

Watch out

Finance Division advises govt over macroeconomic pressures stemming from Ukraine war; next budget to be Tk 6,77,874cr

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The Finance Division has recommended that the government avoid hard-term loans and discourage import of luxury goods to cope with macroeconomic pressures arising from the Russia-Ukraine war.

It has also suggested gradual and slight increase in the prices of power, energy and fertiliser to keep the government subsidies at a reasonable level.

The recommendations came at a meeting of the Fiscal Coordination Council, presided over by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, as part of preparations for the budget for fiscal 2022-23. The meeting also evaluated the current economic situation and outlined the next course of action.

The Division proposed that the size of the next budget would be Tk 6,77,874 crore or 15.4 percent of the GDP. It would be 12 percent bigger than the current budget of Tk 6,03,681 crore, which is 17.5 percent of the GDP.

The revenue collection target would be Tk 4,33,000 crore, of which Tk 3,70,000 crore would be collected by the NBR, said sources.

State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam said import of luxury and unnecessary items should be discouraged to reduce pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

He said agricultural subsidies would continue but subsidies may be slashed for several other sectors.



Floodwater flowing over an embankment and entering Gurmar Haor in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj yesterday. Due to heavy rains upstream, waters from swollen rivers in the Sylhet region have been causing floods. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

RECOMMENDATIONS	SUBSIDIES FY23
Adjust oil, power, gas and fertiliser prices gradually	POWER TK 18,000 CRORE
Raise LC margin up to 100% for luxury items	FERTILISER TK 15,000 CRORE
Withdraw Covid-time special loan facility gradually	LNG IMPORT TK 12,300 CRORE
Avoid hard-term loans	

The Russia-Ukraine war is putting pressure on the global economy and also that of Bangladesh. And if the war rages on, the government will have to take some measures, he said.

Outlining the budget for fiscal 2022-23, the Finance Division proposed keeping the subsidy allocation below 1 percent of the GDP. It also suggested gradual adjustment of subsidies for oil, energy, gas and fertiliser.

If price is not adjusted, around Tk 18,000 crore will be required for power, Tk 15,000 crore for fertiliser and Tk 12,300 crore for import of LNG in the next fiscal year.

In the current fiscal year, subsidies for power stand at Tk 9,000 crore, for import of LNG Tk 6,000 crore and for fertiliser Tk 9,500 crore.

The prices of these items have gone up due to the Covid pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. Additional Tk 50,000 crore has been set aside for these sectors.

The Division also suggested avoiding hard-term loans given that

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Mariupol will 'fight to the end'

Says Ukraine as Russian deadline to surrender passes; evacuations halted; missiles hit Kyiv, Kharkiv

AGENCIES

Ukraine yesterday vowed to 'fight to the end' as a Russian ultimatum for the last remaining Ukrainian forces in Mariupol to surrender expired yesterday.

"The city still has not fallen," Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told BBC. "There's still our military forces, our soldiers. So they will fight to the end."

Moscow on Saturday issued an ultimatum to the fighters, urging them to lay down their arms by 6:00 am Moscow time (0300 GMT) and to evacuate before 13:00 pm.

Several hours after the deadline, there was no sign of compliance by Ukrainian fighters held up in the smouldering Azovstal

steelworks overlooking the Sea of Azov.

Russia said its troops had cleared the urban area of Mariupol, the main port in Donbas. The city has seen some of the fiercest fighting and worst civilian suffering since the Feb. 24 invasion, with bodies littering destroyed streets and thousands hunkered down in atrocious conditions underground.

The steelworks, one of Europe's biggest metallurgical plants with a maze of rail tracks and blast furnaces, has become a last stand for the outnumbered defenders.

It was not known how many soldiers were in the steelworks.

Having failed to overcome Ukrainian

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First Rab crossfire since US sanctions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A man was shot dead in what Rab said was a gunfight between officers and armed gang members in Golabari area of Cumilla early yesterday.

This is the first such incident since the US government imposed sanctions on Rab in December last year over allegations of rights violations.

But before the sanctions were announced on December 10, law enforcers used to report deaths in such gunfights quite frequently.

Raju, 35, the man shot dead between 1:45am and 2:00am yesterday, was main accused in a case filed over the murder of a journalist last week, said Major Mohammad Sakib Hossain, company commander at Rab-II.

"A Rab-II team was raiding the area based on a tip-off when the miscreants sensed the presence of Rab officers and started shooting at them. As Rab men retaliated, the miscreants fled the scene, leaving an injured man," he told reporters, adding that the man was taken to Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

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EID RUSH HOME

Forecast: a bumpy ride

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport experts have warned that there could be a dreadful situation on roads if traffic movement is not properly managed during the rush of people travelling to their home towns before the Eid.

With the daily positivity rate of Covid-19 among the lowest it has been in the country, a greater number of people are expected to leave the capital and other cities after two years of pandemic-induced lull, they said.

They estimated that around 1.2 crore people will leave Dhaka ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr, which will be on May 2 or 3. They said the entire transport system -- comprising

is managed properly," Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, said at a press conference yesterday.

The organisation arranged the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity seeking authority's steps to reduce traffic jams, passengers' hassles, overcharging by transport operators and road crashes during Eid rush.

Traffic congestion on major highways and ferry terminals is a common phenomenon ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr -- the biggest festival for the Muslim community -- when tens of thousands of people go back to their ancestral homes.

be leaving every day, but the entire transport system has the capacity to handle 16 lakh people per day, he said.

On a daily basis, he estimated that buses would be able to cater to 8 lakh passengers, trains would be capable of transporting 1 lakh, launches 1.25 lakh, and motorcycles and private cars 3 lakh each.

In that case, people have to use illegal small vehicles, rooftops of trains, launches and other vehicles like trucks and lorries to go home, he said.

"It can be assumed that there is a possibility that road management will go into a coma."

Traffic management will not be fruitful and road crashes



- Over 1 crore people expected to leave Dhaka ahead of Eid
- Average of 30 lakh per day over 4 days
- Daily capacity of transport system: 16 lakh
- Traffic congestion likely at capital's entry and exit points
- Development work on Dhaka-Mymensingh and Tangail-Rangpur highways could cause severe jams
- Ferry terminals may also see congestion
- Proper traffic management, early exit from Dhaka city may be a solution

road, rail and water transport -- does not have the capacity to cater to that many people.

So, authorities must manage traffic properly while family members who are not working should leave Dhaka before the Eid rush, they said.

"Due to traffic congestion and various mismanagement, people may have to endure dreadful situations to make their Eid journeys, unless public transport

Transport expert Prof Hadiuzzaman, citing different sources, said around 1.15 crore people left Dhaka in 2019 while around 60 lakh people in 2020 and 2021 amid Covid restrictions.

So, with the drop in Covid cases, the number of people leaving Dhaka this year would be at least 1.2 crore, he said.

If that many people go home over the four days before Eid, then on an average 30 lakh people will

will increase, he said. So, traffic management plans should be made keeping the Eid rush in mind.

He said educational institutions will be declared closed 10 days before Eid, so family members who are not working or can leave work early should start leaving Dhaka from 20th Ramadan, and the rest just before Eid.

Mozammel Hoque said apart from Dhaka, around five crore

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

কোকা-কোলা কিনলেই YouTube ডেটা জেতার সুযোগ সময় বাড়লো ৩০ এপ্রিল পর্যন্ত ডেটা প্যাক বুঝে নিতে লেবেল খুলে দেখুন

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GANG RAPE OF WOMAN

Police fail to submit report despite order from court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Despite a court order, Kumarkhali police failed to submit a probe report in a case filed over the kidnapping and gang rape of a 24-year-old woman.

The victim was allegedly kidnapped and gang raped by three men over four consecutive days in Kushtia's Kumarkhali upazila.

According to her, officials of Kumarkhali Police Station had even refused to record a case in this regard and forced her away.

They registered the case only after a Kushtia court accepted it and ordered police to investigate.

According to the case statement, on March 26 the victim and her 6-year-old daughter were going to her grandfather's house on a battery-powered cycle van, when they were intercepted by Russel Ahmed, 25, who the victim alleged used to harass her often on the streets; Helal Sheikh, 28; and Aliman Sheikh, 32.

According to locals, the three men are politically influential in the area and have connections with the local units of the ruling party.

The three forced the victim and her daughter out of the vehicle, they slapped and pushed the child to the ground and took the woman away on a motorcycle.

The daughter was able to return home with the help of a van puller.

The statement further said the victim was confined in a house in Kumarkhali upazila's Jadubayar union with her hands, legs and mouth tied. She was gang-raped by the three men till March 30.

The next day, she managed to escape and return home.

On April 1, the woman tried to file a written complaint with Kumarkhali Police Station, but officials there kept her waiting for a few hours only to say they could not accept the case.

The woman then filed the case against the three with the Kushtia Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court on April 3. The court then ordered Kumarkhali police to record the case and submit a report within four working days.

Kamruzzaman Talukder, officer-in-charge of the station, said, "The case was complicated so we thought taking the court's direction was needed."

About why a report, which was due on April 7, was not yet submitted, he said, "We haven't been able to arrest any of the accused yet. We will submit the report after arrest and interrogation."



A car passes the Lysychansk Oil Refinery after it was hit by a missile at Lysychansk, Luhansk region, Ukraine, on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Don't harass UAE-bound workers on tourist visas

JS body asks authorities

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday asked all authorities concerned not to harass UAE-bound migrant workers on tourist visas at the Dhaka airport.

The UAE government stopped issuing work permits for Bangladeshi workers in 2015. Since then, employers in the Gulf state have been bringing in migrant workers with tourist visas and later converting those to work visas, said industry insiders.

In a letter issued in September last year, the immigration police of Bangladesh said holders of tourist visas who intend to work in the UAE will not be able to go past the immigration.

The directive, which was taken to curb the abuse of tourist visas by traffickers and manpower recruiting agencies, came into effect the same day.

However, law enforcement agencies have expressed concern that the directive may have just created a scope for the airport authorities to extort migrant workers.

"Those who have a valid visit visa and if there is no objection from the



government about them, then they cannot be harassed and barred from going to their respective destination," said Jatiya Party MP Anisul Islam Mahmud.

Mahmud's comment came as he was emerging from a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of expatriate welfare and overseas employment, which he chaired.

"Why will the immigration authorities stop someone with a valid passport and visa? This must be stopped," he told journalists yesterday.

In yesterday's meeting, the parliamentary watchdog also asked the department of immigration

and passports to issue e-passports to migrant workers without any harassment.

The committee also recommended the introduction of insurance for expatriate workers.

"If they have life insurance, they will get money after death. If you get into an accident, you will get benefits. We have asked the ministry to look into the matter. The lives of expatriate workers must be protected," Mahmud said.

The parliamentary body also called for dialogue with Biman Bangladesh Airlines over bringing down the airfare for expatriate workers.

First Rab crossfire

FROM PAGE 1

According to hospital records, Raju's body was brought to the facility at 2:15am.

There were gunshot wounds on the left side of his chest, stomach, and arms, said sources at the morgue of the college.

Raju's father Sadek Mia received the body from the

morgue.

"If my son committed a crime, the law and court were there to deal with it. The justice system could have punished him," he told The Daily Star.

He added that he heard about Raju's death when he woke up around 3:00am for sehri.

'Tortured on the spot'

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Rabiul and his father used to run a timber business, said the family members and locals.

The Daily Star correspondent yesterday talked to over two dozen people in Kazir Chawra village and all of them said they never heard that Rabiul had a gambling habit.

"I never saw Rabiul's involvement in gambling. I met Rabiul that night. He told me that he was going to the Mela to buy toys for his daughter," said Nurul Islam, 58, a resident of the village.

Rafiqul Islam, former chairman of Harati Union Parishad, said, "I knew him for a long time. I never heard any allegation against him."

Meanwhile, Rabiul's family members said they were not filing a case because of fears of reprisals.

A spokesperson of police in the district on Friday said the allegations against policemen would be thoroughly investigated.

Rabiul's widow Monira Begum, 20, yesterday said, "I want to file a case. But many of our family members are scared."

Rabiul's father Dulal Khan said, "We think that we will not be able to continue normal life, if we

sue the police. They may file another case against us. We can't have a legal battle against the police."

Rabiul's death sparked anger among locals, who blockaded the Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in Mahendranagar for an hour on Friday afternoon demanding justice.

Sub-Inspector Halimur Rahman, who led the police team that attacked Rabiul, was closed from Lalmonirhat Police Station and attached to the district police lines.

S Africa flood toll rises to 443 as deluge eases

AFP, Durban

The death toll from floods that have battered South Africa's east coast has risen to 443, including a rescuer, a regional official said yesterday, as dozens more are still missing.

"The death toll now stands at 443," Sihle Zikalala, the premier of the KwaZulu-Natal province told a media briefing, adding 63 other people are still unaccounted for.

Watch out

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those are unlikely to help alleviate poverty and facilitate growth. It said an increase in government loans would pose risk to budget management.

Proposals were also made for increasing the Letter of Credit (LC) margin up to 100 percent to discourage people from importing luxury and unnecessary products.

Sources said the budget deficit rose more than 5 percent of the GDP in the last two years due to the Covid pandemic. In the current fiscal year, it is estimated to be over 6 percent of the GDP.

The Division advised bringing down the budget deficit below 5 percent of the GDP in the next two years.

In the first eight months of the current fiscal year, the current account deficit

reached \$12.83 billion which was a surplus of \$825 million during the same period in the last fiscal year. This was because the country's import rose to \$58.77 billion during the eight months in FY22 from \$40 billion during the same period in FY21.

The current account deficit is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of the goods and services it imports exceeds the value of the products it exports.

The Division recommended adjusting the exchange rate of the dollar against taka gradually to encourage export and remittance, said sources.

Shamsul Alam said, "Our inflation has increased recently... Domestic production has gone up but not up to the expected

level. Restrictions on luxury and unnecessary products are necessary to keep the foreign currency reserves at a satisfactory level.

"No restrictions will be imposed on import of essential items and productive sectors." He further said subsidies on agriculture will continue and it will not be curtailed.

"During the Covid pandemic, the agriculture sector has given us relief... We will give more subsidies on agriculture."

Shamsul said the government will give subsidy on energy. "But it may be reduced if it goes beyond the tolerable level."

The Division also proposed gradual withdrawal of extra loan facilities offered during the pandemic.

It observed that

this regard.

He also demanded that the authorities concerned take strict actions to stop collection of extra fare from passengers.

Different problems on railway and waterways, including those involving ticketing services, should be resolved before Eid, he said.

Journalist Abu Sayeed Khan said authorities should prepare a year-long plan centring Eid and spoke in favour of decentralising Dhaka to prevent the increasing pressure of people.

One killed in AL factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

An activist of the ruling Awami League was killed in a clash between two factions of the party over a trivial matter in Jhenidah's Harinakundu upazila yesterday.

The victim Altaf Hossain, 58, was a resident of the upazila's Barbari village.

According to police, supporters of acting UP chairman Kamal Hossain and former UP chairman Golam Mostafa got involved in the clash.

The victim was a supporter of Kamal, said locals.

The two groups had a long standing conflict over establishing supremacy in the area. Around 9:30am yesterday, the clash took place.

Two more men were injured during the clash and later hospitalized.

Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Harinakundu Police Station, said additional forces were deployed there to avoid further untoward incident.

House help raped for 1.5 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Police rescued a teenage domestic help from a flat beside Station Road in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila.

She had been raped for the last one and a half years at the house, said police.

Shamim Ur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Sreemangal Police Station, said a case was filed against three persons on Saturday night.

The prime accused Chandan Dhar, 45, also the owner of the flat, was arrested yesterday morning.

The man was sent to jail after police produced him before a Moulvibazar court yesterday, said the OC.

Two more women were also arrested in connection with the case.

Humayun Kabir, inspector (investigation) of Sreemangal Police Station, said the victim was sent to Moulvibazar 250 Bed District Sadar Hospital for medical tests.

Finally, she returns to Canada

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Canadian girl, who had allegedly been confined by her parents in Dhaka's Mughda for around 10 months against her wishes, was handed over to the Canadian High Commission yesterday.

High Court Registrar Md Golam Rabbani handed over the 19-year-old girl, a student of Toronto University, to the officials of Canadian High Commission following the HC directive, as she wanted to return to Canada.

In response to a writ petition, the HC asked the Canadian High Commission to take necessary steps to send her back to Canada, ensure her security and bear her living and study expenses.

The girl will stay in the custody of Canadian High Commission in Dhaka until she flies for the country on completion of all relevant procedures, Advocate Md Ozi Ullah, lawyer for the girl's parents, told The Daily Star citing the HC order.

He said her parents, who are also Bangladesh-born Canadian nationals, can meet their daughter in Canada under the laws of that country.

Mariupol will 'fight

FROM PAGE 1

resistance in the north, the Russian military has refocused its ground offensive on the eastern Donbas region while maintaining long distance strikes elsewhere including the capital Kyiv.

Lamenting an "Easter of War" during an address in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis pleaded for an end to the bloodshed and implicitly criticized Russia.

"May there be peace for war-torn Ukraine, so sorely tried by the violence and destruction of the cruel and senseless war into which it was dragged," he said, thanking those who had taken in some 4 million refugees from Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia on Saturday of "deliberately trying to destroy everyone" in Mariupol and said his government was in touch with the defenders. But he did not address Moscow's claim that Ukrainian forces were no longer in urban districts.

Zelenskyy said that if Russian forces kill Kyiv's troops remaining to defend the city, then a fledgling negotiation process to end nearly two months of fighting would be ended.

If Russia's capture of the port is confirmed, it would be a major strategic prize for Moscow: connecting territory it holds in Donbas with the Crimea region it annexed in 2014.

Russia calls its action a special military operation to demilitarise Ukraine and clear out what it calls dangerous nationalists backed by an expansionist

Nato military alliance. The West and Kyiv accuse President Vladimir Putin of unprovoked aggression.

With fighting raging in the east, Deputy Prime Minister Vereshchuk said that humanitarian corridors allowing civilians to flee would not open yesterday after failing to agree terms with Russian forces.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, there were more reports of sporadic Russian strikes around major popular centres.

In Kyiv, renewed Russian air strikes hit an armaments factory, despite Moscow shifting its military focus to gaining control of the eastern Donbas region and forging a land corridor to already-annexed Crimea.

"During the night, high-precision, air-launched missiles destroyed an ammunition factory near the settlement of Brovary, Kyiv region," Russia's defence ministry said, the third such air strike near the capital in as many days.

Besides fresh attack on Kyiv, Russian artillery attacked multiple neighbourhoods in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, killing 5 people and wounding 31 including four children, regional governor Oleh Synehubov said.

Meanwhile, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, the first European leader to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in person since the invasion began, said he thinks the Russian president believes the war is necessary for his country's security.

Mali says 'dozen terrorists' killed in air strikes

AFP, Bamako

Mali's army said Saturday that it had killed "a dozen terrorists" including a French-Tunisian jihadist in air strikes in the centre of the Sahel nation.

The armed forces carried out two strikes on Thursday "to neutralise a dozen terrorists in the forest of Ganguel" about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the village of Moura, the general staff said in a press release.

EC talks with broadcast journos today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is going to hold the fourth round of dialogue with senior journalists working with electronic media and online news outlets today.

The commission has invited 38 journalists, said its joint secretary SM Asaduzzaman said.

The commission is holding the talks with representatives from different sections of society to seek advice on how the polls, including the 12th Jatiya Sangsad election, can be held in a free and fair manner.

According to EC officials, the dialogue is aimed at preparing the commission's roadmap for the next general election, due late next year.

The EC plans to sit with civil society members, election experts, media personalities and politicians, among others.

The EC started holding talks on March 13, when they sat with academics. It sat with eminent citizens on March 22 and with senior journalists of newspapers on April 6.



The dialogue is aimed at preparing the commission's roadmap for the next general election, due late next year.



A bus haphazardly stops in the middle of the road to pick up passengers, causing gridlock behind it. This is quite a common scene in the capital and cause for vehicle clogging on the roads. Bus drivers continue to pick up passengers in an extremely risky manner, stopping at almost any empty space they can find. This photo was taken on Mohammadpur Ring Road, in front of Japan Garden City yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ashish Rai denied bail in Sohel Chy murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday rejected the bail petition of Ashish Roy Chowdhury, the prime accused in a case filed over the murder of popular film actor Sohel Chowdhury in December, 1998. Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 of Dhaka passed the order after his lawyer Kazi Nazibullah moved a petition, seeking bail in the case.

Earlier in the day, Ashish was shown arrested in the case after he was produced before the court. Meanwhile, the tribunal directed Md Farid Uddin, a former inspector of Chawkbaraz Police Station who received the case docket (CD), to produce it before the court within seven days.

The tribunal dismissed his petition submitted for relieving him from the charges of producing a CD before the court.

In the petition, Farid told the tribunal that he had received the CD from Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor's Office on June 2, 2005 and handed it over to the then Deputy Commissioner of DB Md Shahidul Islam the same day. But he knew nothing about it. So, he appealed to the tribunal for relieving him of the charges. Detectives yesterday also produced the evidence, seized by the investigation officer during the investigation in connection with the case, before the tribunal.

On April 5, Rab arrested Ashish from his Gulshan residence and seized 17 bottles of foreign liquor from there.

On December 18, 1998, actor Sohel was shot dead by some miscreants at Trumps Club in Abedin Tower at the city's Banani Road-17.



Use 'eliminate' instead of 'anti'

Speakers tell webinar on proposed anti-discrimination law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any discriminatory behaviour should be recognised as a "punishable offence" in the proposed anti-discrimination law to eliminate the malpractice in the country, said speakers at a webinar yesterday.

They also said proposed law does not incorporate provisions to redress discriminatory acts through the criminal justice system, which will be a bar to achieving the key objective.

The webinar on the proposed anti-discrimination law was hosted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

Speakers stressed the reframing of the draft law, saying its title should incorporate the word "elimination" instead of "anti".

Addressing the webinar as chief guest, Shahiduzzaman Sarker, chairperson of the parliamentary committee on law ministry, urged the organisers to submit a set of recommendations generated during the event before the committee. He said he will discuss the recommendations in details with the law minister and other members of the committee.

Moderating the event, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said there will be no benefit by formulating a law if it is not possible to bring change in people's mindset and psyche.

"What's essential in this regard is to ensure respect for each other and establish social harmony," she said.

Shaheen Anam said the trust that ensuring justice for marginalised people through law is possible has to be restored. "Our goal is to see how far the law can go in empowering people."

She said there is a reason to be concerned as to how much the law will protect the rights of the poor and the marginalised if the affected person cannot seek remedy in the court directly.

Otherwise, it is a big obstacle to getting the benefit of the law, she added.

Eminent economist and convener of Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, Debapriya Bhattacharya said the list of types of

discrimination should be broadened and made "generic" in the draft law.

"Many would say law takes its own course. However, a law becomes effective only if there is visible political will in place, skilled administration and judiciary play their due role, and a proactive civil society plays its watchdog role diligently," he said.

The draft law seemed "unprofessional", said Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, a member of the parliamentary committee on the law ministry.



Many would say law takes its own course. However, a law becomes effective only if there is visible political will in place, skilled administration and judiciary play their due role, and a proactive civil society plays its watchdog role diligently.

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA

"The monitoring committee does not incorporate representatives from people belonging to all tiers of the society. There is a structural fault in the proposed law which will create sufferings for marginalised people to get remedy," he said.

Chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog Zakir Hossain stressed that the definition under the law should be made "clear".

Welcoming the proposed law, Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Sara Hossain said, there should be scope for addressing "intersectional" discrimination in the proposed law.

Indigenous community leader Sanjeeb Drong stressed the need to form a strong monitoring committee.

Bus helper killed the supervisor over wage Says CID after arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police arrested a helper of a bus on charge of killing the supervisor as he didn't get the wage of his first day at the job.

The arrestee is -- Yusuf Bhuiyan (25), a newly appointed helper of Econo bus service. He was arrested from Madhabadi of Narsingdi on Saturday, CID special superintendent Mukta Dhar told a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday.

On April 9, police recovered the body of the supervisor -- Riyad Hossain alias Liton (37), from a bus at Jhumur intersection in Laxmipur.

Riyad's wife filed a case with Laxmipur Sadar Police Station over the incident.

At the press conference, the CID official said Yusuf was unemployed. As Shipon, the previous helper of the bus, was supposed to go on a leave, a neighbour of Yusuf got him the job after talking to driver Nahid Hossain.

On April 8, Yusuf went to Laxmipur from Dhaka on the bus along with other staffers. On April 9, Nahid, Shipon and Riyad got their wages. Nahid and Shipon then went home.

Yusuf wanted a daily

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JMB leader held after 10 years Police say he was a death row convict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti Terrorism Unit of Police claimed to have arrested a member of the banned militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), who was sentenced to death, from Naogaon's Patnitala upazila.

Sanwar Hossain alias Abdur Rouf (44), has been a fugitive -- using the alias Abdullah -- for 10 years in a case filed with Nachol Police Station in Chapainawabganj.

He was arrested on Saturday.

Aslam Khan, superintendent (media and awareness) of ATU, said the arrestee used to work as a mason and rear sheep in Choto Chandpur under Patnitala upazila using a fake name to dodge law enforcers.

The ATU official said Sanwar, a local homeopathic doctor in Nachol, joined JMB after 2000 under the leadership of Shaykh Abdur Rahman.

He became the chief of JMB's Nachol and Gomastapur upazila unit.

On March 29, 2007, after the execution of Shaykh Abdur Rahman in Cumilla Central Jail, Maulana Saidur Rahman became the Ameer of JMB when the militant outfit continued their activities but was embroiled in inner-conflict, said officials.

Sanwar along with others on April 26 in 2012 called self-proclaimed Ameer of JMB, Salman, to a mango orchard and killed him.

Police recovered Salman's head, from the bank of the Mahananda river, based on the confession of two militants arrested then, ATU officials added.

A Chapainawabganj court on November 25 in 2019 sentenced him and two others to death for killing Salman.

Besides, he was accused and wanted in several other cases filed under Anti-terrorism Act, said police.

A Chapainawabganj court on November 25 in 2019 sentenced him and two others to death.

His works should be studied more

Say speakers on Abul Mansur Ahmad at prize-giving event of book review competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Mansur Ahmad upheld the sorrows and the inherent crises of the common people through his literary works to emancipate them from feudalism and imperialism, Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said yesterday.

"Despite being one of the many, a litterateur is an extraordinary one. They furnish their thoughts and experiences through writings and take them to readers. And Abul Mansur Ahmad has done this exact job," said Serajul Islam Choudhury while speaking at the prize-giving ceremony of the Abul Mansur Ahmad Book Review Competition at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Organised by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smiriti Parishad, writers, litterateurs, and readers from different institutions spoke at the event.

Serajul, also president of the Parishad, said both Abul Mansur Ahmad and Kazi Nazrul Islam were against communalism and believed in reforming the society.

JU gets new VC

JU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Md Nurul Alam was appointed the new vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Education,

President

Abdul

Hamid

-- also

chancellor

of the

university

-- appointed

him as the new

VC. Prof Nurul Alam, a

teacher of the Department

of Physics, has been

appointed temporarily, the

notification cited.

He was the pro

vice-chancellor of the

university.

According to the

notification, he will enjoy

all the benefits related to

the position.



Poet Asad Chowdhury, Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, and The Daily Star's Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, along with the last four years' winners of Abul Mansur Ahmad Book Review Competition yesterday. The prize giving ceremony of this year's competition was held at The Daily Star Centre. Five readers were selected out of more than a hundred competitors for best reviews on two books -- "Atmakatha" and "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bochor" -- by Abul Mansur Ahmad. PHOTO: STAR

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:16 12:45 4:45 6:25 7:45

JAMAAT 4:26 1:15 5:00 6:35 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN | APRIL | SEHRI | IFTAR

16 | 18 | 6:25

17 | 19 | 4:10 | 6:25

18 | 20 | 4:09 | 6:26

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Jahanara Huq's 2nd death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of freedom fighter Jahanara Huq, mother of Law Minister Anisul Huq. She died on April 18, 2020 at a Dhaka hospital. She was 86. Jahanara left behind her son Anisul Huq and a host of relatives and well-wishers.



Jahanara's husband Advocate Serajul Huq - who was a close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - died on October 28, 2002.

Her son Ariful Huq Rony passed away in 2017 in Dallas, USA, and her only daughter Saima Islam died in Dhaka in 2018.

Anisul Huq will distribute foods among the orphans in Dhaka today. Besides, Awami League and its front organisations have organised programmes including dua and iftar mahfils at Kasba and Akhaura in Brahmanbaria to mark the day.

RMG workers demand salary, arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

RMG workers yesterday formed a human chain demanding this month's full salary, Eid bonus and arrears within the 20th of Ramadan.

Under the banner of Garment Workers Trade Union Centre (Savar Ashulia regional committee), they organised the event in front of Savar City Centre at 11:00am.

Khairul Mamun Mintu, organising secretary of the committee, said workers should be paid their salaries and cleared off their dues so that they can celebrate Eid with their family members properly. He also said the minimum wage of RMG workers should be Tk 20,000.



PHOTO: STAR

His works should be studied more

FROM PAGE 3
Speaking as chief guest, Poet Asad Chowdhury said, "Abul Mansur Ahmad was a pioneer politician who stepped into the literary arena. Many of his peers were not used to the culture in the 19th century."

Termining him a "man of true secular thoughts", Asad Chowdhury said Abul Mansur Ahmad was not only a theorist politician but was also a man of strong character.

Speakers at the event also demanded establishment of a trust to practice the multifaceted thoughts of Abul Mansur Ahmad and like-minded

scholars from the 19th century to encourage free thinking.

They also said works of Abul Mansur Ahmad should be studied more as they are even more relevant to the contemporary social and political issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star and member-secretary of Abul Mansur Ahmad Smiriti Parishad, assured that they will take initiatives in this regard.

At the event, five readers were selected out of more than a hundred competitors for best reviews on two books by

Abul Mansur Ahmad.

For the best review on the book titled "Atmakatha", Jannatul Ferdous won the first prize, while Munaza Mahid and Aminul Haque won the second and the third prize respectively.

For the best review on the book titled "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bochor", Fahim Ahmed Mondal won first prize and Puja Paul the second prize.

Each of the first prize

winners received prize money of Tk 3,000, while the second prize winners got Tk 2,000. All the winners received books.

Poet Aminul Islam, Bangla Academy's former director Jalal Ahmad, Prof Mohammad Azam, Prof Chengish Khan, journalist Kajal Rashid Shahin, Barrister Arif Khan and researcher Amin Al Rashid attended the event as special guests.

The death of a river

FROM PAGE 5
"Now the river no longer exists. During the monsoon, the area is waterlogged," he said.

"If the river is excavated, the waterlogging crisis in about 8,500 hectares of land occupying at least 10 villages of the upazila can be solved. The river will

see an abundance of fish again. More crops can be produced," said Md Rofiqul Islam, a resident of Tiana village.

Ashraf Alam, executive engineer of BWDB-1, said the Hamkura is already silted. Reports of a feasibility study have been sent to the ministry for verification and approval for the river's excavation.

Gouranga Nandy, a researcher and environmentalist, told this correspondent that the pre-condition of keeping the coastal rivers alive is to keep them flowing both upstream and downstream. "Most of the rivers in this region are separated from the upstream, due to which pressure and sediment caused by high tide accumulate in the river bed. "If TRM (Tidal River Management) is done by digging the Hamkura, the current will return. And it will be beneficial for everyone," he added.

Childhood lost

FROM PAGE 5
public transport sector in Chattogram. Of them, 57 percent work as both helpers and drivers.

The study was conducted between December and February - among 338 child transport workers in the city - 90 percent of whom are compelled to take up the risky job due to poverty.

Ninety-one percent face torture at work and 13 percent are victims of sexual assault.

"Child workers have to pay money to buy tokens so that they can drive vehicles without any intervention. Transport leaders supply them with tokens. They also manage law enforcers," said Amin.

He mentioned that a total of 71.90 percent

drivers in the city do not have a driving license.

"In 2013, we found the number to be 18 percent and it was 39 percent in 2018," he added.

According to Amin, if the administration can ensure that no one drives without a licence or with fake licenses and rehabilitate these child workers with proper education and security, child labour in the sector can be reduced.

Contacted, Abdul Warish, deputy commissioner (traffic) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said child drivers could be seen on the roads some five years ago, but now children are never found behind the wheel.

"We see child workers in the sector as helpers and try to contact their

guardians so that they could be rehabilitated. However, most of them did not agree to it," he said.

"We also contact vehicle owners and ask them not to engage children in their works. Our efforts are ongoing to discourage child labour in the transport sector," he added.

Bus helper

FROM PAGE 3
wage of Tk 400 for the first day's work. The supervisor told him that no wages are paid on the first day. It will be paid from the next day.

"At one point in the argument, Yusuf hit Riyad on the head with an iron rod. He died inside the bus. Yusuf then put Riyad on the bus seat and fled the scene," said the CID official.

5th octagonal

FROM PAGE 5
Bikrampur Foundation in Nateshwar village on Saturday. The mound has been discovered after about 5 months of excavation. Besides, three more octagonal mounds are yet to be discovered. Each mound represents the basic eightfold path of Buddhism," he said.

He said Dharmachakra has been found with octagonal mound. It is one of the most revered objects in Buddhism.

The octagonal mound discovered has eight spokes. These spokes carry different meanings symbolically in Buddhism.

He said the 5th mound discovered this time reflects the original eightfold path of Buddhism. The eightfold path is - honest vision, honest words, honest deeds, honest livelihood, honest thinking, proper consciousness, honest meditation practice.

As five mounds have been discovered, it is

expected that these issues will be reflected in the discovery of three more mounds, he added. Each mound discovered indicates the eightfold path of Buddhism.

Shri Ratan Chandra Pandit, director general at the Department of Archeology, said, "This area is playing a key role in the archeological development of Munshiganj. With the opening of Padma Bridge, this area will be much more developed archeologically."

LOST

Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. We have lost our Import Permit Papers (Paper No. 5298 Date: 13.05.2020). In this regard a general diary has been filed under Tejgaon Industrial Thana, GD No. 609 Date: 11.04.2022.

Moallemul Islam
Sr. Officer

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ASE JSC hereby notifies of an open tender for the right to conclude a contract for the performance of construction and installation works on the lot: 19677-769-RUP-22 "Nuclear island, Rooppur NPP. Erection of lift equipment in 10UJA, 20UJA auxiliary buildings" (Lot 8200). The documentation is available on the official website of the State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom (<http://zakupki.rosatom.ru>). Procurement number No. 220413/0591/669.

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা
পাজীপুর।

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

Office Ph : 49270140, 5350
E-mail : dd.procure@bari.gov.bd
younusai.bari@gmail.com
web site : www.bari.gov.bd

Memo no: 12.21.0000.035.02.727.22.5570 Date: 12 April 2022

e-GP: Tender Notice No.35(2021-2022)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

Sl No	Package no.	Tender ID & Ref No	Description of goods	Tender Documents Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing date & Time	Tender Opening date & Time
1.	PN: GD-01	685660 & IRN : 727	Vehicle 01 item.	27.04.2022 17:00	28.04.2022 12:00	28.04.2022 12:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Name: "Farm Machinery Technology Development for Profitable Crop Production" Project.

(Md. Younus Ali)
Deputy Director (In-Charge)
On behalf of Director General

GD-769

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

Memo No: 46.02.5600.000.07.001.21-1314 Date: 17/04/2022

Invitation for Tender (works)

e-Tender Notice No.43/2021-2022

e-Tender's are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following packages.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Package No	Name of Works	Tender Method	Tender Proposal Document last selling & Submission Date and Time
1	683939 CIB-Man-W-29b	Construction of 315m PSC Girder Bridge on Maniknagar GC-Itavara R&H via Ananda Bazar Road at Ch.200m over the chandahar river [Road ID-356822012] (Remaining Part) and 84m viaduct under Upazila: Singair, District: Manikganj.	OSTETM	18-May-2022 16:00 & 19-May-2022 16:00

These are online Tender's where only e-Tender's will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Faizool Huq)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Manikganj.
Ph:+8802-7710911, Fax:+8802-7710517
E-mail: xen.manikganj@lged.gov.bd

GD-778

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Narsingdi Road Division
Bashail, Narsingdi
eenar@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.6800.542.07.001.22-401 Dated: 17/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of work	Publication and closing date & time
01.	686962, e-GP/EE/NRD/ MR-59/2021-22	Supplying Skilled labour, Semi-Skilled labour and Unskilled labour For Routine Maintenance Works at 25th(p), 26th(p), 27th(p) km of Tongi-Kaligonj-Ghorashal-Pachdona(R-301) under Narsingdi Road Division Narsingdi during the year 2021-2022.	17-Apr-2022 10:30:00, 09-May-2022 14:40:00
02.	686942, e-GP/EE/NRD/ MR-58/2021-22	Supplying Skilled labour, Semi-Skilled labour and Unskilled labour For Routine Maintenance Works at 16th(p), 17th(p), 18th(p) km of Nayapur-Araihazar-Narsingdi-Raipura(R-114) under Narsingdi Road Division Narsingdi during the year 2021-2022.	17-Apr-2022 10:30:00, 09-May-2022 14:30:00
03.	686944, e-GP/EE/NRD/ Mtc-55/2021-22	Repair damaged surface with SBST work at 88th(Sayed Nagrul Islam Bridge Approach) of Dhaka (Katchpur)-Bhairab-Jagadishpur-Saishtagonj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jafflong Road (N2) Under Narsingdi Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	17-Apr-2022 09:00:00, 09-May-2022 14:20:00
04.	686940, e-GP/EE/NRD/ MR-57/2021-22	Supplying Skilled, Semi-Skilled and Un-Skilled Labour for routine maintenance works at 10th km, 11th km, 12th km & 13th km of Itakhola-Mothkhola-Kotiadi (R-211) Road Under Narsingdi Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	17-Apr-2022 09:00:00, 09-May-2022 14:10:00
05.	686932, e-GP/EE/NRD/ MR-56/2021-22	Supplying Skilled labour, Semi-Skilled labour and Unskilled labour For Routine Maintenance Work and Clearing Road Shoulder/Road side drain at 75th(p), to 84th km of Dhaka (Katchpur) - Bhairab-Jagadishpur-Saishtagonj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jafflong Road (N2) under Narsingdi Road Division Narsingdi during the year 2021-2022.	17-Apr-2022 09:00:00, 09-May-2022 14:00:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

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

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

(Md. Hamidul Islam)
ID No. 602240
Executive Engineer, RHD
Narsingdi Road Division

GD-779

'Must bring Ilias back'

Sylhet BNP submits memorandum to home ministry

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

BNP's Sylhet district unit yesterday demanded that its former organising secretary Ilias Ali be brought back, who went missing from Dhaka on April 17, 2012.

Marking 10 years of the day, Sylhet BNP leaders filed a memorandum to the home ministry via Sylhet's deputy commissioner and demanded that all its disappeared leaders and activists, including Ilias Ali, be brought back.

The memorandum read the prime minister and other government high-ups promised to bring back Ilias Ali. "It's been 10 years, and the promise is yet to be fulfilled," it read.

They also stated that Sylhet Chhatra Dal leaders Iftakhar Ahmed Dinar and Junaed Ahmed also disappeared from Dhaka on April 3, 2012.

"It is high time all disappeared BNP leaders were brought back," said Abdul Kaiyum Chowdhury, president of BNP's Sylhet district unit.

Ilias, then organising secretary of Sylhet division BNP, and his driver Ansar went missing from the capital's Banani area on the night of April 17, 2012.

Since then the family members have been waiting anxiously for their return home.



Once 12km long, the mighty Hamkura is now a dead river, due to mindless encroachment and lack of surveillance by the authorities concerned. Presently, a paddy field stretches as far as the eyes can see, along with hundreds of concrete, semi-concrete mudhouses, brickfields and schools on the river bed.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

CHILDHOOD LOST

Child labour in transport sector rampant in port city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Fifteen-year-old Md Musa is one of the many child transport workers in Chattogram, employed as a helper of a human haulier on the Chawkbazar to Halishahar Baro Pool route.

Musa only got to study till the fifth grade. Poverty forced him to drop out of school and start working some two years ago. Back then, he used to make Tk 300 a day.

The little to no opportunities for skills development for these children include the risky driving lessons they get from the drivers. Musa is no exception.

"My ustad (driver) asks me to drive the



vehicle to the garage after the last trip of the day. This is how I have been learning to handle the steering wheel," said an enthusiastic Musa.

His enthusiasm, however, does not rule out the fact that children working in the transport sector – a common scenario in the port city – can prove extremely detrimental to the well-being of these children as well as the safety of commuters in general.

A study conducted by Dr Manzur-ul-Amin Chowdhury, a researcher, social scientist and senate member of Chittagong University, recently revealed that over 15,000 children have been working in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

The death of a river

Once mighty, Hamkura falls victim to encroachment

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The road on the west of Dumuria's Baliakhali bridge had to be crossed through the mighty Hamkura on ferries. The road is still there. The river, however, is not.

Instead, a paddy field stretches as far as the eyes can see. The bridge only stands as proof of a river that once was here. Once 12km long, the mighty Hamkura is now a dead river, thanks to the unscrupulous land grabbers and lack of surveillance by the authorities concerned.

Merely two decades ago, the river was a busy one with innumerable small and big boats, trawlers and launches plying on it all day long. There was an abundance of fish, including hilsha, which fishermen used to catch to make a living.

Hamkura, a connecting river, originated from the River Shree. The Bildakatia region – through which the river flowed – was inundated with waterlogging in the early eighties. To solve the crisis, locals cut dams at four points, including Bildakatia's Amvita. This proved to be counterproductive, as the tidal waters of Bhadra swelled and overflowed the area.

In 1995, as part of the K-JDRP (Khulna-Jashore Drainage Rehabilitation Project), the dam was blocked, which resulted in the Hamkura drying in just three months. That is when the river bed started to be used for various constructions.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent saw hundreds of concrete, semi-concrete mudhouses, brickfields and schools have been built on the river bed. At least three families currently live under the bridge. All of it has been facilitated by local influential, while the administration stays silent, according to locals.

Momtaz Begum, one of the residents, said their family has been living there for almost 20 years. "We took shelter under the bridge as there is no other land for us," she said.

Md Haider Ali Khan (65) of Gonal village said none could venture to cross the river – which was 400 metres wide – by swimming even in the eighties.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Feni Road Division, Feni
Phone: 0331-74039
E-mail: eefen@rhd.gov.bd

Reference No. 35.01.3029.417.07.056.22-592 Date: 17/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Feni for the Procurement of following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender security submission (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01	687354	eGP/Rev/LTM/F RD-15/2021-2022 (Re-Tender)	Providing side Widening by Construction of HBB work of Feni Old Airport Road (Z-1083) under Feni Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	08-May-2022 15:00	09-May-2022 12:00	09-May-2022 12:30
02	687355	eGP/Rev/LTM/F RD-16/2021-2022 (Re-Tender)	Road Marking work of pedestrian crossing/Zebra crossing & related Sign Signal supply (including placing at nominated place) for different roads of Feni Road Sub-Division 01 (One) & 02 (Two) under Road Division Feni, during the year 2021-2022.	08-May-2022 15:00	09-May-2022 12:00	09-May-2022 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any Member of Scheduled Banks branches up to 16.00 on 05-04-2022.

Binoy Kumar Paul
ID No. 602170
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Feni

GD-771

Elephant on the loose!



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Residents of Gaibandha Sadar upazila's Tinmail started their morning with a rare and peculiar scene yesterday.

A circus elephant, broke free from the clasps of the mahut (elephant keeper), and ran miles through a paddy field. The animal had caused quite the stir, as locals, livestock and forest department officials visited the spot.

District livestock officer, Masudar Rahman speculated that the elephant may have done this either because it was being abused by the mahut or it was hungry. Officer-in-charge of Gaibandha Social Forest Department, Shariful Islam said, "We don't have the skilled manpower required to control elephants."

Meanwhile around 5:00pm, the mahut was able to bring the elephant back to the circus.

NATESHWAR

5th octagonal mound found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Another octagonal mound has been discovered at Nateshwar village in Tongibari upazila of Munshiganj.

With this, five octagonal mounds have been discovered at Nateshwar village, said Prof Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, executive director of Oitihya Anweshan, in a press conference.

The press conference was organised by Agrasar

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Bangladesh Krishi Bank
Divisional Office, Mymensingh
KM Tower (3rd Floor)
19, Amrito Babu Road, Mymensingh
Website: www.krishibank.org.bd

Telephone: 091-64231, 091-64205
Email: gmmymensingh@krishibank.org.bd

No. BKB/DO/(Mymen)/OTM(Comp)-01(20-21)/2021-2022/3862 Dated: 12/04/2022

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl	Tender ID, Tender Package and Reference No.	Name of tender	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time	Tender method
01	Tender ID 683138 Tender Package: BKB-DOMYMN/OTM-COMP-01/2020-21 Reference No: BKB/DO/(MYMN)/OTM(COMP-01/(20-21)/21-22/3845; 10.04	Supply of 70 set Brand Personal Computer (PC) to various Branches throughout Mymensingh Division of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.	Date: 09-05-2022 Time: 14:30	Date: 10-05-2022 Time: 14:00	OTM
02	Tender ID 683465 Tender Package: BKB-DOMYMN/OTM-UPS-01/2020-21 Reference No: BKB/DO/(MYMN)/OTM(COMP-01/(20-21)/3771; 05/04/2022	Supply of offline UPS (1200VA) for several Branches of BKB Mymensingh Division	Date: 10-05-2022 Time: 15:00	Date: 11-05-2022 Time 14:30	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Zamil Ahmed
General Manager

GD-774

Sonali Bank Limited
Information Technology Division
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)
Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No. HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase Date: 17/04/2022

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of tender	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1	683685	Procurement of Precision Air Cooler (PAC), Air Modulator/Active Floor, Raised Floor Solid & Perforated Panel, Ultrasonic Pest Controller, Metered Rack Power Distribution Unit (PDU), Environmental monitoring system for Sonali Bank Limited.	10-May-2022 15:00	10-May-2022 15:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no office/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to respective time schedule.

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

Mohammad Iqbal Kabir
Deputy General Manager

GD-776

বাংলাদেশ রেশম গবেষণা ও প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট
রাজশাহী

Tel. No 0721-771704-05 (PABX)
Fax. No. 880-721-770913
E-mail: info@bsri.gov.bd
Web: www.bsri.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 24.07.8122.027.30.167(1).18-663 Date: 17-04-2022

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following work. Details are given below:

Sl No.	Package No.	Tender ID & Ref No.	Description of works	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
01	e-GP/BSRTI/Enh-20-21/SGEA-02	686263 24.07.812 2.027.30. 167(1).18	Supply Installation, Testing & Commissioning of HVAC system with all associated works for Air-conditioned modern Silkworm rearing house at BSRTI, Rajshahi	08-May-2022 14:29	09-May-2022 14:29	09-May-2022 14:29

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

Project Director (Additional Charge)
Enhancement of Productivity through Sericulture Technology Development, Dissemination and Generation of Skilled Manpower (1st Revised) Project

GD-773

Tensions persist in Jerusalem

FROM PAGE 12
said 19 Palestinians were wounded, including at least five who were hospitalised. It said some had been wounded with rubber-coated steel bullets.

An AFP team near the entrance to the compound early yesterday morning saw barefoot Jewish worshippers leaving the site, protected by heavily armed police.

Outside the Old City, in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, Palestinian youths threw rocks at passing buses, resulting

in seven people being treated for light wounds at Shaare Zedek hospital, the medical facility said.

Video released by the police showed two Israeli buses, their windcreens and side windows smashed in, driving down a road near the Old City as young men showered them with rocks. The police said they had arrested 18 Palestinians.

Senior Palestinian official Hussein Al Sheikh said that "Israel's dangerous escalation in the Al-Aqsa compound ... is a blatant attack on our

holy places", and called on the international community to intervene.

The chief of the Hamas Islamist movement which controls the Palestinian enclave of Gaza meanwhile warned Israel that "Al-Aqsa is ours and ours alone".

"Our people have the right to access it and pray in it, and we will not bow down to (Israeli) repression and terror," Ismail Haniyeh said in a statement.

Later, mosques in Palestinian neighbourhoods of annexed east Jerusalem broadcast calls for people

to head towards the Al-Aqsa compound.

Weeks of mounting tensions saw two deadly attacks by Palestinians in or near the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv in late March and early April, alongside mass arrests by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank.

A total of 14 people have been killed in attacks against Israel since March 22, including a shooting spree in Bnei Brak, an Orthodox Jewish city in greater Tel Aviv.

Twenty-two Palestinians have been killed over the

same period, including assailants who targeted Israelis, according to an AFP tally.

Flash floods

FROM PAGE 12
Md Jahurul Islam, executive engineer of the BWDB in Sunamganj and member secretary of the district committee for constructing crop protection dykes, said, "The water level in the rivers keeps rising and we are at risk of losing crops as water may enter haors breaching the earthen dykes."

Dhaka slams US human rights

FROM PAGE 12
ministry said, "Though we do not endorse their information, the Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) mentioned 275 extrajudicial killings in January-May 2018 period, while the US report wrongly cited ASK in mentioning that there were 606 extrajudicial killings in May-June 2018."

The statement, however, said the Bangladesh government does not deny the fact that there are indeed a lot of areas of development to ensure

better protection and promotion of human rights, and Dhaka is continuing to make steady strides towards that end.


It said the government underscores that there are certainly issues to adequately observe the standards of human rights while a gesture of cooperation with support for strengthening the capacity across the relevant systems would be helpful to address the gaps.

"The Government remains intensely engaged


with the UN human rights mechanism, and receptive of constructive recommendations from all international development partners, including the USA," said the statement.

Shahed

FROM PAGE 12
On August 18, 2020, another Dhaka court sentenced Shahed to six months of simple imprisonment and fined him Tk 53 lakh in absentia in a cheque dishonour case.



বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
Website: www.ugc.gov.bd



স্মারক নংঃ ৩৭.০২.০০০০.১৩২.৪১.০০২.২০- তারিখ: ১৭ এপ্রিল ২০২২

জনস্বার্থে এবং অভিভাবক ও উর্ভিক্ষু শিক্ষার্থীদের জ্ঞাতার্থে ইবাইস ইউনিভার্সিটি, আমেরিকা বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি এবং দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা এর বর্তমান অবস্থা সম্পর্কে গণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইবাইস ইউনিভার্সিটি, আমেরিকা বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি এবং দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর বর্তমান আইনগত, একাডেমিক এবং প্রশাসনিক অবস্থা নিয়ে তুলে ধরা হলোঃ

ইবাইস ইউনিভার্সিটি

বর্তমানে এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনুমোদিত কোনো ক্যাম্পাস ও ঠিকানা নেই। এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বোর্ড অব ট্রাস্টিজ নিয়ে দৃষ্টি ও আদালতে একাধিক মামলা বিদ্যমান। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে চ্যাপেলের তথা বাংলাদেশের মহামান্য রাষ্ট্রপতি কর্তৃক নিয়োগকৃত ভিসি, প্রো-ভিসি ও ট্রেজারার পদে কোন ব্যক্তি নেই। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে বর্তমানে কোন পদেই আইনানুযায়ী বৈধভাবে কেউ নিয়োজিত নাই। যার ফলে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে বর্তমানে বৈধ কোন কর্তৃপক্ষ নেই। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টির সকল কারিকুলাম মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ বিধায় সকল একাডেমিক প্রোগ্রাম বৈধতা হারিয়েছে। বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আইন, ২০১০ এর ধারা ১৭ এবং ১৯ অনুযায়ী বৈধ সিডিকেট এবং একাডেমিক কাউন্সিল না থাকায় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টির একাডেমিক, প্রশাসনিক, আর্থিক, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি, পরীক্ষা ও উহার ফলাফল এবং প্রদত্ত একাডেমিক সনদের আইনগত কোন বৈধতা নেই।

আমেরিকা বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি

সাময়িক অনুমতিপত্রের শর্তাবলী প্রতিপালন এবং গুণগত মানসম্পন্ন শিক্ষা নিশ্চিত করতে ব্যর্থ হওয়ার কারণে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক ২২-১০-২০০৬ তারিখে এস.আর.ও নং-২৭৮ জারির মাধ্যমে আমেরিকা বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি বন্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয়। উক্ত বন্ধ আদেশের বিরুদ্ধে ইউনিভার্সিটি কর্তৃপক্ষ উচ্চ আদালতে একটি রীট পিটিশন (৪১৩৬/২০০৭) দায়ের করে। ইউনিভার্সিটির পক্ষে আদালত ২০-১১-২০১৩ তারিখে রায় প্রদান করেন। কমিশন থেকে উক্ত রায়ের বিরুদ্ধে সিভিল আপীল নং ১৮/২০১৭ দাখিল করা হয়। অনুমোদনকালীন সময়ে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ক্যাম্পাসের ঠিকানা- ৩৫, কামাল আতাভূরু এভিনিউ, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩। সরকার কর্তৃক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টি বন্ধ ঘোষিত হওয়ার পূর্ব পর্যন্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনুমোদিত প্রোগ্রাম ছিল দুইটি; যথা-(১) BBA in Management এবং (২) BBA in Marketing।

পরবর্তীতে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় থেকে ১৭-০৬-২০১৩ তারিখের ৪৬৬ নম্বর পত্রের মাধ্যমে ৫৪/১, প্রগতি স্মরণী, বারিধারা-নর্দা, ঢাকা-১২১২ ঠিকানা অনুমোদন দেয়া হয়। শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ১০-০৪-২০১৮ তারিখের ৩৭ নম্বর পত্রের নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য তদন্তপূর্বক মতামত প্রদানের জন্য কমিশন কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ০৪ (চার) সদস্য বিশিষ্ট একটি কমিটি গঠন করা হয়। শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের অনুমোদিত ৫৪/১, প্রগতি স্মরণী, বারিধারা-নর্দা, ঢাকা-১২১২ ঠিকানা সরেজমিন পরিদর্শন করা হয়। এই ইউনিভার্সিটির উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আইন, ২০১০ অনুযায়ী ফ্লোর স্পেস, শিক্ষক, কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারী এবং শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার মত কোনরূপ সুযোগ-সুবিধা বিদ্যমান নাই।

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে চ্যাপেলের তথা বাংলাদেশের মহামান্য রাষ্ট্রপতি কর্তৃক নিয়োগকৃত ভিসি, প্রো-ভিসি ও ট্রেজারার পদে কোন ব্যক্তি নেই। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে বর্তমানে কোন পদেই আইনানুযায়ী বৈধভাবে কেউ নিয়োজিত নাই। যার ফলে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে বর্তমানে বৈধ কোন কর্তৃপক্ষ নেই। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টির সকল কারিকুলাম মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ বিধায় সকল একাডেমিক প্রোগ্রাম বৈধতা হারিয়েছে। বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আইন, ২০১০ এর ধারা ১৭ এবং ১৯ অনুযায়ী বৈধ সিডিকেট এবং একাডেমিক কাউন্সিল না থাকায় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টির একাডেমিক, প্রশাসনিক, আর্থিক, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি, পরীক্ষা ও উহার ফলাফল এবং প্রদত্ত একাডেমিক সনদের আইনগত কোন বৈধতা নেই।


দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা

দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা সরকার কর্তৃক ০৪/১২/১৯৯৫ তারিখে অনুমোদন লাভ করে। তবে বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আইন যথাযথভাবে প্রতিপালন নিশ্চিত না করার কারণে ২২/১০/২০০৬ তারিখ সরকার কর্তৃক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টি বন্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয়। বন্ধকালীন সময়ে এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অনুমোদিত ক্যাম্পাস ছিল: বাড়ি নং-০২, ব্লক-ডি, সেকশন-০১, হাউজিং এন্ট্রি, কুমিল্লা। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ সরকারের বন্ধ আদেশের (২০০৬ সালের) বিরুদ্ধে আদালতে রিট পিটিশন (নং-১৬৭১/২০১৪) দায়ের করে শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার অনুমোদন লাভ করে। কিন্তু বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টি কোন ঠিকানায় পরিদর্শন করা হবে তা স্পষ্ট না থাকায় স্পষ্টীকরণের জন্য ইউজিসি থেকে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ে পত্র প্রেরণ করা হলে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০৬/০৩/২০১৮ তারিখের পত্রে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের আবেদনপত্রে উল্লিখিত ১৫ ছায়াবাড়ি ভবন, রোড- ৩১, সেক্টর- ০৭, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০ ঠিকানা অনুযায়ী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য বলা হয়। উক্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী ইউজিসি কর্তৃক গঠিত কমিটি উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় পরিদর্শনের জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়কে পত্র প্রেরণ করে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ উক্ত পরিদর্শন সংক্রান্ত পত্রের বিরুদ্ধে আদালতে রীট মামলা (নং- ৪২৬৩/২০১৮) দায়ের করে। রিট পিটিশন ৪২৬৩/২০১৮ এর রায়ের আলোকে কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইটে দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা-এর ২৭টি প্রোগ্রাম এবং ১৫ ছায়াবাড়ি ভবন, রোড- ৩১, সেক্টর- ০৭, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০ ঠিকানা আপলোড করা হয়।


পরবর্তীতে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৭/২০১৮ তারিখের পত্র এবং হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ কর্তৃক ৪২৬৩/২০১৮ নং মামলায় বিগত ০১/০৪/২০১৮ তারিখে প্রদত্ত অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন আদেশ (যা আপীল বিভাগ কর্তৃক ১৯৬৭/২০১৮ নং CPLA/আপীল মামলায় বহাল রয়েছে) এবং কনটেন্ট পিটিশন নং ৬৫১/২০১৯ এর ১৯/১১/২০১৯ তারিখের আদেশ প্রতিপালনের লক্ষ্যে ইউজিসির ওয়েবসাইটে দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা-এর ৪৩টি প্রোগ্রাম এবং ঠিকানা ৯/বি পলওয়েল কারনেশন, সেক্টর-৮, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০ আপলোড করা হয়েছে।

গত ০৯/০২/২০২০ তারিখ কমিশন থেকে সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শনে ৯/বি পলওয়েল কারনেশন, সেক্টর-৮, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০ ঠিকানায় দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লার কোনো অস্তিত্ব পাওয়া যায়নি। উক্ত ভবনে অবস্থানরত ব্যক্তিবর্গের সাথে কথা বলে জানা যায় যে, ভবনের ৫ম তলায় দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা-এর কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হতো। দুই মাস আগে ভবনের কর্তৃপক্ষ (বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কো-অপারেটিভ সোসাইটি লিমিটেড) দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা-এর লোকজন এবং মালামাল বের করে দিয়ে ৫ম তলায় তালা বুলিয়ে দিয়েছে এবং সকল ইউটিলিটি সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করে দিয়েছে। সেই মোতাবেক ৫ম তলায় গিয়ে দেখা যায় ফ্লোরের প্রবেশ কক্ষে তালা ঝুলানো রয়েছে এবং সেখানে দেখা রয়েছে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কো-অপারেটিভ সোসাইটি লিমিটেড, পলওয়েল কারনেশন শপিং সেন্টার। উল্লেখ্য, দৈনিক পত্রিকায় এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিরুদ্ধে সার্বিকভাবে বিক্রির অভিযোগ রয়েছে। এছাড়াও বর্তমান বিগত সদস্যদের বিরুদ্ধেও বিভিন্ন অনিয়ম ও দুর্নীতির অভিযোগ কমিশনে পাওয়া গিয়েছে। উল্লেখ্য, কমিশন থেকে অদ্যাবধি দি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব কুমিল্লা এর শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার অনুমোদন দেয়া হয়নি। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে চ্যাপেলের তথা বাংলাদেশের মহামান্য রাষ্ট্রপতি কর্তৃক নিয়োগকৃত ভিসি, প্রো-ভিসি ও ট্রেজারার পদে কোন ব্যক্তি নেই। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে বর্তমানে কোন পদেই আইনানুযায়ী বৈধভাবে কেউ নিয়োজিত নাই। যার ফলে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টিতে বর্তমানে বৈধ কোন কর্তৃপক্ষ নেই। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টির সকল কারিকুলাম মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ বিধায় সকল একাডেমিক প্রোগ্রাম বৈধতা হারিয়েছে। বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আইন, ২০১০ এর ধারা ১৭ এবং ১৯ অনুযায়ী বৈধ সিডিকেট এবং একাডেমিক কাউন্সিল না থাকায় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়টির একাডেমিক, প্রশাসনিক, আর্থিক, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি, পরীক্ষা ও উহার ফলাফল এবং প্রদত্ত একাডেমিক সনদের আইনগত কোন বৈধতা নেই।

কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে
পরিচালক
বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বিভাগ
বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

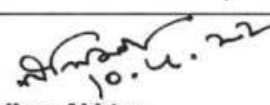


**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA)
Road Transport Highway Division
Ministry of Road Transport Bridges**



Invitation for Re-Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1	Ministry/Division Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges Road Transport and Highways Division
2	Agency Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA)
3	Procuring Entity Name Executive Director
4	Procuring Entity Code Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District Dhaka
6	Invitation for Procurement of Furniture, fixture, accessories & related goods for DTCA new headquarter building at Tejgaon, Dhaka.
7	Invitation Ref No DTCA/ED/ Furniture, fixture, accessories & related goods
8	Date 18 th April, 2022
KEY INFORMATION	
9	Procurement Method Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10	Budget and Source of Funds Revenue Budget and GOB
11	Development Partners (if applicable) Not Applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable) Not Applicable
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable) Not Applicable
14	Tender Package No. GR-11
15	Tender Package Name Procurement of Furniture, fixture, accessories & related goods for DTCA new headquarter building at Tejgaon, Dhaka. Date
16	Tender Publication Date April 18, 2022
17	Tender Last Selling Date May 16, 2022 at 5.00 PM Date Time
18	Tender Closing Date and Time May 17, 2022 12.00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time May 17, 2022 12.30 PM
20	Name & Address of the office(s) Address - Selling Tender Document (Principal) Accounts & Finance Officer Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA), Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Dhaka 1000 - Selling Tender Document (Others) Not Applicable
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS	
- Receiving Tender Document	Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA), Room No:1322, Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Dhaka 1000
- Opening Tender Document	Room No:1322, DTCA, Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Fulbaria, Dhaka 1000
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional) Per-tender meeting will not be held
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
22	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer (a)The minimum of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods and related services as Supplier shall be 10 years. (b) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least one (1) contract(s) successfully completed within the last 5 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 4 CORE. (c)The minimum supply of Goods is :10 core in last five years. (d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 5 CORE. Tenderer should be submitted related documents from user end.
23	Brief Description of Goods Procurement of Furniture, fixture & accessories for DTCA Headquarters' building Complex at Tejgaon, Dhaka.
24	Brief Description of Related Services Not Applicable
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk) Tk. 5000.00 (Five Thousand Taka)
26	Lot No Identification of Lot Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in Weeks / Months 1 Procurement of Furniture, fixture & accessories for DTCA Headquarters' building Complex at Tejgaon, Dhaka. Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA), Nagar Bhaban, 13-14th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Dhaka 1000 Tk 15,00,000.00 (fifteen Lacs Taka) 180 days from the date of contract agreement
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender Neelima Akhter
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender Executive Director
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor(East Block), Phoenix Rd, Fulbaria, Dhaka 1000
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender Tel: +88 02-9562686 Email: ed@dtca.gov.bd
31	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.


Neelima Akhter
 Executive Director
 Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority
 Nagar Bhaban, 13th Floor, Phoenix Rd, Fulbaria, Dhaka 1000

What good is price control if it isn't enforced?

Excuses won't do; people need solutions from the government

THAT 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, despite record import of the item in the first quarter, is a textbook example of how the government has failed to enforce any form of price control as people keep suffering due to unbearably high prices. Moreover, each litre of palm oil is also costing Tk 21 more than the price set by the government.

Between January and March, more than one million tonnes of edible oils were imported into Bangladesh by businesses, which is nine percent more than the volume imported during the same period last year, according to data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR). In spite of that, wholesalers and retailers are claiming that supply shortages have been driving prices up. According to market insiders, this claim is false. They say oil refinery owners, dealers and brokers have been creating an artificial crisis to push the prices up.

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, which is one of the largest wholesale markets in the country, the wholesale price was Tk 164 and retail Tk 174 on April 16. According to the president of the Chattogram chapter of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, this mismatch is the result of the government's poor market and refinery monitoring. On March 10, the government waived the 15 percent VAT on oil production and five percent VAT on retail until June 30 to cushion the blow of price hike in the international market. Yet, this duty waiver has not benefited the consumers. Wholesalers have alleged that some brokers and traders were hoarding edible oils, which resulted in the end consumers having to pay much more.

While this has been happening, the director-general of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection told this newspaper that it was not possible for them to "control the market with limited manpower unless the SO [supply order] sales pattern of edible oil is changed." At present, refinery owners sell SOs to a limited number of dealers and brokers, and they change hands several times before products of those SOs go to wholesale markets. That's why the prices go up several times before the products reach the markets from the mill gates. The government urgently needs to address these problems. The number of intermediaries has to be reduced, and different government departments and local administrations need to work together to bring an end to such exploitation of consumers.

Longest beach or biggest dumpster?

Advanced waste management system a must for Cox's Bazar

LIKE all other developing towns and cities in Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar has been growing at a tremendously rapid rate. And, not surprisingly, its municipal services have been unable to keep pace, particularly the conservancy service. Consequently, the humongous amount of garbage collected daily is piling up by the day due to a lack of proper waste management facilities. The only recourse is the dumping ground, which, in the current state in the heart of the city, is detrimental to the environment and to public health.

Unfortunately, like most towns and cities in the country, this tourist town is going through a phase of abjectly unplanned growth and urbanisation. Every empty space is being developed as a hotel or residential building, every pond being filled up to be gobbled up by real estate companies. There are already 750 hotels and 250 restaurants, according to one newspaper, in this small township. All these are happening without following a master plan—if there is one at all. The authorities, it seems, are not alive to the seriousness of the problem.

Reportedly, a town of 200,000, Cox's Bazar is visited by 10 million tourists every year. It is, therefore, no wonder that the services would be overwhelmed by the amount of waste and garbage the tourists generate in and around the city. Reportedly, the municipality collects 90 tonnes of waste from the municipal area every day on an average, which might go up to 130 tonnes during peak tourist season. The point to note is 90 tonnes of collected waste. No one knows the amount of waste that remains abandoned in situ. The waste generation is double that projected for 2021. And, as always, there are not enough staff to handle the garbage. But that's not all: the small town produces nearly 140 tonnes of sewage every day, of which only 20 tonnes can be treated.

This is a dismal picture for the tourist town, which claims to be home to the largest continuous sea beach in the world. We understand that a master plan is being prepared for the town by the Cox's Bazar Development Authority. In the meantime, unplanned growth has taken its toll, and unless addressed promptly, may prove to be irretrievable. An advanced waste management system is imperative for Cox's Bazar, whatever the cost may be. No price is high enough, unless one wants to see this once beautiful pristine township turn dirty and filthy.

We can't let our guard down against Covid



A CLOSER LOOK

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

TASNEEM TAYEB

WITH Covid-19 cases receding worldwide, our lives are entering a new phase, where the "normal" perhaps means a strategic co-existence with an ever-present, malevolent viral disease. The novel coronavirus, unfortunately, is highly unpredictable, with new variants and mutations surfacing every now and then, at times wreaking havoc on communities.

Take the case of China, for example. Despite pursuing a strict zero-Covid policy the last couple of years, the country is struggling to fight off new outbreaks of the Omicron variant, imposing blanket lockdowns in multiple localities, including the entirety of Shanghai (a city of around 27 million people), Beijing and Shenzhen, along with other major cities.

One of the variants found in the city of Suzhou near Shanghai—although mild in nature—does not match with records in the global variant database. The emergence of the Omicron sub-variant XE—a blend of Omicron BA.1 and BA.2 strains, also termed "recombinant"—first detected in the UK, and later found in India and even Thailand, has also drawn the attention of medical communities around the world. This new sub-variant—currently the UK's dominant one, with more than 637 cases detected so far—is thought to be highly transmissible, with early estimates indicating a 10 percent community growth rate advantage in comparison to the fast-spreading BA.2 strain. However, as of yet, there has been no indication suggesting that the XE sub-variant could be deadly. The events of the next few weeks would be important in understanding the nature and strength of the new sub-variant. While there is no need for us to panic, as conscious citizens, we should stay alert and follow the safety protocols.

And with Covid evolving, new strains and variants are expected to surface in the coming months and years. Which means, in the long run, Covid is expected to transform into an endemic disease. This, however, does not negate the risk posed by the virus. For some, especially the elderly and children, and for those who have not been vaccinated, the risks would be higher.

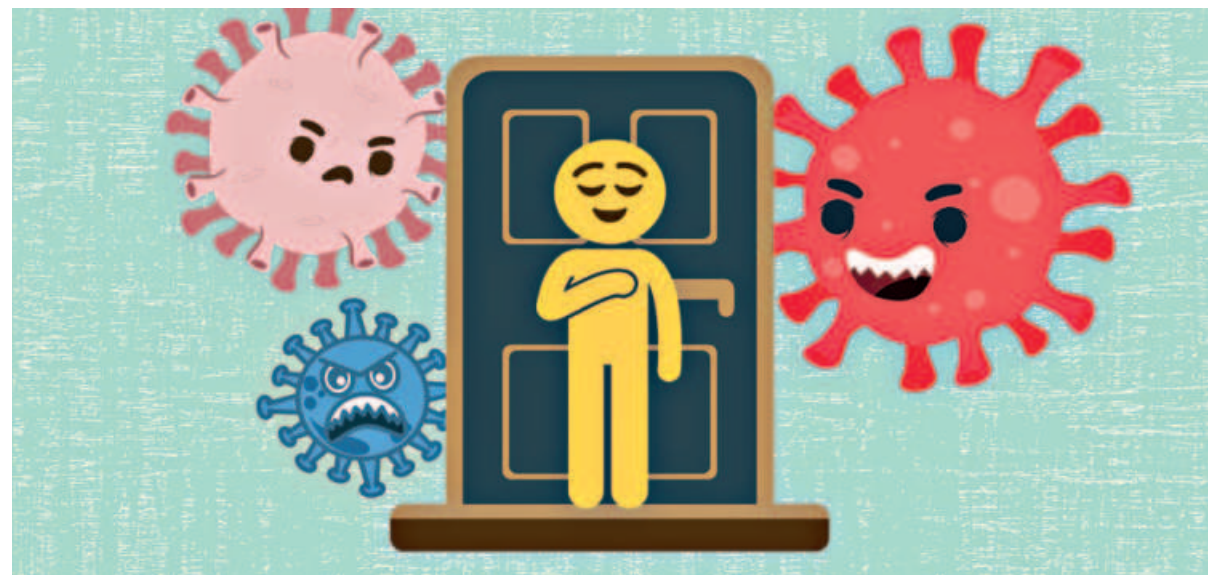
For us in Bangladesh, with the economy gradually opening up and life reflecting a semblance of normalcy, it is important that we do not let our guard down. Unfortunately, the number of people who practise social distancing or follow personal hygiene protocols is only decreasing by the day. Not only in open spaces, but in cramped places like lifts, people are moving freely without a mask, exposing themselves and the others to

the menacing possibility of catching the stealthy virus.

While the falling number of Covid cases and subsequent low fatality rate is a blessing and a respite for us from the nightmare that we have had to endure over the last two years—losing lives and livelihoods—we cannot become complacent now. The government has

heavy toll the pandemic has taken on our education sector.

While it would take years to recoup this loss, we must make sure to keep the spread of Covid to a minimum, if our children are to continue in-person classes. One more outbreak, and our children would be back within the confines of home amid uncertainties, fighting a fresh



COLLAGE:
AFIA JAHIN

done a commendable job of bringing in as many people as they could under the Covid-19 immunisation programme, but we still have to keep in mind that there are Covid variants that have the capacity to evade vaccine protection and infect individuals. And with Covid, one can never really be sure how and when one might catch the virus.

For us, the only way to dodge the risk of catching Covid-19 is by adhering to health and safety guidelines, such as social distancing—following the space slots marked in lifts, public places, counters, etc that we often look down upon so disdainfully—and strictly maintaining personal hygiene protocols, including wearing face masks when in public, among other prescribed measures.

We must also keep in mind that most children in our country are yet to receive their first shot of the vaccine. And they have only recently started attending schools in person after a struggle with online classes and subsequent learning loss of almost two years.

A Unicef report suggested that the education of 37 million children in Bangladesh had been disrupted by the protracted closure of schools due to the pandemic. Moreover, 14,111 privately-run primary schools had to face closure within one year of the pandemic's outbreak in the country. The number of teachers and students declined by 83,268 and 1,461,634, respectively, within the same time frame, as per the Annual Primary School Census (APSC) 2021, prepared by the Directorate of Primary Education, and this figure is excluding the English medium schools or the Qawmi madrasas. The sheer numbers point to the

emotional and logistical battle to adapt to and cope with online learning.

The same is applicable for our economic aspirations as well. After months of struggles and setbacks, the economy is finally reopening, trying to cover up for the losses of the last two years. And the forecasts so far have been encouraging. The World Bank, in its Global Economic Prospects report, in January 2022, suggested that Bangladesh's economic growth would reach as high as 6.4 percent in FY2021-22, and up to 6.9 percent in FY23, despite the deceleration of the global economy.

Rebound of the garments industry, along with strong remittance inflow and increase in demand in the domestic market are thought to be the key drivers behind this growth. However, to sustain this, we would need to ensure that this flow of economic activities remains uninterrupted and we can only do so by keeping the coronavirus at bay. If we become complacent thinking we have managed to wash our hands of the virus once and for all, we would be making a grave mistake.

Despite all the strict measures taken by China, the country is now scrambling to minimise new outbreaks of the virus, and the new lockdown measures are expected to take a toll on the country's economic growth.

While the situation in every country is different, we should not take this lull in the Covid scenario in our country for granted. The more careful we are, the safer our nation is, and the more protected our loved ones are. We are all responsible for the fight against Covid, and we must not fail ourselves in this.

While the falling number of Covid cases and subsequent low fatality rate is a blessing and a respite for us from the nightmare that we have had to endure over the last two years, we cannot become complacent now.

Creative policies needed to support RMG makers



RMG NOTES

Mostafiz Uddin
is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

WHILE Covid-19 has sent shock waves through the ready-made garment (RMG) supply chains that continue to reverberate, there is also a broader issue that needs more attention: sustainability. For apparel makers, the biggest impact this has is in terms of the regulatory environment.

It may not have been widely reported in our country, but just last week, the European Union (EU) launched a new strategy for textiles that could potentially have a big impact on global fashion supply chains such as Bangladesh. And one area the strategy is focused on is sustainable fashion and stopping greenwashing.

I think our industry needs leadership, support and guidance from the government and policymakers now more than ever. We need a clear and robust strategy as well as practical support measures to help us navigate our way through these uncertain and challenging, but also opportunistic times. Have no doubt about it: these are the times of huge opportunities. In any economic shake-up, there will be winners and losers, and we have to make sure we are the former, not the latter. Our government can help with that, but it must be smart and creative with the policy packages it uses to reinvigorate our sector.

What would I like to see in terms of our government support for RMG manufacturers? Firstly, I believe we need more investment in our sector to take it

to the next level. We can produce apparel products in large volumes, and if a major fashion player wants tens of thousands of units at a short notice, we are as good as any supplier in the world. But what about the ability to provide a seamless, one-stop shop? Vertical integration is the next step for Bangladesh's RMG sector and, while we have begun to make progress in this area, there is still more we can do.

To facilitate this process and the general upgrading of its textile industry, Vietnam's government has provided significant financial incentives for foreign direct investments (FDIs). FDIs can bring in the expertise we lack in Bangladesh to help drive operational efficiency as well as move to the value-added apparel products.

Secondly, I would like to see greater financial incentives for local factories to invest in new technologies and sustainable innovation. There are huge financial benefits to sustainable investment, as I have discussed previously. Factory owners need to be incentivised; they need to be directed along the right path, and this can be done via a range of fiscal measures, including quick access to investment credits and soft loans.

How about allowing garment makers to gain 100 percent first-year capital allowances to cover their expenditure on energy-efficient plants and machinery, for example? Or granting tax relief to companies investing in new energy-efficient machinery or water-saving equipment? Or how about supporting interest-free loans for garment makers to install energy-efficient equipment and make other sustainability-related investments?

Energy efficiency and other sustainability-related projects typically pay for themselves within a few years, through the cost savings achieved. This makes them attractive for investments with serious returns. However, they

require an initial upfront capital investment, and this is where we need government support via our financial institutions.

Remember, many of our customers are now increasingly looking to only work with factories that meet certain green criteria. Their rules are stipulated in their supplier terms and conditions which, from an environmental perspective, are becoming more onerous by the year.

Finally, I believe our government can provide more generalised financial support for the apparel manufacturers in terms of pushing the brand Bangladesh to a global level.

For instance, how can we increase our share in our main export markets, such as the EU, the US and the UK, and how can we reach beyond them? Many countries provide support to their key strategic exporters via export trade missions. Often, these missions—which governments subsidise to some degree—allow seasoned exporters to share ideas and information with up-and-coming exporters. These provide an excellent learning process for all and offer exporters an opportunity to make new contacts and win new business in international markets.

I believe in free markets and healthy competition; all garment manufacturers must ultimately stand on their own feet in what are ferociously competitive international markets. At the same time, there is no harm whatsoever in our government providing leadership and strategy backed by targeted support packages for our industry. Remember, ours is a sector of huge strategic importance. Government investment in it now, at this crucial juncture, will pay for itself multiple times over in terms of tax revenue and other softer benefits in the future. Support for garment makers will not go to waste and will be considered as money well spent.

If a major fashion player wants tens of thousands of units at a short notice, we are as good as any supplier in the world. But what about the ability to provide a seamless, one-stop shop?

SOCIALISM'S TROUBLED JOURNEY IN BANGLADESH

Early dreams and rude awakenings

Prof Rehman Sobhan's 'Untranquil Recollections: From Dawn to Darkness' is a book to be studied



AHRAR AHMAD

Dr Ahrar Ahmad is professor emeritus at Black Hills State University in the US, and director general of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation in Dhaka.

Prof Rehman Sobhan (RS) continues to amaze. Even at this ripe young age, his pace has not slackened, his gaze has not dimmed, his voice has not faltered as it retains its keenness, relevance, and moral clarity. He has earned his place as the elder statesman of our scholarly and activist communities—a heroic, enduring and inspiring presence in our midst.

He has also become the pre-eminent chronicler of his times. This is always a tricky terrain to navigate, more so when important personalities and controversial issues are involved, where narratives become "sacrosanct" (Page 7) and discourage interrogation. In the hypersensitive and polarised environment of the country, writing contemporary history becomes not only a "contested," but a "risk-prone" enterprise (Page 8). But RS "pulls it off," and does so in style and with authority.

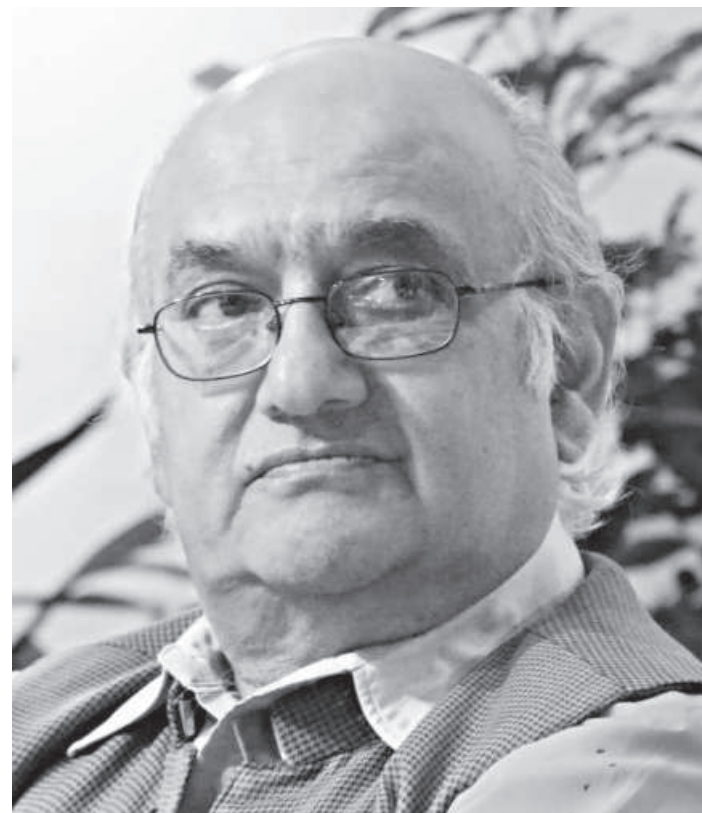
This is not accomplished because of his writerly craftsmanship, nor his political

obvious economic and social problems we faced at the time were practical problems, which could be resolved through some effort, imagination and sacrifice. What we did not realise—as this book explores—were the political, psychological, administrative and other slippery slopes that had doomed the socialist "moment."

While this is a rich and provocative analysis of that entire period, it is really a discussion of THAT failure which speaks to our generation most compellingly. Hence, it is this aspect of the book which will be the focus of this essay, more as personal reflections rather than a "review."

Reading the book makes us realise that there were deeper, subtler, more treacherous issues we did not understand, such as institutional jealousies, jurisdictional frictions, and leadership jostling (particularly the scramble for nearness to Bangabandhu). The lack of coherence and synchronisation was painfully reflected in persistent inter-ministerial wrangling. RS refers to the intense bickering, which he once describes as a "gladiatorial contest," even between the ministries of planning and finance, while both were under the same minister, the perceptive and talented Tajuddin Ahmed.

This lack of coordination



▲ Prof Rehman Sobhan

FILE PHOTO: STAR

dealing with senior bureaucrats who resented their power (perhaps their abilities and ideals as well), as well as from junior officers given to traditional inertia, rather than the promptness and initiative the circumstances demanded. RS suggests that this distance may have been heightened by the members' own inability or unwillingness to build bridges either because of their egos, their access to Bangabandhu, or their political inexperience.

But it was not merely management inefficiencies and institutional gridlock that haunted the transition to a socialist economy. The book appeared to confirm the impression long suspected—that the concept itself had not been clarified to the larger body of political stakeholders, nor its "ownership" distributed more widely. It became a word or a slogan, but not a programme or a strategy for which the nation had been mobilised.

Moreover, there were questions about what the concept meant. It is possible that Bangabandhu (who had written admiringly about China after his visit there in the early 1950s, who may have disliked capitalism as an exploitative system, but whose references to socialism as an ideal had been a bit vague and infrequent) had, in all likelihood, visualised it merely as creating an inclusive and just society that would bring "smiles to people's faces."

The Planning Commission had assumed that it involved the pursuit of nationalisation and redistributive objectives, where the "commanding heights" of the economy would remain under state control, which could all be accomplished through appropriate policy frameworks and institutional support.

Traditional upholders of the notion had conceived it as a "revolutionary undertaking," requiring a theoretical understanding of the dialectics of class struggle and the materialist conception of history, and difficult to achieve under an unprepared leadership with its petty-bourgeois background and orientations.

Bangabandhu's approach to the concept appeared to be emotional; to the commission, the challenge was intellectual; to the hard line leftists, the commitment was ideological. They may have been reading the same book, but probably not the same chapter, and were certainly not on the same page.

Bangabandhu's public utterances on the subject became less vigorous. The nimble-minded and progressive Tajuddin was distracted by other concerns, and distanced himself from the commission.

Political leaders were much too busy consolidating their positions and rewarding their followers in a rather free-for-all environment. Trade union leaders, considered to be the natural allies of the nationalisation policies, were consumed by internecine conflicts over power and privilege. Students, freedom fighters, and cultural activists faded away since their belongingness was neither activated nor even sought. Intellectuals withheld support either because the initial efforts were considered to be too radical by some, or too timid by others. Even Maulana Bhashani, with his long roots in peasant and populist activism, became more of a critic than a supporter of these measures.

Opponents of the concept such as the new "brief-case capitalists," the "indenting entrepreneurs," and the "dispossessed owners of the nationalised industries," became increasingly active and gained traction. Plans for agrarian reforms were completely shelved for reasons of "practical politics." The commission note on the First Five-Year Plan, which contained the most comprehensive discussion of goals, benchmarks and policies, was hardly debated in parliament and given only a cursory reception in the

cabinet.

The entire notion of "socialism" gradually began to be viewed as an "academic" exercise—in the worst sense of the term. Some Awami League stalwarts began to believe that "Bangabandhu was led down the garden path on the issue of nationalisation by the professors in the Planning Commission" (Page 114).

Moreover, it was widely believed that the nationalisation programme was a disaster. RS points out that in spite of various and obvious difficulties, its performance was really not too shabby. In Chapter 10, he details the aggregate success it achieved in several (though not all) sectors. However, the damage to its reputation had been done, and it was lethal.

The "gang of four" in the commission began to feel frustrated and alienated. Dr Nurul Islam, the liberal "technocrat," Dr Anisur Rahman, the "idealist," Dr Mosharraf Hossain, the "pragmatist," and RS, the (incurable) "optimist," were all disappointed with the level of support their ideas generated. Even the international solidarity that they had expected from socialist countries proved to be ephemeral and elusive (Pages 243-247). Consequently, they began to plan their exit strategies. By late 1974, nearly all had left or were on their way out. Their grand experiment had collapsed.

But while the concept of socialism might have been a bit complicated, and carried some baggage, the issue of democracy was simpler, and integral to the values and vision which defined the nationalist struggle. The reason why even that was largely abandoned through the institutionalisation of BAKSAL is clearly a more complex issue.

The book does not avoid it. Indeed, RS expresses his anxiety and dismay as those events unfolded. But it does not receive the same engaged attention as the unravelling of the economic plans does. His relative indifference to this issue is understandable, since this was not his area of expertise or focus, and the subject may be more delicate. But clearly both outcomes were related and had been prompted by similar factors and dynamics.

RS also refers to the rising anti-Indian mood in the country. It would be difficult to determine if this had been caused by the pre-existing sentiments that had been nurtured as an article of faith during the Pakistani period and still resonated among many in Bangladesh, or by the challenges and failures of the state leading people to blame an external agent, or the attitudes and behaviour of India itself that deepened early suspicions and concerns. Similarly, whether people became more communal as a result of anti-Indian feelings or more anti-Indian because of their communal predispositions cannot be clarified. But both were palpable and contributed to the government's unpopularity, since it was considered to be too beholden to Indian interests. (Awami League's perceived over-closeness to India was mined and manipulated to cunning advantage by successive regimes and communal forces).

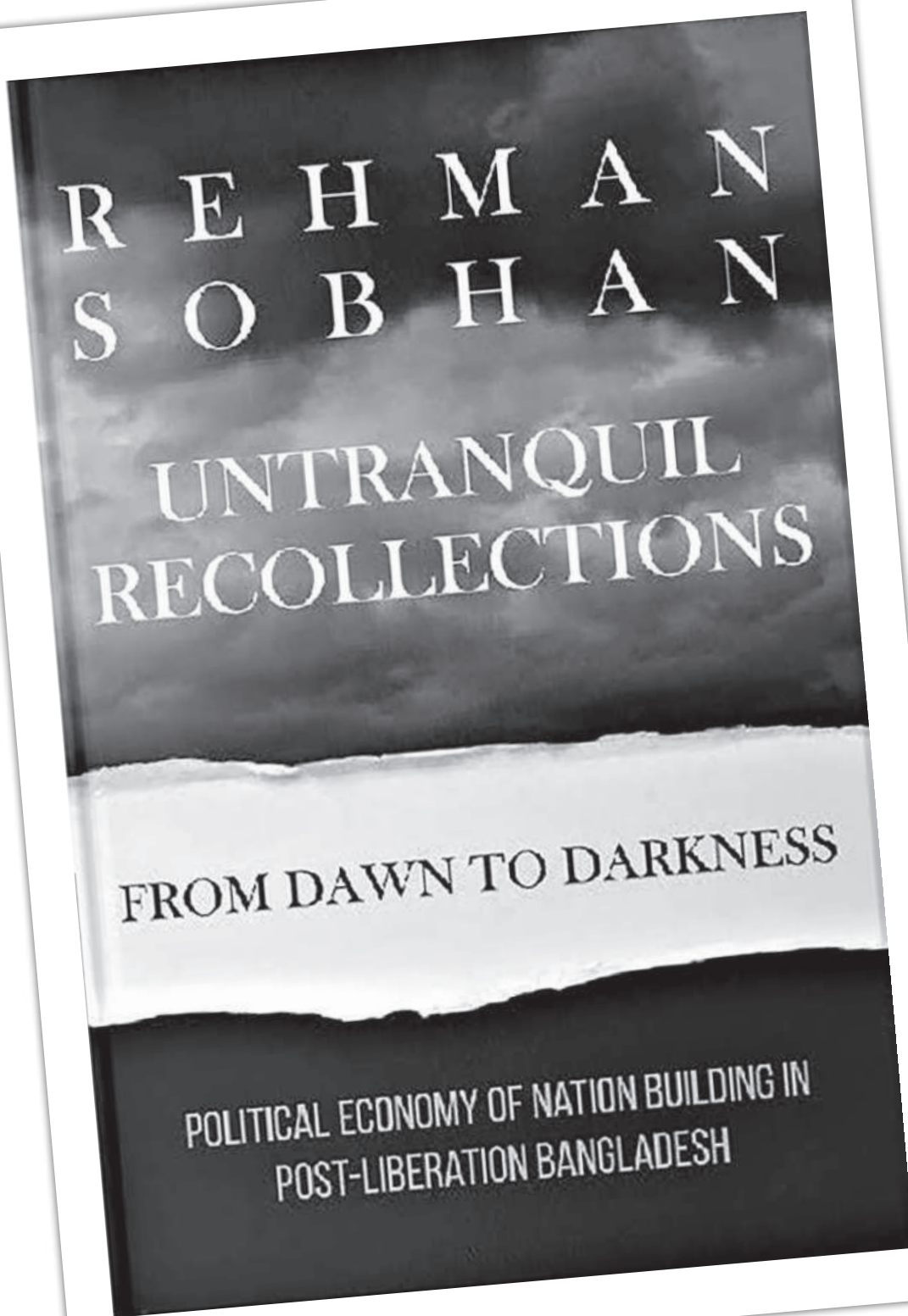
In the context of the corruptions, mismanagement, political tensions, bureaucratic infighting, law and order problems, the proliferation of "bahinis," external pressures (the oil crisis in 1973, the rise of international food prices that led to the famine the next year), and the "crisis of rising expectations" (when people had expected too much and received too little), Bangabandhu may have felt a bit overwhelmed, besieged, impatient, and alone with his back against the wall. BAKSAL may well have been his cry of desperation and a plea for help from the public—the one constituency he knew, loved and trusted.

In less than a year of BAKSAL, the father of the nation, the very symbol of our dreams and struggles, lay in a pool of blood following a dastardly and brutal attack on his entire family. The subtitle of the volume "From Dawn to Darkness" is, thus, both poignant and accurate.

This is a sad book. While it covers a lot of territory, presents characteristically clever insights and astute analysis, and is written in the inimitable style and dry wit of RS, it is ultimately a sincere and candid reckoning with the reality of some unsettling failures. Hopefully, this will inspire a fuller, richer and more objective discussion of how our soaring dreams turned into a grim nightmare so quickly.

What is remarkable is that, in this book, there are no axes to grind, excuses to offer, fingers to point, beans to spill, canards to skewer, patrons to placate, demons to slay, or agendas to advance. It opens a window into that intriguing and chaotic period which gradually assumed the dimensions and character of a Dickensian tragedy ("it was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair").

This book should not only be read—it must be studied.



instincts learned and honed over the years, but by the qualities of scholarly integrity, personal humility and natural graciousness that are inherent in him, and reflected in the book.

The volume begins with that "exhilarating" and "epic moment" of his return to Dhaka on December 31, 1971. Little did he know that in less than four years, he would leave the same city and seek refuge in Oxford, UK. This is a brave and honest effort to come to terms with that tumultuous period in our history.

This is our story as well—the generation of students at DU in the late 60s, who participated in the political and military struggle for freedom, and shared the same passion to build the socialist and democratic *Sonar Bangla* invoked by Bangabandhu and fervently embraced by us. But we failed. What happened? That question haunted us and, often, mocked us.

In the giddiness of victory and the idealism of youth, we had never actually understood the enormity of the task before us. We had assumed that the

was both painful and hilarious. RS recounts the story of his trip to Chhatak Cement Factory, when he saw that large inventories of cement had been stockpiled because of patron-based distribution bottlenecks, while just on the other side of the river, work on the Sylhet Pulp Mill, being constructed on German credit, was at a standstill because they did not have enough cement to complete their project (Pages 195-196). His efforts at "intervention" resulted in complaints about "overstepping jurisdiction."

Similarly, he was incensed when he realised that the housing project that had been planned in Mirpur had not progressed at all, and the allocations in the Annual Development Plans (ADPs) had been used just to pay for the hugely inflated price of the land controlled by influential people (Pages 175-178).

There were many such examples. They proved, as Burns had noted, that "the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry"—particularly when the left hand of planning does not know what the right hand of implementation was doing.

The members of the Planning Commission also faced difficulties

In the giddiness of victory and the idealism of youth, we had never actually understood the enormity of the task before us. What we did not realise—as this book explores—were the political, psychological, administrative and other slippery slopes that had doomed the socialist "moment."



Built in 1777, the Writers' Building was meant to accommodate junior servants, or 'writers' as they were called, of the East India Company.

Administrative Civil Service in Bangladesh: Its legacy and role

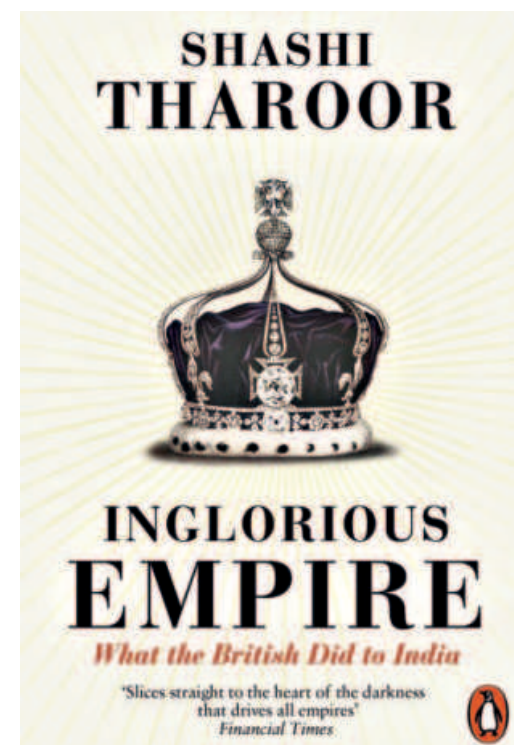
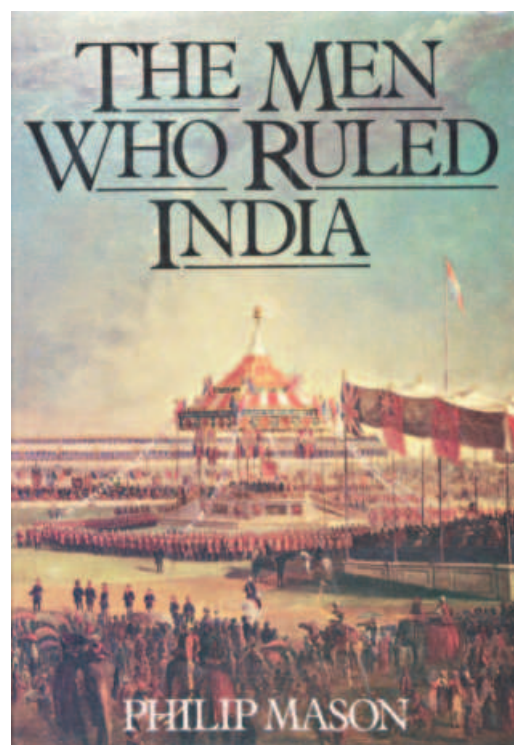
The District officers, through their fortnightly confidential reports, which were frank, analytical and forthright, occasionally containing bold and innovating suggestions, kept the authorities informed. The officers were encouraged to act without fear or favour.

ENAM AHMED CHAUDHARY

In his seminal publication -- The Men who ruled India (1985) -- Philip Mason, in the last paragraph of the epilogue wrote: "When all has been said, one simple point remains. It was put clearly by Lord Wavell (Governor General and Viceroy of India before Lord Mountbatten) in an informal speech made after he left India. The English would be remembered, he believed, not by this institution or that, but by the ideal they left behind of what a district officer should be. At the other end of the long link Warren Hastings (the first Governor General of British India) had expressed a similar thought. It is on the virtue; he had said, 'not the ability of their servants that the Company must rely.' And if today, the Indian peasant looks to the new district officer of his own race with the expectation of receiving justice and sympathy that is the memorial to the English. Here the District officer -- DC -- represents administration in general."

Mason wrote this in 1985, about four decades after India's experience as a working liberal democracy: For our understanding, the word 'Indian' in the paragraph may be replaced by 'Bangladeshi'.

The British inherited the Dewani and Fauzdari system of administration of the Mughals, and over the years, kept on modifying and adjusting the same to respond to their needs. We may recall that in 1765, the weakened Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II issued a farman that replaced the Mughal Revenue officials in the province of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa with the East India Company's. However, the British (East India company) found that the Mughal system worked very well. In 1700, as Shashi Tharoor (eminent Indian politician and author) in his book (2016) 'Inglorious Empire' pointed out, India, under Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, accounted for 27% of the World economy. In the initial period, the modified versions of the posts of Nizam, Kotwal, Munsiff, Sadar Amin, Quazi, Hakim and expressions like (most of which still persist) Zilla, Vakil, Quanoon, Mukhtar, Sherestadar, Kist, Nazarath, Peshkar, Nazim, Nayeb, Tehsil, Khajanchi, Mohafezkhana, Hefazat, Jameen, Shumari etc. continued to remain. The Mughals emphasized on the secular nature of bureaucracy. Revenue collection agents called Chowdhury (they were land owners, but authorized to retain 'chauth' 1/4th of the collection), Majumder, Kanungo, Tarafdar, Mirashdar etc. could belong to any community. But the British did otherwise. The Hindu entrants to governmental jobs had the Prefix Babu, and Musalman had 'Maulavi'. However, ICS and listed post holders of PCS were excluded from this divisive practice as they were expected to be anglicized. Even in cases of honour-awards, Muslim recipients were called Khan Bahadur, Khan Saheb, and the Hindus were called Roy Bahadur, Roy Saheb. As Shashi Tharoor wrote: 'The sight of Hindu and Muslim soldiers rebelling together in 1857 and fighting side by side ... willing to pledge joint allegiance to the enfeebled Mughal Monarch (Bahadur Shah Zafar) had alarmed the British, who did not take long to conclude that dividing the



two groups and putting them against one another was the most effective way to ensure the unchallenged continuance of the Empire and hence this 'divide et impera'.

It was only in 1835 that English was made the official and court language of India replacing Persian. The British Civil and Military officials were however taught Urdu/Hindustani as an unofficial lingua-franca, but in Roman script. In 1858, Queen Victoria, by a proclamation took over, in the name of the Crown, the governance of India from the East India Company and the Civil Service Jobs were made open to the Indians.

Apparently, the British took rather a long time in effecting significant reforms as they realized that the Mughal System of conducting administrative affairs through a Corps of trained officials in revenue and judicial matters working under an appointed Subedar (Governor) worked very well in the sub-continent. The British had earlier in 1767 established their capital in Calcutta. They organized the central administration in Writers' Building, which was actually the Secretariat.

The chief district officer was designated as District Magistrate, Collector, or Deputy Commissioner, a designation that varies from province to province. Since revenue collection was their primary responsibility in the early days, their office was generally known as collectorate. Subsequently all governmental activities in the district came under his direct or indirect supervision or monitoring including, of course, magistracy and maintenance of law and order, development programmes, relief and land management, coordination and information dissemination. In lesser degree, the same sort of activities were conducted by the Sub Divisional officers (SDO). The secretariat at the policy-making level was manned by a structured hierarchy with positions like Secretary, assisted by Additional, Joint, Deputy, Assistant and so forth. The system continued, even after India and Pakistan (including East Pakistan which emerged as independent Bangladesh) became Republics with some modifications and adjustments. In Bangladesh, DC is called Zilla Proshashok, in Pakistan, sometimes DC or Nazim and in India, called Zilla Shashok or Upayukta (coordinator) in some states, Zila Dandadhikari.

In Bangladesh, all the subdivisions have become districts and almost all the thanas were made Upazilas / Subdistricts with the chief administrative officer designated as Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) or Sub-district Executive officer. In all fairness, the post should be, I feel re-designated as SDO or sub district

officer correctly reflecting the type of duties the incumbent has to perform.

Though Bangladesh was the product of a popular revolution, immediately after the proclamation of independent government on 10th April 1971, Laws Continuance Enforcement Order 1971 was promulgated which laid down that "all government officials, civil, military, judicial and diplomatic, who take oath of allegiance to Bangladesh shall continue in their offices on terms and conditions of service so long enjoyed by them..."

I have had the privilege of being DC of Jashore, the first settled district in British India, where my father, Ghyasuddin Ahmed Chaudhury, a civil servant, also served as DC. I looked through old papers and correspondence, copies of which were retained in the confidential office and record room. It was interesting to note that the District officers, through their fortnightly confidential reports, which were frank, analytical and forthright, occasionally containing bold and innovating suggestions, kept the authorities informed. The officers were encouraged to act without fear or favour, and they received protection in cases of genuine difficulty or when under pressure. An *esprit de corps* prevailed. Unfortunately, this seems to be missing now.

When the British left India, the number of Bengalee Muslim officials in administration or elsewhere was negligible. There was only one serving ICS officer and a few senior officers in the 'listed post'. The situation was tackled with great dexterity. Professor Khalid Bin Sayeed in his book -- 'Pakistan, the formative phase' -- gave a list of Muslims in the Civil and Military Service in the Government of India, 1946-47.

Dr. Akbar Ali Khan in his 'Gresham's Law Syndrome and beyond' states that from 1949 to 1970, 458 appointments were made to the CSP out of which 185, some say a little more, were Bangalees.

The Quota system helped a great deal. All (about) 600 appointees to the PCS in this period were Bangalees. Kabeelul Islam in his book in Bengali 'Role of CSP-CPCS officers in the Liberation war' and Dr Akbar Ali Khan, in his book, inter alia describe how the Bengalee Civil servants in Administration (also in other branches) took momentous decisions at the most critical phase of our nation, and almost as a duty, identified themselves with freedom fighters.

I recall that in the second week of March 1971, The CSP Association (East Pakistan) under the chairmanship of SM Hasan, (ICS-CSP from Punjab) unanimously decided that in this critical juncture of the country's

history, the member of the Association should express their due support and their willingness to extend assistance, from their respective positions to the constitutional process of formation of governmental authority by the support of the majority in the elected Parliament... Bangabandhu greatly appreciated this gesture, and held this in fond remembrance.

In independent Bangladesh, a unified Civil Service System was introduced where all cadre services, were theoretically equal. Existing cadres were merged and abolished and new cadres created in the process. Under the Bangladesh Civil Service Order 1980, and subsequent modifications, the BCS (Adm) Cadre comprises former CSP, EPCS, BCS (Sectt) and IMS.

In the proper functioning of a Parliamentary democracy, the efficiency and effectiveness of officers of this cadre is of utmost significance. Since public dealings are involved, they will be expected to have the capacity of attaining people's confidence. They are servants of the Republic, and should have public service topmost in their consideration, They are supposed to play a supportive role for the elected people's representatives and political



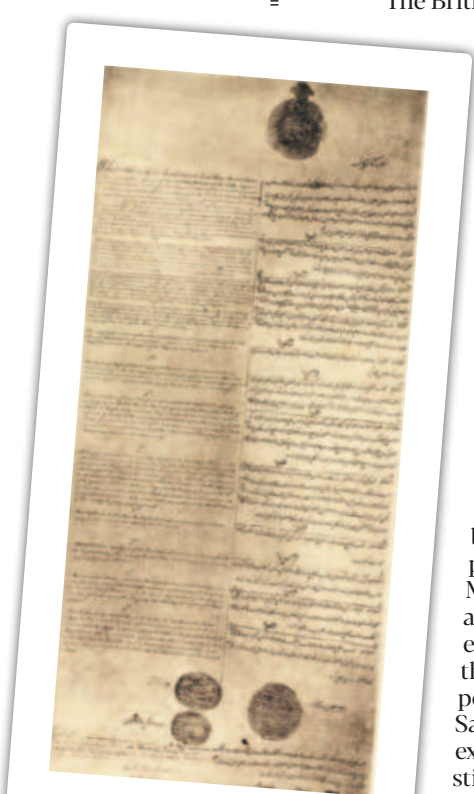
Commemoration of the Indian Civil Services at Westminster Abbey, London.

leaders in the government in due discharge of their constitutional obligations and responsibilities. And yet, the Cadre members will be expected to maintain their image of objectivity, neutrality and incorruptibility. As Dr. Akbar Ali Khan observes: 'a generalist administrator is a specialist in administration, and is not an amateur.'

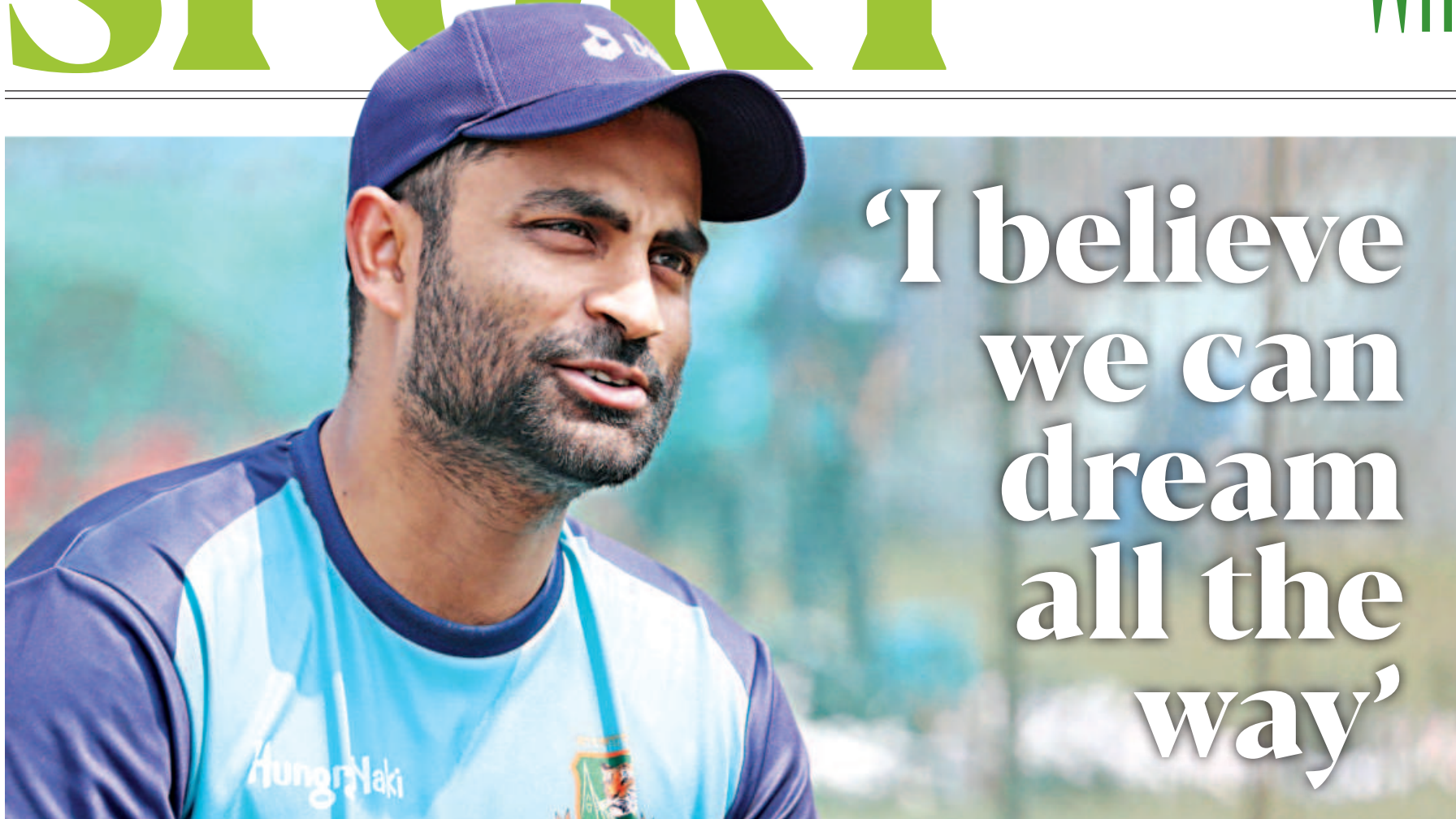
The art of administration is indeed complex and requires expertise of its own. Its horizon would be ever-expanding, but the secretaries and the field administrators like Commissioner, DCs and their associates will continue to remain kingpins in the governmental machinery, particularly in a parliamentary democracy, as practiced in our country. For the sake of good governance, it is essential to ensure that these officers are adequately trained, equipped and enabled, are free of corruption, and remain responsible to the constitutional authority.

The challenge is enormous.

Enam Ahmed Chaudhury is a former Chairman of the Privatisation Commission.



The Treaty of Allahabad was signed on 16 August 1765, between the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II, son of the late Emperor Alamgir II, and Robert Clive, of the East India Company, in the aftermath of the Battle of Buxar of 23 October 1764. The treaty was handwritten by I'tisam-ud-Din, a Bengali Muslim scribe and diplomat to the Mughal Empire. The Treaty marked the political and constitutional involvement of East India Company and the beginning of British rule in India.



'I believe we can dream all the way'

"I have only one dream right now," Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal expressed his ambitions and reflected on the Tigers' achievements and failures in the recently-concluded tour of South Africa during an exclusive interview with The Daily Star's Bishwajit Roy. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): Your return to Test cricket after almost a year. Please share the experience with us.

Tamim Iqbal (TI): It feels really good. Test cricket is something that I've always valued very highly. I've always said, whether you score a century or fifty, the attention you get as a batter in this format is second to none. I'm satisfied about resuming Tests again but not satisfied with the way we performed. We could've done much better considering the team we had.

DS: Any noticeable change in the team after such a gap?

TI: One year may sound like a long time but I've probably missed five to six Tests during this period. Speaking of change, I think it's the willingness to win and keep fighting. Of course, it was there in the past as well but after defeating New Zealand at their own backyard earlier this year, the eagerness to win is more than ever.

DS: Why couldn't the team live up to expectations in Tests despite having the momentum in favour after the ODI series?

TI: We are a very settled team in ODIs since we've been doing well for a long time. I've said in the past and I'll say it again that - in Tests, we were still not up to the mark even after the victory in New Zealand, after which the high expectations became problematic. But the reality is, we are still the same team that we were before the New Zealand series. See, the second Test [against South Africa] wasn't our best, but if you look at the first Test, we did compete for four days; the first time we did so against South Africa on their home soil. We can

continue to talk about the negatives, however, if we keep performing like this, you can expect results in a couple of years.

DS: What was the primary reason behind the aggressive approach in the second Test?

TI: There's always a team plan and each individual has a plan of their own as well. I'll not give any excuse as we definitely have committed some blunders by choosing the wrong options. When we talk about defending and attacking, one thing we have to consider is the wicket we were playing on. There, the ball was turning a lot, and when you always have five or six fielders around the batter and you keep on defending, one ball will inevitably bounce and end up in their hands. I won't say we had an overtly attacking approach, but we could have reached a balance. No matter what I'll say, the ultimate thing is - we didn't bat well.

DS: Why were we struggling against South African spinners?

TI: I think the way the ball was turning on the wicket in the second Test, batting was extremely difficult. Plus, the fact that we had to bat under lights. We need to identify our errors and prepare ourselves to successfully overcome such situations in future.

DS: Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam's absence. How big was the impact?

TI: After a long wait, we now have a good fast bowling unit for Test cricket where we can play at least three seamers in a match. There were times when we used to play with one pacer, and never really

used more than a couple of seamers in overseas conditions. A lot of credit goes to the captain Mominul Haque because this unit has been developing during his tenure. Taskin and Shoriful are one of our main bowlers and their absence was a setback, no doubt, but I'll not say that it was one of the reasons behind our loss since we didn't play well in all the departments.

DS: Is it too early to start envisioning a five-bowler plan?

TI: A captain has a lot of options with five bowlers. Now we have [Mehedi Hasan] Miraz, who has started to bat well in the ODIs and now if he regularly performs in the Tests, the team management and the captain would have the option to make him an extra batter and go for another bowler.

DS: What's your take on the reports of senior cricketers' influence on Mominul's decision-making?

TI: Not only is it untrue but I think such a claim is really hilarious! When I'm the captain, I take suggestions from many. Similarly, whenever Mominul comes to me for a suggestion, I talk to him according to the team's best interests. The coach and the captain have the power to make the final decision. I've a very good working relationship with Mominul since we've been playing international cricket for quite a long time together. Anyway, who is writing what doesn't bother me but I think Mominul could answer this question better than I would.

DS: How would the ODI success impact Bangladesh cricket?

TI: To me, it's one of the biggest achievements in Bangladesh cricket.

This series victory will give us the belief that we can win series away from home. However, it's sad that everyone is forgetting about it after our poor showing in Tests.

DS: Can we realistically dream big for the 2023 ODI World Cup?

TI: The way we've been playing this format, I don't see a reason to not dream about it. As a captain, I believe we can dream all the way. I think there are still one or two spots that need fixing. If we can check-mark these spots, I'll be very pleased as a captain.

DS: Your plan regarding T20 cricket?

TI: Everyone, more or less, knows about my stand regarding T20 cricket. I've always been transparent about all my decisions and the board is very clear about my stand as well since I always inform them [BCB] in advance and not at the last moment.

DS: The board often complains about senior players not informing about their absence earlier.

TI: All I have to say is that if a player has plans, it's best for everyone if they inform as early as possible. But there are exceptions when it comes to emergencies, like for instance in Shakib's [Al Hasan] issue during the South Africa series. I'm sure nobody, including Shakib himself, could've predicted that his family members would fall sick.

DS: What is Tamim Iqbal's next dream as a player?

TI: I have no individual desire. The only dream I have right now is to win a trophy for the country.

Workload management on BCB's agenda

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) ongoing negotiations with other international cricket boards regarding the new FTP cycle meant a jam-packed schedule will be in the offing and cricketers' workload management was in the board's agenda.

Bangladesh will want to play the T20 World Cup this year and the 2023 ODI World Cup with their best players available. The discussions yesterday in the cricket board revolved around the workload management of the players, especially pacers.

"Taskin [Ahmed] and Shoriful [Islam] are injured and most of the pacers are injury-prone. We are planning to manage their injuries. The CEO, selectors, team director Khaled Mahmud

Bangladesh will likely have 40-plus Tests, 70-plus ODIs and 76-plus T20Is in the new FTP cycle. A first tour of Australia since 2008 is also being discussed, with Bangladesh eyeing a two-Test series down under in 2027.

and chief physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury were here and we discussed the pace bowlers' injury maintenance," BCB's cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus told the media yesterday.

Both Taskin and Shoriful are doubtful for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka, slated to begin on May 15, with the board set to announce the squad today. Taskin is undergoing conservative treatment for the supraspinatus tendon injury following his shoulder injury in South Africa. "If it takes too long to heal, in that case, we are talking to specialists and if required, he will go abroad for treatment," Jalal informed.

Although Shoriful has recovered from his ankle injury, he will need surgery on a non-sports related issue. Recuperation time is expected to be small, Dr Debashish informed yesterday.

'Not giving up despite lack of evidence'

SPORTS REPORTER

"There is a lack of evidence (of match-fixing), but we are not giving up on the matter. Instead, we are doing cross-interrogative interviews as we are moving forward with a noble cause," Bangladesh Football Federation's fixed match identification committee chairman Humayun Khalid said yesterday.

The game's local governing body, on Saturday, started investigating the allegations of match-fixing, spot-fixing and betting in Bangladesh Championship League (BCL) with six persons, including players, coaching staff and club officials, appearing before the FMIC at BFF headquarters.

Former national footballer Saifur Rahman Moni had earlier brought allegations against BCL outfit Azampur FC over what he thought was match-fixing. Some media outlets then broke the news that some BCL clubs were involved with match-fixing and spot-fixing.

"The hearing will continue. They are providing information in favour of match-fixing as well as against match-fixing. Both parties tried to convince us they are right but none of them could provide any evidence," Khalid, a former director general of Bangladesh Rural Development Board, told The Daily Star.

Jibon aware of what is at stake

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's Nabib Newaj Jibon is already feeling the heat in Kolkata as the Indian journalists keep calling the striker to enquire about him and his side ahead of the high-stake encounter.

Six-time professional football league champions Abahani reached Kolkata on Saturday morning to play the AFC Cup play-off against hosts ATK Mohun Bagan on Tuesday at the Salt Lake Stadium after getting a walkover from Maldives' Club Valencia in Sylhet.

"I'm hoping for a lot of spectators to turn up to watch our match because three to four employees of our hotel have already requested me to manage tickets for them," Jibon told The Daily Star over phone from Kolkata just before heading for training yesterday afternoon.

"Indian journalists are calling me to know about Abahani and what will happen when Mohun Bagan captain Pritam Kotal and I take to the ground," said Jibon.

"Pritam helped me during my knee surgery and he is my friend and well-wisher but he will definitely be my opponent when he plays against Abahani," was his reply to the Indian journalists.

Pritam was there for the Bangladesh national

player when he went through a knee surgery in Kolkata last year. And while Pritam had to be busy with his club commitment, Pritam's fiance Sonela Paul, a sports reporter, also took care of Jibon during his short stay in Kolkata and later had accompanied him on the way back to West-Bengal border-district Petrapole before entering Bangladesh through Benapole.

Jibon did not forget Pritam and Sonela's help. As they reunited this time, Jibon presented a Bangladesh jersey to Sonela, whose grandparent once lived in Bangladesh.

The 31-year-old forward, nonetheless, is very focused ahead of Tuesday's fixture with the sole objective of returning home with a victory.

"Everyone is fit and well at the moment as we eagerly wait to play and win the match against Mohun Bagan, a strong side of course," said Jibon.

After reaching Kolkata on Saturday morning, the charges of Portuguese coach Mario Lemos could only undergo a gym and a swimming session before engaging in the first practice session at the Salt Lake training ground.

Manager Satyajit Das Rupu informed that Abahani will have their one-hour training session today at the main venue at 7:00pm, which is also the kick-off time of Tuesday's tie between two cross-border rivals.



Abahani's Portuguese coach Mario Lemos instructs his charges during a training session at the Salt Lake training ground in Kolkata yesterday ahead of tomorrow's crucial AFC Cup play-off match against ATK Mohun Bagan.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Dhaka slams US human rights report

BSS, Dhaka
The government yesterday said the US human rights (HR) country report "heavily underplayed" Bangladesh's existing system of accountability over law enforcement agencies while Dhaka remains "intensely engaged" with the UN mechanism and US recommendations to protect human rights.

"The report appears to encourage creating a society of lawlessness to destabilise the society and the government," a statement of foreign ministry said. It added that the legal system of Bangladesh does not allow killing by arbitrary use of firearms. The statement pointed that the death sentences to the 16 Rab officials in the Narayanjan seven-murder case and recent death sentences to two police officials in the Major Sinha murder case in Cox's Bazar are examples of accountability and non-impunity to law enforcers.

"The magistrate requires members of the law enforcement agencies to account for every single use of firearms, without lawful explanation of which faces legal action," it added.

Besides, it said no act of arrest by the law enforcement agencies goes unaccountable by passing the magistrate of the court.

"In each case, the magistrate decides whether an arrest is lawful or not. Therefore, the law enforcers don't enjoy the immunity of commissioning 'Arbitrary Arrest'," said the statement.

Saying that the sources of the report are questionable, the statement said there are also few factual errors in the report.

As an example, the
SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Bundles of Boro paddy being loaded onto a truck in Ashulia of Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday. The harvest of Boro has started in full swing in parts of the country.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Flash floods stalk Sunamganj farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Weeks after the first blow of early flash flood, another flood started inundating crops in a haor in Sunamganj yesterday. This flood is triggered by torrential rains in the country's north-eastern districts and in India's Meghalaya. All rivers and canals in the haor area are flowing close to the danger level.

The Gurmar Haor in Tahirpur upazila is being inundated. Water is flowing over some old levees there, posing risks to Boro paddy on around 2,000 hectares, said farmers.

If water from this haor goes into Tanguar Haor, breaching the levees between the two waterbodies, paddy in Tanguar Haor will also be damaged, they added.

Karuna Sindhu Chowdhury, Tahirpur upazila chairman, said, "Since the first blow, we have been struggling to protect all dykes and save our crops. Water entered

flowing over an old dyke, which does not normally happen."

"We, all concerned, are now struggling to protect the dykes."

Mujibur Rahman, a farmer of Joypur village, said, "Along with the officials, we farmers are passing nights on the levees so that we can stop them from breaching."

According to the Department of

"Along with the officials, we farmers are passing nights on the levees so that we can stop them from breaching."

Agricultural Extension in Sunamganj, over 30,000 hectares of Boro paddy have been harvested till Saturday. Around 2.22 lakh hectares have come under Boro cultivation this year, it said.

On March 30 night, this year's first flash flood hit the haor areas of Sunamganj, Sylhet, Netrakona and Kishoreganj.

About 7,083 hectares of paddy have gone under water in the region, causing a loss of around Tk 125 crore.

The Boro harvest is going on in full swing at the upper parts of the haors since April 14. It would take another few weeks for the paddy to ripen enough in many low-lying haor areas.

In the last week, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) issued a flash-flood alert between April 14 and yesterday.

According to the BWDB, water level of Jadukata rose 71cm, Surma 40cm and Patlai 43cm in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

This year, the government constructed 520km of levees in Sunamganj spending Tk 120 crore.

Three levees broke in the first round of flash floods and resulted in the inundation of 4,900 hectares in the district.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

DEATH IN CUSTODY 'Tortured on the spot' Says eyewitness to police action on Rabiul

S DILIP ROY



Rabiul fell to the ground and lost consciousness after a policeman kicked him in the crotch around 10:00pm on Thursday night, said a man who claimed to be among those standing close to the scene.

The policemen then took him in a pickup truck and left, the man said, seeking anonymity.

According to documents at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital, doctors pronounced Rabiul dead after he was taken to the hospital around 11:45pm.

Rabiul Islam, 26, was a resident of Kazir Chawra village in Lalmonirhat Sadar. He got into an argument with officers when the police team detained him on suspicion of being a gambler at a Baishakhi Mela, a traditional event celebrating the first day of the Bangla new year.

About five policemen then beat him up until he fell to the ground and lost consciousness, said locals and witnesses.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Shahed indicted in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Mohammad Shahed, chairman of Regent Group, in a case filed against him on the charge of acquiring illegal wealth of Tk 1.69 crore.

Shahed, who is now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam of the Special Judge's Court-10 of Dhaka read out the charges to him.

The judge fixed May 20 for starting the trial of the case, court officials told The Daily Star.

On March 1 last year, Farid Ahmed Patwary, the deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission, filed the case with its Dhaka Integrated Office-1.

The ACC pressed charges against Shahed on February 2 this year after an investigation.

On July 15, 2020, Shahed, a prime accused in the Covid-19 certificate scam, was arrested from the border area of Debhata upazila in Satkhira while trying to flee the country.

On September 28, 2020, Shahed was sentenced to life in jail in an arms case.

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Pedestrians have difficulties using this footbridge in front of Balaka Cinema Hall in New Market area as hawkers occupy most part of the footbridge. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Tensions persist in Jerusalem

More than 20 hurt as Israeli forces, Palestinians clash again

AFP, Jerusalem

More than 20 Israelis and Palestinians were wounded yesterday in several incidents in and around Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, two days after major violence at the site.

The latest clashes take the number of wounded since Friday to more than 170, at a tense time

when the Jewish Passover festival coincides with Ramadan. They also follow deadly violence in Israel and the occupied West Bank in late March and early this month that has killed 36 people.

Early yesterday morning, "hundreds" of Palestinian demonstrators inside the mosque compound started gathering piles of stones, shortly before the arrival

of Jewish visitors, police said.

Jews are allowed to visit but not to pray at the site, also known as Temple Mount, the holiest place in Judaism and third-holiest in Islam.

The police said its forces had entered the compound in order to "remove" the demonstrators and "re-establish order".

The Palestinian Red Crescent

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ঈদ-উল-ফিতর ২০২২ উপলক্ষে আন্তঃনগর ট্রেনের অগ্রিম টিকেট বিক্রয় সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসন্ন পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-ফিতর ২০২২ উপলক্ষে সম্মানিত যাত্রী সাধারণের জন্য বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের আন্তঃনগর ট্রেনের অগ্রিম টিকেট বিশেষ ব্যবস্থাপনায় বিক্রয় করা হবে। অগ্রিম টিকেট বিক্রয় সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি নিম্নরূপঃ

ঈদ যাত্রার অগ্রিম টিকেট বিক্রয়ের সময়সূচীঃ

বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	যাত্রার তারিখ
২৩ এপ্রিল, ২০২২	২৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২২
২৪ এপ্রিল, ২০২২	২৮ এপ্রিল, ২০২২
২৫ এপ্রিল, ২০২২	২৯ এপ্রিল, ২০২২
২৬ এপ্রিল, ২০২২	৩০ এপ্রিল, ২০২২
২৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২২	০১ মে, ২০২২

ঢাকা শহরের নিম্নোক্ত ০৫টি কেন্দ্র হতে টিকেট বিক্রয় করা হবেঃ

স্টেশন	ট্রেন রুট
ঢাকা (কমলাপুর)	সমগ্র পশ্চিমাঞ্চলগামী আন্তঃনগর ও খুলনগামী স্পেশাল ট্রেন
ঢাকা বিমানবন্দর	চট্টগ্রাম ও নোয়াখালীগামী সকল আন্তঃনগর ট্রেন
তেজগাঁও	ময়মনসিংহ, জামালপুরগামী ও দেওয়ানগঞ্জ স্পেশালসহ সকল আন্তঃনগর ট্রেন
ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট	মোহনগঞ্জগামী আন্তঃনগর মোহনগঞ্জ ও হাওড় এসপ্রেস ট্রেন
ফুলবাড়িয়া (পুরাতন রেলওয়ে স্টেশন)	সিলেট ও কিশোরগঞ্জগামী সকল আন্তঃনগর ট্রেন

- “টিকেট যার ভ্রমণ তার” শ্লোগান বাস্তবায়নে টিকেট ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে সম্মানিত যাত্রীদের এনআইডি/জন্ম সনদ/ফটো আইডি'র ফটোকপি কাউন্টারে প্রদানপূর্বক টিকেট ক্রয় করতে হবে।
- www.eticket.railway.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে ৫০% টিকেট বিক্রি হবে। বাকি ৫০% কাউন্টারে বিক্রয় করা হবে।
- প্রতিটি টিকেট বিক্রয় কেন্দ্রে একটি করে মহিলা ও প্রতিবন্ধীদের জন্য কাউন্টার থাকবে এবং আন্তঃনগর ট্রেনে মহিলা ও প্রতিবন্ধী যাত্রীদের জন্য একটি কোচ সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।
- ০২ মে, ০৩ মে এবং ০৪ মে, ২০২২ তারিখের ঈদ অগ্রিম টিকেট বিক্রয় চাঁদ দেখার উপর নির্ধারণ করা হবে। ০১ মে, ২০২২খ্রিঃ সন্ধ্যার পর গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্তের ভিত্তিতে টিকেট বিক্রয় করা হবে।
- কাউন্টার ও অনলাইনে একযোগে সকাল ৮.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ঈদ অগ্রিম টিকেট বিক্রয় করা হবে।
- তেজগাঁও স্টেশন, ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট স্টেশন এবং ফুলবাড়িয়া (পুরাতন রেলওয়ে স্টেশন) হতে টিকেট ক্রয়কারী সম্মানিত যাত্রীগণকে যাত্রার তারিখে ঢাকা (কমলাপুর) অথবা ঢাকা বিমানবন্দর স্টেশন হতে নির্ধারিত ট্রেন আরোহন করতে হবে।
- ঈদের অগ্রিম বিক্রিত টিকেট ফেরত নেয়া হবে না।
- স্পেশাল ট্রেনের টিকেট কেবলমাত্র কাউন্টার হতে বিক্রয় করা হবে।
- একজন ব্যক্তি/যাত্রী একসাথে সর্বোচ্চ ৪ (চার)টি টিকেট ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে
আপনার আস্থা আমাদের অনুপ্রেরণা