



**B1** Inflation reaches 78-month high



**P3** A day of gridlock and sufferings



**P7** IMF to consider rapid aid for Sri Lanka



**P11** Shakib returning to Dhaka Premier League



Mirpur Road in front of the city's New Market turned into a battlefield yesterday as traders and their staffers fought with Dhaka College students over an altercation at an eatery the previous night. Because of the clashes, traffic was at a standstill all along the thoroughfare and it had a cascading effect on other streets, causing immense sufferings to commuters. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## An overnight brawl, daylong battles

1 dead, 50 hurt as Dhaka College students, shopkeepers clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shopkeepers in the capital's New Market area and Dhaka College students fought pitched battles all day yesterday over a brawl that started on Monday night centring an argument at a fast food shop.

After suffering injuries during the clashes around noon yesterday, 18-year-old courier service employee Nahid Hasan died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 9:35pm, said Dr Tawfiq Elahi, an emergency unit doctor at DMCH.

Nadim Hasan, father of the deceased, said his son was injured in the morning while going to work in the Bata Signal area from their home in Kamrangirchar.

More than 50 people were injured, including journalists and students, while five shops of Nurjahan Supermarket were gutted during the clash.

The Daily Star's photojournalist Prabir Das was among those beaten up by agitators.

The clashes brought the city's traffic to a standstill for hours, causing untold hardship for commuters.

It also led to closure of shops on both sides of Mirpur Road stretching from New Market to the Science Laboratory intersection amid the busy shopping period ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Locals alleged that lack of prompt action by police allowed the violence to continue for hours.

As the two sides clashed, Dhaka College authorities in the afternoon announced closure of hostels until May 5, asking students to vacate the dormitories by today.

The clashes ended around half an hour before iftar, said Harun Or Rashid, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. However, the usually bustling area was quiet as tensions prevailed late into the night.

Clashes between Dhaka College students and traders of nearby shops, including New Market, are nothing new.

Locals said Monday's incident occurred when some students interfered in a dispute between staffers of a fast food shop and others near the second gate of New Market around 10:00pm.

At one stage, a rumour did the rounds in the campus that students were stabbed by the storekeepers. Students then arrived in groups and attacked the staffers, who also retaliated.

Police dispersed them around 2:00am by firing tear gas shells.

Witnesses said students barred traders from opening their shops early yesterday. The traders then banded together and engaged in chase and counter-chase with the students from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Both sides threw brick chaps at each other and also hurled crude bombs in full view of police. At one stage, a fire broke out at a ground-floor shop of Nurjahan Supermarket, witnesses said.

Md Shuvo, who took Nahid to hospital around noon, told reporters at the time that the 18-year-old was lying on the road after being critically injured during the chase and counter-chase.

Agitators also set fire to an ambulance that was carrying a patient from Anwar Khan Modern Hospital to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They injured the patient too, witnesses said.

Traders alleged that this incident was an outburst of their pent-up grievances over "rampant extortion" by a section of Dhaka College students.

Students however termed it as a protest against harassment by shop owners of the area.

There were clashes between Dhaka College students and traders in 2008, 2009 and 2015.

AS USUAL, PEOPLE BEAR THE BRUNT — PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

### MEDIA WORKERS BILL

It will harm media and journalists

Says Editors' Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council (Sampadak Parishad) has said the space for independent media will shrink further if the proposed "Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Act-2022" is passed by parliament.

"The newspaper industry is going through trying times, still reeling from the effects of the pandemic. Many daily newspapers at home and abroad have either started curtailing their print editions, or stopping their print circulation altogether," the council said in a press statement yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## 5 projects 52pc costlier now

Ecneec also okays deadline extensions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About eight years back, the government took up a project to excavate a canal to ease the sufferings of Chattogram city residents from waterlogging, a perennial problem.

Though the Tk 327 crore project was supposed to be completed by June 2017, the implementing authority, the Chattogram City Corporation, failed to do so and had got the deadline extended till June 2021, raising the project cost to Tk 1,256 crore.

But again, it failed to finish the job within the stipulated time and sought another extension of the deadline.

Yesterday, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) approved the deadline extension till June 2024 for the project, "Excavation of Canal from Bahaddarhat Bariipara to Karnaphuli River", for the second time, raising the cost four times the original one to Tk 1,363 crore.

Apart from it, four projects got deadline

ORIGINAL COST | REVISED COST

Tk 3,105cr | Tk 6,550cr

extensions at an Ecneec meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who joined it virtually.

Meeting documents show that with the extension of deadlines, the costs of the five projects shot up by 52 percent to Tk 6,550 crore from Tk 3,105 crore.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Planning Minister MA Mannan said, "The prime minister has voiced concern over the delay. She gave directives to look into the matter and ensure that all projects are completed in time."

"There is no institutional failure but there are individual failures regarding delays. We are conscious about it and trying to finish the projects in time."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### IMF cuts GDP growth forecasts to 6.4pc

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and AHSAN HABIB

The International Monetary Fund has revised down its economic growth projection for Bangladesh to 6.4 percent for the current fiscal year largely because of Russia-Ukraine war and supply chain disruptions.

Yesterday, the IMF published its Global Economic Outlook from Washington DC.

In October last year, the IMF projected that Bangladesh's GDP growth would be 6.5 percent. Later in January this year, it slightly increased the projection to 6.6 percent based on the country's better economic recovery

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## New Covid variant a cause for concern

Say experts, urge precautionary steps ahead of Eid rush

MOUDD AHMED SUJAN

The government should take precautionary measures to prevent a fresh surge in the number of coronavirus cases during the Eid vacation, suggested experts.

Mentioning other countries, including neighbouring India, they said the country was likely to witness a fresh surge within the next month.

Mushtuq Hussain, a consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said, "There will be a fresh spike in our country."

"There is a trend of seeing a spike in Covid-19 cases with a three-month interval in Bangladesh."

The severity will be as like as Omicron's previous variants, he added.

Recently, South African scientists have detected Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 in the last month.

Several recombinant viruses were also spotted and are currently circulating in different parts of the world, reports livemint.com.

Against this backdrop, health officials said that they have been observing the situation and will sit within a couple of days in this regard.

Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the health directorate, said, "People have already been rushing to the shopping malls and there will be a home rush during the Eid holidays. We will announce new measures in this regard shortly."

About the spike in India, Khurshid said, "We are thinking what and how to do in reality that so many

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Water rushing into Khaijjar Haor in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila through a breach in an embankment yesterday. Farmers are in a race against the clock to save paddy in the Haor region amid threats of fresh flash floods. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Eight journo attacked by shopkeepers and students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight newsmen, including a photojournalist of The Daily Star, were attacked and injured while performing their duties during the clash between New Market employees and students of Dhaka College in the capital's New Market area yesterday.

The injured are Prabir Das, photographer of The Daily Star; Asif Zaman, senior reporter at Deepto TV; Imran Lipu, cameraperson at Deepto TV; Al Amin Razu, reporter at Ajker Patrika; Taifur Rahman Tuhin, reporter at SA TV; Kabir Hossain, cameraperson at SA TV; Jasim Uddin Mahir, senior reporter of online news portal Dhaka Post; and Shahed Shafiq, senior reporter of Dhaka Tribune.

All the injured said both parties involved in the clash assaulted them

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

COVID COOPERATION

Dhaka, Delhi model of good neighbourhood diplomacy: PM



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the exchange of Covid-related medicines and medical equipment between Bangladesh and India during the pandemic is a role model of "good neighbourhood diplomacy".

"The whole world has seen how two neighbours support each other and work together during the time of crisis," she said in a video message to the inaugural ceremony of the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) at Jamnagar in the Indian state of Gujarat.

"I believe if traditional medicine is practiced in tandem with modern medicine, we may expect better outcome in ensuring basic healthcare for all, as envisioned in the SDG goal 3," she said.

The prime minister also said the Covid-19 pandemic showed the need to revisit focus on ensuring good health and wellbeing of the people.

She expressed confidence that the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine will emerge as a global hub for evidence-based research and standards for traditional medicine.

She appreciated the Centre's strategic focus on sustainability, equity and innovation.

"It is important that the ancient knowledge base of traditional medicine be combined with modern science and technologies to optimise its benefits," she said.

Hasina said traditional medicine has always been part of Bangladesh's cultural tradition. "Our government integrated traditional medicine into our National

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A group of traders and their staffers vandalise an ambulance on the road in front of New Market during clashes between traders and Dhaka College students yesterday. Armed with sticks and sharp weapons, both groups pelted each other with brick chunks, leaving at least one dead and 50 people, including eight journalists, injured. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Battle for Donbas intensifies

Kyiv defiant as Moscow urges Ukrainian forces to lay down arms

AFP, Kramatorsk

Moscow launched dozens of air strikes across eastern Ukraine overnight, its defence ministry said yesterday, with Russia's top diplomat acknowledging "another phase" of the conflict was beginning as fighting raged in the Donbas region.

Russia's defence ministry said that "high precision air-based missiles" had hit 13 Ukrainian positions in parts of the Donbas while other air strikes "hit 60 military assets", including in towns close to the eastern frontline.

Ukraine's armed forces also confirmed that fighting had increased throughout the east, just hours after President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia had kicked off the

widely anticipated offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov appeared to acknowledge the new offensive during an interview with a leading Indian media outlet.

"Another phase of this operation is beginning and I am sure it will be a very important moment in this entire special operation," Lavrov told India Today yesterday.

Ahead of the advance, Ukrainian authorities had urged people in Donbas to flee west to escape, even as officials called off evacuations for a third straight day from frontline cities due to ongoing fighting.

"No matter how many Russian soldiers are brought here, we will fight. We will

defend ourselves," Zelensky said on Telegram late Monday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he launched the so-called military operation on February 24 to save Russian speakers in Ukraine from a "genocide" carried out by a "neo-Nazi" regime.

But in the Donbas town of Novodruzhesk, Nadya, 65, said "we are bombed everywhere".

"It's a miracle that we're still alive," she said, her voice trembling.

Control of Donbas and the besieged port of Mariupol would allow Moscow to create a southern corridor to the Crimean peninsula that it annexed in 2014, and deprive Ukraine of much of its coastline and a major revenue resource.

## It will harm media and journalists

FROM PAGE 1

Revenue from advertisements has dropped significantly. Newspapers have shifted to digital platforms. Newspapers are going through a difficult period. And in this moment of crisis, the "Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill" was placed in parliament on March 28, the statement said.

Upon analysis of the proposed law, the Editors' Council observed that 37 out of its 54 provisions are not journalist friendly.

The council said it believes that the proposed law would bring the media industry and mass media employees under further control of the

bureaucracy in the name of protection.

The editors' platform said formation of a media tribunal would create legal complications for media workers. Besides, a tribunal like this would create obstacles in operating media outlets independently, it added.

If the proposed law is implemented, there is apprehension it can completely destroy editorial institution, said the statement signed by Mahfuz Anam and Dewan Hanif Mahmud, president and general secretary of the council respectively.

"The proposed law pits media outlet owners against

media employees and there is fear that this can create divisions among them," the statement said.

It said although the newspaper industry is privately owned, the proposed law would open the path for government intervention in the operations of media outlets.

"If the proposed law is passed, the space for independent media and freedom of expression will be curtailed further, thereby preventing media from flourishing."

The council mentioned that discussions with stakeholders must be held before the passage of a law like this one.

## 5 projects 52pc costlier now

FROM PAGE 1

"There are some ground realities behind the increase in costs. Price hike of construction materials in domestic and global market is one of the reasons behind the rise in project cost," he said.

He also blamed individual corruption for the delay and increase in project cost.

Quoting the PM, State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam said, "She [the PM] said I am approving the deadline extension on condition that there will be no further proposal for another revision."

According to meeting documents, the Local Government Department initiated the project to dig a 2.9 km long and 65-foot wide canal in the port city in 2014. But the CCC could not start work in time.

Asked, why the CCC failed to do so, CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury

said it was not possible to acquire land for the project with the allocated money as land prices had gone up.

At yesterday's meeting, the Ecnc also extended for the second time the deadline of the project titled "Border Roads (Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban Hilly Districts) Construction (1st Phase)" till June 2024, raising the cost to Tk 3,874.72 crore from Tk 1,699 crore.

Taken up in January 2018, the project was supposed to be completed by June 2021.

According to related documents, the project cost rose considerably due to land acquisition, and construction of Bailey bridges, safety barriers, helpads and dak bungalow.

The Ecnc also okayed extension of the project on construction of a broad-gauge railway track from Chilahati in Nilphamari

to Chilahati border with India to facilitate rail communications between the two countries.

Initiated in August 2018, the project was scheduled to be finished by January 2021 at a cost of Tk 80 crore.

But according to the new deadline, it will be completed by June 2023 with the cost rising to Tk 141 crore.

The other two projects that got deadline extensions are "Upgradation of District Highways to Appropriate Standards and Widths (Cumilla Zone)" and "Nabinagar-Shibpur Radhika Regional Highway Construction and Development."

With the revision, the cost of the district highways project went up to Tk 735.22 crore from Tk 657.31 crore while that of regional highway to Tk 439.52 crore from Tk 343.60 crore.

The Ecnc also approved six new projects.

## An overnight brawl, daylong battles

FROM PAGE 1

In the past, traders claimed that many such incidents originated from customers underpaying at food stalls and other shops, while students alleged that the shopkeepers often misbehaved with them and harassed them if they did not agree to buy products.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters yesterday that the incident had started over a trifling matter.

"Those who did this will surely face the law. Our law enforcement agencies have been monitoring and taking action with utmost patience. We heard that some people were injured in the clashes," he said yesterday afternoon.

Hours after the home minister remarked that the situation would come under control, police chased both parties and used tear gas shells. At about 2:45pm, they were found taking position to disperse the crowd.

**FIVE SHOPS GUTTED**  
Our correspondents found five shops completely gutted and six others partially damaged by fires.

After two years of losses due to Covid-induced restrictions and closures, traders were hoping to rebound through this year's sales.

"I've invested Tk 20 lakh and stacked clothes for Eid ... all were burnt down," said Mir Sentu, one of the victims of the fire.

"I was robbed," he said, bursting into tears.

DMP Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam said students threw bricks and

stones on the road from a 10-storey building. "We are trying to convince the workers [traders] to return to the market."

"Not just New Market, workers from all nearby markets joined the clash. The situation is not as simple as it seems. Police are trying to deal with the students delicately."

**BOTH AGGRIEVED**  
Protesting students said the traders misbehaved and charged high prices whenever the students visited the shops.

Helal Uddin, president of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association, said some students involved in politics have long been extorting traders in the area.

"About two months ago, they stabbed and wounded five traders. A vendor had supplied faulty air conditioners to Chistia Market and so the traders refused to pay. They [students] came to settle it on behalf of the vendor," he said.

"Traders were not able to operate businesses because of Covid in the last two years. Today's agitation is an outcome of their accumulated grievances," Helal said.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dipu Moni said if law enforcers had reached the spot earlier, the situation might not have turned so serious.

"It is very sad... We often see there are arguments between students of Dhaka College and other establishments nearby and it turns into a conflict."

"The college and hostels will reopen on May 5. We'll

solve the issue through discussions by then."

She also said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave directives to ensure treatment of all injured.

"I request everyone not to listen to any rumours. Don't get excited by any kind of provocation. Any kind of problem can be solved through discussion," she said.

## Ordeal

FROM PAGE 12

smooth movement of traffic," said Md Lutfor Rahman, officer-in-charge of Hatikumrul Highway Police Station.

Md Didarul Alam Tarafdar, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Sirajganj, said the highway expansion work would continue for around six more months.

"Of the four lanes, construction of one has already been completed up to the Nolka bridge point. We will open the newly constructed lane ahead of the Eid to ease people's sufferings," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

## Electric

FROM PAGE 12

various food flavours.

The taste-enhancing chopsticks may have particular relevance in Japan, where the traditional diet favours salty tastes. The average Japanese adult consumes about 10 grams of salt per day, double the amount recommended by the World Health Organisation.

## CASE AGAINST TARIQUE, WIFE

### HC today to hear rules issued 15yrs ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is today going to hear the rules questioning filing and initiation of a corruption case against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, his wife, and her mother.

The HC issued the rules 15 years ago and also stayed the trial proceedings.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo yesterday set the date in response to a prayer filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

On September 26, 2007, the ACC lodged the case with Kafilur Police Station against Tarique, now in London, his wife Zubaida Rahman, and her mother Iqbal Mand Banu for amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through illegal means and concealing information in their wealth statement.

## Hriday Mondal returns to the classroom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Hriday Chandra Mondal, science teacher of Binodpur Ramkumar High School in Munshiganj Sadar upazila, taught students yesterday.

He returned to the classroom nine days after being released on bail in a case filed for "hurting people's religious sentiments".

Talking to reporters, Hriday said he would hold classes regularly.

## Heatwave to continue in the north

UNB, Dhaka

Warmer days are ahead for the residents of Rajshahi and Pabna, as the weatherman has predicted the heatwave to continue in the northern districts for the next few days.

However, rain or thundershowers with intense lightning flashes, accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind, is likely to occur at a few places in Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours, said the Bangladesh Meteorological Department in its bulletin yesterday.

"The showers may also occur at one or two places in the regions of Dhaka and Tangail and the districts of Kishoreganj and Brahmanbaria."

The maximum temperature was recorded in Rajshahi at 37 degrees Celsius yesterday.

## US citizen held with 6.8kg gold at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials held a Bangladesh-born US citizen with 59 gold bars, weighing around 6.8kg, at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday morning.

Shahnaz Choudhury, 54, arrived at the airport from the US via Dubai, Sazzadul Islam, assistant revenue officer of Customs House, told The Daily Star.

The value of the gold is around Tk 5 crore, the official said, adding that they did not find any Bangladeshi passport with her.

## Eight journos attacked

FROM PAGE 1

whenever they tried to take photographs or video footages of the violence.

At least four of the injured journalists received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Asif Zaman said he and his cameraperson were attacked when they were covering the clash near Gausia Market.

"As we were about to go live, some traders and shop employees started beating our cameraperson with sticks and iron rods. When I tried to save him, they attacked me too."

Asif needed four stitches on his head.

Two groups of reporters were covering the clash - one near the Dhaka College end and another near the New Market end, said bdnews24.com Senior Correspondent Kamal Hossain.

At one point, the shopkeepers attacked the media personnel for carrying still and television cameras. Some journalists were seriously injured, some were bleeding from their heads, he told The Daily Star.

On the other hand, The Daily Star's photojournalist Prabir Das was attacked by students while covering the violence near Dhaka College.

"They pushed me to the ground and beat me with sticks and iron rods when I was taking photos. When I told them I was a college alumnus, they let me go. But then I saw, they started beating another journalist - Hasan Reza. I was able to save him and get ourselves

out of there."

Meanwhile, GM Quader, chairman of Jatiya Party and the deputy opposition leader, has condemned the attack on media personnel.

Speaking at a programme at his Banani office, he said it is shameful that media workers are being repeatedly attacked while collecting news and there should be no such incident in the future, adding that such attacks are aimed at silencing free media.

Quader called upon the law enforcers to take strict action against those who are violating the sanctity of Ramadan and committing acts of terrorism and anarchy.

Different journalist organisations, including Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Dhaka Reporters Unity and Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh, condemned the attack on journalists and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

They also demanded compensation and necessary treatment for the victims.

Nazrul Islam Mithu, president of DRU, and Nurul Islam Hasib, its general secretary, said attacking journalists is in no way acceptable, especially while they are on duty.

BFUJ President Omar Faruk and secretary general Dip Azar, and DUJ president Sohel Haider Chowdhury and its general secretary Aktar Hossain said those who attack journalists on duty are nothing short of terrorists.

## As usual, people bear the brunt

Capital witnesses severe gridlock as traders, students clash in New Market area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-year-old Rabeya Begum suddenly discovered herself gripped with anxiety.

She was on her way home to Azimpur with her grandson, whom she came to pick up from his school in Dhanmondi.

"I used to accompany my grandson to his school in rickshaws. In the morning, I came without any difficulty. I don't know how we will go home with no available transport from Nilkhet to Science Lab due to clashes," said Rabeya, while walking with her 10-year-old grandson towards Science Laboratory around 2:30pm yesterday.

By then, they had already walked over a kilometre from Kalabagan. Many other school-going students were also seen walking along the Mirpur road with their guardians.

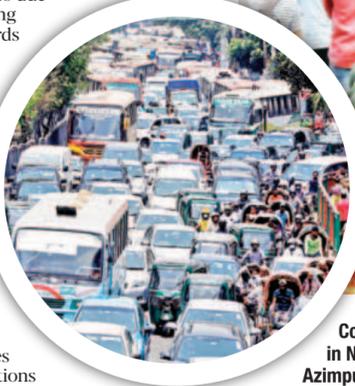
Hundreds of commuters had to suffer throughout the day as traffic movement in parts of the capital came to a standstill amid a series of clashes between traders and Dhaka College students in New Market area yesterday.

Many of them got off their vehicles and decided to walk to their destinations in the scorching summer heat.

Elephant Road, Bangla Motor, Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka University, Nilkhet, Azimpur, Mirpur Road and their surrounding areas were under a gridlock from morning till afternoon.

Sumon from Mirpur was also found walking through Kalabagan around 11:00am to reach his office at Elephant Road.

He said his office starts at 9:30am to which he was already one and a half hours late due to the traffic



Commuters in Dhaka had to suffer the entire day as the roads went under an absolute gridlock due to the clash between traders and Dhaka College students in New Market area yesterday. Traffic came to an almost standstill in Bangla Motor, Elephant Road, Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka University, Nilkhet, Azimpur, Mirpur Road and surrounding areas. These photos were taken from Sonargaon intersection and Mirpur Road. PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN, PRABIR DAS

**"I came with my brother, who recently underwent surgery, for a visit to his doctor at Labaid Hospital in the morning. For the last couple of hours, I have been looking for a CNG-run auto-rickshaw to return to my residence but failed to manage any."**

KAWSAR  
A COMMUTER

congestion.

Kawsar, another commuter, said, "I came with my brother, who recently underwent surgery, for a visit to his doctor at Labaid Hospital in the morning. For the last couple of hours, I have been looking for a CNG-run auto-rickshaw to return to my residence but failed to manage any."

However, the horrors of the clash did not just end there.

Around 2:45pm, a group of demonstrators vandalised an ambulance – carrying a 35-year-old patient – near Science Lab intersection on its way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from Dhanmondi's Modern Hospital.

Doctors referred the patient to the hospital for an emergency operation, said Jahangir Hossain, driver of the ambulance, quoting relatives of the patient.

The agitators threw bricks at the ambulance, causing head injury to the patient.

Three of his relatives, driver Jahangir and his helper were also injured in the attack, Jahangir told The Daily Star.

Later, the injured were taken to nearby Padma General Hospital in another ambulance, where they were given primary treatment.

The clashes between storekeepers and Dhaka College students started around 11:00pm on Monday and continued till 2:30am when police dispersed them using tear shells and rubber bullets.

However, the clash resumed yesterday morning and continued for several hours, turning the entire New Market area into a battlefield and leaving many injured in the process.

## Titas asked to carry out study on gas bill discrepancies

UNB, Dhaka

The authorities concerned have instructed the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited to conduct a comprehensive study on the allegation that non-metered consumers of gas pay almost double the amount paid by metered consumers for similar use.

The instruction has been given by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division at a monthly meeting to review the implementation of the Annual Development Programme of the ministry.

"If necessary, Titas can involve the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) in conducting the study in a perfect manner," Senior Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division Mahbub Hossain reportedly told the meeting.

A senior official who attended the meeting informed the news agency that the issue of disparity between the two categories of Titas Gas consumers was widely discussed there.

It was reported in the meeting that a pre-paid metered consumer uses 40-50 cubic meter of gas and pays around Tk 500-630 a month while a non-meter consumer has to pay almost double at Tk 975 for the same quantity of consumption.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## No extra passengers on vehicles

Home minister gives directives for public transport ahead of Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the safety of home-bound people during Eid, authorities will take steps to prevent extra passengers boarding buses, trains and launches, as accidents often occur due to overcrowding.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan came up with the directives at the secretariat yesterday, at a meeting held to address the overall law and order situation, payment of salaries and allowances to garment workers, and keeping roads and highways safe and traffic free during Eid.

He said if big industries go on holiday at the same time, then around six million people would leave Dhaka all at once. If the leaves are given in phases, the situation can be controlled a little bit.

On recommendation of the labour ministry, he said arrangements should be made to give leaves in phases to reduce traffic congestion.

This is not the first time such instructions were given before Eid. Over the years, the same directives have been given, but they did not bring much result, sources claimed.

According to transport experts and passenger-welfare bodies, around 1.2 crore people will leave Dhaka ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, which will be observed on May 2 or 3.

Transport expert Prof Hadiuzzaman estimated that on average, 30 lakh people will be leaving every day, but the entire transport system has the capacity to handle 16 lakh people daily.

In that case, people have to travel in illegal small vehicles, on rooftops of trains, and trucks and lorries to go home, he said. "We can assume that road management will possibly go into a coma," he said.

About traffic congestion, the home minister yesterday told reporters that they have taken measures to ease traffic congestion during Eid in Dhaka and across the country.

He expected the traffic will improve in the capital within the next one or two days.

The minister said many development works are ongoing in Dhaka. Works of elevated expressways,

### ACTION PLAN

- » Deploying traffic police at major points in rush hour
- » Coordinating with shopping malls to ensure proper parking
- » Not letting vehicles park in front of markets
- » Disallowing long-route buses to take passengers out of terminal

### DIRECTIVES

- » Large industries to go on Eid vacation in phases
- » During Eid rush, bus should park in single line out of terminal
- » Set up check-posts at intersections, special road to ensure security
- » Increasing patrolling in diplomatic zones, ports

metro rail and flyovers are reasons behind traffic jams. Besides, Eid shopping is also increasing congestion in the city.

Along with traffic police, the security forces are trying to reduce congestion, said the minister. The traffic department has also taken a work-plan in this regard.

Asked about the plan, Md Munibur Rahman, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that the plan includes

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Abductors in guise of transport provider

Five members of gang arrested, says DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gang would wait patiently with its car in a crowded spot of Dhaka or adjacent areas. It offered people to drop them off at their destination for a fare. And it worked.

Failing to find public transport, many office-goers, the main targets, would agree. Once they got in the car for their daily commute, they would realise what misfortune was in store for them.

The syndicate would take them to a relatively secluded spot, and threaten and torture them for money. The gang members would then call the victim's family and ask for ransom through mobile financial services.

Until the family sent the money, the syndicate would continue the torture while taking the victims to different areas.

Police's detective branch (DB) disclosed all this yesterday, after arresting five gang members, including the ringleader.

The arrestees are Md Hiru Mollah and Jakir Hossain, drivers by profession; Md Nizam Uddin, a day labourer; Nazrul Islam, a shopkeeper; and Abdul Barek, the ringleader.

Cyber and Special Crime Division of DB arrested the five after conducting a special drive in Dhaka and Narsingdi on Monday, said Harunur Rashid, joint commissioner (north) of DB.

Police seized two toy guns, two knives, one machete, an iron rod, pliers and six phones from their possession.

Harun said the syndicate would pretend to be a rent-a-car trader. They would even pick up people at gunpoint.

He said the arrestees primarily admitted that they have abducted and collected ransom from around 500 people so far.

The Daily Star, however, was not able to verify the police's claim independently.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



When these falcons were found at the construction site of a road development project, workers trapped them in a cage and have been forcibly keeping the birds as pets. Falcons are predatory birds, whose survival depends on being out in nature. With their numbers starkly decreasing in Dhaka skies, incidents like this pose a severe threat to their existence. This photo was taken yesterday in Kuril area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Policy gap to blame

Speakers tell webinar on renewable energy deployment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though Bangladesh had a strong commitment to generate 10 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2021, the current percentage stands at only three percent.

Speakers expressed their frustration over the issue at a webinar yesterday, blaming the policy gap for the failure to meet the target.

They made the remarks at the discussion titled "Models of Renewable Deployment and Policy Gaps in Bangladesh", organised by Citizen Alliance for Renewable Energy in Bangladesh (CAREB).

Hasan Mehedi, chief executive of Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), said the renewable energy policy of 2008 committed to ensuring the promised 10 percent in the total energy mix by 2021.

"The country was supposed to produce at least 2,200 megawatts of electricity this year. However, the number stands now at only 787 MW," he said, citing Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (Sreda) data.

He also mentioned that in a recent commitment

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Sharfunnahar Chowdhury passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharfunnahar Chowdhury, mother of the Daily Samakal's city editor and Jatiya Press Club treasurer Shahid Chowdhury, died of old-age related complications early yesterday. She was 78.

Family members said Sharfunnahar underwent treatment at Birdem General Hospital from March 9 to April 14. She was in the ICU for ten days and breathed her last around 2:00am at her residence in Narsingdi.

She was buried in Narsingdi's Bhagdi graveyard after her Namaz-e-Janaza at Bhagdi Markaz mosque after the zuhr prayers. She is survived by her four daughters and one son.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, and Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud expressed deep shock at her death.

## IMF cuts GDP growth forecasts

FROM PAGE 1

The World Bank projected that Bangladesh's economy would grow at 6.4 percent in fiscal 2021-22 and 6.7 percent in fiscal 2022-23.

The Asian Development Bank forecast that Bangladesh's GDP would expand by 6.9 percent in FY22 and 7.1 percent in FY23.

This week, the government projected that the economy would grow by 7.2 this fiscal year and 7.5 percent in the next fiscal year.

In the latest outlook, the IMF cut the GDP growth forecasts for other South Asian countries as well. It projected that India would grow by 8.2 percent in the current fiscal year and 6.9 percent in the next fiscal year.

In FY22, the Maldives would grow at 6.1 percent, Nepal at 4.1 percent, Pakistan at 4 percent and Sri Lanka at 2.6 percent.

The IMF also revised down the GDP growth projection for Bangladesh in the next fiscal year to 6.7 percent from 7.1 percent in January's supplementary outlook.

"Compared to our January forecast, we have revised our projection for global growth down to 3.6 percent in both 2022 and 2023," said the IMF in the latest report.

"This reflects the direct impact of the war on Ukraine and sanctions on Russia, with both countries projected to experience steep contractions."

This year's growth outlook for the European Union has been revised down by 1.1 percentage points due to the indirect effects of the war, making it the second largest contributor to the overall downward revision, it added.

## Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 2

Health Policy of 2011." She added that the country has officially recognised the potential contributions of Unani, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medical services in its efforts to achieve SDG-3.

In addition to offering outpatient services by traditional medicine

experts, most district and sub-district level public health facilities are equipped with medicinal plant gardens, she added.

She mentioned that Bangladesh is looking forward to partnering with the Global Centre on critical issues like quality control, curriculum development and regulatory standards.

## Abductors in guise

FROM PAGE 3

Asked how a person or syndicate could abduct so many people, the joint commissioner said that it happened because the majority of victims did not go to police and file complaints.

"We have traced the syndicate and arrested the five, after a victim recently filed cases with Jatrabari Police Station," he said.

Police said arrested Berek is wanted in at least six cases, and each of the others are wanted in two.

Junaed Alam Sharker, deputy commissioner of the division, said Berek has been active in the crime world for the last eight to 10 years.

One of the abduction

victims was present at DMP's media centre on the capital's Minto Road yesterday.

Talking to reporters, Rustom Khan (68) said on January 25 this year, he was standing near Badsha Mia Road at Jatrabari around 8:20am, when the area was a little foggy. While he was waiting for his company bus, two people put him in a private car at gunpoint.

The gang members then started beating him badly and demanded Tk 5 lakh ransom. The criminals tortured him till 4:30pm, and only released him after his wife sent Tk 50,000 twice through a mobile financial service.

They finally dropped the victim off in a secluded place in Munshiganj.

**NOTICE FOR CLOSING DOWN UTI PERSHIP (PVT.) LTD, BANGLADESH BRANCH OFFICE**

This is for information of all the stakeholder of the UTI PERSHIP (PVT.) LTD., Bangladesh Branch office that the Board of Directors of UTI PERSHIP (PVT.) LTD, Bangladesh Branch office has taken the decision for closing down the Branch office from Bangladesh in a board meeting held on 05 April 2022 at 10:00 A.M at 72C, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 04, Sri Lanka.

According to the board decision, the closing date would be effective from 30 June 2022.

After publication of this notice, if any person has any objection or any claim with UTI PERSHIP (PVT.) LTD, Bangladesh Branch office, he/she is requested to contact with Mr. Abdul Halim, General Manager, Finance & Accounts of UTI PERSHIP (PVT.) LTD Bangladesh Branch office by 30 June 2022.

Address: Bay's 50 Mohakhali, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, B.U.A. K Khandaker Road, 50 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.

**Save the Children**

Date: April 20, 2022

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

**Invitation for Tender**

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting the tender from interested, experienced and bona fide vendors for supplying clothing items under Framework Agreements (FWAs).

For details, please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Bid Meeting schedule	Last date of RFP Submission
1	Clothing Items	IFT/SCI/CXB/FY-22/(Manual)/001	24/04/2022 at 11.00 AM <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5838868888?pwd=ZgksG874YE-vrQY4enBETysVe-xe2.1">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5838868888?pwd=ZgksG874YE-vrQY4enBETysVe-xe2.1</a>	May 12, 2022, at 5.00PM

**Special Instruction:**

- All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods/Services will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies.
- If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

## Halimah, Momen

FROM PAGE 5

discussion on bilateral cooperation including the opportunities for enhancing trade and investment between our

countries," President Yacob said in a post shared on her verified Facebook page.

She said they also discussed regional and global developments.

## Fear of more delays

FROM PAGE 5

ongoing. As a result, vehicles run slow on the existing road, which causes heavy traffic congestion.

Sultan Ahmed Sarker, president of Gazipur district road transport labour union, said thousands of vehicles ply the existing road, and that number would further increase ahead of Eid. But as the new roads are yet to be completed, home-going passengers are fearing traffic jams.

Md Mohirul Islam Khan, director of the project (Bangladesh Bridge Authority), said, "We expect to complete the whole

project in time, unless we face any new problems."

"But we have been facing several issues, as people and different institutions occupied two sides of the road by building markets and shops as well as dumping waste. In addition, electric cables were laid on Ahsan Ullah Master Flyover," he said, adding that it will cost a good amount of money to remove those cables.

A huge pile of garbage was dumped near House Building area. "We asked Dhaka North City Corporation [DNCC] authorities to clear the place some 14 times, but they have been delaying it," Mohirul said.

Contacted, SM Shafiqur Rahman, executive engineer (collection and transport, waste management) of DNCC, said, "We received two letters in this regard. We will remove the garbage in the next seven to 10 days."

Project director SMElias Shah said overall progress at present is 73 percent. "We have also instructed to complete carpeting the new road under the flyover soon, so that vehicles can ply it during Eid."

Gazipur Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) Abdullah Al Mamun said according to a survey, some 60,000 vehicles ply the existing road every 24 hours. "We have instructed BRT authorities to open the new road, the part for which they have completed constructing more than one lane, by setting up a divider."

"It will be easy for us to manage traffic if they open some parts of the road by Saturday," he added.

## New year

FROM PAGE 5

Usually the potters start making clay essentials from Bangla months Kartik to Chaitra (November to March) to sell them round the year.

The potters said the traditional celebration including Ashtami Snan and Pahela Boishakh are the main source of their income.

Alongside the earthenware business, the sale of tradition Ashtami foods like binni kholi, khawja, khelna also peaked at city's Swadeshi Bazar and Zainul Abedin Park.

## Policy gap to blame

FROM PAGE 3

at Nationally Determined Contributions, Bangladesh pledged to produce 30 percent of its energy mix from renewables by 2030. The country also has the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan which said 40 percent of energy will come from renewables. "But the power system master plan says that the country only has the potential to produce three to seven percent," added Hasan.

The webinar was conducted by Bela chief executive Syeda Rizwana

Hasan. Sebastian Groh, associate professor of Brac Business School; Dipal C. Barua, founder chair of Bright Green Energy Foundation; and Abeer Butmeh, coordinator of Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network also spoke.

CAREB is a citizen's alliance of five key organisations including CLEAN, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Association for Land Reform and Development, Nijera Kori and Transparency International Bangladesh.

## Titas asked

FROM PAGE 3

The issue drew special attention as the Titas Gas recently moved a proposal to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to raise the gas price by 117 percent.

As per the proposal, if it is accepted by the BERC, a single burner user will have to pay over Tk 2,000 per month.

The Titas Gas managing director, who was present at the meeting, was asked to explain as to why the company's prepaid gas meter project is being delayed.

Meeting sources said the Titas top executive failed to provide any satisfactory answer.

Rather, he said installation of a pre-paid meter costs Tk 23,000 of which 14,000 is the meter's value.

The rest is data centre management cost. There are 4.3 million gas consumers across the country where a total of six distribution companies are operating.

Among them, Titas is the largest operator having 2.8 million consumers and it is responsible for the supply of natural gas to Dhaka and its adjoining districts since its founding in 1964.

## No extra passengers

FROM PAGE 3

deployment of additional workforce in major points during rush hour, and identifying busy roads.

Besides, steps have been taken to ensure parking facilities at markets and prevent vehicles from parking indiscriminately on the road, he said.

"We are also holding talks with bus owners, so that no bus can take passengers outside terminals. Although during Eid rush, it may not be possible to take all passengers from inside terminals. In that case,

buses have been instructed to park in a single line, so that space remains on the road for vehicular movement," he added.

Regarding Eid security, the home minister said police and intelligence agencies are working to ensure law and order across the country.

Special check-posts will be set up at intersections, and steps have been taken to prevent spread of fake notes, he said. During Eid holidays, there will be more police patrolling in diplomatic zones and all ports.

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**e-Zone**  
Servicing Change Managers

E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions. We have a formal agreement with one of the United Nations agency to provide outsourcing services under a third party contract.

We are now seeking applications for a UN Organization from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following vacancies under third party outsourcing contract modality. For detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.

**Title: Communication Consultant (Media and advocacy)**

**Duty Station: Dhaka. Contract Duration: 12 Months (01 May 2022 to 30 April 2023), Number of Vacancies: 1 (One), Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.**

**Last Date of Application: 26th April, 2022**

<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un89.html>

**পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)**

প্ৰতি: ই-৪/বি, আগারপাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।  
ফোন: ৮৮০-২-৮১৮১৬৫৮-৬১, [www.pksf-bd.org](http://www.pksf-bd.org), [www.facebook.com/PKSF.org](http://www.facebook.com/PKSF.org)

**Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) [Selection of Income Tax (IT) Adviser Firm]**

পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ) গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক প্রতিষ্ঠিত একটি শীর্ষ উন্নয়ন প্রতিষ্ঠান। পিকেএসএফ-এ আগামী ৩ (তিন) বছর অর্থাৎ ২০২৩-২০২৪, ২০২৪-২০২৫ এবং ২০২৫-২০২৬ করবর্ষের জন্য আয়কর উপদেষ্টা প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগ দানের লক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের নিকট হতে সিলগালা করা খামে EoI আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

- এ সংক্রান্ত কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সম্বলিত অনুমোদিত Terms of Reference (ToR) এবং Request for Expression of Interest-REOI (Reference No-53.23.0000.001.03.070.20.2333; তারিখ: ১৭এপ্রিল ২০২২) পিকেএসএফ-এর ওয়েবসাইট ([www.pksf-bd.org](http://www.pksf-bd.org))-এ পাওয়া যাবে। এছাড়া অফিস দিনে সকাল ৯:৩০ হতে বিকাল ৪:৩০ পর্যন্ত পিকেএসএফ-এর অভ্যর্থনা কেন্দ্র হতে উক্ত REOI ও ToR বিনামূল্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
- EoI সমূহ আগামী ১০মে ২০২২ তারিখ বিকাল ৪:৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে পিকেএসএফ ভবনে জমা দিতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে দাখিলকৃত EoI বিবেচনা করা হবে না।
- পিকেএসএফ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন EoI আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ কাজটি বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে এবং এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির আওতায় বর্ণিত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো বিষয়ে পিকেএসএফ-এর সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

(একিউএম পোলাম মাদলা)  
উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
RDEC Bhaban (Level-7),  
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka-1207.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.0000.876.11.004.17.(Part-1)-791  
Date: 19.04.2022

**Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)**

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Co-operative/Local Govt. Division
2. Agency	Local Government Engineering Department
3. Procuring Entity Name	Superintendent Engineer, Technical Support Unit
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not at present
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Individual Consultant	Selection of Individual Consultant (Time Based)
7. EOI Ref. No.	Memo. No. 46.02.0000.876.11.004.17.(Part-1)-791
8. Ref. Date	19/04/2022
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9. Procurement Sub-Method	Selection of Individual Consultant (Time Based)
<b>FINDING INFORMATION</b>	
10. Budget and Source of Funds	GoB
11. Development Partner (if applicable)	Not Applicable
<b>PERTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
12. Project Code	460101224074800
13. Project Name	Construction of Town and Union Land Office Across the Country.
14. Place of EOI submission	Office of the Superintendent Engineer, Technical Support Unit, (TS), RDEC Building, Level-07, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
15. EOI Closing Date & Time	Date: 08/05/2022 Time: 2.00 PM
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
16. Brief Description of Assignment	Package No. TULO/SD-29 TULO/SD-30 Proposed Post, Number & Tentative Duration: Regional Supervision Engineer, Number of Post-02 Nos, Duration 12 months each Minimum Qualification: B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from any reputed University. Minimum Experience (Detailed describe in TOR): Should have at least-9 years of overall experiences, out of which 7-years of relevant experience in supervision of Building sector. Working Station: Project site (Any Division) / LGED, HQ Dhaka Scope of Work: Detail as TOR
17. Others Information	Individual Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the PPR-2008. Detail information may be collected from the undersigned office during office hour.
18. Association with foreign firm is	Not encouraged
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
19. Name of Official Inviting EOI	Md. Shafiqur Rahman
20. Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Superintendent Engineer, Technical Support
21. Address of Official Inviting EOI	Technical Support Unit, RDEC Building, Level-7, LGED HQ, Dhaka
22. Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Telephone No. 02-58150378, E-mail: se.ts@lged.gov.bd
23. Others	-Procurement Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI. -A Complete set of "Request for Application" including Terms of Reference may be obtained from the office of the undersigned. -Application must be delivered to the below in sealed envelope on or before 2.00 PM on 08/05/2022 with clearly mention the name of the post.

(Md. Shafiqur Rahman)  
Superintendent Engineer (TS)  
RDEC building (Level-07)  
Telephone No. 02-58150378  
E-mail: se.ts@lged.gov.bd

GD-793

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd  
Head Office, B, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000  
Website: [www.bdbl.com.bd](http://www.bdbl.com.bd)  
Real Estate Department  
Date: 19-04-2022

**BDBL**  
No. 06.3/247/466

**e-GP Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following goods are described below:

Sl No.	Tender Notice No.	Tender ID	Name of goods	Last date of tender document selling & downloading	Date of tender closing & opening
01.	BDBL/RED/OTM/2022/01	686820	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Split Type Wall Mountable Air Cooler for Different Branches of BDBL.	16-05-2022 up to 06.00pm	17-05-2022 at 4.00pm

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

Md. Nazrul Islam  
Deputy General Manager  
☎: 02-223350689  
☒: 01552335439

GD-795



Under the scorching summer heat, Rubina Begum and her husband Mohor Akunji strike their hammers away to get work done before Eid. For 13 years now, they have been breaking 2,000 bricks together every day, earning Tk 550 for each thousand -- an income their family of five depends on. This photo was taken in front of Khulna's Galkhali Cadet Madrasa yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Measures taken to ensure safe launch journey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Barishal River Port management committee and fire service have taken strict measures to avoid fire and overcrowding at launches in a bid to ensure safe journey ahead of Eid.

Before operation, such passenger vessels will be checked whether they have fitness certificates along with adequate fire safety and lifesaving equipment, said Md Mostafizur Rahman, secretary of the port management committee.

At the same time, they will ensure that every launch carries passengers within their capacity.

In this case, favourable weather will also be considered, said Mostafiz.

Md Kamaluddin Bhuiyan, deputy director, Fire Service and Civil Defence, Barishal, told The Daily Star that the fire risk is a big issue for the Eid journey after more than 50 passengers were killed in a fire at a launch "Avijan".

In this regard, fitness checking by the BIWTA should play a more effective role. To face any untoward accident during the Eid journey, the fire service has intensified patrols along the river and got more divers ready for rescue operations.

He said separate units will work to deal with fire risk in big and modern launches and adequate manpower will be deployed there.

Dewan Abdur Rashid Neelu, convener of Barishal Nou Jati Oikya Parishad, said, "We have given a memorandum to the prime minister through the district administration on Monday with a 12-point demand including adequate fire extinguisher at launches."



## New year brings new hope for M'singh potters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

More than two years after the pandemic, traditional goods' traders of earthenware, pulled rice and toys enjoyed a good profit, marking Ashtami and Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

Fifty year old Khokon Pal, a potter from Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila, said, they faced a serious loss amid the pandemic.

"Borojana village has about 60 families involved in this ancestral profession. However, most of these families are in serious financial debt as they had to take out loans from local NGOs to survive," said Khokon.

Khokon's nephew, 30-year-old Krishna Pal echoed him. After the restrictions were lifted, the sale of traditional earthenware increased in recent months, said Krishna.

Dhiren Chandra Pal from Bhalukjaan in Mymensingh Phulbaria upazila said he enjoyed a good streak this year and the profits were comparatively better. It's a great relief for the potters after the two years of financial loss, he added.

The sales will support the potters till the next season, said Subol Pal from Kishoreganj's Karimganj upazila.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Halimah, Momen talk about mutual interests

UNB, Dhaka

President of Singapore Halimah Yacob and Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen had a meeting at the Istana yesterday where they discussed issues of mutual interest.

Momen is now on an official visit to Singapore, which coincides with 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"We had a good

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**PRAYER TIMING**  
APRIL 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-14	12-45	4-45	6-26	8-00
JAMAAT 4-24	1-15	5-00	6-36	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING**

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
18	20	6:26	6:26
19	21	4:08	6:26
20	22	4:07	6:27

## DHAKA AIRPORT-GAZIPUR RAPID BUS SERVICE

# Fear of more delays looms

Authorities concerned about finishing project on time; Eid home-goers afraid of major traffic congestion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The long-delayed dedicated rapid bus service from Dhaka airport to Gazipur is likely to face another phase of delay, as authorities expressed concerns over implementing the project within the stipulated time frame.

Due to the construction work, commuters of Dhaka-Gazipur highway are also in fear of heavy traffic congestion due to Eid.

Around 73 percent of project works have been completed so far.

The "Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project" was taken up in November 2012 and was scheduled to be completed by December 2016, at a cost of Tk 2,037.9 crore.

Later, the project -- jointly funded by the government, Asian Development Bank, French Development Agency and Global Environment Facility -- went through four revisions. The new cost was estimated at Tk 4,268.3 crore.

Though the current deadline is set for June 2022, the project authorities have already sought time till December 2023, including a one-year defect liability period (DLP) and Tk 268.13 crore more.

If approved, the project cost could total



PHOTO: STAR

Tk 4,536.46 crore. But project authorities said they want to complete the project within December this year, without exhausting the DLP.

After the project's completion, dedicated buses would be operated on two central lanes of the highway, while there would be four lanes for mixed traffic; two more lanes for slow-moving vehicles; with footpaths on both sides.

But authorities said there are still some problems, which might cause delays to implement the project in time.

Visiting the site, it was found that new pillars are being installed for the project's flyover, running from station road to Cherag ali road. Construction of the flyover on BRT project road and carpeting of the new road under the flyover are still

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**Though the current deadline is set for June 2022, the project authorities have already sought time till December 2023.**

**রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর**  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ  
স্মারক নং-যবিপ্রবি/রেজিঃ/সংস্থাপন/১০০২/রাজস্ব জনবল (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পার্ট-৬/২১-১২৮৯  
তারিখঃ ১৮/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ

**Office of the Registrar**  
Jashore University of Science and Technology  
Jashore-7408, Bangladesh  
তারিখঃ ১৮/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নোক্ত পদগুলো পূরণের নিমিত্তে বর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা ও স্কেল	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স	শর্তাবলী
০১	প্রশাসনিক, (০১টি স্থায়ী পদ), কেন্দ্রীয় প্রোগ্রামার দপ্তর, বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-	৫০ বছর	আবেদনকারীকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রসহ ০২ সেট আবেদন রেজিস্ট্রার, যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, যশোর-৭৪০৮ বরাবরে আগামী ১৮/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে। রেজিস্ট্রার, যবিপ্রবি এর কার্যালয় অথবা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটঃ <a href="http://www.just.edu.bd">www.just.edu.bd</a> হতে আবেদন ফরম ও যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের ছায়াছবি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- (ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্র (খ) সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৩ কপি ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (ঘ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র। বয়স গণনা করে আবেদন জমার শেষ তারিখ পর্যন্ত হিসাব করতে হবে। চাকুরীতে নিয়োজিত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। কৃটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র (নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না। দরখাস্তের সাথে "রেজিস্ট্রার, যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়" এর অনুকূলে অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক লিঃ এর যে কোন শাখা হতে ক্রমিক নং ০১ এর জন্য ১১০০/- টাকা, ক্রমিক নং ০২ এর জন্য ৯০০/- টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং ০৩ হতে ক্রমিক নং ০৪ এর জন্য ৫০০/- টাকা মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে তার প্রার্থীত্ব পদের নামসহ দপ্তর/বিভাগের নাম খামের উপর স্পষ্টাকারে লিখতে হবে। উপাচার্য মহোদয়ের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বিভাগীয়/অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার যে কোন ০১ (এক)টি শর্ত শিথিল করতে পারবেন। প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতাবোধের বর্তমান ত্রিকানা লিখি ১০/- (দশ) টাকার ডাকটিকেট সম্বলিত দুইটি ফেরত খাম আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযোজন করতে হবে।
০২	সহকারী টেকনিক্যাল অফিসার, (মাসিং এন্ড হেলথ সার্ভিস, কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান ও প্রকৌশল, টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, এগ্রো প্রোডাক্ট প্রসেসিং টেকনোলজি, পণিত, পুষ্টি ও খাদ্য প্রযুক্তি, জিন প্রকৌশল ও জীব প্রযুক্তি, ফিশারিজ এন্ড মেরিন বায়োসায়েন্স, মাইক্রোবায়োলজি, রসায়ন বিভাগ), ১১টি স্থায়ী পদ, বেতন স্কেলঃ ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/-	৩০ বছর	
০৩	অডিটর, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ (উপাচার্যের দপ্তর) বেতন স্কেলঃ ১২৫০০-৩০২৩০/-	৩০ বছর	
০৪	অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ, (টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ) বেতন স্কেলঃ ১১০০০-২৬৫৯০	৩০ বছর	

বিঃদ্রঃ স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/১০০২/রাজস্ব জনবল (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পার্ট-৫/১৯-৯৫৮, তারিখঃ ১০/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ মোতাবেক সহকারী টেকনিক্যাল অফিসার পদে যারা আবেদন করেছেন সে সকল প্রার্থীদের এপিপিটি, এনএফটি, জিইবিটি, এফএমবি, এমবি, রসায়ন, পণিত বিভাগের ক্ষেত্রে পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

স্বাঃ/  
প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আহসান হাবীব  
রেজিস্ট্রার  
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Local Government Engineering Department**  
**Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project**  
**Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon,**  
**Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.**  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No.: 46.02.0000.954.07.071.2021-496  
Date: 19/04/2022.

**e-Tender Notice**  
**Re-Tender Notice No. 12/2021-2022**

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

Sl. No.	Re-Tender ID & Name of the Project	Description of Goods	Tender Last Selling (Time & Date)	Tender Closing (Time & Date)	Tender Opening (Time & Date)
1	638368 EMCRP	Supply and Installation of 2500 set Solar Street Light at different Rohingya Camps under Ukhiya & Teknaf Upazila, District- Cox's Bazar.	03.30 PM 10-May-22	12.00 PM 11-May-22	12.00 PM 11-May-22

This is in online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for the e-GP downloading e-Tender Documents from National e-GP System portal have to be deposit online through any registered Banks Branches up to 10-May-2022 upto 15.30 hours.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Javed Karim  
Project Director  
Phone: 44826155  
pdged.emcrp@gmail.com



## PROMISING FILMS hopeful makers

Every year, Eid-Ul-Fitr gives way to one of the most lucrative seasons for films and television. After two slow years due to the coronavirus pandemic, directors, producers, and artists are excited to be coming up with new silver screen projects.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Let us take a look at movies that will be released during this festive season.

One of the most awaited films that will make it to theatres this Eid is "Golui". The Shakib Khan and Puja Chery starrer also casts Sucharita, Aliraj, Azizul Hakim, and Shubrata, among others.

The poster, teaser, and a song from the film was released on Pahela Baishakh, creating quite the buzz. Shakib Khan's video message on social media further built excitement among his fans.

The actor personally requested his fans to visit theatres when "Golui" comes out. The film's director, S A Haque Alik, is regularly promoting the film on social media.

"This film radiates the essence of our culture," he shared with The Daily Star. "It not only put forwards a love story, but also showcases familial bonds and our heritage."

Azizur Hakim plays an important role in the film. "After a long time, our audience will be able to enjoy a well-made story," he said.

Khorshed Alam Khosru, a producer of the film, is also eagerly looking forward to this

big-budget venture.

Puja Chery is also hopeful about "Golui". "The story, music and making of this film is promising," she mentioned. "The character I play is also well crafted."

Bookings for 25 halls nationwide has already been confirmed, informs the

**"There is a curiosity among audiences regarding 'Shaan'. I am glad that we are finally releasing it theatrically," said Siam Ahmed. "It is a beautiful film and I believe the response will also be great."**

director. "We are looking forward to release 'Golui' in 50 theatres across the country," he adds.

Another big budget production, "Shaan", starring Siam Ahmed and Puja Chery is also slated for release this Eid. Aruna Biswas and

Champa have pivotal roles in the film.

The M Rahim directorial was scheduled to hit theatres this January. However, the release was put on hold due to rising Omicron cases in the country.

Promotions for "Shaan" have now begun as the production team has announced the release of the film this Eid.

"There is a curiosity among audiences regarding 'Shaan'. I am glad that we are finally releasing it theatrically," said Siam Ahmed. "It is a beautiful film and I believe the response will also be great."

Fifteen cinema halls have already been finalised for "Shaan". The film is expected to release in close to 50 halls nationwide.

Shakib Khan's "Bidrohi", where he will share the screen with Shobnom Bubby, is another much-awaited Eid release.

"New films bring about a lot of love from our fans. The fact that 'Bidrohi' is releasing on Eid is a matter of celebration," shared Bubby. "I request everyone to come and watch this film in theatres."

Giasuddin Selim's "Paap Punno", which is set to hit theatres around Eid, will be released across 20 halls nationwide.

## Safa Kabir's 'Touch' to arrive this Eid



Safa Kabir is currently busy with numerous television projects for Eid- Ul-Fitr. She will be starring alongside Farhan Ahmed Jovan in "Touch", directed by Mahmudur Rahman Hime.

The tele-fiction revolves around a university student. Safa came up with the concept for the story herself. She developed the idea during lockdown, and shared it with the director.

The cinematography of "Touch" is handled by Raju Raj.

## 'Thor: Love and Thunder' teaser reveals Natalie Portman as new Thor

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Marvel Studios has revealed the first teaser for "Thor: Love and Thunder".

In the movie, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) embarks on a journey unlike any he's ever undertaken: a quest for inner peace. However, his retirement is cut short by

a galactic assassin known as Gorr the God Butcher (Christian Bale), who desires the annihilation of the gods.

To Thor's amazement, his ex-girlfriend Jane Foster (Natalie Portman), wields his mystical hammer, Mjolnir, as the Mighty Thor.

Directed by Taika Waititi from a script written by him and Jennifer Kaytin Robinson, "Thor: Love and Thunder" will arrive on July 8, 2022, in theatres, worldwide.

## COUNTRYWIDE

### It's just ward councilor's thuggery



A ward councilor of Basail municipality in Tangail is allegedly cutting cropland in the name of the development of a road albeit he has no permission to do so.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A ward councilor of Basail municipality in Tangail has excavated earth from roadside paddy fields in the name of the development of a road, farmers alleged. However, the road development project has yet to be officially approved.

HM Ershad Alam, councilor of ward no 9, has also issued threats that whoever tries to lodge a complaint against the move will be taught a lesson.

According to the municipality and locals of the ward, a tender notice was published in newspapers on March 24 for dumping earth for constructing a 300-metre dirt road from Bornikishori to Akhtar's house in ward no 9 under the "T-Ten" project. The cost of the work was estimated at Tk 31.45 lakh.

Councilor Ershad's nephew Arif Miah's Sharmin Enterprise got the work through the lottery. Following this, the councilor declared that

they have got the road construction work and there is government instruction to take soil from both sides of the road. If the land is not given, lawsuits will be filed against them.

A few days after the announcement, Ershad started cutting the soil from Boro paddy fields with an excavator.

The farmers urged that the soil be cut after harvesting the paddy. However, he did not pay heed to their pleas, they said.

"They have destroyed our paddy fields. How can I run my family? Won't we get anything from the government?" questioned farmer Abdur Rashid.

However, the ward commissioner could not be reached for his comment.

Basail Upazila Agriculture Officer Nazneen Akhter said, "We will not be able to compensate the farmers. However, if the aggrieved farmers apply for compensation to the upazila nibarhi officer (UNO), we can

estimate the amount of loss as per the instructions of the UNO."

Basail municipality Engineer (Additional Responsibility) Mosharrar Hossain said, "I don't know who cut the soil from cropland. Sharmin Enterprise has won the lottery in the tender. Papers have been sent to the higher authorities as per rules. There is no legal relationship between soil cutting with the tender. If anyone cuts the soil then it is his own responsibility."

Basail municipality Mayor Abdur Rahim Ahmed said that he has received no complaint so far about cutting off the earth from croplands.

"We did not place any work orders. If someone throws dirt on a road without permission, it is his personal matter," he said. Basail UNO Nahida Parveen said that she has not received any complaint in this regard so far. Necessary action will be taken after getting complaints, she added.

### Cricket fraternity shaken by losses

FROM PAGE 12

He also represented the country in the ICC Trophy tournaments in 1982 and 1986.

Samiur Rahman was also a prominent name in the Dhaka League. His older brother Yousuf Rahman is

also a former Bangladesh cricketer. Besides cricket, both brothers played top-tier basketball in Bangladesh.

After retiring as a player, Sami went on to officiate in 136 first class, list A and list A T20 matches as a BCB match referee. He also stood

as an umpire in 17 first class and 12 list A games.

Rubel, a left-arm spinner and handy late-order batsman, represented Bangladesh in five ODIs between 2008-2016. He was considered as utility cricketer in the domestic

circuit, amassing over 550 wickets across the formats in a career spanning two decades.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) expressed deep bereavement at the passing of two former national cricketers.

### Harvesting of half-ripe paddy continues

FROM PAGE 12

40,960 hectares. Paddy of around 133 hectares was damaged by the first flash flood earlier this month.

Two levees at Khalajuri upazila of Netrakona -- Kitonkhola and Payra -- are at risk of breaching if the flood continues, the DAE official said, adding

that the paddy on the remaining 31 percent farmland would take more time to ripen.

In Sunamganj, paddy on only 37 percent of 2,22,805 hectares was harvested until yesterday, said Bimol Chandra Ghose, deputy director of the DAE at the district.

"It's a good sign that water is slowly receding in the haors of Sunamganj and it is increasing in the haors of Netrakona. But we are still at risk if it rains in the upstream again."

Meanwhile, Planning Minister MA Mannan, also the lawmaker from Sunamganj 3, said farmers

were harvesting half-ripe paddy in fear of more floods.

He told journalists, after the Ecneec meeting yesterday, that this time in 2017, all haors were inundated and almost all paddy went under water. "But this year, the situation is better."

### Emergency drill conducted for passengers'

FROM PAGE 12

and Information Centre at Diabari yesterday.

It was conducted as part of a training programme given to different stakeholders, including officials of DMTCL, police and fire service. Participants demonstrated how the safety system will work in case of arson.

Safety measures are

being prepared in full swing as the authority is planning to begin partial commercial operation of the country's first metro rail from December.

The 20km Mass Rapid Transit Line 6 is being implemented from Uttara to Motijheel at the cost of Tk 21,985 crores. The line will be extended to Kamalapur, ultimately

increasing the cost.

In December, the line from Uttara to Agargaon is expected to be operational.

The DMTCL is implementing a separate project titled "Technical assistance for Mass Rapid Transit safety management system of Line-6" to establish a Safety Management System (SMS).

As per the project documents, it started in January 2021 by a joint venture of NIPPON KOEI and Osaka Metro Service and funded by JICA.

The aim of the project is to transfer knowledge of SMS-related issues, MRT operation, and securing passenger safety like in Japan to the DMTCL.

### New Covid variant

FROM PAGE 1

people have visited India marking Eid by this time."

India saw a 90 percent jump in daily cases on Monday, with 1,274 new Covid-19 cases and one death in the 24 hours ending 8 am yesterday there, reports Indian Express.

Delhi's Covid-19 positivity rate on Monday jumped to 7.72 percent for the first time since January 29, as the city recorded 501 fresh cases.

The Uttar Pradesh and

Haryana governments on Monday made masks mandatory in the districts surrounding Delhi.

As per Delhi-based doctors, meanwhile, the hospitalisation rate has not increased.

Meanwhile, China has reported seven more deaths from Covid-19 in the city of Shanghai, a day after announcing its first fatalities from a weeks-long outbreak driven by the Omicron variant, reports

media.

With the emergence of the Omicron variant, the country saw a rapid spike in Covid-19 cases since the beginning of January.

The transmission started declining in March with zero death in Bangladesh almost every day during the last month, according to the health directorate data.

Yesterday, the positivity rate was 0.90 percent against 5,545 samples tested.

### No big surprise in new Pak

FROM PAGE 12

political family, 33-year-old Bilawal Zardari Bhutto.

The PPP's Bhutto is the son of former president Asif Ali Zardari and assassinated ex-premier Benazir Bhutto, as well as the grandson of another prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was executed in 1979.

If confirmed, the Oxford-educated Bhutto would be one of the world's youngest foreign ministers.

## IMF to consider request for rapid aid Says Sri Lanka; police shoot protester dead

AGENCIES

The International Monetary Fund will consider providing quick financial assistance to debt-burdened Sri Lanka following representations by India, Sri Lanka's finance ministry said yesterday.

A delegation headed by Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Ali Sabry kicked off formal talks with the IMF in Washington on Monday for a programme the government hopes will help top up its reserves and attract bridge financing to pay for essential imports of fuel, food and medicines.

Shamir Zavahir, an aide to Sabry, said on Twitter that Sri Lanka asked for a loan under the rapid financial instrument (RFI) window. But the global lender was initially not inclined to grant the request, he said.

"The IMF has subsequently informed Minister Sabry that India had also made representations on behalf of Sri Lanka for an RFI," Sri Lanka's finance ministry said in a statement.

"It had been communicated that IMF will consider the special request made despite it being outside of the standard circumstances for the issuance of an RFI."

Meanwhile, a severe fuel shortage sparked spontaneous protests across Sri Lanka yesterday, with tens of thousands of angry motorists burning tyres and blocking a major road in Rambukkana.

Police shot dead one man and wounded 10 others after using live ammunition against the motorists, officials said, in the first killing of a protester in weeks of anti-government demonstrations over the island's crisis.



## Western sanctions failed Says Putin, honours brigade accused by Ukraine of 'war crimes', mass killings in Bucha

AGENCIES

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has said that the barrage of Western sanctions imposed against Russia over its invasion of neighbouring Ukraine has failed.

Putin said late on Monday that the West "expected to quickly upset the financial-economic situation, provoke panic in the markets, the collapse of the banking system and shortages in stores".

He added that "the strategy of the economic blitz has failed" and instead led to a

"deterioration of the economy in the West".

The Russian leader spoke in televised remarks during a video call with top economic officials.

Putin noted that "Russia has withstood the unprecedented pressure", arguing that the rouble has strengthened and the country has recorded a historic high trade surplus of \$58bn in the first quarter of the year, reports Al Jazeera online.

He also bestowed an honorary title on a brigade accused by Ukraine of "war crimes" and mass killings in the town of Bucha.



Ukrainian troops ride atop an armoured vehicle, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, at an unknown location in Eastern Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## LOCKDOWN BREACH UK House can debate PM's comments

REUTERS, London

Britain's House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said he would allow the opposition Labour Party to put forward a motion for debate in parliament tomorrow around whether Prime Minister Boris Johnson misled lawmakers over breaching Covid-19 rules.

Hoyle said it was not for him to determine whether Johnson had committed a contempt in his statements to parliament over lockdown gatherings at his Downing Street residence and office. "My role is to decide whether there is an arguable case to be examined," he said. "Therefore, (the leader of the opposition) may table a motion for debate on Thursday."

The motion will be published today and is expected to ask lawmakers to decide whether to refer Johnson to a parliamentary committee to investigate whether he deliberately misled lawmakers in his responses to accusations of lawbreaking in Downing Street.

It is unlikely to pass because Johnson's Conservatives have a large majority in the House of Commons, so many of his own lawmakers would have to join the opposition in voting for such a probe.

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৩.	ক্রম/সিদ্ধান্তকর/স্বত্বাধিকারকারীর নাম				
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১১.	দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থান				
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়				
১৩.	দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণের স্থান				
১৪.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়				
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১৬.	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা				
১৭.	দরপত্র দাখিলের পদ্ধতি				
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ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের দাপ্তরিক কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি, কম্পিউটার ও আনুসংগিক সামগ্রী সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত Specification অনুযায়ী সরবরাহ করতে হবে।	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	Notification of Award প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ২৮ দিন	১,০০০,০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র	
ক্রমকারী সংস্থার বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি					
১.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবি	৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা
৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ফোন নম্বর	৫.	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সরেদক্ষ করে।	৬.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখের পর ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://www.mora.gov.bd">www.mora.gov.bd</a> -এ পাওয়া যাবে।
 মোঃ সাইফুর রহমান উপসচিব (প্রশাসন) ফোন নং: ৯৫১৫৫৪৩					
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## 6 killed in blasts at Kabul high school

AFP, Kabul

At least six people were killed and 24 wounded yesterday by two bomb blasts that struck a boys' school in a Shia Hazara neighbourhood of the Afghan capital, police and hospital staff said.

Several bodies were strewn outside the gate of the Kabul school, alongside patches of blood, burnt books and school bags, according to images posted on social media.

"We were leaving school and had just stepped out from the rear gate when the explosion occurred," Ali Jan, a student who was wounded in the first blast, told AFP at a hospital.

The second blast took place as rescuers arrived to ferry victims from the first explosion to hospitals. "When I heard of the blast I called one of my friends who studies at that school," said wounded shopkeeper Murtaza.

"His phone was switched off. Then I went to the site... and that's when I was hit in the second blast."

Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran told AFP that the attack outside the Abdul Rahim Shahid school was caused by improvised explosive devices, killing six people.

"These are preliminary figures. We are at the site and waiting for more details," he said. Two hospitals confirmed they were treating a total of 24 people wounded in the blasts.

## Israel downs Gaza rocket

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel shot down a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip late on Monday, the Israeli military said, the first such attack in months as tensions over a flashpoint Jerusalem shrine drew angry pro-Palestinian rhetoric from Jordan and US mediation efforts.

No Gaza faction claimed responsibility for the launch, which followed warnings by the dominant Hamas Islamists of reprisals for Israeli conduct around Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque compound.

Within hours, Israeli air strikes hit camps used by Hamas and another Gaza faction, Palestinian sources said. The military said one target was an arms manufacturing site. No one was hurt.

Since Friday, Al Aqsa has seen confrontations between Palestinian stone-throwers and Israeli riot police recalling violence that helped fan a Gaza war one year ago.

Palestinians accuse Israel of encroaching at Al Aqsa during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Israel says Palestinian protesters seek to disrupt Muslim prayer for political ends and to prevent visits by Jews, who are now celebrating Passover.

The tensions complicate Israel's security ties with Jordan, which is custodian of Al Aqsa and has a Palestinian majority.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
National Sports Council	
Office of the Project Director	
Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd Phase) Project	
62/3, Purana Pallan, Dhaka-1000	
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) (Consulting Services: Firm Selection-National)	
The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has financed for Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for construction supervision consulting services.	
Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Youth & Sports
Agency	: National Sports Council
Procuring Entity Name	: Project Director, Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project.
Procuring Entity Code	: Not used at present.
Procuring entity District	: Dhaka
Expression of Interest for Selection of	: Consulting Services: Firm (National) (time-Based)
Title of Services (Lot wise)	: Lot 1: Selection of Consulting Firm for construction supervision of Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project (Zone-1). Lot 2: Selection of Consulting Firm for construction supervision of Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project (Zone-2). Lot 3: Selection of Consulting Firm for construction supervision of Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project (Zone-3). Lot 4: Selection of Consulting Firm for construction supervision of Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project (Zone-4). Lot 5: Selection of Consulting Firm for construction supervision of Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project (Zone-5). Lot 6: Selection of Consulting Firm for construction supervision of Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project (Zone-6). Lot 7: Selection of Consulting Firm for construction supervision of Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project (Zone-7).
EOI Ref. No.	: 34.03.0000.005.13.106(2).2021/286
Date	: Date: 19.04.2022
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
Procurement Sub-Method	: Fixed Budget Selection (FBS)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
Budget and Source of Funds	: GOB
Development Partners	: N/A
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
Project Name	: Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd phase) Project.
EOI Closing Date and Time	: 11/05/2022 at 01:00pm
Publication Date	: 20/04/2022
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
Brief Description of Assignment	: This is a Project of National Sports Council under the Ministry of Youth and Sports where total 186 Nos. Upazila Mini Stadium at 56 districts will be Constructed. To ensure quality works and timely completion of project work the Procuring Entity would like to engage consulting firms in 7 (seven) Lots for Construction Supervision. For each Separate Lot, the required service includes but not limited to: (1) Supervision of construction work by engaging full time supervision engineers. (2) Updating and review of design and duly preparation of estimates/BOQ. (3) Monitoring entire construction work as per approved Architectural and structural design and drawings. (4) Quality Control of works as per technical specification mentioned in BoQ. (5) Monitoring progress and preparation of monthly progress report. (6) Other assignments as per instructions of Project Director.
Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	: The EOI, for each Lot, will be evaluated on the basis of the following to prepare a short list and interested firm must provide the following information: 1) Background of the firm with brochure(s). 2) Experience of the firm 1. The Firm should have minimum 5 (five) years of experience in the field of construction project supervision works. 2. The Firm should have Specific experience of having successfully completed contracts for construction project supervisions of at least one contract during the last 3 (three) years of similar complexity. The EOI should summarize the diversified experiences of the firm (or combined experiences of the consortium) supported by project data sheets, Completion Certificate & Contract Documents, work order of related works which should be included in the EOI. 3) Annual Turn Over with audit reports of the firm for the last 3 years. 4) Availability of appropriate Key staff, other staff, logistic supports. EOI should consist updated Trade License, VAT registration certificate (13 digit), Income tax Certificates (up to 2020-21 tax year), JVCA agreement (if any). Key experts will not be evaluated at shortlisting stage.
Other Details (if applicable)	: The Expression of Interest (EOI), for each Lot, must be submitted in 2 (two) sets: 1 (one) original & 1 (one) copy, which should be marked and enveloped duly and these two sets inner envelope have to put into and sealed outer envelope which must be marked clearly with i) Lot No., ii) Lot Name, iii) Name of the consulting firm and iv) Address of the undersigned. The sealed envelope must be submitted or before the specified date and time to the office of the undersigned. The consultants will be selected in accordance with Fixed Budget Selection (FBS) method following Public Procurement Act (PPA), 2006 & Public Procurement Rules (PPR), 2008. Consulting Firm(s) in the form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy or Association are also encouraged to participate in the EOI as per PPR, 2008. The details will be provided in the Terms of References (TOR). TOR will be available at National Sports Council's website <a href="http://nsc.gov.bd">http://nsc.gov.bd</a> /Short listing will be made in accordance with PPR, 2008. Only short-listed consulting firm(s) will be qualified for participating in RFP for the consultancy services. Interested applicants may obtain further information from the undersigned during office hours (9.00am to 3.00pm).
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
Name of Official Inviting EOI	: Mahub Mourshed Sohel
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	: Project Director
Address of Official Inviting EOI	: Office of the Project Director, Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila level (2nd Phase), National Sports Council, 62/3, Purana Pallan (Level-7), Dhaka-1000.
Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	: Phone: 02-41052044. Email: pd@nsc.gov.bd
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject at any stage any or all EOIs.	
Mahub Mourshed Sohel Project Director Construction of Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium at Upazila Level (2nd Phase) Project	
GD-791	

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Another democratic institution stunted Administrators appointed in 61 zila parishads

ONE can now put two and two together and link the passage of Zila Parishad (Amendment) Act, 2022 on April 5, making provision for the appointment of administrators to the local government body, with the government's latest decision to dissolve zila parishads. Needless to say, it was an unconstitutional act that violates the essential fabric of the local government, which cannot be run by unelected individuals. The said act has made provisions for the government to appoint administrators in zila parishads whose members, under the law, shall cease to hold office after the expiry of their five-year tenure. Articles 11 and 59 of the constitution have been grossly violated here.

The timing of the act and the dissolution of the 61 zila parishads soon thereafter have raised many questions that do little credit to the government's intentions. We believe that the argument that elections to district councils could not be held due to the pandemic is a fig leaf of an argument that betrays the government's purpose. When the height of the pandemic could not prevent the Election Commission from organising elections in so many union parishads, what could have possibly prevented them from holding the zila parishad elections, except ulterior motives?

In this context, reference to the scrapping of Amendment 13 of the constitution by the High Court, which did away with the caretaker government, is in order. The caretaker government system was declared null and void on the grounds that the country would be without elected representatives during its tenure. What will happen now? The backbone of our democracy, the local government, and that too the district councils, will now be run by unelected representatives, maybe for an unlimited period, till elections can be held to the district councils, whose tenure has expired. We believe that a government committed to the rule of the people would have amended the constitution in a manner that would have seen the continuation of elected representatives in office even after the expiry of their tenure due to *force majeure*, like a pandemic, instead of making unconstitutional provisions.

The concatenation of recent events cannot but create misgivings in the minds of the public that the government is undertaking these measures with an eye on the upcoming general election. We suggest that the government reconsider its decision and revert to status quo ante before the passage of the Zila Parishad (Amendment) Act, hold the zila parishad elections with the elected representatives. Democracy in Bangladesh has suffered many setbacks. Let it not suffer another. It is the people who should run their affairs as per their fundamental rights, not somebody imposed by the administration.

## Mockery of two emergency health projects

### Delayed execution may cancel out their benefits

IT'S disconcerting to know that the government has been able to utilise only around 15 percent of funds allocated for two Covid emergency response projects, and now faces a near-impossible race against time with the fund utilisation deadline ending in June 2023. The two projects—one titled "Covid-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project" and another titled "Covid-19 Response Emergency Assistance"—were adopted in 2020 to contain the pandemic. Of the combined funds of Tk 8,150 crore allocated for them, approximately Tk 6,970 crore (USD 800 million) was committed by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to support Bangladesh in testing and treating Covid cases, purchasing vaccine and strengthening its public healthcare capacity to respond to emergencies.

Over the last two years, however, the authorities struggled to use the money even while the country suffered through wave after wave of the pandemic, with hospitals often unable to accommodate patients or give them proper treatment, resulting in significant losses of lives. What could be the justification for that? Fund utilisation, according to experts, slowed down amid allegations of corruption in purchasing healthcare equipment and the lack of capacity of health officials in implementing projects. In the case of vaccines, the government couldn't use the funds due to the scarcity of jobs and the conditions from financiers to procure only vaccines approved by the World Health Organization (WHO). Using the funds properly may still strengthen our healthcare system by supporting the ongoing efforts, but those funds were primarily meant to meet the needs of a particular crisis period, and our failure to do so has been very expensive, to say the least.

If this is the fate of projects with "emergency" in their titles, one dreads to think what happens to non-emergency projects in a climate of zero accountability. Public projects in Bangladesh, unfortunately, suffer from a culture of deliberate time and cost overruns, resulting in frequent revisions. Forget the additional cost that it causes. Delays at every stage of the implementation of a project mean that the promised benefits risk being compromised or cancelled by the time a project is finished, making a mockery of its stated objectives. And we have rarely—if ever—seen project officials and other stakeholders involved in delayed undertakings being held to account.

This is especially troubling when it happens in the health sector. The authorities—because they deal with public life—must answer for their failure to properly and timely utilise these emergency funds. And they must ensure the same doesn't happen going forward.

# Who will speak for the George Floyds of Bangladesh?



AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin is joint editor at The Daily Star.

IN the US, being Black or just a person of colour is enough to get one killed or arrested by a cop, merely for being at the wrong place at the wrong time—or even the right place at the right time. In Bangladesh, you just have to be poor or unconnected to anyone of influence to have to face the wrath of police. Thus, the horrible death of 26-year-old Rabiul in Lalmonirhat because he was "suspected" to be a gambler is hardly a shock, no matter how tragic the incident. It is tragic because there was no proof that he had gambled at the Baishakhi mela (fair), where someone who knew him said he had gone to buy toys for his daughter. And so what if he had been a so-called gambler—how does this justify policemen kicking him and beating him unconscious, and then taking him away only for him to be declared dead at a city hospital a couple of hours later? Apparently, law enforcement officials can not only detain anyone they wish, but they also have the right to use brutal force just because someone argued with them—or for no reason at all.

To add to the agony of a family who has lost a loved one and an earning member, there is little likelihood of getting any justice as they are scared to file a case against the police, who can file counter cases and make life intolerable for the family if they want to. After all, Rabiul's family members come from the voiceless, powerless class who are not entitled to any kind of state protection even if their lives are threatened. This means Rabiul can be declared a criminal, and there will be no one to clear his name—not even his fellow residents of Kazir Chawra village in Lalmonirhat, who blocked the highway to protest his killing, and certainly not his 20-year-old wife who has suddenly become a widow at such a young age.

Only a few days later in Cumilla, another young man, named Raju, accused in a murder case, was shot during the euphemistically termed "crossfire" with an official line that never gets too old for those who tell it: Rab raids an area based on a tip-off, the miscreants start shooting, Rab retaliates, the miscreants flee the scene, and one of them is found shot dead. Of course, it happens to be the one they were looking for. End of story. Ironically, in this case, the dead man is the suspect for the murder of a journalist; so now we have two dead men and seemingly no one to

tell the courts what really happened.

These may be described as isolated incidents, but they are both part of a frightening culture of brutality and impunity that characterises our law enforcement's image today. The first incident, where policemen are directly involved, demonstrates the sheer helplessness of ordinary citizens at the hands of law enforcers. Human rights

despite provisions in the law and in our constitution against torture and the use of excessive force, many law enforcement members have total disregard for either. They have been given inordinate power and have no accountability for its abuse. In the second incident, it is the same sense of invincibility that has led to yet another extrajudicial killing—the first after the US sanctions. In 2021,



ILLUSTRATION: SUSHMITA S PREETHA

**People are afraid of law enforcers and see them as predators, not protectors. This is the damning truth that completely overshadows all the hard work that the police and Rab have done and continue to do in curbing crime and militancy in Bangladesh.**

organisations have highlighted Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Special Powers Act, 1974 as laws that allow law enforcement officials to arrest anyone without a court order. Recognising the scope for abuse, the High Court has issued 15 directives that include specific instructions related to the arrest and treatment of a person in custody. This includes disclosing the law enforcement official's identity and if asked, showing his/her ID card to the person arrested, recording all the details of the arrest including the reasons why the arrest took place, allowing the arrested person to call his/her lawyer, ascertaining if the arrestee has any injury and taking him/her to the hospital or a government doctor for treatment, and getting a doctor's certificate regarding the nature of the injury. The law enforcement official is supposed to produce the arrestee at a court within 24 hours of arrest, and if this is not the case, he/she must explain to the magistrate the reasons for the delay. The magistrate has the power to decide if the reasons are valid enough for detention or whether the arrestee should be released.

In an article titled "Police power of arrest and remand" in *The Daily Star*, Barrister Md Abdul Alim explains that, in reality, without proper guidelines, magistrates often just follow a "parrot like" order on the forwarding letter of the police officer authorising detention in police custody or in jail." Thus,

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) recorded 48 "crossfire" deaths and 21 deaths during "shootouts" before arrest, and six deaths due to torture after arrest.

People are afraid of law enforcers and see them as predators, not protectors. This is the damning truth that completely overshadows all the hard work that the police and Rab have done and continue to do in curbing crime and militancy in Bangladesh.

The US sanctions against Rab shows that these blatant violations of human rights do not go unnoticed by the international community, whatever the underlying agenda may be. It is the state's responsibility to protect its citizens, criminals and innocents alike, as guaranteed by the constitution. Major reforms in the police and other forces are crucial if we are to be recognised as a functioning democracy that upholds the values of the Liberation War and honours our constitutional rights.

But how do we reform forces that have been, by tradition, intensely politicised to serve the agendas of the government of the day? There lies the crux of the problem. The government must realise that, unless our law enforcement agencies are free from political influence, it will be impossible to hold them accountable for abuse of power. It will also be an uphill task to regain public trust in these forces, which can lead to increasing discontent, anarchy and space for criminality to get a free reign.

## Climate action: We're running out of time



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr Saleemul Huq is the director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

SALEEMUL HUQ

THE Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a United Nations (UN) body set up to commission major assessments of the state of science on climate change and issue their assessment report every five or so years. It has three Working Groups (WGs): WG I is for climate science, WG II for vulnerability impacts and adaptation, and WG III for actions to avoid climate impacts.

Just recently, the IPCC issued the reports of all three Working Groups of its sixth assessment cycle. I was quite confident that I knew what would be in their report, but I am quite shocked by the findings. I will explain why.

All the previous IPCC reports gave evidence of what would happen if we continued to emit greenhouse gases (GHGs) that lead to global temperature rise, and emphasised the need to step up actions to mitigate and adapt in anticipation of future impacts of human-induced climate change.

However, the WG I report of the sixth assessment cycle, which came out in August last year, reported that the impacts of human-induced climate change were already evident, and could be unequivocally attributed to the temperature rise of over one degree Celsius. Then WG II came out with their report in February this year, which reported hundreds of cases of climate

impacts such as floods, cyclones, heat waves, wildfires and droughts, which were beyond any previous records, and again attributed their severity to the fact that the global temperature has gone up over one degree Celsius. It also emphasised the need to invest more in adaptation in the developing countries as well as the developed countries. Then WG III came out with its report last month, and again raised the alarm

that we were not taking enough actions for both mitigation and adaptation, and that the window for taking such actions is closing very rapidly.

This was despite the fact that all the governments had agreed in the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit their emissions to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the developed countries promised to provide USD 100 billion a year to help the developing countries with mitigation and adaptation measures.

However, as the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the press conference to announce the WG III report, leaders of the major countries have failed to keep their promises to reduce GHG emissions as well as fund the developing countries. In fact, he went so far as to accuse them of lying, which illustrated the frustration that he,

quite rightly, felt about the lack of action regarding climate change.

This means that we only have a few years to take drastic actions to both mitigate and adapt effectively, as we are already beginning to see the losses and damages caused by the impacts of climate change.

As the IPCC starts to plan its seventh assessment cycle for the next five years, it is important that the vulnerable developing countries demand a special report on loss and damage. They previously demanded such a special report on temperature rise, which was effective in getting the goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius in the Paris Agreement. A special report on loss and damage could have a similar effect to galvanise the stalled negotiations on finances for the losses and damages that the developing countries are suffering. As the leader of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Bangladesh could advocate for such a special report.

At the same time, in Bangladesh, we have to start thinking about the fact that global temperature rise may go beyond 1.5 or even two degrees Celsius, and be better prepared ourselves to be able to tackle the inevitable losses and damages that will happen. One measure could be to develop a national mechanism to address loss and damage as a public-private partnership between government and non-government actors.

In conclusion, I predict that by the time the seventh assessment report of the IPCC comes out, it will be a catalogue of impacts that have already happened and will continue to happen because we failed to act in time. The sixth assessment report of the IPCC is the last warning to policymakers around the world to take action immediately to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

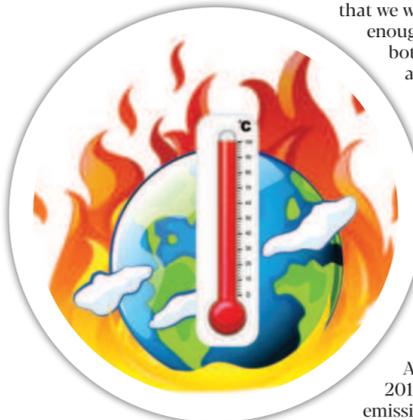


ILLUSTRATION: BRGFX/FREEPIK

# Why do we love to hate Dhaka?



AN OPEN DIALOGUE

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

Dr. Abdullah Shibli is an economist and works for Change Healthcare, Inc., an information technology company. He also serves as a senior research fellow at the US-based International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI).

OVER the years, I have offered in these columns my ideas on solving some of Dhaka's problems: overcrowding, traffic, and open garbage on the streets. But today, I muster my courage and wit to write in praise of Dhaka in the vein of Marc Anthony's famous speech in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," and shout, "Friends, Dhakaites, countrymen, lend me your ears. I come to praise Dhaka, not to bury it!"

Writing about the city of Dhaka and its charms, as well as its problems, is one of my favourite hobbies. I will admit that I get very defensive when I see any comments questioning the "liveability" of this city, which is my birthplace. Of late, I have seen a few essays on the pages of this newspaper—and in others, too—that question the viability of this megacity, and they inflamed an old wound. How can I remain silent while others are saying such "bad" things about the city where I was born, and the one that I still love?

Allow me to share with you why I am going to take up arms again to defend Dhaka. The city has its problems, and I am certainly not going to waive them away. Pollution, traffic problems, and litter on the footpaths are supposed to be some of the worst in the world, according to a report published in *The Daily Star*.

Many foreign organisations regularly crank out a liveability index for large cities. For its Global Liveability Index, for example, *The Economist* magazine assigns a liveability score for more than 30 qualitative and quantitative factors in five broad categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure. Even if I concede that Dhaka might be a rank or two lower in one category or the other compared to other megacities, that does not make the city unliveable!

And then foreign visitors and residents rail about the lack of some basic amenities and comforts of life that one misses in Dhaka. On March 31, 2022, an editorial in

this daily asked, "Will we soon see the 'end' of Dhaka?" And it offers a hint as to why one of my editors is frustrated with the city: it "suffers from innumerable problems on all fronts." The author then lists a few: toxic air, harmful noise, unsafe drinking water, perennial waterlogging, heavy traffic, very high population density, and



the astronomical prices of essentials. Jatiya Party MP Pir Fazlur Rahman, on the same date, "expressed outrage over the horrible traffic congestion, air and noise pollution in Dhaka" in parliament. I will not deny that there are a few voices, feeble though they may be, who write in a slightly different tone. Among them is Debra Elroymsen, whose article in *The Daily Star* is laudably titled, "Learning to Love Dhaka."

More seriously, do the detractors even ask: How do people live in this city of 20 million-plus? Did they choose Dhaka only out of necessity? Do we ever ask, "What do they love about this megacity?" Well, I do know a thing or two about the hidden treasures of Dhaka. I have lived in different sections of the city, both in the "old town," as we used to call it, and the newer

neighbourhoods. I was born in Umesh Dutta Road and spent my early years in Bakshi Bazar, Farashganj, Jyoginagar, Azimpur Colony, Eskaton Gardens, Minto Road, Dhanmondi, Boro Moghbazar, Sobhanbagh, Lalmatia, and Indira Road, and lately in Gulshan. Yes, I have led the life of a jabor, but also saw the inner

Azaan was over. These days, in my mother-in-law's flat, I often lie in bed as the prayer calls shift from one direction to the other, rotating from the south to the west and finally to the east.

When I feel desolate in Boston, I walk the streets of Dhaka—in my dreams, of course. In reality, though, I love walking on the streets of Dhaka. I remember a few years ago, during the national elections in December 2008, Dhaka was empty of all traffic, and I walked for miles on a cross-city walkathon from Gulshan to Mirpur cutting through Cantonment. Of course, there was dust, and so were lots of pedestrians like me trying to take in the city, its crumbling buildings, new constructions, the overflowing gutters, trash that we like to throw everywhere. But there was something surreal about having the city all to oneself and not having to compete against the rickshaws, cars, trucks, buses, and all other vehicles. I wonder what it would be like if we had "people's power" and all vehicular traffic was banned.

Every time I visit Dhaka, I start with a long list of things to do and places I need to visit, but more often than not, I fail to accomplish my mission, because getting from Point A to Point B in the city takes some effort—partly because of the busy streets. But a little bit of planning ahead of time helps me get around and avoid the traffic. I must confess that it's the same way when I visit New York City or Sylhet, my father's hometown, and which I sometimes consider my hometown as well. It's almost like being in a frenzy—more like attempting to cover each gate while getting to the finish line in a grand slalom.

My daughter has a similar attachment to New York City, another unliveable city. She did not grow up there, but once she got a taste of Manhattan, Broadway, Soho, Times Square, Central Park, and everything else that New York offers, she became a lifer. But, coming back to Dhaka, what I dream of doing in Dhaka is hanging out in Gausia Market eating phuchka, traversing the old Race Course (Suhrawardy Udyan) on foot, sipping tea at Chittagong Restaurant in front of Dhaka College, watching the boats ply their fare across the emaciated Buriganga, or getting stuck in the car with my mobile phone in water-logged Shantinagar Chourasta. But, that also is one of my beefs about the city. Why can't I get to Motijheel from Moghbazar in less than three hours when I am in a rush?

Despite all its problems, Dhaka does have a certain charm.

PHOTO: MARUF AREFIN MIM

workings of the city and the hidden life of its residents. And I ask: How can you not love Dhaka?

I have lived abroad for many years of my life, and I miss the early morning wake-up calls that come in the form of Azaan before Fajr prayers. Regardless of where I spend the night while in Dhaka, the call to prayer wakes me up every morning. There are at least three mosques surrounding my mother's flat, and each of them takes turns in letting the neighbourhood know that it is time to wake up and join the faithful to offer Fajr prayers. My mother once told me she felt like joining the masses by going to a mosque for the morning prayers, and wistfully remembered the time when my father, while they lived in Boro Moghbazar after his retirement, would rush to the mosque every morning as soon as the

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh  
office of the Director -Cum-Professor  
National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases  
Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

No. NICVD/ Administration /Diet & Washing/2022-2023/2123

Date- 18/04/2022.

**"Invitation for Tender"**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and family welfare
2	Agency	National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases
3	Procuring entity Name	National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases
4	Invitation for	(1) Supply of Foods for Patients 2022-2023 (2) Linen Washing (with Iron) for 2022-2023
5	Invitation Ref. No	NICVD/ Administration /Diet & Washing/2022-2023/2123
6	Date	Date: 18/04/2022.

**KEY INFORMATION**

7	procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.(OTM)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

8	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue & Development Budget
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

9	Tender Publication Date	After Invitation of Tender in Newspaper.
10	Tender last Selling Date & Time	18/05/2022. 10 AM to 2 PM
11	Tender Closing Date & time	19/05/2022 10.00 AM to 12.30 PM
12	Tender Opening Date & time	19/05/2022. 1.30 PM

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE**

13	Selling tender document	Tender Document will be available only on following web site:- <b>1. NICVD Web site- www.nicvd.gov.bd</b>
14	Receiving Tender Document	1) Office of the Director & Professor, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. 2) Deputy Police Commissioner (Tejgaon), 22/5, Khilzi road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.
15	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Director & Professor, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

16	Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide suppliers for Lot-01, Lot-2, Lot-3 & Lot-5, Manufacturer for Lot-4. The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 years experience in the supply of similar goods and related services.
17	Brief Description of Goods	ALL TYPES OF FOODS, GROCERIES & LINEN WASHING (WITH IRON)

**18. Price of Tender Document (Tk.):**

Lot No	Name of the Group	Price of tender documents (In Challan)	Tender security Amount (In Pay-Order/Bank draft)
01	Rice, Atta, Masala, Dairy products & others.	Tk. 2500/- (Two thousand) only.	Tk. 4,00,000/- (Four lac) only.
02	Fruits & vegetables	Tk. 2000/- (Two thousand) only.	Tk. 3,00,000/- (Three lac) only.
03	Fish, Mutton & Chiken meat & hens egg.	Tk. 2000/- (Two thousand) only.	Tk. 4,00,000/- (Four lac) only.
04	Bread	Tk. 2000/- (Two thousand) only.	Tk. 3,00,000/- (Three lac) only.
05	Linen Washing (With Iron)	Tk. 2000/- (Two thousand) only.	Tk. 3,00,000/- (Three lac) only.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

19	Code No. for deposition of tender challan documents.	The purchase price of above mentioned tender documents (Non-refundable) is to be deposited in the Bangladesh bank by Treasury challan in code No.- 1-2711-0000-2366 to director and professor, NICVD, Dhaka-1207.
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Mir Jamal Uddin.
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director & Professor
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
23	Contract details of Official Inviting Tender	Procurement Section, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. Phone- 9123236, 9122560-78.
24	Authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender/rate. Authority may cancel the whole tender/part of the tender without assigning any reason.	
25	Terms and Conditions of the tender and other information will be available with the schedule.	

(Prof. Dr. Mir Jamal Uddin)  
Director & Professor

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়  
সেবা শাখা

বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের দাপ্তরিক কাজে ব্যবহারের প্রয়োজনে কম্পিউটার প্রিন্টারের টোনার (অরিজিনাল) চলতি ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের অবশিষ্ট সময়ের জন্য ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক চুক্তির আওতায় জরুর লক্ষ্যে প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় দরপত্রের সাথে চলতি সনের বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট সনদপত্র এবং টিআইএন এর সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি, ব্যাংক স্বচলতার সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের অনুলিপি এবং টেন্ডার সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলি ও চাহিদার আলোকে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

ক্রঃ নং	দপ্তরের নাম	বিস্তারিত বিবরণ
১	খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়	খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
২	এজেন্সি	-ঐ-
৩	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি নাম	-ঐ-
৪	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি কোড	১৪৮০১০১-৩২৫৫-৩২৫৫১০১ "কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী"
৫	দরপত্র নং	১৩.০০.০০০০.০১৫.৩৫.০০৪.১৭.৩৭২
৬	তারিখ	১৮/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৭	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক)
৮	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত
৯	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	১৮/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১০	দরপত্রের সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১১/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১১	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১১/০৫/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ১১/০৫/২০২২ দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১৩	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়, কক্ষ নং-১২১, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়, কক্ষ নং-১২১, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তর	উপসচিব (সেবা) এর দপ্তর, কক্ষ নং-১১৬, ভবন নং-৪, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৬	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	PPR-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের জন্য প্রণীত দরপত্রে বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী।
১৭	দরপত্রে বর্ণিত মালামালের সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা	কম্পিউটার প্রিন্টারের টোনার (অরিজিনাল)
১৮	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য।
১৯	লট নং-১	মন্ত্রণালয়ের দাপ্তরিক কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য কম্পিউটার প্রিন্টারের টোনার (অরিজিনাল)।
২০	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
২১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও টেলিফোন নম্বর	মোঃ কামরুজ্জামান, উপসচিব (সেবা), ভবন নং-৪, কক্ষ নং-১০৯/বি, খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা। ফোন নং-৯৫৪০৭৬৬।
২২		১। অন্যান্য শর্তাদি সিডিউলে বর্ণিত রয়েছে; ২। সকল দরপত্র বাতিল/গ্রহণ ক্ষমতা সংগ্রাহক সত্তা কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।

মোঃ কামরুজ্জামান  
উপসচিব (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)  
ফোনঃ +৮৮০২৯৫৪০৭৬৬



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

# Made in Khalifa Patti

Six-decade-old market still a go-to destination for originally designed clothes

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The ringing sound of hundreds of sewing machines floats through Khalifa Patti in Chattogram every year before Eid-ul-Fitr. At least eight to ten people are hard at work round the clock in every shop of the market.

Almost six decades ago, this market was established at Ghatforhadbeg of the port city, where 3,000 employees are working at 400 shops at present.

Khalifa Patti is famous for making originally designed clothes as per customer's demand. The market's traders make all kinds of dresses after collecting clothes from Islampur in Dhaka and Teri Bazar area of the port city. Every trader here is well-versed in the latest fashion trends.

Visiting the spot, this correspondent saw that the shop staffers were displaying clothes to customers. Some workers were cutting clothes, some were sewing and others were busy pressing the clothes.

The shops also sell plain clothes and ready-made garments including three-piece, lehenga, skirt, saree, panjabi and children's clothes.

Employees said even though the market is busy throughout the year, the crowd multiplies before Eid.

Alam Hossain, owner of Noor Fashion, said, "We've been doing business here for three generations. We're constantly making new designs of clothes. At the same time, we follow designs that are in fashion."

Mohammad Russell, proprietor of Five Star Garments, said, "Clothing is made here for a minimum of Tk 150 and a maximum of Tk 10,000. These affordable prices are only possible since our artisans and workers are designers of the clothes."

"We can replicate almost any design with perfection," he prided. Shahjahan, a worker of Samiya Fashion House, has been working there for 45 years. He said before 1980, the garment items made here were sold only in Chattogram's retail markets. But at present, Khalifa Patti's clothes have become popular all over the country.

Samsul Alam, general secretary of the Khalifa Patti Traders Welfare Association, said, "The market will be able to go into production on a larger scale if a separate zone was created. We'll be able to contribute more to the economy and increase employment."



# PORT CITY in festive mood

Eid shopping gains momentum in Chattogram

ARUN BIKASH DEY

With Eid-ul-Fitr inching closer, sales in different shopping malls and roadside markets in the port city are picking up.

Two years since the pandemic, people from all strata are crowding the shops to purchase their most sought after attires.

During a visit to different shopping malls and street markets, this correspondent found that shoppers expressed a mixed reaction over the price of attires.

Bipani Bitan (popularly known as New Market), one of the most sought after destinations for well-off customers, was seen abuzz with shoppers yesterday.

Md Sagir, president of Bipani Bitan Traders' Association, said sales have been gaining momentum in a total of 500 shops in the market everyday since the 15th of Ramadan.

"We couldn't do business in the past two years due to the Covid-19 situation, but the traders are hopeful to cover the losses this year," he added.

Like Bipani Bitan, other high-end shopping malls, including Ameen Centre, Sanmar Ocean City, Central Plaza, Mimi Super Market, Akhtaruzzaman Centre and Bali Arcade were packed with Eid shoppers.

Shoppers from middle and low income groups were also busy shopping at different locations.

Shahedul Azam, a private job holder, went to Tama Kumandi Lane at Reaz Uddin Bazar in Chattogram to shop with his family for Eid.

"We couldn't physically shop in the past two years during Eid, but this time, as the Covid-19 situation has improved, we've come here again," he said, adding, "However, the

afternoon to midnight."

People are also rushing to South Land Centre and Johur Hawkers' Market for buying men's wear, including shirts, pants and panjabis.

As South Land Centre and Johur Hawker market are both famous for their stock of export quality shirts and pants throughout the year, male shoppers retained their tendency to rely on these



price of items seems to be a bit high."

"For middle income groups it's crucial to shop within budget, which I can do here easily," said Shahriar Ahmed, another shopper.

"Tama Kumandi Lane is extremely popular among middle-income group shoppers," said Ahmed Kabir Dulal, general secretary of Tama Kumandi Lane Merchants Association.

"Around 10,000 shops in 110 malls are now buzzing with Eid shoppers from

places for their Eid shopping.

Different models of casual shirts, t-shirts, jeans and gabardine pants are available in this market with the price ranging from Tk 300 to Tk 1,500.

"Sales are gaining momentum as customers are taking interest in some newly designed garments that we brought in this year. Since clothes aren't sold here in fixed price, customers always enjoy the chance to bargain here," said Md Farhad, a salesman at Johur Hawkers Market.

**“We couldn't do business in the past two years due to the Covid-19 situation, but the traders are hopeful to cover the losses this year.”**

MD SAGIR  
president of Bipani Bitan Traders' Association



# Local shoemakers IN CRISIS

SIFAYET ULLAH

Chattogram's handmade footwear industry usually hits peak season during Ramadan, however, this year, the industry is set to undergo losses as the demand for local shoes has been decreasing.

Traders said demand has declined as the market is being flooded with shoes made in mechanised factories, mostly imported from China and India.

As a result, 300 handmade footwear factories in the port city have been shut down in the last seven years. More than half the labourers have switched to other professions.

Traders said the high price of raw materials and lack of wholesale buyers are the main issues faced by this industry.

During a recent visit to the East and West Madarbari, Kamal Gate, Jalsha Market and Nalapara areas of the port city, this correspondent saw that factory workers were making shoes and packaging them.

Workers said they have been using 90 percent rexine and 10 percent leather to

make a pair of shoes.

Mohammed Sadek, owner of Tarik Shoes, said, "The splendour of this industry is lost. Now we're just trying to survive somehow."

According to the Chattogram Khudra Paduka Shilpo Malik Group, Chattogram city had around 600 shoe-making factories, employing around 10,000 workers before 2015.

Majority of the entrepreneurs came from outside Chattogram, mostly from Bhairab and Manikganj.

Azher Uddin learned to make shoes from a very young age. Currently, he is working at a footwear factory named Mitali Shoes.

"Every month some of the factories here are closing down. If this continues, one day the handmade footwear industry will be lost. We'll lose our jobs as well," he added.

Monjur Khan, president of the Paduka Shilpo Malik Group said, "The pandemic has created a new crisis in the industry. We thought as it was over, we'll make some profit again. But we aren't able to make any due to the price hike of raw materials."



# Patiently threaded, diligently made

Eid ushers in hope for karchupi-zardozi artisans

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

With Eid approaching, the artisans of the port city's Bihari Palli, who specialise in zardozi and karchupi work (intricate designs done by hand with beads and metal thread embroidery) are working day and night to straighten out their orders at different boutiques of the region.

In these "boutique" factories in and around Jhautala Bihari Camp, zardozi and karchupi worked attires are being crafted with skillful hands, sharp eyes, and unrelenting patience. Once finished, these garments reach the city malls, where customers purchase them as Eid attires.

According to the artisans, even though there are two weeks left for Eid, the owners of the boutique houses have stopped taking new orders from the first week of Ramadan due to work pressure.

At present, 200 artisans work in various boutique houses in Jhautala and Bihari Palli.

Once, the area used to remain busy almost the entire day. However, ever since imported clothes from foreign boutique houses increased, their work decreased significantly.

Many artisans had to shift to other professions due to a lack of work throughout the year. Female artisans started working at garment factories while many of the men migrated to different countries in the Middle East.



Now there are just about 15 boutique houses in the area.

Md Jalal has been involved in this profession for the last 15 years. He owns "Choice Karchupi House", a boutique in the Wireless Colony area on the west side of Jhautala station.

Jalal runs this boutique house with 15 workers. Their descendants have also been involved in this work. In addition to their studies, these young artisans are learning how to make these handicrafts from scratch from their fathers, uncles, and aunts.

"The work pressure increases a month before Ramadan. Usually, we do this type of embroidery on sarees, ornas, and different types of dresses. Besides, we also get orders to do this type of work on Burkas," Jalal said.

Talking about their busy schedule, Jalal said the artisans are now working two shifts every day.

"Even though Eid work-orders give the

artisans some hope, the amount of work we receive throughout the year is still very little," said Md Saeed, manager of Anusha Boutique.

He said the demand for ready-made garments in the market is increasing day by day and people are losing interest in the local zardozi crafts.

Md Rubel, an artisan at Anusha Boutique, said, "Before, we could hire workers at any given point. Presently,



since many have shifted to other professions, it's extremely difficult for us to hire workers when the workload increases." He said due to the reduction in work, many craftsmen have to sit idle throughout the year. For which, many had to close their factories.

The artisans lamented that the tradition of zardozi-karchupi embroidery may cease to exist if the present situation continues.

## Barty to play in celebrity golf

AFP, Sydney

Former tennis world number one Ashleigh Barty will play in a golf exhibition tournament, organisers said Tuesday, heightening speculation that she could become a golfer after her shock retirement.

The three-time Grand Slam champion stunned the tennis world when she stepped away from the sport in March, with the multi-talented 25-year-old coy about her plans.

But Icons Series organisers revealed that she would be among the sports stars competing in the US event in June.

"We're thrilled to launch the Icons Series in America with a Mount Rushmore of the world's best athletes, all incredible golfers and fierce



competitors," Icons Series chief executive Thomas Brookes said in a statement.

US Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola and boxing legend Oscar De La Hoya are among other famous competitors due to take part at the Liberty National Golf Club in New Jersey.

The 28 competitors will be split into Team USA, led by Fred Couples, and Team Rest of the World.

"I'm excited to be part of the Icons Series and I hope through my participation in the series that we can encourage more women and girls to participate in golf around the world," Barty told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"It's such a unique opportunity to have fun, test yourself and compete against the world's greatest athletes in a sport that we are all so passionate about."



Bangladesh batter Liton Das inspects a few willows during the inauguration ceremony of a cricket equipment sales centre in Dhanmondi yesterday. Liton, who has played two matches for Abahani in the Dhaka Premier League after returning from South Africa, will look to make his willow talk during the remaining Super League matches.

PHOTO: STAR

## Shakib's return opens door for five bowlers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are gearing up for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka, well aware of the challenges they faced in South Africa against the home side's spinners. Batting will be an area of concern, but in terms of bowling the Tigers have showed promise in the recently concluded series despite injuries to Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam. However, the workload taken on by the pacers has already grabbed attention and, in a five-day Test, the necessity of playing five specialist bowlers cannot be argued against.

Despite the evidence, reality does not always meet theory head on. In that regard, Shakib Al Hasan's return to the side will hold the key to a better team combination against Sri Lanka.

The all-rounder skipped the Test series in South Africa to attend to his close family members, who had taken ill, but is due in the country today. He also expressed his wish to play in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League. Although his side, Mohammedan, failed to make the Super League stage, Shakib was willing to join

another team in order to get back into the grind ahead of the Sri Lanka assignment. Mohammedan have obliged.

Mohammedan director AGM Sabbir yesterday informed the media that Shakib has already contacted Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led Legends of Rugganj.

"Shakib is very much focused at the moment as far as I can see. When Rugganj approached him, he told us that he wants to play four matches to get into his flow. He wanted to prepare for the Sri Lanka series and, as part of preparations, wants to play the Super League," Sabbir told media yesterday.

Shakib's availability will ultimately rest with the BCB but the Tigers will find heart from his arrival. Selector Habibul Bashar spoke about the balance in the squad and also Shakib's arrival during a talk with The Daily Star.

Asked whether the team was comfortable with the idea of picking five bowlers, especially with Mehedi Hasan Miraz showing his calibre with the bat in ODI format, Bashar said: "Look, the thing is that Miraz's batting has been a relief for us. But in the Test arena, you need your top-order to score the runs. You cannot

just rely on the lower-order."

"The concept of picking five bowlers looks good in theory, but without Shakib it's not really viable. Shakib is coming back so his return will bolster the side for the upcoming series. With his return, it would be viable to pick five bowlers as that would give our batting that extra depth," he said.

Bangladesh have played all four Tests this year away from home, drawing a series 1-1 in New Zealand before the 2-0 loss in South Africa.

But their record at home has not been good viewing recently. The Tigers won only one of their last five Tests at home, losing four on the trot. They struggled against West Indies and Pakistan in the last two series at home.

"Playing at home adds extra pressure. There are concerns about the batting but I think that one shouldn't be so worried. This is still a team in transformation. We're looking at players from outside and we have also given chances in the national side. [Mahmudul Hasan] Joy struck a century in South Africa and [Nazmul Hossain] Shanto has shown promise. We still need time to sort the team out," Bashar concluded.

## Bangladesh cricket loses 'a wonderful human being'

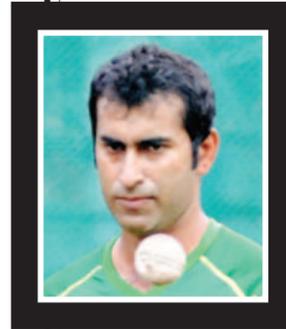
SPORTS REPORTER

A dark cloud engulfed Bangladesh's cricket fraternity after the passing of former national cricketer Mosharraf Hossain Rubel, who had been battling cancer for more than three years. Leading cricketers expressed their bereavement on social media with the likes of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shakib Al Hasan paying their tributes.

Former ODI captain Mashrafe wrote 'stay well my friend,' after news broke yesterday that Rubel had lost his battle with cancer. The 40-year-old left behind many admirers and despite playing just five ODIs for the national team, had performed according to his talents in the domestic circuit.

"We are saddened by the death of our long-time teammate and one of the best spinners in the country, Mosharraf Hossain Rubel. We are praying for the forgiveness of the deceased and our condolences to the bereaved family," Shakib wrote on Facebook.

Soumya Sarkar wrote: "You will be missed." Moshirur Rahman, Mahmudullah Riyad and Tamim Iqbal all paid tributes along with many others.



Liton Das was attending a program for SG and talking to the press, when the news of Rubel's death came in yesterday. Immediately a dark cloud came over Liton as he struggled to come to terms with the news. "You have given me a very saddening news," Liton said. "I played with boro bhai for a long time and I will always remember wherever I have played with him,"

Liton reminisced before falling silent as he tried to gather himself. That was the love that Rubel garnered in Bangladesh's cricketing fraternity.

"He was a wonderful human being. Not many know of his sense of humour, but we know," selector Habibul Bashar told The Daily Star yesterday. "In our addas, he was the one with the jokes and humour. There was a time when we spent so much time together. Probably in 2007 or 2008, we used to go roam around and find various restaurants to eat at in the evenings. His cricket career should have been a lot bigger because he was a genuine all-rounder. It's difficult to talk about him, he was always missed and will be missed now. I know he was suffering a lot. It was difficult for me to watch him since I was so close to him. I couldn't take it. Those who got to spend time beside him or played with him will tell you that they don't know someone as charming as him," an emotional Bashar said.



Mohun Bagan midfielder Hugo Boumous leaves Abahani playmaker Daniel Colindres in his wake during their AFC Cup Playoff fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Tuesday. The hosts won the contest 3-1 to book a place in the group stages of the competition.

PHOTO: TWITTER

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**HIGHEST SELLING 15 CEMENT** for more than years




The construction work of a bridge on Bangabandhu Bridge Link Road in Sirajganj may cause a serious traffic congestion on both sides of the bridge during Eid holidays. The authorities, however, assured that the work would be finished before the home rush begins.

PHOTO: STAR

## FLASH FLOOD IN HAORS Harvesting of half-ripe paddy continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Farmers in haor areas continue to harvest half-ripe Boro fearing more flash floods triggered by torrential rain in the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh and in India's Meghalaya.

Rivers in the areas are flowing close to or over the danger level and crop protection levees are on the verge of collapse. The Department of Agricultural Extension also urged farmers to harvest the paddy fast.

Swapan Kumar Barman, a farmer of Khorchar Haor in Sunamganj's Bishwambarpur upazila, said, "We can't wait any longer. As rivers are swelling and the dykes are vulnerable, it is high time to harvest."

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of Bangladesh Water Development Board, the Baulai river in Netrakona was flowing 27cm above the danger level and the Sarigowain river in Sylhet 5cm above the danger mark at 9:00am yesterday.

FFWC added that water of rivers would slowly rise in Netrakona. The level would stay close to the danger level in haor areas of Netrakona, Sunamganj, and Sylhet.

Farmers of Netrakona harvested paddy of 69 percent haor farmland until yesterday, and no new areas were inundated, said FM Mobarak Ali, deputy director of the DAE in the district.

In the district, Boro has been cultivated on

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Cricket fraternity shaken by losses



Samiur Rahman



Mosharraf Hossain

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket community was shocked by the demise of two former national cricketers yesterday. In the morning, news broke about Samiur Rahman Sami's before Mosharraf Hossain Rubel's passing in the afternoon.

Both breathed their last after long battles with illnesses.

Left-arm seamer Sami, who had been ill for the past year and a half after being diagnosed with a brain tumour, was recently admitted to a city hospital after his condition deteriorated. He breathed his last at the age of 66.

On the other hand, left-arm spinner Rubel had been battling cancer after being diagnosed with a brain tumour in March 2019. He passed away at a city hospital at the age of 40.

Sami, who was noted for his ability to swing the ball, was a member of Bangladesh's first ODI team that played Pakistan in an Asia Cup fixture in 1986 in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. He would appear in one more ODI for Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## CONGESTION AROUND BANGABANDHU BRIDGE

# Ordeal lies in wait for those northbound

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU and MIRZA SHAKIL

Eid holidaymakers heading for northern districts might get caught in gridlocks on both sides of the Bangabandhu bridge due to the expansion work on a 25km stretch of the Elenga-Rangpur highway.

The government is upgrading the 190km highway to dual carriageway. As part of the development work, road expansion works is underway on the stretch between Bangabandhu bridge's west end and Hatikumrul intersection in Sirajganj.

Also, the construction work of a bridge is going on in Sirajganj's Nolkha area.

Slow movement of vehicles is already causing tailbacks on both sides of the Bangabandhu bridge. The situation could worsen further if more vehicles hit the highway ahead of the Eid holidays by the end of next week, which is almost certain to happen, said transport operators.

The Bangabandhu bridge on

the Jamuna is considered the gateway to 16 northern districts. Besides, vehicles heading for six southern districts also use this bridge.

On an average day, some 18,000 to 20,000 vehicles use the bridge. The number goes up to 50,000 to 60,000 during Eid rush, according to highway police.

The bridge connects Tangail

**On an average day, some 18,000 to 20,000 vehicles use the bridge. The number goes up to 50,000 to 60,000 during Eid rush.**

and Sirajganj districts. Its eastern part is at Ibrahimabad of Tangail's Bhuapur upazila and the western end in Sayedabad area of Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Passengers and transport operators said they are already experiencing gridlocks due to the construction work. The situation might worsen during the Eid holidays.

Bus driver Masud Rana said, "We used to travel the 25km distance in around an hour. But the journey now takes us around five to six hours."

Md Alauddin, another bus driver, said they cannot even imagine how terrible the traffic situation would be during the Eid rush.

According to passengers and transport operators, when a gridlock is created on the west end of the Bangabandhu bridge, it impacts traffic at the eastern end.

They said if vehicles cannot move on the west zone highway, the authorities stop vehicles from getting on the bridge at the eastern end. As a result, long tailbacks are created on the highway in Tangail.

Amid such a situation, the highway police are taking special measures to control traffic during the holidays.

"We have identified 26 spots on the 25km stretch of the highway. Additional policemen will be deployed there to ensure

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## No big surprise in new Pak cabinet Bilawal tipped to become foreign minister

AGENCIES

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sprang no big surprises in naming his new cabinet yesterday, doling out key portfolios to officials from the two parties that combined to oust Imran Khan after weeks of political crisis.

The cabinet is drawn mostly from Shehbaz's Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), two usually feuding dynastic groups who combined to force a no-confidence vote that ousted Khan on April 10.

How long the government lasts remains to be seen, however, as most of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers have quit parliament and the former cricketer turned politician has taken his fight to the streets to press for an early election -- which must be held by October next year.

"It will be an uphill task for the prime minister to pull them together in one direction because some parties have local and regional interests, and some have national interests," analyst Hasan Askari told AFP.

"If they handle economic issues, other problems will settle down -- but if the situation worsens, everyone will blame the PML-N, which is in majority."

There were just five women in Sharif's 37-member cabinet.

Shehbaz, brother of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, did not name a foreign minister but that role is expected to go to the scion of another

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

## METRO RAIL Emergency drill conducted for passengers' safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Metrorail authorities have installed special buttons in each carriage of the trains to better deal with emergencies and ensure passengers' safety.

Once the train operator receives an emergency call from the buttons, the message will be transmitted by the operator to the Operation Control Centre (OCC) at the Diabari depot.

The OCC will then command each operator to stop the train at the next station, and inform the station controller, police and fire service.

In the meantime, the Disaster Management Team (DMT) at Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), which will operate the metro rail, will inform the organisations concerned.

Once the train is stopped, the passengers will be evacuated, and the fire service and police officials will take the next course of action.

All these works are expected to be completed within minutes, according to the authorities, who conducted an emergency response drill at the Metro Rail Exhibition

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



The authorities conducting a safety drill at the Metro Rail Exhibition and Information Centre in the capital's Diabari yesterday. A special button has been installed in each carriage of the trains to avert arson-related emergencies and ensure the safety of passengers.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

## Electric chopsticks to enhance taste

REUTERS, Tokyo



Japanese researchers have developed computerised chopsticks that enhance salty tastes, potentially helping those who need to reduce sodium in their diets.

Co-developed by Meiji University professor Homei Miyashita and beverage maker Kirin Holdings Co. 2503.T, the chopsticks enhance tastes using electrical stimulation and a mini-computer worn on a wristband.

The device uses a weak electrical current to transmit sodium ions from food, through the chopsticks, to the mouth where they create a sense of saltiness, said Miyashita.

"As a result, the salty taste enhances 1.5 times," he said.

Miyashita and his lab have explored various ways that technology can interact with and stimulate human sensory experiences. He's also developed a lickable TV screen that can imitate

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6