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## NEW MARKET CLASHES

# Cops grill 6 Dhaka College BCL men

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Law enforcers yesterday interrogated at least six Dhaka College Chhatra League men with links to the clashes between students and traders in the capital's New Market area, which left two persons dead.

Anwar Mahmud, a teacher of the college and in-charge of its South Hostel, confirmed this to The Daily Star last night.

"The law enforcers have so far questioned six students. They let two students go and four were still at their office," he told this newspaper over the phone around 8:00pm yesterday.

Asked, HM Azimul Haque, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of the Detective Branch of police, said they interrogated some Dhaka College students but refused to give any specific number.

"We are verifying information. We questioned some students in connection with the incident," he told this newspaper last night.

Sources in the college and its BCL unit said the Chhatra League leaders and activists who were interrogated are deputy secretary (international affairs) of the BCL Central Committee Samad Azad Julfikar; Dhaka College BCL unit's Convening Committee members Jashim Uddin, Atikuzzaman Rana and Zahir Hassan Jewel; and BCL activists Firoz Rabbi and Titas.

Meanwhile, one of the two young men, who hacked 19-year-old deliveryman Nahid Mia to death during the April 19 clashes, was identified as Emon Bashar, an activist of Dhaka College Chhatra League unit, said sources in police and the BCL.



Photo and video footage of the young man hacking Nahid went viral on social media.

The other attacker, who also hacked Nahid, was yet to be identified. Emon from Khulna's Paikgachha is a second-year student of Bangla. He is a supporter of Dhaka College Chhatra League leader Samad Azad Julfikar, who leads one of the BCL groups at the college, according to sources.

Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not reach Julfikar and Emon for comments.

Several students at the college said Emon left the college campus soon after the identities of some college students, allegedly involved in the clashes, were revealed through media reports on Saturday.

Yesterday, a team of the DB police seized two mobile phones of Emon from his room at the college's International Hostel.

"A DB team came to the campus around 5:15pm and seized the two mobile phones from his room at the dormitory," Anwar told The Daily Star.

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 Julfikar, Firoz Hossain, and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## MEDIA WORKERS BILL

# It conflicts with other laws

Says Noab, warns it'd be a blow to free speech if passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill conflicts with the prevailing judiciary, industrial law and the country's labour law, said the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) yesterday.

Newspapers, including the freedom of the press and freedom of expression, would suffer if the law, which was placed in parliament on March 28, is passed, it said in a statement signed by its president AK Azad and vice-president ASM Shahidullah Khan.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary committee

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Standing waist-deep in floodwater, Rakib Ali and his younger brother Shafiq Ali harvesting paddy that has been almost completely ruined after being submerged for over two weeks. With borrowed money, Rakib cultivated paddy on 10 bighas of land in Uptar Haor, Sylhet. But the soggy crop will not sell and he won't be able to repay his debts.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS

# Take actions against hoarders

PM asks authorities, says govt doing everything to arrest rise

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is doing its best to control prices of daily essentials amid the high global inflation rate.

She also directed the authorities concerned to take proper actions against the hoarders of essential items and those who play with their prices.

Hasina said this while inaugurating 40 new fire stations in different upazilas. She joined the event at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters in the city's Fulbaria through a videoconference from the Gono Bhaban.

The premier said the pandemic has caused economic recession throughout the world, deepened by the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war.

There is a food crisis even in many



developed countries and the inflation rate went up to 17 percent in some places. The inflation rate is 7-9 percent in many European countries, she added.

Mentioning that the difficulties to import some goods due to the ongoing war, the PM asked the people not to keep an inch of land uncultivated and ensure the optimum use of the soil for food autarky.

Hasina asked the authorities of development work – architects, engineers or project planners of different ministries – to keep the provision of fire-fighting facilities in every development project.

She also called for ensuring wide roads for smooth movement of fire service vehicles and water sources at nearby places.

"During designing a project, everyone has

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## TENTULTALA PLAYGROUND

# Protester, teen son picked up

She went live on FB to show cops building wall there; police release them after 12hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kalabagan police yesterday picked up Syeda Ratna, a community leader trying to save Tentultala playground, and her 17-year-old son.

They were released around 12 hours later.

Ratna, coordinator of Tetultala Maath Rokkha Andolon, and her son were detained when they went live on Facebook to show Kalabagan police building a wall on the playground around 11:00am, said Mahmudur Rahman, a local.

Ratna's daughter Sheunti Shahgufta told The Daily Star, "Police had been piling bricks and brick chips on the Tentultala ground since the night before. My mother was picked up when she went on live on Facebook at the ground in the morning."

"When my brother, an HSC student, went there, he too

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## SANCTIONS ON RAB

# Won't be lifted without actions, accountability

Says US ambassador in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unless concrete actions are taken and accountability is ensured, there is no scope for lifting the sanctions on Rab, said US Ambassador Peter Haas at a discussion yesterday.

"We want to see a Rab which is capable of combatting terrorism but which is also capable of respecting basic human rights," he said at a seminar on US-Bangladesh relations.

Just prior to his remark, the Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun spoke about how the force in 2011 established an internal enquiry cell with US cooperation to ensure accountability of Rab personnel.

Under the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme, 147 Rab personnel were trained on basic interviewing skills and human rights, he told the discussion organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

The trained individuals are working to ensure transparency and uphold human rights, the Rab DG added.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen commented that it was former US Ambassador James F. Moriarty who

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



With her right leg in a cast, Nilufar Begum came to the site of Rana Plaza yesterday, the eighth anniversary of the collapse of the building. Her leg was broken and she received serious injuries to her spine when the building collapsed in 2013 leaving at least 1,136 dead and over 2,500 others injured. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## Judge sued over torture, dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday accepted a case against the judge of a magistrate court after his wife filed a complaint of torture over dowry.

The court also asked the Police Bureau of Investigation to conduct a probe into the allegation, said sources.

Khandakar Rafiq Hasnain, public prosecutor of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Court, said Hridita Sarkar filed the complaint against her husband Debanshu Kumar Sarkar.

Debanshu is a judge of the senior judicial magistrate court in Rangpur.

Meanwhile, after hearing the complaint, Judge Mohammad Rokonzaman accepted the case and ordered PBI to submit a report within May 9, said the lawyer.

In the case, Hridita mentioned that Debanshu and his family members demanded Tk 30 lakh as dowry during the marriage that was held on May 11, 2015.

As the marriage was about to break, locally influential people settled the matter.

However, after the ceremony of marriage was over, Debanshu again demanded dowry to buy a car. As the dowry was denied, he tortured his wife, the victim mentioned in the complaints.

## Jaishankar likely to visit this week

UNB, Dhaka

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is likely to visit Dhaka this week, most probably on April 28, says a diplomatic source yesterday.

He will be coming with an invitation for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a visit to New Delhi -- likely to be in the second or the third week of June, said the source.



An Orthodox priest Oleksandr sprinkles holy water on believers during the Orthodox Easter service next to The Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church damaged by shelling during Russia's invasion in the village of Peremoha, in Kyiv region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Russia strikes arms depots in Kharkiv

Ukraine says US officials to visit Kyiv, urges Easter truce for Mariupol

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia's defence ministry said yesterday its high-precision missiles struck nine Ukrainian military targets overnight, including four arms depots in the Kharkiv region where artillery weapons were stored.

The ministry also said its missile and artillery forces destroyed a further four such arms depots in the same region and hit a facility in Dnipropetrovsk region producing explosives for the Ukrainian army.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin were set to visit Kyiv yesterday to discuss Ukraine's call for more powerful weapons.

The trip, announced by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday, would be the highest-level by US officials since Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine on February 24.

The White House has not confirmed any visit by Blinken and Austin. The State Department and Pentagon declined to comment.

As Christians in Ukraine celebrated Orthodox Easter yesterday, there was no end in sight to a war that has killed thousands of people, uprooted millions more and reduced cities to rubble. Ukraine said two children were among those killed

in shelling yesterday.

Kyiv also called for a truce in battered Mariupol for Orthodox Easter, celebrated in both Russia and Ukraine.

"Usually we would come to our churches with Easter baskets. But now this is impossible," Serhiy Gaidai, governor of the eastern Luhansk region, wrote on Telegram, saying seven churches in the Luhansk

**"We are all convinced that we will not be destroyed by any horde or wickedness."**

region had been "mutilated by Russian artillery."

"We are all convinced that we will not be destroyed by any horde or wickedness," Zelenskyy said in an Easter video message from the 1,000-year-old Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, praying God would "give endurance to those who, unfortunately, would not see the return of their child from the front."

He told a news conference on Saturday that talks with his US visitors would cover the "powerful, heavy weapons" Ukraine needed and the pace of supplies that he said would be used to retake territory.

Moscow, which describes its actions in Ukraine as a "special military operation", denies targeting civilians and rejects what Ukraine says is evidence of atrocities, saying Kyiv staged them.

Ukraine said yesterday that Russian forces were bombarding the steel works in Mariupol where Ukrainian defenders were holding out, days after Moscow declared victory in the southern port city and said it did not need to take the plant.

"The place where our civilians and military are located is shelled with heavy air bombs and artillery," senior Ukrainian presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter, calling for "a real Easter truce in Mariupol".

Ukraine estimates tens of thousands of civilians have been killed in Mariupol and says 100,000 civilians are still in the city. The United Nations and Red Cross say the civilian toll is at least in the thousands.

A new attempt to evacuate civilians from Mariupol failed on Saturday, an aide to the city's mayor said.

Meanwhile, the UN refugee agency said yesterday the number of Ukrainians who have fled the country since Russia's invasion two months ago is approaching 5.2 million.

## Hakim keeps Masud Rana books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday refused to stay a High Court verdict granting copyright of 260 books of the popular spy thriller "Masud Rana Series" and 50 books of "Kuasha Series" to ghost writer Sheikh Abdul Hakim.

On December 13 last year, the HC rejected a writ petition filed by Kazi Anwar Hossain, owner of Seba Prokashoni, challenging the copyright office order.

Two sons and daughter of the writ petitioner then filed a leave to appeal petition with the SC's Appellate Division seeking stay on the HC verdict.

However, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the SC's Appellate Division, yesterday sent the petition to its full bench for hearing it on May 30.

Khurshid Alam Khan, lawyer for the copyright office, told The Daily Star that the HC verdict would remain in force till further order of the apex court.

## Monitor travellers to India: Maleque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday asked the authorities concerned to beef up monitoring of travellers to India as Covid-19 infections are increasing in the neighbouring country.

Saying that the Covid situation in the county is under control, he asked people to remain cautious to prevent its deterioration.

The minister was addressing a programme on the eve of National Nutrition Week at the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (Niposm).

"It has become possible to inoculate all because of the prime minister's assistance," he added.

Meanwhile, no Covid-19 death was reported in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release of Directorate General of Health Services.

At least 24 fresh infections were recorded during the period, taking the Covid cases to 19,52,556, added the release.

## 6yr-old-girl raped, murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A teen killed a six-year-old girl after raping her in Naogaon's Manda upazila on Saturday, said police.

Police arrested the teen aged 17, Abdul Mannan Miah, superintendent of Naogaon police, told a press conference yesterday.

He would be produced before a court for recording his statement, he said.

When Fariha Akter, of Nimbaria Laxmirampur village, was playing near her house on Saturday afternoon, the boy took her to a bush and raped her. He then strangled her, said the SP, quoting the arrestee.

Around 8:00pm, locals found her body. The girl's father filed a case with Manda Police Station accusing the teen.

The Daily Star refrained from disclosing the teen's identity as he is underage.

## Take actions against hoarders

FROM PAGE 1

to keep one thing in mind that it'll have to ensure modern fire extinguishing systems in the institutions and the availability of water for firefighting."

The PM also asked to protect waterbodies and conserve rainwater in the project sites or multi-storey structures.

Noting that there is the capacity to fight fire in the highest 20-storey structure in the country, Hasina said some might have plans to construct

30-storey buildings or 40-storey buildings or even 100-storey skyscrapers.

In this regard, she asked them to consider the firefighting capacity before taking any plan for construction of the high-rise buildings.

The PM asked the fire service department to ensure training and rehearsal over fire extinguishing systems and on what to do in case of fire in educational institutions, mills and factories.

Hasina said the

government has decided to set up a fire service station in every upazila.

Mentioning there are now 456 fire service stations in the country, she said the construction of 55 more stations would be completed by June next.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Secretary of Security Services Division Mokabbir Hossain and Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Department Maj Gen Sazzad Hussain spoke at the function.

## Cops grill 6 Dhaka College BCL men

FROM PAGE 1

Jashim Uddin. Of them, Jashim group was more violent than the other two.

Law enforcers said the youths who beat up and hacked Nahid during the clashes were primarily identified and were now under police surveillance.

Kaiyum, a Dhaka College student, hit Nahid first. He was wearing a blue T-shirt with white stripes, said police sources.

Many of those who were carrying locally-made weapons, iron rods and sticks during the clashes have also been identified.

One of them is Shahin Sadek Mirza, a member of the BCL unit's convening committee. He was carrying a machete.

BCL activist Kawsar, clad in a green T-shirt, was also carrying a machete. He is a student of Islamic history and resides at the college's South Hostel.

Another person, who was holding a hammer, has been identified as Monayem. He is a member of Dhaka City (north) Chhatra League, said investigators.

Earlier on April 18 night, employees of two shops at the New Market got into a brawl, which spilled over into daylong pitched battles between Dhaka College students and shopkeepers the following day.

Nahid, a delivery man of a computer accessories shop on Elephant Road, was attacked in front of

Nur Jahan Super Market's Khan Fashion store, just opposite Dhaka College. He died later that night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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

More than 1,500 unnamed people were made accused in these cases.

The two murder cases are being investigated by the DB and the other two by the New Market police.

PANIC AT HOSTELS

Fearing police raid, many Dhaka College students left the hostels after midnight.

Nurul Amin, a security

identities of some college students allegedly involved in Nahid's murder and the clashes.

According to police, the suspects are involved with the BCL.

During the clashes, the college authorities had asked the students to vacate the hostels but they refused to leave.

However, following the media reports, many students started leaving the hostels since early Sunday night, fearing that police might raid the dormitories.

Seeking anonymity, a fourth-year graduate student of the college told

The Daily Star that many students left the hostels after midnight.

Nurul Amin, a security

guard at the main entrance of the college, said he saw many students leave the campus since yesterday morning.

BCL General Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee told this newspaper on Saturday that the organisation has nothing to do with the suspects.

General students of Dhaka College took part in the "protests", he said, adding that none of them joined it as "activists of Chhatra League".

"We are sure that no Chhatra League activist was involved in the [Nahid's] killing," he added.

Acting Dhaka College principal ATM Mainul Hossain could not be reached for comments.

## Won't be lifted without actions

FROM PAGE 1

called Rab the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) of Bangladesh.

"Rab has since then done an excellent job at combating terrorism. Maybe we have to look at it more closely to see how accountability can be increased ... but this is a great institution," said Momen.

Ambassador Haas also said, "We will continue to work with Bangladesh to combat violent terrorism, combat transnational crime and enhance security. We will continue our support to the transnational crime police and to the anti-terrorism unit and the specialised police units in Chattogram, Sylhet, and Rajshahi.

"The USA is not perfect. We have embarked on our own democratic renewal. This journey ensures tackling our own issues with police accountability. We are inviting other countries in the world to make similar commitments."

He announced that the

US would be an impartial observer of the upcoming parliamentary election. "The USA will not pick a side in the elections. Our view is simple: the Bangladeshis people have a democratic process that allows them to choose their government.

"Holding an election consistent with international standards is not just about ballot day. Truly fair elections involve creating a space where civic discourse can take place, where journalists can investigate without fear..."

He welcomed the law minister's commitment to reform the Digital Security Act to prevent abuse of the law.

The ambassador also spoke about the need for signing two defence treaties called ACSA and GSOMIA between Bangladesh and the US. GSOMIA would set the ground rule for exchanging sensitive data about military operations, said Haas, while ACSA will allow exchange of fuel and food.

These treaties are not like the "broad, vague defence agreement that Bangladesh signed with China in 2002," he said, referring to the "China-Bangladesh Defence Cooperation Agreement" which covers military training and defence production.

"The DFC [US International Development Finance Corporation] has a \$4 billion active portfolio in South Asia across multiple sectors including clean energy, healthcare, agriculture. The DFC cannot operate in Bangladesh because of a lack of labour rights."

Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, chairman of BIIS led the event, while former diplomats Humayun Kabir and Tariq A. Karim, former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain, BIIS Director-General Maj Gen Mohammad Masudur Rahman and Dhaka University professor Ruksana Kibria spoke.



## 'Damaged' Dash-8 to operate soon

Says Biman MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dash-8 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, which was grounded in February due to "damaged engines caused by a pilot error", will be in operation within a day or two.

"The required engines (for the aircraft) are expected to reach the country very soon and we hope that it will be back in service within a day or two," Biman Managing Director and CEO Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Biman boss also said the relatively new De Havilland Canada Dash-8 aircraft will be used to operate flights on domestic routes. The Dash-8 aircraft has been grounded since February 2.

The damage allegedly happened when pilot Ali Rubyat Chowdhury deployed the aircraft's emergency power system — typically used to avoid an impending accident — in mid-air on the way to Sylhet from Dhaka on February 1, according to officials.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING					
APRIL 25					
Fajr	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		
23	25		6:28		
24	26	4:04	6:29		
25	27	4:03	6:29		



As the scorching heat plagues the concrete jungle, these children decided to take a dip in the capital's Crescent Lake to cool off yesterday. In that quest, they turned the event into a fun game, taking a dive from a structure amidst the lake that was meant for beautification.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Govt laxity to blame

Say speakers on river grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the country has multiple laws regarding the conservation of rivers, the grabbers have become more desperate to encroach rivers because of the laxity of those who implement the laws, alleged Mujibor Rahman Howlader, former chairman of National River Conservation Committee (NRCC).

He came up with the observation in a seminar, marking "World Earth Day" at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the event.

He also alleged that some government officials work for consultancy groups. This creates a conflict of interest, which often hinders the fight against grabbers.

"We must change our mindset. Only then the condition of our rivers will improve," he said.

Referring to statistics, he said during his tenure in NRCC in 2019, 32.37 percent of grabbers were evicted. But the eviction drive remains halted at present.

"It is our constitutional duty to conserve the overall environment, including our rivers. There are instructions from the prime minister regarding this but the reality is different..." he added.

Prof Khandakar Bojlu Haque, vice-president of Bapa, said, "We must stop the devastation being inflicted on earth..."

Sharmin Murshid, former member of NRCC, said the state-owned

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## FOOD PRODUCTION

## Focus should be on reducing trade gap: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh did a tremendous job in food production though the environment was not favourable, and now the key challenge is to produce export-oriented products as the country has a huge gap between its import and export, said speakers yesterday.

Lack to infrastructure and hygiene in processing, inadequate quality control and lack of diversification are the major reasons behind low quantity food export, they said.

Bangladesh Agricultural Journalist Forum (BAJF) organised the conference styled "Agricultural production in adverse weather: unstable global agri business" at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

The country imports food and related products, including machinery and fertiliser, equivalent to \$10 billion a year but exports only \$1 billion worth products, said Mohammad Jahangir Alam, professor of agribusiness and marketing department at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

While presenting the keynote paper, he said, "This huge gap is reducing our foreign exchange as well as increasing food insecurity."

He recommended allocating more on agriculture in the next budget, specifically in the research and development sector, which is only 1

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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Chattogram - Kolkata	10:30	10:55	Daily
Kolkata - Chattogram	08:10	09:40	Daily

\*Starting from 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

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Dhaka - Visakhapatnam	13:35	19:20	Daily

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# ‘One in 100 adults has schizophrenia’

## Psychiatrists tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One in every 100 adults in Bangladesh is a patient of schizophrenia, according to the country’s leading psychiatrists.

Schizophrenia involves a psychosis, a type of mental illness in which a person can’t tell what’s real from what’s imagined.

They revealed the information during the unveiling ceremony of a guideline on schizophrenia, organised by Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists (BAP) at a city hotel, said a press release.

Presenting a keynote paper, general secretary of BAP Helal Uddin Ahmed said 40 to 43 percent patients admitted to the country’s two mental hospitals are schizophrenia patients.

He said the guideline has been formulated so that schizophrenia patients at the upazila level can get treatment.

Discussants said guidelines on five more mental diseases are awaiting to be published.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

## Workers demand speedy trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The ninth anniversary of Rana Plaza collapse, the deadliest garment factory accident in the history that took over a thousand lives, is being observed today.

In remembrance of the day, workers’ organisations, injured workers, relatives of the deceased victims and various government and non- governmental organisations gathered at the site in Savar and placed wreaths at the base of a temporary memorial monument where at least 1,138 people were killed and 2,438 injured following collapse of Rana Plaza building on April 24, 2013.

At that time, various demands were raised by the leaders of the workers’ organisations, the injured workers and the relatives of the deceased workers.

The workers’ organisations, however, claimed that the punishment of those whose negligence led to the accident was not confirmed even after nine years.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



# Protect farmland from sand dumping

## Speakers tell event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The government should take steps to save around 300 acres of farmland in Khulna’s Dacope area from sand dumping, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

To operate Mongla port, the government decided to dredge Pashur river. The sand dug up from the river is being planned to be dumped onto farmlands at Baniashanta, they alleged.

The event was organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Baniashanta Union Agricultural Land Protection Committee, and held at Khulna Press Club on Saturday.

Speakers said if the plan succeeds, around 1,300 farming families will lose their livelihood.

Satyajit Gain of Land Protection Committee said, “The Mongla Port authorities want to give Tk 2 lakh per acre in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Cap (tupi) stalls have gathered quite the buzz in Khulna city. Many locals as well as people from surrounding upazilas are flocking to these shops to purchase them as Eid approaches. The sellers have also prepared accordingly -- setting up an assortment of colourful and intricately designed caps for the customers to purchase. This photo was taken from Khulna’s Dakbanga Clay Road yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# The cons keep evolving

Criminals using cash deposit machines, fake telemedicine service to defraud people, says DB

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Even the world of crime is witnessing innovations.

Criminals of different syndicates were recently found defrauding people through cash deposit machines (CDM) and telemedicine services, claim law enforcers.

For the CDM strategy, syndicate members first identify themselves as police or army officials and call traders to buy electronic products.

Once the price is fixed, they ask the traders for bank account numbers that have CDM facilities. Then they go to the CDM point and input the demanded amount on the machine, but only insert an empty envelope instead of the actual money, which the machine accepts.

Soon after, a text message is sent to the account holder’s phone number confirming the transaction, when in reality, the money deposited is only accounted for after a bank official verifies the envelope’s content.

After the text is sent, the syndicate informs the target that the money was deposited. Then it sends a ride-sharing delivery-man to collect the product.

The trader hands over the product upon receiving the notification on their phone. A day later, they come to know from bank officials that the envelope submitted was empty.

But by then it’s just too late.

Cyber and Special Crime Division of police’s detective branch (DB) disclosed the findings following the arrest of two people on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Jahid Hasan Rony (32), and his associate Umme Habiba (28). Beside CDM fraud, the arrestees also pocketed money by selling stolen products online, promising changing public exam results, and ensuring admission in government medical colleges, said Junaed Alam Sharkar, additional deputy commissioner of DB.

Police detected them, after a victim filed a case with Tejaon Police Station in February.

According to the complaint, Rony, identifying

himself as a DB official, called a trader on February 22 and confirmed buying a camera for Tk 55,000.

Rony then claimed to have submitted the money in the trader’s bank account through CDM.

The trader then said the money still had not been deposited, as the bank will verify it. But Rony said he is a DB official and they do not need to worry. The next day, the bank informed the victim that there was only Tk 1,000 inside the envelope deposited, and communication between the victim and Rony halted.

ADC Junaed said the duo has stolen huge sums of money through such fraud activities. Once after getting the products, Rony used to sell them again online. Seven separate cases were found to be filed against Rony with Paltan, Rampura, Tejaon, New Market and Ramna police stations. Detectives said Rony has completed MBA and Habiba honours.

Meanwhile, a separate syndicate defrauds people by providing fake telemedicine service. Such services gained popularity during the pandemic. The criminals first give online advertisement of providing treatment for skin and sexual diseases. For the ads, they use identities of popular doctors.

When people communicate for treatment, the syndicate would inform them that the fee for physical visits is Tk 3,000 to 4,000, but for online consultation it is Tk 1,000. And every day, they used to get money from at least 30 to 40 people through mobile financial services.

Detectives claimed to have busted the syndicate following arrest of a couple from Rajshahi on Thursday. They are Rashed Hossain Pranto and Mowsumi Khatun. Police seized three phones and four SIM cards from their possession. The arrestees used to maintain 13 Facebook accounts and three WhatsApp IDs, said ADC Junaed.

Police said the syndicate used to take compromising photos of people during online consultations. Then the criminals blackmailed them for money, said detectives.

# DOMESTIC ROUTES

## Extra flights to ease Eid journey

RASHIDUL HASAN

Amid the huge rush of Eid holidaymakers, all the three local airlines have decided to increase the number of flights to different domestic destinations.

Officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national flag carrier, US-Bangla Airlines and Novoair said almost 80 to 90 percent tickets -- for one week before and after May 2, the possible date of Eid-ul-Fitr -- are already sold out.

The fare shot up two to three times comparing to other times, said sources in the three airlines.

The country is going for a holiday for around nine days between April 29 and May 7 with the lone working day on May 5.

Various airlines said the extended holidays have prompted people to take aerial routes to tourist destinations.

Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (Toab) said according to their estimate, around 15 lakh holidaymakers are likely to make trips to different domestic tourist destinations during this vacation. Aviation experts said improvement in people’s financial condition as well as competitive and reasonable prices of air tickets have considerably boosted domestic and international air traffic.

Ticket prices on Dhaka-Jashore and Dhaka-Barisal routes have increased by around two to three times because of high demand, as people are trying to avoid long tailbacks at Mawa and Paturia ferry terminals.

Apart from the two routes, demand for Dhaka-Syedpur and Dhaka-Rajshahi tickets are also high, as it usually takes around 14 to 15 hours to reach destinations in the northern region.

Biman, US-Bangla and Novoair said around 90 to 95 percent tickets to Jashore, Syedpur, Barisal and Rajshahi routes for one week before and after the Eid vacation have already been booked or sold out.

**Around 15 lakh holidaymakers are likely to make trips to different domestic tourist destinations during this Eid vacation.**

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

সংশোধন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

**Bangladesh Election Commission**

Election Commission Secretariat

Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase)

Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

**Addendum-1**

Package Title:	Purchasing of IRIS Scanner & Fingerprint Scanner for Voter Registration		
Invitation Number:	17.14.0000.240.07.061.2021-718, Date: 10 April 2022		
Issued on:	11 April 2022		
Tender Package No.	GD-22 (Lot-1 & Lot-2)		
<b>Addendum-1 of Invitation for Tenders (IFT)</b>			
SL No. of IFT	Existing Invitation for Tenders (IFT)	Amendments (Content to be read as Invitation for Tender (IFT))	
15. Tender last selling date:	24 April 2022	10 May 2022, Time: 5.00pm	
16. Tender closing date:	25 April 2022	11 May 2022, Time: 2.00pm	
17. Tender opening date:	25 April 2022	11 May 2022, Time: 2.30pm	
<b>Abdul Kashem Md. Fazlul Kader</b> Brigadier General Project Director			

GD-832

বাংলাদেশের  
প্রগতিশীল  
Bangladesh

edcl

**ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka- 1208, Bangladesh

EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ National / Landscaping /2022/254

Date: 24, April, 2022

**Amendment of Tender Notice**  
(Amendment No -2)

Project Title : Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

Package Name : Landscaping including Arboriculture & Central Water Body

Ref. No : EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/Landscaping/2022/28 Date: 28 March, 2022.

Notice Sl. No	Subject to be Amended	Existing As	Shall be amended As
14.	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	27 April, 2022 at , Time : 03:00 PM (BST)	11 May, 2022 at, Time : 03:00 PM (BST)
15.	Tender Closing Date and Time	28 April, 2022 at , Time : 12.00 PM (BST)	12 May, 2022 at, Time : 12.00 PM (BST)
16.	Tender Opening Date and Time	28 April, 2022 , Time : 12.30 PM (BST)	12 May, 2022, Time : 12.30 PM (BST)

All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged

**Prof. (Dr.) Ehsanul Kabir**  
Project Director  
Establishment of Essential Drugs Company  
Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

Size: 5 inch x 4 col.



# You will see a different Jaya in ‘Fereshte’

Jaya Ahsan on her first Iranian film

After conquering film industries of both Bangladesh and Kolkata, National Award winning actress Jaya Ahsan is set to feature in Iranian film “Fereshte”.

**SHAH ALAM SH AZU**

The Bangladesh-Iran joint venture film, directed by Morteza Atashzamaz, has been shot in Bangladesh, and Jaya's straightforward look has impressed one and all.

In a candid chat with The Daily Star, Jaya opens up about her experience in the project.

**This is your first Iranian film. Did you face a language barrier while shooting for it?**

Art has no boundaries; more important than the

working-class people.

**You have been shooting for “Fereshte” for 25 days straight. Can you share a memorable incident from the sets?**

While working on the film, I came across this poor woman, who wanted some help. She could not recognise me, as I was driving. I told her that I would give her the money as soon as I get off from the car.

In the end, I could not find her but I was left stunned, as she couldn't recognise me. She probably thought I was poor due to my wretched make-over! Apart from that, while shooting near the railways, I landed up in what was straight-up muddy water!

**Tell us about your character in “Fereshte”.**

I play the role of a strong woman, who struggles to make ends meet. I do not want to reveal much about the plot. People will get to see a different Jaya in this film. Iranian director Morteza Atashzamaz worked hard on this movie. We have been shooting the film in various locations including New Market, Jamuna Future Park, and Bashundhara. We are almost done with most of the shooting.

**How was the experience on working on this film?**

As an artiste, I find sheer thrill in learning through my films. It really did not feel like acting, as the character came naturally to me.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



## ‘The Bad Guys’ thrashes ‘Fantastic Beasts’ at box office

DreamWorks Animation and Universal's "The Bad Guys" now has a projected opening of \$25 million, more than enough to topple "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore" from the number one position..

The animated film, about a ragtag group of crooked animals, grossed \$8 million on Friday.

Another release, "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" is also beating the Harry Potter spinoff, with a projected gross of \$14 million.

"Fantastic Beasts 3" has fallen off sharply only on its second week, as fans gravitate towards newer releases.

## Nawazuddin Siddiqui takes a dig at big-budget films



Nawazuddin Siddiqui has recently criticised mainstream big-budget films, saying that these only create shock amongst the audience. "Where is the actual cinema?" said Nawaz in a recent interview, saying that these are just visual treats. He added that these films are also endangering smaller budget, creative projects.

Movies including SS Rajamouli's "RRR" and Prashanth Neel's "KGF Chapter 2" were recently released, cornering Bollywood while dominating the box office.

The actor also thanked OTT platforms, as they allow creative projects to prosper.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## GARBAGE DUMPING GROUND

# A nuisance for town dwellers

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

The garbage dumping ground in Jhenidah municipality has become a nuisance for the town dwellers.

Besides, several thousand residents living in nearby seven villages are the worst sufferers due to the landfill at Jargram village, which is only a kilometre away from the municipality area and not far from the Jhenidah-Chuadanga road.

Moreover, the bad odour and dirt spreading from the huge dumping ground is also posing health hazard for local people as well as hundreds of students of different institutions who use the road every day.

According to the municipality sources, Jhenidah Municipality was established in 1958 while the dumping site, which is around 6.63 acres, was acquired in 1966 and '67.

Mentionable, once there was no locality nearby the

landfill, but now thousands of people of Jargram, Rautaina, Hakimpur, Hamerhati, Chandpur, Nagarbathan and Goalpara villages in Jhenidah Sadar upazila use the road along the vast waste dumping spot.

During a recent visit to the spot this correspondent saw the landfill, which is around 600-feet long and 150-feet wide, has demarcation walls on its east and north sides and two gates on the west.

Meanwhile, due to the bad odour spreading from the garbage, villagers were seen crossing the area holding their nose.

Retired banker Abdul Wahab of Jargram village said the dumping area is posing serious health threat to locals due to the dirt and stinky smell spreading from the landfill.

Besides, around 500 students of different institutions, who use the road daily, find it very difficult while walking along the road beside the dumping zone, he said, adding that mostly people

of Jargram village suffer from different diseases, compared to the other villages.

Mohammad Younus Ali of Jargram and Lavlu Mia of Nagarbathan village said they suffer the most during the rainy season as the entire main road gets overflowed with the garbage.

They said people living near the dumping area cannot even stay at their homes as the bad smell keeps spreading all around.

Tanzim Aktar Mita, a college student, said she finds it extremely difficult while crossing the area.

She also urged the authorities concerned to take immediate step to shift the landfill to another place.

Mohamad Earul Islam, administrator at Jhenidah Municipality, said it is very difficult for them to shift the landfill to another place within a short time.

He is not the right man to do so as he is holding this post temporarily, Earul added.



Dumping of garbage at Jargram village in Jhenidah Municipality badly affects local environment and poses serious health risk to people living in nearby villages. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## Another haor

**FROM PAGE 12**

Committee but they did not take any steps to save it, said Tarun Kanti Das, president of Haor Bachao Andolon in Shalla upazila in Sunamganj.

In the early morning, the dyke broke, he said.

"As we still have a couple of days before the water submerges our part, we are hopeful of completing the harvest," said FM Mobarak Ali, deputy director of DAE in Netrokona.

The flash flood triggered by torrential rainfall in India's Meghalaya submerged 9,700 hectares of Boro cropland in the haors of eight districts in the country's north-eastern region.

Within days of the flash flood, which first hit on March 30, three major dykes in Sunamganj along with a few others broke in the Sunamganj district.

## Man to serve eight years

**FROM PAGE 12**

On October 18, 2019, anti-religious posts were sent from the Facebook account of Biplob Chandra Baidya, a resident of Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila, which sparked anger and protests among locals.

That evening, Biplob went to Borhanuddin Police Station to file a general diary saying his Facebook account was hacked. But police detained him for interrogation.

Police then arrested Md Emon, 18, and Kamrul Islam Sharif, 18, who are residents of Patuakhali, the next day.

On October 20, a group of religious zealots, from a rally, attacked police. The incident left four people dead and at least 100 others injured.

Immediately after the attack, 12 Hindu houses and a temple were vandalised in the upazila.

Later, Delwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Borhanuddin police, filed a case against Biplob, Emon and Kamrul under the DSA.

The case was then handed over to Police Bureau of Investigation on January 17, 2020, for further investigation and Barishal's PBI inspector Mahfuzur Rahman was appointed as the investigating officer.

The PBIs investigation revealed that Biplob, Emon and Kamrul were innocent and Biplob's account was hacked by Bapon.

On August 25, 2020, police arrested Bapon from Dhaka's Paltan area and produced him before a court, where he gave a confessional statement.

On August 1, 2021, the PBI submitted a charge sheet against Bapon,

dropping the charges against Biplob, Emon and Kamrul.

The three innocent men languished behind bars for around two years.

## Sri Lanka

**FROM PAGE 12**

global and regional diplomacy in recent years.

"One needs to be very clever in terms of rebalancing relationship with the global powers," said Haque, also Bangabandhu chair at Delhi University.

Sulochana R Mohan, deputy editor at Sri Lankan newspaper Ceylon Today, said the good thing is that the people in Sri Lanka are now united in their demands for change.

The discussion was moderated by Prof Gour Gobinda Goswami of North South University.

## Protester, teen son picked up

**FROM PAGE 1**

was picked up."

**C o n t a c t e d ,** Mohammad Faruquzzaman, assistant commissioner of DMP (New Market zone), said the two were picked up for obstructing police from discharging their duties.

The teen was released around 10:30pm yesterday and Ratna around midnight, he said.

He said Ratna was allowed to go after she "signed a bond".

As her attention was drawn to the matter, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, criticised police for detaining the mother and son.

"Can anyone answer where children [of the area] will play if this place [playground] is used to build

a police station?" she asked.

She said, "The boy was kept in a police lockup. It is totally illegal because he is under 18."

She argued his detention was also illegal as he did not commit any juvenile offence. "How can they detain a boy who is below 18, ignoring the law and directive of the court?"

A photo of reportedly the boy in a cell was doing the rounds on social media, drawing flak.

On January 31, Dhaka Deputy Commissioner's office handed over the playground's land to Dhaka Metropolitan Police to set up an establishment for Kalabagan Police Station.

Locals refused to give up the playground. For several months, they've been demonstrating with the demand to keep it as it is for the sake of the children.

Over the years, Tentultala playground, which is on about a bigha of land, had been used as a playground, an Eidgah, and a place for namaz-e-janazas.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, earlier said that in the proposed Detailed Area Plan, the ground was not earmarked as a playground. But in sub-zone-17 (Dhanmondi, Zibatola, Kalabagan and Kathalbagan), there is a proposal to keep sufficient open spaces for the areas.

According to the playground, open spaces, parks and water bodies conservation act, no one can change the characteristics of a playground. As the place has been used as a playground for a long time, changing its characteristics would be illegal, he added.

According to a 2014 High Court judgement, there is a specific direction for the DC office to take action against any encroachment on open spaces or playgrounds.

However, no such action is being taken in this case.

## Macron beats

**FROM PAGE 12**

Charles Michel, wrote on Twitter. "In this turbulent period, we need a solid Europe and a France totally committed to a more sovereign and more strategic European Union."

Macron will join a small club - only two French presidents before him have managed to secure a second term. But his margin of victory looks to be tighter than when he first beat Le Pen in 2017, underlining how many French remain unimpressed with him and his domestic record.



# 'I want to see the sun'

## Heart-breaking video of children holed up in Mariupol emerges

REUTERS

Women and children sheltering in a giant steel works in Mariupol that is the last holdout of Ukrainian defenders of the southern port city, said in a video released on Saturday they are desperate to get out and are running out of food.

The video was released by the Azov battalion, which was set up by pro-Ukrainian nationalists in 2014, later incorporated as a regiment in Ukraine's national guard and has played a prominent role in the defence of Mariupol.

Reuters could not independently verify where or when the video was shot. Somebody speaking in the video mentions that the date is April 21.

The video shows soldiers bringing food for civilians who the battalion says are sheltering in the Azovstal complex.

A woman holding a toddler said people in the plant were running out of food: "We really want to go home," she said.

Russian forces were hitting the Azovstal complex with air strikes and trying to storm it, presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said on Saturday, although Moscow had said this week that it would blockade the plant and not attempt to take it. More than 1,000 civilians are in the plant along with troops defending it, according to Ukrainian authorities.

One unnamed boy in the video said he was desperate to get out after being in the plant for two months. "I want to see the sun because in here it's dim, not like outside. When our houses are rebuilt we can live in peace. Let Ukraine win because Ukraine is our native home," he said.



Demonstrators shout anti-government slogans as they climb the wall of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's residence during a protest, amid the country's economic crisis, in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## You won't face troubles

### Modi tells youth of J&K during his first public event in the disputed territory since clampdown

AFP, Srinagar

India's prime minister yesterday promised peace and development for Jammu and Kashmir, during his first public event in the disputed territory since it imposed a sweeping security clampdown nearly three years ago.

Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government has sought to quell a long-running insurgency in Indian-administered Kashmir and strengthen its hold over the Muslim-majority region, which is also claimed by neighbouring Pakistan.

India nullified the area's limited



autonomy in August 2019, when authorities arrested thousands and imposed the world's longest internet shutdown, seeking to forestall local opposition to the move.

Tight security was in place for Modi's appearance at Palli village in

Jammu, the Hindu-majority southern part of the territory, which celebrated New Delhi's introduction of direct rule as a defence against Kashmir's separatist movement.

As he inaugurated new road and hydropower projects, Modi told the gathered crowd of thousands that his government had put the restive region on the path to prosperity.

"I want to tell the youth of the valley that they will not have to face the difficulties and travails that their parents and grandparents had to deal with," Modi said.



## SHIPWRECKS OFF TUNISIA

# Migrant death toll rises to 17

REUTERS, Tunis

The death toll from several migrant shipwrecks off the Tunisian coast has risen to 17 people, a judicial official said yesterday. On Saturday the Tunisian coast guard said four boats carrying 120 African migrants headed for Italy had sunk off the coast near the city of Sfax. Another 5 bodies were recovered yesterday, adding to 12 found by the coast guard overnight, said a spokesperson for Sfax Courts. The coast guard said 98 people had been rescued. The coastline of Sfax has become a major departure point for people fleeing conflict and poverty in Africa and the Middle East and seeking a better life in Europe.

## Israel committed to Al-Aqsa status quo: FM

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said yesterday that Israel was "committed" to the status quo at the flashpoint Jerusalem holy site at the heart of a recent wave of violence.

"Muslims pray on the Temple Mount, non-Muslims only visit," Lapid said, using the Jewish term for the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, the holiest place in Judaism and the third-holiest in Islam. "There is no change, there will be no change – we have no plans to divide the Temple Mount between religions," he told journalists. Palestinian protesters have repeatedly clashed with Israeli riot police at the Al-Aqsa compound since the middle of the month, as the Muslim holy month of Ramadan coincided with Jewish Passover. Those clashes have come against a backdrop of wider violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories that since late March has killed 38 people.

EDCL

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LTD.  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

Corrigendum notice

Corrigendum no: EDCL/PUR/IMP 01//2022/2036

Dated: 24/04/2022

Corrigendum to our Tender Notice No. IMP/Machine/KELP/01/2021 -2022 dated 06/04/2022 relating to Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 01(One) set Dipping Line at KELP as following manner:

01. The above tender will be dropped on 12/05/2022 at 12.00 Noon instead of 26/04/2022.

02. The above tender will be opened on 12/05/2022 at 12.30 PM instead of 26/04/2022.

All other terms & conditions against the above tender will be remaining unchanged. The above Tender was published earlier in the Daily Star and Somakal on 09/04/2022. The tender schedule will be sold up to 11/05/2022

General Manager,  
Procurement Department.  
For: Managing Director.

( 4 x 3 col.)

## NIGERIA OIL REFINERY

# Explosion kills at least 80 people

AFP, Lagos

An explosion at an illegal oil refinery in southern Nigeria has killed at least 80 people, the emergency services said yesterday.

The blast occurred late Friday at the illegal site between the southern oil states of Rivers and Imo, police said.

"We recovered at least 80 badly burnt bodies at the scene," Ifeanyi Nnaji of the National Emergency Management Agency in the area, told AFP, adding that the toll could rise.

"We learnt many bodies are in nearby bushes and forests as some illegal operators and their patrons scamped to safety."

Many people had "severe burns", he said, adding some later died in hospital.

Nnaji said several burnt vehicles and jerry-cans used in scooping stolen crude and petroleum products littered the scene of the carnage.

"The lives of tens of thousands... are at stake in Mariupol."

UN's Ukraine crisis coordinator Amin Awad

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

Bangladesh

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh Meteorological Department  
Meteorological & Geo-Physical Center  
Agrabad, Chattogram.  
www.bmd.chittagong.gov.bd

No. 23.09.1528.554.36.001.22. 1640

Date: 24/04/2022

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited hereby in the National e-GP portal for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No & Package No	Tender Package Name	Last Selling/Downloading Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
Tender ID No- 689374 Package No: 23.09.1528.562.31.001.22	Supply of Spare Parts for Existing Portable Hydrogen Gas Generator at Three Places	11-May-2022, 15:00 BST	12-May-2022 13:00 BST
Tender ID No- 689283 Package No: 23.09.1528.562.36.001.21	Supply of Office Furniture and Others	10-May-2022, 16:00 BST	11-May-2022 13:00 BST
Tender ID No- 688728 Package No: 23.09.1528.560.30.002.21	Supply of Consumable Goods	09-May-2022, 16:00 BST	10-May-2022 13:00 BST

2. These are online tenders where only e-tender (Online tender) will be accepted through the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

3. The fees for downloading the e-tender documents from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any schedule bank of Bangladesh registered by the CPTU.

4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal (www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd/)

(Syed Abul Hasanat)  
Deputy Director (C.C.)  
E-mail: ctgbmd@gmail.com

GD-830

উদয়ন

উদয়ন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়

৩/৩, ফুলার রোড, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন নম্বরঃ ৪৪৮৬৫০৭৫

পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম ও সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল
১	সহকারী শিক্ষক (ইংরেজি ভাষা) পদার্থবিজ্ঞান-০১ প্রাণিবিজ্ঞান-০১ তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি-০১	স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে স্নাতক (সম্মান)সহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি অথবা শিক্ষায় স্নাতক (সম্মান)সহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি (সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায়) থাকতে হবে। তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক শিক্ষকের ক্ষেত্রে আইসিটি কাজে বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। সমগ্র শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন স্তরে ৩য় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমমান গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। প্রার্থীর আবেদনের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা জিপিএ ৩.০০/সিজিপিএ ২.৫০। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে শিক্ষকতায় অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার এবং ইংরেজি ভাষার প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ইংরেজি মাধ্যমে পাঠদানে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ও ইংরেজি মাধ্যম থেকে পাশ করা প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। ইংরেজি ভাষার প্রার্থীদের বাংলা ও ইংরেজি উভয় ভাষাতেই পাঠদানে সম্মত থাকতে হবে। সহকারী শিক্ষক প্রার্থীদের সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে শিক্ষক নিবন্ধন পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ/বি.এড/এম.এড. ডিগ্রি থাকলে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।	গ্রেড-১০ টাকা ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০ (বি.এড ডিগ্রিধারী)
২	প্রদর্শক, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান-০১	স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়সহ ২য় শ্রেণির স্নাতক ডিগ্রি/সমমান। সমগ্র শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন স্তরে ৩য় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমমান গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।	গ্রেড-১০ টাকা ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০
৩	কম্পিউটার ল্যাব অপারেটর-০১	বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে ০৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদি কম্পিউটার ডিপ্লোমা/সমমান অথবা স্নাতক সহ ০১ বছর মেয়াদী গ্রাডুয়াস সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স ইন কম্পিউটার টেকনোলজি/সমমান। প্রার্থীকে হার্ডওয়্যার সাপোর্ট, সফটওয়্যার ইনস্টল, রাউটার ম্যানেজমেন্টসহ টেকনিক্যাল কাজে পারদর্শী হতে হবে।	গ্রেড-১৬ টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০

বি.প্র.ঃ ০৮/০৩/২০২২-এ পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত আবেদনকারীগণকে নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।  
\*\* শর্তাবলী/বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ওয়েবসাইট [www.udayan.edu.bd](http://www.udayan.edu.bd) এ ভিজিট করতে হবে।

জিডি-৮২৯

জহুরা বেগম  
অধ্যক্ষ



# Brutality at its worst, on full display

## Nahid’s gruesome murder should be a wake-up call for the ruling party

IT is difficult to understand the viciousness that we witnessed during last week’s New Market clashes, and why it continued for as long as it did. What was especially troubling was the nature of the attack against 19-year-old Nahid Mia, who was killed while on his way to work. The men who did this have primarily, and unsurprisingly, been identified as members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). Video footage of the gruesome attack shows a motionless Nahid lying on the ground, seemingly dead already, being indiscriminately hacked with a machete by a young man wearing a black helmet. Officials of the Detective Branch of police have identified him as Zakir, a BCL activist.

A post-mortem examination revealed that nearly every inch of Nahid’s body bore injury marks. The level of insanity that led to someone being murdered like this is unfathomable. And it wasn’t just one BCL activist who was involved in the violence. According to various witnesses, Dhaka College students led by three BCL factions took part in the clashes with New Market shopkeepers that eventually led to Nahid’s death. The question is: Who are these people bearing the banner of the ruling party’s student wing? If they didn’t belong to the ruling party, they would never have had the courage to do something like this. It was clear from the footage that the attackers didn’t care whether Nahid lived or died, even though he was engaged neither in politics nor with the shopkeepers.

Now that investigations have revealed BCL’s involvement, it makes sense why the police didn’t go in immediately and stop the violence. We have seen BCL members using such violent tactics—wearing biker helmets and wielding sticks, machetes and other weapons—against students demanding safer roads, while police idly stood by. If instruction from the ruling party is that police shouldn’t interfere when BCL is involved, it can only lead to building resentment among the public. By allowing BCL to repeatedly resort to such violence, what message is the party giving us? That BCL can get away with anything?

We have no idea what benefit the ruling party thinks it’s getting from the atrocities of its student activists, but as far as we can tell, it has led to seething anger among the people while tarnishing the country’s image in front of the world. We call on the authorities to immediately arrest and punish those involved in the New Market violence, including those responsible for Nahid’s murder. And we once again ask the ruling party to seriously reconsider the repercussions of its actions that have allowed for its activists to become like this.

# More security doesn’t mean fewer rights

## Proposed laws may end up doing exactly that

LAWS are supposed to protect our rights and security against abuses committed by other people, by organisations, and by the government itself. But one often sees the enactment of laws that actually impede honest citizens from conducting their affairs freely and exercising their right without let or hindrance. Thus, the four recently proposed laws—namely, the draft data protection law, the anti-discrimination bill, the new social media and OTT regulations, and the mass media employees bill—which the government says are meant to serve public interest will, in reality, do very little of that. This view was recently expressed at a discussion organised by a rights platform, and we believe it is fairly representative of the general public opinion.

First of all, the due process in formulating a law was not fully followed. Vital stakeholders were left out of the consultation process, and the views of the few who were involved were not incorporated. It is not as if there are no laws or regulations related to most of the subjects dealt by those bills. The problem is the lack of fair and equitable application.

We believe that, as citizens, our personal data should be protected, and that the digital space should be brought under closer scrutiny for the sake of the country’s security, and that a law that makes discrimination on any grounds an offence is the order of the day. But such acts must be formed in a manner that would bring maximum benefits to the maximum people. But if the motive is to be more repressive, curb free speech and dissent, identify critics of the administration, or keep journalists under its thumb, then we have serious reservations about the proposed bills. More security does not mean fewer rights.

We should remember that government and state are not the same, but our government seems to be mixing them up. Criticism of the government cannot be an offence, much less considered anti-state. In fact, one may say that criticising government plans or policies that harm the interests of the people is the bounden duty of all citizens. Revealing the fault lines in society should be the duty of every creative person, whether a filmmaker or a cartoonist. We hope the members of parliament would consider the bills minutely before casting their votes. Theodore Roosevelt’s wise saying is worth quoting here, “It is difficult to make our material condition better by the best law, but it is easy enough to ruin it by bad laws.”

# Invest in education to reduce inequality



**MACRO MIRROR**  
Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author’s own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

QUALITY education is urgently needed in Bangladesh as the country is progressing at a fast pace. Unfortunately, despite having a large number of youth, the dearth of skilled and competent human resources is felt by most of the employers in the country. The problem is two-pronged. First, our high economic growth has not been accompanied with enough jobs for the youth who enter the job market—two million of them every year. Opportunities for those who want to be self-employed are also insufficient. Second, those who seek jobs are not suitable for the labour market. Employers do not find them good enough to do the job. So, the scope for harnessing youth potential through education, skills, and access to finance is inadequate.

This also speaks of the quality of education imparted by the educational institutions in our country. Several studies have indicated poor quality of education at various levels—from primary to tertiary. Despite progress in several educational indicators in recent years, the quality of education has not improved much. Particularly, poor performance in mathematics, science, and English even after secondary- and higher secondary-level education is disappointing.

The Covid pandemic worsened the situation. In-person lessons stopped at schools, colleges, and universities. This has been termed as the greatest disruption in the learning of students. Around 188 countries suspended face-to-face education during the pandemic. Therefore, countries that were already facing a crisis in the case of education could face a learning catastrophe. In Bangladesh, about 40 million students have been affected due to the closure of educational institutions. In the last two years, students suffered a learning loss that is irreparable in many ways. Very few institutions provided online education. Those who did, the quality of their lessons were rather poor. All these are expected to have an impact on the lifelong earnings of many youth as the loss has been on many fronts. These include learning loss, experience loss, employment loss, and disruption of social and professional interactions. This has taken a toll on their mental health, too, as they were in isolation and anxiety during this difficult time.

To overcome the challenges in our education sector, adequate resources are required. Sadly, the budget for the education sector has been stagnant at around two percent of the GDP for the



▲ **Investment in education is key to developing a skilled workforce and keeping the wheels of economic growth turning.**

PHOTO: FREEPIK

**The allocated resource remains underutilised and the budget allocations for most sectors, including education, are revised downwards due to low spending.**

Education 2030 Framework for Action. However, the Eighth Five-Year Plan (FYP) of Bangladesh sets the target to increase budget allocation to 3.5 percent as a share of GDP by 2025, four percent by 2031, and five percent in 2041. However, at the current rate of resource allocation, the education budget as a share of GDP may reach up to 2.15 percent in 2025, 2.26 percent in 2031, and 2.43 percent in 2041. Hence, the immediate target must be breaking the cycle of two percent of GDP for education and raising it to at least 2.5 percent in the upcoming budget for FY2022-23. For poor and low-income families, public expenditure plays a positive role. Unfortunately, in the rural areas, out-of-pocket expenditure on education is increasing. High personal expenditure on education may discourage parents to educate their children, especially in poor rural families. This could also increase the inequality between rural and urban areas further.

Higher allocation in the budget is, however, not the only remedy to help recover from the learning loss due to the pandemic, as well as improve the quality of education in Bangladesh in general. The budget for education should be spent efficiently. The allocated resource remains underutilised and the budget allocations for most sectors, including education,

low teacher-student ratio—particularly in primary and secondary levels of schooling, which build the foundation of learning for students—leads to poor quality of education, particularly in science and mathematics. Moreover, the number of trained schoolteachers is low. Available data indicates that as of 2020, the percentage share of trained teachers was 66.4 percent. Teaching is no longer considered as an attractive profession, and the lack of meritorious teachers is one of the reasons for the poor quality of our education.

Covid has intensified the already existing challenges in accessing quality education in Bangladesh. There seems to be a lack of understanding that investment in human capital is key to economic development. Skilled human resources have more opportunities in the labour market, and they are more productive and economically better off than those who are not. They also contribute to their economies. As Bangladesh is on its journey of graduating to the Developing Countries group by 2026, and becoming an upper middle-income country by 2031, investment in education is vital not only for its smooth and sustainable transition, but also for reducing inequality among its citizens.

# For real change, listen to RMG suppliers



**RMG NOTES**  
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MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

WE’VE spent so many years going round in circles on various issues impacting garment supply chains. We are still no closer to ensuring fairer purchasing practices now than we were a decade ago; it’s the same case with other supply chain issues, too. This week, I read an article that suggested that the organic cotton supply chain in India was under scrutiny. This will have an impact on Bangladeshi garment manufacturers, many of which use organic cotton. I could name so many other issues in supply chains that are not being resolved; sadly, it doesn’t seem like they will be resolved in the near future.

There is a common denominator in all of them: nobody is listening to the suppliers. If they are, they are not listening hard enough.

To me, this is like a detective attempting to solve a crime without considering their most important evidence. Take the issue of organic cotton integrity. I know through supply chain contacts that this is a major challenge in India. I also know why it’s a challenge and why root and branch reform will be required to bring trust and confidence back to that sector. I only know all this because I talk to suppliers, and that stands to reason: Who else would be better to have true insight on these issues

**Fashion’s environmental and social challenges reside in supply chains. We all know that. But when the major fashion retailers gather to discuss these issues, they remain close to home.**

than the actors themselves?

This year, our industry will—thankfully—be returning to live events and conferences. It is interesting to note that many of the key events relating to supply chains take place in Europe or the US. This in itself seems strange. Fashion’s environmental and social challenges reside in supply chains. We all know that. But when the major fashion retailers gather to discuss these issues, they remain close to home. They largely discuss these issues among themselves.

The speaker line-ups for these events will likely be overwhelmingly dominated by the same old faces, fashion brands and retailers, various NGOs and industry consultants. Can these people bring any insight on these issues? Yes, of course. But to get the full picture, we need to hear the voices from the supply chains. Surely, a weighting of 50 percent supply chain voices for each event would be the best way to ensure that we find out what’s going on and how the issues can be resolved.

Instead, we risk an event scene where the same issues are raised time and again—the same, ineffective solutions are put forward and no progress is made.

I was invited to speak at a major European event several years ago. My speech was well-received; however, I was not invited back to the event later, and I assume that’s because I had probably ruffled too many feathers in the fashion industry.

This issue relates, of course, to the topic of transparency. There is much talk of transparency in fashion circles. But how can you have true transparency when some voices are being ignored or side-lined? True transparency means having difficult, awkward conversations. And it means having these conversations

in public, where they can be heard by all stakeholders. At present, fashion is making too many claims about transparency, which simply don’t stand up to scrutiny. One example is publicly listing their suppliers. Is this a welcome move? Yes, of course. But please, let’s not try to claim that it’s for transparency. Real transparency would mean enabling the world to hear what these suppliers have to say in an open forum.

Think about some of the world’s most successful companies: Apple, Nike or Microsoft, for example. One of the aspects which drives companies like these is that they are constantly challenging themselves internally. Structures are in place to ensure that all voices are heard—good or bad. If there are problems, they are not swept under the carpet (which, sadly, is what we do far too frequently in our industry). To get to this stage, these companies create a climate where people are comfortable raising their voices—from senior management to the lowest ranking officials. No stone is left unturned as they strive for perfection, and the end result is a constant process of innovation and improvement. And, of course, market success.

Now think about our industry. Are problems and issues thrashed out in public? Are all voices given an ear? Is there a willingness to openly discuss difficult subjects? Are people comfortable raising their grievances?

Sadly, I think the answer to all these questions is a resounding no. This is a systemic failure of our industry to take on board the sentiments of some of its most important players.

Until this changes, until we get true transparency and listen to the voices of suppliers, we will not get the radical change our industry requires.



# Wasa water everywhere, not a drop to drink



SHAHNOOR WAHID

Shahnoor Wahid is a senior journalist.

DHAKA residents are scorched by a hot sun above their heads, their throats feeling like dry wood, and there is plenty of murky, smelly water all around, but alas! One cannot drink a drop of it! It reminds us of Coleridge's sailor who is dying of thirst, even though he is surrounded by a whole ocean.

Now, we know ocean water is salty and you cannot blame anyone for this, but why should we not be able to drink water supplied by the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa)? What's wrong with it? Wasa bosses loudly claim that there is nothing wrong in their water. They endure so much hassle to collect polluted water from far away rivers and supply the greenish thing to our homes with great care. Should we not be grateful that something resembling water comes out of the taps in our kitchens? We are always complaining, and this makes the water guy very angry. He has said he gets the same water at home and merrily drinks it, so the lesser humans like us must not keep complaining so often.

It appears that we, the beleaguered citizens, have no other option but to consume the foul-smelling water by the gallons until we become immune to the bacteria that live in it. And until that happens, maybe some of us – a thousand, perhaps – will have to go to hospital for the treatment of the worst kind of diarrhoea or cholera.

Interestingly enough, the claim by the Wasa boss of the safety of water supplied by his organisation takes a turn for the absurd when, in a recent “meet the press,” he suggested everyone to boil the supplied



ILLUSTRATION:  
BIPLOB  
CHAKROBORTY

water before drinking it. Now, does it not sound like pushing the ball into the court of the suffering citizens? Meaning, if we fail to boil the water and fall ill, he would blame us for it; “I told you to boil this water, but you didn’t. So, it’s not our fault anymore.” One cannot help but wonder: If he is so confident that his water is safe to drink, why should he suggest boiling it?

As for the foul smell and the presence of harmful microorganisms, he blames it on the polluted water of the Shitalakkhya River, which, according to him, needs to be pretreated before it is finally treated at Sayedabad water treatment plant. Now, who would pretreat the river water? The consumers or Wasa? We already know that after the Buriganga, the water of Shitalakkhya is the most polluted. So the pertinent question is: Why is the polluted water of Shitalakkhya not pre-treated by

Wasa?

The Wasa boss kept on defending his office in a recent dialogue with the press. Even though numerous laboratory tests confirmed the presence of various types of germs, including the ones that cause diarrhoea and cholera, Wasa denied this fact. It was perplexing to hear him say with such a show of confidence that no germs were found in Wasa water in 10 areas of the capital, from where most diarrhoea patients have visited various hospitals, including the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr;b) in the past weeks.

The Wasa chief may have denied the presence of harmful germs or E. coli in the water collected from the pipelines and water tanks of city houses, but experts like senior microbiologists brush off his

claim, terming it “baseless.” They say that when a waterborne disease like diarrhoea breaks out in an area, one has to assume that a single source of water is causing the disease, and this gets confirmed after doing necessary laboratory tests.

The problem with some of our bureaucrats, technocrats and politicians is that they cannot accept inadequacies or failures with grace. Knowing very well that they are trying to hide facts behind clever words, they would go on denying things that are so blatantly visible to the world. Such an attitude does not help in removing the faults in the project and allow better ideas to be adopted for its success. The Wasa issue has been going on for decades, but the organisation’s top bosses never acknowledged the fact that they could not deliver safe drinking water to the citizens.

One really cannot take chances with drinking water. Health issues are involved here, so it is expected that Dhaka Wasa, being the sole authority to supply piped water in the city, should show more respect to the rightful demand of the citizens. This organisation never hesitates to raise the price of its murky water, but does not do much to improve the water quality. One wonders what really goes on in its own laboratory – whether they have ever been able to find the harmful microorganisms floating under the microscopes.

This newspaper carried a number of reports and opinions on Dhaka Wasa since the present managing director took charge of it. In 2019, he faced huge public uproar for saying that Wasa water was 100 percent drinkable. He made the claim publicly as a rebuttal to allegations raised by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). He had declared that people would be able to drink water straight from their taps by 2021. But, even in 2022, we continue to get contaminated water from them.

So, it seems like the Wasa conundrum will remain unresolved for many more years, until a more competent person is put at the helm.

# S Arabia targets a more Republican Washington

JAMES M DORSEY

Dr James M Dorsey is a senior fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute, and adjunct senior fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

RATHER than push for an immediate improvement of strained relations with the United States, Saudi Arabia appears to be looking forward to a time when US President Joe Biden's wings may be clipped. The kingdom seems to be betting on a better reception in Washington if Democrats lose control of Congress in this year's midterm elections, and/or if Donald J. Trump or a Republican candidate with similar inclinations wins the White House in the 2024 presidential election.

The Saudi approach signals that the kingdom has not given up on the US, although it has lost faith in Mr Biden because of his attitude towards Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and his efforts to revive a nuclear accord with Iran. The approach further suggests that Saudi Arabia recognises that neither China nor Russia are able or willing to replace the United States as its security guarantor, despite Washington proving in recent years to be an increasingly unreliable partner.

Mr Bin Salman suggested what his thinking may be when he approved a USD 2 billion investment by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund – the Public Investment Fund (PIF) – in a controversial private equity fund against the advice of the PIF's screening panel. The private equity fund, Affinity Partners, was recently created by Jared Kushner, Mr Trump's son-in-law and erstwhile advisor. While raising objections to taking a stake in Affinity Partners, PIF professionals cited as reasons not to invest “the inexperience of the Affinity Fund management”; an “unsatisfactory in all aspects” due diligence report; a proposed asset management fee that seemed “excessive”; and “public relations risks.”

Analysts have suggested that Mr Bin Salman, who chairs the PIF, rewarded Mr Kushner for his support on multiple occasions during the Trump presidency. However, the investment is likely to be not only an expression of appreciation for Mr Kushner's past assistance, but also an investment in a possible return of Mr Trump or a Republican of his ilk.

In contrast to Mr Trump, who broke with tradition when he made Saudi Arabia the first foreign country he visited after becoming president, and Mr Kushner, who stayed in close touch with Mr Bin Salman despite multiple controversies, Mr Biden has until recently refused to engage with the crown prince because of the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

More recently, Mr Bin Salman has rebuffed efforts by Mr Biden to discuss oil production in a bid to reduce prices in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war. Asked whether Mr Biden may have misunderstood him, Mr Bin Salman told an interviewer: “Simply, I do not care.” Like his United Arab Emirates counterpart, Mohammed bin Zayed, he

feels that the US failed to respond robustly to attacks on critical Saudi and Emirati oil and other infrastructure by Iran and/or Iranian-backed Yemeni Houthis rebels. The two men are also critical of Mr Biden's efforts to negotiate a revival of the moribund 2015 international agreement that curbed Iran's nuclear programme without tackling its ballistic missiles programme and support for Shiite militias in various Arab countries.

To be sure, Mr Trump was far blunter in his refusal to respond to Iranian-backed attacks in 2019 that targeted some of Saudi Arabia's critical oil facilities. “That was an attack on Saudi Arabia, and that wasn't an attack on us,” Mr Trump said at the time, reaffirming by implication that the US had no NATO-style commitment to the kingdom. However, at the same time, he signalled that his attitude toward assisting Saudi Arabia was transactional. “We would certainly help them,” he said. “If we decide to do something, they'll be very much involved, and that includes payment. And they understand that fully.”

In the absence of alternatives, that may be an approach that Mr Bin Salman feels more comfortable with, particularly given the current mood in Washington and the lack of clearly formulated updated security understandings.

Last week, 30 Democratic members of Congress suggested in a letter to

**Mr Bin Salman has rebuffed efforts by Mr Biden to discuss oil production in a bid to reduce prices in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.**

Secretary of State Antony Blinken that a “recalibration” of the US-Saudi relation was needed. In response, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Assistant Secretary-General Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg said that “the recalibration that is needed is to revisit the basic components undergirding the long-term US partnership with Saudi Arabia and its GCC allies. The US has played a key role in Gulf security without formal agreements between the parties. A new strategic architecture is needed to update and upgrade existing ad hoc security cooperation.”

Mr Aluwaisheg's remarks came as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, backed by Israeli lobbying in Washington, pressured the Biden administration to sign a defence pact with Gulf states similar to an accord between the UAE and France.

“I understand the US concerns, but I think Saudi Arabia is a hugely important actor in our part of the world and the Islamic world... And it's important, in my view – to the extent possible – to fix relations between the US and Saudi Arabia,” said Michael Herzog, Israel's ambassador to the United States.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
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(Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman)  
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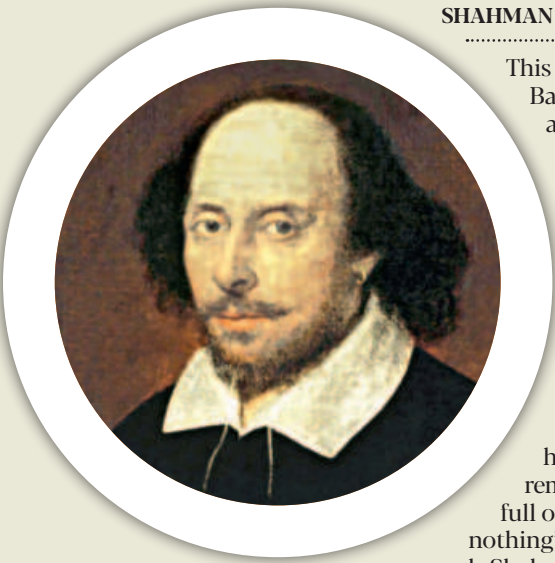
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458TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

# A search for the Shakespearean semiotics in Bangladesh

SHAHMAN MOISHAN



This was long thought to be the only portrait of William Shakespeare that had any claim to have been painted from life, until another possible life portrait, the Cobbe portrait, was revealed in 2009. The portrait is known as the ‘Chandos portrait’ after a previous owner, James Brydges, 1st Duke of Chandos. The artist may be by a painter called John Taylor who was an important member of the Painter-Stainers’ Company.

This writing celebrates how Bangladesh has practised a ‘disturbingly relevant’ legacy of William Shakespeare through a testimonial of Aly Zaker, a phenomenal figure in the cultural arena of the country. This piece is the condensed form of an interview with Aly Zaker that was taken on February 2, 2020, a few months before his passing. It serves as a reminder that ‘life is a tale... full of sound and fury, signifying nothing’. However, this writing reads Shakespearean ‘nothingness’

as a ‘signifier’ via Aly Zaker, where ‘nothing is more real than nothingness.’ Indeed, it was enlightening to meet him and the meeting led to the revelation of an ever-unexplored area of performing Shakespeare’s dramas in Bangladesh. Aly Zaker had played the protagonist roles in groundbreaking productions of *Macbeth* and *The Tempest* in the 1980s, and also adapted *Hamlet* in *Darpan*, which he directed in the early 1990s.

**The appeal of cultural universalism**  
Aly Zaker observed that performing Shakespeare in this region was an anti-colonial expression. His opinion revealed a complex post-colonial society, where the cultural inheritance of colonialism, after a certain period, had become a sharp, double-edged sword, indicating a creative protest against colonialism itself. Like many post-colonialists, he considered the case of appropriating Shakespeare as a political act in the cultural front. For him, Shakespeare’s plays were not a cultural imposition. Instead, his plays became a weapon with which artists fought against imperialist values. Aly Zaker shares, “Shakespeare has always come to us as a playwright through whom we have resisted colonial invasion. That is what we have always done. And this is the tradition behind our practice of Shakespeare.”

Taking an example from one of Shakespeare’s most performed tragedies, *Macbeth*, Aly Zaker stated that “This is the culmination of the political overture of Shakespeare. It is equally important in any society; particularly in a colonial one”. He added, “Shakespeare as a playwright has a universal appeal.” Although, Aly Zaker opines, colonialism brought Shakespeare to

## Macbeth as a metaphor for General Ershad

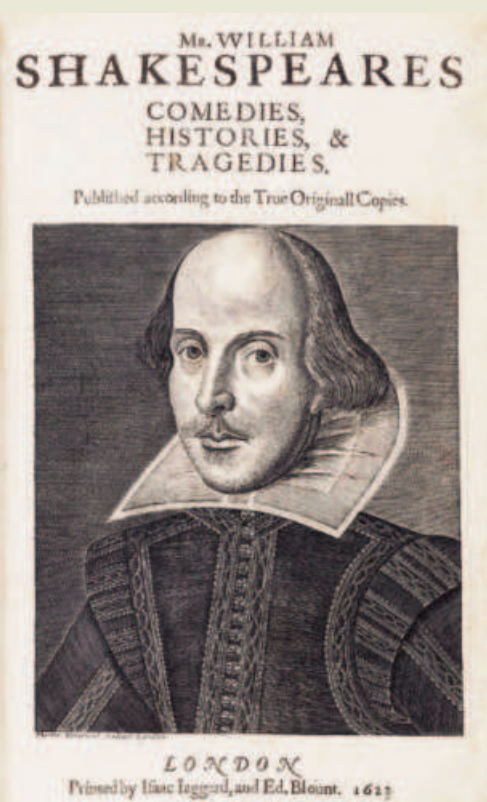
Aly Zaker looked back on how the ‘social relevance’ and ‘simple realism’ of the production of Shakespeare’s plays criticised and resisted the military dictatorship during 1980s. He told me a story about the performance of *Macbeth*, which was translated into Bengali by the eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haque and directed by Christopher Sandford. The play was produced by the British Council and two leading theatre groups, Theatre and Nagorik Natyasampraday. It was premiered on December 8, 1982 at the British Council auditorium in Dhaka. Only eight months ago, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, as the Chief of the Army Staff, had seized power through a bloodless coup. Aly Zaker recounted a unique memory of the show:

“I was playing the role of Macbeth. I just took the crown off and leaned against the big banquet table. The crown was in my hands. I stared at this crown for a while and then looked at the audience. Suddenly, I noticed that Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, chief of Bangladesh Air Force, was seated in the front row, watching our performance. He was also, then, the deputy chief martial law administrator and a collaborator of General Ershad. Looking directly at him, I said the dialogue ‘Eta Howa Kichhu Noy, Eta Hoya

inspired by *Hamlet*, rather than being a ‘carbon copy’ of the original. In his own words, “During that time, I thought that *Hamlet* was the *Darpan* of Bengal”. Considering *Hamlet* as the ‘Mirror of Bengal,’ he explained his idea behind this work:

“Essential to youth is their rebelliousness, being much more relevant in our society than the Western one. I never treated *Hamlet* as an outsider. The euphoria, the anger, and the dissatisfaction in *Hamlet*, in my opinion, reflect the characteristics of our society. In my translation of *Hamlet*, you will find the essential truth of that play.”

In *Darpan*, he superimposed Hamlet on the village society of Bangladesh, creating a mirror image to seek the true face of rural Bangladesh. However, the question remained: Why take *Hamlet* as a reference point in order to examine the mirror image of our society? Zaker had to balance between two elements: his desire to communicate with the people and his passion for Shakespeare. He prioritised the state of affairs of the country in his work. He explicitly mentioned that as the translator he had to take up the role of an ‘explainer’: “I worked as an interpreter of Shakespeare rather than a Shakespeare educator in the context of our society.” Also, he acknowledged how he had gotten the inspiration from German playwright Bertolt Brecht to rework the Shakespearean literature: “In the translation of *Hamlet*, the



Title page of the First Folio, 1623. Copper engraving of Shakespeare by Martin Droeshout.

so engaged with the correctness of expression. He was so involved in the craft of language.”

Aly Zaker rejected the elitism of the Bengali language in the appropriation of Shakespeare in Bangladesh because artificial poeticism creates a problem in the spontaneous flow of people’s language. He claimed that directing Shakespeare was essentially what he ‘took from life’: ‘I have no method. When a play moves my inner being, I do that play.’

## Role of a storyteller

Going through the conversation, I learned that Aly Zaker used to tell the character’s story, particularly in the case of playing Prospero, in a uniquely effortless way that could communicate easily. He recalled: “I always tried to create the appropriateness in playing the role, whichever was given to me. I didn’t find any difference in playing Shakespeare’s characters with Ibsen’s or Brecht’s. I always considered the character in the context of the story. Shakespearean diction was not essential for me because these came to me through translation. I didn’t act in English. I performed Shakespeare in Bengali. So, I avoided this paraphernalia. Rather, I tried to get to the core of the character. If you want to have the taste, you should have the taste of essence.”

## Instead of conclusion

The secret behind the practice of Shakespeare has been somewhat uncovered by Aly Zaker. “My Shakespeare is a human being,” he said. He believed that there was no other realistic playwright in the English language like Shakespeare. For him, the reality of Shakespeare’s plays reflects the very humanity of the playwright himself. As a playwright, he added, “Shakespeare is the closest to the human heart in every way”. He lamented that the impact of the bard “should have been felt more in the post-colonial, modern culture of Bangladesh.” “we just touched his works superfluously. We never got to understand the essence of Shakespeare,” he added.

[The writer of this article is deeply indebted to eminent cultural personality Sara Zaker and renowned theatre director Professor Israfeel Shaheen for their graceful co-presence during the interview with Aly Zaker, and Professor Michael Dobson, director of the Shakespeare Institute, for allowing the writer to travel to Bangladesh during a term-time of the PhD programme.]

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Aly Zaker and Ferdousi Majumdar enacting a scene of *Macbeth*. Photo Courtesy: Bangladesh Theater Archives.

Thakatai Kichhu’ (the Bengali translation of ‘*Nothing to be thus, but to be safely thus*’). I noticed him getting distinctly uncomfortable. It was as if he was scared. He might have thought ‘Is the young actor telling me: You got the crown, but will you remain on the throne?’”

Aly Zaker revealed that such performances were protests against autocratic tyranny. However, the protests were performed through art, they were not demonstrations. He had sensed, “the military collaborator’s soul suddenly shuddering”. Presumably, it was a moment when theatre encountered politics. It was, therefore, a defining act where the stage’s text met the state’s metatext.

## Hamlet as Darpan of Bangladesh

After acting in the roles of two memorable characters Prospero and Macbeth in the 1980s, Ali Zaker attempted to adapt *Hamlet* in *Darpan* (lit. Mirror), which was produced by Nagorik Natyasampraday, a prominent Dhaka-based theatre group established in 1972. He created *Darpan* in 1991, when Bangladesh began a new journey towards a democratic parliamentary government system, following the fall of General Ershad’s regime. The countrymen witnessed the emergence of iconic female leaders in the power-play of the state. At the same time, imprisoned General Ershad also remained a significant political force in the Parliament. The country remained agro-based in the context of its mode of production and semi-feudal in regards to its social system. In such a socio-political setting, Aly Zaker adapted *Hamlet*, giving his version the title *Darpan*. He defined this work as being

person who inspired me a lot was Brecht, who said, ‘if one can change Shakespeare, then one can.’ If I had not been inspired by Brecht, I would have not been able to complete the project.”

In his adaptation, Aly Zaker used poetic diction from the rural dialect of Bengali. He argued, “I am a son of a village. The simile, images and figures of speech come very easily through the dialect, not from the ‘Rabindrik’ language’ (Aly Zaker used the term to define an elitist form of standard Bengali).” However, in his own time, Shakespeare used people’s language, but, now, the public diction is absent, which reflects an elitist practice of Shakespeare in this country. In reconstructing Shakespeare, he renamed Hamlet as Darpan, Ophelia as Qulsum, Gertrude as Begum and Claudius as Mridha. However, Zaker did not change the internal structure of the characters as was used by Shakespeare in the original text of *Hamlet*. Instead, he attempted to recreate the characters in such a way, so that the play could appeal to the collective psyche of the society. Referring to the early translations and adaptations of Shakespeare in the theatre in Bangladesh Aly Zaker opined, “In the beginning, it was starchy. The translation our respectable Bazlul Karim did was an act of teaching. It was almost as if he had tried to give the people a lesson about Shakespeare in his translation.” Zaker appreciated Syed Shamsul Haque’s work: “There is no doubt that Syed Haque was the finest translator of Shakespeare in the Bengali language. In fact, he is better than Rabindranath. This is because Syed Haque was



Ferdousi Majumdar and Aly Zaker in a scene of *The Tempest*.

PHOTO COURTESY: BANGLADESH THEATER ARCHIVES.

this region, his universalism functioned as a political force which the local practitioners used creatively against the English rule. He defined Shakespeare as a symbol of cultural universalism, which is distinct from the political universalism of colonialism. Zaker argued that the ‘humanity’ and ‘social relevance’ of Shakespeare’s plays made him the greatest playwright of all time. “I find a simple realism in Shakespeare,” he said. Moreover, Aly Zaker criticised those who intellectualised Shakespeare and made him ‘abstract’.



Procession of Characters from Shakespeare’s Plays by an unknown 19th-century artist.



## SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the defeat, Sheikh Jamal, who have 22 points from 13 games, are in pole position. With two games remaining in the super league stage, a win will be enough for the Imrul Kayes led side to register their maiden DPL title. Legends of Rupganj, who are in second position with 18 points from 13 games, are also in the race despite suffering an 81-run defeat against Abahani yesterday.

In reply, Prime Bank rode on a solid 121-run opening stand between Tamim and Anamul Haque, with the latter striking his eighth half-century in the ongoing tournament before being dismissed for 52 runs.

Meanwhile, Jamal's two national team cricketers -- Mushfiqur Rahim and Mehedi Hasan Miraz -- were injured during the game and were taken off the field immediately. Miraz twisted his right-hand little finger while trying to take a catch and was later taken to hospital. Mushfiqur twisted his ankle. Both cricketers were kept under observation.

In the other super league game, Rupganj Tigers registered a 84-run win over Gazi Group Cricketers.



PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

## SPORTS REPORTER

Pacer Taskin Ahmed's unavailability for the series was already known beforehand and as expected, Shoriful Islam, who had recovered from the ankle injury he incurred in South Africa, was named in the squad.



Mominul Haque (Captain), Tamim Iqbal,  
Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Najmul Hossain  
Shanto, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan,  
Liton Das, Yasir Ali, Taijul Islam, Mehedi  
Hasan Miraz, Ebadot Hossain, Khaled  
Ahmed, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Rejaur Rahman  
Raja, Shohidul Islam and Shoriful Islam  
(subject to fitness).

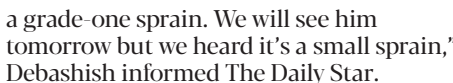
Shoriful, who may yet undergo surgery for a non-sports related injury abroad, played the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) match for his side Prime Bank against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club yesterday. The left arm paceman bowled 10 overs for 56 runs, bagging one wicket and will likely be able to play the second Test in Dhaka on May 23. However, the selectors have included him in the squad which was

BCB physio Dr. Debashish Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that they have kept their options open regarding Shoriful and the pacer may go abroad before the series for consultation as there is no emergency for the surgery right away.

“Raja has improved in our HP training and in domestic games we have seen that he can bowl at a good pace. Due to the pace variation we have made a little change here. We have kept Shadman in the practice-match squad and are watching a few players in that position. We will call

"Even in the last series, he was in the squad but he is not getting games. Since the series is on home soil, we have talked so that there is a different plan and that's why Rahi is not there," Minhajul said about Rahi.

"Mushfiquir has an ankle sprain and according to the physio there, he has



"Miraz had a finger dislocation and it had to be relocated in the field. There could be fractures with dislocation. We asked him to undergo an X-ray and see us tomorrow morning. In case there is a fracture, it could take time to heal but we can't say until we see him."

## AGENCIES

That is partly because the championship was effectively decided after PSG won their first eight games to sit nine points clear by the end of September.

The Qatar-owned club only really have eyes for the Champions League, and their collapse in losing to Madrid in the last 16 has made it a long end to the season.



The 'ultras', the club's most vociferous fans, recently decided to stay silent to express unhappiness at what they perceive to be an underperforming side and at the club's management. Even before the Champions League exit, supporters held up banners to protest against the "overpaid mercenaries" in the team and to call for sporting director Leonardo to leave.

Paris St Germain's sporting director Leonardo admitted that mistakes were made after frustrated fans opted not to celebrate the capital club winning a record-equalling 10th French top flight league title.

But despite the wealth of talent in a squad spearheaded by Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Neymar, PSG will have to make do with just the Ligue 1 trophy this year as they were also knocked out of the French Cup early.

Messi has been a shadow of the wonderful player he was in Barcelona.

A player who was expected to tear apart defences in the French league had offered a paltry three goals before Saturday's game against Lens, an astonishing performance for someone who had scored between 25 and 50 league goals per season over the previous dozen years.

Lionel Messi looked to have curled in a fine winner in the 68th minute, but Lens dampened the already muted title party at the Parc des Princes through Corentin Jean with two minutes left. PSG have an unassailable 16-point lead over second-placed Marseille with four matches remaining.

Whether they will do better next term is anyone's guess as Mbappe's contract expires in June. Discussions are ongoing in Doha, where owners Qatar Sport Investment are based, but sporting director Leonardo said he did not know whether Mbappe would sign a new deal with the club.

## SPORTS REPORTER

At the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Goplaganj, title contenders Sheikh Jamal DC also notched a 2-0 win over Uttar Baridhara Club to stay within five points of Kings, who have 29 points from 12 matches.

Kings did not feel the absence of their suspended Brazilian forward Robson Da Silva as new-signings Figueira and Marong kept the Swadhinata defenders on their toes by creating at least three scoring chances before the former broke the deadlock in the 28th minute.

Unmarked Figueira saw his feeble header on a cross from Yeasin gripped easily by Sarwar in the 21st minute but he did not fail to find the target seven minutes later when a long throw-in by Bishwanath Ghosh was headed down a Swadhinata defender inside the box.

Figueira then doubled the lead nine minutes later after a feeble clearance by Sarwar on a cross from Yeasin fell on his feet.

However, Kings could not extend their margin in the second half despite bringing some changes as the Swadhinata concentrated on defending.

In Gopalganj, Nigerian striking duo of Chijoke Alaekwe and Musa Najere made a remarkable debut in the Bangladesh Premier League as both of struck in the first half against hosts Uttar Baridhara Club.

Sheikh Jamal took only two minutes to take the lead when Alaeque drove home from a goal-mouth melee after a long throw-in by Raihan Hasan made havoc in the opposition box. Najere doubled Sheikh Jamal's lead with a clever header on a long ball over onrushing goalkeeper Mamun Alif in the 21st minute.



PHOTO: REUTERS



## SEE PAGE 6 COL 5