

NAHID MURDER

Cops zero in on killers

Law enforcers, other sources say the culprits, primarily identified, are activists of Dhaka College BCL

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MUNTAKIM SAAD

The youths who beat up and hacked 19-year-old Nahid Mia during the New Market clashes on Tuesday have primarily been identified and are now under police surveillance, said multiple sources, including law enforcers.

Many of those who were carrying local weapons are also under watch, they said.

Nahid, a delivery man of a computer accessories shop on Elephant Road, died later that night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses and sources involved in the investigation said Dhaka College students, led by three Chhatra League factions, took part in the deadly clashes with New Market shopkeepers that led to Nahid's death.

Those groups were led by BCL leaders Jullikar, Firoz, and Jashim.

Jashim and his men were the fiercest that day, said the sources.

They marched on the street holding machetes, iron rods, and sticks. They were the ones who attacked Nahid, officials involved in the probe, said, preferring to remain unnamed.

They said many of those carrying sharp weapons during the clashes have been identified. Most of those are from BCL, the pro-Awami League student body.

They also said most BCL men in Dhaka College used their motorbikes' helmet to hide their identities and also not to get harmed while taking part in the violence. The person that hacked Nahid was also wearing a helmet.

As the Dhaka College Chhatra League currently has no committee, the unit is run by several factions. In 2016, a convening committee was formed for three months, but it failed to constitute a full-fledged committee.

Many of those carrying sharp weapons during the clashes have been identified. And most of them are from Chhatra League.

Said sources involved in investigation

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Dhaka College students and Chhatra League leaders who hit Nahid during the clash on Tuesday. From left, Kaiyum, who hit Nahid first; Monayem wielding a hammer; Kawsar AKA Sada Kawsar; and Sadik Mirza, wielding a machete. They were identified by law enforcers.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

147 sued, 67 arrests a month

Says CGS report on 11 months till Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On an average, 67 arrests were made every month under the Digital Security Act in the 11 months preceding February, said a new report by the Centre for Governance Studies.

Way more people were being arrested under the act in recent times than before, it concluded.

Between January 2020 and March 2021, the average number of people arrested every month was about 18.

At least 842 people were detained between January 2020 and February 2022, said the report

titled "The Unending Nightmare: Impacts of Bangladesh's Digital Security Act-2018".

The report also recorded the occupations of 315 of the arrestees: Eighty of them were politicians, 59 journalists and 47 students.

Since most of the provisions of the act state that the offenders are not supposed to get bail, the arrestees get incarcerated for extended periods of time even before the trials begin, said the speakers who unveiled the report at a virtual ceremony yesterday.

The number of cases filed under the act has also shot up in recent times.

An average of about 147 individuals were accused each month in the 11 months until February.

In the fifteen months prior to that, 61 people were accused on an average each month, indicating that the number of cases being filed have more than doubled in the past year.

Speakers said the law was being used "indiscriminately".

The report says 2,244 people have been accused in 890 cases in the last two years.

Lead researcher of the report Prof Ali Riaz, distinguished

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FLOODS IN HAOR

Forecast gives window to harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Farmers in the haors are now busy harvesting Boro paddy as the sky was clear and no flash flood was forecasted anytime soon.

Jyotimohon Das, a farmer in Sunamganj's Jamalganj upazila, said, "I have harvested most of the paddy in the last couple of days as we have sunny weather and no worries of flash floods."

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension, around 70 percent of the total Boro paddy was harvested in Sylhet division till yesterday.

Mosarrat Hossain Khan, additional director of DAE in Sylhet division, said, "It will take another week to harvest cent percent

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RANA PLAZA MURDER TRIAL

Only 1 out of 594 witnesses testified so far

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The trial progress in the murder case filed over the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse has been dismal as only one out of 594 prosecution witnesses has so far testified.

It has left the survivors and families of those who died in the tragedy utterly frustrated.

The prosecution said testimonies could not be recorded as some of the accused in the case filed appeals with the High Court challenging indictment orders.

A Dhaka court framed charges against 41 accused, including building owner Sohel Rana, in 2016.

Of the witnesses, only Wali Ashraf



Khan, the complainant, testified. It was recorded on March 16 this year, said the prosecution.

Three other witnesses have been asked to appear before the court for statements on May 29, it said.

With the slow progress in trial proceedings, many survivors and families of the deceased said they might not see justice served in their lifetime.

"We want the judgment. The authorities should take steps to ensure it as soon as possible, said Nilufar Yesmin, a survivor who lost her ability to work.

Another survivor, Mahmudul Hasan Hridoy, said, "It's extremely

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Children with spinning tops in their hands instead of mobile phones -- a rare sight when most of their likes spend hours glued to screens. The photo was taken in the capital's Shahjahanpur recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CORROSION AWARENESS DAY 2022

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US with all against attacks on minorities

Says US Ambassador-at-Large Rashad Hussain

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US stands alongside Bangladeshis of all faiths who came together to reject attacks against the minority communities, said US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain.

Hussain, who visited Bangladesh on April 17-20, emphasised the importance of the respect for freedom of religion or belief for all people, everywhere.

He visited a Hindu community whose temple was destroyed in a violence last October, a media statement of the US Embassy in Dhaka said yesterday.

Hussain praised the government's quick condemnation last October of the religiously motivated violence against Hindu communities.

The ambassador also spoke about the importance of supporting and protecting those working to advance human rights, fostering interfaith dialogue and tolerance, and combating the efforts of those who seek to stoke division and incite violence.

During his time in Bangladesh, he met Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar to discuss their experiences and learn more about the important role religion plays in providing hope and promoting resilience.

In Dhaka, Hussain met senior Bangladeshi government officials, including the state ministers for foreign and religious affairs.

In the meetings, he reiterated US support for religious freedom and freedom of expression. He expressed gratitude to Bangladesh for its generosity in hosting Rohingya refugees.

ECONOMIC MELTDOWN

Loyalists urge Sri Lanka PM to resign

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's beleaguered prime minister came under increased pressure to step down yesterday, as staunch allies broke ranks and backed street protests calling for resignations over a worsening economic crisis.

Media minister Nalaka Godahewa announced his support for the thousands outside President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office who are demanding he and other members of his family relinquish power.

Sri Lanka is suffering its most painful economic downturn since independence in 1948, with months of blackouts and acute shortages of food, fuel and other essentials.

The crisis has sparked nationwide protests, with angry demonstrators camped outside Rajapaksa's office for more than two weeks.

Under pressure, the president dropped two of his brothers -- Chamal and Basil -- and nephew Namal from the cabinet this month, but protesters rejected the changes as cosmetic.



PHOTO: REUTERS

A man walks amid damaged buildings in the southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine. The photo was taken on Friday.

Fighting rages in eastern Ukraine

Kyiv aims to evacuate civilians from Mariupol as hope fades for a truce

AFP, Zaporizhzhia

"Fierce battles" raged in eastern Ukraine yesterday all but killing hopes of an Easter truce as officials said they would make a fresh attempt to evacuate civilians from the war-torn city of Mariupol.

The war enters its third month today with civilians continuing to pay a heavy price amid the ongoing fighting.

Authorities in two eastern Ukrainian regions -- Kharkiv and Lugansk -- said fighting with Russian forces raged yesterday.

The governor of the eastern Kharkiv region, Oleg Sinegubov, said on Telegram that Ukrainian forces retook three villages near the Russian border after "fierce battles".

Sinegubov added that Russian forces had also attacked residential infrastructure, killing two people.

In nearby Lugansk, governor Sergiy Gaiday said shelling was "round the clock".

He called on people near the front to "evacuate if you have the chance", saying volunteers were helping people leave the area.

Nearly 5.2 million Ukrainians have fled the country of 37 million since Russia's invaded in late February, the

UN refugee agency said yesterday.

The fighting in the east came a day after a senior Russian military officer said "the second phase of the special operation" had begun, with the aim of controlling a huge, strategic part of Ukrainian territory.

"One of the tasks of the Russian army is to establish full control over the Donbas and southern Ukraine,"

Nearly 5.2 million Ukrainians have fled the country of 37 million since Russia's invaded in late February.

Major General Rustam Minnekaev said on Friday.

Russian forces, which withdrew from around Kyiv and the north of Ukraine after being frustrated in their attempts to take the capital, already occupy much of the eastern Donbas region and the south.

Minnekaev said their focus was now to "provide a land corridor to Crimea," which Russia annexed in 2014, and towards a breakaway pro-Russian region of Moldova, Transnistria, where the general

claimed Russian-speaking people were "being oppressed".

Ukrainian authorities have vowed to fight on and drive the Russian troops from their land, but they also sought an Easter pause.

"Unfortunately, Russia rejected the proposal to establish an Easter truce," said President Volodymyr Zelensky earlier this week.

In the south, authorities were set to make a fresh attempt yesterday to evacuate civilians from the besieged port city of Mariupol.

"Today we will again try to evacuate women, children and the elderly," Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said on Telegram.

The Kremlin has claimed the "liberation" of Mariupol, which is pivotal to its war plans, after President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Russia's Western-leaning neighbour.

In a phone call to Putin, EU chief Charles Michel appealed for humanitarian access to Mariupol, which has been devastated by weeks of intense Russian bombardment.

Putin however accused Kyiv of refusing to allow its troops to surrender in Mariupol.

Worker dies in steel re-rolling mills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died after being hit in the head by a falling rod at a factory of Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills (BSRM) Ltd in Bayezid Bostami area of Chattogram yesterday.

Ripon, 35, was sleeping at the delivery shed around 1:00pm when a rod fell on him, police said, quoting other workers at the scene.

He was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, said Inspector Sadekur Rahman of Panchalaish Police Station.

Tapan Sen, Deputy Managing Director of BSRM, said officials were trying to find out what caused the accident.

BGB recoveres 7 lakh yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Border Guard Bangladesh recovered around seven lakh yaba pills with a street value of Tk 21 crore in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar on Friday.

The BGB personnel also arrested five suspected traffickers, said a statement from 34 BGB Battalion Commander Lt Col Mehedi Hasan Kabir.

The yaba hauls and the suspects were caught in daylong raids in different areas of the district.

26 new Covid cases, no death in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No death from Covid-19 was reported in the 24 hours preceding 8:00 am yesterday, said a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At least 26 new infections were recorded during the period, taking the total number of cases to 19,52,532, added the release.

The new cases were detected after testing 4,708 individuals.

At least 315 patients recovered from Covid-19 during the period. The total number of recoveries now stands at 18,93,131 and the recovery rate at 96.96 percent, added the release.

Man wins \$1m after lottery ticket printing gaffe

CNN, Online

An Iowa man brought home a \$1 million lottery prize -- after the clerk made a mistake printing his tickets.

Josh Buster, a 40-year-old chef from West Burlington, asked for five "easy-pick" plays for the April 15 Mega Millions drawing at a convenience store, according to a news release from the Iowa Lottery.

But Buster says that the clerk initially printed just one play, and then printed the four remaining plays on a separate ticket.

"I feel like that changed the numbers that I would have gotten if he had put them all on one instead of making that mistake," Buster said in a news release from the Iowa Lottery.

Buster struggled to believe his luck at first. "I don't usually have good luck, so I thought it was a mistake and there was going to be an error," he said in the news release. "So I Googled the lottery numbers to make sure I had the right ones, and I did! And then the rest of the day, I'm just waiting to wake up from a dream."

Laws in the offing

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discriminatory...Were there any trans people in this committee?"

Shale Ahmed, the executive director of Bondhu, a gender rights organisation, said their recommendations had been taken but "operated on".

According to the provisions of the anti-discrimination act, anyone encountering discriminations will have to go through a period of at least 195 days just to get a verdict, pointed out Barua.

Filmmaker Belayat Hossain Mamun spoke about how over-the-top platforms were a way out from a repressive censorship regime and how the new regulations will completely clamp down on them.

"In the past, during stakeholder consultation sessions while the laws were being formed, the government did not take our recommendations," said Hossain. He said that all paths for the industry to flourish are being blocked.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission also produced a set of regulations to govern the social media.

Speakers said the provisions are such that it becomes apparent the government is eager to identify those who are critical of it.

Abdullah Al Mamun, a Rajshahi University professor, asked, "We have so many laws to scrutinise the digital space, but why do we not see them being implemented to protect our rights?"

About the mass media employee bill, Jyotirmoy Barua said that with such laws, journalists are being hoodwinked into believing this is for their welfare and for their rights.

"When stakeholders are not consulted in the formation of a law, when the lawmakers do not have accountability towards citizens, [that is when] repressive laws are formed to only serve and protect the interests of the powerful," said CR Abrar, professor of International Relations at the University of Dhaka.

Forecast

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Boro in the haors. We are hopeful that no more loss will incur due to flash flood."

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of the Bangladesh Water Development Board, the water level in the rivers of the north-eastern region is receding.

It will continue to recede as there is no forecast of torrential rainfall in the region and India's Meghalaya, the forecast added.

The Someshwari river in Netrokona's Kalmakanda and the Baulai river in the district's Khaliajuri are flowing above the danger level.

The bulletin circulated by FFWC Executive Engineer Ariefuzzaman Bhuiyan also stated that the water level of the rivers flowing through the north-eastern region is receding at 30 points out of 39 total measuring stations.

Cops zero in on killers

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The law enforcers, however, said police would go slow with drives to make arrests as they do not "want to create any more unrest right now".

Earlier on Monday night, at New Market, employees of the two shops engaged in a brawl, which spilled over into daylong pitched battles between Dhaka College students and shopkeepers the following day, leaving two dead and scores wounded.

Nahid was attacked in front of Nur Jahan Super Market's Khan Fashion store, just opposite Dhaka College.

A video footage of the incident went viral on the social media. Journalists of The Daily Star, who were present near the scene, also took photos of the gruesome attack.

The footage and the photos show Nahid lying motionless in front of Nur Jahan Super Market. A young man, wearing a black helmet, comes with a machete and starts hacking him indiscriminately. He steps back after being stopped by another man, who was wearing a yellow helmet. The two then walk back to the student's side.

Officials of the Detective Branch of police, which is investigating the murder case, said the young man who hacked Nahid has primarily been identified as Zakir. They said he is a BCL activist.

Nahid was first hit by Kaiyum, a Dhaka College

student. He was wearing a blue T-shirt with white stripes, they said.

They, however, said they were verifying all the details to be hundred percent



Law enforcers identified the man in the photo as Dhaka College student Sujon Islam.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

sure about the attackers' identities.

The man wearing the yellow helmet has been identified as Sujon Islam. He lives in Room-101 of the college's North Hall, they said.

Many of those who were carrying local weapons, rods and sticks during the clashes have also been identified.

One of them is Sadik Mirza, a member of the BCL unit's convening committee. He lives in Room-218 at the same dormitory. He was carrying a machete.

Kawsar alias Sada Kawsar, clad in a green T-shirt, was also carrying a machete. He is a student of Islamic history. He lives at the South Hall.

Another one, who was holding a hammer, has been

identified as Monayem. He is a member of Dhaka City (north) Chhatra League, said officials investigating the case.

HM Azimul Haque,

deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday they got some names after analysing different photos and footage, with help from the media.

"We scrutinised every little detail that we got from different sources so that no innocent person finds themselves in trouble," he said.

Asked about an allegation that Chhatra League led the mob that attacked Nahid, Fuad Hasan, joint convener of the Dhaka College BCL committee, said on Thursday, "It's still not clear who was behind the murder."

Contacted, BCL General Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee yesterday said general students of Dhaka College took part in

the "protest".

No one joined it as members of Chhatra League, he claimed. "We are sure that no Chhatra League man was involved in the killing."

Four cases have been filed over the incident -- two by police and two by the family members of the two victims killed in the clashes.

Over 1,500 unnamed people were made accused in these cases. The two murder cases are being investigated by the DB while the others by New Market Police Station.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP leader Mokbul Hossain on a three-day remand in the case filed over instigating the clashes. He is the owner of the shop where the brawl took place on Monday night.

The BNP will stage rallies in all metropolitan cities, including in the capital, on Tuesday, demanding Mokbul's release and withdrawal of the "false" case, party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the programme at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

Fakhrul said it has been proved through different media reports that the "cadres of Chhatra League" were involved in the violence.

(Our Dhaka University Correspondent Sirajul Islam Rubel contributed to the report)

Only 1 out of 594

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frustrating that we have not got justice even nine years after the incident that left so many people dead."

On this day in 2013, Rana Plaza came crashing down in Savar, leaving at least 1,136 people, mostly garment workers, dead and over 2,500 others injured. One of the deadliest tragedies in the history of the industries sector raised questions over labour safety in Bangladesh.

A day after the incident, Wali Ashraf Khan, sub-inspector of Savar Police Station, filed the murder case against Sohel Rana, also a former Jubo League leader in Savar, and several others.

On May 24, 2015, Bijay Krishna Kar, senior assistant superintendent of police at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), pressed charges against Sohel Rana, his parents Abdul Khaleque and Morjina, and 38 others in the murder case.

The Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court on July 18, 2016 framed charges against the 41 accused.

Of the 41 accused, only Sohel Rana is now behind bars, 30 are on bail and seven are on the run. Three of the accused have died.

Khurshid Alam Khan, a noted criminal lawyer, said, "For public interest, the case should be transferred to a speedy trial tribunal for its quick disposal as it is one of the most sensational cases and its progress is very poor."

Public Prosecutor (in-charge) Bimal Samadder said the trial proceedings were stalled as some accused filed appeals with the High Court challenging indictment orders.

"So, it was not possible to record statements for a long time," he said, adding that the court recorded statements of one witness after the HC vacated the stay orders.

On August 29, 2017, Sohel Rana was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in a graft case.

BUILDING CODE VIOLATION

The trial proceedings in another case, filed over violation of building codes, are now stalled due to High Court stay orders.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) had lodged the case over violation of building codes in the construction of Rana Plaza on the day of the collapse.

Charges were pressed against Sohel Rana and 17 others in the case on May 24, 2015, and the court accepted the charges on June 14, 2016.

But the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court could not start recording statements of the prosecution witnesses due to the HC stay orders on the trial proceedings, said Additional Public Prosecutor Anwarul Kabir Babul.

[Our correspondent in Savar contributed to this report]

‘Address water-related challenges’
PM calls for Asia-Pacific action

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Asia Pacific countries to combine forces to share good practices, knowledge and technologies to help address common water related challenges.

She made the call in a video statement, which was played at the Fourth Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held at Kumamoto in Japan.

“We attach importance to regional or sub-regional cooperation, including for hydro-power generation and transmission,” she said.

“We need to ensure sound water management to ‘build back better’ from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic,” she added.

The prime minister also mentioned that more than 85 percent of Bangladesh has access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities.

“Our fight against water-borne diseases is a continuous effort. From next month, we shall administer 2.3 million cholera vaccines in the capital city.”

The PM also said Bangladesh has drawn up a cross-sectoral Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 to work towards a resilient and prosperous delta.

“We look forward to using the sediment loads flowing into the Bay of Bengal for reclaiming and elevating lands in our coastal areas. Bangladesh also stands ready to harness the untapped potentials of blue economy,” she said.



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As Eid inches closer, congestion has become the norm even more so. Hundreds of city folk flock to the malls and markets in search of their perfect clothes. This photo was taken yesterday in front of Gawsia Market.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

There’s a new strategy out there
Drug dealers using elderlies as carriers to avoid suspicion, say law enforcers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In an attempt to escape the prying eyes of law enforcers, drug peddlers across the capital have come up with a new strategy. They are now using the elderly as their carriers to transport consignments from one place to another.

A group of transport workers and expatriates have also joined hands with them in their smuggling of Phensedyl and heroin from India and Yaba from Myanmar.

Every week, they bring around 20 to 30 thousand yaba pills into Dhaka’s Mohammadpur area from Cox’s Bazar. The pills are then sent to Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Savar and Gazipur.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit has claimed to unearth the information and learned the new strategy of the syndicate following the arrest of three people from the capital’s Mugda on April 17.

The arrestees are Md Mukul (57), Md Harun Or Rashid (50) and Nasir Uddin (56).

The CTTC team has seized around 120 grammes of heroin and 300 yaba pills from their possession, Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of CTTC, told this correspondent.

He said that the syndicate is using the elderly, as they are seldom suspected by police officers.

“We have some intel on heroin smuggling. We are currently trying to locate its source,” said Tohidul.

ADC Touhid has also mentioned that a suspect named Md Shamsu is working as a dealer for the yaba smuggling syndicate in Cox’s Bazar.

He used to live in Saudi Arabia and has recently moved to Bangladesh.

Shamsu used to visit Dhaka by air and go back after collecting the payment for the pills. Police are now conducting a drive to arrest him, said the ADC.

Meanwhile, DB officials said the smuggling of narcotics recently increased ahead of Eid. Along with yaba, the demand for marijuana has also increased.

An organised syndicate is smuggling marijuana, which is entering Bangladesh through four bordering districts – Brahmanbaria, Cumilla, Habiganj and Moulvibazar, said detectives.

Most of the marijuana consignments are entering

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RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY
Years pass by, but trauma still remains



People gathered at the memorial in front of Rana Plaza yesterday to pay their respects to those who have lost their lives in the tragedy.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Nine years have passed since the collapse of Rana Plaza, and yet majority of the survivors are still reeling from the traumas, both physical and mental, of that fateful day.

Although some survivors have gotten their simple lives back, the bulk of them are facing hardship every day, due to losing their ability to work or mental distress.

Rupali Begum, a survivor who worked on the building’s fifth floor, was rescued a day after the incident. She had injured her head, back, arms and legs. After a long period of treatment at several hospitals, Rupali can finally move and work at home, she told The Daily Star.

“I’m still not fit for factory work, as I’m still traumatised,” said Rupali, mother of two children. “My husband can’t manage the living costs of our four-member family. We’re struggling.”

Nilufar Begum, who worked on the fourth floor, told The Daily Star that she had injured her head

and backbone during the incident. Although she got free treatment for some years, Nilufar is yet to fully recover. “I couldn’t return to factory work because of my condition.”

“I had gotten some money through bKash from BGMEA after the incident, but did not get compensation. My head needs an operation, but I can’t go through with it due to my financial crisis,” said Nilufar, a mother of two school-going daughters.

“My construction-worker husband can’t even arrange our daily essentials. Then how will he manage my treatment cost? I need financial support,” she said. “My two daughters are very talented students, but I’m worried about how I’ll continue their education.”

After Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24, 2013, survivors, victims’ family members, and several rights organisations, had held several programmes with several demands, including Tk 48 lakh compensation for each of those affected in the

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HAOR DAM GRAFT CASE
Little progress amid fear of another disaster

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Back in 2017, when a flash flood ravaged crops and caused untold sufferings in the haor areas, people flared up, seeking punishment of those involved in the graft centring construction of dams.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) took up the matter and filed a case in July 2017.

It submitted a charge-sheet on March 13, 2019 before the Senior Special Judge Court of Sunamganj.

But the case has seen little progress.

“The court is yet to frame charges,” said Paritosh Chandra Roy, public prosecutor of ACC in Sunamganj.

The matter came to the fore again when another flash flood submerged around 7,083 hectares of cropland with Boro harvest in Sunamganj, Sylhet, Netrakona and Kishoreganj this year. Locals of Sunamganj were the worst affected, as 4,900 hectares of land was inundated by the flood, originating from the torrential rain in India’s Meghalaya.

Five years ago, the flash flood submerged more than two lakh hectares of agricultural land, causing a loss of nearly a million tonnes of Boro crops, and nearly three lakh people required immediate relief.

In its investigation, ACC found that the accused, being well aware of the timing of flash floods, had not constructed the dams at the right time and misappropriated Tk 8.14 crore of government funds.

“Their negligence and embezzlement had triggered the floods that caused immense loss and suffering to the people of this region,” it stated.

Fourteen officials of Water Development Board (WDB) and 19 contractors who were involved in the construction and maintenance of the dams in haors at that time were made accused in the charge sheet.

Paritosh said an accused, WDB’s assistant director Lincon Sarkar, did not show up before the court. “As a result, the court could not frame

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Investing in edu more crucial than ever: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jakia Akter was a ninth-grader at Rayerbazar Fulkoli School. Her father, a shopkeeper, had made huge losses due to Covid-19. This ultimately led to her joining a factory to support her family.

The dropped-out student joined a seminar yesterday and said she wants to join school once again and complete her education.

Another former student, Tanjima Akter, said her father is a rickshaw-puller, and he married her off, so Tanjima could never sit for her SSC examination.

“I’m now studying but couldn’t get support from the government, as married girls can’t get stipend,” she said at the programme titled “Lessons from Our National Budget for Education: Where Do We Stand”.

The seminar was jointly organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Education Watch, and Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at a convention centre in the capital.

CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury said it is bad policy that a married girl cannot get a government stipend, as it should be for all girls.

She demanded changing the policy and initiating a

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While visiting Manik Mia Avenue, this photojournalist came across a scene that’s somewhat hard to come around nowadays in a loud, busy city. To pass the long hours waiting in gridlock, this commuter found solace by immersing herself in a good read. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Police covering up its failure, BCL involvement
Says Mirza Fakhrul on New Market violence

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that police are trying to cover up its failure and indifference to contain the violence in the capital’s New Market area and the involvement of Chhatra League.

“BNP thinks that this illegitimate government is resorting to its old game. While people are blaming the police inaction, they [police] are busy covering up their failures and Awami cadres’ involvement by arresting innocent BNP leader Makbul and filing politically motivated cases against others,” he said.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP chairperson’s Gulshan office, the BNP leader also said their party is deeply concerned and

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Investing in edu

FROM PAGE 3

similar stipend for boys who have disabilities or are from underprivileged communities.

One such boy is Lalon Rajghar, a student from a tea garden of Kulaura. The tenth-grader said he had to work at the garden with her mother alongside his studies. "If I get the stipend, I can engage myself more in studying," he said.

Like the students, many from different parts of the country joined the seminar and talked about their needs.

The organisers said as the pandemic affected the country's education system for two years, there should be extra allocation for it in the upcoming budget.

In the budget process, there is no scope to take feedback from the main stakeholders, teachers and students, said Rasheda.

In the keynote

presentation, Muntaseer Kamal, research fellow of CPD, said education is considered to be a priority sector in all successive Five-Year Plan documents, but regrettably, over the years, Bangladesh could make limited progress in terms of providing the required budgetary allocations for education.

Total public expenditure on education was only 1.6 percent of GDP in 1990, which rose to about 2 percent in 2000. Since then, it has been hovering around this level.

"Bangladesh will graduate from least developed country to developing country by 2026, and we have some targets to become an advanced country. To achieve the milestones, good, skilled human resources are crucial, for which proper education is required," said Fahmida

Khatun, executive director of CPD.

Javed Patel, high commissioner (in-charge) of British High Commission, said allotment in education is crucial for any developing country, and Bangladesh's journey in development over two decades is inspiring.

Quazi Faruque Ahmed, member of Education Policy 2010 Formulation Committee; lawmaker Aroma Dutta; Hans Lambrecht, first secretary of delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh; Veera Mendonca, deputy representative of Unicef Bangladesh, also spoke at the event.

Chairperson of PKSF and Education Watch Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad chaired the programme. Planning Minister MA Mannan was chief guest.

Years pass

FROM PAGE 3

incident, rehabilitation of survivors and deceased's families, medical expenses for lifetime, and jobs.

Mahmudul Hasan Hridoy, president of Savar Rana Plaza Survivors Association of Bangladesh, who used to work at the establishment, told The Daily Star, a single demand is yet to be fulfilled.

"We, the majority of survivors, have lost our normal lives," Hridoy said. "The government should meet our demands."

Khairul Mamun Mintu, organising secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, told this newspaper that the majority of survivors and affected families are passing days in hardship. So, the government should take initiatives to provide their due compensation.

At least 1,136 workers were killed and over 2,438 were injured in the tragedy.

Police covering

FROM PAGE 3

upset over the series of clashes between traders and Dhaka College students in New Market area, which killed two people and injured many others. Fakhrul alleged that cases were filed against 1,200 people mentioning the names of 24 BNP leaders, instead of arresting the real offenders.

"At least three activists of Dhaka College Chhatra League have been identified from the video footage," he alleged.

He said BNP will stage

rallies in all metropolitan cities, including the capital, on Tuesday, demanding the release of arrested BNP leader Makbul Hossain and the withdrawal of false cases filed by police.

Four cases were filed in connection with the violence, while police on Friday arrested former New Market Thana BNP President Makbul in one of the cases for obstructing police in performing duties, assaulting law enforcement officers, and damaging property during the clashes.

Address water

FROM PAGE 3

"We see growing saline intrusion in our coastal areas. We also see a sharp decline in groundwater levels in some parts of the country. Our government is emphasising nature-based solutions, including rainwater harvesting," she added.

Kumamoto of Japan and Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) jointly organised the summit under the theme "Water for Sustainable Development-Best Practices and the Next Generation".

There's a new

FROM PAGE 3

through Salda River and Singlar Bil point of Brahmanbaria and Burichang, and Sashidal point of Cumilla.

Police claimed to have gotten the intel following the arrest of three marijuana dealers from Ramna and Mohammadpur on April 6 and April 3.

The arrestees are Monir Hossain, Belal Hossain and Mamun Mia.

Police recovered around 10 kg of marijuana from their possession, said Rajon Kumar Saha, assistant commissioner of DB.

"We have got some information about the arrestees' associates and are currently conducting a drive to arrest them," said Rajon.

Little progress

FROM PAGE 3


charges in absence of the accused." The court recently decided to begin the trial in absentia.

"A gazette notification will be issued in this regard. After that, charges will be framed," he said.

Preferring to be unnamed, a WDB official said Lincon left the country soon after the filing of the case by ACC in 2017.


Meanwhile, in an order on March 3, 2022, the WDB directorate of discipline withheld all arrear payment to Lincon.

Contacted, ACC Director General (Legal and Prosecution) Mir Ruhul Amin said police delayed in giving a report on the whereabouts of Lincon. "It's a different agency. If they delay in giving report, what can we do?" he said.




Bangladesh Investment Development Authority

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Prime Minister's Office
Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)
Biniyog Bhaban, Plot # E-6/B, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka – 1207, Bangladesh
www.bida.gov.bd




Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selecting of Public Relation-Promotion-Communication (PRPC) Firm

1.	Ministry/ Division	Prime Minister's Office
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)
3.	Name Of Procuring entity	Marketing and Communication Wing
4.	Title Of Service	Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selecting of Public Relation-Promotion-Communication (PRPC) Firm for: 1. Graphic designing (both 2D and 3D); 2. Printing; 3. Photography and videography; 4. Content development; 5. Translation and interpretation; and 6. Website and Social Media management.
5.	Procuring entity District	Dhaka
6.	Expression of interest for selection of	Public Relation-Promotion-Communication (PRPC) Firm
7.	EOI Reference	03.08.2680.253.07.41.21-85
8.	Date	24.04.2022
Key Information		
9.	Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Funding Information		
10.	Budget and Source of Fund	GoB
Particular Information		
11.	Program/APP Code	Not applicable
12.	Tender closing date and time	12. 05. 2022 at 12:00 PM
Information for applicant		
13.	Experience and Resources required	General 1. <i>Company Profile</i> – including name, logo and brand, registration info, information of the Executive Head, office address and studio location, HR structure and strength, financial capability, credibility evidences from major clients (not more than 10 evidences out of which at least 5 should of Govt. agencies), brief on experience (not more than 1500 words), 2. <i>Requirements</i> – a. Proof of at least 10 years of experience of working as data driven PR and branding agency for reputed and large organization, preferably for Govt. and UN; The firm must have proven capacity in the area of country marketing with thorough understanding of political economy/ finance/ global marketing. b. Must have completed at least 5 data-driven public relations projects as Prime Consulting Firm preferably in Govt. / donor agency within the last 5 years where the consulting firm was responsible for rendering the following key services: ▪ Innovative Graphic designing (both 2D and 3D); ▪ Sophisticated Digital and Electronic Printing service; ▪ Commercial photography and videography; ▪ Creative Content Development; ▪ Professional PR Translation and Interpretation services; and ▪ PR Centric Website and Social Media Management services. c. Experienced and skilled human resources in the area of event management, working as PR, promotion, communication and branding. The required workforce has to be dedicated only for the BIDA, if selected; d. Updated (not later than 2020) trade license, TIN certificate and VAT registration certificate; e. Proven and effective links and connections and negotiation skills with external stakeholders (government offices, UN agencies, media agencies and publishing houses etc.); f. Familiarity with the procurement and financial management procedure of GoB; g. Audit reports for the last two years; and h. Bank Solvency (at least of 1 crore) Certificate with last 1-year bank statement. Specialized eligibilities 1. <i>Videography & Photography</i> – the agency will ensure a. all video material is filmed in 16:9 and in full HD format and sound is recorded with professional microphones and according to guidelines; b. broadcast-quality footage shot using professional equipment; c. consent from subjects of the films when appropriate, and signed consent for those who are to be featured in corporate communications d. upload all photographs without exception following the Photographer's Guidelines exactly. This includes full metadata for all uploaded shots. e. Have the arrangement for taking photographs by professional photographers if usage of context specific photographs required for the selected materials based on the contents; 2. <i>Design</i> a. List of resources in terms of equipment, press equipment, press room equipment, computers, software compatibilities, binding and compilation equipment etc.; b. Three (3) different printed product samples. c. Quality assurance policy is in place with return and cancellation policy provided, including free re-work in case of justifiable quality problems 3. <i>Social Media</i> – a. The agency should have at least 5 years of experience in developing and producing PRPC materials using Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram targeting the awareness raising, social and behavioural change (knowledge and experience with financial service providers, especially digital financial services providers is considered a strong advantage); b. Have the arrangement for accessing expert advice in areas of Digital Financial Services (e.g. consultant on stand-by, or a team member with such expertise); and c. Have ability to advise on how to appeal to the target audiences, selecting appropriate messages, making messages effective and the like; 4. <i>Content development</i> – a. The agency should have at least 5 years of experience in developing contents for various types of PRPC materials. b. Have expertise and experts (content writers, analysts etc.) to do market research and sector analysis for macro/national level and international investment opportunities.
14.	Interested firms may obtain further information from the undersigned office from 9:00AM to 5:00PM on any working days before the closing date and time. Firms are required to submit 2(two) copies of EOI and a forwarding letter in a sealed envelope labelled “EOI for Selecting of Public Relation-Promotion-Communication (PRPC) Firm with mention name to the address state below Terms of Reference (TOR) in this regard can be found at www.bida.gov.bd	
15.	Association with Foreign Firm	Not encouraged
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
16.	Name of the official inviting EOI:	Md. Ashfaqu Amin Mukut
17.	Designation of the official inviting EOI:	Director (Marketing and Communication)
18.	Address of official inviting EOI:	Biniyog Bhaban, Plot # E-6/B, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka – 1207, Bangladesh
19.	Contact details of official inviting EOI:	Phone: +880 -2-44826774 email: dir.mc@bida.gov.bd
Interested firms are invited to submit their EOI according to the Government prescribed format indicating that they are qualified to perform the services, details of experiences and required qualifications stated above The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the EOI without assigning any reason whatsoever		




(Md. Ashfaqu Amin Mukut)
Director (Marketing and Communication)
Phone: +880 -2-44826774
email: dir.mc@bida.gov.bd

GD- 819



Meghna Petroleum Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chattogram



e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the e-GP Portal for the procurement of the following goods, details are given below:

Sl/ No.	Tender ID	Procurement title	Tender last selling (date & time)	Closing & opening (date & time)	Procurement method
1	688552 (Pur-074)	Procurement of Laptop, Desktop Computer, UPS, Printer and Scanner.	11 May, 2022, 17:00hrs	12 May, 2022, 15:00hrs	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. GD-821



ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Asian University for Women (AUW), an independent international institution of higher learning, is currently seeking applications for the following positions:

Faculty, Instructors, and Fellows:

- Assistant/Associate Professor of Psychology
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Anthropology
- Assistant/Associate Professor (Finance; Politics; Philosophy; Macroeconomics; Applied Microeconomics)
- Assistant/Associate Professor (Bioinformatics; Evolutionary Biology; Public Health)
- Instructor, General Studies Program
- Instructor, Summer School
- Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities (Andrew W. Mellon Fellows)

Administration:

- Director, HR
- Director, IT
- Psychologist
- Director, Writing Center
- Senior Manager, Software Applications
- Assistant Manager, Procurement
- Program Officer, Office for Advancing Learning
- Communications Officer
- Officer/Senior Officer, Admissions
- Officer/Senior Officer, Store
- Electrician
- IT Technician
- Driver (both Male & Female)

Detailed information/job descriptions for the above positions are available on our website: <http://asian-university.org/career-opportunities/>
As an equal opportunity employer, the Asian University for Women strongly encourages qualified women to apply. The positions are based in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

www.asian-university.org

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT




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: National Consultant (NOD)
Duty Station: Dhaka. Contract Duration: 50 days working days within 31 December 2022.
Number of Vacancies: 1 (one), Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.
Last Date of Application: 27th April, 2022

<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un93.html>



Govt. Ashek Mahmud College
Jamalpur

Memo No. 80/CEDP/GAMC/2022 Date: 23/04/2022

e-Tender Notice 07/2021-22
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of package	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	688723	Renovation and Refurbishment of Library of Govt. Ashek Mahmud College, Jamalpur.	10-May-2022 14:00	10-May-2022 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 09-May-2022 16:00.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Md. Harun-Or-Rashid
Principal
Govt. Ashek Mahmud College
Phone: 098163252
E-mail: ashekmahmudcollege@gmail.com

GD-818

Ziaur Rahman Khan's death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, a four-time former lawmaker and senior lawyer of the Supreme Court.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held in the local mosque of his village Bafia, Dhamrai.

On this day in 2021, Ziaur died of coronavirus, aged 75, said a press release.

He was elected MP four times – in 1991, twice in 1996 and in 2001 from Dhaka-20 constituency (Dhamrai) with BNP's ticket. He resided at Dhanmondi-7.

In his early life, Ziaur was a journalist and worked for The Pakistan Observer. His weekly write up "Talk of the Town" became a very popular column, which he wrote as Zia Omar.

In 1970, he went to study law in London and became a barrister. He returned home in 1977 and started practising. He later joined the chamber of Barrister Ishtiaq in the 80s and worked till early 90s.

In 1991, he joined BNP and became an MP in the first election after restoration of democracy with the fall of Ershad regime. His father, Ataur Rahman Khan, was the chief minister of East Pakistan from September 1956 to 1958, until the martial law's promulgation.

Ataur Rahman was also the prime minister of Bangladesh from March 30, 1984 to January 1, 1985 during HM Ershad's rule.



A meal for a good deed

'Bhalo Kaaajer Hotel' making a difference

DIPAN NANDY

On Friday afternoon, at Teigaon's Satrasta intersection in the capital, a peculiar "hotel" was seen next to the land survey building. There, it doesn't cost money to get a whole meal; anybody can avail one for a good deed done by them in the day.

Two people were seen sitting on the footpath with food, eagerly waiting for "buyers". They were the sellers of "Bhalo Kaaajer Hotel (Meal for Good Work)".

One of them, Apu, a student of civil engineering, talked about what counts as deeds to them. "Hard work also counts as a good deed. If someone has pulled a

rickshaw all day or done any other hard work, they are also given food," he said.

"All you need to do is just come and tell us, and our volunteers will entertain them. If someone has not done any of the good deeds but comes to us hungry, we will also entertain them, asking them to perform a good deed the next day."

Buyers from different age groups and backgrounds visit the place for a meal. One of the welcomed buyers was Golam Mostofa, a rickshaw puller.

"These boys serve us good food every day. It really helps poor people like us," he said.

"God bless these kids for

feeding the hungry," wished Faruk, a day labourer.

Sakib Hasan Shaon, a senior volunteer of the project said they don't usually charge anyone except the volunteers. However, donations are accepted during Ramadan.

Although their activities started in 2011, the hotel has been running for the last two years.

They have also started another initiative called "Bhalo Kaaajer Hospital", under which patients who cannot afford to get medical attention are treated by volunteering doctors at Kamalapur Rail Station every Saturday after dinner.

▲ "Bhalo Kaaajer Hotel" is a place where one gets food in exchange for a good deed, which can even be a day's hard work. Under the initiative, 500 people on average from low-income groups are served after every day. The photo was taken in the capital's Kamalapur on Thursday.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

IIMCAA,B calls for submissions for media award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Institute of Mass Communication Alumni Association Bangladesh (IIMCAA,B) has called for submission of reports for "IIMCAA,B Media Award".

This award will be given for the best report, feature or analysis published in Bangla and English relating to having impact on Bangladesh-India bilateral relationship.

A total of three awards will be given for the year 2019, 2020 and 2021, for writings published/broadcasted from January 1 to December 31 every year, said a press release.

Only Bangladeshi journalists will be eligible for the award. The winners will receive cash, crest and certificate.

Hard copies of the reports for print media, video/audio of the TV/radio and printouts/digital contents of online news portals along with a letter of introduction from chief news editor or chief reporter must be submitted to M Zahid Newaz Khan, general secretary, IIMCAA Bangladesh, 80 Gulshan Avenue (5th floor), Dhaka.

Online link of the contents should also be forwarded to akm.rahmat@gmail.com. Submission deadline is May 10.

Prof Jahirul VC of Canadian Univ of Bangladesh

CITY DESK

Prof HM Jahirul Haque was appointed as the vice chancellor of Canadian University of Bangladesh (CUB) on April 21, said a press release.

He previously served as pro-VC and VC at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh.

Jahirul earned Award of Leadership Excellence from Business and Applied Sciences Academy of North America in 2019. He has earned his PhD from Kharkiv State Technical University of Radio Electronics in 2001.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal						
INVITATION FOR TENDER (OTM)						
01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping				
02.	Agency	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal				
03.	Procuring Entity Name	Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal				
04.	Procuring Entity Code	-				
05.	Procuring Entity District	Barishal				
06.	Invitation For	Supply of Goods and related service mentioned below				
07.	Invitation Ref. No.	18.24.0651.001.07.002.2021-22				
08.	Date	23-04-2022				
09.	Procurement Method	National Open Tendering Method (OTM)				
10.	Procurement Nature	Goods and service				
11.	Budget & Source of Fund	GOB				
12.	Development Partner(if applicable)	N/A				
13.	Project/ Programme Code	N/A				
14.	Project/ Programme Name	N/A				
15.	Tender Package No.	Package No-OTM-06/2021-22				
16.	Tender Package Name	As mentioned at Serial No. 29 and in the Tender Schedule.				
17.	Tender Publication Date	On 26-04-2022 or before.				
18.	Tender Last Selling Date	16-05-2022 (office hour).				
19.	Tender Closing date and time.	17-05-2022 on 12.00 Noon.				
20.	Tender Opening date and time	17-05-2022 on or after 12.30 pm.				
21.	Name and Address of the office for Selling tender documents	Admin Office, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal.				
22.	Name and Address of the office for receiving tender documents	Admin Office, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal.				
23.	Name and Address of the office for Opening tender documents	Admin Office, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal.				
24.	Place/Date/Time of pre-tender Meeting	Conference room, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal. Date: 10-05-2022 Time- 11.00 am.				
25.	Eligibility of tenderer	All eligible persons/Contractors/ Firms who have fulfilled the qualification criteria stipulated in the tender data sheet and other conditions of the tender documents with experience.				
26.	Brief Description of goods or works	As mentioned at Serial No. 29 and in the Tender Schedule.				
27.	Brief Description of Related Services	As mentioned at Serial No. 29 and in the Tender Schedule.				
28.	Tender Document Price	Schedule price mentioned below, non-refundable DD/PO in favour of the Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal (Drawable Sonali Bank Ltd, Barishal University Branch) is to be submitted.				
29.	Lot	Identifications of Lot	Location	Tender Security (DD/PO, Re-fundable)	Schedule Price (DD/PO, Non re-fundable)	Completion Time in days/months
OTM-06/2021-22	Lot-1	Supply of Boson store goods for cadets	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal	\$500.00	\$00.00	15 Days
	Lot-2	Supply of IMO Model Course original books for cadets	-Do-	15000.00	1000.00	15 Days
	Lot-3	Supply and Installation of Server Room & Networking	-Do-	26000.00	1000.00	15 Days
	Lot-4	Supply and Installation of Digital Attendance System (Finger print)	-Do-	7500.00	500.00	15 Days
	Lot-5	Supply of Furniture for academy	-Do-	60,000.00	1,500.00	15 Days
	Lot-6	Purchase of electrical goods for the purpose of repairing electrical installations and equipment.	-Do-	6500.00	500.00	15 Days
	Lot-7	Purchase of computer accessories/related parts in order to repair of computer	-Do-	8,000.00	500.00	15 Days
	Lot-8	Supply of chemical and equipment for swimming pool (Supply period 2022-23)	-Do-	22,000.00	1000.00	30 Days
	Lot-9	Supply of provision (Dry food / Grocery items) for Cadets (Supply period 2022-23)	-Do-	95,000.00	1500.00	30 Days
	Lot-10	Supply of provision (Fresh food / Fish, meat, chicken, Fruits etc) items for Cadets (Supply period 2022-23)	-Do-	1,10,000.00	1500.00	30 Days
	Lot-11	Supply of food items (fresh and dry) to entertain cadets and invited guests at various festivals at Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal (Supply period 2022-23)	-Do-	19,500.00	1000.00	30 Days
30.	Name of official Inviting Tender	Capt. S M Atiqur Rahman, BN				
31.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Commandant.				
32.	Address of official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal, Barishal-8254.				
33.	Contact details of official Inviting Tender	Commandant, Bangladesh Marine Academy, Barishal, Phone-02477798700, Mobile-01324241700, e-mail- commandant.bmab@gmail.com				
34.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.					

GD-824



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:10 12:45 4:45 6:28 8:00
JAMAAT 4:20 1:15 5:00 6:38 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
22	24	6:28	6:28
23	25	4:05	6:28
24	26	4:04	6:29



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Jaintipur, Sylhet
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.9153.000.14.040.2022-178

e-Tender Notice No. 07/2021-22

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Documents last selling	Tender closing (date & time)	Method of tender
01.	e-Tender/INF-2020-21-609153-01	Central Oxygen Supply sub-project at 50 Bed Hospital under Jaintipur Upazila, Dist: Sylhet.	687237	16.05.2022 12.00	16.05.2022 14.00	NOTM
02.	e-Tender/INF-2020-21-609153-02	Construction of RCC Guide wall sub-project at Sapla Beel for supplying water for irrigation under Jaintipur Upazila, Dist: Sylhet.	687251	16.05.2022 12.00	16.05.2022 14.00	NOTM
03.	e-Tender/INF-2020-21-609153-03	Construction of Classroom at Bour-Bagh High School under Jaintipur Upazila, Dist: Sylhet.	687252	16.05.2022 12.00	16.05.2022 14.00	NOTM
04.	e-Tender/INF-2020-21-609153-04	Construction of Girls Facilities Room at Abdul Latif Julekha Girls High School under Jaintipur Upazila, Dist: Sylhet.	687253	16.05.2022 12.00	16.05.2022 14.00	NOTM
05	e-Tender/LGED/JOI/20212022/ADP-15	(A) Construction of Drain from Achoddor Miah's house-Nachir Miah's house for water drainage, at 07 No. Ward under Jaintipur UP, Jaintipur Upazila, Dist-Sylhet., (B) Improvement of Laxmipur Primary School-Najir Ahmed's house road by C.C pavement, under Jaintipur UP, Jaintipur, Sylhet. and (C) Construction of Staircase at Charpara Jamee Masjid, at Lamnigram, under Jaintipur UP, Jaintipur, Sylhet. (Re-Tender)	690173	16.05.2022 12.00	16.05.2022 14.00	LTM

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

A. K. M Reaz Mahmud

Upazila Engineer

Jaintipur, Sylhet

E-mail: ue.jaintipur@lged.gov.bd

GD-823

12 shades of Khairul Basar this Eid

Following the success of productions like “Networker Baire” and “Mohanagar” and “Purnojonmo 2”, Khairul Basar is now looking forward to twelve new productions this Eid ul-Fitr. While the actor garnered praises for productions like “Teerondaj” and “Nikhoj” in recent times, he is also set to appear on the silver screen with Giasuddin Selim’s “Kajol Rekha”. We caught up with Khairul Basar to know more about his upcoming Eid releases, his silver screen debut, and more.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

The actor recently finished shooting for Vicky Zahed’s “Ghun” where he will share the screen with Mehazabien Chowdhury. “I am also done shooting for Pothik Shadhan’s “Antodohon”, where I play the character of a carefree individual and his artistic pursuits,” mentions Basar.

He is set to pair up with some of the most cherished and loved actresses in the industry this season. He will be seen opposite Tanjin Tisha in the Preety Dutta directorial single episode “Priyo Shuvra”, and Sabila Nur in Tarek Rahman’s “Confusion”.

“I wanted to experience working with different co-stars as I feel I am comparatively new and have a lot left to explore,” says Basar, who will also be seen with Rafiath Rashid Mithila in Preety Dutta’s “Senior”. “This season, I was able to work with names that I have always wanted to and I must say, they are not just mesmerizing on the screen but also exceptional colleagues to work with.”

Following the success of productions like “Jotno”, the audience will also be able to re-explore the chemistry between Basar and Safa Kabir in Mizanur Rahman Aryan’s “Ora Tin Jon” and Tarek Rahman’s “Station”. “Ora Tin Jon” also casts Tasnuva Tisha.

He is also hopeful about “Hello Inspector”, a tele-fiction directed by Jamal Mallick where he will re-appear with his “Networker Baire” co-star Nazia Haque Orsha and “Ostad Baaye Plastic” which features Sanjida Preeti opposite him.

“Orsha’s brilliant screen presence, Tasnuva’s resilience, Preeti’s naturalistic performance, Mithila’s cordiality, Safa’s friendliness, and Sabila’s mischief – that’s what this experience left behind for me,” shares Basar.

Alongside prominent faces, Basar is

looking to revive his on-screen chemistry with Rothshi Siddika, whom he last appeared with in “Teerondaj” in “Porshi Jodi Amay Chuto”.

Alongside television, Basar is living his wish to work with celebrated director Giasuddin Selim in “Kajol Rekha”. “I have always wanted to be a part of stories that are larger than life and hailing from Mymensingh, I am glad that I got to be a part of the cinematic projection of its famous folklore,” he shared excitedly.

“However, I am not fully prepared for the silver screen,” asserts Basar. “With the audience being driven away from theatres and halls closing down, I feel we ought to look out for the transition that is currently evident in our audience, when it comes to their preferences.

Basar intends to invest his attention towards web projects in the upcoming days alongside planning for Eid al-Adha productions. “Time and budget – there are two luxurious resources that tele-production often fail to secure. This not only hampers the presentation, but also interferes with the director’s artistic preferences. Thus, the script fails to live up to its potential.”



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KHAIRUL BASAR

Nevertheless, Basar intends to keep performing with every ounce of passion that he possesses. “Acting is my profession and at the end of the day, we all look to give labour where there is a return. However, I will never compromise on my character choices and performances just to ensure my daily bread,” he concludes.

‘Ageist society tells you when to hang up boots’



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Anil Kapoor will soon be sharing screen space with his real-life son Harsh Vardhan Kapoor in the upcoming Netflix film, “Thar”.

The “Dil Dhadakne Do” actor plays an ageing cop tasked with investigating murders. In a recent interview with *Mid-Day*, he opened up about his character and why he could relate to it.

Anil Kapoor revealed that his character’s undying enthusiasm toward his work, even as those around him write him off was one of the reasons he was drawn to the film.

“[My character] is at an age where he can do so much, but he has to retire because of the rules. He feels stuck. Be it your profession or mine, it is [dictated by] an ageing society. They tell you when it’s time to hang up your boots. I could relate to the character, and get into his soul,” he said.

Release date for Priyanka Chopra’s ‘It’s All Coming Back to Me’ announced



Priyanka Chopra and Sam Heughan starrer “It’s All Coming Back to Me” will be released on February 10, 2023. The Hollywood romantic comedy was formerly called, “Text for You.”

The “White Tiger” actress announced the news on social media, along with a still from the movie, which is based on the 2016 German film ‘SMS fur Dich’ by Karoline Herfurth.

The project marks Priyanka Chopra’s first leading role in a Hollywood film.

COUNTRYWIDE

A scar that could not be healed in 51 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

It all happened right before her eyes 51 years ago on April 18 but nonagenarian Halima Hafiz is still haunted by the memory of her husband and 10th grader son being stabbed indiscriminately and later buried while they were still alive.

Ninety-five-year-old Halima’s husband Abdul Hafiz and her son Belal Suza were stabbed with sharp weapons and seriously injured. She and her younger son Zelal Shafi were also beaten.

Later, the Biharis picked up seriously wounded Abdul Hafiz and Belal Suza. They were dumped in an abandoned hole next to the Christian church in Sahebpara area of Lalmonirhat town while they were still alive.

“I escaped with my youngest son Zelal Shafi and somehow survived. My husband and son never came back. They were buried in the abandoned hole while they were still alive. I still can’t forget the brutal torture and killings of my husband and son,” said Halima.

Abdul Hafiz was the Baro Babu (upper division clerk) of the DME office of Lalmonirhat Railway Divisional Office. He was known as ‘Hafiz Doctor’ in Lalmonirhat town. He was a registered homoeopath doctor. He used to extend free treatment to the poor people in the area.

Her son Belal Suza was a 10th grader at Lalmonirhat Model School. He was an active member of the Bangladesh Chhatra

Union. Abdul Hafiz’s ancestral house was at Biharhat village in Shibganj upazila of Bogura district. He had been living in Lalmonirhat since 1947 for his job in the railways.

Zelal Shafi, the youngest son of Halima, said his brother martyred Belal Suza used to organise students for independence. He burned the Pakistani flag and hoisted the Bangladeshi flag. Due to this, the Bihari people were enraged.

“The memories of my father and brother being brutally tortured to death

“Several other Bengalis were also buried in the same abandoned hole. The place is a mass grave,” he said. “I have identified the mass grave. But the administration has not taken any step to preserve the mass grave,”

still haunt me; I cry,” he said.

“Several other Bengalis were also buried in the same abandoned hole. The place is a mass grave,” he said. “I have identified the mass grave. But the administration has not taken any step to preserve the mass grave,” Zelal said adding that “I demand the preservation of the mass grave of my father martyred Abdul Hafiz and brother martyred Belal Suza and other martyrs.”

Bodi, brother

FROM PAGE 12

Shukkur refuted the allegation of assault and said, “There was chaos at the meeting. My associates and I, as a leader of the unit, tried to solve it.”

Sold out

FROM PAGE 12

with the country’s northern region as the expansion work of the Elenka-Rangpur highway is going on. That’s why many people are preferring train over bus to go home.

HIGH DEMAND BLAMED Advance tickets for trips to western districts and Khulna were being sold at Kamalapur yesterday. Besides, tickets were on sale at the old railway station at Phulbaria, Teigaon, cantonment and airport railway stations for different destinations.

Speaking to this correspondent, many alleged that they could not buy tickets online after trying for several hours, but found that tickets were sold out within about a minute after the start of sale.

From Dhaka, the BR is selling around 27,000 advance tickets every day, of which 50 percent are sold online.

Masud Sarwar, station manager at Kamalapur Railway Station, told journalists that when the online sale opens at 8:00am, some 500 to 700 people hit the server for a single ticket, overwhelming the server.

He, however, claimed that many passengers were able to buy tickets online, citing their online ticketing service provider Shohoz.

About the suffering at ticket counters, Masud said a train usually has about 700 tickets, half of which are sold at counters.

“But in some cases, 2,000 to 3,000 people stand in a line for some 300 to 350 tickets. So it’s quite normal that many people will not get tickets,” he argued.

Bidyanondo’s Kishore honoured

FROM PAGE 12

provides more than 10,000 nutritious meals for vulnerable people, particularly children and the homeless.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Bidyanondo further ramped up its efforts to distribute relief across the country. It also worked to sanitise public spaces and transport, and also provide educational,

health and food support to those in need.

Despite many odds and obstacles, the organisation still pressed and continues to press forward with their works for the marginalised.

As part of the legacy of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London 2018, the Queen – as Head of the Commonwealth

– awards inspirational volunteers across the 54 Commonwealth nations by recognising one volunteer from each Commonwealth country every week.

About being recognised, Kishore said he feels humbled and that the award validates that the world is benefiting from the work of volunteers.

“I believe this prestigious recognition of

‘Bidyanondo’ will inspire other different charitable organisations to be more humane and beneficiary oriented.”

Javed Patel, acting British high commissioner to Bangladesh, said, “Their outstanding efforts continue to drive young people in Bangladesh and across the world towards the spirit of volunteerism and compassion.”

Ethnic community now in danger

FROM PAGE 12

indigenous community. The demands include halting the extraction immediately, compensating and rehabilitating the affected people, restoring the ecological balance in the area, ensuring no adverse effect on the locality during the extraction of white clay, ensuring constant monitoring and listing of the affected people and assessing the damage inflicted upon them.

The companies digging out the area for clay did not

get any clearance certificate from the Department of Environment in Mymensingh, Forid Ahmed, divisional director of the DAE in Mymensingh, told The Daily Star.

“Not only that we have raised objection during the meeting,” he said, adding

that due to court order they could take any action against them.

Mamunur Rashid, deputy director of the Bureau for Mineral Development that oversees the area, told The Daily Star that the companies got a court order to extract clay.

147 sued, 67 arrests a month

FROM PAGE 1

professor of political science at Illinois State University in the USA, said the DSA has given “immense power” to law enforcement agencies while there are no monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

The plaintiffs of 508 cases could be identified, and of them, 33 percent were affiliated with the ruling party and 22 percent were cops.

Anyone can file a case against any individual under the law. As a result, a pathway for “vigilante justice” has been opened, said Prof Riaz.

The report found 98 out of the 890 cases were filed for “defaming” the prime minister, 51 for defaming ministers, and 75 for defaming political leaders,

mostly of the ruling party.

“This is a great threat to the judicial system and rule of law,” said Prof Riaz.

He voiced concern that the misuse of the law might increase further before the parliamentary election next year.

JOURNALIST VICTIMS

The report found that in 26 months preceding February, as many as 207 journalists have been prosecuted under the DSA.

Seventy of them were associated with national-level media houses while 117 were local journalists.

A quarter of the accusers filing cases against journalists belong to the ruling party and its affiliated bodies.

Ruling Awami League men are mostly trying to take advantage by utilising the law, said CGS

Chairman Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury.

Former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret’d) M Sakhawat Hussain said the situation has been created because the country is in the midst of an “elected autocracy”, adding that an acceptable election was the way to overcome the present situation.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said laws like the DSA are being formulated to serve the powerful.

The DSA and road safety laws were formulated around the same time. However, the DSA’s use started almost immediately whereas the road safety law has yet to be fully implemented, he added.

BCL and Jubo

FROM PAGE 12

Saibal Das Suman and Sabbir are known as the followers of City unit AL General Secretary AJM Nasir Uddin.

Jahidul Kabir, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the youth succumbed to his injuries after being rushed to CMCH.

Police were working to identify the killer, he said.

In Patiya, police said the incident took place in Shantirhat Budpura Bazar area of Kashiyaish union in the upazila at around 11:00pm.

Locals said the UP election of Kashiyaish union was held on 26 December.

Since the election, there was a feud between UP Chairman Abul Kashem and his rival candidate Mohammed Kayesh.

Sohel fell victim to this rivalry, said locals.



Halima Hafiz is seen offering prayers for the salvation of the souls of her martyred husband and son in Sahebpara area of Lalmonirhat town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Employment in Israel is a lifeline for people in Gaza, where according to a recent World Bank report nearly half of the 2.3 million population is unemployed. There are currently 12,000 Gazans with work permits in Israel, with the government recently announcing its intention to add another 8,000.



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire that broke out in a steel warehouse following a strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

REUTERS, Islamabad

Asad Majeed, former Pakistan ambassador to the United States who

Khan's Pakistan Tehrek-e-Insaf (PTI) party demanded a judicial probe into the matter.

The next parliamentary election is due in 2023.

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Carnival should also provide some needed relief for the pandemic-battered economy. Beyond the swirl of floats, feathers and barely covered flesh, carnival is big business, moving an estimated four billion reais (\$800 million) and creating at least 45,000 jobs.



AFP, Paris

A Le Pen victory would send shockwaves across Europe. Left-wing EU leaders including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have pleaded with France to

Macron for his part said Le Pen was trying to mask an authoritarian “extreme right” platform that stigmatises Muslims with a plan to outlaw headscarves in public.

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State must give protection to Rabiul’s family

Those who beat him to death must be held accountable

THE shocking death of 26-year-old Rabiul Islam, after being beaten by a team of policemen in the Kazir Chawra area of Lalmonirhat on April 14, has once again brought to light the impunity with which members of our law enforcement agencies carry out their brutal acts on powerless people. According to our report, police detained Rabiul at a Baishakhi Mela, suspecting him of being a gambler (although the villagers said otherwise and his brother claimed that he went there to buy toys for his baby daughter). As he got into an altercation with the police, about five policemen beat him until he fell to the ground and lost consciousness. Rabiul was later declared dead when he was taken to the hospital. Even though after the incident his devastated family members demanded punishment for the policemen involved, the reality is that they did not dare to file a case against them, fearing that if they did so, they might be further harassed by the police.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident where the family of a victim of police brutality could not muster the courage to file a case against the law enforcers. This has, in fact, become the norm now, because in the majority of such cases, the victims generally neither has the power and connections nor the financial ability to run the cases.

In Rabiul’s case, his family members are already in a vulnerable state, losing the sole breadwinner of the family. As such, in his absence, how the family can afford to survive has become a major concern for them—let alone afford to run a case against the police. Under the circumstances, we believe there should be a judicial enquiry into the incident to reveal the truth, as Rabiul’s family has also demanded. As the police has already formed a probe body to investigate the incident, we hope they will soon make their findings public and punish those involved. Simply withdrawing a sub-inspector from the police station is not punishment enough for brutally beating a person to death—regardless of whether he was a criminal or an innocent person.

The state must give protection to Rabiul’s family from any and all sorts of harassment and intimidation. And it must also remember its duty to ensure that our law enforcers do not abuse the power given to them for the purpose of protecting the rights of the citizens—and to make sure that law enforcers do not use that power to violate those rights.

Timely inoculation a must to check cholera outbreak

But improving water quality is equally important

THE cholera outbreak continues to be a headache for residents in certain areas of Dhaka as well as hospitals, doctors and public health officials. The number of patients requiring hospital admissions is still high, with icddr,b—which recorded an all-time daily high of 1,383 cases on April 4, 2022—still receiving about 800 patients a day. Against this background, it is welcome news that the government has decided to launch a vaccination drive starting next month to contain the situation.

As part of the campaign, a total of 2.3 million people, aged one year and above, will get oral cholera vaccines in five diarrhoea-prone areas in Dhaka. We hope the campaign would not stop there, given the huge population that resides in close proximity in the capital. The drive should continue especially in slum areas where a large number of people live in severely unhygienic conditions. We also strongly believe the quality of water supplied by Dhaka Wasa needs to be improved drastically. Though health experts have blamed the contaminated water supplied by Wasa for the severe forms of diarrhoea in recent times, Wasa authorities have taken little visible action in this regard. Inoculation is only half the solution—if we cannot ensure access to clean water, this disease will keep coming back.

In 2020, the health directorate had vaccinated 12 lakh people with the first dose of cholera vaccines in six areas of Dhaka. Unfortunately, the second dose couldn’t be administered because of the Covid-19 emergency. Now that the scourge has weakened significantly, the full course will hopefully be administered without further hassle.

It can be recalled that the WHO had launched wide-scale vaccination drives against cholera in a number of African countries with considerable success. This inspired Bangladesh to replicate the programme, and in 2011, the World Health Assembly called for member states to strengthen efforts to prevent and control cholera mainly through the use of oral cholera vaccines, in conjunction with other recommended prevention and control methods.

So adequate and timely inoculation is a must, and we’re glad to know that the health department has plans to widen the vaccination coverage in the future upon successful completion of the drive in May. But clearly, more needs to be done in terms of prevention. We urge the government to ensure greater coordination and collaboration among the health authorities, Dhaka Wasa and other stakeholders to successfully eliminate this annual threat to public health.

How fares the opposition in Bangladesh?



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (retd) is a former associate editor of The Daily Star.

BRIG GEN SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN, NDC, PSC (RETD)

THE prime minister had made a very profound and significant remark at the beginning of this month on the state of the opposition in the country. She touched the nub of the issue—democracy, the parliament and the opposition. Unfortunately, her comments did not receive the attention that it deserved given the abject condition of democracy and its indispensable adjunct—politics—in Bangladesh. That speaks volume on the scant interest that politics holds for the public or for the major opposition political parties living in the umbra of the ruling coalition. One possible reason could be that the public has swallowed the Awami League mantra of “development before democracy” and would not like to go back to the status quo ante where political activities often impeded development process. Thus, discourse on politics has become less of a priority, indicating the sapping of public interest in politics.

What the prime minister had stated, and I paraphrase her statement, was that the opposition has not been able to gain credibility or garner the confidence of the people. This is not the first time that she had commented on the state of the opposition in Bangladesh. In fact, she had made similar comments last January while inaugurating the Mujib Borsho; it deserves to be quoted in full: “For a democracy, a strong opposition party is a must as we want our democratic trend to continue.” What she further said is equally important: “The present opposition parties in parliament could not attain the confidence and trust of people at the desired level due to the lack of leadership.”

Clearly the prime minister is concerned at the state of the opposition in parliament, as she should be, since an effective, functional and vibrant opposition lend credibility to democracy which the current opposition in the parliament is certainly not, and this has shorn the current parliament of the credibility that a properly elected parliament would beget through a free, fair and credible election. Needless to say, a country without a worthy political opposition is fraught with uncertain political consequences, since the vacuum that such a state of things creates, allows the opportunity for supra political elements, outside the parliament, to fill the void, masquerading as an alternative to the current political regime.



▲ **Police beat BNP activists in the capital's Nayapaltan area on October 26, 2021. BNP men clashed with law enforcers after the party concluded a rally in front of its central office protesting communal attacks in the country.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

It is good to notice that the military has not been cited as the villain, as was the tradition for the political parties to do till recently. It has been 32 years since we saw the back of Khaki from politics and 52 years since the end of Pakistani domination. Thus, the PM’s remarks assume more poignancy for the underlying message it contains.

to be jocularly termed as JP(AL), and the democracy we got, as hybrid.

The 2019 elections were conducted in similar fashion. So, what kind of “opposition” could one expect from a domesticated opposition? With the BNP, the main opposition in the country out in the parliament, it was easy sailing for the ruling coalition. And was it not what

The long and short of it is, why has the situation come to such a pass? Why has democracy and democratic institutions, freedom of speech and right to dissent become so constrained under the watch of a political party whose political cry was democracy and rule of the people? Should the ruling party not share a part of the blame for the situation that obtains today, a situation unique in parliamentary democracy, where the main opposition in parliament has been subsumed under the ruling party?

One is only too familiar with the tactics that the AL resorted to with Ershad and the Jatiya Party in the 2014 elections. It was about to be scuttled since all the opposition political party had decided to boycott the parliamentary elections. An opposition had to be found, since there could not be a parliament without an opposition, and Ershad was coerced to join. He was hospitalised, a handy euphemism for confinement, while his deputy was only too happy to participate in the polls, which validated the questionable elections that followed. His letter of withdrawal of nomination took several weeks to reach the election commission office from the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), only a few kilometres as the crow flies. Regrettably, AL replicated what Ershad did in 1988 with the fourth parliament. It must have cost the ruling party a pretty penny, apart from the queer arrangement where several JP(E) MPs were inducted in the cabinet. JP(E) came

the AL bargained for? So why rue about something that one is responsible for.

But democracy is not about the parliament and the parliamentary opposition only. There are enabling conditions that facilitate the practice of democracy and conduct of politics—for example, freedom of speech and freedom of association, assembly and right to dissent. Regrettably, space for practice of all the above ingredients have become increasingly constrained. The Digital Security Act (DSA) is like a Sword of Damocles, the worst sufferer is the media, which plays the role of the opposition in the absence of an opposition in the parliament. There can be no democracy, much less an effective opposition without free speech. The proposed new online laws are even more stringent. The recent Zila Parishad Act, which violates the constitution, has dealt a severe blow to the essence of local government, which under the constitution cannot be run by unelected persons. All these are being done, one fears, with an eye on the next parliamentary elections.

The PM’s comment is a rueful admission that democracy in Bangladesh suffers from grave deficit. There is raft of issues, apart from an effective parliamentary opposition that need to be addressed. Addressing the questions and applying one’s political will, and putting country above party is the only remedy to bring democracy in Bangladesh back on track.

Why Bangladesh should worry about its economy

AFM Mainul Ahsan, PhD, Analyst, Department of Transport, Victoria, Australia. Email: mainul188@gmail.com

AFM MAINUL AHSAN

GIVEN the gloomy global macro-economic outlook, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal’s assessment that Bangladesh’s macroeconomic stability is not at risk over the Russia-Ukraine crisis is questionable. Increased prices of cereal grains, agricultural inputs (e.g., fertiliser cost), fuel cost, devaluation of the taka, combined with high transportation cost will exert tremendous pressure on the country’s food security. A food crisis is on the horizon even if the crisis gets sorted soon. Special attention and relevant actions are needed from the concerned authorities to soften the impact.

Bangladesh is already struggling with the widening income gap which was worsened by the Covid-led inflationary trap. Issues in the international market combined with the Ukraine crisis will put further strain on domestic prices. Price of grain and multiple household items have skyrocketed in the international market. For example, price of wheat, which accounts for over 10 percent of the daily calorie intake in Bangladesh, is significantly higher compared to last year. The country’s annual demand for wheat, which is growing 10 percent per annum, stands at around 77 lakh tonnes, 85 percent of which is met through imports, as per the National Board of Revenue (NBR). However, wheat production worldwide has declined due to the pandemic and unfavourable weather.

In addition, both Russia and Ukraine missed the current sowing season which will impact wheat supply and prices even next year and beyond. Bangladesh imports almost half its wheat from Ukraine and

Russia. Data on Bangladesh from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) shows that consumers had to pay Tk 34 to buy one kilogramme of flour in November in Dhaka, which was 19 percent higher from Tk 28.69 a year ago. Like wheat, price of barley, corn and edible oil could hit all-time highs.



▲ ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

An import dependent country like Bangladesh needs to be careful in depreciating its currency to avoid further inflation.

Increased fertiliser cost will also seriously affect global prices of other essential crops like rice, vegetables, etc. To produce a variety of crops, Bangladesh uses over 50 lakh tonnes of chemical fertilisers annually, three-fourths of which is imported. Russia and Belarus are big exporters of fertilisers and their raw materials account for 37 percent of potash, 32 percent of ammonia and 14 percent of the world’s urea market. In January 2022, the international price of a range of key fertiliser ingredients shot through the roof. Since January 2021, the price of ammonia has gone up by 220 percent, urea by 148 percent, di-ammonium phosphate by 90 percent, and potassium chloride by 198 percent.

Currently, the government provides Tk 10-20 subsidy for each kilogramme of fertiliser. Given the price of fertilisers in the international market, to lessen inflation, the government will need to at least double its subsidy for fertilisers in the next financial year.

Freight cost is also at a record high. According to the Freight’s Baltic Index, while global spot rates for 40-foot containers have declined from their peak in September, they are still running at USD 9,604, more than double from a year earlier. And with oil price rising over USD 100/barrel, it is unlikely to go down any time soon.

Depreciation of the taka will also push up import costs. An import dependent country like Bangladesh needs to be careful in depreciating its currency to avoid further inflation.

Widening income gap has always been a critical issue in Bangladesh, and it has gotten worse in recent times. The South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM) shows that the percentage of Bangladeshis living below the poverty line (upper poverty line) has nearly doubled from 21.6 percent in 2018 to 42 percent in 2020, while the percentage of extreme poor (lower poverty line) tripled from 9.4 percent in 2018 to 28.5 percent in 2020. Increased inflationary pressure will push more people below the poverty line which might lead to social unrest. In its latest assessment on Bangladesh, Moody’s assessed that Bangladesh’s exposure to social risks is very high because of poverty, inequality, unemployment, and inflation.

Even though Bangladesh can’t do much about the rising price level in the international market, the country needs to focus on internal supply chains. Actions like active market surveillance, targeted subsidies, reducing extortions on roads and highways and deploying more TCB trucks with essential products are urgently needed for the near future.

The Ukraine conflict is much more serious than you think



THE OVERTON WINDOW

ERESH OMAR JAMAL

Eresh Omar Jamal is an assistant editor at The Daily Star. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

THE war in Ukraine is, in reality, a proxy war being fought between the West and Russia. Unlike its portrayal in the Western media, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine was neither unprovoked nor unpredictable. Back in 2008 when then US President George W Bush badgered reluctant EU leaders into pledging a future NATO membership for Ukraine, the current CIA Director William Burns sent a memo to then US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that included this warning: “Ukrainian entry into NATO is the brightest of all red lines for the Russian elite (not just Putin)... In more than two and a half years of conversations with key Russian players, from knuckle-draggers in the dark recesses of the Kremlin to Putin’s sharpest liberal critics, I have yet to find anyone who views Ukraine in NATO as anything other than a direct challenge to Russian interests.”

Burns added that it was “hard to overstate the strategic consequences” of offering NATO membership to Ukraine, predicting that it would “create fertile soil for Russian meddling in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine.”

The conflict in Ukraine is much more complex than what is being portrayed in the international media. It has a history that goes back to at least 1991, if not all the way to the Second World War. And its repercussions, similarly, are more complicated and perhaps scarier than what most believe them to be.

The most obvious nightmare scenario, of course, is an all-out nuclear war between Russia and the West. But even if things don’t escalate to that level, the conflict poses some major threats to global stability. Despite most parts of the world already feeling the economic cost of the war, it is likely that the worst is yet to come.

As a consequence of Western sanctions, the Russian economy is sure to suffer heavy losses. Even though China—which has explicitly blamed the West and NATO expansionism in violation of the US promise to Russia to not expand NATO “to the east [of a reunified Germany]” during negotiations that had ended the Cold War (“New find of files from 1991 supports Russian accusation”, February 18, 2022, Der Spiegel)—is providing full economic support to Russia, there is currently no force in the world that can match the collective economic power and influence of the US

Those who are not a party to this conflict will suffer, as they already are. That is perhaps why it is high time for a new non-aligned movement to emerge.

and its European allies.

Some Russian banks have already been banned from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) payment messaging system. And although Russia has developed its own alternative to SWIFT, the ban will certainly have a significant impact. Moreover, the decision by the US and EU to freeze nearly half of Russia’s foreign currency reserves—worth USD 300 billion—is going to hurt it big time. An example of this was the rapid fluctuation of the Ruble over the past month.

The impact of Western businesses withdrawing from Russia, whilst causing short- to medium-term disruptions, could potentially be managed in the longer term through an expansion of Russia’s import substitution policies and sourcing goods from other countries. Because Russia is such an integral part of the global economy—particularly owing to its huge energy, mineral and agricultural resources—many analysts believe the country will eventually recover. By that time, however, the resulting shocks to the global economy would be significant.

The biggest loser (among the parties directly involved, apart from Ukraine) of these sanctions will be the European Union (EU). Russian gas accounts for some 40 percent of Europe’s total consumption. During a recent meeting in Vienna between EU officials and representatives of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo said that current and future sanctions on Russia could create one of the worst-ever oil supply shocks, and it would be impossible to replace those volumes. Even more interestingly, OPEC signalled its unwillingness to pump more oil at the



West’s request.

In Europe, prices in the eurozone had risen 7.5 percent in March from a year earlier. This inflation is mainly being fuelled by energy prices, which soared 45 percent last month from the year before. According to the European Central Bank, the conflict in Ukraine is “weighing heavily on the confidence of [European] businesses and consumers.” Trade disruptions are leading to new shortages of materials, and surging energy and commodity prices are holding back production.

Concerns about the future are particularly stark in Germany, Europe’s largest economy, because of its heavy reliance on Russian energy. Last month, economic advisers to the German government said the outlook had “worsened sharply” because of the war, with a growing risk of recession along with even higher inflation rates.

The US is also suffering, as it experiences the fastest pace of annual inflation in 40 years. But apart from the direct damage done to US economy, what is perhaps more concerning is how the sanctions war will affect the US dollar’s role as the global reserve currency.

The sanctions, including the unprecedented freezing of a central bank’s assets, are undermining trust in the Western financial system. And this has led to a trend of de-dollarisation—as Russia-China, Russia-India and others have started to increase bilateral trade using their own currencies. This, according to Gita Gopinath, the first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), could over time undermine the global dominance of the US dollar.

Russia has already indicated that EU countries (and others) will have to pay for Russian energy and other essential commodities in Ruble, instead of the dollar. Although there is currently a stalemate over this between Russia and Europe, the dollar’s share of global trade has already declined this year. And even Goldman Sachs, in a recently released research note, warned that the greenback could eventually lose its global dominance because of the sanctions war.

These threats to the Russian, European and US economies also endanger global economic stability because the world has become so interconnected over the years. To give just one example, the World Trade Organization recently warned that because Ukraine and Russia (combined) have traditionally been responsible for 90 percent of crops imported to East Africa—and as crop imports suffer because of the war and ongoing sanctions—the region is at increased risk of famine. It’s not just East Africa, but the Middle East, parts of Africa and the Far East that could also experience famines and food shortages in the future.

JPMorgan’s Chief Executive Jamie Dimon warned two weeks ago that the present sanctions, as well as possible future ones, could create even more “uncertainty surrounding global commodity supply chains”, making “for a potentially explosive situation.” Already, we have seen how it has pushed the Sri Lankan economy to explode, while many others, including the Bangladesh economy, are suffering major inflationary pressure and other issues as a result of the war and the sanctions.

On April 1, Chinese President Xi Jinping said it could take years or even decades for the global economy to recover from the consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war. Many others have

It could take years or even decades for the global economy to recover from the consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

echoed similar sentiments.

The real industrial-interconnected global economy is not like a game of Lego toys. It is highly complex and finely tuned. Whether those involved in the Ukraine conflict realises it or not, their actions are pushing the world to the brink of major economic instability. What is worse, those who have studied the history of the two World Wars have

pointed out that those wars had a trend—First, there was trade war, then there was currency war, and then, we had World Wars.


A trade war between the US and China—perhaps with European countries, Russia and Iran also involved in some capacity—had arguably started even before the war in Ukraine, but we are now much deeper into it. A currency war is currently happening. Some argue that sanctions are a form of warfare, so we are at least in a new Cold War. But what happens when one side (either Russia or the West) feels like it has been beaten, and it has no other option but to turn it into a full-out Hot War?

Those who are not a party to this conflict will suffer, as they already are. That is perhaps why it is high time for a new non-aligned movement to emerge.

After the first Cold War, Francis Fukuyama announced the end of history. With the US as the sole superpower, we entered into the age of a fully Western-dominated world order. Whatever the future holds, it seems like that order is on the verge of collapse with the Ukraine war only hastening the process (irrespective of who the winner is, if at all there is a winner).

A new world order—like the one US President George HW Bush announced in 1991—is again emerging. And there is no guarantee that it will be to everyone’s benefit. That is another reason why we need a new non-aligned movement, which can ensure that this new order is not dictated by one side and its ruling elite, rather by the people of all countries and continents.

We need an order which, at the very least, has a more effective mechanism of solving the type of crisis that the world is in right now.



Chattogram Fish Harbour
Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation

Ref. No. 33.03.1561.008.07.001.21.731

Date: 21/04/2022

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


Ser.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender publication date	Last selling, closing & opening date
1.	690162	Renovation of Marine Workshop & Dockyard office room.	24/04/2022	09/05/2022
2.	690023	Renovation of Trawler fleet building's roof.	24/04/2022	09/05/2022
3.	689870	Renovation of Admin building's & security building's roof.	24/04/2022	09/05/2022

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches by 11:30 hours on 09/05/2022.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) Contact No. BFDC, Ctg Fish Harbour (01716169062 and 01719319043).

GD-822

General Manager



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

Invitation for Enlistment

01.	Invitation for	Enlistment for the supply of goods, services and works.
02.	Source of fund	Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute (own fund).
03.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
04.	Procurement method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM).
05.	Eligibility of applicant	a) Reputed contractors/firms who have minimum 5 (five) years general experience in the supply of following items (stated in serial No. 06). Note: 1) Year counted backward from IFT. 2) Must have one work experience before five years. b) The minimum experience as supplier of relevant items (stated serial No. 06) at least 1 (one) contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years each with a value of BDT minimum 15 (fifteen) lac. Noted that: Minimum 10 years experience is required for washing & laundry services. Note: 1) Year counted backward from IFT. 2) Certificate issues by PE. c) Up-to-date trade license, VAT registration, IT certificate, bank solvency and with other documents as required.
06.	Brief description of goods, supply and work	a) Supply of Electric and Plumbing Items. b) Supply of Consumable Medical Items (CMS). c) Supply of Chemical Items. d) Repairs & Maintenance of Hospital Building. e) Supply of computer, printer, UPS & related spare parts. f) Washing & Laundry services. g) Supply of Furniture & Fixture. h) Supply of Office Equipment. i) Supply of Printing & Stationary Items. j) Supply of Cardiac and Cath Lab Items.
07.	Designation of official inviting application	Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
08.	Last date and time for submission of application documents	05/05/2022 at 12:00pm.
09.	Name and address of the office(s) receiving documents	Office of the Director, Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
10.	Special instruction	The Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applicant without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-820

Director
Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute

Donate blood, save life

Any healthy person aged 18 to 60 years, weighing more than 50 kg and free from infections, are eligible to donate blood about three times a year. Sad to say, the citizens of our country only donate blood when their relatives or friends are in crisis.

DR TRISITA SAHA BISWAS

According to the American Red Cross, donating one unit of blood may save the lives of up to three people. Clinical conditions that require blood supply are predominantly surgeries, accidents, severe anaemia, chronic illness, several blood disorders, like thalassemia, blood cancers, etc. Therefore, the need for blood is constant. But unfortunately, scientists could not still manage to find a way of manufacturing safe blood or a substitute in the laboratory, leaving humans as the only source of safe blood. Donating blood is, therefore, a life-saving action. Moreover, it is considered the best gift one person can give to others- the gift of life, for sure.

Any healthy person aged 18 to 60 years, weighing more than 50 kg and free from infections, are eligible to donate blood about three times a year. Sad to say, the citizens of our country only donate blood when their relatives or friends are in crisis. Only 0.02 to 0.04% of the total population donate blood in our country, whereas the figure should rise to 2% to meet the desired requirement. To achieve this goal, healthy adults should come forward to donate blood to save lives. The main component of our blood is red blood cells which can live up to 120 days in our body and then die, the maximum life span among other blood cells. Therefore, to compensate for the loss, our bone marrow continuously produces the same amount of blood cells in our body. This denotes that if someone donates blood, the body will recover it within a normal physiological process and thus, allow a person to donate



blood at a four-month interval.

Donating blood not only helps the recipients but also the donors are highly benefited, such as,

- Being part of such a noble act of saving lives will provide you with a sense of pride and belonging.
- In order to donate blood, you will be required to undergo a free mini-health checkup (as such, weight, pulse, blood pressure) which can offer an insight into your overall health condition.
- Your blood will also be screened against potential health infections, like, HIV, Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis and Malaria for free, which you may be unaware of.
- Donating blood helps keep your cholesterol level in control, thus minimising the risk of cardiovascular disease.

- It helps to keep your liver healthy.
 - Donating blood helps your bone marrow to stay active.
 - Last but not least, you will be given a donor card through which you can receive blood whenever you are in need.
- After all, the benefits of blood donation are considerable, but the most essential part of this rewarding activity is helping to save lives. Therefore, we, the citizens of our country, should uphold the slogan, "Donate Blood, Save Life", in our hearts and encourage ourselves and the people to come forward so that not even a single human dies due to scarcity of blood.

The writer works as a Research and Policy Assistant in Centre for Research, Innovation and Development Action (CRIDA).

People at risk of future heart disease and stroke may be at greater risk for severe COVID-19

According to new research presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID), people at high risk of having a stroke or heart attack in the next decade who contract COVID-19 are nearly three times more likely to be hospitalised, six times more likely to die from COVID-19.

For this study, researchers used the electronic medical records of 949,973 adults (aged 40-84 years) registered at GP practices across England. Of the 949,973 adults included in the study, 12% had existing cardiovascular disease (CVD), 32% were classed as being at raised risk of CVD and 56% at low risk. A total of 4,017 of these participants (average age 58 years, 50% male) were diagnosed with COVID-19 between 12 March and 29 September, 2020. Among those with COVID-19 (4,017 people), the overall death rate was 219 per 1,000 (576 people), ICU admission was 60 per 1,000 (159) and hospitalisation was 414 per 1,000 (1,091). The researchers found that the likelihood of COVID-19 infection was similar among individuals with raised and low cardiovascular risk (4.9 cases per 1,000 vs 4.5 cases per 1,000, respectively).



The threat of untreatable gonorrhoea could be tackled using an existing meningitis vaccine

According to findings from a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, meningitis vaccines could help improve protection against gonorrhoea amid rising cases globally and increase bacterial resistance to drugs used to treat the infection.



Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that, if untreated, can lead to serious health conditions, including infertility in women, transmission to new-born babies, and increased risk of HIV. More than 80 million new cases of gonorrhoea were recorded worldwide in 2020. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) used health records to identify laboratory-confirmed cases of gonorrhoea and chlamydia (another common STI) among 16-23-year-olds in New York City and Philadelphia from 2016 to 2018. These cases were compared to immunisation records to determine people's vaccination status with 4CMenB (a meningitis vaccine). There were more than 167,000 infections (18,099 gonorrhoea, 124,876 chlamydia, and 24,731 co-infections) among almost 110,000 people. A total of 7,692 people had received the 4CMenB vaccine, with 4,032 (52%) receiving one dose, 3,596 (47%) two doses, and 64 (less than 1%) more than two doses. Full 4CMenB vaccination - receiving two doses - was estimated to provide 40% protection against gonorrhoea. One vaccine dose provided 26% protection.



Mental illness associated with increased death from cardiovascular disease

According to a new study published in PLOS Medicine, people with severe mental illnesses, including schizophrenia, have higher cardiovascular mortality rates than the general population. The new study included a meta-analysis of 108 previous studies with over 30 million participants aged 16 to 65 at the onset of psychiatric disorder.

Overall, the study found that the cardiovascular-related mortality rate for people with severe mental illness is about twice that of the general population. People with schizophrenia are at greater risk than those with bipolar disorder, but the disparity exists across all severe mental illness types and cerebrovascular and cardiac mortality.

For people with schizophrenia, the pooled hazard ratio/rate ratio for coronary heart disease was 1.8 compared to controls, and the pooled standardised mortality ratio for cerebrovascular accidents was 1.93. For both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, the association with cardiovascular-related mortality grew stronger between the 1970s and the 2000s. For instance, the hazard ratio/rate ratio for mortality from coronary heart disease in people with schizophrenia in the 1990s compared with the 1980s was 1.61.

Printed or used paper for serving food: A slow poisoning

TAWHID ISLAM, DR MUHAMMAD TOREQUL ISLAM

From village to town, printed and used paper is widely used in Bangladesh to serve food, especially street food. But the real question is how safe it is for our health. The Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) has also warned about using printed paper and polythene for serving oily and warm food, but the implementation of the decision is not properly regulated.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has banned printed paper for serving food. According to them, the food absorbs chemicals from paper and acts as a slow poison over time, causing serious health issues such as cancer.

While we all know that paper is made from plant or recycled pulp, the process involves 43 chemicals, including chlorine, dolomite, hypochlorous acid (calcium oxide), sodium sulphate salts, and sodium thiosulfate, and many other preservatives and chemicals, none of which are safe for health.

There are no safety rules for making paper intended for direct contact with food. Those are only for printing, and most of the paper is recycled.

The ink used to print the paper is not edible. Heavy metals and other hazardous chemicals may be present. Most paper printed with Soy ink

contains chemical extraction and solvents such as di-isobutyl phthalate, ethanol, dimethyl sulfoxide or DMSO, di-n-butyl phthalate, and propanol, which are not safe to consume. A study found that all paper-based food packaging migrated heavy metals such as Pb, Cd, Cu, Zn, Cr, and Ni.

In most cases, printed paper sits on the shelf for years before being sold to the local market at a lower per-Kg price. It is unknown how it was stored and transported to the food market, and the possibility of dust contamination with pathogens like bacteria and viruses cannot be ruled out.

Why do restaurant owners serve their food on such used paper? The answer is its ease of use and low cost. So, a low-cost alternative serving paper is required. Using non-paper serving plates and an aluminium foil-wrapped hard-paper packet for the parcel would be safer. The food authorities should not ignore this issue. This toxic tradition's effects on human health may not be immediate, but they are devastating!



Tawhid Islam is a student at Department of Pharmacy, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj. Email: tawhidislam2021@yahoo.com

Dr Muhammad Torequl Islam is an Assistant Professor at Department of Pharmacy at the same University. E-mail: dmt.islam@bsmrstu.edu.bd

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SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings will look to avoid a slip-up similar to the first phase when the Bangladesh Premier League champions travel to Swadhinata Krira Sangha for the first match of the second phase today. Kings, who suffered a 2-1 defeat in the league's first matchday, will be playing against the newcomers at the Muktijoddha Smriti Stadium in Rajshahi.

The defending champions have made some important reinforcements in the mid-season transfers, roping in Gambian striker Nuha Marong after dispatching Bosnian centre-forward Stojan Vranjes. The league leaders, top of the table with a four-point advantage over of second placed Abahani, have also got midfielder Miguel Figueira in place of Jonathan Fernandes, who has left the country following a lengthy injury.

Swadhinata, who are bottom of the table with only six points, have made a number of foreign acquisitions too in a bid to avoid the drop after just a year in top-flight.

Meanwhile, strugglers Uttar Baridhara will host third-placed Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the other match of the day at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj.

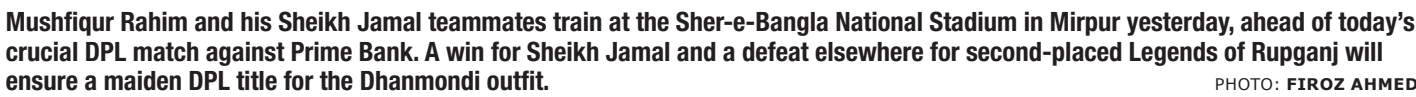


PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will be eyeing to close in on their maiden Dhaka Premier League title as they take on Prime Bank Cricket Club in the Super League game at the BKSP-4 today.

With 22 points in 12 matches, Sheikh Jamal has the chance to seal the title with two games in hand if they edge past Prime, given the second-placed Legends of Rugpanj, with 18 points in equal games, lose to Abahani Limited in Mirpur today. However, a win for both Dhanmondi and Rugpanj will keep the two sides in the hunt for the DPL trophy.

Sheikh Jamal have been in terrific form,

winning their last five consecutive games, as their wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan smashed an unbeaten match-winning century in the previous game to clinch a four-wicket victory over Rupganj Tigers Cricket Club.

Prime Bank, with 14 points in twelve games, will bank on an in-form Anamul Haque Bijoy who has already become the most run-getter in a DPL season in the previous game. The wicketkeeper batter will be eager to continue his prolific run, having tallied 878 runs in 12 games with seven fifties and two tons.

Rugbanj on the other hand, led by former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, are chasing their maiden

triumph with the presence of star all rounder Shakib Al Hasan in the side.

Rupganj beat Prime Bank in a low-scoring encounter by three wickets in the previous game, courtesy of Muktar Ali and Tanbir Hayder's thrilling last-over finish.

Mashrafe's Rupganj will take on the defending champions Abahani, led by Mosaddek Hossain Saikat, who are already out of the title race with 14 points in twelve games.

In the other super league encounter, Rupganj Tigers will encounter Gazi Group Cricketers at the BKSP-3 while Brothers Union face City Club in the tournament's relegation battle.

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan said that if need be, Mustafizur Rahman will have to make himself available for the upcoming two-Test Sri Lanka series in May.

"If we need him [Mustafizur] for the Sri Lanka series, he will definitely have to play," Hassan told media yesterday.

However, Mustafizur, who is currently playing for the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL), told The Daily Star in an interview that the pacer is apparently not interested to play the five-day format in order to stay fit for a long time for his two favourite versions of the game -- one-dayers and T20s.

The 26-year-old was not also included in Bangladesh's latest central contract for Tests.

"We had sent forms to players seeking information on the formats that they would consider playing. And according to that, we enlisted players [for the central contract].

Mustafizur did not put his name for Tests. He did not say that he wants to play.

"However, it does not matter what he said. If we need him to play, he will have to oblige," Hassan said.

Bangladesh's pace-unit is grappling with injury concerns with the likes of Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam and Ebadot Hossain all injured.

“Taskin, Shoriful and Ebadot are there in the Test side. If we keep Mustalizur too in the Test side, it will only then depend on the management if they would play him or not. But whenever he is needed, we will keep him in the squad. He will play [Tests], there is no issue about it,” Hassan added.

The BCB is yet to announce the squad for the Sri Lanka series and keeping Mustafizur in the squad would mean that the player would need to return midway from IPL, for which he has been granted NOC.



PHOTO: AFP

REUTERS, *London*

Arsenal dealt a blow to Manchester United's hopes of a top-four Premier League finish as Nuno Tavares, Bukayo Saka and Granit Xhaka struck in a 3-1 win on Saturday that revived the home side's chances of Champions League football next season.

Arsenal were rewarded for their blistering early pace as Tavares tapped home in the third minute after United goalkeeper David de Gea pushed away a curling effort by Saka, following some poor defending by the visitors at The Emirates.

Saka doubled the Gunners' lead from the penalty spot after a foul on the winger in the build-up to a strike by Eddie Nketiah that went in but was ruled out as offside by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

The visitors got one back as Cristiano Ronaldo swept in Nemanja Matic's cross. The Portuguese forward's 100th Premier League goal came after a traumatic week personally after the death of one of his newborn

AFP, London

Everton manager Frank Lampard said Friday he would happily take a draw against "incredible" Liverpool even though his side desperately need points to survive.

The Toffees could be in the bottom three by the time Sunday's game kicks off at Anfield. But Lampard said he would be satisfied with a point at the home of Jurgen Klopp's side.

"It is a tough game we are going into, make no bones about that," he said.

"I am a realist. You understand the position we are in. The table is a reflection of where you are at."





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Just like the pre-pandemic times, home-goers rush to get tickets at Kamalapur Railway Station ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. People in the photo waiting in queues want to buy tickets for April 27. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Bodi, brother ‘beat up’ 2 AL leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Controversial Awami League leader and former lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi and his brother allegedly assaulted two local leaders of Teknaf at a meeting on Friday.

In a video footage that went viral on social media, Bodi and his brother Abdul Shukkur are seen beating up Teknaf Municipality AL Vice President Mohammad Yousuf Monu.

Sources said the incident happened at Teknaf Upazila Parishad Auditorium during a meeting between the upazila and municipality AL leaders and activists.

Monu was speaking about different irregularities within the party when Bodi came down from the stage and started hitting Monu.

When Yousuf Bhutto, joint secretary of the municipality AL, tried to save Monu, he was beaten up Shukkur, also a leader of the municipality AL, said the sources.

President of Teknaf Municipal AL Javed Iqbal later said the district AL leaders present at the auditorium would take action about the matter.

Shukkur spent a long time in jail on charges of yaba trafficking, Javed added.

Monu said he was surprised by the incident.

Contacted, Shah Alam Chowdhury, vice president of Cox’s Bazar district AL, said, “We will resolve the issue as per the organisational rules.”

Bodi could not be contacted for comments over the matter.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

EID TRAIN TICKETS Sold out online, long queues at stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was 12:35pm. Some 15 to 20 people were waiting at the office of Kamalapur Station Manager Masud Sarwar. But he was not there.

They all were seeking tickets of Kurigram Express yesterday, the first day of advance train ticket sales of Bangladesh Railway ahead of the Eid.

They all were asking almost the same questions. Why would they not get tickets even after spending almost a whole night at the station? Why the sale of tickets online finished within a minute after the opening of the day’s sale?

A railway staffer failed to convince them by giving some explanations. At one point, an official of the Railway, Nirapatta Bahini, asked them to leave the office.

“You can do this [send people out]. You even can use batons against us. But you cannot come up with a solution to this

problem,” said an overwrought youth.

This newspaper talked with two of the ticket seekers.

One of them is Shanto, a BBA student of a private university. He said he and his friends had been trying to collect tickets online to Rangpur for the last four days, but in vain.

On Friday, he reached Airport Railway Station at 5:00am and waited four and a half hours, but could not buy a single ticket for April 26.

Shanto along with one of his friends went to Kamalapur at midnight on Saturday night. He was standing 80th in a line of several hundred people. Most of them chose to travel by train fearing possible traffic gridlocks on roads during the Eid rush.

At 12:15pm yesterday, the authorities declared that tickets of Kurigram Express for April 27 were sold out.

The announcement baffled Shanto completely. “Only 60 to 62 people got tickets. How is it

possible?”

About 30-40 people were still waiting before the ticket counter of Kurigram Express. One of them was Rashidul Islam.

Asked why he was waiting there even after the tickets for April 27 were sold out, he said, “I came here at 5:00am today [yesterday]. I was in the 200th position in the line. So I didn’t go home. I will wait here till tomorrow [today] morning to get tickets for April 28.”

Uzzwal Hasan, a government employee, went to the station at 11:00am from his office. He planned to wait till 8:00am today to buy tickets of Drutojan Express to go home in Joydebpur’s Akkelpur upazila.

“I will go home with my family. To avoid possible tailbacks on roads, I am enduring this pain,” said Uazzal, standing in the 13th position of a line.

People fear Eid rush might cause traffic congestion on a major highway that links Dhaka

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

BCL and Jubo League men stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chhatra League leader and a Jubo League activist were stabbed to death in separate incidents in Chattogram’s Patiya upazila Friday night.

The BCL leader was killed in a factional clash and the Jubo League activist was murdered over rivalry in the union parishad election, said police, quoting locals.

The dead are Askar Bin Tarek Ivan, 18, religious affairs secretary of Jamal Khan ward BCL and a student of BAF Shaheen College Chattogram; and Mohammad Sohel, 36, younger sibling of AL-backed Kashaish UP Chairman Abul Kashem.

Three men – Mohammad Sajjad, 20, Saddam Hossain, 30, and Joyanal Abedin, 34 – were also injured while trying to save Sohel. They were undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said police.

According to the investigators, there are long-standing rivalry between the followers Jamal Khan ward councillor Shaibal Das Suman and city unit BCL’s Assistant Secretary Sabbir Sadek over establishing supremacy.

As a sequel to the enmity, a brawl took place between the two groups in the city’s Andarkillah area after Iftar on Friday mounting a tense situation.

At the night, the two groups were positioned in the Cheragi More area and locked into a scuffle around 9:30pm. At one point, Ivan was stabbed by Sabbir group, said police.

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Bidyanondo’s Kishore honoured by the Queen Chosen for Commonwealth Points of Light award

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Queen Elizabeth II has named Bangladeshi charity leader Kishore Kumar Das for the Commonwealth Points of Light award in recognition of his exceptional voluntary service through “Bidyanondo”.

Kishore, 40, set up charity organisation Bidyanondo in 2013 and has made education accessible for over 1,200 children from marginalised backgrounds, said UK High Commission in Bangladesh in a statement yesterday.

He started with only 22 students and now runs five primary schools, which are free of charge for students. The charity also provides free academic coaching sessions and scholarship programmes to help children pursue higher education.

Kishore has also initiated a meal programme – “Ek takay ahaar” (Meal for a penny) – which

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WHITE CLAY EXTRACTION Ethnic community now in danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unbridled white clay extraction in Dhobaura upazila of Mymensingh district has put the ethnic community in danger as it devoured their homestead and way of livelihood, said the civil society platform Nagorik Uddog.

A ten-member team of the platform had toured Dhobaura and Durgapur upazilas from April 8 to 10. The findings were presented yesterday at a briefing held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

While clay extraction is suspended in Durgapur upazila of Netrokona district for two years now thanks to a court order, it is going on in full swing in Dhobaura upazila, said Robaet Ferdous, professor of Dhaka University, while presenting the findings.

The white clay extraction in Vedikuri mouja of Dhobaura has caused ecological disaster; jeopardised the livelihood of Hajong, Mandi and other ethnic groups; damaged hills, forests and wildlife; polluted water and imperilled food

security, he said quoting the indigenous communities.

A whole community known as Hodi community got obliterated from Durgapur, while there is no trace of 11 families belonging to Hajong community.

Just 11 months ago, the wild rabbit was available there. But it is no more seen in the locality due to clay extraction.

The mining of white clay disrupted agricultural activities as the extraction caused waterlogging.

“The roads are getting damaged and noise pollution increased in the area for the extraction. This area has become totally unliveable,” Ferdous said.

The indiscriminate extraction has created a deep gorge, which is prompting landslides in the area, sometimes even killing members of the community.

Since 1974, 37 people died in two upazila by slipping into the gorge.

The platform has put forward ten demands to the government to stop the devastation immediately and protect the

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PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

Farmers in Rangpur’s Pirganj upazila taking their produce home. BRRI-28 paddy has ripened on their fields. The photo was taken yesterday.