The discriminator is powerful in many different ways—socially, economically, religiously, culturally, ethnically, etc., and not least politically. The discriminated are the powerless by the same indicators. To that extent the proposed law, in whatever form it is enacted, will be at best an attempt to handle the syndromes rather than the underlying causes of the disease. Power imbalance exists in all societies. The key factor is the extent to which laws and institutions are effective enough to ensure accountability of the exploitative use of this power imbalance. The challenge of the anti-discrimination initiative is not only a good law that truly serves its purpose, but also the independence and effectiveness of institutions of accountability, free from the grips of politically designed dysfunctionality.

## The perils of Dhaka's street vendors

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RAFSANUL HOQUE and REDWANUL HOQ

STREET vendors in Dhaka are popular for selling a wide range of goods at a lower price to customers, mostly from middle and low-income communities. They sell their products in makeshift shops set up on the sidewalks. This informal sector operates without approval from authorities. That is because, for any business in Bangladesh, one must obtain a trade license.

A trade license is only provided if the applicant provides details of a bank account, office address, copy of utility bill, national identity card, e-TIN number, among other documents. A hawker, however, does not have an office address and usually does not have a bank account. Thus, they cannot obtain a trade license to run their business.

The government does not have any alternative policy or process to provide trade licenses or any other authoritative document to hawkers. This legal disapproval, along with general acceptance among the public, has created certain complexities.

The formation and protection of such businesses are maintained by the "linemen", who are agents of local powerful people, mostly belonging to the ruling political party. Vendors pay rent to the linemen, and in return, get space to run their businesses. The rent is divided among multiple state and informal actors, meaning all of them have incentives to continue the system.

These linemen keep the vendors informed about possible eviction drives by the city corporation and also help them

reinstate their carts after the drive is over. Additionally, vendors are beaten and harassed if they do not follow the linemen or fail to pay the rent on time.

The absence of legal recognition creates problems such as a lack of rights and proper working conditions. The most critical problem faced by hawkers is the constant threat of eviction.

The city corporations, being in charge of managing public spaces, generally take a reactive approach by destroying the establishments created by the vendors. However, with the help of local musclemen, who extort fees from them to set up their shops, they again return.

Hawkers have many trade unions and groups who are collectively voicing their demands for a solution from the authorities. In interviews conducted by BIGD, union representatives argued that linemen are vigilant in making sure that no forum is formed among the local street vendors. The informal governance mechanism aims to resist any collective functioning. As a result, they suffer from poor hygiene, lack of access to water and electricity, risk to their safety while working beside busy roads, etc. Extreme weather and dirty streets also affect their health and livelihood.

Covid-19 added to their woes. During the lockdowns, thousands of hawkers were completely out of business for months. Daily sales drastically decreased, partly because street vendors could not engage with customers due to increased concerns around health and hygiene.

Existing informality in the system remains the biggest barrier to solving these problems. Due to the lack of legal recognition, the government has no mechanism to work toward hawkers' rights. It also diminishes the government's incentive to work in this area as financial allocation and resource mobilisation are difficult. As for the city corporation, it prioritises creating

safe and accessible public spaces, not complying with the needs of those who occupy them.

Different stakeholders have discussed multiple solutions to improve hawkers' rights and working conditions. These can be accomplished by bringing this sector under a structured framework. Many of the solutions include full or some form of formalisation of the sector, bringing in the application of the Labour Act. The introduction of formal contracts and a database of workers can help them tremendously.

Experts suggest a sustainable vendor management system where street vending will be brought into a policy framework. In the absence of policy or any legal framework, a multi-stakeholder institutional arrangement (e.g., city authorities, law enforcers, civil society organisations, private sector) will be essential to managing public space. It is to be noted that multiple stakeholders find financial incentives in the current informal rent-seeking mechanism. Therefore, any idea needs to map stakeholders' interest in the planning stage.

Unions have advocated for policies to legalise street vending and regulate vendors based on location and hours. They have also pointed out that legalisation would make vendors pay taxes to the government instead of paying rent to the linemen.

More recently, the DNCC, BRAC, and BIGD have been working on a pilot project to test whether assigning specific times and locations based on area dynamics and peak traffic hours could help. The plan also includes the registration of vendors and the physical space where they would function. The prototype is expected to be implemented soon in a few streets of Dhaka. Regardless of the mechanism, strong political will is critical to make any idea work.

**The absence of legal recognition creates problems such as a lack of rights and proper working conditions. The most critical problem faced by hawkers is the constant threat of eviction.**

MUJIBNAGAR DAY

# How the Mujibnagar government turned the dream for freedom into reality



SHAMS RAHMAN

Dr Shams Rahman is a professor at the Department of Supply Chain and Logistics in RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

**G**EOGRAPHICALLY, Plassey and Baidyanathata are quite close to one another. Both are also significant in the history of Bengalis. One is a place of failure and disappointment, the other a place of accomplishment. Bengalis lost their independence at the mango grove of Plassey, and took an oath to regain it at the mango grove of Baidyanathata.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh on March 26, 1971. The last person to meet Bangabandhu that night was journalist Ataus Samad. Bangabandhu told him: "I have given you independence. Now go and preserve it. The party cadres have been told what to do and the resistance has begun." (Afsan Chowdhury, 1971: *Memories, Facts, and Words Overheard, Strategic Analysis*).

Following that, the establishment of Bangladesh as a sovereign people's republic was officially announced on April 10. This declaration endorsed Bangabandhu's declaration of independence. Then, on April 17, the cabinet of a newly formed government headed by Syed Nazrul Islam, as acting president, and Tajuddin Ahmad, as prime minister, was sworn in at Baidyanathata. Since then, this place has been known as Mujibnagar, this day as the Mujibnagar Day, and this government as the Mujibnagar government.

Undoubtedly, the significance of the Mujibnagar Day is far-reaching, which can be understood from the comments of US Senator Edward Kennedy. He compared Mujibnagar to Philadelphia, where the American Declaration of Independence was adopted. To grasp its true significance, it is crucial to understand the importance of the resolutions proposed, passed, and acted upon regarding Bangladesh between March 31 and April 10, 1971. At the same time, it is also imperative to know how the outcomes of discussions held between



course of action to achieving the goals of the Liberation War was taking shape in the minds of these leaders, which later was adopted as the strategy of the Mujibnagar government. And that is—"first self-defence, then prepare and finally attack."

According to experts, in general, there are three main prerequisites for the successful conduct of any liberation war: 1) to have broad support of the people and the party in the leadership; 2) to confirm safe havens for conducting training for freedom fighters; and 3) to ensure a regular supply of weapons and other equipment.

The first prerequisite was confirmed through the outcome of the 1970

▲ **The Mujibnagar Monument with 23 pillars and a brick square in the centre, which marks the spot where the Mujibnagar government ministers took their oaths.**

PHOTO: MASUM AL HASAN/WIKIMEDIA

of arms to freedom fighters based on the assurance of assistance given to Bangabandhu through the Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka. Indira Gandhi wanted to know whether Awami League had already formed a government-in-exile. If formed, "Mrs Gandhi wanted to ascertain whether their [Tajuddin and Aminul Islam's] proposition had Mujib's concurrence" (Maidul Hasan, *Muldhara Ekattor*). Not only that, India wanted to ensure that the leadership to fight Pakistan has broad-based support of all the groups and they should be acceptable to the people of East Pakistan. At the same time, Delhi wanted Awami League leaders to demonstrate "the ability of Mujibnagar government to establish their legitimacy in the eyes of the world" (Jairam Ramesh).

It can be noted that before the Indira-Tajuddin meeting, the Indian government took two significant decisions concerning the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

First, endorsing a resolution on the brutalities of Pakistan military. On March 31, the Indian parliament passed a unanimous resolution presenting to the world a picture of Pakistan military's attacks on the civilian population of Bangladesh. It reads as follows: "This House calls upon all peoples and governments of the world to take urgent and constructive steps to prevail upon the government of Pakistan to put an end immediately to the systematic decimation of people which amounts to genocide... wishes to assure them that their struggle and sacrifices will receive the wholehearted sympathy and support of the people of India."

Second, a decision was taken in early April to keep India's borders open for the people of the war-torn country and to grant Bangladesh's government-in-exile the right to conduct political activities within Indian territory.

These decisions played a pivotal role in the establishment, operation, and management of the Mujibnagar government.

Returning from Delhi, Tajuddin, without delay, focused on forming the government based on the discussions he had with Indira Gandhi. The establishment of Bangladesh as a sovereign country was officially declared on April 10, and on April 17, the new government was sworn in. The formation of the Mujibnagar government is considered the right constitutional, logical and practical step towards the full realisation of our dream for independence. From this point of view, Mujibnagar Day is a landmark chapter in our history, the significance of which is far-reaching. Let me explain further.

**Establishing legitimacy for the Liberation War in the eyes of the world** It was critical to demonstrate to the rest of the world that the Liberation War of Bangladesh was a peoples' war, following an extended phase of a democratic movement—not a separatist attempt of an obscure section of the population—and also to show that the leadership had broad-based support from all walks of life in the fight against the Pakistani

junta. These were made possible through the establishment of the Mujibnagar government. Establishing the legitimacy of the war in the eyes of the world was fundamental for both the Mujibnagar government and the Indian government.

We must remember that it was a time when the Cold War between the Western world and the socialist block was at its height. Although many countries expressed solidarity with our struggle and extended a helping hand, the United States and China took a stand against the independence movement of Bangladesh. The Nixon-Kissinger administration was determined to maintain Pakistan's unity at all costs. On the other hand, Kissinger opined that the Awami League and Bengalis were politically left (Gary Bass, *The Blood Telegram*). In such a situation, any wrong turn by the Mujibnagar government could have thwarted the rightful peoples' war of national emancipation as a separatist movement. That is exactly why the long struggle of the IRA, the Basque Country movement in Spain, and the Tamil Tigers movement have been ruined.

**Establishing control over the Liberation War**

If the formation of the Mujibnagar government was delayed, it is certain that a guerrilla-style war would have spread across the country without any central control. It can be recalled that following Bangabandhu's March 7 speech, "high commands" were formed in every district under the leadership of Awami League. After the crackdown on March 25, these commands put up a resistance with guerrilla tactics. To reach the desired goal, however, coordinating and controlling these sporadic freedom fighters' groups was an absolute necessity. This was made possible only through the establishment of the Mujibnagar government. Ultimately, these combatants emerged as the mainstream freedom fighters. In short, in the absence of the Mujibnagar government, an uncoordinated and uncontrolled independence struggle would have been marked as a separatist movement, and possibly doomed to failure.

**Partitioning the battlefields and organising the fighters**

On March 25, apart from the Awami League leaders and workers, university students and teachers, Pakistan's targets were Bengali soldiers and officers of East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) and the Bengal Regiment. As soon as the EPR and the Bengal Regiment came under attack, a vast majority of officers and troops took part in the mutiny and resistance war. This was spontaneous, however unplanned. Due to the establishment of the Mujibnagar government, it was possible to organise them by bringing them under a single chain of command.

The establishment of the government is thus a milestone in our history that gave life and legitimacy to our independence fight. The nation remembers with gratitude those leaders who led the war with great resolve and efficiency in the absence of the Father of the Nation.



A giant map of Bangladesh highlighting major events from the 1971 war of liberation, inside the Mujibnagar Complex, Meherpur, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: BADIUZZAMAN BAY

Awami League leaders and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were conducive to the establishment of the Mujibnagar government.

Immediately after the brutal attacks by Pakistani military on March 25, the leaders of Awami League and its associated organisations crossed the border of India to prepare for the war of liberation. Tajuddin Ahmad appeared on the border of West Bengal on the evening of March 30 and Sheikh Fazlul Haque Mani, along with other leaders of the Awami Youth League, arrived in Kolkata in the first week of April. Soon after, Syed Nazrul Islam, AHM Qamaruzzaman, Captain Mansur Ali, and others also reached the border. Although it wasn't apparent at the beginning, a definitive

general election. The second and third conditions required the cooperation of the government of India. Although at the request of Bangabandhu, the assurance of India's assistance and cooperation was confirmed by the Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka on March 17 (Maidul Hasan, *Muldhara Ekattor*), its implementation was urgent. The second and third conditions were inextricably linked. After reaching the border of West Bengal, Tajuddin Ahmad contacted the Indian border administration. Since then, things moved very fast. The Indian administration arranged for Tajuddin to go to Delhi for talks with Indira Gandhi, and they met on April 4.

During the meeting, Tajuddin requested the formation, training, and allocation

**It was critical to demonstrate to the rest of the world that the Liberation War of Bangladesh was a peoples' war, following an extended phase of a democratic movement—not a separatist attempt of an obscure section of the population—and also to show that the leadership had broad-based support from all walks of life in the fight against the Pakistani junta. These were made possible through the establishment of the Mujibnagar government.**

# Pay attention to your oral health during Ramadan fasting

**Ramadan is a holy month of fasting. The prolonged fasting hours from 'Suhoor' to 'Iftar' demand special care, and the most neglected amongst all is oral health. During Ramadan, Muslims seek to become closer to Allah, ask for forgiveness and gather with families to celebrate the most important time in Islamic culture. Since Muslims are not allowed to eat, drink, and do other things throughout daylight, it is difficult to maintain their dental health during Ramadan.**

DR ADILY ADIB KHAN

The lack of food and water for exponentially more extended periods affects your health and metabolism. Fasting is a long period that may last up to fourteen hours and perhaps more than that. This leads to a lack of salivation due to the body using its water in many other body processes resulting in dryness in the mouth and increasing the chance of bacteria and viruses attacking the teeth and gums. This can cause diseases of the teeth and gums and an undesirable mouth smell.

In addition, saliva production and the foods we eat strongly affect our breath. So bad breath, called Halitosis, can quickly become an issue. Other changes in daily routine and disturbance

of sleep times during the fasting period may also lead to insufficient attention to oral hygiene, which can harm the teeth' health.

Some tips on oral health care to stop bad breath during Ramadan are needed.



- Floss – Flossing should be done first after Iftar and Suhoor to remove any food particles stuck between the teeth.
- Brush – Ensure that you brush your teeth for two minutes at least twice during non-fasting hours to ensure good oral hygiene. Make sure you vigorously brush your tongue as well.
- Mouthwash – Use an alcohol-free mouthwash and swish it in your mouth for 30 seconds.

- Stop smoking – Try to refrain from smoking during non-fasting hours.
- Stay hydrated – During non-fasting

hours, it is very important to drink water and stay hydrated.

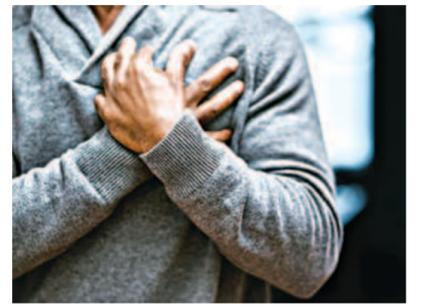
- Use miswak – According to the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, miswak is permissible to clean teeth. Miswak is a twig from an arak tree used for cleaning teeth. It helps stimulate saliva to prevent dryness in your throat and eliminates bad breath in your mouth.

Just like rinsing your mouth, you can provide some dental care as long as you don't swallow anything. During your regular checkup and cleaning, you can let your dentist know you are fasting, and they can take additional care to ensure nothing is swallowed. However, if you are not comfortable with this risk, you may want to reschedule your appointment.

If you face an emergency, such as an infected tooth, you are allowed to break the fast for the case. However, the best way to avoid this is by keeping regular checkups before fasting. This will prevent serious issues. Ramadan Kareem, may you all have a blessed month.

Ramadan Mubarak, may you all have a blessed month.

The writer is the founder of Dental Pixel. Email: adily.adib@gmail.com



## High cardiovascular risk is associated with symptoms of depression

A new study published in PLOS ONE links cardiovascular risk factors to an increased risk of depression in older adults. Similar risk factors, such as inflammation and oxidative stress, are thought to link cardiovascular disease and depression. However, depression has been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. The new study focused on overweight or obese men and women aged 55-75.

At the start of the study, 6,545 healthy people were included. Compared to low risk (LR) women, high risk (HR) women were more likely to be depressed. Medium risk (MR) and HR also had higher odds of depression than LR among participants with total cholesterol below 160 mg/mL. MR and HR had a lower risk of depression than LR among participants with total cholesterol of 280 mg/mL or higher. MR and HR participants with high baseline cholesterol showed the greatest decreases in depressive status after two years of following a Mediterranean diet.

Depressive symptoms, especially in women, are associated with high and very high cardiovascular risk. The role of other factors, such as adherence to the Mediterranean Diet, requires further investigation. High cardiovascular risk, especially in women, is associated with symptoms of depression in the elderly.

## Are healthy plant-based diets associated with a lower risk of developing diabetes?



New research published in Diabetologia finds that the consumption of healthy plant-based foods, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, and legumes, is associated with a lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes (T2D) in generally healthy people and support their role in diabetes prevention.

The study conducted an analysis of blood plasma samples and dietary intake of 10,684 participants. The study found that compared with participants who did not develop T2D, those who were diagnosed with the disease during follow-up had a lower intake of healthy plant-based foods, as well as lower scores for Plant-based Diet Index (PDI) and healthy Plant-based Diet Index (hPDI). In addition, they had a higher average body mass index (BMI), and were more likely to have high blood pressure and cholesterol levels, use blood pressure and cholesterol drugs, have a family history of diabetes, and be less physically active.

The metabolomics data revealed that plant-based diets had distinct multi-metabolite profiles, which varied between healthy and unhealthy plant-based diets. An overall plant-based diet and healthy plant-based diet metabolite profile scores were inversely associated with incident T2D in a generally healthy population, while unhealthy plant-based diet metabolite profile scores were not. As a result, higher PDI and hPDI metabolite profile scores indicated better adherence to those diets and a lower risk of T2D.

## Guard yourself this summer against these common health problems

DR ZUBAIR KHALED HUQ

It is that time of year when one has more concerns than just sweating out the summer heat. So, prepare yourself this summer to avoid some of these annoying health issues. Here are some of the most common summer illnesses to avoid and some helpful tips:

**Heat stroke:** Heat stroke is a severe form of hyperthermia caused by the body absorbing too much heat. Heat stroke is a common summer event that can raise the body temperature to 40°C. Nausea, vomiting, and headaches are common with fever. These are all symptoms of a heat stroke. Wear light-weight, loose-fitting clothing to allow for air circulation. Everyone needs to drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.

**Dehydration:** It occurs when the fluid loss exceeds intake. Dehydration is the most common summer illness because we unknowingly lose a lot of water through sweating or urination. The main symptom of dehydration is extreme thirst. The best way to treat dehydration is to drink lots of water. Adults should drink 2L of water daily. Coconut water, for example, can help prevent dehydration.

**Sunburn:** Sunburns are caused by overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays. Sunburns are identified by severely reddened, swollen skin and pain. Severe sunburns cause fever, chills, nausea, and vomiting. Commercially available sunscreens or sunblocks can

be used to protect the

body from harmful UV rays. Apply 15-30 minutes before sun exposure to avoid sunburn.

**Prickly heat rash:** Prickly heat is an itchy, painful rash caused by excessive sweating and sweat gland blockage. Prickly heat rashes are common in people who sweat and in children with underdeveloped sweat glands. Heat rashes can exhaust the body's heat regulation system. Avoid hot, humid environments and strenuous physical activities. Shower frequently, use talcum powder to keep skin dry and wear cotton clothing.

**Infections:** The summer heat can cause viral infections, food and waterborne diseases, chicken pox, and influenza, foot fungus, especially near the toenails. The best way to avoid summer infections is to avoid extreme heat, stay hydrated, wash hands

**Heat stroke is a severe form of hyperthermia caused by the body absorbing too much heat. Heat stroke is a common summer event that can raise the body temperature to 40°C. Nausea, vomiting, and headaches are common with fever.**

frequently, and maintain good hygiene.

**Skin issues:** Summer's scorching heat causes dry skin, tanning, acne, rashes, and redness. Sunlight damages the skin, causing breakdown and premature ageing. Heat and sweat can exacerbate these issues. Keep your skin moisturised and hydrated with plenty of water to avoid summer skin issues.

**Food poisoning:** Summer activities include eating roadside food and drinking contaminated water. Usually prepared in unhygienic conditions. Always bring a water bottle. If you eat or drink outside, ensure the vendor is clean throughout the food preparation and serving process.

It only takes a little care. Beware of your symptoms related to these summer problems and treat accordingly.

The writer is a gerontologist and a public health specialist. E-mail: zubairkhaledjoy@gmail.com



## Vaccines provide extra protection for those with immunity from a previous COVID-19 infection

In a study, researchers aimed to determine whether the four COVID-19 vaccines licenced for use in Brazil – CoronaVac, Oxford-AstraZeneca (ChAdOx1), Janssen (Ad26.COV2.S) and Pfizer-BioNTech (BNT162b2) – offered additional protection against symptomatic infection, hospitalisation and death, to those reinfected with SARS-CoV-2.

COVID-19 vaccinations are highly effective in preventing symptomatic infection and hospitalisation in individuals who have never been infected, but their efficacy in those infected remains unclear. Knowing how long people are immune after a COVID-19 vaccination is critical as the pandemic continues and additional transmissible variants emerge.

Vaccine efficacy against symptomatic reinfection was 39% for CoronaVac, 56% for Oxford-AstraZeneca, 44% for Janssen, and 66% for Pfizer-BioNTech. It was 90% for Oxford-AstraZeneca, 80% for Janssen, and 80% for Pfizer-BioNTech. In the first 28 days after a positive test, 1,545 individuals were hospitalised, and 290 died.

The extent of protection after COVID-19 infection varies across people. All four of these vaccines have proven to provide extra protection for those with previous COVID-19 infection, reducing hospitalisation and death.

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# 'Going to further explore my inner artist'

Bipasha Hayat's solo exhibition 'Prostorkaal' underway at Gallery Chittrak

**Bipasha Hayat is a beloved actress of the 90s. Her performance in 'Aguner Poroshmoni' earned her the National Film Award. She is also a prolific scriptwriter and an amazing painter. Born and brought up in a cultural family, she always had a keen interest in art. Her seventh solo exhibition, 'Prostorkaal', is underway at Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi. The Daily Star caught up with Bipasha Hayat to know more about her exhibition, future plans, and more.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

**What does your art reflect?**

My paintings reflect what I have witnessed, experienced, and felt in life. I have painted greats like Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rabindranath Tagore, and Kazi Nazrul Islam – personalities I truly admire. At the same time, I paint natural elements like flowers and leaves.

When I create something on canvas, I don't merely paint it, I express my thoughts and experiences through my art.

**How did you discover the artist in yourself?**

All credit goes to my mother. I have always been inspired by her to explore my inner artist. When I was young, I used to have thoughts about how the nature is so colourful, and all the colour combinations and contrasts fascinated me.

We used to reside in a quarter beside Dhakeshwari Temple. It was a place full of beautiful, green sights. Nature has taught me so many things in life. After a few years, we moved to Libya. My parents loved gardening; they grew olives and grapes near our house there.

I feel blessed to be surrounded by the beauty of nature. I also encourage my kids to enjoy the beauty, be it the smell of blossoming flowers or the moon in the evening.

**You also write poems. How do you come up with ideas for them?**

I used to read the scripts written by my father. After a while, I began reading the works of renowned writers. Syed Shamsul Haque's "Tin Poishar Jochhona" greatly inspired me.

Shahidul Zahir and Mahmudul Haque are also my favourite. Currently, I am reading Greek mythology. Reading is now a part of my daily routine.

**Tell us about your time in the USA.**

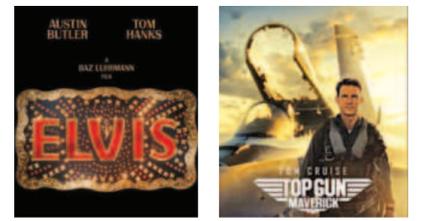
I always keep myself busy with work. After I came to the USA with my children, I explored the natural beauty of the place. The flowers that bloom over the mountains are a delight to witness. My school friends in the USA supported me selflessly. My friend Simi helped me a lot during my solo exhibition there.

**Do you miss acting?**

I have not resigned from acting. It is just that right now, I want to focus on art. I have some plans for theatre, and I will also return to the screen.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



## 75th Cannes International Film Festival unveils official lineup

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival will kick off on May 17. The selected films were announced by Pierre Lescure and Thierry Fremaux at a press conference held recently in Paris.

The twelve-day festival will screen selected films from all over the world in the following categories—Competition, Un Certain Regard, Out of Competition, Midnight Screenings, Cannes Premiere and Special Screening. It will conclude on May 28. The festival will kick off with the premiere of a zombie comedy, "Final Cut," from Michel Hazanavicius.

A few big-budget films are also set to screen out of the formal competition, including the world premiere of "Top Gun: Maverick" and Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis".

## Rihanna's shoe designer slams rumoured affair with ASAP Rocky

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Rumours have been circulating that rapper ASAP Rocky had cheated on his pregnant girlfriend – who is none other than Rihanna – with shoe designer Amina Muaddi, the woman behind the Fenty 2020 collection. Now, Muaddi has come forward to set the record straight.

She took to social media and posted a lengthy response to the rumours that surfaced recently on Twitter. She expressed that an unfounded lie never deserves a response or clarification but, in this instance, she felt compelled to address the rumour because it affected people close to her.

She called the cheating rumours "fake gossip" that was "fabricated with such malicious intent."



# COUNTRYWIDE



**Croplands along the banks of the Jamuna in Sirajganj have been submerged by the swelling river. Farmers are cutting half-ripe paddy to save the crop. The picture was taken from Shahjadpur area a few days ago.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## UNTIMELY FLOOD ravages croplands in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Hundreds of acres of croplands on the banks of Jamuna in different upazilas of Sirajganj have been flooded by the onrush of waters from the upstream in the last few days.

Farmers of Sirajganj Sadar, Chowhali, Shahjadpur and Kazipur upazilas are trying to harvest half-ripe paddy and take it home to save their crops from drowning in untimely floods.

Sirajganj District Agriculture Extension Officer Ahsan Shahid Sarkar said about 139 hectares of Boro paddy along the Jamuna river had already been submerged in the last few weeks due to rising water levels in the river.

He said those who had planted Boro paddy in advance in the low-lying areas outside the embankment along the banks of the river Jamuna have been the worst affected.

Visiting the affected areas, it was found that the farmers were not ready for this sudden flood.

Nasima Khatun of Enayetpur village in Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj said she had planted paddy in seven bighas of land in Char. The paddy was to be harvested in the next two weeks. The sudden rise in water last week submerged her entire crop field. One bigha of land was hastily harvested, but the rest was

ruined.

Bulbul Ahmed, a farmer of Betil Char, said the land along the river is fertile and gives good yield at low cost. In that hope, he planted paddy on 11 bighas of land this year. Before the flood, the paddy was to be cut and taken home. The crops of his cultivated land have been submerged by untimely floods.

"I was able to harvest some semi-ripe paddy but the rest sank," he added.

Md Nasir Uddin, sub divisional engineer of Sirajganj Water Development Board (WDB), said that the river water is increasing untimely this year.

"Every year water level increases in Jamuna and adjoining rivers in Sirajganj in May but this year the rivers are swelling up since mid of March due to onrush of water from the upstream," Nasir said.

According to the forecast, the water level is expected to rise till April 18, he said.

However, he also said that even if the water level rises untimely, there will be no situation like flood. The water will start receding in a few days.

Agriculture officials, meanwhile, said the untimely rise in the river had caused some damage to the char lands outside the dam, but would not affect the district's overall crop production.

## Implant

FROM PAGE 14

disorders, such as essential tremors, Parkinson's disease and dystonia, and psychiatric conditions such as obsessive-compulsive disorder.

This involves implanting electrodes within certain areas of the brain. These electrodes produce electrical impulses that can affect certain cells and chemicals within the brain.

The NINSH authorities said they have been training up their surgeons to run a full-fledged surgery unit at the hospital.

## Family calls

FROM PAGE 14

The suspended cops are Sub-Inspector Biswajit Sarkar, constable Shawkat Ali and constable Nabanita Banasen.

Besides, police recommended departmental action against Ansar member Sumon Deb. The ansar man was sent back to his force.

The April-8 incident was caught on a CCTV camera installed at Abul's house. The footage showed that constable Nabanita beating up a woman with a stick and slapping her. She was seen trying to strangle the woman and pulling her by the hair. SI Biswajit and constable Shawkat were seen beating up two male members of Abul's family.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Abul's daughter Shilpi Akhter said water supply connection to their home was restored yesterday morning. A part of the wall was knocked down by the police.

Nurul refuted the allegations of blocking the road and attacking Abul's family members. He told journalists that Abul framed him by snapping the water supply line to his own home.

## They will be a threat to free speech

FROM PAGE 14

state can easily know "who is telling what".

"This will be a violation of the globally recognised internet policy."

Chapter three comprises summaries of various "authoritarian" laws already in place like the DSA, he further said.

Supreme Court lawyer Sara Hossain said, if implemented, both the

regulations prepared by the ICT division will widen the scope for curbing people's rights.

She said the draft policy and regulation were placed for public consultation for a little over a month, which is not much time, adding that most people are not even aware of it.

She suggested submitting a proposal to the authorities concerned to take opinions

and recommendations from public stakeholders on the proposed draft policy and regulation and ask them whether the two legal instruments should be redrafted.

Nuran Choudhury, a teacher of law department at Independent University, Bangladesh, and Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog, also spoke at the event.

## Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 1

extent last year. But it is now under control due to the improvement in the overall condition of the pre-treatment inside the tannery estate and also because of regular cleaning of the conveyance system."

Claiming that the CETP (central effluent treatment plant) at the tannery estate is fully functional, the rejoinder said the inlet effluent is being treated to decontaminate the effluent by more than 90 percent and the company is making its maximum efforts to achieve Environment Conservation Rules-1997 standards.

The rejoinder attached a test report done on November 11 last year by "Bureau Veritas" in which nine parameters out of ten were found to be within the permissible limit. It argued that the outrageous picture of a river pollution as a result of discharge of untreated effluents into the river is not true. The river appears to be being polluted by discharge of untreated liquid from many industrial units set up on the two banks outside the Tannery Industrial Estate, the rejoinder added.

**OUR REPLY**

The report was prepared

based on a study jointly carried out by the geography and environment department of Jahangirnagar University, environmental science department of Stamford University and Waterkeepers, Bangladesh.

The study team took samples from four points of the rivers during pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon period and analysed the data based on six indicators – biological oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solid (TSS), chemical oxygen demand (COD), ammonia, oil and grease, pH level and phenol.

It followed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Water Quality Index (CCME), a method widely followed in North America.

The CCME model assesses water quality by assigning scores out of 100. A score of 0-40 is categorised as poor quality, 45-64 is marginal, 65-79 fair and 80-100 is excellent.

In the six indicators, the Dhaleshwari scored 27.06 and the Buriganga 39.39.

In another study, done last year by the Department of Geography and Environment of Jahangirnagar University, water samples were

collected from spots adjacent to the industrial estate in Hemayetpur found the tannery waste to be the key source of pollution in the Dhaleshwari.

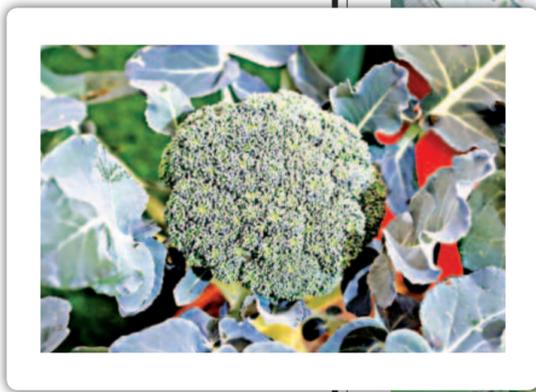
The study concluded that the tannery estate singlehandedly played a role in polluting the river.

In the meantime, the parliamentary body on the environment, forest and climate change ministry on August 24 and November 29 last year suggested the CETP in Hemayetpur be shut for its failure to contain the pollution.

"The Tannery Industrial Estate has the capacity to treat around 25,000 cubic metres of liquid waste every day, but the tanners generate around 40,000 cubic metres of liquid waste per day. That means 15,000 cubic metres are dumped into the [Dhaleshwari] river without any treatment, causing severe pollution,"

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary watchdog, said on August 24 last year.

The report's information on dumping 15,000 cubic metres of liquid waste was collected from his statement which clearly captured the authority's failure in containing the pollution.



## AN ABUNDANCE OF HEALTHY RICHES

**T**HE Krishibid Institute of Bangladesh in the capital's Farmgate was decked out in a riot of colours from February 28-March 2, when the agriculture ministry staged the three-day National Vegetable Fair 2022 with the tagline "Safe vegetable cultivation for year-round health and nutrition". Pumpkins, different kinds of gourds, cabbages, carrots, green chillies, sweet potatoes, beans, broccoli and myriad other such bounties of nature were exhibited for visitors in attractive arrangements. It was also a venue for cultivators to showcase techniques on growing produce the year round. Vegetables are the gift that keep giving. They form the basis for many of the delicious dishes such as bhortas, bhajis and countless curries that are synonymous with Bangladeshi cuisine. Apart from their obvious appeal to tastebuds, a diet rich in vegetables is integral to health as it helps the body ward off many diseases and strengthens the immune system. In the Bangladeshi context, vegetables are also an important part of the export economy.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN





Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's Indian all-rounder Parvez Rasool topped the wicket-takers' chart in the group phase of the Dhaka Premier League with 20 wickets in 10 matches. Meanwhile, veteran Bangladeshi batter Naeem Islam was the top-scorer with 749 runs, donning the jersey of Legends of Rugganj.

PHOTO: STAR

## PSG renew hostilities with Marseille

REUTERS, Paris

Paris St-Germain's attacking trio of Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Neymar have struggled to get into their stride but seem to be clicking in time for the most important game of the Ligue 1 season at home to in-form Olympique de Marseille on Sunday.

The French Interior Ministry have banned Marseille fans from attending Sunday's Ligue 1 'Classique' with bitter rivals Paris Saint-Germain at Parc des Princes. This decision was made because of the "animosity" and the "strong antagonism" between the fans of the two clubs, said the order.



The last PSG-OM encounter involving fans of both teams was on February 28, 2018, and "eight members of law enforcement were injured", the order noted.

A win would put PSG 15 points ahead of second-placed Marseille with six games left and leave the capital club with one hand on a 10th league title. The Ligue 1 trophy is the only objective left for PSG since they were knocked out of the Champions League by Real Madrid in the last 16 after another embarrassing meltdown in the return leg which they lost 3-1. Read full story

It was followed by an appalling 3-0 defeat at Monaco but since then PSG have bounced back in brutal fashion.

In their last two games, they thrashed visiting Lorient 5-1 and Clermont 6-1 away with Mbappe scoring five and setting up four, Neymar netting five goals with one assist while Lionel Messi scored one and added three assists.

## Real look to strengthen their already-firm grip

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid against Sevilla on Sunday could have been a key game in La Liga's title race but instead it will decide the extent of Madrid's lead and how worried Sevilla should be about finishing in the top four.

Real Madrid will be flying high on the back of their sensational victory over Chelsea in the Champions League quarter-finals, although being taken to extra time at the Santiago Bernabeu may also take its toll.

Ferland Mendy and Marcelo are both struggling with injuries while Carlo Ancelotti could rest the likes of Luka Modric and Karim Benzema, who played the whole 120 minutes on Tuesday.

Madrid's progress in the Champions League, combined with their considerable advantage in La Liga, means Ancelotti has the option to rotate in domestic games until the end of the season, which could give Sevilla a boost. A Real Madrid win at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan would send them 15 points clear of Sevilla, who at the end of January were only five points behind the leaders, with a game in hand.

But a disappointing run of three wins from 11 league games has seen Sevilla fade away from the fight for the title and drift into the scrap for the Champions League places as local rivals Real Betis and Atletico Madrid look to take advantage.

# Pleasant surprises and cruel twists of fate

SPORTS REPORTER

The ongoing Dhaka Premier League subverted expectations and rubbish predictions as star-studded Mohammedan failed to make it to the Super League phase -- which begins from tomorrow -- while Rugganj Tigers clinched a spot among the top six immediately after earning promotion this season.

Although Mohammedan had hogged the limelight ahead of the DPL by signing national stars Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mushfiqur Rahim, Taskin Ahmed, Soumya Sarkar and Mehedi Hasan Miraz, questions persisted about how they planned to use those resources.

The Black and Whites' team management must have been aware that most of their high-profile signings would be busy with the national team's tour of South Africa for the better part of the DPL. But a lack of clarity in planning was reflected by their outcome with only Mahmudullah and Soumya able to feature for Mohammedan, who exited in the first round of the tournament due to their inferior head-to-head record against two other teams on 10 points, Gazi Group and Rugganj Tigers.

Mohammedan recruits Mushfiqur and Miraz will now play for table-toppers Sheikh Jamal, whose

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE				
Teams	MP	W	L	Pts
Sheikh Jamal	10	9	1	18
Abahani	10	7	3	14
Legends of Rugganj	10	7	3	14
Prime Bank	10	6	4	12
Rugganj Tigers	10	5	5	10
Gazi Group	10	5	5	10

surge to the summit has been as inspiring as it was unforeseen.

The Dhanmondi-based club has had a terrific run so far in the league and are leaps and bounds ahead of others with 18 points from 10 matches. If they carry that form into the Super League, chances are Imrul Kayes' side will clinch the title with a few fixtures in hand.

Till the conclusion of its group stage, the league has been dominated by players outside the national team set-up. Veteran batsman Naeem Islam tops the run-getters list, scoring 749 runs at a staggering 83.22 average across 10 matches. The 35-year-old has

also smashed two hundreds and five fifties so far.

Just after Naeem is Anamul Haque, another player out of favour with the national team, who has scored 728 runs at an average of 72.80 across 10 matches.

Anamul and Naeem became the first batters to cross the 700-run mark in the first phase of the DPL. With at least five games remaining for both batters, either could go on to score the most runs by a batter in a single edition of DPL by toppling Saif Hassan's 814 in 16 matches in 2019.

Meanwhile, the leading wicket-taker is Sheikh Jamal's Indian off-spinner Parvez Rasool, who has scalped 20 wickets across 10 matches, including a fiver against Abahani. Among Bangladeshi bowlers, young left-arm spinner Rakibul Hasan has impressed with 19 wickets so far.

Competitiveness is expected to increase as players from the national team have already joined their sides and will be treating the remaining fixtures as a major part of their preparations for the upcoming two-Test home series against Sri Lanka in May.

It was also announced that the five Super League fixtures to be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur would be televised, which should serve to increase the league's hype.

## 'Draw would have been a fair result'

REUTERS, London

Tottenham Hotspur blew a chance to strengthen their grip on fourth place in the Premier League as they suffered a last-gasp 1-0 home defeat by Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday.

Antonio Conte's side produced a lacklustre display and looked set for a frustrating stalemate before Belgian Leandro Trossard made things even worse with a 90th-minute winner. "A difficult game, we knew this," Conte said. "It was a tactical game. I think a draw would have been a fair result."

"We started very slowly and in this type of game you have to move the ball more quickly. Maybe the weather... I want to find an excuse, but it was not a good game for us."

After four successive victories the pre-match mood in north London was one of optimism but Tottenham's performance was in stark contrast to the bright spring sunshine.

Sluggish and unimaginative in possession, Tottenham's feared attacking duo of Harry Kane and Son Heung-min were virtual spectators in a first half in which the home side managed only one attempt at the Brighton goal.

Spurs showed a little more urgency after the break with Son having a couple of shots blocked, but Brighton always carried the greater goal threat and deservedly took the points when Trossard burst into the left side of the penalty area and beat Hugo Lloris with a low shot with the outside of his right foot.

Trossard is having a big impact in the top four race having been on target in Brighton's 2-1 win at Arsenal last week.

Tottenham stayed in fourth place with 57 points but they are only three points ahead of local rivals Arsenal who have two games in hand and play later on Saturday at Southampton.

Brighton moved up to 10th with 40 points.



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring a hat-trick as Manchester United stay in the Champions League qualification race by beating Norwich City 3-2 in their English Premier League fixture at the Old Trafford yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Archery team off to Turkey

SPORTS REPORTER

An 11-member Bangladesh team flew for Turkey last night to take part in Archery World Cup Stage-1, to be held in Antalya from April 18 to 24. Nine archers are being accompanied by two coaches and a manager for the seven-day competition. A total of 197 male archers and 143 female archers from 47 countries are taking part in the competition.

The Bangladesh contingent will participate in three divisions: recurve men, compound men and recurve women.

Ruman Sana, Hakim Ahmed Rubel and Sagor Islam will feature in recurve men while Newaz Ahmed Rakib and Ashikuzzaman will take part in compound men events.

Diya Siddiqui, Nasrin Akter and Fahmida Sultana Nisha make up the recurve women team for Bangladesh.

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Farmers prematurely harvesting crops on Dubail haor in Sunamganj's Dharmapasha upazila yesterday as flash floods caused by torrential rain upstream inundated the fields.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

FLASH FLOODS IN HAORS

# Farmers in despair

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from DHARMAPASHA, SUNAMGANJ

Hundreds of farmers in the northeastern region of the country continued to suffer immensely because of the flash flood.

Suruj Miah, 65, a farmer in Netrakona's Mohonganj upazila, cultivated Boro around 3 acres of cropland but all of it submerged in the flash flood.

"I'm trying to save as much as I can for feeding my family and the cattle," he said while yielding rotten and half-ripen paddy at Chandra Shonar Thal haor in Sunamganj's Dharmapasha upazila.

The haor submerged on April 4 after the Dubail levee broke after a flash flood triggered by torrential rainfall hit the area early this month.

While visiting the haor areas in Sunamganj, this correspondent witnessed how the farmers were struggling to protect their produce.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), a total of 7.08 hectares of cropland in Sunamganj, Sylhet, Netrakona and Kishoreganj districts were submerged.

The farmers in the areas claimed to have lost around 80 percent of their produce and the remaining were not in good condition. They were also in a fodder crisis.

Rabia Bibi, a female farmer at Rajapur village in Dharmapasha upazila, said, "I have 15 cows and am worried about the fodder as I lost all my harvest."

On top of that, most farmers are indebted as they borrow money to harvest.

Mohammad Amir Hossain, a farmer of the same

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ANOTHER STORY ON PAGE 11

PARKINSON'S TREATMENT

## Implant installed in brain here

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors successfully implanted a device inside the brain of a patient with Parkinson's disease.

A team of specialists, led by Indian surgeon Anirban Deep Banarjee, conducted the operation at the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital (NINSH) yesterday.

Contacted, Prof MS Jahirul Hoque Chowdhury, head of the movement disorder unit at NINSH's clinical neurology department, said, "We have successfully implanted the device inside the patient's brain."

"The patient is in good condition now. We have planned two more surgeries tomorrow [today]."

Prof Jahirul also said that each deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery costs as much as Tk 30 lakh.

"The treatment is only for patients who do not respond to medications. We're offering the surgery free of cost at this point," he said.

According to the medical professional, this surgical intervention is needed mostly for patients aged 60 and above.

In 2017, Bangladesh-born UK surgeon Tipu Aziz successfully implanted devices inside two patients' brains using the same technique at the same hospital.

According to NINSH authorities, they have been preparing for more similar surgeries in the future.

According to www.mayoclinic.org, DBS is an established treatment for people with movement

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

DRAFT OTT REGULATIONS

## They will be a threat to free speech

Speakers say at a webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's draft regulation for digital, social media and OTT platforms will be a threat to freedom of speech and people's basic rights, experts said yesterday.

Addressing a webinar organised by Moulik Odhikar Surokha Committee, they said the draft regulation contradicts the country's constitution and the government's vision of a Digital Bangladesh. They stressed on redrafting it.

The event was held to share the committee's "primary observation" on the draft of "Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms 2021".

The government published the first draft of the regulations

in February for comments from different stakeholders.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik said concerns remain that the new regulation will be a tool to curb people's rights at a time when the government is in denial regarding the incidents of enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings.

There is an attempt to create fear among people in everything regarding the hurting of religious sentiments, he said, adding there is room for further concerns over whether the new regulations will be applied for this.

"Nowadays, laws are being formulated and applied to harm people instead of ensuring their wellbeings."

He said different provisions of the Digital Security Act that curb freedom of speech or create fear have been used to file hundreds

of cases while the proposed anti-discrimination law remains "hollow".

Although the government has said that laws are formulated with the best intentions, with time, it is seen that most of the laws are not helping democracy flourish but are rather preventing it, he added.

Quazi Mahfujul Hoque Supan, a teacher at Dhaka University's law department, said the second and third chapters of the draft BTRC regulation have been drafted on a "whim" to "control the freedom of speech".

Under chapter two, the intermediaries providing OTT (over-the-top) services will be made to remove the data encryption applied to protect user's privacy, he said, adding that it will be done so that the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Powerful space laser detected

CNN ONLINE

Astronomers have detected a powerful radiowave laser, known as a megamaser, in space.

This record-breaking megamaser is the most distant one ever observed at 5 billion light-years away from Earth.

The light from this space laser traveled a whopping 36 thousand billion billion miles (58 thousand billion billion kilometers) to reach our planet.

An international team of astronomers, led by Marcin Glowacki, observed this light, using the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory's MeerKAT telescope. (MeerKAT is shorthand for Karoo Array Telescope, preceded by the Afrikaans word for "more.")

Glowacki is a research associate at the Curtin University node of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research in Australia. Megamasers are created when two galaxies crash into each other. It is the first hydroxyl megamaser that MeerKAT has observed, Glowacki said.

Hydroxyl, a chemical group consisting of one hydrogen atom and one oxygen atom, can be found inside galaxy mergers.



## Family calls 999 for help, gets beaten up

Three cops suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A family called 999 for police help, but three of its members were beaten up by the law enforcers instead. Another member of the family has been behind bars for a week in a case filed by those accused of attacking the family.

This happened in Bibir Bagicha of the capital's Jatrabari on April 8. Three cops of Jatrabari Police Station were suspended yesterday in connection with the incident.

Abul Khair of the victim family said he had a dispute with his neighbour Nurul Islam over the possession of a private road in Bibir Bagicha. He said they have been using the road for 20 years, but Nurul claimed that it was built on his land.

Abul alleged that Nurul recently set up a wall in front of his building blocking the road and the water supply connection to his home was also snapped. This caused suffering to 16 families living in the building.

After Abul's family dialed 999, the national emergency service, to lodge a complaint, three police members of Jatrabari Police Station and an ansar man

went to the house on April 8, they beat up Abul and his family members and took three of them to the police station.

Later that day, a case was also filed by Nurul against Abul and his family members over attempted murder. Abul's son Yusuf is now behind bars in the case.

After a television channel reported the incident on Friday, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday suspended the three cops for their unprofessional behaviour, DMP Deputy Commissioner (Wari Division) Shah Iftekhar Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He claimed that Abul's family called 999 around 10:00am on April 8 and asked for help. A police team visited the house and helped the family. After the police left, the two families scuffled with each other. A case was filed around noon.

"Police then went to the house to arrest the accused. But some police members behaved unprofessionally at that time."

Iftekhar said a three-member probe body, led by DMP Additional Deputy Commissioner (Wari Zone) Kamrul Islam, was formed yesterday to probe the incident.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Ignoring safety measures, workers tearing down an old structure at the Paikpara government officers' quarters in the capital's Mirpur-1. Such carelessness poses serious risks and may lead to fatal accidents. The photo was taken yesterday noon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

# The Daily Star

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