









DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 25, 2022

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXII No. 100

BAISHAKH 12, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAMADAN 23, 1443 HIJRI

16 PAGES: TK 12.00



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NEW MARKET CLASHES

Cops grill 6 **Dhaka College BCL** men

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEI

Law enforcers vesterday 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 BCI



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

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

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

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.

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

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

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 vesterday 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 Rokkhya 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

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



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

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

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 organisaed by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS).

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

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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Judge sued over torture. dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

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 Rokonuzzaman 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,

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 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

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 Zelenskiy on Saturday, would be the highest-level by US officials since Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine on

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. Ukrain 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," Zelensky 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

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 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

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

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

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 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

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

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

Noting that there is the capacity to fight fire extinguishing systems and in the highest 20-storey on what to do in case of fire structure in the country, Hasina said some might mills and factories. have plans to construct

100-storey skyscrapers.

In this regard, she the firefighting capacity before taking any plan for construction of the highrise buildings.

The PM asked the fire service department training ensure and rehearsal over fire in educational institutions,

Won't be lifted without actions

30-storey buildings or government has decided to 40-storey buildings or even set up a fire service station in every upazila.

Mentioning asked them to consider are now 456 fire service stations in the country, she said the construction of 55 more stations would be

> Asaduzzaman Secretary of

completed by June next.

Home Minister Security Services Division Mokabbir Hossain and Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Department Maj Gen Sazzad Hussain

Cops grill 6 Dhaka College BCL men

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

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 locally-made carrying weapons, iron rods and sticks during the clashes have also been identified.

One of them is Shahin Sadek Mirza, a member of carrying a machete.

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 shopkeepers the following day.

was attacked in front of

It conflicts with other laws

BCL activist Kawsar, Nur Jahan Super Market's identities of some college 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 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 media reports revealed the

students allegedly involved in Nahid's murder and the clashes.

According to police, the suspects are involved with

During the clashes, vacate the hostels but they refused to leave.

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

Seeking 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 Bhattacharjee Lekhak this newspaper told the college authorities on Saturday that the had asked the students to 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 anonymity, activist was involved in the [Nahid's] killing," he added.

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

Nahid, a delivery man JSA will not pick a side in the signed with China in 2002," the BCL unit's convening of a computer accessories "Rab has since then elections. Our view is simple: shop on Elephant Road, committee. He he said, referring to the was done an excellent job at

combatting

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

Maybe we have to look

at it more closely to see

terrorism.

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. 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 the Bangladeshi 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

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 "China-Bangladesh Defence Cooperation Agreement" which covers military training and defence production.

DFC "The 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

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

on the information and broadcasting ministry for scrutiny, which has been asked to report within 60

Generally, journalism is riskier than other professions. And the digital security law has instilled fear in journalists from independent exercising

thinking. "Now if the proposed law is passed, the newspaper as an industry will be sicker. At the same time, it would be disgraceful journalists," said the newspaper owners'

The Editors' Council,

senior journalists and

journalists' union have

journalist-friendly. The proposed law calls for the establishment of media courts consisting of a working district judge, a

media owner and a media

the proposed law are not

worker to settle disputes over arrears. There is already a labour court for the settlement of arrears of journalists and any other dispute.

addition, Bangladesh Press Council, formed by a retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, has been working to control the newspaper and protect newspaper industry to the freedom of speech in flourish.

expressed the view that 37 out of the 54 sections of

It also works to maintain and revise the standards of newspapers and news agencies and for the protection and preservation of

freedom of the press. Therefore, it is possible to supervise all the activities of the newspaper through the existing industrial law, Bangladesh labour law, press council and the department of

films and publications. "There is no need for a new law," Noab said.

Since its inception playing an important role in helping the country's

Due persistent demands, the newspapers in terms of government declared the newspaper an 'industry' in 2014. But it is not getting the facilities afforded to an industry.

For instance, despite repeated pleas, newspaper industry did not get any help from the government during the pandemic as the other industries did.

"The newspaper industry is going through a critical period today due to the impact of Covid."

In 2020, the import about \$500 per ton. It has

exceeded \$1,000 now. digital reality poses a the nineties, it added.

Noab's major challenge to print getting readership and business. Amid the crisis, the

Mass Media Employees Bill was placed in parliament. "No one could have

imagined that our national history and heritageenriched newspapers and journalism would face such a situation today. Our newspapers had an unforgettable role in the struggle for Liberation War and freedom from the decade of 1950 to 1970."

Newspapers have also in 2004, Noab has been price of newsprint was played an important role in bringing back the democratic trend in the On the other hand, politics of Bangladesh in

DHAKA

'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





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23	25		6:28

26 4:04 6:29

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 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 given 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 Bojlul 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.

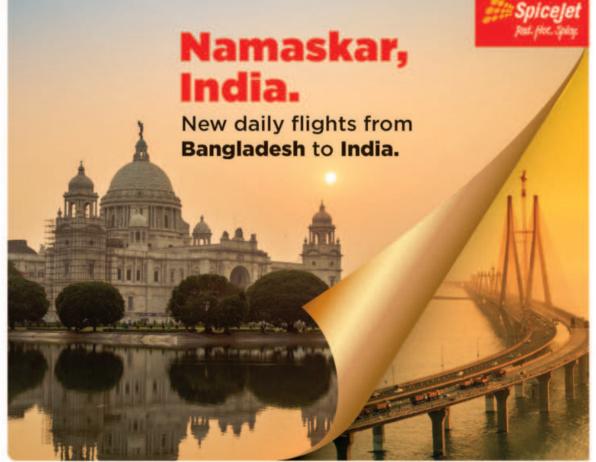
The country imports food and related products, including machinery and fertiliser, equivalent to \$10 billion a year but exports only \$1 billion worth products, said Mohammad Jahangir Alam, professor of agribusiness and marketing department at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

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







FLIGHTS*	DEP.	ARR.	FREQUENCY	L
Dhaka – Mumbai^	13:20	17:00	Daily	JSIVE
Mumbai - Dhaka^	08:50	12:20	Daily	EXCLL
Chattogram - Kolkata	10:30	10:55	Daily	ш
Kolkata - Chattogram	08:10	09:40	Daily	

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Dhaka - Visakhapatnam	13:35	19:20	Daily

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Death anniv of Fawzia Samad today

CITY DESK

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Begum Fawzia Samad wife of

late MA Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd.

Fawzia devoted her life to the cause of the country's women, serving in different capacities, which include presidentship of Dhaka Ladies Club for 38 years, and even till her death.

She played a vital role in establishing Bangladesh General Insurance Co Ltd, from the very beginning from behind.

In 1949, Fawzia along with her litterateur husband ran a magazine named Minar for children and youth.

This publication was published in a book-form "Minar Samagra", which contributed much to Bangla literature and 1952 Language Movement.

Born in Sylhet in 1929, she passed away on April 25, 2011 in a Singapore hospital. She was the mother of Towhid Samad, chairman of BGIC; Fancy Samad, Tamju Samad and Sabrina Samad.

|Focus should be

percent of the total GDP

Agriculture Minister Dr Abdur Razzak, the chief guest at the conference, said, although agricultural land is decreasing day by day, productivity is still increasing as scientists invented hybrid seeds.

"The weather is always unpredictable. We have to face floods every year. We had a lack of irrigation facilities over the years and we had to wait for rain. But Bangladesh we are fighting through science and technology," he said.

the budget About allocation, he said, the budget is enough here.

"If we allocate extra maximum institutions will not be able to spend the

Addressing as chief guest,

Malegue said besides

curing physical diseases,

focus has to be put on

experiencing an increase in

The minister also said

mental diseases.

mental disease.

doctors

effective

The minister

Bangladesh is

One in 100 adults

said

also

provide

Health Minister Zahid received by civil surgeons

like the global situation, general of Directorate

the government is working of psychiatrists to ensure

so that the country's treatment of people

healthcare to Covid" health ailments.

(DGHS).

Khurshid

suffering from

allotment," he added.

The minister urged the institutions to enhance their efficiency.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim said scientists have already invented salt-tolerant paddy for the coastal area.

Planning Minister MA Mannan said the buying capacity of the country's people is increasing, which is growing the demand for products.

Emeritus Professor of Agricultural University Mandal presided over the discussion, chaired Iftekhar Mahmud, president of BAJF.

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) research in research, fellow Mustafizur Rahman also spoke at the event.

The guideline should be

and others concerned at

medical colleges across

the country, said Prof

Abul Bashar Mohammad

Khurshid Alam, director

General of Health Services

stressed on the due role

'Damaged' Dash-8

assured them of resolving the matter.

RMG workers

block road for

Nabinagar-Chandra highway in Savar,

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Eid holiday.

their basic salary.

higher Eid bonus

Workers of an RMG factory vesterday blocked

demanding higher festival bonus and 10 days'

The workers took to the street after

the authorities of Skyline Apparels Ltd at

Palashbari, Ashulia declared Eid holiday for

seven days and bonus amounting to half of

They withdrew the hour-long blockade

around 1:30pm after Ashulia industrial police

FROM PAGE 3

This caused damage to the aircraft's two engines, which cost the carrier a claimed. De Havilland Dhaka in February last year.

Canada engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney have been asked to assess the damage. huge sum to repair, they The plane was brought to

Extra flights to ease

FROM PAGE 5

operate extra flights on domestic routes during the Eid vacation, and we will implement our planning," Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, managing director and CEO of Biman, told The Daily Star. Kamrul Islam, general manager of marketing at US-Bangla Airlines, said they will operate one additional flight every day to Rajshahi and two more flights to Syedpur route on April 29.

"We are also planning

case of demand." he said.

US-Bangla operates around 35 flights every day to seven domestic destinations from Dhaka.

Novoair, operates daily 26 to 28 flights on seven domestic destinations from Dhaka, said they will operate two additional flights each to Jashore and Syedpur and one more flight each to Raishahi and Barishal routes from April 28 to May

Govt laxity to blame

organisations and industries can't evade the rivers, it ushers in hope. responsibility of polluting and destroying rivers. "Those who make the law, wrong demarcation, which Environment Dr M Abu don't care about it. This has become the norm in the country."

Sharif Jamil, secretary of Bapa, said there are various types of rivers depending vain," he added. on their location and areas. At times, when the and

government initiatives to conserve But the move to reclaim Roksana Khan, president rivers falls flat due to in a way, legalises river Sayed, executive member grabbing," he said.

"Without execution of laws, the effort Humayun Kabir Suman, to reclaim rivers will go in

waterbodies affair

secretary of Bapa Halim Khan, member of National River Alliance Syeda of Doctors for Health and of Bapa MS Siddiqui, joint secretary of Bapa river movement leader Saiful Islam, Manis Hossen Among others, rivers and labour leader Amzad Ali were present.

Protect farmland from sand

10 years as compensation. We now earn about Tk 5 lakh per year from crops on the land," Sudeb Kumar Roy, chairman from Pashur is destroying Parishad, termed the move "a clear violation of the prime minister's directive".

Sharif Zamil, secretary of Bapa, said the prime minister previously instructed not to waste

defying everything, the port authorities took the decision.

Such sand extraction

and ecosystem of the river-

guest, former member of parliament Nani Gopal find a sustainable solution cut costs.

But to solve the problem."

Md Nur Alam Sheikh, convener of Bapa's Mongla unit, alleged that the Ecnec project, which was approved in 2020, states of Baniashanta Union the deltaic environment that 216 lakh cubic metres of soil and sand will be extracted from Pashur. But Speaking as chief despite having ample space to dump sand in Mongla port, they are planning to Mandal said, "We need to waste agricultural land to

Workers demand speedy trial

FROM PAGE 5

The affected families have not yet received proper compensation.

They have demanding maximum punishment for those responsible, including building owner Sohel Rana, compensation and rehabilitation for injured

families, providing life- of Bangladesh Garments long free treatment to and Industrial Workers injured workers, building a Federation, said, "In nine hospital for workers at the vears, only one of the 594 site and declaring April 24 as "National Workers' Mourning Day".

"slow pace of trial", Rafiqul Speedy Trial Tribunal."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Servicing Change Managers

E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions.

E-Zone HRM Limited has a formal agreement with one of the United Nations agency to

provide outsourcing services under a third party contract.

E-Zone HRM Limited is now seeking applications for a UN Organization from Bangladeshi

Nationals for the following vacancies under third party outsourcing contract modality. For detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.

Title: Social Media Consultant

Duty Station: Dhaka. Contract Duration: 12 Months.

Number of Vacancies: 1 (one), Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.

Last Date of Application: 1st May, 2022

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un91.html

victims and deceased's Islam Sujan, president witnesses testified. If the trial continues like this, it will not be disposed of in E x p r e s s i n g a thousand year. The trial disappointment over the must be run under the

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

can

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয় ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার ঝিনাইদহ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

*	হ্ছ। মন্ত্ৰণালয়/বিভাগ		20060	annational terralines part	France		
5.	মূল্যালয়/বিভাগ সংস্থা/ বিভাগ		মন্ত্রি মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ				
0.	নংহা/ বিভাগ সংগ্রহকারী সম্ভাৱ নাম ও মেলা			ৰাংলাদেশ পুলিক।			
8,	काटकड दिनतम		কমান্ত্যান্ট (পুনিশ সুণার), ইন-সার্কিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, বিনাইদহ । ২০২২-২০ ঝর্ব সনে ইন-সার্কিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, বিনাইদহে ১ । প্রশিক্ষণ উপকরণ সরবরাহ । ব্যবহার দ্রুপ্রাদি সরববাহ, ও । খাখ্রাবিধান সাম্ম্মী সরববাহ, ও । অন্যাদা মনিহারি দ্রুবাদি সরবরা ৫ । কন্দিউটার সাম্র্মী সরবরাহ এবং মেরামত, ও । মন্ত্রপতি ও সরঞ্জামাদী সরবরাহ এবং মেরাম র মন্ত্রিকারে কাসমান ও পুতরা হত্তাংশ সরবহাহ এবং মেরামত, ৬ । আসববেশত সরবরাহ, ও ভাত্তাতত যালাবাহন স্বাহরাহ				
¢.	দরপত্র বিঞ্জি নং			১২২-২৩ ভাং-২৪/০৪/	২০২২ খ্রিঃ।		
ė.	আহ্বানের সূত্র				লং-২৪/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ		
9.	সঞ্জহ পদ্ধতি		উনুক	দরপত্র বিজপ্তি			
tr.	বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস		साक्ष्य,	GOB			
à.	সরপত্র প্রকাশের কারিব		28/08	৪/২০২২খ্রি			
30.	মরপত্র সিভিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ ভারিপ		36/00	ং/২০২২খিঃ (অফিস চ	লাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।		
33.	দরপত্র এছদের তারিখ ও সময়				লা ১২,০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
34.	দরপত্র খেলার তারিখ ও সময়		शास्त्रका ३९/००		,৩০ মটিকায় দকনাতা/ প্রতিনি	নিৰিদেৱ সম্মূৰে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত	
\$0.	সংগত্র সিভিউল বিক্রনকারী কার্যালয়		রেঞ্জ ডিমাইটি'র কার্যালয়, মুদনা ও কমাত্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়, ইন-সার্ভিদ ট্রেনিং দেন্টার, বিনাইদহ				
\$8.	দরপত্র দলিল প্রহণকারী কার্যালয়	ক্ষাত		কমাজ্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়, ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, ভিনাইদহ। দর্শতে নিচিটল এংছর সময়ে নিচুবর্ণিত চাহিত্র সনলপত্রের মূলকণি প্রদর্শন এবং দরপত্রের সাং			
	সরশতের সাথে যে সকল আগরশার দাখিল করতে হবে		माबिल श्री दे क) क शाहित्य ह) मर मह भ भवत्य	কুত দ্বপর গ্রহণযোগ্য মেণিত হলে জামানকে ভীয় পরিচয়পত্র (এনা প, ম) হালসনের আয় প্রিট হতিষ্ঠান কোন সং মে নিজম প্যাতে আ হ করার কমপকে ০২	হেবে না। দৰপকোৰ সহিত র অৰ্থ নাজেয়াত করা হবে। আইডি), ব) পাসপোর্ট সাইব কর সনস, ৪) ভাট কেজিয়েই কোর/আবা-সরকারি/বারতথা কিবারনামা, ভ) সরকারি/বে	, চাহিক কোন সক্ষপর পাওয়া না গের কোনহপ মিখ্যা সন্দপর দাখিল কর জর ৩২ কপি ভবি, গ) হালসনের ঐ পনের সন্দ, চ) বাাংক স্বছলতার সন্দ নিক প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক কালো তলিকাছু সক্ষোরি প্রতিষ্ঠানে উল্লেখিত মালামা দেশত, বা) প্রতিটি সন্দশত প্রথম প্রেমী	
26.	দরপর মৃলায়ন ও গ্রহণ	লিপির/২০০৬ ব লিপিখান/২০০৮ এর বিধান অনুসারে ।				Allowa and a state of the state	
59.	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণী		সংযুক্ত	স্পেলিফিকেশন/সিডিট	ল মোভাবেক		
ग्रह्थ नर,	ল্লবের শম	পরিম	तम	দরপতের মূলা (অফেরতবোগ্য)	ভাষানতের পরিমাণ	কাজের সময়সীমা	
bb.	১। প্রশিক্ষণ সর্ব্বামাদী ক্রয়	চাহিদা ব	न्याती	2000/-	\$0,000/-	(জুলাই/২০২২- জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত	
	২। ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যানি	চাহিদা ত	नुयाम	1700/-	\$4,000/-	(জুলাই/২০২২- জুন/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত	
	৩। সাস্থ্য বিধান সামগ্রী	চাহিদা ও	भू <u>यातीः</u>	900/-	9,000/-	(জুলাই/২০২২- জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত	
	 ৪। অন্যান্য মনিহারি দ্রবাদি ক্রয় 	চাহিদা ব	म् यादी	1000/-	0,000/-	(জুলাই/২০২২- জুল/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত	
	৫। কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী	চাহিদা ব		500/-	0,000/-	(জ্লাই/২০২২- জ্ন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত	
	ও। বছপতি ও সরঞ্জামালী ক্রয়	চাহিনা ব	म् याद्यी	000/-	0,000/-	(জুলাই/২০২২- জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত	
	 ৭। মটারখানের কাচামাল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ পরবরাহ এবং মেরামত 	চাহিদা অনুযায়ী		500/-	¢,000/-	(বুলাই/২০২২- কুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত	
	৮ : আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়	চাহিদা ও		*S00/-	¢,000/-	(জুলাই/২০২২- জুন/২০২৩ পর্যপ্র	
	৯। তাড়াকৃত যানবাহন সরবরাহ	ठादिमा अनुगासी		2000/-	40,000/-	(জুলাই/২০২২- জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত	
35.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী ও ই	टकाना	ভাৰাৰ	মোঃ শাহরিয়ার আলী,	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সূপার), ইং	ন-বার্তিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, ঝিনাইদহ।	
20.	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতবাঃ	(ভকরণ স	ভা অনুষ্ঠিত না হলে প		वटन ।		

য়) আইটোম কাই আইটোম ভিত্তিতে দৰপত্ৰ মূল্যাহান করা হবে। ৪) অৰ্থ বৰাদ প্ৰান্তিৰ পৰ বিল পত্তিশোধ করা হবে এবং বিধি মোতাবেক বিল হতে আমকর ও ভ্যাট কর্তন করা হবে। হ) অন্যান্য সকল তথ্যাদি দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত সিভিউল ও নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস থেকে জানা বাবে।

> মোঃ শাহরিয়ার আলী নিপি-৮১০৬১১৯৬৮০ কমান্ত্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুগার) ইন-সার্ভিস ঐনিং সেন্টার, বিনাইনহ CRIM HE-02894986685 E-mail: comistojhenaidah@police.gov.bd

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"We are planning to

to operate extra flights on other domestic routes in

Tender Notice

Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) invites sealed quotations for supplying & installation of two Servers in IWM. Interested bidders having proven experience of the mentioned items are requested to visit the notice at IWM website < www.iwmbd.org> for details.

INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SALE

115 decimal land on Savar PATC to Ashulia Bazar road, 1.5 km from the Dhaka-Aricha highway The original high land is bounded by 9-feet high wall on all four sides and is owned by the seller for last 30 years. Contact: 01819 243540

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Senior System Analyst, RHD Management Information Cell Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka E-mail: ssa@rhd.gov.bd

Date: 24-04-2022 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for The Notice for "Supply, installation and warranty renewal for existing NetApp Storage FAS 2554 and NetApp Storage FAS 8040 for RHD" Tender Id No.: 686844 Package

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 11-May-2022 17:00.

System Portal and e-GP help desk (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Kazi Sayeda Momtaz ID No. 000903 Senior System Analyst, RHD Management Information Cell Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka

Phone: 8879330, Fax: 8879376

Memo No. 35.01.0000.167.07.002.22.1104 No.: 08/e-GP/SSA/RHD/MIS/2021-2022.

(https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP

জিভি-৮২৭

ই-মেইণঃ dampd2@krishibank.org.bd

৮৩-৮৫. মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক এ ০২ (দুই) জন প্রেখান কার্যালয়ের জন্য একজন মহিলা ও বিকেবি স্টাফ কলেজ কমপ্লেক্সের জন্য একজন পুরুষ) সার্বক্ষিক স্বাস্থ্য উপদেষ্টা (চুভিভিত্তিক) হিসেবে চিকিৎসক নিয়োগের নিমিন্ত বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখান্ত আহবান করা

শিক্ষাণত যোগতো ও অভিজ্ঞা দায়িত পালনের বেতন ভাতাদি

[SCAME	13043.7.	1.01012.30.071.30.00.30.30.00	সময়	(কনসোলিডেটেড)	সময়কাল
উপদেষ্টা শেষ তারিখে জেনারেল প্রাকটিশনার হিসেবে সাপ্তাহিক ছুটি টাকা (আপোচনা ব (চুক্তিভিত্তিক) সর্বোচ্চ কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের ব্যতীত প্রতি (২ জন) ৬২(বাষটি) অভিজ্ঞতা: কার্যদিবসে অফিস বছর। (খ) বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এবং চলাকালীন সময়	2	2	9	8	Ø.	৬
রেজিনেট্রশন থাকতে হবে এবং পালন করতে (গ) উচ্চতর ডিফ্রিধারীকে হবে। ক্ষয়াধিকার দেয়া হবে।	উপদেষ্টা (চুক্তিভিত্তিক)	শেষ তারিখে সর্বোচ্চ ৬২(বাষটি)	জেনারেল প্রাকটিশনার হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা; (খ) বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এবং ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিলের রেজিমেট্রশন খাকতে হবে এবং (গ) উচ্চতর ডিথ্রিধারীকে	সাঞ্জাহিক ছুটি ব্যতীত প্রতি কার্যনিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দায়িত্ব পালন করতে	টাকা (আলোচনা	ও (তিন) বছর।

২,০ আগ্রহী প্রাধীগণকে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, দুই কপি সাম্প্রতিক তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পরের কপি এবং জীবন বৃত্তান্তসহ আবেদন উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক, হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৮৩-৮৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০ এ ঠিকানায় আগামী ৩১-০৫-২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে পৌছাতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ বা নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে প্রাক্ত আবেদন বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-মোঃ খোরশেদ আনোয়ার উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক





EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY





Chief Executive Officer (CEO): MHA/ MBA/ MS in hospital administration. A minimum of 10 (ten) years hospital management experience in progressively advancing positions and a minimum of 5 (five) years as a hospital CEO/COO in a tertiary hospital. International experience as well as hospital start up experience is preferable.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO): MBBS/ Equivalent Degree in Medical Sector. Minimum 10 (ten) years extensive experience of working in a tertiary hospital out of which 5 (five) years should be in a senior administrative position of delivering medical services. Experience of working in JCl accredited or equivalent healthcare institute is preferable.

Consultant:

- General Surgery

Neuro Surgery

 Orthopedic Urology & Transplant Surgery

- Postgraduate degree such as: FCPS/MD/MS/FRCP/FRCS/or equivalent registrable by BMDC.

Qualification & Experience:

 Minimum 07 (seven) years' working experience at tertiary hospital after post-graduation degree (except diploma).

- Critical Care Medicine Four articles published in Index journals in last five years of which in one as 1st author. Chief Nursing Officer (CNO): Minimum Bachelor of Science in Nursing registrable by BNMC with minimum 10 years working experience in a tertiary hospital of which 06 years in supervisory positions.

Manager-IT: Will be responsible for all information and communication systems and services in the hospital. The incumbent should -. Be able to lead the IT team and ensure smooth functioning of the department, assist in the development of

knowledge of local & wide area network administration. Qualification & Experience: B.Sc (Engr.) in CSE & M.Sc. (Engr.) in CSE / MBA in Management Information System (MIS). Advance knowledge on CISCO platform for Firewall, SAN, NAS, Tape Library, Cloud Solutions, VM Ware and

system and its implementation, data management, reporting and documentation with workflow management. Have

System Administration. Capabilities for real time solution. Minimum 08 years' experience in a tertiary hospital. Remuneration & Benefits for all positions: As per qualification and experience.

Candidates are requested to send their application via email to recruitment@ihlbd.org along with a detailed CV and one passport size photo quoting post title by 12th May 2022. Hard copy can also be submitted by addressing to Head of HR, Imperial Hospital Limited; Zakir Hossain Road, Pahartali, Chattogram-4202, Bangladesh.

Remembering on Her 11th Death Anniversary

"Whoever works righteousness, male or female, and has Faith, Verily, to him will We give a new Life, a life that is good and pure and We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions. "

Al-Quran; Sura Al-Nahal: verse-97

Family and well wishers





'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

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

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,

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.



Protect farmland from sand dumping Speakers tell event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

GD-832

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 Dakbangla 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 Sharker, additional deputy commissioner of DB.

Police detected them, after a victim filed a case

with Tejgaon Police Station in February According to the complaint, Rony, identifying

pocketed money by selling stolen products

online, promising changing public exam

Beside CDM fraud, the arrestees also

results, and ensuring admission in

government medical colleges.

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, Tejgaon, 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

this Eid vacation. 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

Around 15 lakh

holidaymakers

are likely to make

trips to different

domestic tourist

destinations during

domestic and international air traffic. Ticket prices on Dhaka-Jashore and Dhaka-Barishal 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, Barishal and Rajshahi routes for one week before and after the Eid vacation have already been booked or sold out.

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 & Finge	Purchasing of IRIS Scanner & Fingerprint Scanner for Voter Registration			
Invitation Number:	17.14.0000.240.07.061.20	21-718, Date: 10 April 2022			
Issued on:	11 April 2022				
Tender Package No.	GD-22 (Lot-1 & Lot-2)				
	Addendum-1 of Invitation for Tenders	(IFT)			
SL No. of IFT	Existing Invitation for Tenders (IFT)	Amendments (Content to be read as)			
		Invitation for Tender (IFT)			
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			

Abdul Kashem Md. Fazlul Kader Brigadier General Project Director



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

Size: 5 inch x 4 col

Prof. (Dr.) Ehsanul Kabir Project Director

Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalgani

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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 SHAH ALAM SH AZU

The Bangladesh-Iran joint venture film, directed by Morteza Atashzamzam's, 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 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

In the end, I could not find her but I was left stunned, as she

> 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 Atashzamzam 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.





'The Bad Guys' thrashes 'Fantastic Beasts' at box office

DreamWorks Animation and Universal's "The Bad Guys is" 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 bigbudget 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

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.



Iranian films are respected globally among the audience. The crew members could only speak Iranian, but we managed to communicate nonetheless. We vibed together, and were able to create this feelgood film, which I am sure that the audience will love.

"Fereshte" dwells into the

humane stories of a rickshaw puller, and the struggles of

COUNTRYWIDE

GARBAGE DUMPING GROUND

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

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

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

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 serous 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 if 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.

Another haor Man to serve eight years

Committee but they did FROM PAGE 12 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 torrential rainfall India's Meghalaya submerged 9,700 hectares of Boro cropland in the haors of eight districts in the country's northeastern 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.

FROM PAGE 12 a temple wer On October 18, 2019, anti-the upazila. 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.

attack, 12 Hindu houses and sheet

Later, Delwar Hossain, sub-inspector case against Biplob, Emon and Kamrul under the DSA.

The case was then handed over to Police Bureau of Investigation on FROM PAGE 12 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 Immediately after the PBI submitted a charge against

a temple were vandalised in dropping the charges against Biplob, Emon and Kamrul.

The three innocent men Borhanuddin police, filed a languished behind bars for around two years.

Sri Lanka

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

under 18."

FROM PAGE 1

was picked up." Contacted

Mohammad Sharif 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 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

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.

the playground. For several they've been demonstrating with the demand to keep it as it is for the sake of the children.

Over 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, 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, Zigatola, Kalabagan and Kathalbagan), there is a

proposal to keep sufficient

open spaces for the areas. According playground, open spaces, parks and water bodies conservationact, no one can Locals refused to give up 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.

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.

INTERNATIONAL

'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,"

SHIPWRECKS OFF TUNISIA

Migrant death toll rises to 17

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 thirdholiest 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 protestors 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.



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:

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.

4 x 3 col.)



For: Managing Director.

Explosion kills at least 80 people AFP, Lagos

NIGERIA OIL REFINERY

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

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

"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

"We learnt many bodies are in nearby bushes and forests as some illegal operators and their patrons scampered 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**



ADMISSION NOTICE Spring, 2022 MBA (EMBA PROGRAM)

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- * Applicant must have a 4 year bachelor degree or 3 year honors plus a master degree (any discipline), and
- Minimum CGPA of 2.50 on a scale of 4 or 2nd class equivalent at bachelor leve

Consideration for selection

- * Test score and viva voce performance
- * Full time managerial/executive level work experience(s)
- * Prior academic result(s)

For details, please visit

www.fbsiu.edu.bd

Important note

Application open: April 05, 2022 Application close: May 12, 2022 Written Examination Date: May 20, 2022

 Written Examination Time: 10:00AM To 11:10AM * Application fee: Tk. 1200/-



No. 23.09.1528.554.36.001.22. 1640

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Meteorological Department Meteorological & Geo-Physical Center Agrabad, Chattogram.

www.bmd.chittagong.gov.bd

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

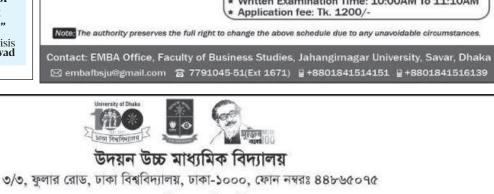
- 2. These are online tenders where only e-tender (Online tender) will be accepted through the national e-GP
- 3. The fees for downloading the e-tender documents from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any schedule bank of Bangladesh registered by the CPTU.
- 4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal (www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd/)

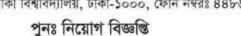


portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

E-mail: ctgbmd@gmail.com জিডি-৮২৯

GD-830





ক্রমিক	পদের নাম ও সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	জাতীয় বেতন ক্ষেল
3	সহকারী শিক্ষক (ইংরেজি ভার্সন) পদার্থবিজ্ঞান-০১ প্রাণিবিজ্ঞান-০১ তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি-০১	ষীকৃত 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 অগ্নাধিকার দেয়া হবে। সমগ্র শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন স্তরে ৩য় প্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমমান গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। প্রার্থীর আবেদনের ন্যুনতম যোগ্যতা জিপিএ ৩,০০/সিজিপিএ ২,৫০। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে শিক্ষকতায় অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের অগ্নাধিকার এবং ইংরেজি ভার্সনের প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ইংরেজি মাধ্যমে পাঠদানে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ও ইংরেজি মাধ্যম থেকে পাশ করা প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। ইংরেজি ভার্সনের প্রার্থীদের বাংলা ও ইংরেজি উভয় ভার্সনে পাঠদানে সমত থাকতে হবে। সহকারী শিক্ষক প্রার্থীদের সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে শিক্ষক নিবন্ধন পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ/বি.এড/এম.এড, ডিগ্রি থাকলে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।	শ্রেড-১০ টাকা ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০ (বি.এড ডিগ্রিধারী) শ্রেড-১১ টাকা ১২৫০০-৩০২৩০ (বি.এড ব্যতিত)
2	প্রদর্শক, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান-০১	স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়সহ ২য় শ্রেণির স্লাতক ডিফি/সমমান। সমগ্র শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন স্তরে ৩য় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/সমমান গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।	শ্রেড-১০ টাকা ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০
9	কম্পিউটার ল্যাব অপারেটর-০১	বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে ০৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদি কম্পিউটার ডিপ্লোমা/সমমান অথবা স্লাতক সহ ০১ বছর মেয়াদী এ্যাডভালড সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স ইন কম্পিউটার টেকনোলজি/সমমান। প্রার্থীকে হার্ডওয়্যার সাপোর্ট, সফটওয়্যার ইনস্টল, রাউটার ম্যানেজমেন্টসহ টেকনিক্যাল কাজে পারদর্শী হতে হবে।	গ্ৰেড-১৬ টাকা ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০

** শর্তাবলী/বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ওয়েবসাইট <u>www.udayan.edu.bd</u> এ ভিজিট করতে হবে।

অধাক

EDITORIAL

The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Brutality at its worst, on full display

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

T 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

AWS are supposed to protect our rights and security against abuses committed by other people, \checkmark 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



UALITY education is urgently

country is progressing at a fast

needed in Bangladesh as the

pace. Unfortunately, despite having a

large number of youth, the dearth of

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

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

for harnessing youth potential through

This also speaks of the quality of

education imparted by the educational

studies have indicated poor quality of

to tertiary. Despite progress in several

quality of education has not improved

mathematics, science, and English even

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-

Therefore, countries that were already

facing a crisis in the case of education

Bangladesh, about 40 million students

could face a learning catastrophe. In

have been affected due to the closure

of educational institutions. In the last

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

as the loss has been on many fronts.

on the lifelong earnings of many youth

These include learning loss, experience

loss, employment loss, and disruption of

social and professional interactions. This

too, as they were in isolation and anxiety

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

has taken a toll on their mental health,

during this difficult time.

two years, students suffered a learning

to-face education during the pandemic.

after secondary- and higher secondary-

level education is disappointing.

institutions in our country. Several

inadequate.

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

last few years. In the national budget for 2021-22 fiscal year (FY), the education sector received only 2.08 percent of the GDP and 11.9 percent of the total budget. The allocation is much smaller than what is suggested by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco). The UN agency recommends allocating four to six percent of the GDP for education in its

are revised downwards due to low spending. Often, there is more interest in physical infrastructure and less on soft infrastructure. Hence, recruitment of the adequate number of teachers at schools and their training are less prioritised by the authorities. As a result, the teacherstudent ratio in schools is low. For example, in 2020, the teacher-student ratio in the country was 1:40. Such a



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

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

For real change, listen to RMG suppliers



RMG NOTES

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

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

E'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 willthankfully—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 heardgood 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.

22 BS **C**

Wasa water everywhere, not a drop to drink



Shahnoor Wahid is a senior journalist.

SHAHNOOR WAHID

HAKA 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



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

ILLUSTRATION:
BIPLOB
CHAKROBORTY

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

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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 Houthi 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.

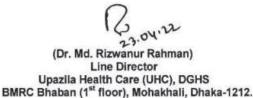
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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3		ng Entity		Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DG		
				224330400		
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458TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A search for the Shakespearean semiotics in Bangladesh

SHAHMAN MOISHAN

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 February2, 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'

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 anticolonial 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 Sved 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

"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 Hoye

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

SHAKESPEARES

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LONDON Prissed by Linc Leggard, and Ed. Blount. 1615

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

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:

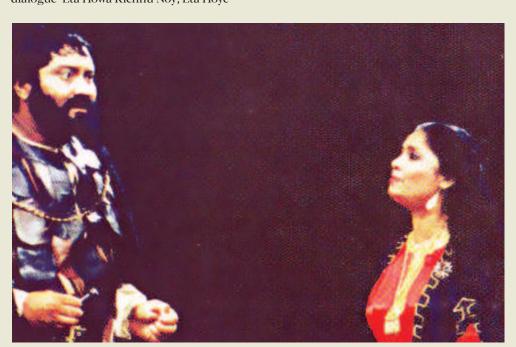
"I always tried to create the appropriateness in playing the role, whichever was given to me. I didn't find any difference in playing Shakespeare's characters with Ibsen's or Brecht's. I always considered the character in the context of the story. Shakespearean diction was not essential for me because 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 copresence 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 metatest.

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'.



Sheikh Jamal made to wait

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal made Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club wait for their maiden Dhaka Premier League title with a 90-run knock, which helped Prime Bank Cricket Club to a comfortable eight-wicket win in a super league game at the BKSP- 4 ground in Savar yesterday.

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 vesterday

After being sent in to bat. Sheikh Jamal posted 232 for eight in 50 overs, thanks to a three-wicket haul from Taijul Islam and a two-fer from Rakibul Hasan. Nurul Hasan top-scored with 71 runs but none of the others were able to contribute significantly.

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

Tamim, who was inching towards his hundred, missed out after being stumped while going after Jamal's Indian off-spinner Parvez Rasool. Tamim scored 90 off 85 balls with four sixes and 10 fours. Shahadat Hossain Dipu remained not out on 52 while Mohammad Mithun was unbeaten on 31 as Prime Bank reached the target in 40.2 overs.

Meanwhile, Jamal's two national team cricketers - Mushfigur 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.



Wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan Sohan looks on as Tamim Iqbal of Prime Bank tonks over deep-midwicket region during his 85-ball 90, which laid the platform for a successful chase of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's 232. [Below] Sheikh Jamal's Mehedi Hasan Miraz (L) and Mushfiqur Rahim react after hurting themselves while fielding in the same Dhaka Premier League fixture at the BKSP vesterday.

Injury concerns surround Tigers' SL squad

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced the squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, slated to begin from May 15, and there were no big surprises in the squad though a few injury concerns reared their ugly heads following the squad announcement.

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.

SQUAD

Mominul Haque (Captain), Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfigur 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

announced for the first Test so that the pacer can be available for the first Test in case he is fit.

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.

The biggest takeaways were the exclusions of opener Shadman Islam and seamer Abu Jayed Rahi while 23-year-old quick Rejaur Rahman Raja was included in the squad. Raja has so far bagged 11 wickets in eight matches for Prime Bank this DPL season, which includes a fifer against Brothers Union.

"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

upon whoever is needed," chief selector Minhajul Abedin told reporters yesterday.

"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

Meanwhile, both Mushfigur Rahim and Mehedi Hasan Miraz suffered injury blows while fielding for Sheikh Jamal yesterday, with the latter taken to hospital following

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



a grade-one sprain. We will see him tomorrow but we heard it's a small sprain," Debashish informed The Daily Star.

"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."

Fans refuse to celebrate PSG league title

AGENCIES

Paris Saint-Germain have equalled the French record by winning their 10th league title, moving level with the mark established by the Saint-Etienne team of Michel Platini, but rarely has a such a historic achievement in football felt like such an anti-climax.

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

It is also because domestic success no longer carries the same weight for the capital club, who did not sign Lionel Messi, or turn down 180 million euros (\$195m) from Real Madrid for Kylian Mbappe in the final year of his contract, just to reclaim the Ligue 1 crown from Lille.

The Oatar-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 European exit has stoked anger among supporters, who greeted last weekend's key win over bitter rivals Marseille with indifference.

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.

Figueira shines on debut

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from debutant Brazilian midfielder Miguel Figueira helped leaders Bashundhara Kings exact their first-leg 2-1 defeat against newcomers Swadhinata KS with a 2-0 victory in the return match of the Bangladesh Premier League at Shaheed Muktijoddha Smriti Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

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.

Although Swadhinata stunned two-time champions Kings in their first match in top-flight football in February, the newcomers failed to put up any fight in this fixture. Playing without any foreign players, they were completely dominated by the Kings, who had bolstered their attack with two new foreign

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.

Marong headed a Matin Mia cross wide in the

18th minute before the Spanish forward saw his placing shot from a cutback from Tarig saved by the outstretched leg of keeper Sarwar Jahan in the next 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 Alaekwe 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 cleaver header on a long-ball over onrushing goalkeeper Mamun Alif in the 21st minute.



Bayern Munich players applaud the fans after winning their 10th consecutive Bundesliga crown with three games to spare on Saturday. Bayern defeated Borussia Dortmund 3-1 in front of a sold-out home crowd to go 12 points clear at the top of the table. They have now won 31 Bundesliga titles since the introduction of the top division in 1963, and 32 German league crowns in all.

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FRENCH ELECTION

Macron beats Le Pen to win second term

Pollsters' projections show





REUTERS, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron defeated his farright rival Marine Le Pen yesterday by a comfortable margin, securing a second term and heading off what would have been a political earthquake.

Cheers of joy erupted as the results appeared on a giant screen at the Champ de Mars park at the foot of the Eiffel tower, where Macron supporters waved French and EU flags. People hugged each other and chanted "Macron".

In contrast, a gathering of dejected Le Pen supporters erupted in boos and whistles at a sprawling reception hall on the outskirts of Paris.

Le Pen admitted defeat but vowed to keep up the fight, with the June parliamentary elections in mind.

"I will never abandon the French," she said to supporters chanting "Marine! Marine!"

Le Pen admitted defeat but vowed to keep up the fight, with the June parliamentary elections in mind.

The first pollsters' projections showed Macron securing around 57-58% of the vote. Such estimates are normally accurate but may be fine-tuned as official results come in from around the country throughout the evening.

But Macron can expect little to no grace period after many, especially on the left only voted for him reluctantly to block the far-right from winning. Protests that marred part of his first mandate could erupt again quite quickly,

as he tries to press on with pro-business reforms. "We will not spoil the victory ... but (Le Pen's) National Rally has its highest score ever," Health Minister Olivier Veran told BFM TV.

"There will be continuity in government policy because the president has been reelected. But we have also heard the French people's message," he added. pledging change.

A first major challenge will be the parliamentary elections in June and opposition parties on the left and right will immediately start a major push to try to vote in a parliament and government opposed to Macron.

Philippe Lagrue, 63, technical director at a theatre in Paris, said earlier in the day he had voted for Macron after voting for the hard-left Jean-Luc Melenchon in the

He said he would vote for Melenchon again in June. "Melenchon Prime Minister. That would be fun. Macron

would be upset, but that's the point." Ifop, Elabe, OpinionWay and Ipsos pollsters projected a 57.6-58.2% win for Macron.

Victory for the centrist, pro-European Union Macron was immediately hailed by allies as a reprieve for mainstream politics that have been rocked in recent years by Britain's exit from the European Union, the 2016 election of Donald Trump and the rise of a new generation of nationalist leaders.

"Bravo Emmanuel," European Council President SEE PAGE 6 COL 7



This photo, taken around 2:50am yesterday, shows people in queue in front of ticket counters of Kamalapur Railway Station. Some are sleeping on the floor while a few are on the counters. They were waiting for the booths to open at 8:00am so that they could buy Eid tickets. Some queued up there since Saturday afternoon. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Sri Lanka a lesson for South Asia

Experts of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka say

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Sri Lanka's financial crisis is a classic example of what populist policies, corruption and mismanagement can cause, economists and political analysts from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka told a webinar yesterday.

The crisis should be a lesson for the South Asian countries where administrations are politiicsed and good governance is absent.

Besides high inflation and power cuts, Sri Lanka currently has a shortage of food, medicine and

The event titled "Current Sri Lankan Economic Crisis: Lessons for other South Asian Countries" was organised by the South Asian Institute of

Peace and Governance of North South University. With debt-to-GDP ratio 110 percent, Sri Lanka suspended payments on portions of its \$51 billion in external debt.

The country took large amounts of foreign loans at high interest rates several times for mega projects like sea and air ports.

The government fully adopted organic agriculture in early March 2020, banning import of chemical fertilisers. But it led to a decline in agricultural output. The country also slashed VAT from 15 percent to 8 percent and raised income tax bracket from 800,000 Sri Lankan rupees to 3 million rupees, they said.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 72, who won the presidency in 2019 by a big margin, appointed his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa as the prime minister

and three other family members as finance,

agriculture and sports ministers. Channa De Silva, chairman of Sri Lankan think tank Sarvodaya Development Finance, said mismanagement and corruption were rampant in the government as about \$3 billion was spent on building infrastructures like a deep water port, an airport and a cricket stadium with borrowed money.

"We thought there would be commendable returns from the investments and high investments, especially from China and Russia. But we were wrong," he said.

De Silva said Sri Lanka's relations with China deteriorated over negotiations and in many cases, the bureaucrats, many of whom were politicised, did not act right.

Nazneen Ahmed, country economist at UNDP Bangladesh, said relying too heavily on two to three sectors is very risky, hinting at Bangladesh dependence on garment exports and remittance for its foreign exchange.

Bangladesh too has undertaken a number of mega projects, but the problems are long delays in implementation and the escalation of costs.

The government needs to be very careful about taking up mega projects in future, she suggested. Former foreign secretary Shahidul Haque said Sri Lanka appeared to lean towards one side in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

LANKA ECONOMIC CRISIS Talks on loan request 'fruitful'

Says IMF; World Bank readies aid package

REUTERS, Washington

The International Monetary Fund said on Saturday it held "fruitful technical discussions" with Sri Lanka on its loan request, while the World Bank said it was preparing an emergency aid package for the crisis-stricken country.

Sri Lanka, an island country of 22 million people, is struggling to pay for imports amid a crushing debt crisis and sharp drop in foreign exchange reserves that has fuelled soaring inflation. Prolonged power cuts and shortages of fuel, food and medicines

have sparked nationwide protests. Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ali Sabry has been in Washington this week talking to the IMF, the World Bank, India and others about financing help for his country, which suspended payments on portions of its \$51 billion in external debt.

The World Bank's emergency response package includes \$10 million to be made immediately available for the purchase of essential medicines, funds shifted from its ongoing Covid-19 health preparedness project, a World Bank spokesperson said.

The WB, which along with the IMF held its spring meetings this week, did not provide a total value for its package, but Sabry said that about \$500 million in aid was being considered.

ANTI-RELIGIOUS MESSAGES Man to serve eight years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A man was sentenced to eight years imprisonment and fined Tk 3 lakhs for hacking into another's Facebook account and spreading anti-religious messages on the social media platform.

Judge Golam Farooq, of Barishal Divisional Cyber Tribunal, yesterday passed the verdict of a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

The convict is Bapon Das, 27, of Kishoreganj's Itna upazia.

According to the verdict, Bapon will have to serve two more years in jail if he fails to pay the fine, said Ishtiak Ahmed Rubel, state counsel of

No lawyer or relative of Bapon was present in court during the verdict delivery yesterday noon,

Police said Bapon is a professional hacker and he used to hack into different peoples' accounts and use them for ransom.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Two buffaloes lying dead in Chattogram's Anwara area yesterday. At least 13 buffaloes died after drinking water of Gobadia canal mixed with poisonous waste, which was allegedly released from the state-owned Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd factory. Its General Manager Mainul Haque said they are looking into any possible faults in their Effluent Treatment Plant.

floods after dyke breach OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Another haor

While there was no forecast of excessive rainfall or flash flood, a dyke broke at Chhayar Haor of Sunamganj and Netrokona yesterday, raising the urgency to finish harvesting the Boro paddy before the water destroys the crop.

Though the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) claimed to have harvested 90 to 95 percent Boro of the haor of around 7,000 hectares, the farmers disagree and claimed that about 30 percent is yet to be reaped.

After seeing a hole in the Mautir dyke of the haor, farmers informed the Project Implementation SEE PAGE 6 COL 4