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A worker drinks water to quench his thirst and stay hydrated in the sweltering summer heat. That he was melting bitumen with open flames all around him for road-repair work added to his discomfort. The photo was taken at Rupatoli in Barishal city yesterday. PHOTO: TITU DAS

TENTULTALA GROUND

Police press on with construction

Environmental activists to mount legal battle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police carried on construction work at the city's Tentultala playground yesterday though Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said he had asked the city corporation and others concerned to find an alternative place for Kalabagan Police Station.

Speaking to journalists after a programme in Tejgaon yesterday, the minister said if a suitable place for the station cannot be found, a decision would be made later upon discussions.

During a visit to the playground around 11:30am yesterday, it was found that construction work was going on amid presence of dozens of police personnel.

Earlier on Sunday, Kalabagan police picked up Ratna, who has been leading protests to save Tentultala playground, along with her son Mohammad Isha Abdullah. Police released the mother and son around 13 hours later, taking an undertaking that she would not get

involved in any movement to protect the playground.

Ratna, coordinator of Tentultala Math Rakkhya Andolon, and her son were detained around 11:00am when she went live on Facebook while construction work was going on at the playground under police supervision.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday morning, green organisations and rights bodies said they would go for legal battle over the detention of Ratna and her son, the undertaking and retention of the playground.

They also demanded that the government ensure security of Ratna, her family as well as the protesters and conduct an impartial probe into the incident and bring to book those responsible for detaining Ratna and her minor son unlawfully.

The demands were placed by leaders of 12 organisations, including Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon;

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NEW MARKET CLASHES

Hunt for Emon, Kaiyum on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After primarily identifying around a dozen suspects who assaulted and hacked 19-year-old Nahid Mia during the clashes between Dhaka College students and shopkeepers in New Market area, police are now focusing their investigation on two individuals -- Kaiyum and Emon Bashar.

Kaiyum is a Dhaka College student who first hit Nahid and Emon was the one who carried out the final attack on the deliveryman on April 19, according to video footage and photos. Nahid died of his wounds at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital that night.

"We identified around a dozen suspects from footage and photos, and interrogated many of them. We are now continuing our investigation centring Emon Bashar and Kaiyum, both activists of Dhaka College Chhatra League," said a senior officer of the Detective Branch (DB) of police, who is involved with the investigation. HM Azimul Haque, deputy commissioner of (Ramna division) DB, told The Daily Star yesterday that officers made major progress in the investigation.

"But we are taking some time as it is a sensitive case and we do not want any innocent person framed," he said. "We have collected information from different sources and now we are scrutinising those."

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Fourth Covid wave looms Say NTAC and health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a fresh surge in Covid-19 cases in neighbouring India and other countries, the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) has come up with some recommendations to prevent further surges in the country.

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With a football and a cricket bat in their hands, the children silently watch workers employed by the Kalabagan Police Station build a wall on their playground yesterday. A good number of police personnel can be seen in the background. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Gas reserves drying up

Experts stress need for exploration, overhaul

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The yield of Kailash Tila, the main source for Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd, was on average 69 million cubic feet per day in 2016, but it dropped to 29 million cubic feet in January this year.

Extraction from Kailash Tila began in 1983 following its discovery in 1962. It has seven wells. Over the years, the authorities suspended extraction from five of them, saying they were finding water, not gas.

This is not an isolated case. In fact, most of the country's 20 fields are producing less gas than before. The Daily Star has found analysing data from the Hydrocarbon Unit (HU) under the government's energy and mineral resources division.

The country faced a massive gas crisis when the Chevron-operated Bibiyana gas field, the highest gas producing field, stopped production from six of the 26 wells due to technical glitches earlier this

well drops over time. It's natural," said Mizanur Rahman, managing director of Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd.

"There are some maintenance and development work underway, but we will conduct studies to find why production from two promising wells in Kailash Tila stopped suddenly last year."

Experts said the drop in gas extraction was a threat to the country's energy security. They stressed the need for aggressive exploration for new reserves.

They said the government did not carry out gas exploration properly.

"It's true that the capacity of gas fields decreases gradually. It's called 'natural diffusion', which depends on the geological character, structure and technical maintenance of a field," said Prof Shamsul Alam, prominent energy expert and vice president of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh.

"But it's possible to extract more by overhauling the wells which is something

Gas field	Bakhrabad	Bangura	Beanibazar	Fenchuganj	Habiganj
2016 [mmcf/d]	36	98	9	30	225
2021 [mmcf/d]	35	74	8	10	165
Gas field	Meghna	Srikail	Moulvibazar	Semutang	Jalalabad
2016 [mmcf/d]	12	40	40	3	271
2021 [mmcf/d]	7	33	12	1	173
Gas field	Rashidpur	Sylhet	Salda Nadi	Titas	Kailash Tila
2016 [mmcf/d]	57	8	7	505	69
2021 [mmcf/d]	44	3	3	389	33

DECLINING GAS PRODUCTION

month.

Consumers in different areas of Dhaka experienced shortages or low gas pressure from the first day of Ramadan for a week.

The HU data shows three state-owned and two international companies extracted 2,352mmcf/d in 2021, down from 2,666mmcf/d in 2016.

Compared to five years ago, production increased only from four fields.

Amid this situation, Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) says the country has gas reserves for nine to 10 years, assuming a consumption of around 1 trillion cubic feet every year.

The 28 gas fields discovered so far had a proven reserve of 29.9 trillion cubic feet. Of it, 19.11 TCF gas has already been extracted, Petrobangla data shows.

Natural gas is used for cooking, producing fertiliser, generating power and meeting the needs of industries.

"The capacity of any gas field or

that has not been done in most gas fields... gas was found in fields which were declared abandoned earlier," he said.

Shamsul said the government did not follow the recommendations of "Consultancy Services for Gas Production Augmentation" report of 2011. It emphasised the need for overhauling the wells, adopting a systematic and risk-based approach to best utilise resources, exploring in coastal areas and hill tracts, and moving to more frontier areas to unlock exploration potential.

A member of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) echoed Prof Shamsul.

Wishing to be unnamed, the member said, "It was possible to increase the production of at least 40 wells and extract 400-800mmcf/d by investing about \$125 million, but the government didn't do it. Suggestions mentioned in the 2011 report have largely been ignored."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

EXIM এক্সপোর্ট ইমপোর্ট ব্যাংক
BANK অব বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড
পরীয়াহ ভিত্তিক ইসলামী ব্যাংক

সফটওয়্যার আপগ্রেডেশনের জন্য
ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম সাময়িক বন্ধের জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এক্সপোর্ট ইমপোর্ট ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, কোর ব্যাংকিং সফটওয়্যার আপগ্রেডেশনের জন্য আগামী ২৮ এপ্রিল ২০২২ বৃহস্পতিবার রাত ৮টা থেকে ৫ মে ২০২২ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১০টা পর্যন্ত এক্সিম ব্যাংকের সকল শাখা, উপশাখা, এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং আউটলেট ও এটিএম বুথে সব ধরনের ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম বন্ধ থাকবে। তবে ক্রেডিট কার্ড ও প্রিপেইড কার্ড দিয়ে অন্য ব্যাংকের এটিএম বুথ থেকে টাকা উত্তোলন ও পজ (POS) মেশিনের মাধ্যমে পেমেন্ট করা যাবে।

গ্রাহকদের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত এবং উভূত পরিস্থিতিতে আপনাদের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করছি।

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BB to give Lanka another year to repay \$200m

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank is set to give Sri Lanka another year to repay the \$200 million loan as it looks to lend a helping hand to the island nation, which is going through its worst debt and economic crises.

The development comes after the Sri Lankan government requested more time to return the \$200 million it took in exchange for an equivalent amount of Sri Lankan rupees in August last year, said a top official of the BB on condition of anonymity.

As per the currency swap agreement, the amount was due next month.

On April 13, Sri Lanka announced defaulting on its entire \$51 billion of external debt until a bailout from the International Monetary Fund comes through. The assistance from the IMF is yet to be worked out.

Given the acute foreign exchange scarcity that the island nation of 22 million is facing – which has left the government unable to import basics including food and medicine – the BB has decided to agree to the deferral.

“Besides, Sri Lanka is making regular interest payments,” the official said.

As per the agreement with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh was supposed to receive an interest payment of LIBOR + 2 percent if the amount was returned in three months.

LIBOR, the acronym for London Interbank Offer Rate, is the global reference rate for unsecured short-term borrowing in the interbank market as a benchmark for short-term interest rates. The three-month LIBOR averaged around 0.53 percent in 2021.

Had Sri Lanka paid back in six months, the interest amount would have been LIBOR + 2.5 percent.

Since Sri Lanka failed to return the dollars in time, it has assumed a higher interest rate.

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves stand at about \$44 billion, enough to cover six months' import bills.

Iran urges new nuke meet ‘as soon as possible’

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday called for a new meeting “as soon as possible” in the talks that have been held in Vienna aimed at restoring its frayed 2015 nuclear deal with major powers.

Tehran has been engaged in negotiations with Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia directly and the United States indirectly to revive the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).



A government vehicle, flying the national flag, takes the wrong side of Hare Road in the capital to avoid gridlock. A number of other vehicles took advantage of this and follow it. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Macron vows to unite France after win

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday sought to unite a deeply divided nation after winning re-election in a battle against rival Marine Le Pen that saw the far right come its closest yet to taking power.

Centrist Macron won 58.54 percent of the vote in the second-round run-off compared with 41.46 for Le Pen, according to final results from the interior ministry.

Macron is the first French president in two decades to win a second term and his victory prompted a sigh of relief throughout Europe that the far right had again been thwarted from taking power in the key EU state.

The president already has a daunting in-tray, ranging from preparing for parliamentary elections as soon as June to implementing

explosive pension reform plans and dealing with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Addressing supporters in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower late Sunday, Macron vowed to heal rifts in a deeply divided country.

“From now on, I am not the candidate of one camp, but everybody’s president,” he said.

“An answer must be found to the anger and disagreements that led many of our compatriots to vote for the extreme right.”

Turnout was the lowest in any presidential election since 1969 and, in another striking sign of disenchantment with politics, 8.6 percent of people who voted either delivered a blank ballot or spoil their papers.

The 44-year-old president now faces the challenge of parliamentary elections in June, where keeping a majority will be critical for his ambitions.

In a sign of roadblocks ahead, two polls published late Sunday showed that most voters do not wish for him to also carry the parliamentary vote.

“Macron’s biggest challenge will be to create a sense of cohesion in an extremely fragmented country,” said Tara Varma, senior policy fellow and head of the Paris office of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

Macron’s re-election sparked relief across Europe where he has been seen as a guarantor of continuity.

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi called Macron’s victory “great news for all of Europe” while German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said French voters “sent a strong vote of confidence in Europe today”.

European Council president Charles Michel said the bloc could now “count on France for five more years” while European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said she was “delighted”.

The praise was echoed by other world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.



Hunt for Emon, Kaiyum on

FROM PAGE 1

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

The footage and the photos show Nahid lying still in front of Nur Jahan Super Market and then a young man in a black helmet started hacking him indiscriminately with a machete.

The man in the black helmet was identified as Emon, a second-year student of Bangla at Dhaka College.

He is a supporter of Dhaka College Chhatra League leader Samad Azad Julfikar. The footage showed Kaiyum in a blue t-shirt with white stripes. He hit Nahid first.

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

Our Dhaka University correspondent, who visited room 101, Emon’s room, found it padlocked from outside and one of the windows broken. Through the window, the correspondent yesterday saw large iron rods, like

the ones used during the clashes. The four beds were in a state of disarray, with some mattresses overturned and clothes strewn about haphazardly.

There were no students to be seen when the correspondent visited eight hostels of the campus yesterday afternoon, and most of the collapsible entrance gates to the residential buildings were closed. Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at an event yesterday said legal action must be taken against those who will be identified from video footage of the clashes.

“For instance, well number 9 of the Rashidpur gas field [in Habiganj] has been ready for extraction since 2016, but it is yet to go into operation.”

Criticising the government for not extracting all from Bhola and Chhatak East gas fields, Shamsul said the current government has “no achievement in exploration. We are reaping the fruits of explorations of 1996”.

Prof Badrul Imam, former teacher of geology at Dhaka University, said production at every gas field starts to decline after hitting the peak. “For most of the fields, we are going through that period when production goes down...”

A lot of gas is yet to be discovered, he added.

“The authorities drilled only 28 exploratory wells in the last 20 years, which is a ridiculously small number for a country with high hydrocarbon potential.

“We hit gas in every three wells drilled when the global average is five. We have at least 40 abandoned wells. If we can invest in overhauling them, we can produce gas and save money by not importing LNG.”

He said the government should take up a priority project in this regard.

Two international surveys found 32 TCF and 42 TCF gas under the plains of Bangladesh, he said,

Gas reserves drying up

FROM PAGE 1

Prof Shamsul Alam said the government has been more focused on importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) than on investing in exploration.

“It seems we don’t want to explore our gas reserves. It seems we want to overcome our gas crisis by importing LNG at high prices,” he said.

“For instance, well number 9 of the Rashidpur gas field [in Habiganj] has been ready for extraction since 2016, but it is yet to go into operation.”

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Two international surveys found 32 TCF and 42 TCF gas under the plains of Bangladesh, he said,

adding that to find those reserves, the government needs to explore aggressively.

“Our tendency is to look for things that we can find easily. We are not conducting the second phase exploration,” he added.

Contacted, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, said exploration is a regular job of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd of Petrobangla.

“We have a proper plan on drilling wells.”

On the claim that the government prefers import to exploration, he said, “We could ask those making such comments to get involved in the drilling process, if needed.

“If we drill today, we will not get gas tomorrow. It will take time. But our

national demand for gas is galloping. To meet the growing demand, we are left with no other option but to import LNG.”

OFFSHORE EXPLORATION

No comprehensive programme for offshore exploration had been taken up since such exploration began in 1974, experts pointed out.

The Daily Star found that the authorities failed to have a multi-client survey done even though Petrobangla initiated the process in 2015.

Officials and experts said the multi-client survey is a key study for finding reservoirs.

In 2015, Petrobangla floated a tender for conducting the multi-client survey but the energy ministry cancelled it.

A fresh tender was floated the next year.

On both occasions,

a joint consortium of Norway’s TGS and the USA’s Schlumberger won.

The work order, however, was issued three years later.

The survey was supposed to start in November last year, but it had not.

Prime Minister’s Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury recently claimed that deep-sea exploration would not be possible as the world was moving away from fossil fuels.

But experts said the authorities were just not following the proper procedures.

“It’s like a conspiracy against the country. We started the procedure in 2014-15, but why has the job not been done yet?” said Prof Badrul.

Nasrul Hamid said, “We need at least another 10 years to know how much gas there is under the sea.”

19-yr-old held for ‘hurting religious sentiments’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was arrested in Kishoreganj early yesterday on charge of hurting religious sentiments.

Ahan Chandra Das, 19, hails from Maskanda area of Mymensingh’s Tarakanda upazila, said Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge (OC) of Tarakanda Police Station.

Ahan made a derogatory comment under a Facebook post that hurt religious sentiments. He went into hiding after the comment went viral, the OC said.

A case was being filed against him, he also said.

1 dead in boiler blast at rice mill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and two others injured after a boiler at a rice mill exploded in Rajbari Sadar’s Gouripur area yesterday.

The deceased was Ismail Sheikh, 23, son of Felu Sheikh of the district’s Goalanda upazila.

“A boiler at Mollik Auto Rice Mill suddenly exploded around 9:30am, leaving Ismail dead on the spot and two others injured,” Sahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rajbari Sadar Police Station, said quoting locals.

Police sent the injured to Faridpur Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital. Police also sent Ismail’s body to Rajbari General Hospital for autopsy.

The OC said the accident may have taken place due to excessive pressure in the boiler. The owner of the mill went into hiding soon after the incident.

No case was filed till 4:30pm yesterday.

Body of a 9-year-old recovered 44 hours after he went missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police yesterday recovered the body of 9-year-old Jihad, around 44 hours after he had gone missing on Saturday while bathing in the Lohalia river in Patuakhali’s Dumki upazila.

The body was found floating in the Chargarabadi ferry ghat area around 8:30am, said police and locals.

Jihad was the son of Mintu Mira of Jihad Muradia Union and a student of class four in Char Boyra Secondary School.

Police recovered the body and brought it to Dumki Police Station, said Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge (OC) of the station. Further legal action is being taken.

Around 1:00pm on Saturday, Jihad along with five of his friends went to bathe in the Lohalia river and was swept away by the current. For two days, fire service divers had been conducting rescue operations in the river.

‘Do good without expectations’

Bidyanondo founder Kishore Kumar Das talks with Star about his journey

SHARIFUL HASAN

Bidyanondo Foundation has so far served millions of people, and in the process, touched their hearts with its activities. To honour its contributions, Queen Elizabeth II of the UK has recognised its founder Kishore Kumar Das with the Commonwealth Points of Light award.

However, Kishore doesn’t think the award should change anything; the organisation wants to continue its work as usual.

Kishore, aged 40, set up Bidyanondo in 2013 and has improved access to education for over 1,200 children from marginalised backgrounds, said UK High Commission in Bangladesh in a statement on Friday.

The founder, who is currently living in Peru, was contacted over the internet for an interview with The Daily Star about the award. He talked about his thoughts, values and volunteer work among other subjects.

Asked about his reaction after getting the award,

Kishore said while the award is nice, the work should speak for itself. “We always see that those who do charity or similar work, regardless of whether it benefits the people, the organisers become rich and famous. Many apply for recognition or rewards... We have never applied for these; we did not go anywhere for any prize. We just did our work,” he explained.

Then what is it that really matters? He said each of their volunteers works for their own unique reasons. “My feeling is that I don’t think we have done much for people. We have to do more. So, let’s do it for the people.”

“Those who applaud me, I will ask them to tell their child to do something for the people. This value must be incorporated in all matters, from schooling and family relations to education policy-making.”



KISHORE KUMAR DAS
Founder of Bidyanondo



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

Kishore, a computer-science graduate from Cuat, established the organisation with the slogan “Read, Play, Learn” to provide opportunities for disadvantaged children to study. They are known for giving out many of its services for a token price of Tk 1, a practice intended to avoid the stigma of accepting charity.

But what was the spark that started it all? Kishore said one day, he talked to his sister, Sripa Das, about doing something for others. “Encouraged by my sister, we started teaching five children in Narayanganj. Then, I saw new problems emerging. We started working on solving those. And this led to many new initiatives.”

Many people from different countries are now involved with Bidyanondo. Kishore always says volunteers are the organisation’s strength, but where do volunteers get the strength from?

Kishore replied, “I think education and values are vital. We, all the volunteers, discuss values. There is no fear of losing out if you do something without any expectation.”

Regarding future plans for the organisation, he said they don’t think much about the future, because thinking about these means saving money for a distant time. “We don’t want to do that. From the beginning, we wanted to spend money immediately; donors like that. But in the future, I want everyone to live in peace together. Charities don’t solve the main problems. We want to show that we all have to live in harmony.”

Talking about crises plaguing the society, Kishore said, “I will not blame or say anything to the young generation, I will blame policymakers. I studied engineering. How much were we taught about ethical values? Did our education system address this?”

“Those who applaud me, I will ask them to tell their child to do something for the people. This value must be incorporated in all matters, from schooling and family relations to education policy-making,” he added.

“None of us should think we are superior... You see, there is enough food and resources in the world,” he said. All people need is taking care of others and living with the right values, he added.

Shariful Hasan is a freelance journalist writing for The Daily Star



Like many who are planning to spend Eid vacation with their loved ones, this mother and her child came to Kamalapur Railway Station on Sunday night to purchase tickets for Nilphamari. However, after waiting the whole night, they couldn’t even reach the counter because of the never-ending queue. When this photojournalist took this photo around 6:00am yesterday, the two were seen dozing off, tired from all the waiting.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Lack of knowledge, poverty key barriers

Says icddr,b report on consuming fortified food



Speakers at the roundtable on “Food Fortification towards Sustainable Nutrition Security”, jointly organised by CARE Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO) and The Daily Star, held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poor household income and lack of knowledge are among the reasons hindering people’s choice to consume fortified food in parts of Rangpur and Nilphamari districts, according to a report of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

The report was shared yesterday during a discussion on “Food Fortification towards Sustainable Nutrition Security” jointly organised by CARE Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO) and The Daily Star held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

The icddr,b research was conducted under ESDO’s project “Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome”, funded by European Union and Austrian Development Cooperation.

Food fortification has received worldwide recognition for its potential to address the issue of micronutrient deficiency as one of the most cost-effective strategies to increase the regular consumption of micronutrients, the report says.

One of the health consequences of micronutrient deficiency is anemia, caused by iron deficiency, and remains one of the biggest public health concerns in Bangladesh, it says.

Food fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of one or more micronutrients (i.e., vitamins and minerals) in a food or condiment to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health, according to the WHO.

The report says 37 percent of respondents had faced difficulty in buying fortified food and 40 percent had not been able to buy fortified foods.

The most common reason mentioned for not being able to buy fortified food during Covid-19 was decrease in income (97 percent), it says.

It adds that only 41 percent of respondents had heard about fortified food, and among them, 52 percent did not know the process of food fortification.

Less than half of respondents (48.9 percent) were using other fortified food in addition to iodised salt. Almost all the respondents knowingly consumed iodised salt and knew that packaged salts are iodised, it says.

It recommended that although the target population comprises pregnant and lactating women and adolescents, husbands and household heads should also be informed of micronutrient deficiencies and ways to address it.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Strengthening partnership on green transition

Bangladesh, Denmark sign framework document

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Denmark yesterday agreed to strengthen partnership on climate and green transition, as Bangladesh aims to get 40 percent power from renewable energy by 2041.

It is just 3.5 percent now.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Flemming Moller Mortensen signed Sustainable and Green Framework Engagement document at a city hotel towards this end.

Denmark is the first country to enter into a “framework engagement” with Bangladesh. Under it, Denmark will provide knowledge and technology towards attaining a sustainable and greener future for Bangladesh, said a joint statement.

This development takes place when Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth of Denmark is on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. She is scheduled to go to Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar and climate vulnerable communities in Satkhira.

“Denmark would support Bangladesh to check environmental degradation in Cox’s Bazar caused by huge influx of Rohingyas from Myanmar,” Momen told reporters after a meeting with the Danish minister.

“Denmark has expertise in renewable energy, especially in wind power. They will oversee the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



From Left, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Flemming Moller Mortensen, Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth of Denmark and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at the signing ceremony yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PMO DOCUMENT FORGERY

ACC approves charges against 8

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved the charge sheet against eight people, including North South University treasurer Mohammad Shahjahan and former treasurer of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) Air Commodore (retd) Robiul Awal, for document forgery at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).

As the allegations fall under the jurisdiction of the ACC, the commission’s deputy director Farid Ahmed Patwary filed a case against the eight after a Dhaka court ordered the ACC to probe into the case lodged over forgery, deputy director of ACC public

relations office Muhammad Arif Sadeq told the news agency.

Earlier, police filed the charge sheet against six persons. The accused were former Central Chhatra League vice president Tariqul Islam Momin, PMO staff Fatema Khatun, Nazim Uddin, Rubel, North South University student Forhad Hossain and former treasurer of Bangladesh University of Professionals’ Air Commodore (retd) M Abdus Salam Azad.

Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, director-7 of PMO, filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station.

According to the case, a document with the prime minister’s decision on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATC)
European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) & Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Part 147 Approved Maintenance Training Organization

Add wings to your dream

Bangladesh Airlines Training Center (BATC) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines is the only EASA Part-147 approved Aircraft Maintenance Training Organization in Bangladesh. This training centre is also approved by Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh as CAAB Part 147 organization for conducting aircraft maintenance engineering courses. Under the privileges of EASA Part-147 and CAAB Part 147 approval, BATC is offering the basic training course for Aircraft Maintenance Engineering on

➔ **Category B2 (Avionics)**

➔ **Prospectus, application form and details of admission circular are available in** www.batc.ac.bd

Admission for EASA & CAAB Part 147 approved B2 Basic Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Training Course

Cumilla city polls on June 15

135 UPs, six municipalities will go to polls the same day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polls to the Cumilla City Corporation will be held on June 15 as the Election Commission announced the schedule yesterday.

The EC expects that all parties would participate in the election, which will be the first major polls under the new EC, led by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal.

EC secretary Humayun Kabir Khandaker announced the schedule after a meeting chaired by the CEC held at the EC office.

According to the schedule, the last date for submitting nomination papers is May 17, the deadline for evaluating nomination papers is May 19, and the last date for withdrawing candidature is May 26.

A total of 135 union parishads and six municipalities across the country will also go for polls on June 15 and they would also follow same schedule. Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) will be used in all the elections, said Humayun.

When asked, what will be EC's strategy if a major political party

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 26					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-09	12-45	4-45	6-29	8-00	
JAMAAT 4-19	1-15	5-00	6-39	8-30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IFAR TIMING					
RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFAR		
24	26		6:29		
25	27	4:03	6:29		
26	28	4:02	6:29		



At least one family is using the bridge, as it has been running a shop there for the last decade. It even built a ramp where the bridge was supposed to connect to the path.

PHOTO: STAR

A shop in the middle of a bridge!

MINTU DESHWARA

In Mouvibazar's South Gangul village, a bridge remains unused by residents for almost two decades, because one family objected to building the connecting path on its land.

Well, not completely unused.

One of the family members has been running a shop in the middle of that very bridge for 10 years. They even built a bamboo ramp where authorities were supposed to connect the bridge to the road, for people to go up to the shop.

In doing so, they have violated government rules, and about 300 families have been deprived of a helpful initiative.

According to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), about 18 years ago, the then government took on various development projects by declaring the village of Barlekha upazila an ideal village.

LGED built the bridge, spending Tk 5 lakh.

LGED built the bridge, spending Tk 5 lakh. After construction was completed, however, the bridge could not be used by locals, as brothers Gafur Ali and Haru Mia objected to filling the soil at the bridge's junction.

After construction was completed, however, the bridge could not be used by locals, as brothers Gafur Ali and Haru Mia objected to filling the soil at the bridge's junction, according to former UP member Iqbal Hossain.

Arman Aman, a resident of the village, said the bridge has not been of any use for almost 18 years, as authorities could not fill the soil on both sides.

Another resident Safiq Ahmed said the path there is usually submerged for six to seven months in a year. Then people and students are forced to walk a long distance to cross the area. This bridge was meant to solve this problem.

Weirdly enough, Zainul Islam, Gafur's nephew, has been doing business on the bridge for a decade, said resident Saidul Islam.

They urged authorities concerned to take steps to evict the occupants and make the bridge suitable for movement.

Contacted, Zainul said some of their land

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

None can influence next polls

Agri minister tells event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Agriculture Minister and Awami League presidium member Md Abdur Razzaque yesterday said no power or conspirator can influence the 2023 national election.

"This election will be fair, beautiful and neutral through the participation of all," he said.

The minister made the remarks after visiting Sheikh Hasina Medical College and Hospital in Tangail.

He said Awami League is a democratic party and it will practice democracy in the next elections as well.

"We hope that no matter how strong the international community

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Toxic smoke from brick kilns damages crops

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Farmers of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila and Kurigram's Chilmari upazila are worried about their future.

The paddy, fruit trees, bamboo clusters and betel nut trees that they've nurtured over months have been damaged due to toxic smoke from nearby brick kilns.

The aggrieved farmers have already written to the upazila administration and agriculture department to remove brick kilns, but to no avail.

They alleged that 350 bighas of land at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila and 50 bighas of land at Balabari Kisamatbanu village of Chilmari upazila in Kurigram have dried out and turned sterile due to the smoke emitted from Two Star Bricks of Lalmonirhat and Wares Bricks of Chilmari.

"I've lost 15 acres of paddy due to the brick kilns this year. No one protests against the brick kiln owners as they're quite influential," said farmer Abu Bakkar (65) of Karnapur village.

Habibur Rahman, Mogholhat union parishad chair in Lalmonirhat, said he has already talked to the brick kiln owner about the matter, but did not receive any response yet.

"We've been demanding compensation but the owners aren't paying any heed to us," said Golap Uddin (55), another farmer from Chilmari, whose three acres of his boro paddy got fully damaged, allegedly due to the toxic smoke from Wares Brick Kiln.

Contacted, Two Star Brick Kilns' owner Selim Haidar in Lalmonirhat and Wares Brick Kiln owner Wares Ali said if the crops got damaged due to toxic smoke from brick kilns, the affected farmers would be given compensation.

Shamim Ashraf, the deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, affirmed that the brick kilns are responsible for the crop damage.

The DAE officials visited the spot and submitted a report to the upazila administration, he added.


Mahmuda Masum, Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila UNO and Mahbubur Rahman, Chilmari upazila

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

Paddy plants dry out and turn sterile due to the impact of toxic smoke emitted from a brick kiln at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.



রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

২০২১-২০২২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি আবেদনের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মেসো নং এ-৪৪০-৪/২-১ (২০২১-২০২২) তারিখঃ ২৪/০৪/২০২২

১। (ক) ২০২১-২০২২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তির আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদনকারীকে রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট <http://admission.ru.ac.bd> এ প্রকাশিত নিয়মাবলী অনুসরণ করে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটে অনলাইনে প্রাথমিক আবেদন করতে হবে। ২৪/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২টা থেকে ০৬/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ রাত ১২টা পর্যন্ত প্রাথমিক আবেদন করা যাবে।

(খ) প্রাথমিক আবেদনকারীদের মধ্য থেকে এইচএসসি/সম্মান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে প্রতিটি ইউনিটে বিশেষ কোটাসহ সর্বোচ্চ ৭২,০০০/- (ষাটহাজার হাজার) আবেদনকারী ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ পাবে। চূড়ান্ত আবেদনের সময়সীমাঃ ১৫/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২টা থেকে ২৮/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ রাত ১২টা পর্যন্ত।

(গ) আবেদনকারীকে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটের ভর্তির পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ২৫, ২৬ ও ২৭ জুলাই ২০২২ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষার কটিন যথাসময়ে প্রকাশিত হবে। চার শিফটে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবেঃ

(১) সকাল ৯:০০ থেকে ১০:০০টা পর্যন্ত, (২) বেলা ১১টা থেকে ১২টা পর্যন্ত, (৩) দুপুর ১:০০টা থেকে ২:০০টা পর্যন্ত এবং (৪) বিকেল ৩:৩০টা থেকে ৪:৩০টা পর্যন্ত।

২। ভর্তি আবেদনের বোধ্যতাঃ

(১) ২০২০ ও ২০২১ সালের এইচএসসি/সম্মান, ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-কমার্স, বিএফএ (গ্রাড), বাংলাদেশ কারিগরী শিক্ষা বোর্ডের অধীনে এডভান্সড (ডকুমেন্টার), A সেভেল এবং অন্যান্য সম্মান পরীক্ষায় [এইচএসসি/সম্মান নির্ধারণী কমিটি কর্তৃক অনুমোদন সাপেক্ষে] উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীরাই কেবল ভর্তি পরীক্ষার জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে। সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে ও উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবে না। কেবল বিএফএ (গ্রাড) ডিপ্লোমাস্ত শিক্ষার্থীদের ফলাফল এখনও সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে হওয়ায় তাদের আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে, তবে তাদের মার্কশিট/সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে।

কারিগরী শিক্ষা বোর্ডের অধীন কারিগরী শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ হতে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পাস করা শিক্ষার্থীরাও সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটে আবেদন করতে পারবে তবে তাদের গ্রাউ জিপিএ ৭.০০ ছেলে নির্ধারিত হবে।

(ii) মানবিক শাখা থেকে উত্তীর্ণ আবেদনকারীদের এসএসসি/সম্মান ও এইচএসসি/সম্মান উভয় পরীক্ষায় (৪র্থ বিষয়সহ) নূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০ সহ মোট জিপিএ ৭.০০ পেতে হবে।

বাণিজ্য শাখা থেকে উত্তীর্ণ আবেদনকারীদের এসএসসি/সম্মান ও এইচএসসি/সম্মান উভয় পরীক্ষায় (৪র্থ বিষয়সহ) নূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ সহ মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০ পেতে হবে।

বিজ্ঞান শাখা থেকে উত্তীর্ণ আবেদনকারীদের এসএসসি/সম্মান ও এইচএসসি/সম্মান উভয় পরীক্ষায় (৪র্থ বিষয়সহ) নূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ সহ মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০ পেতে হবে।

জিপিএ O সেভেল পরীক্ষায় ৫টি বিষয়ে এবং A সেভেল পরীক্ষায় অন্তত ২টি বিষয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে এবং উভয় সেভেলে মোট ৭টি বিষয়ের মধ্যে ৪টি বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে B গ্রেড এবং ৩টি বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে C গ্রেড পেতে হবে। O সেভেল, A সেভেল এবং ইংলিশ জার্নাল (ম্যাসনাল কারিকুলাম) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ আবেদনকারীদের গ্রাউ প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে ইংরেজিতে অনুবাদ করা হবে।

ইংরেজি গ্রন্থপুস্তকে পরীক্ষা দিতে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার চূড়ান্ত আবেদনকালে অবশ্যই অনলাইনে ইংরেজি গ্রন্থপুস্তকের জন্য অতিরিক্ত ফরম পূরণ করতে হবে। অন্যান্য ইংরেজি গ্রন্থপুস্তক সরবরাহ করা হবে না।

এইচএসসি ২০২১ পরীক্ষায় বোর্ড কর্তৃক যে পাঠ্যসূচী অনুসরণ করা হয়েছে তার আলোকে ২০২১-২০২২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

মানবিক, বাণিজ্য ও বিজ্ঞান শাখা হতে ২০২০ ও ২০২১ সালের এইচএসসি/সম্মান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীরা A, B ও C তিনটি ইউনিটেই যোগ্যতা অনুযায়ী আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদনকারী যে ইউনিটেই আবেদন করুক না কেন সে যে শাখা থেকে এইচএসসি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছে সে শাখার জন্য নির্ধারিত বোধ্যতা তার ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।

১০০ নম্বরের MCQ গছতিতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। পরীক্ষার সময় হবে ১ (এক) ঘণ্টা। পরীক্ষায় প্রতিটি ইউনিটে ৮০টি প্রশ্ন থাকবে। পরীক্ষায় নেগেটিভ মার্কিং প্রযোজ্য হবে। ৫টি ভুলের জন্য ১ (এক) নম্বর কাটা যাবে। পরীক্ষায় পাস নম্বর ৪০। এছাড়া ইউনিট/বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্ত প্রযোজ্য হবে। অনলাইনে প্রশ্ন নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী বিশেষ কেটোর প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করতে হবে।

এক বা অধিক ইউনিটে প্রাথমিক আবেদন ফি ৫৫ টাকা। যারা ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ পাবে কেবলমাত্র তারাই নির্ধারিত ইউনিটেসে ফি জমা দিবে।

A (মানবিক), B (বাণিজ্য) ও C (বিজ্ঞান) এই তিনটি ইউনিটে প্রতিটির জন্য চূড়ান্ত আবেদন ফি ১০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা ১০% বার্ষিক চার্জ ১০০ টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ১১০০ (এক হাজার একশত) টাকা।

ইউনিট/বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্ত, অনলাইনে আবেদন পদ্ধতি, ভর্তি পরীক্ষার কটিন ও প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী যথাসময়ে রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ওয়েবসাইট <http://admission.ru.ac.bd> এ প্রকাশিত হবে।

পরীক্ষার হলে কোন ধরনের ইলেকট্রনিক ডিভাইস, যেমন- মোবাইল ফোন, ক্যালকুলেটর, হেডফোন, মেমোরিযুক্ত খড়ি ইত্যাদি সঙ্গে রাখা যাবে না।

প্রফেসর মোঃ আবদুস সালাম
রেজিস্ট্রার
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-৮৩৫

Discard plans for lake on indigenous land: speakers



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The government has to immediately cancel the proposed excavation of agricultural land of ethnic minorities to create a lake in Tangail's Madhupur area, said speakers at a programme yesterday. Protesting the Forest Department's move, people from ethnic minority communities demonstrated at Dokhala.

The speakers said over 25,000 indigenous people have been protecting forest and biodiversity for a long time. However, the Forest Department, in the name of protecting forests, takes projects that harm the environment, they added, urging the authorities to stop the such initiatives. They said indigenous people have been living in the forest for generations, long before the forest department was established. The department has no right to destroy the agricultural land – their livelihood.


They also threatened tougher movement if their demand is not heard.

Among others, John Jetra, president of Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangathan; Alik Mre, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad; Mukul Daru on behalf of the land owners, and Tony Mathew Chiran, organising secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Jubo Forum, spoke at the rally.

Ajoy A Mre, former president of Joyenshahi Adivasi Unnoyon Parishad, chaired the event.

The Forest Department is set to excavate an artificial lake at Amtali in Madhupur National Park to attract tourists, despite objections from the local ethnic minorities who fear this would damage their livelihoods and culture.

The 800 feet by 200 feet lake will be dug on 12 bighas of land near a two-storey rest house, which is under construction, next to Dokhala Rest House, according to the Forest Department.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
আইসিটি সেল
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.mof.gov.bd

ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ে ১০(দশ)টি ল্যান্ডস্কেপ এবং ICT Accessories জরুরি লক্ষ্যে ন্যাশনাল ইজিপি সিস্টেম পোর্টালে (www.eprocure.gov.bd) নিম্নোক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছেঃ

ক্র. নং	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Package No.	মালিকানের বিবরণ	টেন্ডার আইডি
১	১৩.০০.০০০০.০২৫.৩২.০০২.২১.৭	০৪/২১	১০ (দশ)টি ল্যান্ডস্কেপ	৬৮৯২৭৪
২	১৩.০০.০০০০.০২৫.৩০.০০১.১৮.০৮	৫/২১	ICT Accessories	৬৮৯৭৭৮

ইহা একটি Online টেন্ডার, কোন হার্ড কপি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
প্রতিটি ক্ষেত্রে ১৫% ভ্যাট এবং ৩% আইটি কর্তন করা হবে।
ল্যান্ডস্কেপের ক্ষেত্রেঃ
দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৪ এপ্রিল ২০২২খ্রিঃ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা
দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১১ মে ২০২২খ্রিঃ, সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা।
ICT Accessories-এর ক্ষেত্রেঃ
দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৪ এপ্রিল ২০২২খ্রিঃ, সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা
দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১২ মে ২০২২খ্রিঃ, দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য বিজ্ঞপ্তির জানার জন্য ইজিপি সিস্টেম পোর্টালে (www.eprocure.gov.bd) এবং e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) ফোন নং-০১৯১৫৪৬২৩৭-৭ যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।
এছাড়া দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটেও দেখা যেতে পারে।

২৪-৪-২০২২
মোঃ কামরুজ্জামান
উপসচিব (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব), সেবা শাখা
খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

জিডি-৮৩২



“শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ, ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ”

নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

North-West Power Generation Company Limited

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

ইউটিসি ভবন (সেভেল ৩ ও ৪), ০৮, পাছপথ, কাওরানবাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫। ফোনঃ ৪৮১২২১৭-১৮

সূত্র নং-২৭.২৮.০০০০.৫০১.১১.৩০১.১৯.৪৯৯ তারিখঃ ১২ বৈশাখ ১৪২৯
২৫ এপ্রিল ২০২২

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধনী

নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড-এর নির্বাহী পরিচালক (পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন) পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত গত ১৩/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ “দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক” ও “The Daily Star” পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত আবেদনের সময়সীমা আগামী ১২/০৫/২০২২ তারিখ, বৃহস্পতিবার (বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা) পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করা হল।

মোঃ মামুনুর রহমান মন্ডল
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (মানবসম্পদ ও প্রশাসন)

নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

জিডি-৮৩৮

You can choose Sabila’s fate this Eid

Sabila Nur’s “Chol” will be the first ever interactive web-series in Bangladesh, where the audience will get to decide what happens to her character. She plays a drug addict in this series, which will be available on Bongo BOB.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Sabila Nur etched her way into the audiences’ hearts of audience by playing bubbly and charming characters on the small screen. As she grew as an actress, her range as an artiste also improved immensely. She was recently seen in the music video of Imran’s “Tomari Achi”, which has garnered immense views.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, Sabila talks about her upcoming Eid ventures, web series, and more.



Tell us about your experience working on your first music video. “Tomari Achi” is a beautiful love story, wonderfully voiced by Imran Mahmudul. Fans have been appreciating our work, and we are getting a lot of good response. Imran has this uncanny, alluring power in his voice.

We shot the entire music video within 2 days

around Dhaka, and its nearby areas. It was definitely a memorable experience for me.

What are your upcoming Eid projects? I have done a lot of projects this Eid, and most of them were with one of my favourite co-artist, Apurba *bhai*. Audiences will get to see us in Shihab Shaheen’s “Runu Bhai 2” and “Oghoton”, CMV’s “Digbazi”, Rubel Hasan’s “Priyo Kheyal Ey”, among others.

I will be also starring alongside Yash Rohan in Bongo BOB’s web-series “Chol”, which is Bangladesh’s first ever interactive web-series.

An interactive web series? How does that work?

The catch is, the audience can decide what will happen to my character, with the power of a click! We had a great time shooting for “Chol” in Mawa. It was amazing working with Yash Rohan, Antik Mahmud and Sayed Zaman Shawon.

I am playing the role of a drug addict, and the plot revolves around searching for my lookout.

Most of your Eid projects are with Apurba this year. What’s the secret to your on-screen popularity as a duo?

There is a sense of comfort and ease, working with him on projects. He is such a cooperative artiste, that its’ easy to channel our chemistry on-screen.

Audiences love our pairing and we are truly blessed that fans wants to see us more in Eid fictions and web-series.

No other web films this year? My last web-film was Ashfaq Nipun’s “Koshtoneer”, which was released in Hoichoi in 2021. After that, I got many offers, but there washardly anything that interested me.

I want to do roles that I haven’t done much on television, something that helps me evolve as an artiste.



Gal Gadot to sing and dance as Snow White’s Evil Queen

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Noted Hollywood actress Gal Gadot recently teased her singing and dancing scenes in the upcoming live-action adaptation of Disney’s “Snow White”.

Gadot is best known for her role as Wonder Woman, having led two standalone films with a third currently in its early stages of production with director Patty Jenkins. The star’s next big project will see her take on the role of the Evil Queen in Disney’s latest addition to their live-action line-up.

“Snow White” will also see “West Side Story” actress Rachel Zegler take on the film’s titular role, with the star recently revealing that director Marc Webb is dedicated to portraying a “hero-princess” for his daughter.



Karan Johar announces release date for ‘Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani’

Karan Johar’s next directorial, “Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani”, features Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt in the lead roles.

The upcoming film, which also stars Jaya Bachchan, Shabana Azmi and Dharmendra, is set to hit theatres next year on February 10.

Unveiling the release date, Johar posted a gorgeous photograph with the film’s lead stars on Instagram, and wrote a fun poem, praising the “Gully Boy” famed pair.

NEWS

There’s room

FROM PAGE 12

without an appointment letter, he said, adding that the owners will have to pay salaries, allowances and gratuities.

The act will empower journalists to take legal steps for illegal dismissals, he said, a section of owners do not want an act for the protection of journalists.

Immigration

FROM PAGE 12

Faridul Haque Khan yesterday at another programme announced that people aged above 65 won’t be able to perform hajj this year according to a decision of the Saudi government.

A total of 57,585 Bangladeshis are scheduled to perform hajj this year, to be held in early July. Of them, 4,000 will perform the rituals under government management while the rest under private management.

About 10 lakh people from across the world will be allowed to perform hajj in Saudi Arabia this year.

At the meeting yesterday, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh demanded the airfare for the pilgrims be fixed rationally. The airfare was not finalised in the meeting, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

Different other issues including announcement of hajj packages, hajj flight schedule, allotment of space to Saudi immigration authorities at HSIA, and issuance of air tickets through hajj agencies were discussed at the meeting.

Speaking there, the state minister for religious affairs said the authorities have to ensure a better hajj management by working with utmost sincerity.

State Minister for Civil Aviation Mahbub Ali and Biman Bangladesh Airlines Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal were present, among others.

Russia ‘failed’

FROM PAGE 12

said Moscow had sent a diplomatic note demanding a halt to US arms shipments to Ukraine.

Russia has consistently denied intending to overthrow Ukraine’s government. Western

countries say that was its objective from the outset but it failed in the face of Ukrainian resistance.

Just weeks ago, Kyiv was a frontline city under curfew and bombardment, with tens of thousands of Russian troops massing on its northern outskirts and

Police press on with construction

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela); Transparency International Bangladesh; Nijera Kari; Ain O Salish Kendra; Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust; Nagarik Udyog and Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi.

They also demanded that the government keep the Tentultala playground open to all and stop the construction of a police station there.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela, said, “Police could have arrested her [Ratna] after filing a case if they deemed that she had broken a law. Then things would have progressed according to a legal process...”

“But police cannot pick up anyone at will, and they certainly cannot detain her under-18 son and put him in lockup.”

Mentioning that police claimed that Ratna had created obstacles to a government work, Rizwana asked whether it’s a government work to construct a police station on a playground.

“Is detention of a woman and her under-18 son without following legal procedures a government work?”

“We do not think this is a government work. There is no scope for legalising illegal activities in the name of government work,” she stated.

Mubassar Hussain, vice president of Bapa, said, “Police are friends

of people, and if that’s the case, their first duty would be to protect the playground. But we are seeing a different picture.”

Tentultala has been used as a playground, Eidgah and a place for recreation. How can this place be turned into a police station? he asked.

Terming the police move a might-is-right attitude, Bapa Joint Secretary Iqbal Habib said detention of Ratna and her son for 13 hours without following any legal procedure is a violation of law and the country’s constitution.

Referring to the law for conservation of playground, open spaces, parks and water bodies, he said no one can change the characteristics of a playground. Since the place has been used as a playground for five decades, it would be illegal to change its characteristics.

Rights activist Khushi Kabir moderated the press conference.

On January 31, Dhaka Deputy Commissioner’s Office handed over the playground to Dhaka Metropolitan Police for constructing a building for Kalabagan Police Station. At present, a rented place on 30 North Road is being used as the police station.

Over the years, Tentultala playground, which covers one bigha of land, has been in use in multiple ways. It has been used as a playground,

residents sheltering from artillery in its metro stations.

Today, the nearest Russian troops are hundreds of miles away, normal life is returning to the capital, Western leaders have been visiting and countries are reopening their embassies.

Eidgah and a place for namaz-e-janaza.

Residents of the area refuse to give up hope of retaining the playground. For several months, they’ve been demonstrating with the demand to keep it as it is.

Yesterday afternoon, a rally was held at the playground, demanding steps so that locals can perform Eid jamaat there as in the previous years.

Meanwhile, 19 eminent citizens protested the detention of Ratna and her son.

They asked why a person has to be detained for staging protests, and said this type of barrier to freedom of speech is “bringing the country to a standstill”.

In a statement yesterday, they also protested the undertaking which police took from Ratna before releasing her, and demanded its scrapping.

They suggested that the authorities find an alternative place to construct the police station and keep the Tentultala playground as it is.

The signatories are Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury; Syed Hasan Imam; Anupam Sen; Ramendu Majumdar; Sarowar Ali; Ferdousi Majumdar; Abed Khan; Selina Hossain; Abdus Selim; Laila Hasan; Mohtul Haque; Mamunur Rashid; Muntassir Mamun; Nasiruddin Yusuf; Harun Habib; Shahriar Kabir; Sara Zaker; Shimul Yusuf and Shafi Ahmed.

Casino

FROM PAGE 12

is a former general secretary of Wanderers’ Club. They lost the posts after they were accused in the case in 2019.

Of the other convicts, Tuhin Munshi, Nabir Hossain Sikder, Saiful Islam and Abul Kalam Azad were present at the court while Shahidul, Rashidul, Merajul and Pavel Rahman were absconding.

Iqbal Hossain, lawyer of the convicts, said the verdict would be challenged at the High Court.

On September 24, 2019, Rab members raided the house of Enu’s employee Abul Kalam Azad and found Tk 2 crore in a vault.

Rab then filed a case with Wari Police Station over money laundering.

Enu and Rupon were arrested in Dhaka’s Keraniganj on January 13, 2020. According to law enforcers, they were planning to flee to Nepal using fake passports. They used to bring casino equipment from Nepal.

Ten witnesses testified against the accused during the trial.

At least 11 other cases against the two brothers remain pending at different courts.

Israel retaliates after projectile fired from Lebanon: IDF

AFP, Jerusalem

A projectile was fired from Lebanon into northern Israel, prompting a retaliation, the Israel Defense Forces said early yesterday.

The projectile fell in an open field near a kibbutz, Israel’s army said in a statement which made no mention of casualties.

TIB report on Covid baseless

FROM PAGE 12

watchdog published its research report titled “Governance Challenges in Tackling Covid-19 Crisis: Inclusion and Transparency”. The research found that the Covid vaccination programme cost the government Tk 12,993.16,721 crore, less than half the sum claimed by the health minister.

The minister on several occasions had said the cost was about Tk 40,000 crore.

Yesterday, he said, “There was a misunderstanding. Once I said that people of Bangladesh have received vaccine doses worth about Tk 40,000 crore. This doesn’t mean that the government spent Tk 40,000 crore. The government spent about Tk 20,000 crore, including transportation, storage, syringe, waste management and campaigning costs.

“Then what about the rest Tk 20,000 crore? We’ve added the value of 9.5 crore free vaccines worth about Tk 25,000 crore.... We’ve said that about Tk 40,000 crore was spent in total.”

Regarding the purchase of vaccines, the minister said the government took highest precautionary measures to ensure transparency in the vaccine procurement process.

“We bought vaccines from India. You know the price of it. Since we signed a non-disclosure paper, we are bound not to reveal the price of vaccines procured from China. I’m giving you a hint that the price would be close to the rate of vaccines procured from India.”

The minister said the TIB did an “intransparent job”.

“What saddened me most is that the report said 7.8 percent Covid patients

died without treatment. About 20 lakh people got the virus and about 1.5 percent of them died.... Had 7.8 percent people died, the death toll would have been 1.5 lakh.”

According to the TIB report, delayed services due to inadequate medical support caused deaths of 7.8 percent and increased complications of 11.6 percent of the total patients who sought service at hospitals.

Zahid said the study’s sample size was too small compared to the whole group.

He said Bangladesh is holding a prestigious position in the world in terms of Covid control and vaccination.

“We have administered 13 crore first doses of Covid vaccine, 11.60 crore second doses, and 1.19 crore booster doses,” the minister added.

Carriers’ duopoly over Hajj

FROM PAGE 12

congested religious sites.

Apart from Biman and Saudia, third carriers including Emirates, Gulf Air, Qatar Airways, Kuwait Airways, Yemen Air, Jet Airways, GMR Airlines (now defunct), Pakistan International Airlines, Flynas were allowed in Bangladesh until 2011 to fly pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, according to aviation sources.

In 2012, an agreement was signed between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. It said the national airlines of the two countries will be able to operate hajj flights, creating the scope for duopoly.

ATAP President SN Manzur Murshed told The Daily Star, “We are fed up with the way Biman and Saudia behave with different travel agencies during hajj operations. And this happened only

because of their duopoly. This must come to an end.”

ATAP and HAAB sources said India allows at least four of its airlines including Air India, Spice Jet, IndiGo and Air India Express and two from Saudi Arabia for hajj flights.

PIA and Shaheen Air from Pakistan, Lion Air and Garuda from Indonesia and four to five airlines from Malaysia can carry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

The ATAP president said the government should request the Saudi government so that it allows a third carrier for the betterment of hajjis.

“If a third carrier is allowed, the price of air tickets will reduce due to competitiveness in the market,” the ATAP president said.

HAAB boss Taslim said: “We have long been demanding a third carrier as Biman and Saudia

charge huge airfare from hajjis. Besides, the two airlines charge various other fees.”

For example, he said, if any hajj wants to change his travel date or if any travel agency wants to correct or change names of hajjis in case of death of hajjis or wants to replace hajjis, Biman charges at least \$300 for every case.

HAAB has sent letters to the religious affairs and civil aviation ministries to press home their demand for a third carrier.

Contacted, State Minister for Religious Affairs Faridul Haque Khan on Saturday said the government will sign the yearly agreement over operations related to the congregation with Saudi Arabia by early next month.

“After inking of that agreement, I will be able to speak on this issue,” he added.

India religious freedom worsens ‘significantly’ Says US panel

AFP, Washington

A US commission said yesterday that religious freedom has deteriorated “significantly” in India under the Hindu nationalist government as it again recommended targeted sanctions over abuses. It was the third straight year that the US Commission on International Religious Freedom asked that India be placed on a list of “countries of particular concern” -- a recommendation that has angered New Delhi and is virtually certain to be dismissed by the State Department.



In an annual report, the panel -- which is appointed to offer recommendations but does not set US policy -- voiced wide concern about South Asia and also backed the State Department's inclusion of Pakistan on the blacklist. In India, the commission pointed to “numerous” attacks on religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians, in 2021 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government promoted “its ideological vision of a Hindu state” through policies hostile to minorities. “Religious freedom conditions in India significantly worsened,” the report said. It pointed to a “culture of impunity for nationwide campaigns of threats and violence by mobs and vigilante groups” and arrests of journalists and human rights advocates.



‘Failed state’ Sri Lanka’s Buddhist leaders want gov’t to resign

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's beleaguered government yesterday faced new pressure to resign from influential Buddhist leaders over a crippling economic crisis, as the island nation's stock market halted trading after a nearly 13 percent plunge. The country's worst downturn since independence in 1948 has brought widespread hardships to its 22 million people, with months of regular blackouts and acute shortages of food and fuel. Yesterday was the first morning of trade on the Colombo bourse after a two-week break, during which the government imposed a record interest rate hike and defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt. But trading was halted after a frenzied market sell-off, and called off for the day entirely when a brief resumption failed to dampen the downward slide, with the local S&P index finishing 12.6 percent down. The latest market crash came as the country's most influential Buddhist clerics joined a growing list of former allies calling for the

government's resignation. “The country is fast becoming a failed state,” senior monk Medagama Dhammananda told reporters in the central city of Kandy.



Dhammananda said he and fellow Buddhist leaders had jointly petitioned President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to establish an interim government “to pull the country out of this crisis”. Such a move would require the resignation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa -- the president's brother and head of Sri Lanka's powerful ruling family. Gotabaya has faced similar calls to step down, with thousands of protesters camped outside his seafront office in Colombo for more than two

weeks. Before the crisis, both men were beloved by much of the country's Sinhalese Buddhist majority for bringing a decades-long ethnic civil war against the Tamil Tigers to a brutal end. Yesterday's rebuke from the Buddhist clergy is the latest public departure by formerly steadfast allies of the Rajapaksa clan. Recent weeks have seen the fracturing of the government's ruling coalition, along with business leaders and a former cabinet minister urging the Rajapaksas to resign. Sri Lanka's economic collapse began to be felt after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances. Utilities unable to pay for fuel imports have imposed lengthy daily blackouts to ration power, while long lines snake around service stations as people queue for petrol and kerosene. Hospitals are short of vital medicines, the government has appealed to citizens abroad for donations and record inflation has added to everyday hardships.

Greenpeace activists block tanker at Aasgaardstrand harbour of Norway from delivering Russian oil yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



SIPRI REPORT Global military spending hits all-time high

AFP, Stockholm

Global military spending rose again in 2021, setting new records as Russia continued to beef up its military prior to its invasion of Ukraine, researchers said yesterday, predicting the trend would continue in Europe in particular. Despite the economic fallout of the global Covid pandemic, countries around the world increased their arsenals, with global military spending rising by 0.7 percent last year, according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri). “In 2021 military spending rose for the seventh consecutive time to reach \$2.1 trillion. That is the highest figure we have ever had,” Diego Lopes da Silva, senior researcher at Sipri, told AFP. Russia's spending grew by 2.9 percent -- the third year of consecutive growth -- to \$65.9 billion.

Defence spending accounted for 4.1 percent of Russia's gross domestic product (GDP), “much higher than the world average”, and making Moscow the fifth largest spender in the world, Lopes da Silva said. On the other side, Ukraine's military spending has risen by 72 percent since the annexation of Crimea. While spending declined by over eight percent in 2021 to \$5.9 billion, it still accounted for 3.2 percent of Ukraine's GDP.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Govt Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sayedpur, Nilphamari
www.lqed.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7385.000.14.67.22-171

Date: 25/04/2022

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 05/2021-22 (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for 01 No. Package of EUCP Project, FY 2021-22 the procurement of following works.

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	671353	Package No. EUCPW-188 Construction of Upazila Parishad Administration Bhaban and Hall Room under Sayedpur Upazila, Nilphamari.	24-05-2022 17.00pm	25-05-2022 12.00pm	25-05-2022 12.00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to **24-May-2022, 17:00pm**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

M.M. Ali Reja Raju
Upazila Engineer
LGED, Sayedpur, Nilphamari
www.ue.sayedpur@lqed.gov.bd
Phone: 02589956913

GD-839

“Another task has come to the fore: to split Russian society and destroy Russia from within.” Vladimir Putin accuses West of ‘terror’

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়
ঢাকা

নং-১৯.০০.০০০০.১৫২.২৬.২৫৫.২০-

তারিখ : ২৬ এপ্রিল ২০২২ খ্রিঃ

বিষয় : পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের একেজো ঘোষিত ০৪টি সিডান কার নিলামে বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের একেজো ঘোষিত নিম্নে বর্ণিত ০৪টি নিশান সিডান কার সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্ত মোতাবেক ক্রয় করতে আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তিবর্গের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্রমিক নং	গাড়ীর নং	গাড়ীর ধরন ও মডেল নং	জামানতের পরিমাণ	গাড়ীর অবস্থান
০১।	ঢাকা মেট্রো থ-১২-৬২২৫	নিশান সিডান কার, মডেল ২০০৮	গাড়ী প্রতি টাকা ২০,০০০/-	পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।
০২।	ঢাকা মেট্রো থ-১২-৬২২৬	নিশান সিডান কার, মডেল ২০০৮		ঐ
০৩।	ঢাকা মেট্রো থ-১২-৮৫৮৪	নিশান সিডান কার, মডেল ২০০৯		ঐ
০৪।	ঢাকা মেট্রো থ-১২-৮৫৮৫	নিশান সিডান কার, মডেল ২০০৯		ঐ

দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ১৭/০৫/২০২২ ইং, বেলা ১২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

দরপত্র জমা নেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ১৮/০৫/২০২২ ইং, বিকেল ১৪ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

দরপত্র খোলার শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ১৮/০৫/২০২২ ইং, বিকেল ১৪ঃ৩০ ঘটিকা।

০২। দরপত্র দাখিলে আগ্রহীগণ পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের সাধারণ সেবা শাখা/নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হতে প্রতিটি গাড়ীর বিপরীতে আলাদাভাবে ১,০০০/০০ টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) বিনিময়ে সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে পারবেন এবং জমা দেয়ার শেষ সময় পর্যন্ত পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের সাধারণ সেবা শাখায় (কক্ষ নং-১০৫) রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাক্সে জমা দিতে পারবেন। পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ে রক্ষিত গাড়ীসমূহ যে কোন কার্যদিবসে সকাল ১০ঃ০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।

০৩। গৃহীত দরদাতাকে সোনালী ব্যাংকে ট্রেজারী চালানোর মাধ্যমে আর্থিক কোড-১-১৮০১-০০০১-২৬৮১-তে নির্ধারিত মূল্য এবং প্রযোজ্য গুণ্ড/কর পরিশোধের পর তা জমাপূর্বক পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে প্রাপ্ত গাড়ী নিয়ে যেতে হবে।

০৪। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(এস. এম. গোলাম সরওয়ার)
সহকারী সচিব (সাধারণ সেবা)
ফোন : ০২২২৩৩৮২৯৫৩

GD-837

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer (East)
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender Notice No. IFT/BR/CEE/E/2021-2022/WR07

Dated: 25.04.2022

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Description of work	Scheduled tender/proposal publication date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1.	690533	BR/CEE/E/2021-2022/WR07	Electrification of newly constructed 10th & 11th floor of Rail Bhaban with other ancillary works under SSAE/E/DA.	27-April-2022 09:00hrs.	02-Jun-2022 12.00hrs.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to one hour before tender last selling time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Ajoy Kumar Podder
Chief Electrical Engineer (East)
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

S(22)(110)
GD-843

Fundamental reforms of law enforcement needed

US sanctions on Rab are damaging our country’s image

THE US ambassador to Bangladesh has made it clear that without concrete actions and accountability on Bangladesh’s part, the US will not lift its sanctions on the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). Since the sanctions were imposed on December 10, 2021, top officials of our government have been saying that they are working to have them lifted. On what basis was the government negotiating with the US? From news reports, it appears that so far, we have taken a PR approach to this problem, rather than a substantive one.

Following the statements made by US government officials after the sanctions—and even before the sanctions were imposed—we have been highlighting the need to reform Rab. While the media has commended Rab for its performance in fighting terrorism, questions of human rights violations have also been raised repeatedly. And we have mentioned many times the importance of looking into these questions and answering them, rather than brushing them aside. Unfortunately, the government did not give enough importance to such recommendations.

The message from the US is clear. Instead of dilly-dallying with reforms and making requests here and there, the government should get into the serious business of reforming Rab, as well as all law enforcement agencies against whom allegations of violating the constitutional rights of the people have been raised. The time is more than right for there to be a fundamental reform of our law enforcement agencies and their operational methods. We have to reform the culture of taking people for remand and basically exposing them to physical and mental torture. We have to reform how political interests meddle in the way these vital institutions are run.

The law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh need to modernise their investigating methods. Instead of relying too much on remand, they should be trained to collect forensic evidence and follow other modern investigation procedures. Fair and independent investigations into allegations of various irregularities by the law enforcers are must-haves. Recently, we have seen incidents of custodial deaths resurface again. Last week, we saw how the prime accused in a journalist murder case was killed in a “gunfight” with Rab in Cumilla. We have to have a mechanism through which such extrajudicial incidents are properly looked into and prevented for good. Ensuring accountability at every step of the way is thus vital.

Asking for public open space is no crime

Arrest of Kalabagan mother, son is wrong on many levels

WHILE it’s not uncommon for open spaces to be encroached by influential people, the recent incident involving a playground in Dhaka’s Kalabagan area was indeed shocking. On Monday, Syeda Ratna, a local resident fighting for the preservation of the playground known as Tetultala, and her 17-year-old son were detained by police when they went live on Facebook capturing Kalabagan police building a wall on the playground. Police claimed the mother and son duo were arrested for “obstructing government work.” Although they were released about 12 hours later, Ratna had to sign a bond agreeing to “never do so again.”

Protests to save the playground, which has served local residents for 50 years, have been going on since January 31, when the Dhaka deputy commissioner’s office handed over the land to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to set up an establishment for Kalabagan police station. After the latest development, experts have rightfully questioned the legality of a minor boy being put in lock-up meant for adult men, especially when he had not even committed a juvenile offence. The outlandishness of the arrest aside, it’s also concerning that the authorities are so determined to deprive local children of the one playground they have in their area.

Reports say that it is officially “abandoned” land, and not listed with the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) as a playground. But while it makes sense for the DMP to decide to build a police station on abandoned land, why must it be one which is of so much use to locals, and has been for decades? The months of protest alone show how significant this land is for the community, especially given how public open spaces for children to play in are becoming rarer by the year. For instance, it has been over a decade since a five-acre plot along Mirpur Road was declared by the prime minister as a site for children with special needs to play, but we’re yet to hear of any progress on that front. Only a sign exists there, while the land is riddled with overgrown vegetation.

While the case of the Tetultala playground has been sparingly reported in the media over the last few months, the one positive outcome of the undue arrest of Ratna and her teenage son is that the issue has finally received the attention it deserves. We hope that the DSCC will heed the home minister’s instruction to find another location for Kalabagan police station, and that none of the demonstrators will be made to suffer for wanting to conserve a rare open space in this concrete jungle of ours.

We need a robust national emergency service



Naznin Titih is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

NAZNIN TITHI

AT a time when everyone is talking about making the national emergency helpline service more efficient—so that more people can get emergency help within the shortest possible time—we came across the news of a family in Dhaka’s Jatrabari area being tortured by police after seeking help by calling 999 (The Daily Star, April 17, 2022). The incident will, no doubt, discourage people from calling the helpline in case of an emergency. Although the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) suspended three police officials following the incident and recommended departmental action against the Ansar member involved, the episode has definitely put this emergency service’s efficacy under question.

We would like to believe that this was an isolated incident and does not represent the services provided by police in emergency situations in any way. However, the service is riddled with a host of problems that need to be addressed going forward.

The helpline, 999—a toll-free number which allows citizens in trouble to call and ask for help from police, fire service or ambulance service providers in case of any emergencies—was officially launched on December 12, 2017. Till January 31 this year, the helpline has received over 35.3 million calls. The number is impressive, but were all of these calls actually made seeking help from the service? The answer is no. According to the National Helpline Centre sources, around 67.44 percent of the calls made during this time were either blank calls, prank calls, missed calls, test calls or repeat calls.

Who are these people making these calls, creating unnecessary congestion in the system? According to the helpline operators, in most of the cases, these calls are made by adolescents. According to a female operator of the helpline, sometimes teenagers call and say, for instance, that there is a fire incident somewhere, which later turns out to be a hoax. According to a report in this daily, the helpline received around 164,000 calls made by adolescents in 2020, which rose to 235,000 calls last year. Reportedly, this is one of the biggest barriers in providing support to people in actual distress.

The question that comes next is: Did the remaining 32.56 percent of the callers receive any help from the service? The answer to this question is also a resounding no. Why? Because a majority of the callers did not have any clue about what types of services the



VISUAL: TEENT AND TUNI

The helpline, 999—a toll-free number which allows citizens in trouble to call and ask for help from police, fire service or ambulance service providers in case of any emergencies—was officially launched on December 12, 2017.

helpline actually provided. Reportedly, callers often complain about the price hike of essentials, seek information about Covid-19 vaccines or make random queries to solve problems with their mobile phones.

Moreover, female operators of the helpline often have to face abusive comments and questions from the callers,

to installing an automatic caller identification and location system, which can locate a caller’s exact address instantly and cut down the response time significantly. Why it has not been done yet, despite repeated assurances from the authorities, is anyone’s guess.

The helpline unit currently receives around 30,000 calls a day, which is

as reported by this daily.

The problems mentioned above have arisen mostly from the lack of awareness among people about the nature and sensitivity of the emergency helpline. It seems strange as to why the authorities have not been able to take the measures needed in more than four years of its operation to make people aware of the services available through the helpline. It should not have been difficult for them to educate the ordinary people about the importance of this life-saving service as the news and social media could have been utilised for the purpose.

Beside these problems, there are some other issues that impede upgrading the emergency helpline according to international standards. One of them is slow response time. Reportedly, while the average response time of the 999 unit in Bangladesh is about 20 minutes, it is only seven minutes in countries such as the US, the UK, and Japan. This is because the helpline’s operating system is outdated, and there is also a manpower crisis. Currently, everything—from pinpointing the locations of service-seekers, to communicating with the various service providers to finally assigning a team to help the callers—is done manually, which is not only time-consuming, but also makes the service inefficient.

Thus, to make the helpline more efficient, there is no alternative

difficult to attend with its existing manpower. While the unit needs to have the capacity to take at least 500 calls at a time, it currently has the capacity to take only 100 calls. Therefore, in order for the system to function smoothly, more manpower needs to be recruited for the service.

After the helpline was introduced in 2017, we came across several cases of successful intervention through its use. We came to know how police in Chattogram prevented a child marriage after receiving a call at 999 (The Daily Star, December 14, 2017). In another incident in 2018, a ferry carrying 300 passengers on the Padma River was saved from sinking as one of the passengers called 999 for help. The rescue operation that was carried out last year to save the lives of 13 fishermen who had been stranded at the Bay of Bengal for five days, is another such case.

The emergency helpline can actually make a big difference in a society like ours, as it can not only be used to save lives, but also to combat crimes. Just think about how we can bring the number of child marriages down to zero with only a call from any of us—the ordinary citizens. Therefore, the authorities concerned must give more effort into making the helpline a robust, efficient service that can help the citizens whenever needed.

Fresh Churn for the Muslims of Assam



Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for The Daily Star. He writes from New Delhi, India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

THE complex web of religious and linguistic fault lines in the northeastern state of Assam in India is once again set for fresh churn, with implications for the Muslim population there.

On April 22, 2022, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the state government had accepted the definition of “native Muslims of Assam”—a long-pending demand of indigenous Muslims—as recommended by cabinet sub-committees. In July last year, the state government had set up seven sub-committees to suggest measures and recommendations for the overall development of indigenous Muslims, whose mother tongue is Assamese and who are numerically much smaller than the “immigrant” Bangla-speaking Muslim population in the state. One of the sub-committees suggested recognition of “Assamese Muslims” as a distinct group. Among other suggestions by the committee was issuing identity cards as well as conducting a census to “identify and document” the Assamese Muslim community.

As per the last census in 2011, Muslims comprise 34.22 percent of Assam’s 31.2 million population. In real terms, there are an estimated 11.8 million Muslims in the state, of whom only about 4.2 million are “natives”—who are broadly known as Morias, Ujanis, Deshis, Julas and Poimalis—who either converted to Islam or were war prisoners during the Mughal conquest of Assam. While Deshis are

Is the cabinet sub-committee’s suggestion on “indigenous Muslims” practical? And will it solve the religious and linguistic issues confronting Assam?

13th-century converts from indigenous communities such as Koch Rajbongshi and Meche, Moriyas trace their origin to converts as well as soldiers and artisans who came to the region during the Ahom rule. Smaller groups like Julha Muslims also fall under this category. All these groups have always seen themselves as distinct from the Bangla-speaking Muslims who migrated from East Bengal and then Bangladesh.

Two crucial questions that arise are: Is the recommendation of the cabinet sub-committee on “indigenous Muslims” practical? And will it solve the religious and linguistic issues confronting Assam? The BJP-led government in Assam, led by Himanta Biswa Sarma, has its own political calculations.

Sarma said all the recommendations of the sub-committees were “implementable,” but in a calibrated manner within short, medium and long time frames. Then, as he pointed out, there would be “legislative mechanisms, administrative decisions and financial support” to indigenous Assamese Muslim groups, and increasing their representation in parliament and Assam legislative assembly. The committee also suggests the creation of legislative council (other than the existing legislative assembly) as per Article 169 of the Indian Constitution and reservation of a certain number of seats in it for the Assamese Muslim community.

Politics seems to have crept in when Sarma reportedly rooted for the definition of religious minorities on the basis of district-level demography. Citing the example of South Salmara Mankachar in western Assam, where Muslims account for nearly 95 percent of the population, he said, “Hindus can also be a minority in a particular state depending on the geographical situation, population pattern and threat perception.” It was not the first time Sarma talked about the “threat to Hindus in Assam.”

Analysts say that Assam’s Muslim-majority districts—Dhubri, Goalpara, Barpeta, Morigaon and Bongaigaon, Nagaon and Darrang, Hailakandi and Karimganj—have been a weak point for the BJP electorally. In the 2021 assembly elections, which saw the saffron party returning to power in Assam, out of the 49 assembly seats in the Muslim-majority districts, 29 were bagged by the Congress-All India Union Democratic Front alliance, and 12 by BJP. That must be a cause for worry for BJP, for whom making a deeper dent in these areas may not be easy.

The formal recognition of “indigenous Assamese Muslims” may not guarantee the kind of political dividend the BJP would like to look at, if the 2021 assembly poll results are anything to go by. It is possible that a majority of Muslims in Assam, irrespective of linguistic barriers (which are not as glaring as they seem), may remain a homogenous bloc when it comes to voting.

This is where Sarma’s idea of district-wise definition of religious minority comes into play, because it would give them access to the government’s social welfare schemes and financial assistance. BJP’s argument is that if a community is a majority in a state but not in a district, they miss out on government benefits. This is clearly directed at benefiting Hindus in a Muslim-dominated district. Hafiz Ahmed, who heads the Char Chapori Sahitya Parishad, the largest literary body representing the Bangla-speaking Muslims of Assam, recently said that one needed to assess the socio-economic status of minority groups, particularly in char (riverine) areas, where many Muslims of Bangla-speaking origin live and which have for long been backward. Any solution to the plight of Assamese Muslims, indigenous or of immigrant origin, needs a viable comprehensive socio-economic approach that transcends polarising politics.

Who are the helmet bahini?

And why we should worry about the future of student politics



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

A CLOSER LOOK

TASNEEM TAYEB

THEY come wearing helmets, brandishing machetes and sticks; they vandalise, they kill, and then they are gone, even beyond the long arms of the law. This could be an apt one-liner description of the notorious “helmet bahini,” who emerge to support politically-connected student activists fighting law enforcers, journalists, common protesters, and most recently the New Market shop owners and the unfortunate pedestrians who were entrapped in the bloodbath on April 19, in the New Market area.

One of the casualties of the recent bloody clashes between the students of Dhaka College and traders in the New Market area was 19-year-old Nahid Mia, a deliveryman for a computer shop in Elephant Road. His only fault: he happened to be at the wrong place, at the wrong time. A picture published by this daily shows Nahid lying motionless on the ground, while a “helmet bahini” goon donning a black helmet hacked at him with a machete. The graphic photo show at least nine other helmet-wearing men witnessing the macabre torture on Nahid that led to his death.

Finally adopting a proactive strategy, law enforcement officials have identified some of the attackers of Nahid. The man who had been seen hacking at Nahid has been primarily identified as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist, Zakir. According to a report published in this daily, a Dhaka College student named Kaiyum had initially hit Nahid. One of Zakir’s accomplices in a yellow helmet has been identified as Sujon Islam, a resident of Room 101 of the North Hall of the college.

Many of the other attackers have also been primarily identified, mostly associated with BCL in various capacities. BCL General Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee denied the involvement of



any activists from the student wing of the ruling party in Nahid’s murder, however. “We are sure that no Chhatra League man was involved in the killing,” this daily quoted Bhattacharjee as claiming. In the context of such confident denials, one feels unsure what to believe: concrete evidence revealing the killer’s identity or a responsible individual’s statement.

In this case, perhaps one might rest their hopes in the ability and neutrality of law enforcement officials to apprehend the criminals. The photos and videos that journalists have been able to capture during the clashes, along with the CCTV footage supply enough evidence to identify the culprits. However, this hope can only be measured and cautious, as in the past they resulted only in sheer disappointment.

The helmet bahini did not make its debut during the recent New Market clashes. Rather, their capacity to inflict violence featured prominently during the Road Safety Movement, swooping in on the protesting students (school students, who can be called children) and journalists, beating them up with brutal force, striking terror in the hearts of the

▲ The presence of ‘helmet bahini’ in protests and clashes in recent years have been prominent, including the clashes in Dhaka’s New Market area last week.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

witnesses. All the while, the police did little to stop them. Just like the police took two and half hours to intervene in the case of the New Market clashes.

It is interesting to note here that, although BCL denies even knowing the helmet bahini members who have been identified over the last few years, whenever the Awami League student front is in the field, it is the dreaded band of helmet-wearing miscreants that come to their aid, taking their side, beating up the opponents to disperse them. A similar situation also unfolded during the Quota Reform Movement, when innocent students were viciously attacked and beaten up by BCL activists at various campuses across the country, and it was the helmet bahini that unleashed their horror to aid the brutality of the BCL men.

While the BCL has from time to time disowned the helmet bahini activists—after all, who would want to take ownership of such a reckless, violent force?—the repeated interventions of the helmet bahini in BCL’s fights and in their favour raise the obvious question: Is the helmet bahini supporting BCL as an auxiliary but unacknowledged force? This

could be BCL’s new strategy. And this is also a convenient arrangement for BCL, since it does not look nice if their activists are seen attacking people in daylight.

And if this is indeed the case, it bodes ominous portents for the future of student politics in Bangladesh. One has to admit that student politics as the Bangladeshis have known since the early 1950s has changed over the decades. The nature of student politics today no longer reflects or pays any form of respect to its glorious legacy. The role that the students had played in the Language Movement and the Liberation War, and even in the restoration of democracy in the early 90s, is now confined to only history records.

Student politics is no longer about patriotism, justice or equity. Now it revolves around greed for money, lust for power and vested interests of various groups, which are not necessarily always political. And whether the BCL acknowledges helmet bahini activists as their associates or not, the fact that student politics has metamorphosed into an eternal cycle of violence cannot be denied. And the inability of the law enforcement agencies to bring these culprits to justice is aggrandising their already inflated egos. Has justice been served in the cases of the Road Safety Movement or the Quota Reform Movement? No. But had justice been served, the helmet bahini might not have resorted to such violence in the New Market clashes.

It is also high time the ruling party revisited the changed nature and strategy of its student political wing. Violence, oppression, intimidation and violation of law in the name of student politics cannot be allowed to continue. Also, the rotten elements should be plucked out from the BCL and tossed into the hands of the law enforcers, in order to restore the former ethos and values of this student body and overall student politics. Activists of today’s student politics are going to lead the political parties tomorrow; they will be the future leaders who will hold the reins of the nation. Therefore, we must be extra careful as to whom we are allowing to be part of student politics. We certainly do not want violent goons and henchmen to run the nation tomorrow. To prevent that, actions must be taken now.

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

Applying the Covid blueprint to cholera

FIRDAUSI QADRI and MD TAUFIQUL ISLAM

Dr Firdausi Qadri is senior scientist and head of the Mucosal Immunology and Vaccinology Unit at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) in Dhaka. Dr Md Taufiqul Islam is deputy project coordinator in the Mucosal Immunology and Vaccinology Unit at icddr,b.

WHILE the coronavirus has posed unique challenges at a time of deep global interconnectedness, pandemics are nothing new. The Covid pandemic is not even the only one we are currently experiencing. In much of the developing world, cholera outbreaks are proliferating.

Whereas the Sars-CoV-2 virus is “novel,” cholera—a water-borne diarrhoeal disease caused by the bacteria *Vibrio cholerae*—is ancient, as is its history of widespread devastation. The current cholera pandemic is the world’s seventh since the early 19th century.

Despite their apparent differences, Covid and cholera have much in common. Both are at least partly controllable by vaccination, and both spread most easily in crowded, unsanitary environments. Ensuring adequate shelter and strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices and infrastructure are, therefore, vital to limit transmission.

These commonalities explain why measures to limit Covid brought about a decline in cholera cases. But as the world’s governments roll back pandemic restrictions, cholera is returning with a vengeance. At the end of 2021, there were 16 active cholera outbreaks around the world.

Yet, the response to Covid still holds valuable lessons for bolstering the fight against cholera. Initiatives like the World Health Organization’s Global Research Roadmap for Covid-19 helped guide this effort, ensuring that resources were channelled to the areas where knowledge and innovation were most needed.

Research is no less important in the fight against cholera. That is why, last year, the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTCC) launched the Cholera Roadmap Research Agenda. Representing the collective vision of 177 cholera experts and other stakeholders, the agenda identifies the highest-priority research questions. Getting the answers is essential to achieving the goals set out in the GTCC’s Ending Cholera by 2030 global roadmap.

Many of the questions could just as easily be found in a Covid research agenda. For example, what is the fastest, most cost-effective way to deliver a limited supply of vaccines? How can we enhance the uptake and sustainability of response measures to prevent the disease from reaching epidemic- or pandemic-level proportions? How do we engage meaningfully with at-risk communities in designing and

implementing interventions? Which disease surveillance systems are the most effective, and when and where should they be deployed?

With Covid, strong political will and massive investment enabled researchers to produce answers quickly. Though cholera has been around much longer, solutions remain elusive. A key reason is that, whereas Covid ravaged developed and developing countries alike, cholera was eradicated from the Global North more than 150 years ago. It is much harder to mobilise resources to tackle a disease affecting the world’s poorest and most marginalised people.

With just a fraction of the commitment underpinning the fight against Covid-19, lifesaving progress could be made in cholera research. Epidemiological surveillance would enable the mapping of transmission patterns. New and innovative diagnostic tests could increase the speed, efficiency, and quality of detecting and confirming cases. And new or improved vaccines would strengthen the connection between emergency response and long-term control and prevention.

Optimising the timing and dosage of

Representing the collective vision of 177 cholera experts and other stakeholders, the agenda identifies the highest-priority research questions.

vaccines is essential, as is learning how to engage communities to ensure that the needs of marginalised populations are addressed. Transforming treatment for vulnerable communities requires studying the impact of antibiotics on cholera transmission, and understanding what enables—and blocks—integration of cholera treatment into case management by community health workers.

Equipped with this knowledge, countries and health partners would be better positioned to choose the most effective tools and approaches as they pursue their National Cholera Plans.

We have learned so much during the pandemic. We have listened to our public health officials and taken steps to limit the spread of the virus: wearing face masks, practising social distancing, quarantining, getting vaccinated, and washing our hands more regularly. We must leverage this increased awareness and momentum to

make further public health gains—not just in our own communities, but worldwide.

That means taking aim at other, much older scourges. We have the tools we need to defeat cholera, but we must still do the

research that is required to identify how, when, and where to use them. Only then can we protect the world’s most vulnerable populations from this all-too-precedented disease.

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বিটিএমসি ভবন (১২ তলা)
৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
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১২ বৈশাখ ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ:।
তারিখ:-----
২৫ এপ্রিল ২০২২ খ্রিঃ।

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধিনস্থ বস্ত্র অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নায়ী “শেখ রাসেল টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ,সিলেট স্থাপন (১ম সংশোধিত)” প্রকল্পের প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ইউনিট PIU (Project implementation Unit) এর জন্য কেবলমাত্র প্রকল্পের মেয়াদকালের জন্য অর্থ বিভাগ হতে জারিকৃত জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল,২০১৫ অনুযায়ী সাক্ষ্য (Consolidated) বেতনে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বর্ণিত শর্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র:নং	পদের নাম ও গ্রেড	সংখ্যা	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
০১	হিসাব রক্ষক,গ্রেড-১৩	০১টি	অনধিক ৩০ বছর	বাণিজ্য বিভাগে স্নাতক ডিগ্রী
০২	অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক, গ্রেড-১৬	০১টি	অনধিক ৩০ বছর	এইচ.এস./সি/সমমান এবং কম্পিউটারে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

ক) শর্তাবলী:
(২) জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত ০১ (এক) পাতার ফরমে স্বহস্তে লিখিত আবেদন করতে হবে।
এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিসহ উক্ত ফরমটি বস্ত্র অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট www.dot.gov.bd হতে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।
(২) এক জন প্রার্থী যে কোন একটি পদে আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদনপত্র প্রকল্প পরিচালক, “শেখ রাসেল টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ,সিলেট স্থাপন (১ম সংশোধিত)” প্রকল্প ,বিটিএমসি ভবন (১২ তলা), ৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ বরাবর আবেদন করতে হবে এবং সকল দরখাস্ত আগামী ২৫/০৫/২০২২ খ্রি: তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে পৌছাতে হবে। ত্রুটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ/বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত দরখাস্ত বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
(৩) দরখাস্তের সাথে শুধুমাত্র প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত (নামাঙ্কিত সীলসহ) সম্প্রতি তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০১ (এক) কপি রশ্মিন ছবি জমা দিয়ে লাগিয়ে দিতে হবে এবং দুই কপি ছবি স্ট্যাম্পলার দিয়ে লাগিয়ে দিতে হবে।
(৪) আবেদনের সাথে প্রকল্প পরিচালক, “শেখ রাসেল টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ,সিলেট স্থাপন (১ম সংশোধিত)” প্রকল্প এর নামে ১০০/- টাকার পোস্টাল অর্ডার (অফেরত যোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে।
(৫) আগামী ২৫/০৫/২০২২ খ্রি: তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স ১৮-৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা / শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র-কন্যাদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা / শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের নাতি-নাতনির ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৩০ বছর।
(৬) সরকারি, আধাসরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থায় চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতি নিয়ে নির্দিষ্ট তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। অনুমতির কপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
(৭) প্রচলিত বিধি অনুযায়ী নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা নীতি (প্রযোজ্য হলে) অনুসরণ করা হবে।
(৮) খামের উপর প্রকল্পের নাম ও পদের নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে এবং আবেদন পত্রের সাথে ২০ টাকার ডাকটিকিটসহ ফেরত খাম পাঠাতে হবে।
(৯) অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের পরিপত্র নং- ০৭.১১১.০.৩১.০১.০০.০০৫.২০১০-১৫, তারিখ: ১৪.০১.২০১৬ খ্রি: এর (ক) এর আলোকে বেতন-ভাতাদি প্রদান করা হবে।
(১০) লিখিত/ব্যবহারিক/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার ভ্রমগততা বা দৈনিক ভাতা (টিএ/ডিএ) প্রদান করা হবে না।
(১১) এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিপরীতে আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল, নিয়োগ প্রদান করা/না করা বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
(১২) যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারী করা হলো।

২৫/৪/২০২২
(নিরঞ্জন কুমার দেবনাথ)
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
“শেখ রাসেল টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কলেজ,
সিলেট স্থাপন (১ম সংশোধিত)” প্রকল্প।
বস্ত্র অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
ফোন: ০২-৫৫০১১৯৭২

GD- 834



The Shaheed Minar at Thikana is structured on a four-storied building about 34 feet in height and 220 feet in width.

PHOTOS: NAYEM SHAAN



Afreen Tayeba Alif.

NURTURING DREAMS

A snapshot of nature and history in the heart of Badda

Afreen Tayeba Alif, a first-year BBA student of North South University, opened the restaurant and resort, Thikana, in Badda in 2019. One of the main attractions of the venue is a Shaheed Minar built with flowers.

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

Afreen was inspired by her mother Afroza Begum's start-up Khan's Kitchen. "Helping my mother with her work got me interested in the food business," she shares. "I wanted to build a space as close to nature as possible, like a picnic spot or a restaurant where people could relax."

With plans for a resort in mind and a seven-month course in interior designing, the young entrepreneur set off to build Thikana. "In the beginning, I decorated the place with local flowers such as Marigold and Chandra Mallika, amongst others. It took a bit of time but when the flowers bloomed, I was stunned by how well the public responded to the place," says Afreen. "But the flowers did not last long. I did a bit of research and found out about the Japanese flower, Petunia. It grows well in winter, and comes in different colours as well."

Currently, there are over 700,000



Thikana is a beautiful resort and restaurant, offering visitors some time for relaxation, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Petunias decorated all over Thikana. Whenever people visit Thikana, they like to learn about the flowers. "They often ask about the flowers and even buy some to plant at home from our small shop at Thikana," mentions Afreen. "This is how I came up with the idea of building a Shaheed Minar

with flowers."

Afreen shares that if seeing flowers at Thikana can inspire guests to learn more about nature, then seeing a Shaheed Minar, which is related to our national history, will encourage them to learn more about Bangladesh.

With that noble thought in mind, Afreen started working on the Shaheed Minar at Thikana in 2021. The flower monument is structured on a four-storied building about 34 feet in height and 220 feet in width.

"I found out on the internet that no one has created a flower monument this large before," shares Afreen. "So, I contacted the Guinness World Records authorities and applied for my flower monument."

Inspectors from the Guinness World Records will be visiting Thikana for verification soon.

The author is a freelance journalist. Email: akhlakurrahmancharles@gmail.com.

TALESPEOPLE SPIELS

IT GETS BETTER

Gifts galore for our fifth year

SABRINA FATMA AHMAD

Dear Reader, It's hard to believe, but we only moved out of the sandbox provided by Litmosphere (thanks Rubaiya and Ramisa Chowdhury) two years ago, and shifted Sehri Tales © to an independent platform in 2020! We hope you've been enjoying the stories so far.

Last year, we were able to introduce sponsored posts as a way of thanking all the wonderful Talers who joined our cozy little community. Shoutout to Potetu Cooking and Vlogs and Ms Katachamoch for the cookies and discounts. This year, we were blessed by the incredible generosity of Bookworm Bangladesh who provided three fantastic novels for our top three entries for the Genie prompt, and Zest Candle and Co for providing beautiful candles for our Mars prompt. We have one more sweet surprise

coming up at the end of the month, and we're excited for our Talers to find out.

We have something for you too, dear Reader. Partnering up with DIYer, we've just launched the Sehri Tales handbook, a writing therapy journal. It comes in three attractive designs, complete with notes on short fiction forms and how to write them, and a separate sheet of prompts to springboard your creativity. It's the perfect way to while away a traffic jam when you can't look at a screen anymore, and makes a great gift. Find Talespeople or DIYer on Facebook and inbox to order. We hope you'll love it. Stay hydrated!



ILLUSTRATION: AZMAIN MAHPARA

We have one more sweet surprise coming up at the end of the month, and we're excited for our Talers to find out.

YOUNG ACHIEVER

Murshidul Alam Bhuiyan shortlisted for Queen's Commonwealth Trust Network

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Murshidul Alam Bhuiyan, the founder of Team Bertho, has been shortlisted for the Queen's Commonwealth Trust Network, which consists of more than 850 goal-oriented global leaders creating positive social changes within the Commonwealth.

"We found the opportunity to apply through their Facebook page. We decided to take a chance and were surprised to see that we were selected. It is an honour," Murshidul said. Subsequently, they were asked to join the Network Hub by March 18.



Murshidul Alam Bhuiyan.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Team Bertho is a storytelling collective initiated by a group of friends in 2016. The organisation's aim of delegating human wisdom reflects the Commonwealth's shared goals including tolerance, respect and understanding, freedom and expression, gender equality and the importance of young people in the Commonwealth.

"The Commonwealth's goals are related to development, democracy and peace. Similarly, Team Bertho intends to lead to the greater cause of peace in the global community that can bring a deeper understanding of one another regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality and economic stature," added Murshidul.

Team Bertho has turned their vision of creating an inclusive community by forming connections among people through collective consciousness and empathy. Their unique approach of spreading wisdom by story-telling allowed people to relate to their content and helped them figure out many truths about themselves and the people around them.

The organisation also helps people note their struggles and progress. They recently released the second season of 'Ichi-go Ichi-e' which is a series of live web-conferences where instructors, initiators and activists conduct sessions regarding growth, self-improvement, and skill development and awareness. The platform also launched its website and the fifth season of 'Life Tales: Berthodoler Caravan', an audio narrative show that presents intimate life experiences and lessons through short episodes.

The team is currently working on a comic series called 'Life', where profound questions about life are answered through one sentence. In the future, they aim to expand their network to all 197 countries of the world, thereby forming a global platform where people are connected through their shared experiences.

The author is a student of IBA, DU and a freelance journalist who likes reading, scribbling, and blogging. Email: mislammonamee@gmail.com.

GUIDES

5 efficient note-taking methods

If your class notes are unclear at first glance, you're not going to get much use out of them. This has nothing to do with how neat your handwriting is — it's all about how your notes are structured. One of the most effective ways to remember and understand what you are learning in class is to take effective notes in the classroom. Here are five methods that can help you.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

OUTLINE METHOD

The outlining note-taking method uses headings and bullet points to organise topics. It is most useful when learning about topics that include a lot of detail. Outlining allows your notes to be neatly organised. It is also easy to see the relationship between topics and subtopics, and turn points into study questions.

MIND MAPPING METHOD

Mind mapping is a visual way to organise your class notes. This technique is useful when learning about relationships between topics. You begin the map with the main topic, and then branch off it by writing headings for each of the subtopics. Write any important details under each subtopic, and continue the pattern.

FLOW NOTES METHOD

Flow notes involve jotting down topics, then drawing arrows, doodles, diagrams, and graphs for a broader view. Similar to mind maps, they are most useful when simplifying complex topics and connecting the dots, especially during revisions.

GOING DIGITAL

Many apps now come in handy when recording your notes, and linking them to books and resources suggested on the internet. These apps allow you to copy texts and add images and graphs while scribbling down important points. With apps like Evernotes, Notability and Microsoft OneNote, effective note-taking is just a click away.

BOXING METHOD

For this method, all related notes are grouped together in a box. A dedicated

box is assigned to each section of notes, which cuts down the time needed for reading and reviewing. Digital note-taking apps are more helpful in this regard, as the content on the pages can be reordered or resized subsequently. This way, you can just write down notes as you would normally do, and then reorder and assign them to particular boxes.



ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD

JIBON EXACTS REVENGE

Tarequl Islam Jibon (R) tries to get the better of Shahjalal Boli during the 113th edition of Jabbarer Boli Khela at Laldighir Par in Chattogram yesterday. Jibon prevailed after a gruelling 25-minute battle to reclaim the title of the traditional event, which was held after a two-year break due to the pandemic.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Abahani regroup with a statement win over Muktis

SPORTS REPORTER

Although Abahani fell miserably short against ATK Mohun Bagan in the AFC Cup fixture last week, the Sky Blues bounced back to pull off an incredible second-half show in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) to win 4-3 against Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday.

A brace from Rakib Hossain and one goal apiece from Costa Rican Daniel Colindres and Brazilian Raphael Augusto had Abahani turn victorious from two goals down, and thus the six-time champions managed to somewhat nullify their disappointment at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium to stay in the race with leaders Bashundhara Kings, who are four points ahead of them.

It had taken 50 long minutes for Abahani to finally make their presence felt, but by then Mario Lemos' charges had conceded twice as Japanese forward Tetsuki Misawa and his compatriot Soma Otani had the bottom dwellers in raptures.

Misawa converted a penalty in the 35th minute while Otani found his target from the edge of the box as Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel was caught napping and could only watch the ball roll past the all-important line.

The next 15 minutes saw a flurry of goals as all four of them went against Muktiyoddha, who had stunned Abahani 4-2 last season.

A brilliant combination between Colindres and Augusto in the 64th minute staged



Abahani's comeback as Colindres fired home with an angular shot. Two minutes later, Abahani launched an attack from the right flank and exchanged a few moves inside the box before Colindres saw his header come off the crossbar, after which Rakib nodded the rebounder home to equalise.

There was no stopping Abahani afterwards. Augusto handed the lead in the 75th minute as the Brazilian ran through the spine of Muktiyoddha and entered the box before latching home with a left-footer. Rakib went on to strike his second goal with a tap-in four minutes later and even though Misawa struck another from the spot, Muktiyoddha could not trouble Abahani any further.

The remaining matches of the day were fought between mid-table teams. At the Bashundhara Kings Arena, 10-man Mohammedan Sporting Club came from behind to hold a rejuvenated Sheikh Russel KC to a 1-1 draw. Elsewhere, Saif Sporting Club handed a massive 6-1 thrashing to Bangladesh Police while Chittagong Abahani were held to a goalless draw by Rahmatganj MFS after the port side, who occupy fourth place with 22 points, won three games on the trot.

Mohammedan and Saif, occupying fifth and sixth spot, are level on 18 points but Saif are ahead on goal difference. Police are trailing close at seventh position with 16 points while Sheikh Russell and Rahmatganj lie at eighth and ninth place with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

COLLEGE STUDENTS win school tournament?

EKUSH TAPADER

A school tournament won with college-going players. While such incidents are not unheard of in local tournaments, interestingly, this time, allegations were made that it happened in the National School Cricket Tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Gopalganj's MC Academy beat Syed Hatim Ali High School by 135 runs in the final. However, Syed Hatim Ali High School alleged that the majority of the MC Academy players are college-going students.

Wicketkeeper Navil Absar graduated SSC with a GPA of 4.67 last year. Currently Absar is studying in MC Academy college's science discipline and a copy of his SSC mark sheet was obtained by The Daily Star.

According to BCB's rules and regulations, a side can include up to five players from another school but all the players must be school-going.

Munna Ahmed, one of the players in the playing eleven, uploaded a picture of him being awarded the player-of-the-match on his Facebook account. However, no player named Munna was found in the team sheet. Hatim Ali School alleged that a different name was used for the player to show that he was still a school student.



There are allegations that Shanto Dey, player-of-the-final, used his younger brother's name and that his actual name is Shuvo Dey. Shanto is a class 10 student and Shuvo used his younger brother's name to play the match.

One player named Shakib Ahmed also uploaded pictures on Facebook of him playing but his name was not found in the team sheet either. Allegations are that he played under the name 'Rifat'. There were two players named Rifat -- Rubayet Khan Rifat and Tahmid Ahmed Rifat -- in the playing eleven but it could not be ascertained whose name the player used during the match.

"We formed the team with school-

going students but the opposition team took players from college unit. They used fake names," Syed Hatim Ali High School's sports teacher Abdul mazed told The Daily Star.

"We have a player who was born after September 2005 and he is studying in class 10. But despite the player being eligible, we did not include him in the squad as he looks a bit older. It's unfortunate that the opposition did not follow the rules and we're hoping the officials will look into it," Mazid added.

Sylhet Cricket Committee secretary Toqrimul Haque Kabi told The Daily Star that he was aware of such allegations and that they will look into the matter if a written complaint is filed.

"During the group stages, they notified us verbally but we wanted a written complaint since the registration took place online through the BCB app. We weren't involved in the selection process. Every year we do the selection on the basis of who are eligible but this year we didn't get the opportunity to do the selection process. Once a written complaint is filed, we will send it to the BCB. We were able to curb such underhanded tactics before but this year the BCB are seeing to these things," Toqrimul said.

MC Academy teacher Sujit Kumar Talkukdar said that he was not aware of any such things happening.

"To my knowledge, there isn't a possibility of such things happening. They should have filed a written complaint before the game. I didn't attend the game but the sports teacher was involved. We don't believe in hiding identity to become first. If it has happened, this is a serious matter and we will look into it," Sujit said.

When contacted, BCB's age-level Cricket Committee chairman Obed Nizam informed that he will look into the matter. "The responsibility to organise the [district-level] matches was given to the local districts. I will look into the matter when I return to the country," he said.

Spanish challenge stands in way of City-Liverpool final

AFP, Manchester

Real Madrid and Villarreal stand in the way of Manchester City and Liverpool taking their battle for domestic honours to the biggest stage of all next month in the Champions League final.

A clash between City and Liverpool in Paris on May 28 would mean a third all-English final in four years.

The huge economic advantage enjoyed by the Premier League in TV rights deals is behind Madrid's continued motivation to seek the comfort of guaranteed income streams from a European Super League (ESL).

However, Villarreal's run to the last four is a reminder of why there is such opposition to a closed shop ESL.

Jürgen Klopp's men trail City by a point with five games to go in a thrilling Premier League title race. But they got the better of City to reach next month's FA Cup final and lifted the League Cup in February.

Klopp already has experience of losing out to Villarreal boss Unai Emery on the European stage as his Sevilla side beat Liverpool in the 2016 Europa League final.

That was just one of Emery's four Europa League titles, the last of which came when Villarreal beat Manchester United in last year's final just to qualify for the Champions League.

"They have probably the most successful cup competition manager in world football, so he knows what he is doing," said Klopp. "Unai Emery is the king of the cups. It is unbelievable

what he is doing."

Liverpool's status as favourites ahead of Wednesday's first leg at Anfield is understandable given the difference in resources between the clubs.

City are also expected to reach the final for a second consecutive year despite the vast gulf in European pedigree between the English champions and Madrid. But Pep Guardiola's men were convincing winners when the sides met in the last 16 two years ago.

"It's the third time we play the semi-final of the Champions League against a team who have a few Champions Leagues in the trophy cabinet," said Guardiola.

"It has to be a special night for us to enjoy it, give everything we have in our soul and after we'll see what happens."

Madrid produced a remarkable fightback from 2-0 down to beat Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 and responded after falling 3-0 down to Chelsea at the Santiago Bernabeu to reach the semi-finals in dramatic fashion.

Carlo Ancelotti's men will have home advantage again in the second leg next week, but there are doubts as to whether Los Blancos can continue to be carried by the ageing legs of Karim Benzema and Luka Modric.

The excellence achieved in the era of Klopp and Guardiola in England's north-west has seen Liverpool and City persistently rewrite the record books. Over the next 10 days they have the chance to prove they are the two best sides in Europe by ending La Liga's challenge to English dominance of the Champions League.



Rayo Vallecano midfielder Alvaro Garcia Rivera (R) celebrates after scoring the decisive goal as Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen reacts during their La Liga fixture at Camp Nou on Sunday. The defeat left the Catalan giants in second position, 15 points behind league leaders Real Madrid, with five games in hand.

PHOTO: AFP







The 815-metre Naujor flyover in Gazipur was opened to the public around 2:00pm yesterday. The government made three flyovers, including this one, and a portion of a bridge operational to help smoothen the journeys of home-goers ahead of Eid. Related story on www.thedailystar.net

PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

HAJJ PILGRIMS

Immigration to be done in Dhaka

People over 65 won't be allowed for pilgrimage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration of Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims flying from Dhaka will be completed at the Dhaka airport from this year, ending the need for waiting in long queues at Saudi Arabian airport.

The pilgrims will have no immigration procedure to complete once they reach the Gulf country.

However, those flying from Chattogram and Sylhet will have to pass through immigration in Saudi Arabia, said an official of the ministry of religious affairs.

The matter was discussed at a meeting at the ministry in the capital yesterday, with ministry Secretary Kazi Enamul Hassan in the chair. It also discussed this year's hajj preparations.

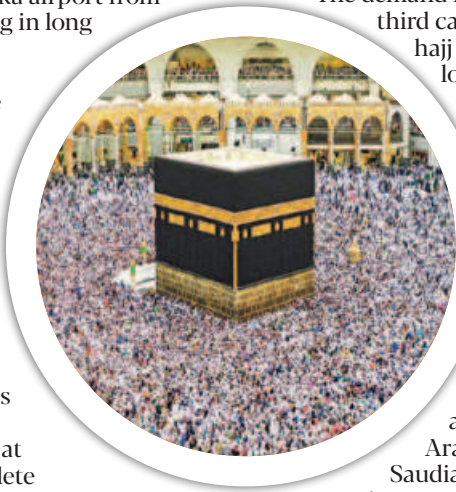
Bangladeshi pilgrims had to wait at the Saudi airport for hours to complete immigration, causing immense suffering to them.

In 2019, immigration of 62,000 out 127,000 Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims was completed at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA).

So far, pilgrims from only two other countries, Malaysia and Indonesia, were allowed to complete immigration at their local airports, sources at the religious affairs ministry said.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Religious Affairs

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RASHIDUL HASAN

The demand for allowing a third carrier for operating hajj flights is getting louder as the existing system of ferrying the pilgrims to Saudi Arabia has been costing the hajjis more and is creating a duopoly.

National flag carrier Biman and its Saudi Arabian counterpart Saudia are the only two airlines transporting pilgrims from Dhaka since 2012 as per the hajj agreement signed between the two countries.

Since then, the two companies have enjoyed this duopoly over the hajj flights, charging exorbitant fares from the pilgrims, point out leaders of Hajj Agencies Association

of Bangladesh (HAAB) and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB).

"We have been hostage to the duopoly of Biman and Saudia for years with regard to sending people to perform hajj. The two airlines make and change decisions almost arbitrarily without bothering about the problems of the pilgrims," M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, president of HAAB, told The Daily Star.

"The government must allow a third carrier to improve hajj management," he said, adding that it is allowed in different neighbouring countries, including India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"These countries allow a third carrier to carry hajj passengers. Why can't our country do the same?" questioned the HAAB chief.

If one more airline is allowed, he said, HAAB could offer different types of packages including shorter ones, which would benefit the hajjis.

Both HAAB and ATAB leaders said every year uncertainty looms over sending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia in case of cancellation of slots of Biman on various grounds.

A slot means landing and take-off permission granted to a specific airline by any airport authorities.

Biman gets a specific number of slots to carry hajjis to Saudi Arabia.

"If a third carrier is allowed to operate hajj flights, there won't be any such uncertainty," said Taslim.

This year, a total of 57,585 Bangladeshis will perform hajj, a ritual must for able-bodied Muslims at least once in their lifetime. In 2019, around 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform hajj.

However, due to the global Covid pandemic, the largest annual Muslim congregation was held on a limited scale in the last two years. The hajj typically packs millions of pilgrims into

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Carriers' duopoly over Hajj must end

Demand grows for introducing other airlines for pilgrims

Casino brothers to serve 7 years

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Organised crimes and money laundering are a serious threat to the rule of law and sustainable development of the country, said a Dhaka court in the verdict in a money laundering case.

Judge Md Iqbal Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-5 made the observation as he read out the verdict, sentencing five casino brothers, including Enamul Haque Enu and Rupon Bhuiyan, and six others to seven years in prison and fined them a total of Tk 4 crore.

The convicts will have to proportionately pay the fine in favour of the state in 60 days. Failure to pay the fine will result in an additional year of imprisonment.

Organised crimes like the illegal casinos and gambling lead to money laundering, which can destabilise the financial system and undermine the development efforts, the judge observed.

Enu, Rupon and their brothers Shahidul Haque Bhuiyan, Rashidul Haque Bhuiyan and Merajul Haque Bhuiyan made large sums of money from their illegal casino inside Wanderers' Club in the capital's Motijheel. Their six associates helped them acquire and launder the money, said the verdict.

The convicts in collaboration with each other were actively involved in illegal gambling in the form of casino games and laundered Tk 2 crore, it said, adding that they had committed an organised crime.

Enu is a former vice-president of Gendaria unit Awami League, Rupon is a former joint general secretary of the same unit, and Joy Gopal Sarkar

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MEDIA WORKERS' BILL

There's room for revision

Says info minister, promises to talk to journos, media outlet owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said he will sit with journalist union leaders and owners of media houses because there is room for revising the Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill 2022.

"I'm told that journalist unions will submit a written proposal for revising some sections of the proposed bill. We'll then talk with the owners because they will be the ones implementing it," he told reporters at his office.

The parliamentary committee will look into it afterwards, a press release quoted him as saying.

He also said that statements from different organisations on the proposed bill were damaging "the congenial atmosphere".

"Is it necessary to issue statements after we have agreed to revise the act?" he asked.

Hasan Mahmud said the initiative of formulating the act was taken amid demands from journalists.

The bill was placed before parliament after the vetting from the law ministry and cabinet's approval.

The parliamentary committee is now examining how the interest of journalists can be protected.

If the act is passed, journalists won't be dismissed from jobs any moment or hired

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Russia 'failed' in war aims

Says US, pledges more military aid to Ukraine

REUTERS, Kyiv

The United States will reopen its embassy in Ukraine soon, its top diplomat said yesterday after he and the US defense secretary visited Kyiv, promising more military aid and hailing the fight against Russia's invasion.

Both Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the fact were able to come to Ukraine's capital was proof of its tenacity in forcing Moscow to abandon an assault on Kyiv last month.

"What you've done in repelling the Russians in the battle of Kyiv is extraordinary and inspiring quite frankly to the rest of the world," Austin told President Volodymyr Zelensky at a meeting overnight after a train journey from Poland. "We are here to support you in any way possible."

Blinken hailed Ukraine's success

"in pushing back this horrific Russian aggression."

"In terms of Russia's war aims, Russia has already failed and Ukraine has already succeeded," Blinken told a briefing in Poland on their way back.

Austin said: "We want to see Russia weakened to the degree that it can't do the kinds of things that it has done in invading Ukraine."

US officials said Austin and Blinken pledged new assistance worth \$713 million for Ukraine and other countries in the region. An extra \$322 million in military aid for Ukraine would take the total US security assistance since the invasion to about \$3.7 billion, one official said.

It would help Ukraine's armed forces transition to more advanced weapons and air defence systems that were essentially Nato-compatible, the official added.

Russia's ambassador in Washington

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This aerial photograph taken on Sunday shows a destroyed residential area in Irpin, northwest of Kyiv, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

TIB report on Covid baseless

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday rejected Transparency International Bangladesh's recent report on the Covid crisis, terming it "completely baseless".

Claiming that the government's vaccination programme is transparent, he said the report was "done on purpose".

The minister was speaking at a press conference on the TIB report at the Secretariat.

Zahid said the government is going to run a booster dose campaign as there is a risk of spike in novel coronavirus cases.

On April 12, the graft

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