



P5
Road to ruins
RHD building road thru wildlife sanctuary in Ctg



P7
Conviction in corruption case
Myanmar junta court jails Suu Kyi for 5 years



P15
Victorious captain
Imrul learning on the job



B4
Crisis in Sri Lanka
WB to provide \$600m in financial aid

Vaccine plant initiative losing spirit

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The country's initiative to build a vaccine plant and research centre of its own is losing steam apparently with the intensity of the pandemic waning.

The bitter experience of being promised Covid vaccines and not getting those in time seems to be lost on the authorities.

Even though the government had said it was a priority project, the plans have not gotten off the drawing board in over eight months.

The development project proposal (DPP) is yet to be finalised and the six-acre land in Gopalganj, designated for the project, has not been acquired yet, officials concerned said.

No headway has been made to get a foreign biotechnology firm signed for the technology transfer of vaccines and production of protein-based Covid-19 vaccines, they said.

In July last year, the government moved to set up a fully-fledged vaccine plant and research institute after the Covid-19 vaccine supply debacle earlier that year.

On July 16, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced in parliament that her government was going to set up a vaccine institute.

The institute, the first of its kind here, would have three components -- a vaccine institute, a vaccine packaging plant, and a research and development site. The packaging plant would fill ampoules, label them, and ensure quality.

Health ministry officials at that time had said the construction of the packaging plant would be done by this May. Now they are saying they have made major progress but it would take up to a year and a half to finish.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



HERE WE GO ... Children in festive mood and attire leaning out the window of the Silk City Express at the Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday afternoon. They are visiting their grandparents' home in Rajshahi after a gap of two years to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr, which is less than a week away.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Railway service revamped

Says PM flagging off 46 locomotives of BR

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government turned the state-run Bangladesh Railway into a profitable agency, mentioning that it was left in tatters during the previous BNP rule.

"As we made BRTC a profitable organisation, today we have proved that train service can be made profitable," she said.

The premier was addressing a programme marking the launch of two Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Mobile Rail Museums and 46 locomotives.

Hasina said the previous BNP government had shut down train services on different routes following suggestions of the World Bank.

She said her government has not only revived the rail transport service agency, but also made it profitable.

The PM joined the function at the Kamalapur Railway Station through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

She stressed the need for expediting recruitment of more manpower for the Bangladesh Railway (BR) to expand its services.

Hasina said though the BR is a service organisation, it should earn profit. This would be possible after the expansion of the railway network and opening of new routes being constructed by the government, she added.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

TENTULTALA PLAYGROUND

Home boss yet to find a solution

Meeting with rights activists yields no results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal could not yet come up with a clear-cut solution after meeting rights activists yesterday, the debate over the construction of a police station on the Tentultala field rages on.

Talking to reporters after the meeting at his secretariat office, Kamal said, "For now, this [field] is fixed for the Thana [police station]. It belongs to them as it was allocated following proper procedures.

"We need a place for the Kalabagan Police Station... If anyone else or the respective mayor can arrange another appropriate place, then we'll consider [moving the station].

He further said, "It [Tentultala] was never a playground. It was an abandoned land of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. Most of the new police stations are situated in rented houses, due to which police are facing various problems."

Khushi Kabir, governing body secretary of Nijera Kori; Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association; Iqbal Habib, architect; and Sangeeta Imam, cultural activist, attended the 30-minute-long meeting with the home boss.

"We want the ongoing construction to stop. We want the Eid-ul-Fitr prayers to take place here [Tentultala playground]. He [Kamal] said he will discuss the issue with the prime minister," Khushi Kabir said after the meeting.

Rizwana Hasan said the home minister also feels the necessity of a playground but the authorities have already allocated Tk 27 crore to build the station.

The activists also requested Kamal to stop erecting brick walls there.

"We don't want any face-off between police and locals. If

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

COMMENTARY

What sort of a mindset is it?

MAHFUZ ANAM

Our foreign minister announced on Tuesday that he sought India's assistance in lifting the sanctions against Rab. According to him, last December when the sanctions against Rab -- which, we have regularly reported on, has done creditable work against terrorism and in our fight against extremism -- were imposed, he sought India's help to lobby with the US to lift those. This he said was possible because of our extremely warm relations with India.

We welcome the level and warmth of our ties with India and express our appreciation of the many areas of cooperation with our neighbour. We also welcome the visit of Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar today to extend Indian PM's invitation to our PM to visit India. These and other signs are indeed indicative of the high level of support and cooperation that currently exists in our bilateral relations.

However, we consider it extremely demeaning that another country's assistance has been sought to get the sanctions against Rab lifted. Seeking an ally's help in matters of supreme national interest is not only fine but expected. But to try to use India's goodwill for us to plead for the lifting of

the sanctions against Rab, which consists of cancellation of visas for seven serving and former officials and restrictions on financial transactions of Rab members, should be below our dignity. In matters of state, this however should not warrant soliciting our neighbour's help. In fact, we consider it to be misuse of our "good neighbourly" relations.

The demeaning nature of the story does not end there. Our foreign minister gleefully said he met the members of Indian-American community (US citizens of Indian origin) who agreed to lobby for the lifting of the sanctions, adding, "India's 4.5 million Hindus are a very influential group, and they promised to raise the issue with the US administration." (Why he had to bring the religious identity here beats me. From the last that I know there is a very large number of Sikhs among the Indian-Americans. Why does he preclude any Muslims from being a part of India's diaspora?) So he went beyond the state-to-state relations and lobbied with the Indian diaspora. This we consider beyond his remit and demonstrative of his mindset that we are so weak in dealing with the US that we cannot do things on our own and need others' help.

We accept that the Indian community

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

61 ZILA PARISHADS

AL men appointed as administrators in most

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed immediate past elected chairmen of 61 zila parishads as administrators, most of them ruling Awami League leaders of the respective districts.

The LGRD ministry's Local Government Division yesterday issued a gazette notification to this end.

The development comes 10 days after the government dissolved the Zila Parishad councils (district council) of the districts after their five-year tenure expired.

Chief executive officers of the zila parishads and financial matters during the period.

"We have already appointed immediate past chairmen of 61 zila parishads as administrators," Tazul Islam, local government, rural development and cooperatives minister, said in a statement

"Administrators will perform their duties until the new district councils are formed through election."

yesterday.

"Administrators will perform their duties until the new district councils are formed through election."

Dormant district councils were revived via the first-ever Zila Parishad polls that took place in

December 28, 2016.

Amid boycotts by the major opposition parties, the ruling AL-backed candidates became chairmen in 25 districts, AL leaders running as independents won in 13, and AL leaders won unopposed in 21. Polls were held in two other districts later.

In a letter to the Election Commission on April 18, the Local Government Division urged them to take necessary steps to hold Zila Parishad elections as soon as possible, as tenure of the councils was completed.

About the polls, EC Secretary Humayun Kabir Khandaker said they received the letter from the government and that they were

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



P11
The glorious comeback of Jabbarer Boli Khela



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Monitoring, mapping vital Speakers tell seminar on tidal mudflats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 900 square kilometres of mudflats are currently visible in Bangladesh's coastal area, stretching from the Sundarbans' eastern part to Teknaf, revealed a recent research.

Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (Sparso) revealed the findings in a seminar held at their seminar hall in the capital on Tuesday.

Mudflats are the newly formed lands that appear during low tides and go underwater during high tides. According to Sparso researchers, higher parts of the mudflats are formed in the central region in Noakhali district.

Mudflats are the newly formed lands that appear during low tides and go underwater during high tides.

In his presentation titled "Mapping Tidal Mudflats in the Coastal Regions of Bangladesh", Dr Mahmudur Rahman, Sparso's chief scientific officer, said tidal mudflats are undergoing continuous changes.

He mentioned that many areas in the coastal regions have eroded and disappeared in the river and the sea. However, new lands have also been formed by the sediment transported by the rivers.

"Hence, mapping and continuous monitoring of tidal mudflats are important," said Dr Rahman.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Labourers were seen laying bricks on the under-construction road in Dudpukuria-Dhopachari Wildlife Sanctuary, and some were constructing drains on the side. Roads and Highways Department is building it without taking permission of forest department, violating relevant rules and potentially damaging the ecology. This photo was taken recently.

ROAD TO RUIN

RHD building road through wildlife sanctuary in Ctg without taking permission from forest department

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Which is more important, protecting the plants and wildlife of a sanctuary, or making a road in the middle of the forest, potentially risking the ecological balance?

For Roads and Highways Department (RHD), the choice was easy, so easy that they didn't even

bother to follow relevant rules to implement their decision.

After a demi official (DO) letter was issued by a local lawmaker, RHD felled thousands of trees in Dudpukuria-Dhopachari Wildlife Sanctuary (DDWS) in Chattogram to build a 16-kilometre road.

It has done this without obtaining permission from the forest

department, and in the process, broke a number of regulations.

The under-construction road will connect Khanhat area of Chattogram's Chandanaish upazila to Bandarban Sadar.

Md Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, lawmaker from Chandanaish, has given the DO letter to the Road

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Keen on taking more Bangladeshi peacekeepers UN officials tell army chief

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Army Chief, General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, has held bilateral meetings with several senior officials of the UN Headquarters on various issues of mutual interest, including peacekeeping operations.

During his visit to the UN Headquarters in New York on April 25 and 26, he met with Gilles Michaud, under-secretary general of the UN Department of Security and Safety; Maj Gen Maureen O'Brien, acting military adviser; Mohammed Khaled Khiari, assistant secretary-general (ASG), Department of Political and Peace Building Affairs; Christian Saunders, ASG,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

H.S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH,
PHONE-8901500-19, 8901640-54, www.biman-airlines.com

PROCUREMENT & LOGISTIC SUPPORT DIRECTORATE

REF: DACPF/INT'L TENDER/038/2021-2022 DATED: 27-04-2022

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender is invited for supplying the following equipment to Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd:

S/N	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
01	DAPF/INT'L TENDER/038/2021-2022 DT. 27-04-2022	Aircraft Push Back /Towing Tractor.	02 units.

Tender schedule with detailed specifications, terms & conditions will be available at the Office of Manager Accounts, Cash & Banking, Balaka, Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka and Biman's outstation in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai & London on all working days up to 23/05/2022. A formal application in bidder's letterhead pad mentioning Tender Number and date shall be required for purchasing the tender schedule(s). The purchase price of each tender schedule is BDT 3500.00 (BDT three thousand five hundred only) or equivalent foreign currency (non-refundable). Tender schedule and other related information may also be viewed at Biman's website www.biman-airlines.com.

The last date of submission of tender is on 24/05/2022 at 1100 hrs. (BST).

Mustafa Miandad Mehedi
Manager Commercial Purchase

GD-876

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate

CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced, skilled and established contractors/suppliers/manufacturers or their authorized agents for the undermentioned goods and works as per terms and conditions:

01.	Ministry/Department	:	Ministry of Finance, IRD
02.	Name of procuring entity	:	Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram.
03.	System of procurement	:	OTM
04.	Source of fund	:	Revenue Budget (Government)
05.	Invitation Reference No.	:	নথি নং: ০১(১৪)/৩৯-জেন/যানবাহন ক্রয়/২০২২
06.	Invitation date	:	28/04/2022
07.	Eligibility of tenderer	:	Any individual/JV Firm of Bangladesh who fulfill the qualification stated in the tender document (TDS & ITB).
08.	Name & address of tender receiving office	:	Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Chattogram. CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram.
09.	Name & address of tender selling office	:	Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Chattogram. CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram.
10.	Tender dropping place	:	Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Chattogram. CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram.
11.	Tender schedule last selling date	:	16/05/2022 at 05.00pm
12.	Tender dropping date & time	:	17/05/2022 at 12.00pm
13.	Tender opening date & time	:	17/05/2022 at 02.00pm
14.	Tender package name	:	Supply of 01 (One) unit Jeep with 03 years full service and maintenance after warranty period including replacement of spares and labors. Support must remain operational 24/7 basis including national holidays with service and labors.

Description of item	Location	Price per schedule (non-refundable)	Amount of tender security (in Taka: refundable)	Completion time
Supply of 01(one) unit Jeep	Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram.	Tk 1000/-	1,10,000/-	as per schedule

Special instruction:

- Tender document can be obtained from the Office of the Commissioner of Custom, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Chattogram during office time.
- The amount of tender security for the item shall be in the form of unconditional Pay-Order/Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Commissioner, Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Chattogram, CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram.
- All other terms and conditions as stated in the "The Public Procurement Rules-2008" will remain valid.
- If the tender is not received within the mentioned date and time, it will be directly rejected and shall be returned to the tenderer as unopened. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender cannot be received and opened in the scheduled date and time, the same will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same place and time.
- In the event of delay or cancellation of bidding process no bidder can claim any kind of compensation. If the bidder fails to supply goods and related services within the stipulated time, appropriate action will be taken against the bidder in compliance with PPR-2008.
- Prospective bidders are advised to submit the tender upon visiting (where applicable) the site at his/her own cost.
- Any corrigendum (if any) will also be part of the tender and it will be binding upon the tenderee. The authority is not bound to accept the lowest tenderer and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Signed
Mohammad Akbar Hossain
Commissioner (C C)
Customs, Excise & VAT Commissionerate, Chattogram
CGO Building No.1, Agrabad, Chattogram
Phone: 02333322037

GD-864

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project

Directorate of Technical Education

F/4-B, Argargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Corrigendum

A Request For Expression of Interest (**Selection of Procurement Specialist**) was published in "The Daily Ittefaq" and "The Daily Star" on 13.04.2022. There are some amendments made by the Project Authority which are as follows:

Sl	In original advertisement	Amendment
14	Original EoI Closing Date and Time 16.05.2022 and 5.00 P.M.	Changed EoI Closing Date and Time 23.05.2022 and 5.00 P.M.

(Md. Mohsin)
Project Director (Additional Secretary)

GD-872

Khulna Shipyard Limited

Bangladesh Navy, Khulna

BABE(F)-310/DPM/2021-2022 26 April 2022

Tender Notice

01	Procuring entity name	Khulna Shipyard Limited
02	Invitation for	Amphibious Excavator
03	Invitation Reference No.	BABE (F)-310/DPM/2021-2022 Date: 26/04/2022
04	Procuring method	Open Tender (Two Envelop System).
05	Budget & source of funds	Own finance
06	Tender last selling date & time	Date: 10/05/2022 Time: 11:00am
07	Tender closing date & time	Date: 10/05/2022 Time: 11:15am
08	Tender opening date & time	Date: 10/05/2022 Time: 11:30am
09	Name & address of the office for selling of tender documents:	Cash Section, Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna. Receiving & opening Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna. (Tenderers and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend)
10	Price of tender document	Tk 3,000.00 (Tk three thousand) non-refundable.
11	Contact details of official	Tel: 02-4411-0990, Fax: 880-41-720404, contact@khulnashipyard.com , picomf.ksy@gmail.com
12	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

GD-874 **Manager (Commercial & Purchase)**

College Education Development Project (CEDP)

IDG Sub-Project

Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh

Email: anandamohan1908cedp@gmail.com

Memo No. AMC/CEDP-ID Date: 26-04-2022

e-Tender Notice: CEDP/AMC/2021-22/G-15/03

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

Sl. No.	Re-Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	691383	Supply and Installation of Air Conditioner for ICT Lab & Teachers Conference Room of Ananda Mohan College. (Re-Tender)(G-15)	18 May/2022 13:30	18 May/2022 14.30:00

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 18 May/2022.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Md. Aman Ullah
Principal
Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh
Phone: 091-66769
E-mail: anandamohan1908cedp@gmail.com

GD-867

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
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১।	বাগানেরকারী সংস্থা	উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী।
২।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	০৪/রাজস্ব অব ২০২১-২২ তারিখ ২৬/০৪/২০২২ইং।
৩।	কাজের বিবরণ ও স্থান	নিম্নোক্ত তফসিলে বর্ণিত রেঞ্জ/এসএফএনটিসি/এসএফসিসি এর খাড়া গাছ, পুর্ববর্তী টেন্ডারের অধীনে গাছসহ এবং গাছপাড়া/জঙ্গল/আহরিত বনজঙ্গল্য বিক্রয়।
৪।	দরপত্র জমাফত	দরপত্র উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% (শতকরা দশ, ফেরতযোগ্য)।
৫।	অগ্রিম মুদ্রা	দরপত্র উদ্ধৃত দরের ৫০% (শতকরা পঞ্চাশ, দুইই দরের সাথে সমন্বয় মেয়াদ)।
৬।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির নোয়াখালী	ব্রহ্মত কট বনবাণী/বৈষ্ণব লাইসেন্স প্রাপ্ত স্টাফ হিসেব চালিকা/নির্দেশিত মাঠ/বাগানের অংশীদার/নির্দেশিত কাজে অভিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তিগণ।
৭।	কর্তার হাত	অংশীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সাময়িক বন্যবনের আওতায় সৃজিত বাগানের মার্ককৃত খাড়া গাছের লট বিক্রয় এবং গাছপাড়া/জঙ্গল/আহরিত বনজঙ্গল্য বিক্রয়।
৮।	আইই সম্পাদনের সময়	কার্যসূচ প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।
৯।	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিবি বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ক) সদর রেঞ্জ/এসএফএনটিসি/এসএফসিসি কার্যালয়। খ) সদর রেঞ্জ/এসএফএনটিসি/এসএফসিসি কার্যালয়।
১০।	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিবি বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	সরকারী সৃজিত বন বাহিরে অফিস চাকরালীন সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণের পূর্ব দিন পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র লাইসেন্স তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/০৫/২০২২ইং তারিখ বেলা-১.০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	ক) বিজ্ঞাপন বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী। গ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী। ঘ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, লক্ষ্মীপুর। ঙ) সহকারী বন সেক্টরের কার্যালয়, লক্ষ্মীপুর জেলা।
১৩।	দরপত্র ঘোষণা স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	স্থান- বিজ্ঞাপন বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী তারিখ ১৭/০৫/২০২২ইং সময় বিকাল ৫.০ ঘটিকা
১৪।	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিবি বিক্রয়ের স্থান	৪০০.০০ (চারশত) টাকা অফিসযোগ্য

ক্রম নং	রেঞ্জ/এসএফএনটিসি/এসএফসিসি এর নাম	বাগানের ধরণ ও সুমনের সাহা	বাগানের পরিমাণ	বাগানের অবস্থান
১।	মালিঙ্গা রেঞ্জ	স্ট্রিপ বাগান ১৯৯৬-১৯৯৭ ১৯৯৭-১৯৯৮ ১৯৯৮-১৯৯৯ ২০০০-২০০১ ২০০১-২০০২	৩৫.৭০ হিঃমিঃ (সিঃমিঃ)	মালিঙ্গা উপজেলায় ১) সেলিম মোহাম্মদের বাড়ী হতে সাগরীয়া রেজের বাগানের শেষ প্রান্ত ট্রাইব্যুনি বাগানের দক্ষিণ পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১৬-৬৭টি গাছ ২) বাগের মোড় হতে বালাবাগার ভাড়া নদ বোতের মাঝে ভাড়া ওখালী পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১৯১৮টি গাছ ৩) বাগেরহাট হতে বালিপুর ভূমিরিক ভাড়া বালিপুর হতে আকাজিয়া কলার পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ২২১৩টি গাছ ৪) মদার সুমানির বাড়ী হতে মাইলদী বাগার পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১৬-৭২টি গাছ ৫) কালীর বাগার হতে জগদেবী ভাড়া অত্র ট্রাইব্যুনি মোড় ভাড়া এর আলী ব্রিক ভিত্তি হতে জিলাস মোড় ও আনোয়ারা অফিসের উত্তরে স্থান পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১০৪৯টি গাছ ৬) ওখালী হতে বালি মিয়াস বাগার পর্যন্ত এবং বেকের বাগার মালিঙ্গার পশ্চিম হতে অফিসের বাগার বৈষ্ণব স্ট্রাইট পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৩০৬টি গাছ মোট ৩,২২৪টি গাছ।
২।	আহাঝমারা রেঞ্জ	স্ট্রিপ বাগান ১৯৯৬-১৯৯৭ ১৯৯৭-১৯৯৮ ১৯৯৮-১৯৯৯ ২০০০-২০০১ ২০০১-২০০২	৩৫.০ হিঃমিঃ (সিঃমিঃ)	হাতিয়া উপজেলায় ১) সোমালিয়া বালাবাগার হতে কামার মোড় পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১০১৮টি গাছ ২) জাহাঙ্গীর বাগার হতে সুফর (সিঃমিঃ) বাগার মোড় পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৩১১টি গাছ ৩) জাহাঙ্গীর বাগার হতে মালদান বৈষ্ণব স্ট্রাইট পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৩৪৪টি গাছ ৪) কালী মিয়া পর্যন্তের মোড় হতে আমতলী বাগার পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৪০৭টি গাছ ৫) জাহাঙ্গীর কামার মোড় হতে জাহাঙ্গীর বাগার এবং চরভেঙ্গা মোড় পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৫৬৮টি গাছ ৬) মোস্তার খাল হতে আমতলী পর্যন্ত ৪৮১টি গাছ মোট ৪,০৭৪টি গাছ।
৩।	সাগরীয়া রেঞ্জ	স্ট্রিপ বাগান ১৯৯৬-১৯৯৭ ১৯৯৭-১৯৯৮ ১৯৯৮-১৯৯৯ ১৯৯৯-১৯৯৯ ২০০০-২০০১ ২০০১-২০০২	৩৫.৬ হিঃমিঃ (সিঃমিঃ)	হাতিয়া উপজেলায় ১) জলাখালী সরকারী গ্রামিক লিয়ার হতে সোমালিয়া বালাবাগার পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১০৭৭টি গাছ ২) হরেন্দ্র মাঝেই হতে সাগরীয়া মোড় ট্রাইব্যুনি পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১৬৭টি গাছ ৩) সাগরীয়া বাগ হতে পূর্ব দিগের পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৩৪৪টি গাছ ৪) দিগের মোড় হতে হাতিয়া বাগার পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৭৪৪টি গাছ ৫) শের মোড়ের সেকেন হতে সুফরীয়া দুইই পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৬৬৪টি গাছ ৬) চৌধুরা বাগার হতে বালা বাগার পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১৯৯৬টি গাছ ৭) কালী মোড়ের দক্ষিণ হতে বাসমতল মোড়ের দক্ষিণে বাসমতল পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ৫৭৩টি গাছ মোট ৪,০৭৪টি গাছ।
৪।	হামাতি উপজেলা এসএফসিসি	স্ট্রিপ বাগান ২০১১-২০১২	৩৪.০ হিঃমিঃ (সিঃমিঃ)	হামাতি উপজেলায় সিঃমিঃ হতে হামাতি বাগার পর্যন্ত মোট ১০-২৩টি গাছ।
৫।	বায়পু উপজেলা এসএফসিসি	স্ট্রিপ বাগান ১৯৯৬-১৯৯৭	৩২.০ হিঃমিঃ (সিঃমিঃ)	বায়পু উপজেলায় বাহুর বাগার হতে হায়দগঞ্জ পর্যন্ত মার্ককৃত ১৬৩৭টি গাছ।

মোঃ ফরিদ মিত্রা
বিজ্ঞাপন বন কর্মকর্তা
উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী
Email: cfdnki@gmail.com

জিডি-৮৬৫

Monitoring, mapping

FROM PAGE 5
Speakers said the tidal mudflat map will play an important role in planning and implementation of coastal development. It will also be helpful for mangrove afforestation, land reclamation from the

sea and implementation of Delta Plan 2100.

Sparso additional secretary Khairul Alam was present as a guest of honour and Zafar Ullah Khan, Sparso chair, presided over the seminar. High officials of the

Ministry of Defence, representatives of the Forest Department, Coast Guard, Navy, Disaster Management Bureau, teachers of various departments and other relevant officials were present at the seminar.

Keen to take

FROM PAGE 5
Department of Operational Support; and Police Adviser Luis Ribeiro Carrilho.

Maj Gen Maureen expressed interest in recruiting more peacekeepers from

Bangladesh in the future, according to a press release from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN.

During the talks, the acting military adviser and the ASG of the Peace

Building Affairs requested the army chief to deploy an aviation contingent to the UN peacekeeping mission as soon as possible.

The army chief agreed in principle to the request.

Road to ruin

FROM PAGE 5
Transport and Bridges Ministry, seeking Tk 5 crore for construction, on April 26 last year.

Once built, the road will facilitate loggers to access ecologically sensitive greenery, which is already exposed to grabbing, logging and wildlife hunting, said experts.

The 11,654-acre DDWS -- located at Khurosia and Dhophari range of Chattogram South Forest, near Chandanaish -- is home to at least 608 species of plants and over 500 species of fauna. It is a wildlife hotspot, according to a joint research of Chittagong University and Jahangirnagar University.

On April 6, 2010, the area was officially declared a wildlife sanctuary by the government. Many kinds of reptiles and mammals, like monkeys, oriental garden lizards, monitor lizards, wild boars, wild cats, pythons and deer, inhabit the sanctuary.

During a recent visit to DDWS, this correspondent found that labourers were laying bricks on the road, and some were constructing drains on the side. Mohammed Badsha, a worker, said, "We are laying a thousand bricks a day. Already 10 kilometres of the road have been constructed."

Meanwhile, some residents said a paved road is required for proper movement at the location.

"It's difficult to drive on unpaved roads. During monsoon, traffic on this road is completely closed," said Muzibul Haque, a resident of Dhophari.

RHD is constructing the

road for 6,000 residents who live in the forest under the union, said Suman Singha, executive engineer of RHD in Chandanaish.

The cabinet division has already issued a circular, asking all government organisations to obtain clearance certificates from the forest department before starting any construction work through forests. The forest department has written to RHD expressing concerns over the project, said Shafiqul Islam, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Chattogram-south forest department.

"Construction of such a structure is forbidden under the forest act. They cannot do it without our consent," he said.

Suman Singha admitted that the project's environmental impact has not been assessed. "We asked the DFO for clearance. But they did not allow it." Lawmaker Nazrul commented that human life is bigger than forests.

"During monsoon, people of the area cannot move on the unpaved roads. If someone is sick, it is not possible to take them to the hospital. So, I have applied to build a road through the sanctuary."

Experts, however, have expressed concerns over the construction.

Mohammad Kamal Hossain, professor of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at CU, said if the road is built, the sanctuary will be divided. Then tree lifters and wildlife hunters will be able to carry out their activities easily.

Selling back to those

FROM PAGE 5
Billal Hossain (28), Iqbal Hossain alias Palash (34), Sharif Ahmed alias Kalu (40) and Iqbal Khan (32).

Of them, Kalu has a car-part shop in Baridhara, and Iqbal's one is in Paltan.

Mahabub Alam, joint-commissioner (south) of DB, disclosed the findings while addressing a briefing at DMP. Police recovered scores of rear-view and side mirrors, grills and doors from the arrestees' possession.

Alam said the syndicate

was involved in stealing car parts for the last seven to eight years, and Enamul is the ringleader.

Detectives said they have traced seven car part shops that are involved in such activities. They are located in Scout Market in Paltan, Mohakhali Jaba Tower and Dholaikhal area.

Madhusudan Das, assistant commissioner (Lalbagh division) of DB, said the syndicate used to steal parts from Gulshan, Uttara, Mirpur and Dhanmondi.

The journey

FROM PAGE 3
of vehicles. Only private cars, minibuses and pick-up vans are allowed to board ferries on this route.

Earlier, ferry operation on these routes remained suspended for over six months, after ferries collided with the Padma Bridge pillar at least four times last year.

Meanwhile, an official of BIWTA said Sadarghat Launch Terminal witnessed normal pressure yesterday. They, however, thought the rush would start getting momentum today.




HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
— Humanity & Inclusion
Phone number: +88 0222284794; +88 02222292188;
E-mail address: logistics@bangladesh.hi.org


International Call For Tender
Handicap International (HI) is hereby inviting an International Call for Tender to Establish Framework Agreement for Procurement of Assistive Device. To participate the process, potential bidders are requested to submit their proposal either collect the printed Tender Document from HI Country Office: House 3/A, Road 36, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh or through email request: logistics@bangladesh.hi.org
Or can download the electronic version through the link:
<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/handicap/handicap81.htm>
Last date for submission of application is on 24/05/2022 by 14:00 hour.


Invitation to submit proposals for two (2) Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-9174626: For Servicing and Maintenance of Electronic/Biometric Access Control (dual authentication) System for UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office (BCO) under Long Term Arrangement (LTA) for 3 + 2 years
RFP No. LRPS-9174631: For Servicing and Maintenance of Electronic Access Control Systems and CCTV Surveillance Systems for UNICEF-Bangladesh including Field Offices (excluding Access Control Systems in UNICEF BCO and Cox's Bazar Field Office) under Long Term Arrangement (LTA) for 3 + 2 years
UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services under one contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"
For Site Visit: Please see the contact information mentioned in the RFP.
The deadline to submit the proposal is **Wednesday, 18 May 2022; Time: 11:00 Hrs.**
Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.
www.unicef.org.bd



for every child





NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

Tender Notice
Tender No. NSU/21-22-14
North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ distributors/ business partners/ agents for supplying various network items, digital screen, desktop computer, multimedia video projector with others for North South University as described in the tender schedule.
Detail of the items mentioned below:
Lot: 1- Various network items
Lot: 2- Core i7 desktop computer
Lot: 3- Core i5 desktop computer
Lot: 4- Multimedia video projector with ceiling mount kit
Lot: 5- Multimedia video projector screen with hanger
Lot: 6- Webcam, tripod, microphone, speaker
Lot: 7- Digital panel board
Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days till **May 17, 2022** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.
The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **May 18, 2022** by 2.15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka- 1229
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202
E-mail to: procurement@northsouth.edu, www.northsouth.edu
Fax : +88-02-55668202



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Bagerhat
www.lged.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
এম শহরের উন্নতি

e-Tender Notice (OTM): 41/2021-2022
Memo No. 46.02.0100.000.07.002.21-1921 Date: 27-04-2022
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of stated below:

Tender IDs	Package Description & No.	Last date & time of depositing document fees
691994 (OTM)	Construction of 35.00m long PSC Girder Bridge on Kachua-Banogram RHD (Kachua Portion) Road at Chainage: 5666m under New Construction Category, (2 nd Call), [Road ID-2013820031] [Kachua] [Bagerhat] & SupRB/Bager/New/21-22/W-21	16.05.2022 Time: 5.00pm

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

Md. Sharifuzzaman
Executive Engineer
Phone: 0468-63096
E-mail: xen.bagerhat@lged.gov.bd

GD-868



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Position Vacancy Announcement
Position: Project Management Specialist (Family Planning/Reproductive Health), FSN – 11
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Project Management Specialist (Family Planning/Reproductive Health), FSN – 11** in the Office of Population, Health & Nutrition (PHN).
Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: May 25, 2022
For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers and www.bdjobs.com website: www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers and www.bdjobs.com D-47



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CFEI) FROM UNFPA BANGLADESH, COX'S BAZAR SUB-OFFICE, SRHR UNIT

The United Nations Populations Fund, hereafter referred to as UNFPA is in the process of identifying potential non-governmental implementing partners for implementation of SRHR programme in the Humanitarian context in Cox's Bazar District and Bhasan Char island, Bangladesh. Specific intervention areas include: 1) Provision of comprehensive SRHR services in supported facilities; 2) Scale up the provision of Family Planning including MR/PAC services; 3) Supporting the emergency referral transportation system and ambulance services; 4) Supporting SRHR-GBV integration; 5) Strengthening community engagement programmes on SRHR; and; 6) Strengthening Information Management Systems and reporting. Organizations may express their interest in **all or any** of the intervention areas as separately.
Those interested in participating in the process should forward their expression of interest to enl-bgd@unfpa.org by **16th May 2022, 5:00pm [BST]** enclosing the information listed below.
- Full legal name and address of applying institution
- Copy of valid registration in the country
- Mandate or mission statement of organisation
- Statement of organisation's expertise in the relevant area
- Short description of the organisation's existing operations in the subject matter area, including how long the operations have been carried out.
Upon receipt of the above information from prospective implementing partners, UNFPA will review applicants for placement on a short list of potential implementing partners. Those short-listed organisations may be invited to submit formal proposals to become an implementing partner. The invitation for Proposal will provide a more detailed description of the scope of work.
Note: Due to the high volume of communications, UNFPA is not in a position to confirm receipt of the expression of interest.
Get the Full Announcement here:
<https://bangladesh.unfpa.org/en/submit/call-expression-interest-cfei-unfpa-bangladesh-coxs-bazar-sub-office-srhr-unit>




Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207,
Phone: 8282658-61, Website: www.pksf-bd.org

e-GP Tender Notice (Goods)
PKSF invites e-Tender in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No	Description	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
691508	Procurement of Equipment [Laptop (70 pcs.) and Android Tab (140 pcs.)] for RBM System Development under SEP of PKSF	27-04-2022 17:00 PM	02-06-2022 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

A.T.M. Hemayet-Ur-Rahman
Deputy General Manager (Admin)




Paramount Textile PLC
House # 22 (level-2,5-8), R # 113/A, Gulshan-2,Dhaka-1212
Price Sensitive Information


This is for kind information to all valued members of Paramount Textile PLC and others that the Board of Directors of the company in its meeting held on 27th April, 2022 at 3.00 p.m. has taken the Following Price Sensitive Decision: -

Sl. No	Particulars	01.07.2021-31.03.2022	01.07.2020-31.03.2021	01.01.2022-31.03.2022	01.01.2021-31.03.2021
i	Earnings Per Share (EPS)	3.92	3.24 (Restated)	0.95	0.92 (Restated)
	As on 31.03.2022	As On 30.06.2021			
ii	Net Asset Value (NAV)	4,707,283,427	4,224,794,130	N/A	N/A
iii	Net Asset Value Per Share	28.91	25.95 (Restated)	N/A	N/A
	01.07.2021-31.03.2022	01.07.2020-31.03.2021	N/A	N/A	
iv	Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	2.01	2.35 (Restated)	N/A	N/A

Dated: April 27, 2022
By the order of the Board
Sd/-
(Md.Robiul Islam FCS)
Company Secretary



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Munshiganj
www.lged.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
এম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.5900.000.07.001.21-1053 Date: 26-04-2022
e-Tender Notice No. 31/2021-22 Procurement of Works (NCT)
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID No.	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing date& time	Procurement method
1.	GDP-3/ MU-95	(a) Remaining Work of Gobardil Primary School to Boro Pauldin Road by BC at Ch. 00-1300m under Upazila: Sirajdikhan, District: Munshiganj. Road ID: 359745007 (b) Remaining Work of Khashshur Battala to Uttar Paushar Road by BC at Ch. 00-800m under Upazila: Sirajdikhan, District: Munshiganj. Road ID: 359745138 (c) Remaining Work of Mustofagoni Madrasa- West Sialdi Graveyard Road by BC at Ch. 00-1200m under Upazila: Sirajdikhan, District: Munshiganj. Road ID: 359745041 (salvage Material Cost BDT: 12,95,771.00)	688237	Up to 12:00 30-May-2022	At 14:00 30-May-2022	OSTETM
2.	GDP-3/ MU-96	Protective work of Kheterpara Mosque-Kazirgaon Road from Ch. 950m-1070m under Upazila: Lauhaganj, District: Munshiganj. Road ID: 359444006	689721	Up to 12:00 30-May-2022	At 14:00 30-May-2022	OSTETM
3.	IRIDP-3/ MUN/DW-21	Improvement of Thairgaon Chowrasta-Nandakona Abashan Project Road at Ch. 00-500m under Upazila: Sirajdikhan, District: Munshiganj (Road ID No.: 359745181)	690578	Up to 12:00 18-May-2022	At 14:00 18-May-2022	LTM
4.	IRIDP-3/ MUN/DW-22	Improvement of Hafizuddin Madber's House to Chargulgulia Govt. Pry. School Road at Ch. 920-1500m under Upazila: Sirajdikhan, District: Munshiganj (Road ID No.: 359745136)	690604	Up to 12:00 18-May-2022	At 14:00 18-May-2022	LTM
5.	IRIDP-3/ MUN/DW-23	Improvement of Nayagang President Bari-Bumia Jalbes Ind. Road at Ch. 00-880m under Upazila: Sadar, District: Munshiganj (Road ID No.: 359565035) (Salvage Material Cost BDT: 11,72,737.00)	690631	Up to 12:00 18-May-2022	At 14:00 18-May-2022	LTM
6.	IRIDP-3/ MUN/DW-24	Improvement of Modda Mohakhali- Goshabari Road at Ch. 180-1584m under Upazila: Sadar, District: Munshiganj (Road ID No.: 359564027) (Salvage Material Cost BDT: 9,23,890.00)	690643	Up to 12:00 18-May-2022	At 14:00 18-May-2022	LTM
7.	LGED/SSW R DP-2/BD-P08/2020-2021/72060-Structures	(a) Construction of WRS at Ch. 0+143km (3V-1.5mX2.5m). (b) Construction of Box Culvert at Ch. 0+790km (3V-4.5mX5m). (c) Construction of WMCA office (12m X 6m). (d) Electrical Works of WMCA office. (e) Supply of Office Furniture of WMCA office. (f) Documentation of Works of Nateshwar Khal Sub-Project (SP ID-72060) under Upazila: Sirajdikhan, District: Munshiganj.	690734 (Re-Tender)	Up to 12:00 18-May-2022	At 14:00 18-May-2022	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-866

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ		গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী		অংশীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সৃজিত বাগানে খাড়া গাছ/ ঝড়োপড়া জমকৃত ও আহরিত বনজাতীয় বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১।		বায়োম্যানেজারী সনদে		১। উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী।		০৪/০৫/২০২১-২২ তারিখ ২৬/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ।	
২।		দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ।		২। মিস্ত্রিক জরদিলস রিভাইভ (রেজিঃএসএফএনটিসি/এসএফএনটিসি এর খাড়া গাছ, পূর্ববর্তী টেন্ডার কার্যক্রম শাসনমুখ এবং ঝড়োপড়া/জমকৃত/আহরিত বনজাতীয় বিক্রয়।		৩। দরপত্রের উক্ত নম্বর ১০% (শতকরা দশ, শেকবেকোয়)।	
৩।		কাজের বিবরণ ও স্থান।		৪। দরপত্র উক্ত নম্বর ৪০% (শতকরা পঞ্চাশ, গৃহীত শেক্স সাথে সমন্বয় মেয়াদ)।		৫। প্রকৃত কাজ বাধ্যবাধী/মৈদে লাইসেন্স প্রাপ্ত স্বা. মিস্ট্রের মালিক/মালিকের ছাউনি/বাগানের অংশীদার/বর্তমান/বর্তমান অধিকারী।	
৪।		দরপত্র কমান্ডার		৬। কমান্ডারের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		৭। কমান্ডারের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
৫।		অধিদপ্তর		৮। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		৯। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
৬।		দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১০। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১১। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
৭।		কর্মের স্বাক্ষর		১২। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১৩। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
৮।		কর্ম সম্পাদনের সময়		১৪। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১৫। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
৯।		দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১৬। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১৭। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
১০।		দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১৮। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		১৯। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
১১।		দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		২০। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		২১। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
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১৩।		দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		২৪। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।		২৫। দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।	
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২১।		দরপত্রের প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ১৫(পনের) দিন।					

Nawshaba back in her element

SHARMIN JOYA

Popular actress Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed made her debut in theatre with the play “Sonata” in 2011, and on television with the fiction, “Chhotobela Borobela”. Her first silver screen appearance was in the film “Udhao”, released in 2015. She continued to impress the audience with her acting prowess in films like “Chhuye Dile Mon”, “Dhaka Attack”, “Bhuban Majhi” and “Chandrabati Kotha” among others, since then. She also worked on television projects and TVCs, besides being a voice artiste. She has voiced the Sisimpur character Bhuto, and directed her own puppet shows for three consecutive years.

Nawshaba also played a pivotal role in “Mishti Kichu”, the second episode of Nuhash Humayun’s anthology series for Chorki, “Pett Kata Shaw”.

She will star in the Eid special serial “Bhai Khub Sensitive” in six different avatars, in each of its seven episodes.

“We shot for this project in three days, which was really challenging. I acted in two different roles each day, beginning from morning till evening,” she says.

The serial is written and directed by Harun Rusho. Nawshaba plays an actress, a beggar, house help, doctor, pregnant woman living in a slum and hijacker in it.

“Layered with comedy, the serial carries social messages.

I hope the audience likes our effort,” she asserts. “The script really amazed me, and I believe

that if we had a bigger budget and produced it for OTT platforms or the silver screen, the story would have worked better.”

“Bhai Khub Sensitive” also features Mukit Zakaria, Syed Shiplu, and Anila Tanjum among others.

Nawshaba will also be featured on “Chader Haat”, a family drama slated for release on the night before Eid. It is directed by Eamin Elan. “I am always up for projects that focus on family bonds, as right now, people seem quite detached from one another,” she adds. The tele-fiction also features Fakhrul Basher Masum, Mili Basher, and Evan Sair among others.

Nawshaba has also worked on a musical film, which is expected to release this Eid.

“

I am always up for projects that focus on family bonds, as right now, people seem quite detached from one another.



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR, HEEMEL

Robert Pattinson returning for ‘The Batman’ sequel

Warner Bros and DC Films have officially announced a sequel to Matt Reeves’ “The Batman”.

According to reports, Robert Pattinson will reprise his role as the Capes Crusader and Reeves, who served as the writer and director for “The Batman”, is set to write the script for the sequel.

The Batman stars Pattinson as Bruce Wayne and sees him contend with the likes of The Riddler (Paul Dano), Carmine Falcone (John Turturro) and The Penguin (Colin Farrell). However, he’s not alone in his crusade, as

he’s joined by Catwoman (Zoë Kravitz) and Lt James Gordon (Jeffrey Wright).

The film has impressed audiences and critics alike, with many praising its grim and gritty aesthetic and noir themes.



Bijori Barkatullah and Anisul Islam Hero to perform together this Eid

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular dancer Anisul Islam Hero and renowned actress and dancer Bijori Barkatullah are collaborating for a dance programme after a decade. The show, titled “Nritttyo Chhonde”, is set to air this Eid on BTV. The duo has performed together numerous times on stage.

“Bijori is one of the nicest people I know, she is really hardworking. I am elated to work with her after a long time, that too, on an Eid show,” says Hero.

“Nritttyo Chhonde” is produced by Imam Hossain, with Hero as the supervisor.



NEWS

Air tickets get

FROM PAGE 16

Since the Saudi authorities will allocate a slot to Biman, the final decision to begin the hajj flight depends on their permission, Ali said, adding that it is expected to start from May 31.

The Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), a platform of more than 1,500 hajj operators, are not happy with the airfare.

“We as well as the religious affairs ministry had recommended fixing the hajj airfare at Tk 1.25 lakh. But the ministry didn’t pay heed to our demand,” M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, president of HAAB, told The Daily Star.

After a gap of two years, Bangladeshis will once again be allowed into Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

In 2019, a total of 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform hajj.

This year, the Saudi government will allow one million people from around the world to perform Hajj, with 57,585 being Bangladeshis.

Hefty loss

FROM PAGE 16

FY2016-17: Tk 1,325.20 crore in FY2015-16; Tk 872.84 crore in 2014-15; Tk 801.51 crore in 2013-14; Tk 758.11 crore in 2012-13; Tk 963.68 crore in 2011-12; Tk 862.27 crore in 2010-11; Tk 690.9 crore in 2009-10; and Tk 547.39 crore in 2008-09, show the books.

China detects first human case of H3N8 bird flu

AFP, Beijing

China has confirmed the first known human case of the H3N8 strain of avian flu, but health authorities say there is a low risk of widespread transmission among people.

DB holds back suspects’ party affiliation

FROM PAGE 16

injured, including journalists, students, and cops. The cases are now under investigation.

The DB is probing two murder cases.

About the development in the investigation into the murder of delivery man Nahid Mia, the DB official said they would soon be able to share information on the arrests of suspects.

The 19-year-old was beaten and hacked during the clashes between Dhaka College students and shopkeepers on April 19. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital that night.

“We have identified some people through

analysing video footage. Dhaka College hostels are closed now. Some suspects have gone into hiding. Several DB teams are trying to arrest them,” the official said, expressing optimism that they would be able to give some “positive news” soon.

After identifying around a dozen suspects, the investigation was now focusing on two people – Kaiyum and Emon Bashar – both activists of Dhaka College Chhatra League, said investigators.

Kaiyum, a Dhaka College student, in a blue T-shirt first hit Nahid with an iron pipe and Emon hacked the delivery man with a machete, showed footage

and photos.

Emon is a second-year honours student of Bangla at the same college.

MORSALIN MURDER

The DB joint commissioner yesterday said they were still clueless about the murder of clothing shop salesman Md Morsalin, 27.

“There’s still no clue to the murder. We primarily suspect that he might have been hit by chunks of bricks and later died of his wounds. We are yet to confirm the location from where the chunks of bricks were hurled,” Mahbub told reporters at the press briefing.

He said those who hurled chunks of bricks or led mobs during the

clashes cannot avoid their responsibilities. “We are trying to identify and interrogate them.”

Morsalin, who suffered head injuries during the clashes, died early on April 21. The 27-year-old was a salesman at a clothing shop at the New Super Market.

Also yesterday, a Dhaka court sent Mokbul Hossain to jail after police produced him before it on expiry of three-day remand in a case filed in connection with the clashes.

Mokbul is a member of the Dhaka South BNP convening committee and also a former president of the party’s New Market thana unit.

Railway service revamped

FROM PAGE 1

The PM said once it was advised that BRTC be shut down as it was not a profitable venture.

“What matters most for a state-owned agency is how much service it renders to the people, not how much profit it makes.”

The premier blasted the railway’s property through arson attacks in the name of movement.

“When we procured new coaches and locomotives, BNP unleashed arson

violence. The most unfortunate thing is that new train coaches carrying passengers were set on fire.... What type of movement was it? Those were rather terrorist activities,” she said.

About the newly commissioned locomotives, the PM said it would help the people travel smoothly to their homes to celebrate the coming Eid-ul-Fitr with their families.

Hasina commissioned 30 meter-gauge locomotives and 16 broad-

gauge ones by flagging those off. She also opened the two mobile rail museums on the occasion of Mujib Borsho.

ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Railways Ministry, also spoke at the programme, presided over by Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujat.

PMO Senior Secretary Md Tofazzel Hossain Miah and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas were present.

Home’s inaction to blame

FROM PAGE 16

from the home ministry, he said.

Shahriar said lifting of the sanctions would take time.

Bangladesh would not have been in such an unpleasant situation had that information been sent to the countries and organisations concerned, Shahriar said, according to the minutes of a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs held in February.

The minutes were approved at another meeting of the JS body yesterday.

At the February meeting, the parliamentary body blasted the foreign ministry for “being oblivious to the impending US sanctions on Rab”.

The JS body said it considered it a complete failure that the Bangladesh embassy in the US “had no idea about the US decision against such an important law enforcement agency in Bangladesh”.

The parliamentary watchdog asked the foreign ministry if any other country or organisation was considering similar sanctions. Besides, it

advised that the missions abroad, especially in the US and Europe, play a more proactive role.

On December 10 last year, the US imposed human rights-related sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former top officials.

According to the meeting minutes, the chairman of the committee, Muhammad Farooq Khan, said it was an utter failure of the Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC.

Nahim Razzak, a member of the committee, said a vested group was pushing propaganda for a long time to make the Bangladesh government controversial before the world by recruiting lobbyists in different countries.

But the foreign ministry had failed to deal with this propaganda, he said.

Shahriar said the ministry and the missions were working hard to tackle the propaganda.

Minister Momen said Bangladesh missions abroad work as lobbyists. But the lobbyist firms appointed by others are more influential because the embassy officials

are not so close to the lawmakers of that country.

On the other hand, the question of accountability comes while spending public money to hire lobbyists.

“So, there are restrictions on hiring lobbyist firms abroad by spending huge sums of money,” he said.

Fayaz Murshid Kazi, DG of the US wing of the foreign ministry, said no communication was possible between the Biden administration and the foreign ministry because of the Covid-19. The US did not raise or discuss the issue of sanctions against Rab in any forum, they did it very secretly, he said.

Russia destroys

FROM PAGE 16

yesterday that it has banned entry to 287 British MPs in response to the UK’s sanctions against Russian parliamentarians over the war in Ukraine.

The ministry also said it had traded Trevor Reed, a former US Marine held in a Russian jail, for Russian citizen Konstantin Yaroshenko, who was serving a 20-year sentence in the United States.

AFP, Islamabad

The scion of Pakistan's most influential political dynasty was appointed foreign minister yesterday, the latest step up a ladder likely to take Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to the top of the country's leadership.

Aged 33, Bhutto becomes one of the world's youngest foreign ministers but inherits a diplomatic bag of issues that started well before he was born -- including relations with arch-rival India. Bhutto was sworn in two weeks after he helped lead an alliance that toppled Imran Khan and saw Shehbaz Sharif become prime minister.

His first foreign mission in the role will be accompanying Sharif today to Saudi Arabia, a key trade partner and regular source of relief for Pakistan's economy.

Bhutto is the son of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, as well as the grandson of another former premier, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The new foreign minister is considered a progressive, in his mother's image, and has frequently spoken out on the rights of women and minorities.

Political commentators have mixed opinions on Bhutto's abilities -- or how long he can maintain good relations with premier Sharif, of the rival Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) party.

"I believe he is an un-tested missile," analyst Hassan Askari Rizvi told AFP. "It is too early for a young MP."

Fellow analyst Farzana Bari disagreed. "I think Bilawal is intelligent enough to hold the fort," she told AFP.



People undergo nucleic acid tests for the Covid-19 coronavirus at a makeshift testing site outside office buildings in Beijing, yesterday.

AFP, Yangon

A Myanmar junta court yesterday sentenced Aung San Suu Kyi to five years in jail for corruption, part of a barrage of criminal cases that could see the deposed civilian leader jailed for decades.

Suu Kyi has been in military custody since a coup ousted her government in February last year and plunged Myanmar into turmoil.

In the latest case, the Nobel laureate was accused of accepting a bribe of \$600,000 in cash and gold bars.

After two days of delays, the special court in the military-built capital Naypyidaw handed down its verdict

and sentence at 9:30am (0300 GMT).

“Regarding taking gold and dollars from U Phyo Min Thein, the court sentenced her to five years’ imprisonment,” junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun told AFP.

"She will be under house arrest. I do not know whether she asked for appeal. They are working according to the legal way. As far as I know, she's in good health."

Local media, citing unnamed sources close to the court, later reported she plans to appeal yesterday's conviction for corruption.

Suu Kyi still faces a raft of other criminal charges, including violating the official secrets act, corruption and

electoral fraud, and could be jailed for more than 100 years if convicted on all counts.

The 76-year-old had already been sentenced to six years in jail for incitement against the military, breaching Covid-19 rules and breaking a telecommunications law -- although she will remain under house arrest while she fights other charges.

She has not appealed any of those convictions.

Suu Kyi has been the face of Myanmar's democratic hopes for more than 30 years, but her earlier six-year sentence already meant she is likely to miss elections the junta has said it plans to hold by next year.



This (testing cuts) makes us increasingly blind to patterns of transmission and evolution. When it comes to a deadly disease, knowledge is not bliss.

WHO chief **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল
ময়মনসিংহ

Website: www.mmch.gov.bd, E-mail: mmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-মমেকহা/দরপত্র/ঔষধ ও টিকা (ফ্যাক্টর-VIII, ফ্যাক্টর-IX)/২০২২/৩৬১২ তারিখঃ ২৬/০৪/২০২২ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।													
২.	সংগ্রাহক/স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	পরিচালক, ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ময়মনসিংহ।													
৩.	অর্থায়নের উৎস	রাজস্ব বাজেট/উন্নয়ন বাজেট/অন্যান্য খাত, বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে।													
৪.	আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-মমেকহা/দরপত্র/ঔষধ ও টিকা (ফ্যাক্টর-VIII, ফ্যাক্টর-IX)/২০২১-২০২২/৩৬১২, তারিখঃ ২৬/০৪/২০২২ইং													
৫.	দরপত্রের নাম/কাজের বিবরণ	২০২১-২০২২ইং অর্থ বছরে ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ঔষধ ও টিকা (ফ্যাক্টর-VIII, ফ্যাক্টর-IX), (হেমোফিলিয়া রোগের ঔষধ) সরবরাহ কাজ।													
৬.	সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা	ময়মনসিংহ।													
৭.	ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।													
৮.	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	সংশ্লিষ্ট সরবরাহ কাজে যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন (অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে) সকল আমদানীকারক/বাজারজাতকারী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ ঠিকাদার।													
৯.	দরপত্র প্র্যাক্কেজের নাম ও কোড	ঔষধ ও টিকা (ফ্যাক্টর-VIII, ফ্যাক্টর-IX), (হেমোফিলিয়া রোগের ঔষধ) ৩২৫২১০৯													
১০.	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ-১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা চালানোর মাধ্যমে কোড নং: <table style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td>১</td><td>২</td><td>৭</td><td>১</td><td>১</td><td>০</td><td>০</td><td>০</td><td>০</td><td>২</td><td>৩</td><td>৬</td><td>৬</td></tr></table> স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ সেবা খাতে ট্রেজারী চালানোর মাধ্যমে পরিচালক ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালের অনুকূলে শুধুমাত্র বাংলাদেশের যে কোন বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক জমা প্রদান করিয়া চালানোর মূলকপি অত্র হাসপাতালের ক্যাশিয়ার এর নিকট দাখিলপূর্বক সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।	১	২	৭	১	১	০	০	০	০	২	৩	৬	৬
১	২	৭	১	১	০	০	০	০	২	৩	৬	৬			
১১.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১১/০৫/২০২২ইং তারিখ রোজ বুধবার বেলা ০২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।													
১২.	দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয়, দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	পিপিআর-৬১ (৪) অনুযায়ী, দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে প্রত্যেক কার্যদিবসে সকাল ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ০১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।													
১৩.	দরপত্র তফসিল জমা দানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১২/০৫/২০২২ইং তারিখ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।													
১৪.	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১২/০৫/২০২২ইং তারিখ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।													
১৫.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল এর কার্যালয়, ক্যাশিয়ারের নিকট হতে দরপত্র তফসিল প্রকাশের দিন থেকে।													
১৬.	দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের স্থান	ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তবে।													
১৭.	দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর কনফারেন্স রুম।													
১৮.	দরপত্র জামানত/বায়নার টাকা (সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী)	<table><tr><th>প্যাকেজ</th><th>গ্রুপের বিবরণ</th><th>দরপত্র জামানত/বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ (পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট)</th></tr><tr><td>প্যাকেজ</td><td>ঔষধ ও টিকা (ফ্যাক্টর-VIII, ফ্যাক্টর-IX), (হেমোফিলিয়া রোগের ঔষধ)</td><td>২,৫০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা)</td></tr></table>	প্যাকেজ	গ্রুপের বিবরণ	দরপত্র জামানত/বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ (পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট)	প্যাকেজ	ঔষধ ও টিকা (ফ্যাক্টর-VIII, ফ্যাক্টর-IX), (হেমোফিলিয়া রোগের ঔষধ)	২,৫০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা)							
প্যাকেজ	গ্রুপের বিবরণ	দরপত্র জামানত/বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ (পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট)													
প্যাকেজ	ঔষধ ও টিকা (ফ্যাক্টর-VIII, ফ্যাক্টর-IX), (হেমোফিলিয়া রোগের ঔষধ)	২,৫০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা)													
১৯.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১) দরপত্রের যাবতীয় শর্তাৱলী/নিয়মাবলী/দরপত্র সিডিউল/তফসিলে উল্লেখ রহিয়াছে। ২) ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ৩) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। ৪) দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত “দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট এ্যাক্ট-২০০৬, পিপিআর-২০০৮” এবং স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের SRO অনুযায়ী অনুসরণ করা হইবে।													
২০.	অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র নোটিশে উল্লেখিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।														

ডাঃ মোঃ ওয়ায়েজ উদ্দীন ফরাজী
উপ পরিচালক
পরিচালকের পক্ষে
ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল
ময়মনসিংহ

জিডি-৮-৭৫

শিলা নিয়ে গঠিত দেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Office of the Project Director
 Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
 Directorate of Technical Education
 F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207



Request for Expression of Interest (Selection of Financial Management Specialist)

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost for the Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project and intends to apply part of its for consulting services for the Project by some individual consultants.

1	Ministry/Division:	Technical & Madrasa Education Division			
2	Agency:	Directorate of Technical Education			
3	Procuring Entity Name:	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project			
4	Procuring Entity Code:	Not used at present			
5	Procuring Entity District:	Dhaka			
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of :	Individual Consultant (Time based)			
7	Invitation Ref No.:	57.03.0000.000.07.008.21-64			
8	Date:	24.04.2022			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method:	Individual Consultant Selection (Time Based)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds:	Development Budget (IDA)			
11	Development Partners:	International Development Association (IDA)			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project Code:	P-167506			
13	Project Name:	Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project			
14	EOI Closing Date and Time:	23.05.2022 and 5.00 P.M.			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS					
15	Brief Description of Assignment:				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FMS will take overall charge under the leadership of the PD of the project in accounting and financial management; and conduct the tasks to ensure transparent and accountable financial management; Be responsible for preparing all financial and accounting documents in line with World Bank Guidelines and Public procurement Rules. The Consultant shall maintain financial records and monitoring systems to record and reconcile expenditure, balances, payments, statements and other day to day transactions and reports; Ensure that all financial management components of projects are implemented according to development partners and the government's finance and expenditure management law and regulations; Prepare the Financial Management Reports (FMRs), Statement of Expenditure (SOE) and Bank Reconciliation Statements as well as other periodic financial statement; N.B. Please see the ToR for detail description of assignment. 			
16	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FM Specialist will have at least fifteen (15) years' experience in accounting and financial management, with at least three years in a managerial position in a government or semi-government/ autonomous organization. Experience in accounting and financial management procedures of the World Bank will be required. Master's Degree with honors in a relevant discipline, e.g. Commerce, Business Management, Accounting, or other relevant disciplines etc.; Professional qualification from any of the IFAC bodies such as ICAB/ACCA/CIMA/CMA/CFA is mandatory; N.B. Please see the ToR for detail experience, resources and delivery capacity required 			
17	Other Details (If Applicable):	Interested applicants shall obtain further information from the Project office during office time in any working day before the closing date. They also requested to collect Standard Procurement Document (SPD) and other documents from the office undersigned during office time and website of DTE (www.techedu.gov.bd) within the stipulated date.			
18	Association with foreign firm is:	Not Applicable			
19	Ref No.	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date	Indicative Completion Date
	57.03.0000.000.07.008.21-64	24 Person Month	DTE, Dhaka	01 June, 2022	31 May, 2024
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
20	Name of Official Inviting EOI:	Md. Mohsin			
21	Designation of Official Inviting EOI:	Project Director(Additional Secretary), ASSET Project			
22	Address of Official Inviting EOI:	Project Director, Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project, Directorate of Technical Education, Room No - 501, F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.			
23	Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Tel: 02-41024954			
24	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				


 (Md. Mohsin)

Project Director (Additional Secretary)

GD-871



Laudes ———
Foundation



Ethical recruitment is the answer

Ethical recruitment and zero cost migration in the context of the Eighth Five-Year Plan

The Government of Bangladesh's prioritisation of remittances as an important tool to support development and drive Bangladesh's economy further is reflected in their migration-related programmes and planning. Remittances should be prioritised, and as such remitters should be valued and protected. In this respect, the Government of Bangladesh should explore mechanisms to support remittance-sending Bangladeshi migrant workers abroad. This includes ensuring that migrant workers and their families directly benefit from migration through a process that is ethical—labour migration comes at no cost to migrant workers themselves. On March 24, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in association with the Samakal and The Daily Star, organised a multistakeholder dialogue on "Ethical recruitment and zero cost migration in the context of the Eighth Five-Year Plan" in Dhaka. At the dialogue, esteemed guests shared their observations.

Imran Ahmed MP, Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Unlock the development potential of remittances by reducing the cost of migration



There is always a risk of focusing too heavily on the development impacts of remittances but not paying equal attention to those who earn and send remittances. We should constantly be striving to support them more.

We must pay the highest attention to the welfare of migrants, and ensure that they can personally benefit from their journey.

The government has been trying our best to address few very important issues of migration management in Bangladesh, including through:

- ensuring an effective insurance scheme for Bangladeshi migrant workers,
- reducing cost of migration and
- increasing skilled migration.

There has been some progress in many of these areas. On insurance, for instance, migrant workers used to get BDT 200,000 (USD 2,320) insurance coverage for a premium of BDT 990 (USD 11.50), and now they are covered for BDT 400,000 (USD 4,650) with the same premium. Now, migrants pay BDT 490 (USD 5.70) of the premium and the rest of the premium is paid from the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund. We will continue to strive to make the insurance system better. It is possible to provide a good insurance scheme if the premium is BDT 2,000 (USD 24) where the migrant worker and the recruiting agency contribute BDT 500 (USD 6) each and the government contributes BDT 1,000 (USD 12). Another critical factor is that our insurance schemes do not cover workers abroad. We have to figure out a mechanism to address this issue.

On addressing the cost of migration, the Probashi Kallyan Bank has already disbursed around BDT 1,200 crore since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is a ceiling which limits migrant workers from obtaining loans above a certain amount. There also remains a question around who should receive these loans: the migrants overseas or their families. We must address these issues as soon as possible.

When looking at maximizing the development potential of migration and remittances, the question isn't about the sheer number of migrants Bangladesh sends. Even during the COVID 19 pandemic around 275,000 migrants went abroad. The number of Bangladeshi migrants who depart overseas in 2022 is expected to exceed one million. There are two major questions to ask about the types of migrants departing Bangladesh: are we sending skill migrants abroad; and will these migrants remit their earnings through regular channels.

On skilled migrants, there are many training centres established in the country, such as nursing schools. However, many of the nurses who graduate in this country will not get a job abroad because they do not have adequate language skills. We should prioritize language learning for potential skilled migrants. Besides English, we should focus on Chinese (Mandarin), German and Japanese languages. Currently, Germany requires over 400,000 nurses and caregivers, while the UK is looking to recruit over 100,000 nurses. We must put greater emphasis on upskilling and reskilling our potential migrant workers.

On the channels through which migrant workers remit, the majority still send money through the Hundi system (informal channel) despite receiving a 2.5 percent incentive from the government for transferring through official channels. The reason for this is that if remittances are sent through official channels from Dubai the exchange rate used is BDT 23 per UAE Dirham (AED). But in villages the Hundiwalas pay BDT 25 per AED. We have to take strong measures to prevent such illegal methods of remittance transfer. We need to focus on increasing the migration of skilled workforce and encourage the migrants to send their remittance through regular channels.

An important element of maximizing the benefits of migration so making accurate information available to all parties. We are working on creating a comprehensive database of migrants, including aspirant as well as returnee migrants. Recruiting agencies should also be included in the database. They should have the access to the database so that they can make selections from there. They should go through the process of attestation through the same platform. If we can set up a functioning digital platform it will help us in migration management. It will also make the online registration process easier. If needed, we should give incentives to encourage people to register through this digital platform. It will also enable the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment to provide support to the returnees.

On setting an ambitious government agenda in this field, while we may have

included a number of strategic targets in our planning documents such as in the 8th Five-Year Plan, we still face many obstacles in implementing these plans and achieving the targets. A midterm review of the 8th Five-Year Plan is required to better monitor progress and revise this strategic plan accordingly.

There are many stakeholders active in the field of migration. To coordinate stakeholders there should be an apex body on migration management. It should have the authority to make binding decisions so that our plans do not get tied up in red tape indefinitely.

As noted earlier, the most critical issue in the field is the high cost of migration. We need to ensure transparency regarding this cost. If the cost of going abroad for employment is BDT 100,000 on paper, for instance, migrants can end up paying four times that amount. No one is being held responsible for this. Middlemen who make these arrangements leave no evidence of their transactions, which makes it hard to track. Migrants spend most of the time abroad to cover the cost of their migration. While it is important to work with all stakeholders involved in the migration process to reduce cost of migration, this process cannot go on indefinitely.

on for Bangladesh.

In terms of the cost of migration, despite there being a multitude of recruiting agencies in the country, we see a rise in the cost of migration. Competition among these agencies should see a reduction in the cost of migration cost, and this needs to be investigated.

Admittedly, recruiting agencies are profit-seeking businesses. The government should monitor these agencies and make sure they are not making abnormal profits. We must also improve the capacity of law enforcement agencies.

Md. Shahidul Haque, Former Foreign Secretary and Senior Advisor to IOM

Bangladesh should learn from its neighbours about reducing the cost of migration



Migration operates on the basis of the market system. No market system is perfect, as the market will always try to maximise profit. Organisations that work in an ethical manner do not make abnormal profits. However, there

responsibilities. If they do not know the proper process to follow or do not know about the proper agencies, then it is difficult to protect them from unscrupulous agents. In this respect, it is important that migration workers know both their rights and their responsibilities.

Shashan al Habibe, Executive Director, The Jordan Garments, Accessories & Textiles Exporter's Association (JGATE)

Zero cost migration and ethical recruitment will ensure that Bangladesh gains from sending migrants abroad and workers benefit from their journeys



Bangladeshi workers go to Jordan through a transparent migration process with the help of BOESL. They are being treated well there. They get various benefits including joining trade unions. In garment factories, any

inconvenience to the workers is dealt with the greatest sincerity. The Bangladesh-Jordan cost of migration is also much lower compared to other corridors.



forced to pay so much money? A large number of recruiting agencies source workers through brokers, and they also buy visas. These two factors increase the cost of migration. The government has taken steps to regulate brokers

by amending the law. But having laws in place is not enough, they must be enforced.

There should be a database of prospective migrant workers where all information about their skills and qualifications is available. A model should be developed where all recruitment costs are borne by employers.

Syed Saiful Haque, Chairman, WARBE Development Foundation

As long as visas are bought and sold, the cost of migration will not decrease.



As long as visas are bought and sold, the cost of migration will not decrease. Here, we need the cooperation of the destination country to stop sale of visas. We also need to invest to increase efficiency of our migrant workers.

We should properly evaluate recruiting agencies before issuing them operating licenses. Additionally, the government should ensure that once these agencies start working, they do so in a safe, ethical and transparent manner.

Fathima Nusrath Ghazzali, Officer-in-Charge, IOM Bangladesh



Safe, orderly, regular and well-managed migration benefits migrants and their families, as well as sending and receiving countries. The 8th Five-Year Plan serves as a guiding document which will see the country graduate from least developed country status

in 2026 and will guide Bangladesh's effort to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Ethical recruitment, low-cost migration, the Employer Pays Principle and IOM's International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) are clearly mentioned in agenda number six, eight and nine of the migration chapter in the 8th Five-Year Plan. The government of Bangladesh made their position clear on adopting an ethical process in migration by including these principles. IOM will continue to work closely with the Government of Bangladesh to achieve these goals and provide necessary technical support. IOM also works with global brands, suppliers and recruiters to support them in upholding migrant workers' rights and to adjust operational models to protect them.

Migrant workers remain particularly vulnerable to exploitation, which often starts at recruitment. Migrants are often subject to unethical recruitment and employment practices, such as excessive fees, retention of personal documents, and not being granted access to legal protections. The high costs of migration in Bangladesh increases the likelihood that migrants will end up with unsustainable levels of debt, or resort to dangerous and irregular migration channel; hence increasing their vulnerability.

Migration is included in the 8th Five-Year Plan's poverty reduction strategy. The plan seeks to ensure justice, equity and equality for all Bangladeshis, including those abroad, aspirant migrants, and returnees. In terms of ethical recruitment, the plan notes the Government's intention to introduce the IRIS for private recruiting agencies. To achieve this broad vision, there needs to be close collaboration between the Government of Bangladesh, governments of receiving countries, recruiters, employers and other key stakeholders.

Abu Sayeed Khan, Advisory Editor, Daily Samakal & Moderator of the session



We hope that the government will take strong steps to eliminate all irregularities and bring more transparency to the migration process. The government should play the role of a strict regulator. If any agency indulges in irregularities the government must punish them irrespective of who they are. The government needs to invest more in protecting the rights of migrants. I take this opportunity to remind all that these migrants have kept the wheels of the economy running by sending billions of dollars to the country even during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Shamsul Alam, State Minister, Ministry of Planning

Improving skills profiles and regulating private recruitment agencies are the keys to development gains through labour migration



The 6th Five-Year Plan envisioned that Bangladesh would send 600,000 workers abroad, but we actually sent 700,000 a year. Rather than suffering from a current-account deficit, Bangladesh now has a surplus of foreign currency reserves thanks to the earnings from exports and remittances.

Migration is further emphasised in the 8th Five-Year Plan. 'Zero migration cost' implies that employers will bear all migration-related costs for the migrant workers. The government is also proactive in this regard. Probashi Kallyan Bank provides loans when a person gets a job abroad.

While the government's actions so far on reducing the cost of migration are laudable, more action is required.

To reflect the rapidly changing labour market demands, the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) has been asked to improve their training modules. Demand for semi-skilled workers is on the decline. Although the number of expatriate workers from the Philippines is less compared to Bangladesh, they send back more remittances. Nepal is also making progress in this regard. We must improve the skills of our migrant workers and reduce the cost of migration.

In terms of training, there are a great number of technical training institutes in Bangladesh, but are they producing appropriately skilled workers? For example, almost all the staff at the Grand Sultan Hotel in Sylhet are from the Philippines. We need to invest in skills development to create a pool of Bangladeshi workers similar to them. We need to focus on creating skilled human resources in different sectors, including information technology, automation and robotics.

Establishing effective linkage between educational institutions and industries will ensure development of a skilled workforce and professionals based on industry needs. India has revolutionised their ICT sector by connecting education to cater to the needs of industry. These are examples that we can build

are many agencies in the market that want to make a quick buck. Therefore, strong monitoring and regulatory mechanisms should be in place to ensure that the market operates ethically.

It is very encouraging to see that the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment is very involved in matters related to migration management. This is attributed to the current leadership and the excellent direction coming from the leadership. At the same time we need to bring systematic changes to continue to make progress and potential improvements.

Why does India not face the same problems compared to Bangladesh in terms of migration? Their policy on migration is very solid. In India, it is mandatory to have proper insurance policy as a migrant worker, the insurance fee charges are shared between the migrant worker, the government and company. Policies such as these ensure that migrant workers are protected from exploitation. We should learn from their experience and introduce a solid insurance scheme for our migrant workers that provide coverage in the destination countries.

Nepal and India have very strict recruitment laws—if an agency makes extra profit, the owner will likely be punished. Such strong policy decisions should be taken in Bangladesh to protect migrant workers.

Bangladesh can and should study and adapt some of the mechanism put in place by neighbouring countries.

Md Billal Hossain, Managing Director, Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL)

Migrant workers must know their rights and responsibilities



BOESL is the only government agency that facilitates ethical and transparent migration.

The cost is BDT 36,000 per employee, including pre-departure orientation, service charges and tax.

BOESL sent 6,000 workers abroad in the 2020-21 fiscal year, whereas 12,000 migrant workers were sent in the first nine months of 2021-22 fiscal year. Hardship suffered by workers abroad is minimal when going through BOESL channels. No workers have been killed or tortured in the Bangladesh-Jordan labour migration corridor.

Workers going abroad also have some

I think, the reason Bangladeshi migrants enjoy all these rights and benefits in Jordan is due to the fact that the Jordanian employers pay for migration cost of these workers and BOESL facilitates their recruitment process by following the Employer-Pays Principle. This has been possible only because of the commitment of the Jordanian employers and BOESL to follow zero cost migration and the employer-pays principle in this migration corridor. I believe following a policy of zero cost migration and ethical recruitment will ensure that Bangladesh gains from sending migrants abroad and workers will also benefit from their journeys.

Mizanur Rahman, Former Joint Secretary, BAIRA.

The obstacles faced by recruiting agencies should be removed to lower the cost of migration and protect migrant workers



Migrants used to spend around BDT 1,200,000 to go to Saudi Arabia. Now it only costs BDT 120,000. It is possible to send workers at a lower cost if the obstacles faced by recruiting agencies are removed. About 200,000 workers have gone to

Saudi Arabia in the last two months.

It does not cost anything for female worker to migrate. There were many incidents of violence against female migrant workers. With a few small changes the number of cases of violence against them has come down significantly. After trying for several years, female workers in the Middle East now have the right to speak to their relatives in Bangladesh, included in their contract of employment. Consequently, the number of incidents of violence against female workers has decreased.

BAIRA has struggled to reduce migration costs. Migration should be included in the curriculum of secondary education. Those who want to go abroad need to learn about the whole process from a young age. International organisations that have been working on transparency in migration processes should also work in receiving countries. Then we will be able to ensure zero cost migration by 2040 in line with the government's vision.

Shakirul Islam, Chairman, Ovbashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP)

Having laws in place is not enough, they must be enforced.

The question is often asked: why a migrant worker is spending so much money to go abroad? Instead, we should ask why they are

BUILDER OF DREAMS

TANVEER AHMED CHOWDHURY

There is hardly any major infrastructure development project in Bangladesh that has not benefitted from the engineering acumen and solid leadership skills of Professor Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury. He was not only the country's foremost civil engineer but also a leading educationist, researcher and social activist.

Professor Choudhury earned his Bachelor's degree (First Class First with Honours) in Civil Engineering from BUET (erstwhile East Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology, EPUET) in 1963. Next year, he went to the University of Southampton, UK, on a scholarship and earned his Master's degree in Advanced Structural Engineering in 1965. He continued his study there and earned a PhD in 1968. His PhD research was on 'Shear Wall and Structural Analysis of High Rise Building'. In 1975, he was offered the

Professor Choudhury envisioned building a modern Bangladesh. He played a cardinal role in the development of the infrastructure system in the country. He was the head of the International Panel of Experts for the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project. Besides, he acted as the chairman of the panel of experts in many other mega projects.

Commonwealth Staff Fellowship to pursue his post-doctoral studies at the University of Surrey, where he spent a year as a visiting associate professor.

Known as a pioneer of engineering education in Bangladesh, Professor Choudhury had an illustrious career in academia. He joined the Civil Engineering Department of BUET as a lecturer in 1963 and became a full professor in 1976. He served



Jamilur Reza Choudhury (1943-2020)

as the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering from 1983-85. Professor Choudhury also held the position of the Director of Computer Centre for about ten years (1982-1992) which has later grown into the Institute of Information and Communication Technology (IICT) in BUET. Upon his retirement from BUET in 2001, Professor Choudhury was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, Dhaka, where he served

till 2010. In the same year, he joined the University of Asia-Pacific in Dhaka as the Vice-Chancellor and held that position until his demise. In recognition of his contribution to the education sector, he was appointed as a National Professor in 2018 along with two other eminent educationists, Dr Anisuzzaman and Dr Rafiqul Islam.

Professor Choudhury envisioned building a modern Bangladesh.

He played a cardinal role in the development of the infrastructure system in the country. He was the team leader for the Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter Programme and prepared the master plan for cyclone shelters in the coastal areas of Bangladesh in the early nineties. He was a key member of the steering committee on the Bangladesh National Building Code (1993) and played a vital role in formulating the first design wind speed map and seismic zoning map of Bangladesh. He was the chairman of the Panel of Experts (advising the Government, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan) for the Bangabandhu (Jamuna) Bridge. He was also the head of the International Panel of Experts for the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project. Besides, he acted as the chairman of the panel of experts in many other mega projects such as the First Dhaka Elevated Expressway PPP Project (21 km), Karnaphuli Tunnel, Dhaka Subway, Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway Project (24 km) and many others.

Both engineering and non-engineering communities hold immense respect for Professor Choudhury. He was the president of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) for a year. He was appointed as the Advisor in the Non-Party Caretaker Government in April 1996 and was in charge of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Ministry of Water Resources. Besides such top-tier leadership activities, Professor Choudhury also served as the chairman or head of many other government and non-government committees and organisations, including as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (1996-1998), Chairman of the Board of Governors, Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Chittagong

(1997-2004), Vice President of the Bangladesh Computer Society, founder president of Bangladesh Earthquake Society etc.

Professor Choudhury received numerous accolades nationally and internationally in recognition of his contributions. In 2019, he received 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon', the highest civilian award in Japan, for his outstanding contribution to the economic development of Bangladesh through Japanese official development assistance (ODA) projects. In 2017, he was awarded the prestigious Ekushey Padak for his contribution to science and technology. Professor Choudhury was also the first person of Bangladeshi origin to receive an honorary doctorate from a British University; he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering by Manchester University in 2010. Professor Choudhury was also the recipient of numerous other awards and medals such as the Dr MA Rashid Memorial Gold Medal (1997), IEB Gold Medal (1998), Rotary Club Foundation SEED award (2000), Bangladesh Computer Society Gold Medal (2005), ICT Champion Award by Bangladesh Association for Software and IT Services (BASIS, 2009), and the BDI Lifetime Achievement Award (2017).

He was born in Sylhet on November 15, 1943, and passed away on April 28, 2020. He was happily married to Selina Choudhury and blessed with two children.

Professor Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury proved to the world that Bangladeshi engineers could confidently lead challenging mega-projects. Bangladesh will remember his exceptional contributions to infrastructure projects for decades to come.

Tanveer Ahmed Chowdhury is a journalist and researcher.



Jamilur Reza Choudhury was born in Sylhet amid British colonial rule on November 15, 1943 as the middle child of five siblings. Mr. Choudhury graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), in 1963.

He was a proud alumnus of Dhaka College, BUET and the University of Southampton. He was one of just dozens of structural engineering students in the country.

A mind with brilliant acumen, he was the vice chancellor of the

University of Asia Pacific as well as president of the Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee since 2003. Choudhury was also conferred with the Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship in 1974 and was requested to spend

The eminence of a structural icon

a year at the University of Surrey as a visiting associate professor for his tremendous prowess in his field.

In September 1964 he was awarded a scholarship by Burma Shell to pursue MS in structural engineering. His thesis was on "Cracks in Concrete Beam using Computer-Aided Design". In 1968, he was conferred a PhD on the topic of "Shear Wall and Structural Analysis of High-rise Building".

Professor Choudhury had a major impact on the infrastructure development of Bangladesh. His reputation as the country's top civil engineer was garnered by his involvement in key infrastructure projects throughout the country.

One such contribution that Professor Choudhury made to Bangladesh was in the early nineties, as the team leader for the Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter Programme, where he drafted the master plan for cyclone shelters that were established in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Alongside this, he also played a key role in formulating the initial designs for wind speed map and seismic zoning map in Bangladesh as a member of the steering committee on the Bangladesh National Building Code.

More than anything, it can be said that his contributions will continue to affect the lives of Bangladeshis as he played a vital role in the creation of the Bangabandhu (Jamuna) Bridge and the Padma Multipurpose Bridge. In both cases, he was the chairman of the experts panel that advised the government and

other stakeholders during the planning and construction.

In 2010 he was honoured with Doctor of Engineering (Honoris Causa) by Manchester University for his contribution to augmenting engineering techniques and studies as the first ever Bangladeshi citizen to receive so from a British university. While working in BUET till 2001, Choudhury taught a few generations of engineers who made Bangladesh chart newer echelons of technological and engineering feats, so much so that they are capable enough to rub shoulders with the best and brightest in the world. He was also entrusted with developing a "Computer Center" at BUET and was appointed the director for about 10 years. Apart from this he has authored more

than seventy international papers in journals and elite conferences which has also made the face of civil engineering in Bangladesh's face glow brighter.

He has also served time in the erstwhile caretaker government of Bangladesh. He was appointed as vice-chancellor of BRAC University between 2001 and 2010. Choudhury was appointed the chairman of the task force for developing software export and IT Infrastructure in Bangladesh from 1997 to 2000 under the Ministry of Commerce. He was a ranking member of the Prime Minister's Task Force on developing Digital Bangladesh. Besides, he was involved with several local and international organisations.

Choudhury was a prolific scholar,

a humane individual and an exemplary teacher. He was a thought leader in his field of expertise and made tumultuous contributions to the nation's infrastructural development, for which he was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2017.

Unfortunately, we lost this precious soul on April 28, 2020, and his absence has left a clear void in the industry and in us. On this day we solemnly tender our heartfelt gratitude to this great son of the soil.



Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury at GPH Green Factory

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)
Southern Chattogram Regional Development Project (SCRDP)
LGED Bhaban, Level-9, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.0000.321.07.001.22-369
Date: 27-04-22

Corrigendum Notice

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, the closing date for submission of EOI has been extended as follows:

Package No. & Package Description	Original EOI Submission Date & Time	Extended EOI Closing Date & Time
SCRDP/S-01: Design Supervision and Management Consulting Services for Southern Chattogram Regional Development Project (SCRDP)	Date: 10/05/2022 Time: 4:00 pm	Date: 17/05/2022 Time: 4:00 pm

All other terms & conditions in the EOI notice shall remain unchanged.

(Md Abdus Sattar)
Focal Person
Southern Chattogram Regional Development Project (SCRDP)
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED),
LGED Headquarters, LGED Bhaban (Level-9), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: +880-02-55006775
Email: sattar.lged@gmail.com; xen.procurement@lged.gov.bd

GD-863

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
BEPZA Economic Zone
Mirsarai, Chattogram-4320.
(www.bepza.gov.bd)

No. 03.07.1553.394.07.313.00.041.2021-216
Date: 25 April 2022

Invitation for Tender (Re-Tender)
No. 08/2021-22

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible contractors for the following work as per terms & conditions stated below:

1	Ministry/Division	Prime Minister's Office
2	Agency	Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)
3	Procuring Entity name	Superintending Engineer
4	Procuring Entity district	Chattogram
5	Invitation for	Works
6	Invitation Ref. no and date	03.07.1553.394.07.313.00.041.2021-216 Date: 25 April 2022
7	KEY INFORMATION	
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
8	FUNDING INFORMATION	
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB
9	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not applicable
10	PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
10	Project / Programmed Code (if applicable)	224252300
11	Project / Programmed Name (if applicable)	BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai - 1st Phase (1 st Revised)
12	Tender Package No.	BEPZA W-62
13	Tender Package Name	Construction of 06 (six) storied Factory Building (Building no MS SFB#05) at BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram (Package No: BEPZA W-62).
14	Tender Publication Date	On or before 28 April 2022
15	Tender Last Selling Date	24 May 2022 during office hour
16	Tender Submission Date & Time	25 May 2022 up to 12:00 PM
17	Tender Opening Date & Time	25 May 2022 at 03:00 PM
18	Name & Address of the office(s)	
18	Selling of Tender Document (principal)	Accounts Section, BEPZA, 6th floor, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
18	Selling of Tender Document (others)	i) Accounts Section, BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram. ii) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka
18	Receiving of Tender Document	i) Office of the Project Director, 2nd floor, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205. ii) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.
18	Opening of Tender Document	Meeting room of the Engineering Section (Room No.701), 7th floor, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
19	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting	Not applicable
20	Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	The Invitation for Tender is open to all eligible Tenderers who satisfy the following: 1. The Tenderer shall have minimum 05 (five) years of general experience. Documentary evidence (i.e. oldest trade license/oldest work completion certificate or equivalent) shall be submitted. 2. The Tenderer must have successful work completion experience of Building construction work of value BDT 3000 lac in a single contract during last 05 (five) years in Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous Bodies. The works certificates shall have to be issued by the Officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent Officer of Concerned Department/Organization. 3. The required minimum average annual construction turnover is BDT 6000 lac. Construction turnover will be calculated on the basis of completion/payment certificates which have been executed within last 05 years where best 03 years will be considered. 4. The required minimum Liquid Asset is BDT 1500 lac in form of Credit Line certificate from any scheduled Bank. 5. The required minimum tender capacity is BDT 3500 lac. 6. Black Listed/Debarred Bidders from any Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous organizations will be treated as ineligible to participate in the Tender. 7. Up-to-date Trade License, Income tax clearance certificate, VAT Registration Certificate, ABC Supervisory license etc. shall be submitted. 8. Other required conditions and documents of the Tenderer are shown in the TDS of Tender Documents must be fulfilled. 9. All other criteria will be taken according to the Public Procurement Act & Rules. N.B: Interested Tenderers are encouraged to visit the site prior to participate in tendering process.
21	Brief description of related works	Pile Work, RCC, MS Rod, Civil & Sanitary Work, Electrical Work etc.
22	Price of Tender Documents	TK. 5,000.00 (Five thousand only)
23	Sl. no	Identification of lot
23	(i)	Construction of 06 (six) storied Factory Building (Building no MS SFB#05) at BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram (Package No: BEPZA W-62).
23		Location: Mirsarai, Chattogram Tender Security in BDT. (In favor of BEPZA) Tk. 1,25,00,000.00 (Take One crore Twenty Five Lac only) Completion Time: 365 (Three hundred Sixty-Five) days
24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Shafiqul Islam
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Superintending Engineer.
26	Address of official inviting Tender	BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram.
27	Contract details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 01714-077149, E-mail: se.ez@bepza.gov.bd
28	Special instruction	
28	(a)	Eligible firms/authorized representative may purchase tender documents from the offices mentioned in SI-18 on submitting written request in their letter head pad.
28	(b)	Any false, forged and miss leading documents furnished by Tenderer shall result in rejection of the Tender.
28	(c)	In case of any confusion arises due to printing mistake or other reason, the Public Procurement Rules-2008 and its amendments will govern.
28	(d)	Tender should be submitted original along with one duplicate copy and it should be mentioned on the cover sheet.
28	(e)	All papers of submitted tender documents including Tenderer's profile must be signed by the Tenderer or its authorized representative.
28	(f)	The tender shall be valid for a period of 120 (One Hundred twenty) days from the date of Opening of the Tender. The tender notice is also available at web site: www.bepza.gov.bd of BEPZA & www.cptu.gov.bd
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the Tenders or annul the bidding Proceedings.	

GD-869

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY
BAGEd-এ ভর্তি ২২২ টার্ন (জুলাই-ডিসেম্বর, ২০২২)

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বোউবি)-এর স্কুল অব এডিকালচার এন্ড কন্সাল্টেংগেস (সার্ভ) পরিচালিত ০৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদি ব্যালেন্স অব এডিকালচারাল এডুকেশন (বিএজিএড) প্রোগ্রামে ২২২ টার্নে (জুলাই-ডিসেম্বর, ২০২২) ২০টি সীমিত সেটের শিক্ষার্থী ভর্তির লক্ষ্যে দরবার আহ্বান করা হয়েছে।

* আসন সংখ্যা : ৭০ (প্রতি সেটের ৩০)।

* ভর্তির ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা : এইচএসসি (বিজ্ঞান গ্রুপ/কৃষি শিক্ষা বিষয়সহ যে কোন গ্রুপ) অথবা চার/তিন বছর মেয়াদি কৃষি ডিপ্লোমা/সমমানের সার্টিফিকেট/ডিগ্রি এবং ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ বা জিপিএ ২.০ (দুই) গ্রেড হতে হবে।

* আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ, জমা ও ভর্তির সময় : বাউবির সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক/উপ-আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র হতে ০৯/০৫/২০২২ তারিখ হতে ২৯/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ, জমা প্রদান ও ভর্তি হওয়া যাবে (সোম থেকে শুক্রবার অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)। এছাড়া বাউবির ওয়েবসাইট (www.bou.ac.bd/images/form/sarv_admin_form_311018.pdf) থেকে ভর্তির আবেদনপত্র ডাউনলোড করে ব্যবহার করা যাবে।

* ভর্তির প্রক্রিয়া : ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ভর্তিহীন ব্যক্তি সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক/উপ-আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ ভর্তি কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগ করবেন। মূল সনদ/মার্কশীটসহ অন্যান্য কাগজপত্র ও তথ্যাকী যাচাই বাছাই করে ভর্তি কর্মকর্তা আবেদনকারীকে ভর্তির জন্য মনোনীত করলে তিনি নির্ধারিত ব্যাকের শাখার আবেদনপত্র ফি ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা এবং ভর্তি ফি বাবদ ৫৪৮৫/- (পাঁচ হাজার চারশত পঁচিশ) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬৮৫/- (পাঁচ হাজার ছয়শত পঁচিশ) টাকা জমা প্রদান করবেন। ভর্তির জন্য মনোনীত ব্যক্তিকে আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ব্যাকে টাকা জমার প্রদানসহ সত্যায়িত সকল প্রতীক্ষা পাশের সার্টিফিকেট, মার্কশীট, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধন সার্টিফিকেট ও ২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। ভর্তিকৃত শিক্ষার্থীকে বাউবির সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা ভর্তির স্লিপ প্রদান করবেন। সীমিত সেটের নির্ধারিত আসন পূরণ না হওয়া পর্যন্ত ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন শিক্ষার্থীর সাথে আসলে আসে ভর্তির সুযোগ প্রদান করা হবে।

* ভর্তি, সীমিত সেটের তালিকা ও প্রোগ্রাম সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য : বাউবির ওয়েবসাইট (www.bou.ac.bd/index.php/academic-info/admission) ভিজিট করুন। প্রয়োজনে বাউবির সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক/উপ-আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্রের ভর্তি কর্মকর্তা ও প্রোগ্রাম সমন্বয়কারীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

* প্রোগ্রাম সমন্বয়কারী (সার্ভ) : এফসেস ড. মো: সিরাজুল ইসলাম (মোবাইল : ০১৭১৬৭৯৮৯৪৫)

এফসেস ড. মো: ফরিদ হোসেন
স্কুল অব এডিকালচার এন্ড কন্সাল্টেংগেস
ফোন : ০২-৯৯৬৬১১১০

GD-873

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineer Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Mymensingh
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.6100.000.07.001.22-1538
Date: 26-04-2022

e-Tender Notice: 62/2021-22
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of

So No.	Package No. & scheme name	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time	Tendering method
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	UPHSCDP/2021-22/WD-18 Construction of 6-storied CRHCC Building at Baghmara Water Tank Compound of Ward No. 17 of Mymensingh City Corporation, Mymensingh under Sadar Upazila, District Mymensingh	688764	Date 30-May-2022 Time: 13:00	Date: 30-May-2022 Time: 14:00	OTM

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 e-Tender security submitted last date & time from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd) also from E-mail: xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd or Cell to 091-66376, 091-66110, 091-64365. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hour.

Md. Ashrafuzzaman
Executive Engineer
LGED, Mymensingh
Phone: 091-64365
xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd

GD-870

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স
পবাপাড়া, সপুরা-৬২০৩, রাজশাহী
www.rmp.gov.bd

তারিখ : ২৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর-১/২০২২-২০২৩

"The Public Procurement Rules-2008" মোতাবেক ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের (ক) স্বাস্থ্যবিধান সামগ্রী সরবরাহ (খ) ব্যবহার্য প্রবাসি সরবরাহ (গ) অন্যান্য মনিহারি মালমাল সরবরাহ, (ঘ) মটরযানের কাঁচামাল ও যন্ত্রা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ (ঙ) মটরযান মেরামত, (চ) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ এবং কম্পিউটার ও যন্ত্রপাতি মেরামত, (ছ) ফোর্সের কুকুড ফুড (তকনা খাবার), (জ) ফোর্সের পোশাক সেলাই রিবনসহ (ঝ) রাজশাহী বিভাগীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল ও ডিসকটিম সাপোর্ট সেন্টারে ওষুধ সরবরাহ (ঞ) রাজশাহী বিভাগীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতালের রোগীদের পথ্য সরবরাহ এবং (ট) রাজশাহী বিভাগীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতালের রোগীদের পোশাক ও বিছানাপত্র খোলাই এর নিমিত্ত টিকাদার নির্বাচনের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণের নিকট হতে নিম্ন প্যাকেজ সিলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	২।	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।
২।	সংস্থা	৩।	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, রাজশাহী।
৩।	সংগ্রহ সত্তা	৪।	আরএমপি, রাজশাহী।
৪।	দরপত্রের বিষয়	৫।	সরবরাহ ও সেবা
৫।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর	৬।	আরএমপি/প্রশা/১৪১৬
৬।	তারিখ	৭।	২৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৭।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	৮।	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৮।	তহবিলের উৎস	৯।	সরকার (রাজস্ব বাজেট)
৯।	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	১০।	০৫/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	১১।	২৬/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১৭.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১২।	২৬/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৩।	২৬/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা দরপত্র দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।
১৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	১৪।	পুলিশ কমিশনার, আরএমপি, রাজশাহী।
১৪।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	১৫।	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ কমিশনারের কার্যালয়/উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (বোয়ালিয়া/মতিহার), আরএমপি, রাজশাহী।
১৫।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	১৬।	পুলিশ কমিশনার, আরএমপি, রাজশাহীর কার্যালয়ে বঞ্চিত দরপত্র বস্তু।
১৬।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	১৭।	পুলিশ কমিশনার, আরএমপি, রাজশাহী/উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (বোয়ালিয়া), আরএমপি, রাজশাহী'র কার্যালয়।
১৭।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ	১৮।	০৫/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১৮।	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	১৯।	The Public Procurement Rules-2008 অনুযায়ী কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ সরকারি/ স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থা/বেসরকারি অন্য যে কোন সংস্থার কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা। দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতার স্থিতিগত বিবরণী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ করা হবে।
২০।	ক্রম-১	কাজের নাম	সিডিউলের মূল্য
ক)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের স্বাস্থ্যবিধান সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/- (চারশত)	৭০,০০০/- (সত্তর হাজার)
খ)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের ব্যবহার্য প্রবাসি সরবরাহ	৪০০/- (চারশত)	৩,০০,০০০/- (তিন লক্ষ)
গ)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের অন্যান্য মনিহারি মালমাল সরবরাহ	৪০০/- (চারশত)	১,২৫,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পঁচিশ হাজার)
ঘ)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের মটরযানের কাঁচামাল ও যন্ত্রা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার)	৪,০০,০০০/- (চার লক্ষ)
ঙ)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের মেরামত	৪০০/- (চারশত)	৫৫,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার)
চ)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ এবং কম্পিউটার ও যন্ত্রপাতি মেরামত	৪০০/- (চারশত)	৭০,০০০/- (সত্তর হাজার)
ছ)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের ফোর্সের কুকুড ফুড (তকনা খাবার) সরবরাহ	৪০০/- (চারশত)	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার)
জ)	রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের ফোর্সের পোশাক সেলাই রিবনসহ	৪০০/- (চারশত)	২,০০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ)
ঝ)	রাজশাহী বিভাগীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল ও ডিসকটিম সাপোর্ট সেন্টারে ওষুধ সরবরাহ	৪০০/- (চারশত)	১,৫০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার)
ঞ)	রাজশাহী বিভাগীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতালের রোগীদের পথ্য সরবরাহ	৪০০/- (চারশত)	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার)
ট)	রাজশাহী বিভাগীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতালের রোগীদের পোশাক ও বিছানাপত্র খোলাই	৪০০/- (চারশত)	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার)
২১।	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য :		
ক)	ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারী স্বাক্ষরহীন প্যাকেজ আবেদনপত্র রাজশাহী মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (বোয়ালিয়া/মতিহার/পিওএম), আরএমপি, রাজশাহী হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।		
খ)	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাকী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।		
গ)	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ১২০ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বাক্য থাকবে।		
ঘ)	ইহা সফিও বিজ্ঞিত। বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দলিলে পাওয়া যাবে।		
ঙ)	অনুমোদিত ব্যান্ডের আলোকে কার্যসিদ্ধ প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসংক্রান্তে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।		
চ)	দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে।		
ছ)	দরপত্র ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থিক বছরের জন্য প্রযোজ্য।		
জ)	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখেন।		

GD-878



The vibrant comeback of Jabbarer Boli Khela

This year, Pahela Baishakh celebrations have made a colourful comeback in the port city, with the return of the historic Jabbarer Boli Khela after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Earlier on April 13, Abdul Jabbar Memorial Wrestling Competition and Exhibition Committee announced the postponement of this year's event owing to Ramadan and the incompletion of Laldighi ground's renovation.

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Rejaul Karim then took the initiative as per which the final competition took place on a makeshift stage on the road beside Laldighi Maidan on due time, Baishakh 12 or April 25. Baishakhi celebrations for Chattogram residents are considered incomplete without this wrestling competition at Laldighi Maidan, followed by a Baishakhi fair that lasts for a few days.

“Boli”, a word belonging to the local dialect, translates to strong. There are debates surrounding the exact origin of this sport. However, an integral part of the traditional folk culture of the area, the history of Abdul Jabbar-er Boli Khela is a known one and goes way back.

INCEPTION STORY

It all began in 1909 when Abdul Jabbar



physically fit for the struggle.

“He also arranged the Baishakhi fair to create more scopes for local artisans to display and sell their goods. He was a patron of both the causes from a patriotic point of view,” said Momen.

PRESENT-DAY SCENE

This year, the fair had its 113th edition. Traditionally held for five days, this year it stays for three. Apart from the main attraction which is the Boli Khela, residents across the city and nearby upazilas wait all year long for the fair to buy different hand-crafted goods for their households every year.

The fair usually begins a day before the competition in Laldighi Maidan and expands around a one-kilometre area surrounding the competition venue -- stretching from Kotawali Moor to Anderkillah intersection. Artisans, craftsmen, potters, blacksmiths and other vendors from across the country, set up their stalls on the sides of the road.

“When I used to visit the fair with my father as a little girl from our village in Patiya, the crowd used to be so massive that we could not even walk properly. We would stop and the crowd would make us move automatically,” said 69-year-old Malati Barua.

Seventy-year-old Abdul Kader Molla, a trader of bamboo-made goods from Narsingdi, has been participating in the fair since 1970. The fair also enabled him to make life-altering decisions, such as moving to the port city and starting a permanent business some 25 years ago. This year, he brought different types of bamboo-made utensils like kula (winnowing fan), chalni (sieve), jhuri (basket) and dala (tray) etc.

Ripon Paul, a potter from Patuakhali, said his entire family of potters only attend this fair. Nurul Islam, from the capital's Shanir Akhra, first came to the Boli Khela fair in 2019, along with his mother who sold bangles and other ornaments.

The two were found busy selling their items in two stalls on the footpath beside the Maidan. This year, they invested around Tk 50,000 and hoped to make a profit.

The fair has something for all. Selina Akhter, a house help, came from the port city's Kathgar area to buy haat-pakha made of taalpata (leaves of palm tree).

“I wait for the fair all year long as I can get utensils at a much cheaper rate from here. I hope nothing disrupts our normal life and such festivals in future,” she said.

To the victor go the spoils

Tarequl Islam Jibon wins the 113th edition of Boli Khela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a 25-minute mesmerising contest of physical strength and tactics, Tarequl Islam Jibon (Jibon Boli) won the title in Jabbar-er Boli Khela's 113th edition held at Laldighir Par in Chattogram city yesterday, beating Shahjalal Boli in the final round.

Jibon, hailing from Chakaria of Cox's Bazar, was the runner up in the 110th edition of the competition held in 2019. He was the champion of the competition's 109th edition held in 2018.

The 111th and 112th edition of the competition was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shahjalal from Cumilla clinched

“We had a good fight. Shahjalal gave his full effort, but the result was inevitable.”

the title in the previous edition (110th) beating Jibon.

“We had a good fight. Shahjalal gave his full effort, but the result was inevitable,” said Jibon, a confident champion.

The tournament began at 3:30pm with the participation of 80 contestants out of 100 registered wrestlers. Of them, Jibon and Shahjalal managed to reach the final.

The final match began at 4:25pm with an astounding display of force and skills as the competition got intense on both the contestants' ends.

Shahjalal played defensive throughout the match as he preferred to lay low to the ground and waited for a moment to get Jibon exhausted. However, that did not happen as Jibon was determined and adamant.

As Jibon got three points more than Shahjalal, the match referee declared him the winner after the additional time ran out.



Peak time for vermicelli makers

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Vermicelli, locally known as “Shemai” is a dish that's ever-present in every household during Eid.

Due to which, as Eid approaches, vermicelli workers of the port city are passing busy days, making the item. Chaktai, Rajakhali of Khatunganj is well known as a hub of local vermicelli. There are two types of vermicelli -- Laccha and Bangla. Bangla vermicelli is made using flour and water and Laccha is produced with oil or ghee, flour, sugar and water. SM Harunor Rashid, a leader of Chaktai Silpo and Traders Association, said there are around 10 to 15 vermicelli factories located in Chaktai, Rajakhali and Khatunganj areas.

Earlier, around 20 factories had produced vermicelli at Chaktai, said sources.

During a recent visit to Rajakhali fire service area, this correspondent saw workers in several factories making vermicelli. It was being dried on the factory rooftops.

Md Jalal, a wholesaler at Khatunganj, said every day around 30kg of vermicelli are being sold on average.

However, a group of unscrupulous



producers are manufacturing sub-standard vermicelli ahead of Eid to make extra profit, alleged traders.

According to local sources, some factories are using unrefined palm oil and animal fat to produce Laccha vermicelli while hazardous chemicals and colours were also used to make the food items. Apart from that, the factory environment is also unhygienic, they alleged.

Contacted, Anisur Rahman, assistant director of Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection in Chattogram, said, “The factories should maintain healthy and hygienic conditions issued by the sanitary inspectors. We'll soon start conducting drives in this regard.”

Spice price shoots up ahead of Eid

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

With Eid approaching, the spice market has stocked up on consumer goods. However, even though the wholesale market is somewhat stable in terms of the price of spices, retailers are selling the products to consumers at a higher margin.

Visiting the country's largest wholesale market for consumer goods at Khatunganj, this correspondent found that Indian cumin -- a staple spice in almost every household -- was being sold at Tk 365 per kg. But even a month ago, the price of this product was Tk 265.

At present, Indian cumin is being sold at Tk 400 per kg in the retail market and Iranian cumin at Tk 480 per kg.

In the wholesale market, Chinese cinnamon is being sold at Tk 310-320 per kg, while Vietnamese cinnamon is being sold at Tk 410 per kg. But the product costs Tk 420 to 500 per kg in the retail market.

At the beginning of Ramadan, the price of Indian cardamom in the wholesale market was Tk 1,510 per kg. Now the wholesale price of cardamom has increased from Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000. But the retail price of cardamom is Tk 2,200 per kg.

Besides, in the wholesale market, per kg of Hathazari chili costs Tk 270. Sweet cumin costs Tk 220, whereas just a month ago it cost Tk 160. In the retail market, per kg of sweet cumin is being sold at Tk 250-270. Turmeric is Tk 125 per kg in wholesale

and Tk 140 in retail. Wholesale nutmeg costs Tk 800, but in the retail market, it costs a hundred taka more.

Meanwhile, there is a difference in the prices of cloves and raisins. In a month, the price of clove in the wholesale market has gone up from Tk 980 to Tk 1,100. These cloves are being sold in the retail market at a price of Tk 1,200 per kg.

Due to the demand for raisins for making desserts on Eid, its price has increased at both wholesale and retail levels. At the beginning of Ramadan, Indian raisins were sold at Tk 270 and Afghan raisins at Tk 315 in the wholesale market. But now, they are being sold at Tk 310 and Tk 400 per kg respectively. Raisins are being sold at Tk 400 to Tk 450 per kg in the retail market. Nuts are being sold at Tk 150 per kg in the retail market

and Tk 120 in wholesale. The same is true for morobba, priced at Tk 180 in retail and Tk 130 in wholesale.

Mizanur Rahman, manager of Haq Bhandari grocery store at Kazir Deuri market in the city, said, “We have nothing to do. Prices have gone up in Chaktai-Khatunganj. So, we also have to sell at a higher price. We are selling at a small profit by calculating

the cost of transportation and labour along with the cost price. If the wholesale price is reduced, we'll reduce retail prices as well.”

Amal Saha, a wholesale trader in Khatunganj, told The Daily Star that the rise in prices of all products in the international market has also affected the country's wholesale market. Besides, the price of spices has gone up due to increasing demand on the occasion of Eid.



Negligence in exploring gas reserves makes no sense

Govt must plan for future, reduce dependence on gas imports

BANGLADESH'S gas crisis is a cautionary tale of doing nothing and doing too much at the same time: we have, for reasons unknown, ceased exploring our gas reserves, despite being a country with high hydrocarbon potential, and are relying too much on costly imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to meet our energy needs. Neither approach is helpful. To be clear, when we talk about building up sufficient gas reserves, we don't mean achieving self-sufficiency which, let's face it, is never going to happen. But there is a good possibility that through exploring and overhauling our gas reserves, both onshore and offshore, Bangladesh may significantly boost its reserves, reduce its dependence on imports, and yield lower and more stable gasoline prices. Why, then, are we not doing that?

A report by this daily brings out a disturbing reality facing this sector: most of the country's 28 gas fields are producing less gas than before, meaning the present crisis may only worsen in the future. While the capacity of any gas field or well may naturally drop over time, it is possible to extract more by overhauling the wells, which is something that hasn't been done in most gas fields. Experts have, therefore, stressed the need for overhauling these fields as well as aggressive exploration to build new reserves. Currently, the country has an estimated gas reserve for 9-10 years, which shows the urgency of shifting focus to finding long-term solutions. While stopgap solutions like importing LNG—which is reportedly 24 times costlier than locally produced gas—may help meet urgent needs, they can't be the mainstay of a future-focused energy policy.

Experts believe the reason for the present uncertainty is the government's refusal to follow the recommendations of "Consultancy Services for Gas Production Augmentation" report of 2011, which emphasised the need for overhauling the wells, adopting a systematic and risk-based approach to best utilise resources, and exploring in coastal areas and hill tracts. Our preference for easy solutions has robbed us of the chance to plan for the future and unlock our exploration potential. The authorities have drilled only 28 exploratory wells in the last 20 years, although, as an expert said, we hit gas in every third well drilled when the global average is one in five. It's a tragedy to leave such potential unexploited. Offshore gas production remains a non-issue even to this day.

The government must understand that as important as meeting present energy needs is securing the future through mid- and long-term initiatives, such as moving to more frontier areas to unlock the full potential of exploration and overhauling the abandoned gas wells. We cannot continue to be held hostage by our overdependence on LNG.

Home for the poor a laudable step

Let no one live under the open sky

THE initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to offer 33,000 new homes to some ultra-poor families is a highly appreciable one. Moving out of extremely vulnerable huts made of leaves, bamboo and plastic sheet, these families will now live in homes made of concrete as their permanent abodes. No doubt, this is a laudable example of a social safety net programme leading to poverty alleviation in the country.

The declaration of ensuring a permanent address for every homeless family started with 66,189 poor families getting homes and 3,715 others rehabilitated in the barracks under the Ashrayan 2 project on the occasion of Mujib Borsho. Each of the houses was built on two decimals of land with two rooms, one corridor and one latrine with electricity and water connections. It is encouraging to know that the new owners of the houses will be given necessary life skill training to ensure their earnings, and may also get a loan from the government. Moreover, the local administration will hand over ownership documents to the beneficiaries, which we believe will discourage fraudsters from grabbing property by conning the poor illiterate people.

While handing over the homes as an Eid gift, the prime minister assured all that every homeless family in the country would get government homes in phases. The government estimates that there are 800,000 homeless and landless people; however, we think a more comprehensive study needs to be conducted to find out the real number. Here, we would like to suggest careful screening while selecting the homeless people, lest the names of some land owners get inserted by mistake or through fraudulence. Moving forward, the government must ensure there is no corruption or irregularity in the process, which can jeopardise the prime minister's goodwill and smear a commendable initiative.

Research studies show there is a sizable number of people who have been living in thatched houses for generations, because of no permanent income source. Yearly floods and seasonal cyclones in the low-lying and coastal areas destroy their homes, thus forcing them to migrate to higher lands like embankments or schools for shelter. Despite steady economic growth, there are still millions of landless people in the country who remain poverty-stricken and chronically food insecure.

According to the World Bank and other credible sources, Bangladesh has made substantial progress in reducing poverty, supported by sustained economic growth. But we need social safety net programmes and welfare initiatives like this housing scheme, so that wide-scale poverty and pauperisation cannot jeopardise major development initiatives in the future.

The slur of sanctions



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

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

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN

THE word is one of the most pejorative terms in the English dictionary; it is the most reviled term, too, as well as an oft-used mechanism handy to the West to twist the tails of those it dislikes. But hardly had we ever expected to see our government institutions brought under the US sanctions.

Not one but two of the US departments, namely the Treasury and the Department of State, have imposed sanctions on a leading law enforcement agency and relevant individuals in Bangladesh—for the first time. On December 10 last year, the US Department of Treasury imposed sanctions on Bangladesh's elite paramilitary force, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), as well as seven of its current and former officers for alleged serious human rights violations. Over and above that, the Department of State imposed sanctions on two individuals: a former head of Rab and a former commanding officer of a Rab Unit.

It can never be pleasing news to any Bangladeshi, notwithstanding a heap of reservations on Rab's modus operandi that one might have. It is regrettable, and disgraceful too, to see the name of our elite force along with some of its members bracketed with drug dealers and terrorists on the list of sanctioned individuals. What has added insult to the injury is that these actions came on the last day of the virtual Democracy Summit, in which Bangladesh was conspicuous by its absence. It was a double blow for those who pride themselves on the country's democratic credentials—of the distant past. As citizens, it is our right to ask whether a government agency has the right to incur adverse criticism due to its actions or inactions. For better or worse, in this globalised world, we are not impervious to international scrutiny or criticism for alleged violations of norms of human behaviour.

It is not the intention to engage in discussions on whether the sanctions are justified or not, or on the credentials of the US to question the human rights and democratic credentials of other countries when its own record of performance is questionable, both at home and abroad. One could just as well tell the US: Doctor, heal thyself. But that would in no way reduce the gravity of the allegations

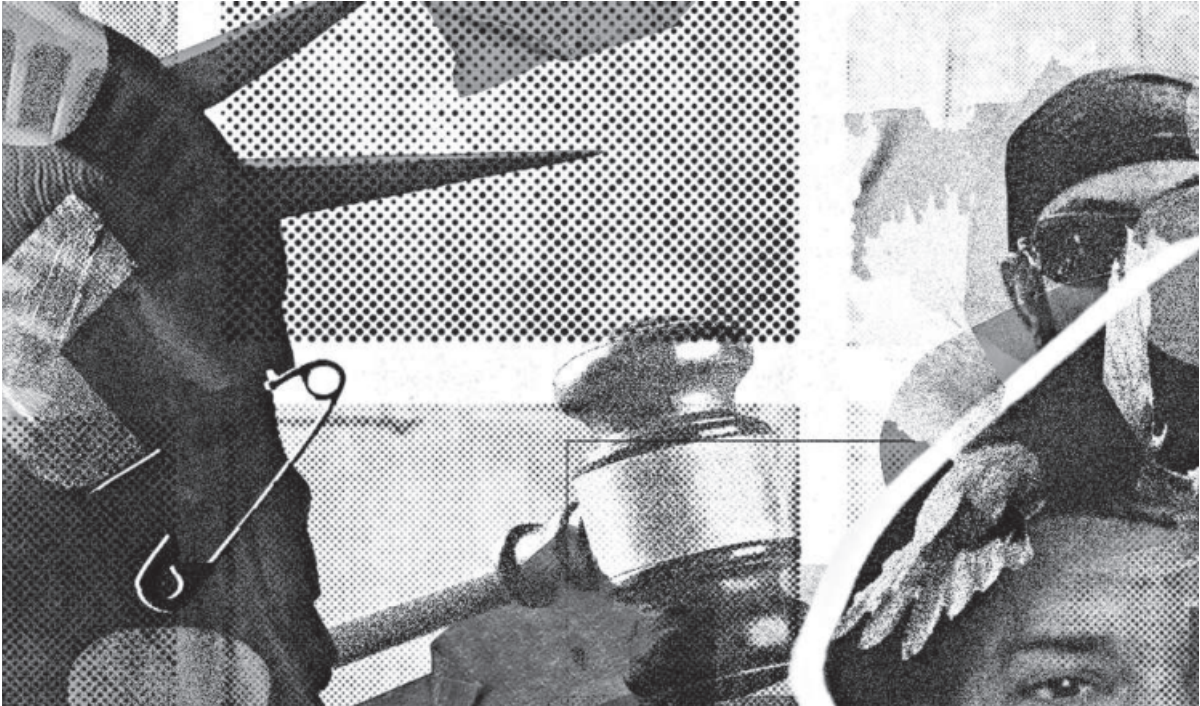


ILLUSTRATION: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Interestingly, there has been no crossfire death or enforced disappearance since the sanctions were imposed, except for two in the month of April. Is there a correlation between the two? What exactly should we make of it? Are we to believe that all the criminals have reformed themselves overnight and become good boys, or that Rab has modified its operating procedures? We have not seen any widespread deterioration of law and order or spurt in smuggling of drugs and narcotics, for example. Whatever may be the case, what this has demonstrated is that law can be maintained and order upheld without resorting to extrajudicial means or circumventing the legal process. And if there is correlation between the two, then we ask: Why does it require external pressure to compel our agencies to go by the book?

We believe that Rab was formed with the purpose of addressing the law and order problems during the second tenure of the BNP. Its formation was welcomed by all and sundry, and the agencies earned the confidence and respect of the common man. The petty ruffians went off the streets and people could walk out

extrajudicial killings, just the way BNP has done the last 10 years. Contrary to its commitment to end the regime of extrajudicial killings, the number has gone exponentially high during the Awami League period, and things have come to a head.

Admittedly, there is a need to go into the way Rab is being employed. It is a well-trained force which has done extraordinarily well in combatting extremism and terrorism. This is something we all can be proud of. And that is what it should be employed for. However, its resources can be used to go after hardened criminals and tackle extraordinary law and order issues while remaining within the bounds of law. The last thing Rab should do is day-to-day police work. Military officers are not trained to chase common criminals. But once they engage in doing so, most of them lose the qualities of a good military officer, and most of them no longer retain the ability to command and train troops for battle. We believe that the time has come to rethink Rab operations and its manning policy, and to draw a *Lakshman Rekha* for it to restore and preserve its image.

Drowning: Most preventable, most neglected



Juliet Rossette is policy and partnership manager of Project Bhasa at the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB).

JULIET ROSSETTE

IN 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Report on Drowning said the most recent figure on annual global drowning toll stood at 235,000, with more than 90 percent of deaths by drowning occurring in low- and middle-income countries, and with Asia carrying the highest burden. The WHO report also placed drowning in the top 10 leading causes of death by unintentional injuries among children and young people worldwide, with children aged under five years disproportionately at risk, and males being twice as likely to drown as females. Drowning has cost the world over 2.5 million lives over the past decade. The vast majority of these deaths could and should have been prevented.

On April 28, 2021, for the first time ever, the United Nations (UN) adopted a resolution on drowning prevention during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. Initiated by Bangladesh and Ireland, and co-sponsored by 79 countries, the resolution recognised the devastating effect of drowning across the world and declared July 25 as World Drowning Prevention Day (WDPD). The aim of WDPD is to promote facts and raise awareness about drowning, and what governments, life-saving organisations and those in the field of drowning prevention can do to help improve water safety to reduce preventable deaths.

Recognising that drowning is preventable, and that scalable, low-cost interventions exist, the resolution encouraged member states, on a voluntary basis, to undertake a range of coordinated interventions relevant to national circumstances. The resolution requested all 193 UN member states to develop national drowning prevention plans in line with WHO recommendations, ensure enactment and effective enforcement of water safety laws, encourage the registration of drowning

deaths, and promote drowning prevention public awareness.

Action on drowning prevention presents an important opportunity to make progress towards targets within different UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are clear links between drowning and other global agreements relevant to sustainable

development, community resilience to climate change, and disaster risk reduction.

In Bangladesh, drowning is a regular phenomenon; people, especially rural inhabitants, perceive the cause of fatal or non-fatal drowning to be the "act of God." The main reasons of drowning, in fact, include lack of physical barriers between people and water; lack of supervision; lack of life-saving skills, including swimming and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); uncovered or unprotected water bodies and a lack of safe water crossings; lack of water safety awareness; travelling on waterways on overcrowded or poorly maintained vessels; and floods from extreme rainfall, storm surges or cyclones. Urgent, coordinated and multisectoral action on proven measures are needed, such as installing barriers to control access to water, teaching swimming, water safety and safe rescue skills, training bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation, setting and enforcing safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations, and improving flood risk management, among others.

According to the WHO, drowning is one of the world's most preventable, neglected and persistent public health



Bangladesh has recognised drowning as an important public health issue with major impacts on children and youth.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Bangladesh has recognised drowning as an important public health issue with major impacts on children and youth. However, despite the magnitude of drowning incidents in the country, limited attention has been paid by the government to develop a national strategy on preventive measures. Government initiatives regarding drowning are still at the policy level.

Recently, Ecneec approved the "Integrated Community Based Centre for Child Care, Protection and Swimsafe Facilities Project" to establish 8,000 community day care centres to provide supervision of 200,000 under-five children in 45 upazilas under 16 districts, and to teach swimming to children aged 6-10 years through primary schools. Bangladesh Shishu Academy will implement this project in line with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, with technical support from the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB). Besides, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has taken awareness-raising initiatives. The Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) of the DGHS has been working on a draft national drowning prevention strategy since 2015, with technical support from the CIPRB. The strategy is focused on priority action areas—community-based actions, effective policies and legislation, surveillance and research, capacity-building and intersectoral collaboration.

A series of consultative workshops with relevant ministries and other stakeholders were held from 2017 to 2022 to make the draft more precise. After the UN resolution on drowning prevention, the line director of NCDC formed a nine-member committee to expedite the approval process. Keeping in line with the committee recommendations and stakeholder review comments from consultative workshops, the draft was updated with relevant facts and figures and is now in the process of submission.

In light of all this, it is high time to implement such a national strategy envisioning a drowning-free Bangladesh. Aiming to cut down drowning deaths by half by 2030, this strategy will provide the direction to prevent these unwanted and avoidable deaths.

Twitterdom with a new king should worry us all



KAMAL AHMED

Kamal Ahmed is an independent journalist and writes from London, UK. His Twitter handle is @ahmedkal

ELON Musk, a self-proclaimed free-speech absolutist and the world's richest man, is the new king of Twitterdom. His takeover of Twitter may have provided the company a much-needed new direction of exploring uncharted adventures, as its founder Jack Dorsey says, "Solving for the problem of it being a company, however, Elon is the singular solution I trust." The reason for using "however" by Dorsey in his tweet was in his words, "In principle, I don't believe anyone should own or run Twitter. It wants to be a public good at a protocol level, not a company." The way Musk, Twitter's top troll, bullied the management of the company and bought it indicates that the platform may not remain a space for public good as it becomes a private property. Here's a reminder about the acquisition of Twitter that he said, "this is not about economics, this is about power and influence."

With 86.1 million followers, Elon Musk is the top Twitterati, but he has also courted controversy by taunting others on the Twittersphere. Musk has been described as a troll by none other than a former insider of the company, Twitter's former head of news and currently the executive director of the Aspen Institute, Vivian Schiller. And there's no dearth of examples. *The New York Times* reported that before his pivotal meeting with the Twitter's board, Mr Musk tweeted in which he made fun of Bill Gates for taking a short position on Tesla. His tweeting habit does not give much confidence in his post-takeover tweet that he hopes his "worst critics remain on Twitter."

The way the Tesla boss bought Twitter was also quite unconventional. He first wanted to know how much it would cost for buying by firing a tweet. Then he



ILLUSTRATION:
SUSHMITA S PREETHA

Elon Musk has promised to bring transparency in Twitter's algorithm, making the metrics of populism and support visible, and cracking down on bots. If it happens, then ghost followers of many popular but controversial figures will disappear.

Facebook or Instagram, despite those having far larger subscriber numbers. It's due to the nature of the content, which is more news-oriented than personal and family affairs and networking. But the scary prospect is its potential toxicity, where individuals could face an endless torrent of abuse based on their skin colour, faith, gender, political ideology, and so on.

Vivian Schiller told BBC's Radio 4 on Monday that about two weeks ago, when asked how he would make the platform more free speech-friendly, Mr Musk could not give a clear answer. Musk's declaration, so far, is that he wants to see more "free speech" and less moderation. Many right-wing forces, like Trumpian Republicans in the US, who have long been complaining that Twitter's moderation policies favour the freedom of speech of left-leaning viewpoints, rejoiced. According to Ms Schiller, this moderation is an art without which this public space is ungovernable. She also admitted that the Twitter management had not always had it right.

The most glaring example in the US of Twitter being used to incite violence was the January 6 insurrection at Capitol Hill by Trump supporters, fuelled by conspiracy theories that led to the permanent ban of the outgoing president on Twitter. In India, presumably the

largest democracy in the world, we have seen how religious hate preaching on Twitter has been spreading communal division and violence. It, therefore, makes Elon Musk's proposition of unbound free speech a serious cause for concern as it could amplify disinformation too.

There is no doubt that we all love freedom of expression and hate censorship, but not without restraints on the spread of hate and violence. Some of his memorable tweets include those against Covid lockdown bolstering conspiracy theorists, extending support to Canadian truckers' disruptive sit-in protest, and violating Securities and Exchange Commission directives that led to wiping out of USD 14 billion in a minute from the share market. Repeating such erratic behaviour now will no longer make him accountable to anyone, other than expensive private legal actions.

One thing that encourages most of us is that Elon Musk has promised to bring transparency in Twitter's algorithm, making the metrics of populism and support visible, and cracking down on bots. If it happens, then ghost followers of many popular but controversial figures will disappear. In India, Twitter's third top market, political observers have begun speculating that the IT cells of major political parties will be folding as they are accused of maintaining bots and troll armies. However, Musk could have brought in such transparency without taking it out from the public control, as he had the opportunity to take up a seat on the company board with the single largest holding of his shares.

Many observers believe that the USD 44 billion takeover will push politicians and regulators around the world to bring in new and stringent rules on social networks and force them to take more responsibility for the content they carry, issuing steep fines for non-compliance on material that incites violence, is abusive or classifies as hate speech, among other things. In the US Congress, before Twitter's takeover, it was the Republicans who were pushing for taking on Big Tech companies, and now Democrats have started gearing up for a fight.

NATIONAL LEGAL AID DAY

Three ways to improve our national legal aid system



'JUSTICE' IN PRACTICE

TAQBIR HUDA

Taqbir Huda is the Advocacy Lead of GJD, Brac. Email: taqbirhuda@gmail.com

TODAY marks the National Legal Aid Day, which was introduced by the government in January 2013, in an effort to increase public awareness of national legal aid services. As foreign funding for NGO legal aid shrinks with Bangladesh emerging as a middle-income country, the time to mainstream, strengthen and expand governmental legal aid has never been more urgent. Yet, 22 years after a national legal aid system was mandated, public awareness about it remains less than adequate.

On January 26, 2000, Bangladesh introduced the Legal Aid Services Act 2000 (LASA), a law "to provide for legal aid to the litigants who are incapable of seeking justice due to financial insolvency, destitution, helplessness and for various socio-economic conditions." Section 3 of LASA mandated the establishment of the National Legal Aid Services Organisation (NLASO) to carry out the purposes of LASA, "as soon as may be after the commencement" of the law. However, it was only in 2009 that the NLASO was finally established.

Section 6 of LASA requires a National Board of Management to lead NLASO, comprising relevant high-ranking government officials such as the Law Minister, Attorney General and Vice-Chairman of the Bangladesh Bar Council, etc. Section 9 of LASA requires District Legal Aid Committees to be established in every district, comprising relevant district level government officials such as the District and Sessions Judge (who is to be the chair), District Public Prosecutor, and President of the District Bar Association, etc. The Committee must also have one representative from a relevant NGO active in the area.

So far, a District Legal Aid Office has been established in the District Judge Court premises of all districts, along with a corresponding District Legal Aid Committee. The government has also appointed a District Legal Aid Officer, who is an Assistant Judge or Senior Assistant Judge, and the list of all District Legal Aid Officers, along with their contact details, is available on the NLASO website. The government has also been establishing legal aid committees at the upazila and



union levels, but these are often criticised as being inactive in practice. The website, for instance, has no information or contact information for upazila and union legal aid committees, as it does for the district ones.

According to LASA, all applications for legal aid must be submitted to the concerned District Legal Aid Committee and if any application is rejected by the District Committee, the applicant may appeal to the National Board within 60 days from the date of such rejection. Recently, NLASO has also introduced an online application system, which legal aid seekers can use to virtually submit their legal aid applications to their nearest district legal aid offices.

The Legal Aid Service Policy 2014 was formulated to clearly set out the eligibility criteria for legal aid. Section 2(1) of the Policy clarifies that legal aid recipients would typically need to have an annual income of less than Tk 1 lakh, but in the case of freedom fighters and applications for legal aid at the Supreme Court, the income needs to be less than Tk 1.5 lakh. However, Section 2(2) of the Policy establishes that certain vulnerable individuals would be deemed eligible for legal aid (without reference to their income status) such as victims of human trafficking and women and children who have faced physical or sexual violence and persons with disabilities, etc.

The legal aid services provided by NLASO can be categorised in three main forms. First, it provides legal advice to individuals, and since 2016 it has been operating a toll-free legal aid helpline (16430) through which anyone can receive free legal advice. Second, it provides alternative dispute resolution by mediating civil disputes and disputes relating to

COLLAGE:
TEENI AND TUNI

petty crimes (i.e. compoundable offences) between parties. Third, it provides court based legal assistance and representation through its panel lawyers, for cases where mediation has not been successful or where mediation is not an option (i.e. grievous offences which are non-compoundable, such as rape and murder, etc). According to a factsheet published by NLASO in March 2022, its legal services have reached over 736,000 beneficiaries since 2009.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

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Bangladesh

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Upazila: Balaganj, District: Sylhet

www.lged.gov.bd

Reference No. 46.02.9108.000.18.02.2022-358

Invitation for Tender

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2021-2022

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

Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID No.	Tender security (Tk)	Tender security submission date & time	Tender opening date & time	Tender method
EUCPW-186	Construction of Administrative Extension Building & Hall Room at Balaganj Upazila, Dist-Sylhet. Under Upazila Complex Extension Project (2nd Phase)	666840	2500000	30-May-2022 14:30	30-May-2022 15:00	OTM

This is 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 bank's branches up to **30-May-2022 14:30**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mustakim Sharif Sayed

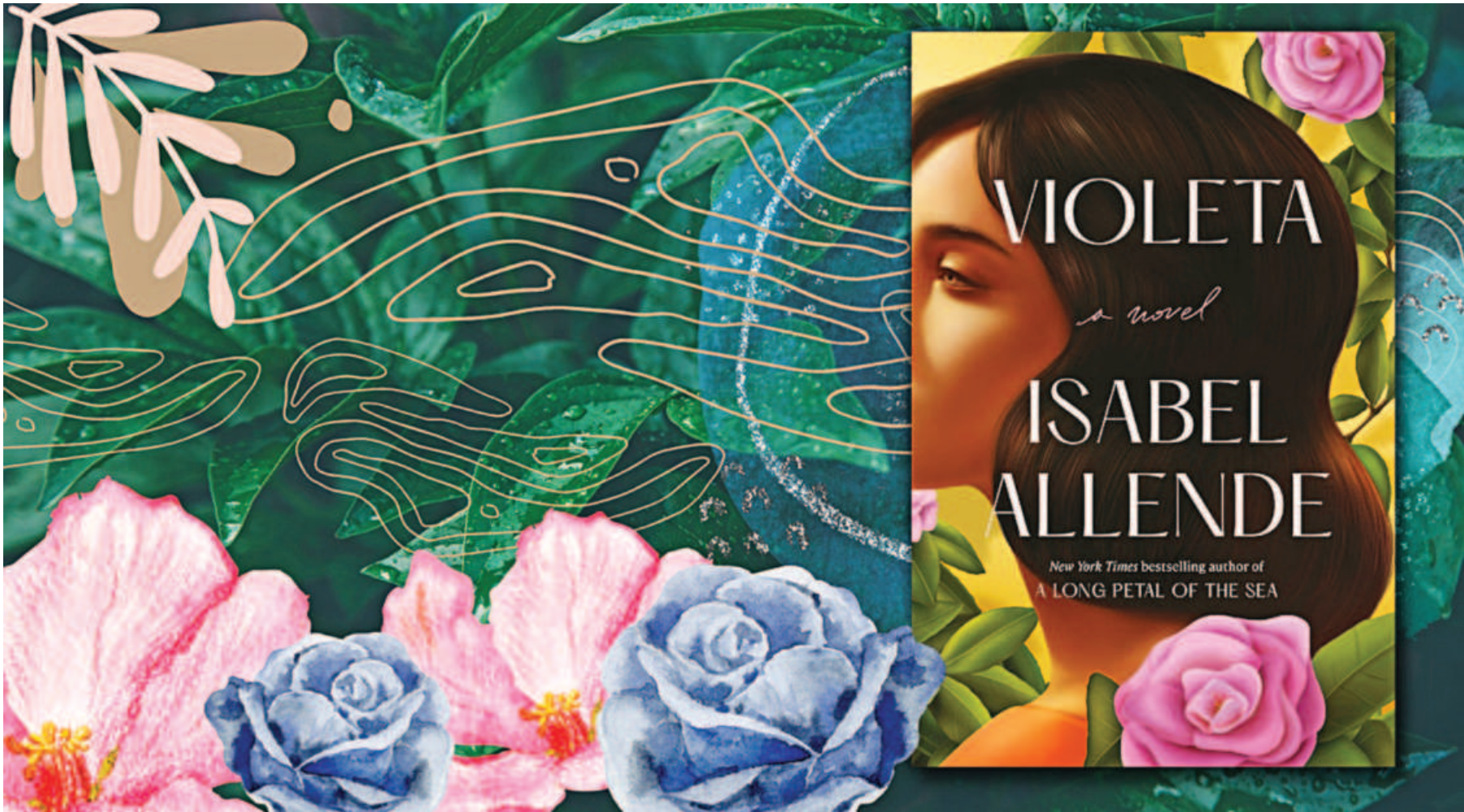
Upazila Engineer

LGED, Balaganj

District: Sylhet

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

GD-861



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Isabel Allende's 'Violeta'

A century of grief and introspection

Violeta's life is flanked by two global pandemics, the Spanish flu and Covid-19. Allende puts out a disorienting picture of the repetition of history.

MD. TAWSIF MOSTAFIZ

The lifespan of a century gave Violeta Del Valle innumerable memories, and she tells her story in Isabel Allende's new novel, *Violeta* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022). Writing to one named Camilo—someone she loves more than all others—Violeta recounts the saga of a hundred years. "I've witnessed many events, I've amassed a lot of experience, but either because I was too distracted or too busy, I haven't acquired much wisdom," she muses of her eventful life.

Violeta was born on a stormy night in 1920, in a fictitious country of Latin America. Her life is flanked by two global pandemics, the Spanish flu and 'Covid-19'. Allende puts out a disorienting picture of the repetition of history. States of emergency, mask mandates, misinformation and failed quarantines; all containing an uncanny similarity a hundred years apart. Violeta speaks of a time when the tumults and triumphs of her story were recurrent in her part of the world. It was a time of political turmoil, chaos and carnage, coup d'etats aided and abetted by distant superpowers fighting a cold war. Violeta recalls that turbulent juncture of her life, "They lit bonfires in the plazas and burned books, documents, and voter registrations, because

democracy had been suspended until further notice."

Countless people touched and shaped Violeta's life, like her brother José Antonio, who stood by her drastic life decisions, her Irish governess Miss Taylor, who became a part of her family, her love interest Julián Bravo, the fearless and conniving pilot, the Rivases, who took her in as a daughter, Torito, the simple giant wise in natural affairs, and many more. Oftentimes, the novel reads like a collection of life stories of other people, with Violeta's own story sprinkled in between to connect them as a whole. We get also a glimpse into the lives of the aboriginal people of the land. Their culture appears like a relic from the past, preserved and passed from one generation to another.

Sadness and suffering haunts Violeta throughout her life. Her childhood innocence is robbed by a family tragedy, dousing her family into abject poverty. She is abused in the name of love, and suffers in the death of friends and family. Allende creates a sense of stability in Violeta's life, that feels like the calm before the storm, only to shatter it with grief, breaking the serenity with new chapters of life, making space for new people with their own unique stories. She endures the most heart wrenching experiences, but her emotional upheaval is

often undercut by a flat tone in narrative, lacking poignant prose. Even the most tragic life events sometimes come out as bland and prosaic. Maybe some of the essence was lost in the English translation that I have come across.

Violeta bears the mark of a woman born in another time, when "politics and business" were men's prerogative, and women were supposed to talk about their "ailments and servants." Her late ideological redemption isn't enlightenment, but a forceful eye-opening when a cataclysmic tragedy shakes her world. She admits her mistakes consciously, "I chose not to see, hear, or speak up during the most critical years," confessing of her apathy during the reign of terror. She is sceptical in her faith, declaring equality in the eyes of God as a "fairy tale", and cynical in her worldview, believing cruelty is inherent in human nature.

"We move at a turtle's pace, but over my long life I can attest to how far we've come," Violeta concludes her story with a hopeful note. In the end, the eponymous narrator of the story becomes incarnate of the history of a nation, her own life intricately woven within.

MD. TAWSIF MOSTAFIZ is in his final year at Islamic University of Technology.

MUSINGS

Notes of a first-time English teacher

JAHANARA TARIQ

As the white hot sun pierced through the soufflé clouds on an afternoon a lifetime ago, my aunt and I leaned back a little too precariously on our rattan armchairs while talking about the allure of academe. My aunt recollected about her days as a literature student at Dhaka University. Though reciting Byron under krishnochura blossoms and highlighting Maugham handouts in shocking pink during lit theory's close reading sessions had its perks, she let me know that the best parts of the experience were, undoubtedly, the teachers. The best storytellers made the finest teachers, she said.

My aunt's remarks and a reading of Roald Dahl's *Matilda* in the dingy old corner of a computer room in fourth grade made me expect a Mrs. Honey as a teacher; somebody with whom I could have tea, with my pinkies up. My first literature teacher, however, was only keen on shooting us dagger eyes and assigning us to make sentences with the dullest possible words. But fiery headed Anne from the Green Gables decided ceremoniously that she wanted to become a teacher, and so I too thought that teaching would be a sure fire way to be in the company of books, to gently nudge minds into the cult of libraries and red eyes which stayed open way, way past their bedtimes.

As my O' levels neared, my school (now in a different district), which had little to no affinity with the arts, suddenly welcomed a "hipster" of sorts. Our teacher sported a stache which rivalled Ringo's during the Beatles' *SGT Lonely Heart Pepper* era. Fresh from Pennsylvania and in his early twenties, he was in Bangladesh for a mini project to teach us creative writing. He sipped



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

green juice from handmade bottles, wore corduroy trousers the shade of a dull tangerine, and often made us meditate while a deep, hypnotic, reverberating chant of "Om" played in the background. During one of his classes in the blaze of Rajshahi summer, while my back ached with sweat, he taught us to write using sensory details. I took that to heart.

When I enrolled in an English Department for my undergraduate studies, I finally found out just what my aunt had talked about. Our "History of England" classes ended during twilight hours. As the setting sun would cast the sky on fire, my classmates and I would be on our toes, voraciously taking in the stories our professor would weave—from *Beowulf* to Woolf, from the Viking conquests to the many exploits of the Tudor dynasty, from the making of Senecan tragedies to that of kitchen sink dramas.

Then, somehow, I was blessed with

the opportunity to sit on the other side of the table and teach as an adjunct faculty member in my own university. As I paraded through the halls in my mother's six yards of silk and got to control the temperature of the classrooms like a dictator, I felt I had reached the culminating chapter of my not too shabby bildungsroman. As the first week passed by in a haze of awkward introductions and queries which made me doubt the whole discipline of English Language Teaching, I drew upon a realisation. Even though I was benevolently hired to teach something that was equivalent to a condensed IELTS course, I was hell bent on injecting something from my own interests in it, to fill it up with poetic contemplations. This annoyed my students quite a lot.

Most students traced through familiar paths of Spark Notes and LitCharts to present their chosen text. But one particularly fit gentleman with

a pair of furrowed eyebrows chipped in, saying that he will only complete his assignment of reading only one novel for the semester, if I were to find him something relating to his passions. Enthusiastically I replied, "sure", and proceeded to ask him about his interests. He stood quiet for a moment before replying with a grumble: "I do love lifting, so yeah something related to 'gymming'". He later chose Coelho's *The Alchemist* and in his presentation, let me know that it was a book which talked not of the "gymming" of the body but that of the soul. I couldn't help but feel a little satisfied with what I had set in motion.

Then, during a speaking assignment in an 8 am class, a student of mine told me about how, if she had all the money in the world, she would open a bakery for her mother because her mum was like "a little fairy who loved to make cakes". Her tenses were topsy turvy, her adjectives unkempt, and her expressions a tad bit whimsical for the classroom, but it was heartwarming to say the least. Other students followed on different days to talk about the moments when they felt seen, the exhilaration they felt when they took a wicket in a neighbourhood game of cricket; how they preferred jewel tones to neon because it gave them joy or how they diligently embarked upon the journey of discovering a viable alternative to plastic. They all had their own moments which were slowly developing into beautiful narratives, and I was fortunate enough to bear witness to it. In those moments, I could not really tell my students apart from my teachers.

Jahanara Tariq teaches English at Independent University Bangladesh (IUB).

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

An invaluable resource on char dwellers of deltaic Bangladesh

ATM NURUL AMIN

In the contemporary discourse on Bangladesh, its cultural legacies have overtaken its identity as a land of six seasons or as a riverine country. A degree of euphoria is associated with both sets of images. Consequently, attention has been inadequate to the hard realities of the country's geographical, geological or geo-physical characteristics associated with its location in an active delta with floodplains, riverbank erosion, accumulation of sediments, formation of channels, morphological instabilities, plus landslides in its hilly region. This reality calls for geography, geology, and geomorphology as part of our education and research. The recently formulated Bangladesh Delta Plan (BDP) 2100, despite its grandiose scale, bears some potential to influence changes in the education system—it can make it easier to build safe settlements for residents, away from the vulnerable areas.

Meanwhile, a pioneering knowledge creation task has been accomplished in the form of a 2021 Springer book, *Living on the Edge: Char Dwellers in Bangladesh*, a compendium of 45 contributors including the book's two editors, Mohammad Zaman and Mustafa Alam. The five rivers and corresponding estuarine char regions

of Brahmaputra-Jamuna, Ganges, Jamuna-Ganges, Lower Meghna, and the Meghna Estuary system are sources for data on land eroded, accreted and thereby the gain and loss of land and the geophysical characteristics that define the nature of their soils. Twenty million people—12.5 percent of the country's population—live in chars, which accounts for eight percent of land, much of which is unsettled land. Another 15 to 20 million people live along the

banklines of the rivers, in fear of displacement from riverbank erosion.

Three of the major topics in the book address issues related to riverbank erosion and char lands dynamics; they assess the consequence of these instabilities in human terms; and examine the policy, planning and management for improving the conditions of char dwellers.

In some instances, their fate assumes episodic dimensions, as was the case in the 1970 Bhola disaster and in the 1985 Urir Char tidal surge that washed away thousands of people. *Living on the Edge* presents documented evidence and information on life and livelihood adversities of a chronic nature that are routinely endured by char dwellers and erosion-prone river bank line inhabitants from one generation to the other. This reality led distinguished geographer, Hugh Brammer, to recommend devising "forms of productive economic use of char land that do not require people to live in such hazardous environments"—a strategy that essentially turns a labour surplus economy to a labour-scarce economy. Bangladesh's development process is not dissimilar to this. The question is: how long will it take to pull up the labouring poor from such disaster-prone living environments?

Most of the book's contributors, therefore, focus on char dwellers' existing fearful living, livelihood conditions, and the means for improving upon them. The highlights include vulnerabilities arising from natural disasters such as flood, erosion, storm, cyclone, tidal surge; poverty—which is 2.7 times higher than the national average—and its consequent malnutrition; illiteracy; inadequate education, health and sanitation services; and limited rights to, if not absence of, land and livelihood resources. An ambiguity in entitlement arises because, in some instances, char dwellers serve a vanguard role to legal owners of the newly formed char land who do not move to chars until char living becomes safe. Usually, the poor labouring class from the neighbouring mainland or floodplains, either on their own or with consent of the original owners, move to the newly emerging chars. This is taken advantage of by the "local goons who torment the char dwellers continually".

This book will serve well those who seek to know what it is like for these dwellers to live in chars in the middle of our mighty rivers or their estuaries, and what it will take to improve their conditions.

ATM Nurul Amin is Professor Emeritus, Asian Institute of Technology.

BOOK NEWS

Shagufta Sharmeen Tania, British-Bangladeshi writer, shortlisted in Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2022



MAISHA SYEDA

Read the article on *The Daily Star* website and on Daily Star Books' Facebook and Instagram pages.



Manchester City took the lead after 94 seconds, the fastest goal scored in a Champions League semi-final, with Kevin De Bruyne’s superb diving header while Real Madrid talisman Karim Benzema set up what should be a special night at the Santiago Bernabeu on May 4 by scoring twice to take his tally for the season to 41 goals in as many games during a thrilling first-leg Champions League semifinal on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

‘A fantastic spectacle’ at Etihad

REUTERS, MANCHESTER

For 90 enthralling minutes in their Champions League semi-final on Tuesday, Manchester City and Real Madrid illustrated just how far elite-level European football has progressed in recent years and how much more entertaining for fans it has become.

It was not just the drama in a thrilling first leg – the fact that they combined for seven goals, with City coming out 4-3 winners, nor that Real kept the contest alive by three times reducing two-goal deficits, but the sheer quality that both sides brought to the Etihad Stadium.

The days when games in the latter stages of European competition, particularly first legs, were cagey, negative, tactical affairs, have thankfully gone, replaced by the kind of end-to-end action that brings to mind basketball’s non-stop switching between attack and defence.

“Both teams want to attack and have the quality to play. Football is a fantastic spectacle,” said City manager Pep Guardiola as he reflected on the game.

But it would be wrong to view the risk taking as cavalier or the high scoring as simply the result of poor defending. Teams at this level, as Real and City

reminded everyone, are packed with extraordinary talent.

They have forwards who can score goals out of nothing, as striker Karim Benzema proved once again with his sublime flick to bring Real back into the game at 2-1.

The Frenchman is arguably the most clinical finisher in the modern game, although a case could also be made for

deliver precision passing from any range, surge from the halfway line and lead a counter-attack as well as breaking up opposition moves with a well-read interception or timely tackle.

The game was played at relentless pace but there were still moments of midfield craft from two of the most aesthetically pleasing performers in the game – Real’s Croatian maestro Luka

goal in reply.

The best teams in Europe benefit from the finest tactical drilling, elite sports science and physical preparation and in Guardiola and Real coach Carlo Ancelotti, they are guided by men who know how to win the Champions League.

City were the more dynamic side, creating the most chances, and will feel they could have won by a bigger margin.

But the mental element is crucial at this level, as Ancelotti noted when he praised the way his team were able to keep clawing their way back into the game.

“These players don’t lose their minds when things are difficult. The first 20 minutes were really difficult, but after that we were able – slowly, slowly – to come back into the game and keep our chance of qualification open,” he said.

There are plenty of critics of modern football – of the money that flows in and out of the game, the owners, the game’s governance, commercialism and the concentration of power in a small group of big clubs.

But when it comes to undiluted quality to admire and thrilling battles to enjoy on the field, we have truly have never had it so good.

“I warn our fans to be ready to see something magical, we will win the second leg at Santiago Bernabeu. Losing is never good and we care a lot about winning the Champions League this season. The thing is we never lowered our guard and kept fighting until the end.”

Karim Benzema

another prolific Champions League scorer – Bayern Munich’s Polish forward Robert Lewandowski.

City had started the night with a goal after 94 seconds from Kevin De Bruyne and the way that Pep Guardiola’s side had Real’s defence shaking early on had much to do with the performance of the Belgian international.

Is there a better all-round midfielder in the world than De Bruyne? The 30-year-old can finish like a striker,

Modric and City’s Portuguese playmaker Bernardo Silva.

The technical ability was illustrated in two remarkable minutes in the second half.

First, 36-year-old Fernandinho, normally a tough defensive midfield destroyer, delivered a delicately floated cross for Phil Foden’s headed goal to make it 3-1 but was then exposed by the skill and pace of Vinicius Jr who burst away from him to score a wonderful solo

Mizanur sees too many ‘lazy legs’ in DPL

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Premier League title was decided on Tuesday with Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi clinching the title after defeating Abahani in a tight match. While the season is coming to an end today, Rugganj Tigers’ coach Mizanur Rahman Babul gave a poignant insight into how to get more out of the players and the tournament itself to further Bangladesh’s cause.

Rugganj Tigers played their maiden DPL season and are fifth in the standings with one game to. While Mizanur congratulated Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi for their success, he was less impressed by the up-and-coming faces. “I want to congratulate Sheikh Jamal and it’s the coming of a new pattern. This is a good sign and others will come and try to form their side to become champions,” Mizanur said after Abahani’s stronghold of three consecutive titles ended this season.

DPL is known for bringing new faces into spotlight but Mizanur was not so impressed this time except by Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity’s Amite Hasan.

“Amite Hasan batted really well. He played well in the NCL and BCL too. But apart from that there was no mentionable performance amongst batters. Among bowlers, I will say there were no mentionable performances.”

Mizanur felt that the time schedule of when the DPL should be played must be determined in order to breed capable players. There were many heavy legs in the ongoing tournament and he felt that scheduling can make DPL a breeding ground for quality cricket.

“If I use my team as an example, we came to play the championship and spent lots of money to recruit a few lazy legs. But it’s not the players’ fault. We know that there are a few players who play all the tournaments like NCL, BCL or BPL and then for the national team. In that respect, they have played for a long time and have become quite weak. Individually they performed but, on the field, the body language was missing. This is our List A tournament and we are also at our best in ODI format in international cricket.”

He put forward the notion that the league cannot take place keeping in mind when the national team stars are available.

“You have to see that national team cricketers are playing when they are free and they are not able to give that time since there are lots of international matches. Of course when they play, the hype regarding the tournament increases but if we want to match their schedules to hold the tournament, that time does not come.

“We have to go forward thinking of new players. We have to give the flavour of international wickets here so that the ball swings and there is bounce. We have to sit down and discuss when that time is,” Mizanur concluded.



‘Here to win title’: Imrul’s leadership mantra

Imrul Kayes, no longer a regular face in the Bangladesh side, has shown impressive leadership abilities in the domestic circuit. It was under Imrul’s captaincy that Comilla Victorians clinched the last Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) title. He also guided Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to their maiden Dhaka Premier League title this season with a game in hand. In an interview with *The Daily Star’s* Mazhar Uddin, the 35-year-old cricketer shared his views and leadership philosophy while discussing a few other topics. The excerpts of the interview are below:

The Daily Star (DS): What is the mantra behind your success as a leader in the domestic circuit?
Imrul Kayes (IK): I had done captaincy in the past but, to be honest, I never got the opportunity to lead on big stages. After getting the opportunity in BPL, I learned that it is important to have team bonding. If you are not able to build the team as a family then no matter how many big stars you have, they won’t click as a unit. When we formed the team, we did not have many big names. But my message was clear: that we are not here only to participate as we want to win the title. Initially, some may have taken my words lightly as most of them thought that Abahani will eventually be the champion. I tried to change this mindset and said that ‘if they can do it, why can’t we?’. I tried to instill this belief in every training session and meeting and it was very important to motivate the team.

DS: How was the standard of the league this season?

IK: If I talk about umpiring, pitch and condition, I must admit that the standard was really good compared to the previous editions. As you know the league gets highlighted even more when you have national players and the national stars were available for the majority of this season. And their presence made the tournament very competitive.

DS: Anamul Haque had a terrific season as he became the first player to score 1000 runs in a season in DPL. Is there anyone else who caught your eyes for their performance?
IK: Definitely what [Anamul Haque] Bijoy did is the reward for his hard work and we all know about his ability as he was very hungry to score runs. I think he has done really well for himself and his performance will surely help him go further in the coming days. Apart from Bijoy, Zakir Hasan and Amite Hasan were very impressive this season and they are surely the players to watch.

DS: You scored over 460 runs in 14 games striking two fifties and a hundred. As a batter, are you satisfied with your performance?
IK: As a batter, I would say I couldn’t give my best. I think I missed out on scoring big on a few occasions. But as a captain, I am happy because we lost early wickets almost in every game, and coming in at number three under pressure was not easy. I tried to take the responsibility, led from the front and tried to bat as the situation demanded.

DS: Do you still feel that you deserve a callback to the national team?
IK: As long as I play competitive cricket, my aim will be to represent my country. You won’t get success in every tournament or series. But obviously, my first priority is to play for the national team. I try to remain calm these days as probably I have been in and out of the national team more than anyone else and I am used to it.





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RAB SANCTIONS
Home’s inaction to blame
Says Shahriar Alam as JS body slams foreign ministry
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Had the home ministry provided the foreign ministry with necessary information on alleged extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances in time, the US sanctions on Rab could have been avoided, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam told a parliamentary watchdog.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said a good number of development partners and lawmakers from the US and the EU had written to the ministry seeking information on alleged forced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and arrests of journalists under the Digital Security Act.

But the ministry could not write back in time as it did not have information

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



A view of the walkway recently constructed by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities along the Turag in the capital's Ramchandrapur. In order to protect the river from illegal occupants, the BIWTA has been setting up various structures like border pillars, walkways and landing stations on its bank stretching from Gabtoli to Basila. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BANGLADESH RAILWAY

Hefty loss of Tk 13,492cr in 12 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway has incurred Tk 13,492.70 crore in losses in 12 years between fiscal 2008-09 and FY2019-20, according to BR documents.

The state-run transport agency suffered a loss of Tk 2,063.1 crore in FY2019-20, the highest for a single year since FY2008-09. Data on BR's income and expenditure before that fiscal year is not available.

A draft report of the BR shows it posted a loss of Tk 1,384cr during FY2020-21. The final report has not been filed yet.

Every year, the BR publishes an "Information Book" including in it the financial summary of the agency and all the other latest data for the year. The latest book was released in November last year.

BR has not made any profit since FY2008-09, according to data available in the information books. They do not have any data on the income for years between 1971 and 2007.

The books mentioned that the agency made Tk 5.02 crore in profit in FY1969-70 during the Pakistani rule.

It earned TK 1,125.8 crore in FY2019-20 but the operational expenses were Tk 3,188.9 crore that year.

After Covid-19 hit Bangladesh in March 2020, the operation of passenger trains was suspended for over two months to curb the spread of the virus.

BR BALANCE SHEET in crore taka			
YEAR	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	LOSS
2019-20	1,125.8	3,188.9	2,063.1
2018-19	1,406.6	3,050.6	1,644
2017-18	1,486.1	2,918	1,431.8
2016-17	1,303.7	2,835.5	1,531.7

Its effect was visible in the financial report. BR carried 63.99 million passengers in fiscal 2019-20, down from 92.71 million the previous year.

Although the operations of freight trains continued amid the pandemic, the quantity of goods transported by the trains reduced significantly in FY2019-20.

The freight carried was 3,179.68 thousand tonnes in FY2019-20 against 3,959.25 thousand tonnes the previous year, show the books.

BR incurred such losses before the pandemic as well.

In FY2018-19, it earned Tk 1,406.57 crores while the total operational expenses were Tk 3,050.65 crores, meaning it suffered a loss of Tk 1,644.07 crores that year.

It earned Tk 1,486.15 crores in fiscal 2017-18 compared to the operational costs of Tk 2,918.02 crores.

BR incurred Tk 1,531.7 crore in losses in

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NEW MARKET CLASHES

DB holds back suspects' party affiliation

Says no clue yet about Morsalin's attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those who took part in the violence and killings wearing helmets in the capital's New Market area recently are goons and they will be brought to justice, a top DB official said yesterday without disclosing their party identities.

"We are not confirming their party affiliation right now. There is nothing to look into their party affiliation. Besides, there [Dhaka College] is no committee [Chhatra League] here; there is no such thing named Chhatra League.... Those who took part in violence wearing helmets are goons for sure," said Mahbub Alam, joint commissioner of the Detective Branch of DMP, at a press briefing at the its Media Centre.

Local media published photos of many suspects and identified them as Dhaka College Chhatra League leaders and activists who took part in clashes wearing helmets.

Five cases have so far been filed in connection with the clashes, which left two people dead and at least 50

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DUTCH HORTICULTURE EXHIBIT

100 officials going abroad, austerity out the window

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

At least 100 agriculture ministry officials will participate in phases in a six-month international horticulture exhibition in the Netherlands, even though the government had asked to abandon all routine tours except those involving emergencies.

The fair, which kicked off on April 13, will continue until October 9 in the Dutch city of Almere.

As part of the tour plan, 15 agriculture ministry officials and a gardener have gotten government orders (GO), issued between March 16 and April 12, for the trip. Of them, three top officials and the gardener have already travelled to the Netherlands to prepare the Bangladesh pavilion and participate in the opening ceremony of the 7th International Horticulture Exhibition Expo.

Agriculture ministry officials said according to the plan, two officials will be stationed together at the pavilion in a 10-day slot before two others take their place.

Besides, those who will be travelling to Europe for other project-related study tours will also have a stopover in the Netherlands to participate in the horticulture fare.

"There will be around 70-80 officials travelling to the Netherlands for the two segments," said an agriculture ministry official preferring anonymity.

Besides, for "Bangladesh Day" which is likely to be held in the first week of July, high-level officials including the agriculture minister are likely to attend the fair, said the official with knowledge of the tour plan.

"The total figure considering all the visits is likely to be more than 100," he said.

Bangladesh is participating in the fair for the first time. Thirty-three other countries are taking part in the expo, the theme of which this year is "Growing Green Cities". The expo takes place once every 10 years.

Going through the five GOs already issued, The Daily Star found that 12 of them are high-ranked officials including the agricultural ministry secretary Md Sayedul Islam.

The newspaper tried to contact Islam to ask about the visit, but he did not respond to calls and text messages.

The list includes one joint secretary, four additional secretaries and five deputy secretaries.

The travel plan of so many people including high officials is against the government's stance of discouraging unnecessary foreign trips for public servants.

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Russia destroys West-supplied arms in Ukraine

Cuts gas to Poland, Bulgaria; EU denounces the move as 'blackmail'

AGENCIES

Russia said yesterday it had destroyed a large quantity of Western-supplied weapons in Ukraine, while halting gas supplies to EU and Nato members Poland and Bulgaria in a move Brussels branded attempted blackmail.

With the conflict that has claimed thousands of lives entering its third month, Ukraine conceded Russian forces had pushed deeper into the country's east and captured several villages, as Moscow intensifies a renewed offensive to take control of Donbas.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces had destroyed the "large batch" of weapons and ammunition supplied by the US and European countries using long-range missile strikes on southeastern Ukraine.

They targeted hangers at an aluminium plant near the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia with "high-precision long-range sea-based Kalibr missiles", the ministry said.

Tensions are also rising in a breakaway region of Moldova bordering southwestern Ukraine, where the interior ministry said that shots had been fired at a village housing a Russian arms depot after drones flew over from Ukraine.

The unrecognised region has reported a series of explosions in recent days that it called "terrorist attacks", leading Kyiv to accuse Moscow of seeking to expand the war further into Europe.

Russia's energy giant Gazprom said it had stopped all gas supplies to Poland and highly dependent Bulgaria, after not receiving payment in rubles from the two EU and Nato members.

The 27-member bloc said it was "prepared" for the stoppage and was planning a "coordinated" response, labelling it "another attempt by Russia to blackmail us with gas".

"Europeans can trust that we stand united and in solidarity with the member states impacted," European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said on Twitter.

The EU chief also warned importers that paying for Russian gas in rubles would breach sanctions, reports AFP.

The Russian foreign ministry said

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Syeda Ratna, a coordinator of Tentultala Maath Rokkha Andolon, and her 17-year-old son, who were both detained for protesting against the construction of a police station on the playground, along with children of the area planting saplings along a boundary wall yesterday afternoon. The wall was put up by Kalabagan police authorities to stop protesters from obstructing their work.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HAJJ 2022

Air tickets get pricier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The airfare for Hajj was yesterday fixed at Tk 1.4 lakh this year, up 12,000 from 2019, when Bangladeshis were last allowed in Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage.

"As you know, the price of jet fuel has doubled," said M Mahbub Ali, state minister for civil aviation, which fixed the airfare following discussions with different stakeholders.

If the higher fuel price is considered, the airfare should be Tk 1.5 lakh.

"But thinking about the hajis, we have fixed the airfare at Tk 1.4 lakh. Saudi Airlines will also keep the same fare."

Biman's two Boeing 777 aircraft will be used to operate dedicated hajj flights to ferry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. The state carrier will operate 75 dedicated hajj flights this year.

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