



**P7** Sri Lanka crowds jeer PM on rare outing



**P6** Two hits with a Chery on top



**P8** Should we worry about debt servicing?



**P9** Popularise climate resilient housing



The capital is getting back to its usual self as more and more people are returning after the Eid holidays. The photo was taken at Bijoy Sarani yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Twin challenges lie in inflation, Covid losses

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

It appears normal service will resume with fiscal 2022-23's budget, which will see the return of double digit growth in size – a practice introduced by former finance minister AMA Muhiith.

In a departure from the previous years, the budget size grew in single digits in the past two fiscal years as the uncertainty surrounding the global coronavirus pandemic meant Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal scaled back his ambitions.

Seeing that the country has managed to remarkably adapt to living with Covid-19, he has decided to go big with the budget this time as he looks to tackle the twin challenges of global inflation and make up for the losses of the pandemic.

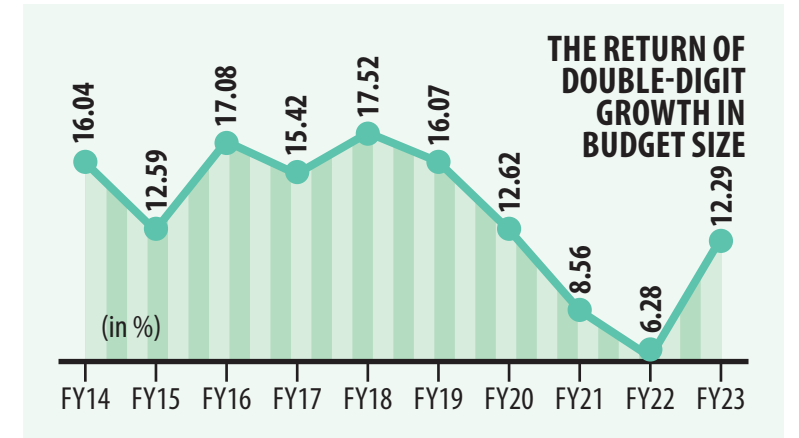
The Tk 677,864 crore budget that will be placed by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in the parliament on June 9 would be 12.29 percent bigger than this year.

The budget will look to tame inflation arising from the Ukraine-Russia war, attract investment, complete the implementation of the 28 stimulus packages, boost agricultural productivity particularly by incentivising farm mechanisation and enhance social security for the poor and the vulnerable, said a finance ministry report.

Job creation, rural development as well as the overall development of human resources through academic and skill development will also get focus.

In the proposed budget, the deficit will be Tk 244,864 crore, which will be a respectable 5.5 percent of the GDP, down from 6.2 percent this year.

"The return to normal service on the budget front is all very well but the monetary expansion cannot be such that inflation increases



further," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

In March, inflation leapt to a 17-month-high of 6.22 percent on the back of rising food prices.

And the spectre of inflation this time is not just restricted within the national borders; it is a global phenomenon thanks to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Regardless, the impact of inflation is felt the most by the poor and the vulnerable, he said.

The finance ministry appears to be not too worried about domestic inflation.

Referring to previous statistics, the finance ministry expects inflation to neutralise within nine months, according to the report.

"If food production remains unchanged, food prices would fall and inflation would not be adversely affected. As the production and overall marketing process of the agriculture and manufacturing sector remain normal, inflation would remain stable even if it increases slightly," it said.

Another major challenge, according to Hussain, is the contracting

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### ELECTION UNDER AL GOVT

## Twice bitten, BNP now firm on a 'no'

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP boycotted the national election under the Awami League government in 2014. It then participated in the 2018 polls under the AL government. On both occasions, the party gained nothing.

Drawing from the experience, the BNP is now convinced that taking part in another election under this government will amount to nothing more than rubber-stamping another AL government. And so, the party has resolved not to participate in next year's general election unless it is held under a non-partisan polls-time administration.

On Saturday, Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said the government would make all-out efforts to bring the BNP to the next parliamentary elections.

At a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee, the highest decision-making body of the party, she also said the next general election would be a participatory one held in a free and credible manner.

She criticised some of her party leaders, saying those who are not confident about their win do not

want the BNP to take part in the polls.

Reacting to the AL's plan to bring BNP into the electoral fray, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said there was no question of participating in the election unless the current AL government resigned.

"Our stance is very clear. If the [AL] government does not resign from the office and hand over power to a neutral, interim government, we will not join the national election. We will not join the polls if Sheikh Hasina remains in power," he said at a press conference at BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia's Gulshan office.

Speaking on the issue, BNP leaders said they had demanded the introduction of a neutral polls-time government in 2014, and then boycotted the elections when the demand was not met.

The party joined the last parliamentary polls in 2018 despite their demand remaining unfulfilled, and was frustrated by the massive vote rigging and ballot box stuffing the night before the election day, they said.

"We have gone through the whole processes – first boycotting and then participating in the polls.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Rail reinstates ticket examiner amid outrage

### Minister says those without tickets are indeed his relatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway yesterday reinstated the job of the TTE who fined three individuals travelling on a train without tickets and claiming to be the railways minister's relatives.

BR also issued a show-cause notice to Nasir Uddin, divisional commercial officer (DCO) of Pakshey, for suspending Shafiqul Islam, the travelling ticket examiner, "without following the proper procedure".

The steps were taken hours after Railways Minister Nurul Islam Suhan admitted that the three individuals in question were indeed his relatives and that it was his wife who complained against the TTE.

As the wife of a minister, she should not have done this, he said, adding, "What happened is embarrassing for me."

Talking to reporters at the Railway

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

### SOYBEAN OIL

## Many stores still face supply crunch

Traders say normalcy to return soon; some selling old stocks at new prices

SUKANTA HALDER and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

After the new prices came into effect, edible oil companies started supplying bottled, loose soybean and palm oil through distributors from Saturday.

However, the supplies have not reached all areas at the retail level yet – three days after the prices of the essential cooking ingredient saw a record hike.

Traders say it will take a few more days for supplies to return to normalcy.

The Daily Star correspondents visited kitchen markets in several districts yesterday and saw consumers going from store to store in search of soybean oil.

Only a few shops were selling it and some took advantage of the crisis and charged newly fixed prices for previous supplies.

The soybean oil crisis began before Eid due to a shortage of supply. In this situation, the government on Thursday

increased the prices of the bottled soybean oil by Tk 38 per litre to Tk 198, loose soybean oil to Tk 180 per litre and palm oil to Tk 172 per litre. The new prices took effect on Friday.

Yesterday, 40 shops in Mirpur, Karwan Bazar and Farmgate areas in the capital were visited, and 24 of those did not have oil.

The scenario was the same in many markets in Chattogram, Barishal, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Naogaon, Kushtia and several other districts.

Zakir Hossain, manager of Ramganj General Store in Karwan Bazar, said he had received 76 litres of oil from the Teer Soyabean Oil and Pusti brands yesterday. "I got one-fifth of the demand, and almost all is sold out."

Mohammad Siddique, a dealer of Pusti in the same market, said he had received 11,200 litres of oil from the company so far.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Students taking a selfie amid driving rains at the TSC on Dhaka University campus, as an hour-long shower brought a respite for the city residents from sweltering heat yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Wazed Miah's 13th death anniversary today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 13th death anniversary of internationally reputed nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In a message, President M Abdul Hamid yesterday paid tributes to his memory.

Hamid recalled that Wazed made notable contributions to atomic research in Bangladesh.

He served the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission in different capacities successfully, the president said.

Hamid said Jatiya Samannita Unnayan Foundation was established in 1997 at the advice and under the patronage of Wazed.

Wazed will remain a source of inspiration to the future generation, he said, adding that Wazed was arrested during the movement against Aiyub Khan's military rule in 1962.

The noted scientist tied the knot with Hasina on November 17, 1967, and stood by Bangabandhu's family during the Liberation War.

## EXTORTION MONEY Shop owner beaten to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A shop owner was beaten to death by a group of criminals in Chattogram city's Pahartali Bazar area yesterday.

According to locals, the victim – Mohammad Farid, 45, owner of a motor workshop in Pahartali Railway Colony – was murdered as he refused to pay extortion money.

Members of Double Mooring Police Station arrested one Mohammad Didar, alias Tedi Didar, 34, in this connection.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



An excavator demolishing illegal structures of the hawkers' market on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. Around 100 such structures were knocked down by the Dhaka South City Corporation to free the space from the illegal occupants.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## END OF EID HOLIDAYS

# Sufferings abound on road, rail, waterways

STAR REPORT

Eid holidaymakers suffered immensely on ferry terminals, roads and highways while returning to Dhaka yesterday.

Long tailbacks, slow-moving vehicles and a delayed train, coupled with the scorching heat, doubled their sufferings.

A seven-kilometre tailback of Dhaka-bound vehicles caused thousands of passengers to suffer on the approach to Zero Point of Daulatdia ferry terminal.

Most of the passengers, returning to Dhaka from 21 southern districts, had to wait there for around 10 hours to board ferries on the Daulatdia-Paturia route.

Hashem Seikh, driver of a Dhaka-bound bus from Narail, said, "We reached Goalanda Bazar [a point near Daulatdia terminal] around 12:10am today. We could board the ferry around 11 hours later."

Masud Sheikh, a passenger of a Dhaka-bound bus, said, "I along with my wife and two children had to wait 10 hours to board the ferry. Scorching heat added to our sufferings."

Launch passengers had to walk long distances to reach the terminals as buses were stranded a few kilometres away.

Contacted, Shehab Uddin, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Daulatdia terminal, said such a situation was created due to excessive pressure of vehicles.

Meanwhile, vehicular movements on both sides of Bangabandhu Bridge were slowed down because of the excessive pressure of Dhaka-bound vehicles.

A 13-kilometre tailback was created on the bridge's east link road in Tangail's Elega area.

Ataur Rahman, in-charge of Elega Highway Police Outpost, said, "The highway is facing huge pressure of Dhaka-bound vehicles which is causing slow vehicular movements."

Mosaddek Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge West Police Station, said the vehicles were not stuck, but they were moving slowly on the bridge's west link road in Sirajganj.

The bridge is considered the gateway of 26 districts, including 16 northern districts.

According to the highway police, around 15,000 to 20,000 vehicles move on the highway daily but the number rises to 50,000 to 60,000 vehicles during Eid.

In Banglabazar ferry terminal, queues of vehicles were noticed yesterday noon. Over 100 vehicles and several hundred motorbikes were seen waiting there to board ferries.

The pressure of vehicles intensified as the day wore on. Around 200 vehicles and 300 motorbikes were in queues yesterday evening around 7:15pm, said officials concerned.

In Lalmonirhat, several hundred passengers endured sufferings as a Dhaka-bound intercity train was delayed for about four hours.

The Lalmonirhat Express was scheduled to leave Lalmonirhat station for Dhaka at 10:20am but it left at 2:20pm.

Mizanur Rahman, 55, a passenger, said, "My family and I had to wait for four hours at the station. No rail official was available here even for talks."

Zillur Rahman, 56, another passenger, said, "My wife and daughter fell sick in the railway station."

Contacted, Lalmonirhat Station Master Nizam Uddin said he did not know the proper reason for the delay of the train.

[Our Faridpur, Tangail, Munshiganj and Lalmonirhat correspondents contributed to this report]

## Twice bitten

FROM PAGE 1

We wanted to give democracy a chance by joining the polls [in 2018] but what we found was another stolen election," Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, the party's standing committee member, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the question of them joining the polls comes up before an election, but the election is basically "deception and falsehood" when held under the Awami League government.

Tabitha Awal, BNP's mayoral candidate for the Dhaka North City Corporation polls in 2020, said elections must be held under a government formed by consensus, and no single party would dictate the electoral system or the outcome anymore.

"Until there is some visible action, no statements can lead to any positive outcome."

The next parliamentary election is very crucial for the BNP, as it has long been almost absent from the political landscape.

BNP leaders said the party joined the last JS polls to give democracy a chance to thrive, but even after that did not happen, they participated in some local government elections under its electoral symbol of "sheaf of paddy".

But since 2021, the party has boycotted all local government polls, saying free and fair elections are not possible under the current administration and also announced that it would not participate in any election under this government.

BNP is now focusing on introducing a non-partisan polls-time government, for which it has been campaigning over the last decade, but the government did not pay any heed.

Yesterday, Fakhruddin said that after an interim government is formed, a new Election Commission should be constituted based on public consensus.

The BNP did not participate in the process of forming the new EC, sticking to its stance on the need for a neutral polls-time government.

Party leaders said if the government did not meet their demand for a non-partisan interim government, the issue would be settled on the streets.

They said that taking part in polls under the incumbent government would be nothing but giving legitimacy to the elections and the government.

## Nepali scales Mt Everest for record 26th time: official

REUTERS, Kathmandu

A Nepali sherpa scaled Mount Everest for a record 26th time, beating his own previous record set last year, a government official said yesterday.

Kami Rita Sherpa, 52, scaled the 8,848.86-metre (29,031.69-foot) mountain on Saturday along the traditional southeast ridge route leading 10 other Sherpa climbers.

## Twin challenges

FROM PAGE 1

foreign exchange reserves thanks in part to the inflation abroad that has swelled the import bill.

Bangladesh's foreign currency reserves have come down to less than \$42 billion, which is the lowest in 18 months.

The reserves are sufficient to cover five months' import bills, down from six months previously.

Given that remittance, a major source of foreign currency, remains sticky downwards despite the

higher cash incentive from this year, the pressure on reserves will continue in the foreseeable future.

The situation can be navigated deftly, Hussain said.

"The government should not take up projects with its own funds that have a sizeable import component."

"There should be a restraint on the government's expenditure."

collected supplies of bottled oil at the newly fixed prices. Some have been selling at a price higher than the new ones fixed by the government.

According to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, some traders have been selling oil at Tk 210.

One and two-litre bottles of brand Fresh's soybean oil were found at Akbar Shah Store and Shahidul Store at Hamzarbagh and Hillview areas of the port city. They are selling the one-litre bottles at Tk 200 and two-litre bottles at Tk 400.

The shop owners and employees declined to comment. They, however, claimed the bottles were collected before Eid.

In the Sreebordi Upazila Market of Sherpur district, Pusti's one-litre bottled soybean oil, which sold at Tk 168, now sells at Tk 198. Meanwhile, after the

All foreign tours by government officials and car imports for government officials should be put on hold – it would lower the pressure on reserves."

The government should also speed up the implementation of projects that are mostly foreign-funded.

"That way, foreign currency will come in," he added.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling, called for greater

support for the small- and medium-sized enterprises, which are yet to bounce back from the pandemic whiplash.

"The stimulus package has not been of much help to them. How they can be helped more should be explored in the budget."

He also called for a greater focus on employment generation.

"It is a longstanding problem but it has become more pressing in light of the pandemic as many lost jobs," he added.

The incident triggered outrage in social media. Transparency International Bangladesh called upon Nurul Islam Sujan to step down from his post temporarily for an investigation into the suspension.

Meanwhile, the railways ministry yesterday ordered legal action if anyone tried to take advantage, claiming to be relatives or personal assistants of the minister or BR officials.

Since November 2020, similar notices have been issued three times.

TTE Shafiqul's suspension was widely covered by the media. The reports mentioned that he was suspended on instruction of the minister's wife Shammy Akhter.

"I learnt about the incident just as you learnt about it. I had no knowledge of it," he said.

The minister said he was not aware that the three individuals were his relatives when he was talking to reporters on Saturday.

About the allegation that his wife asked a top

## KG Mustofa no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned journalist and lyricist KG Mustofa died last night at his Azimpur residence.

He was 84.

KG Mustofa had been suffering from old-age complications and various ailments for several months, Jatiya Press Club Joint Secretary Mainul Alam told The Daily Star.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Press Club premises following Zohr prayers today, he said.

Mustofa was born on July 1, 1937, at Begumganj in Noakhali. He started journalism as a cub reporter at Daily Ittehad in 1958. He later joined Dainik Majlum as assistant editor.

He also worked with Weekly Janata. After Bangladesh's independence, Mustofa worked as chief reporter at Dainik Ganokantho and Dainik Swadesh.

He joined the Department of Films and Publications in 1976 and became senior editor before retiring in 1996.

Mustofa was a renowned lyricist and wrote timeless songs including "Tomare Legeche Eto Je Bhalo" in the movie "Rajdhanir Booke" and "Aimate Oi Mukh Dekhbe Jokhon" for movie "Nacher Putul".

He also wrote several books including poetry titles "Kache Thako Chuye Thako" and "Uranta Ruma" and several others novels and children's literature.

## Man held for killing wife and daughters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police yesterday detained a man on charges of killing his wife and two daughters in Manikganj's Ghior upazila on Saturday night.

The accused is Asaduzzaman Rubel, 40, provided dental services at a chamber in the upazila. The victims are his wife Lovely Akhter, 35, his elder daughter Chhoa, 16, and younger daughter Kotha, 12.

According to neighbours, Rubel was fined Tk 1, 20,000 for improper dental treatment, which was supposed to be paid by yesterday morning during an arbitration arranged in his chamber.

Riyaz Uddin, OC of Ghior Police Station, said, "After the murders, Rubel had gone into hiding. He is now in police custody. He was in huge debt and is suffering from depression."

ASP (Shibalaya circle) Noorjahan Laboni said, "A murder case was filed by Lovely's father at noon and investigation has already begun. Rubel, during primary interrogation, has confessed to the triple murder."

## Cop killed, 12 others injured in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A policeman was killed when a passenger bus hit a roundabout point and flipped over on a truck on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Moulvibazar's Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Ragib Ali, 23, a constable of Sherpur Highway Police Station.

At least 12 others, including two more policemen – Kamran, 23, and Anisul, 24 – were injured in the accident and sent to hospital by police and locals who rescued them.

The driver of the SD Jalalabad bus, which was leaving Mymensingh for Sylhet, lost control of the steering. The vehicle hit the Sherpur roundabout point, then flipped sideways on a truck, crushing at least 13 people, including 12 on-duty policemen, said Parimal Deb, OC of Sherpur Highway Police Station.

## Rail reinstates

FROM PAGE 1

Bhaban yesterday, the minister reiterated that the TTE would be rewarded if an ongoing investigation found the allegations of misconduct were wrong.

Shafiqul, a TTE of BR's Pakshey division in Pabna, was suspended on Friday, a day after he fined the three people who boarded the Dhaka-bound "Sundarbans Express" at Ishwardi junction without tickets.

The incident triggered outrage in social media. Transparency International Bangladesh called upon Nurul Islam Sujan to step down from his post temporarily for an investigation into the suspension.

Meanwhile, the railways ministry yesterday ordered legal action if anyone tried to take advantage, claiming to be relatives or personal assistants of the minister or BR officials.

Since November 2020, similar notices have been issued three times.

TTE Shafiqul's suspension was widely covered by the media. The reports mentioned that he was suspended on instruction of the minister's wife Shammy Akhter.

"I learnt about the incident just as you learnt about it. I had no knowledge of it," he said.

The minister said he was not aware that the three individuals were his relatives when he was talking to reporters on Saturday.

About the allegation that his wife asked a top

official to suspend the TTE, he then first said, "I have no idea about that. If that is the case, a probe committee has been formed and everything will be unearthed. Everyone has to be liable."

A little later, he said the DCO apparently made the decision after a phone conversation. Otherwise, he would not have gotten the allegation so quickly.

"My wife made the complaint as she learnt about the [TTE's] misconduct. She did not ask for suspension of the TTE," he said, adding that he was not sure whether the TTE was suspended following her complaint.

"As a relative of a passenger, she can lodge a complaint. She can not lodge a complaint as the wife of a minister. She should have told me if she had any complaints regarding the railway. But she did not do that... So, we thought the suspension order was not proper."

"I have been trying to work here, maintaining transparency. But the way the incident unfolded is embarrassing for me."

Meanwhile, Shahidul Islam, divisional railway manager of Pakshey, said an order withdrawing the suspension and a show-cause notice to DCO Nasir Uddin were already issued.

Nasir was asked to reply in seven working days.

In another development, the three-member probe committee got three more days to complete the investigation into the incident.



## East Jurain: Saga of a manmade mess

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Ward 53 of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) covers most parts of East Jurain's Muradpur area. According to the 2011 census, more than 27,000 people live in this ward which, according to them, has become probably the worst place to live in Dhaka. Round the year waterlogging, unplanned urbanisation, mosquito infestation, severe dust pollution during dry seasons, and lack of open space and waste management have pushed its residents beyond their limit of endurance. Through this report, The Daily Star is presenting the major problems faced by the residents of this ward and what authorities are doing about it.

### WATERLOGGING ALL YEAR LONG

Many lanes adjacent to Commissioner Road, Khorshed Ali Sarder Road, Nurani Mosque Road and Mishtir Dokan area of this ward remain submerged under filthy sewage water all over the year without any rain or flooding.

Not only the roads but also many houses along the above mentioned streets remain flooded. Many of its inhabitants have already abandoned their submerged homes and properties, which have now become an ideal breeding ground for dengue mosquitoes.

According to the inhabitants, unplanned road restoration works and clogged sewerage systems are the main reasons behind such awful waterlogging.

### UNPLANNED ROAD RESTORATION WORKS

DSCC has regularly been restoring the roads in this area by increasing their heights, however, without considering the height of the adjacent houses.

In some places such as Commissioner Road, Nurani Mosque Road and Khorshed Ali Sarder Road areas, all the



lanes and streets have been heightened up to 10 to 12 feet from their original position.

As a result, many houses and shops have become buried under these roads. Runoff water from these roads regularly floods the houses whether there is rain or no rain.

According to Md Selim Ahmed, a resident of the Nurani Mosque area, "Due to unplanned and inconsiderate road restoration works, many of our houses have become uninhabitable. Many inhabitants have abandoned their neighbourhoods. People like me who have nowhere to go in this city are being compelled to stay in this accursed place."

### DENGUE OUTBREAK A REGULAR PHENOMENON

Aedes mosquito breeds in millions in the waterlogged streets and abandoned homes and as a consequence dengue fever never leaves the East Jurain

neighbourhood.

This time, at least 23 people have died of this disease in East Jurain alone so far although DSCC does not have any exact information about the death toll.

Mizanur Rahman, a resident of the ward, said, "DSCC workers rarely visit this area to kill mosquitoes. When they visit, they spray mosquito repellent with a fogger machine but do not take any step to clean the mosquito breeding grounds. As a result, their mosquito control initiatives are not working here at all."

### UNBEARABLE DUST POLLUTION

Due to regular restoration of roads, a huge amount of construction materials are left scattered all over the neighbourhood causing immense dust pollution.

According to Mizanur Rahman, "DSCC never stops restoring these roads and always leaves the construction materials uncovered. The air here is

thick with heavy sands and blocks of cement. Children and elderly people in this neighbourhood are becoming sick by inhaling this polluted air."

### NO SPACE TO BREATHE

The entire area does not have any open public space where its residents could spend some free time.

There is no playground for children, no open space and greenery here.

Syeda Sharmin, a mother of three children and a resident of the ward, said, "If we have to talk to our neighbours, we have no alternative to standing in the streets which are also very dirty and busy. In the afternoon, our children play in the streets with great risk of road accidents and falling into the uncovered sewerage drains."

### RESIDENTS' PLEA FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

Inhabitants have been appealing to the



authorities for immediate solutions to these ever-increasing problems, which are very much linked to each other.

Mizanur Rahman said, "We are paying taxes regularly to the city corporation but hardly getting any service from them. I do not know about any such place in the entire country where people live in such an unbearable conditions. If DSCC does not come up with a sustainable solution, thousands

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## Polls to be free, fair

Assures Quader, urging all parties to take part in national election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday assured that the next general election will be held in free and credible manner and urged all registered political parties to participate in the election.

He also said the next election will be held using electronic voting machines (EVM).

Talking to reporters at his secretariat office, Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said they want a strong opposition in parliament and called upon BNP to come to election.

"If BNP does not participate in the next parliamentary elections, the party will face existential crisis. So, the party will come to the election to sustain."

"Our leader Sheikh Hasina at a meeting clearly said she wants participation of all registered political parties in next national elections," he said.

About the election, the AL leader said the government will fully cooperate with the Election Commission to hold a free and fair election. The

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## No fresh cross-examination of witness

Apex court observes in full text of verdict regarding graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court in the full text of a verdict has observed that there is no scope for trial courts to hold fresh cross-examinations of any witness, who has already been cross-examined, in corruption cases under the relevant law.

The fresh cross-examinations of witnesses cause long delays in finishing case trials and their backlogs in the lower courts across the country, Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this correspondent.

The Appellate Division also cleared the way for the lower court concerned to continue trial proceedings of a graft case filed against BNP leader and former health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

The case was filed by the ACC on February 6, 2014, accusing the former health minister of amassing over Tk 9.54 crore between 2001 and 2006 and depositing it to a UK bank account.

"This (Appellate) Division earlier decided the same in the case of Begum Khaleda Zia Vs State and others reported in 71 DLR(AD) (2019) 9," said the text.

On April 19, a three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman delivered a short verdict on an ACC petition challenging an HC verdict. The HC in its verdict on January 25 directed the trial court to issue summons to prosecution witness Ferdous Ahmed Khan, an official at the prime minister's office, for a fresh cross-examination. It also allowed Khandaker Mosharraf to cross-examine Ferdous on three questions.

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PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAY 9



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-15	12-45	5-00	6-34	8-00
Jamaat	4-50	1-15	5-15	6-38	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Over 64pc Rohingyas severely food insecure

Says WFP report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 64 percent of the Rohingya refugees and host community members in Cox's Bazar are severely food insecure, according to the Global Report on Food Crises 2022, prepared by World Food Programme (WFP).

In numbers, over 1.26 million of this population are between moderately and severely food insecure, stated the report. Just in the previous year (2020), the number was slightly less and stood at 1.2 million.

"The lack of income sources and livelihood opportunities compels nearly all (95 percent) of Rohingya households to be entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance," said the report released on May 4.

The current level of humanitarian assistance is not enough for 51 percent of the population to afford the "minimum expenditure basket" or the amount of expenditure needed to meet the basic

needs of a household.

The global report also mentioned that this food insecurity has resulted in more than half the children being anaemic.

Approximately 11.4 percent of the children of this population have a low weight-to-height ratio.

The grim numbers came to the fore at a time when humanitarian assistance allocated to food sectors is at an all-time low.

"In 2020, the humanitarian assistance allocated to food sectors in 55 food crisis-prone countries and territories was the lowest recorded in five years, even though the number of acutely food insecure people was the highest," said the report.

The report also mentioned that while funding for humanitarian food assistance has been falling since 2017, the current shortfall is particularly stark due to the Covid-19 induced economic slowdown and prioritisation of the public health response to the pandemic.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Amidst the season's torrential downpour yesterday afternoon, this motorbike upturned on Mirpur Road, due to the rider's lack of caution and riding at high speed. Thankfully an accident was averted as the bus behind the bike stopped in time and a pedestrian helped the rider. This photo was taken near Asad Gate.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## When greed trumps over need

FROM PAGE 5  
their concerns over the role of the authorities at different meetings but to no avail. "If there's a fire anywhere in the town, there's no scope to put it out," said another local Azizul Haque Salim.

Sadhin Khan Hira, another municipality resident said, "We cannot explain how much suffering we're facing due to canal grabbing."

Contacted, Abdus Salek, executive engineer of Mathbaria municipality, said as there are sluice gates in some of the canals, no water vehicle can move through them.

UNO Urmi Bhowmick said, "Since the canals are



Over the years, Mathbaria canals have lost all its natural flow due to mindless encroachment and lack of surveillance by the authorities concerned. PHOTO: STAR

under the jurisdiction of the Pirojpur district council, we cannot directly take steps against grabbers."

She also said a formal complaint needs to be

lodged to the council in this regard. Asked, Rebeka Khan, chief executive of Pirojpur District Council, confirmed that influential people are behind canal

grabbing. "We've asked the district administration to equip us with sufficient manpower to take a step against grabbers," she added.

**FLAT SALE**  
3800 sq. ft. 4 Bed, 2 Parking, Gulshan-2, Land 10 Katha Couner Plot, North East Face Barnd New (8 Floor) Ready Flat Sale. Wasim: 01819-977565

## Over 64pc

FROM PAGE 3  
"Domestic food price inflation in many low-income countries rose significantly, particularly

those with a high reliance on food imports and where border closures, conflict or insecurity disrupted trade flows," it added.

## One dead, 22 hurt

FROM PAGE 5  
250-bed hospital. Of them, five were transferred to Dhaka as they were in critical condition.

After the accident, vehicular movement remained halted for 40 minutes. This suspension created to a 6km long tailback on the both sides of the road.

The traffic resumed at 2:30pm after the two buses were removed from the spot through a highway police wrecker.

Meanwhile, our Natore correspondent adds, one Alamin Hossain (25) was killed when a paddy-laden truck overturned on Natore Rajshahi highway at Takiya in Sadar upazila yesterday.

In another accident, Shamim Ahmed (35), a banker, died as he lost control over his motorbike and hit an unknown vehicle in front of Kalikapur Agricultural Technical College in Baraigram upazila yesterday.

## A curse in disguise

FROM PAGE 5  
Meanwhile, it has already become difficult to spot wild animals inside the forest, due to the increasing number of tourists. Saddam Hosen, a student of Rajshahi University who came to Lawachhara with his friends, said they failed to spot any animal. "My assumption is they went even deeper into the forest due to all the noise and people," he said.

Muntasir Akash, assistant professor of zoology at Dhaka University, said, "There are arrangements for tourist

management in different countries. A specified amount of tourists get the opportunity to travel every day. But there is no such model in Bangladesh. As a result, forests and wildlife are affected."

Contacted, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said, "We want to limit the number of tourists to protect the biodiversity of this forest. Besides, if there is an arrangement to sell tickets online, we can control the number of tourists on any given day."

## Polls to be free

FROM PAGE 3  
EC will remain neutral, he continued.

Referring to AL's national council, Quader said the tenure of the existing committee will expire in the coming December and the next council will be held in the month of victory.

Conferences of all grassroots units will be completed before the national council, the AL leader added.

Citing the party president's direction, he said party leaders were asked to take preparation for national conference as well as parliamentary polls. "Our leader has already asked to prepare the party manifesto by updating the existing one," he added.

## Newborn

FROM PAGE 5  
father said.

Shilpi, said, "The nurses did not allow me to go to the bathroom before the operation at first. But I was in pain and had to go. After seeing blood, I realised that the baby had been born and informed people working at the hospital."

Mashur Rahman, assistant registrar of the children's ward, said the newborn weighed 1.2kg. She does not have any physical issues now, he added.

## Not nominated

FROM PAGE 5

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Sharpur's brother Syed Jafrul Hasan Apu alleged that Tariqul wanted to kill his brother. "We filed a case with Narail Sadar Police Station on May 6, accusing eight people."

Despite repeated attempts, Syed Tariqul Islam could not be contacted for comments.

Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Kabir Hossain said they were trying to arrest those involved in the attack.

## East Jurain: Saga of a manmade mess

FROM PAGE 3  
of families will lose their homes and valuable assets in the near future."

### WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY

Contacted, Meer Hossain Miru, councillor of ward-53, said, "I also do not support such arbitrary heightening of roads. I have appealed to the city corporation to stop these works. I have also urged them to pump out the clogged waters. They assured me that they will solve this problem of water logging soon."

DSCC, however, blames the residents for the lack of services in ward number 53.

Abu Naser, DSCC spokesperson said, "Most

of the inhabitants of this ward are illegal inhabitants as they built their homes covering canals and low lying floodplains adjacent to the DND embankment."

"The entire area lies much lower than the DND main road. This is why we are heightening the local roads up to the level of the main road to prevent runoff from the nearby highways. It is a continuous maintenance work of the city corporation," Abu Naser added.

DSCC workers regularly visit the area to control mosquitoes and clean the streets. Citizens should also keep their houses clean and free of clogged water, he said.

"We booked many

families there for not cleaning clogged water in their homes where we found Aedes larvae. However, if there is any irregularity from our side, the inhabitants can directly contact us through our hotline number and we shall take immediate measures," added Abu Naser.

However, he declined to comment on what lies ahead for the residents of ward-53 if they continue with their road restoration works.

Contacted, Mahfuja Aktar, town planner of Rajuk, said, "It is a fact that the entire east Jurain neighbourhood has developed in what was supposed to be agricultural

lands irrigated by the DND project. There were several canals such as Kutubkhali, Shabujbag and Titas to drain out the excess water most of which have also been blocked by the growing settlements."

"At this point, it is not possible to evacuate such densely populated neighbourhoods declaring them illegal inhabitants. Instead, we should go for reactive measures such as restoring the canals to drain out the clogged water, ensuring efficient waste management and maintaining the sewerage line to improve the quality of life in this neighbourhood," added Mahfuja.

**প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন ইউনিট**  
বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড  
শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার

গভীর নলকূপ স্থাপন কাজের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার নাম	প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার অবস্থান	প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার
৫	আবেদনকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	গভীর নলকূপ স্থাপন কাজের পুনঃ দরপত্র
৬	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
৭	দরপত্র নং	ডিএস/ডিআই/উ-২০২৩/৮৩(ভসি-০৪)-২৪৮৭(২)(২) তারিখঃ ০৮/০৫/২০২২ইং
৮	অর্ধের উৎস	প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের সংশ্লিষ্ট মুদ্রণ খাত
৯	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিলাভ বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও স্থান	১০/০৫/২০২২ হতে ১৯/০৫/২০২২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থানঃ ১। প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন ইউনিট (পিডিইউ), বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড (বিটিবি), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার; ২। বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, ১৭১-১৭২, বায়েজিদ বোস্তামী সড়ক, নাসিরাবাদ, ঢাকা; ৩। লিয়াজুরী অফিস, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, ১১১-১১৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২২/০৫/২০২২, দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। পিডিইউ, বিটিবি, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২২/০৫/২০২২, দুপুর ১২:১০ ঘটিকা, পরিচালক এর দপ্তর, পিডিইউ, বিটিবি, শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার।
১২	দরপত্রাদানের শর্তাঙ্ক	সংশ্লিষ্ট টেন্ডারের প্রবিধানের হাদানাপাদ সরাসরিকৃত ক্রেতা লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হাদানাপাদ প্রমাণক, ভাট নিবন্ধকরণ সনদপত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট এবং টেন্ডার সিদ্ধিলাভ উল্লেখিত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, অনুদান টার্মিন্ডার ও লিকুইড এটেটে এর তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৩	দরপত্র সনিসেপের স্থান	৫০০/- টাকা প্রতিটি (অফিসরযোগ্য)
১৪	কাজের পরিচিতি	কাজের অবস্থান
১৫	গভীর নলকূপ স্থাপন, পাশ্প হাউজ নির্মাণসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজ সম্পাদন করা।	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময় ৪০ (চল্লিশ) দিন
১৬	স্টেটার সিদ্ধিলাভের অর্থ	৩০,০০০/- টাকা (ত্রিশহাজার) হিসাবে সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন অফিসিলাই ব্যাংকে হতে পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত), পিডিইউ, বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড এর অনুমুলে উক্ত টাকার ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
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১৮	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) দরপত্র সরঞ্জাম যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শনো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

সিদ্ধি-৯০৮ পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

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**Director (Administration)**  
**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Plot# 15, Block# B, Bashundhara, Dhaka - 1229  
Email: nsuhr@northsouth.edu  
Website: www.northsouth.edu

**IFIL** ইসলামিক ফাইন্যান্স এন্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্ট লিমিটেড  
Islamic Finance and Investment Limited  
Based on Islamic Shariah, the first of its kind in Bangladesh  
Head Office: Impetus Center (3rd Floor), 242/B Tejaon Gulshan Link Road, Tejaon, Dhaka. Ph: 8878725-31, Fax-8878777

**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

The Board of Directors of Islamic Finance and Investment Limited (IFIL) in its 306<sup>th</sup> meeting held on May 08, 2022 from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. in the Board Room of IFIL Head Office, Dhaka has considered and approved the Un-audited Financial Statements for the 1st quarter ended on March 31, 2022.

As per Un-audited Financial Statements for the 1st quarter ended on March 31, 2022, the performance of IFIL was as under:

SL No.	Particulars	January to March, 2022	January to March, 2021
1	Earnings Per Share (EPS) of Tk. 10 each	0.30	0.41
2	Net Asset Value Per Share (NAVPS)	15.61	15.41
3	Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	(4.98)	(0.27)

By order of the Board  
sd/-  
S. Q. Bazlur Rashid  
Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka  
May 08, 2022

www.ifilbd.com

**IFIL** ইসলামিক ফাইন্যান্স এন্ড ইনভেস্টমেন্ট লিমিটেড  
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**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Islamic Finance and Investment Limited (IFIL) in its 306<sup>th</sup> meeting held on May 08, 2022 from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. in the Board Room of IFIL Head Office, Dhaka has considered the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 and has taken the following price sensitive decisions:

SI	Particulars	Year 2021	Year 2020
1	Earnings Per Share (EPS) of Taka 10 each	1.32	1.54
2	Net Asset Value Per share (NAVPS)	15.31	14.99
3	Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	(1.87)	5.58

By order of the Board  
sd/-  
S. Q. Bazlur Rashid  
Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka  
May 8, 2022

www.ifilbd.com

**PWD**  
**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Khagrachari PWD Division, Khagrachari  
Phone: 02333343123  
E-mail: ee\_Khgra@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.4600.320.50.004.19 ১৩৩০ Date: ২৫/০১/১৪২৯  
০৮/০৫/২০২২ইং

**e-GP Tender Notice (OTM, NCT)**

Tender ID No.	Invitation Ref. No.	Description of works	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing date and time	Tender opening date and time	Remarks
689140	egp/pwd/khagra/OTM/2021-22/16	Civil-Sanitary and electrical repair works of Pump house and prison guard building of Khagrachhari Prison.	22/05/2022 17:00	23/05/2022 15:00	23/05/2022 15:00	---
695131	egp/pwd/khagra/OTM/2021-22/20	Civil-Sanitary repair works of Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioners' residence	22/05/2022 17:00	23/05/2022 15:00	23/05/2022 15:00	---

e-Tender invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement as follows:  
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP System.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). For more details about procurement package, please contact the official inviting the tender.

**Md. Anwarul Azim**  
Executive Engineer  
Khagrachari PWD Division  
Khagrachari

GD-912

## DSCC to launch 3-day anti-mosquito drive from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will conduct a three-day anti-mosquito drive in its seven wards from May 10.

DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh directed its officials concerned to conduct the operation at a regular review meeting at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

Taposh said breeding of Aedes mosquitoes increases just before the rainy season is fully set. The DSCC mayor also said it is very important to destroy the breeding source of Aedes mosquitoes to control the dengue outbreak.

According to the pre-monsoon survey of DGHS, wards 38, 40, 45, are marked as risky areas while wards 13, 15, 21 and 23 are as medium risky areas.

Twenty-six mosquito control workers will work in a ward to spray both larvicide and adulticide two times in a day.

## Newborn rescued from hospital's toilet pipe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A newborn was rescued from the sewerage pipe of Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Saturday after her mother gave birth in a toilet of the maternity ward, the hospital's director said yesterday.

The incident occurred around 4:00pm, said director Dr HM Saiful Islam.

"Both the mother and the newborn are doing well. Instructions have been given to prioritise their treatment," he further said.

The newborn's father, Neamat Ullah, a resident of Pirojpur, said doctors decided to conduct a caesarean surgery on her as her condition was critical and asked the husband to buy some medicines.

"When I came back, there was a crowd in front of the toilet. People told me that my wife gave birth there and the baby got stuck inside the pipe. Someone asked me to pull the newborn out from the pipe. I inserted my hand inside the pipe and got nothing. But I heard my baby cry from inside the pipe. I quickly went to the second floor, broke the pipe, and rescued my daughter. Thank God, I was able to save her," the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Lawachhara National Park has seen tourists double its capacity during the Eid holidays. While the increasing number of tourists has earned an increased revenue, it is also posing a serious threat to the forest's biodiversity with endless noise and vehicles parked everywhere.

PHOTO: STAR

# A curse in disguise

Lawachhara National Park sees tourists double its capacity, biodiversity under threat

MINTU DESHWARA

During the Eid holidays, Lawachhara National Park sees tourists double its capacity. This has been the trend for quite some years now, except for the hiatus due to the pandemic in the last two years. Although the increasing number of tourists has earned increased revenue, it is posing a serious threat to the biodiversity of the site with the endless noise and vehicles parking everywhere.

Md Shahidul Islam, range officer in Sreemangal, told this correspondent that there were at least 2,375 tourists and 34 vehicles on Eid day, and the total revenue out of this was Tk 1,01,788. On the second day of the holidays, the total number of tourists was 3,539, with 78 parked vehicles and total revenue of Tk 1,57,981.

The numbers continued to persist over the following days as well. A total of 3,021 tourists and 88 parked vehicles were on the site on the third day, yielding Tk 1,35,576 in



revenue.

On the fourth day, there were 2,344 tourists and 63 parked vehicles, yielding a revenue of Tk 1,07,501.

On the fifth day, the total number of tourists was 1,934 and 39 parked vehicles.

Hotels, motels and resorts in all areas of the district, including Sreemangal, currently have zero vacancies, said Atiqur Rahman, inspector-in-charge of Lawachhara Tourist Police.

According to the divisional forest office, a study in 2012 found that the maximum capacity in Lawachhara National Park is 400 tourists per day.

Environmentalists said if the authorities cannot limit the number of tourists, the wildlife residing on the site will start to move out of Lawachhara due to all the noise pollution and ecosystem imbalance, which will create a huge risk to their lives.

"Free movement of people will harm the balance of eco-tourism and the environment. At the same time, noise pollution from vehicles carrying visitors to the protected forest creates panic and insecurity among the fauna," said Md Nurul Mohmain Milton, general secretary of Environmentalist Journalist Forum.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# When greed trumps over need

Most canals in Mathbaria fall victim to mindless grabbing

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Once waterways used to be the only means of communication at Mathbaria upazila. Hundreds of canals and tributaries of the Baleshwar and Bishkhali rivers flowed through it.

However, at present, these canals, especially ones inside the municipality town, are barely alive as many have been grabbed by influential people. Additionally, narrow bridges and sluice gates have been constructed over them.

Locals said since Mathbaria's land

price is the highest in the district, influential people have grabbed these state-owned lands right under the nose of the authorities concerned.

The price of one-decimal land in the municipality town is between Tk 20-50 lakh depending on their location, whereas the price of the same land is Tk 10-12 lakh in the district town, added locals.

"Land on both sides of the canals has been grabbed by politically or locally influential people," said Emadul Haque Khan, a resident of the town, adding that they raised

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## One dead, 22 hurt as buses collide in Manikganj

STAR REPORT

A man was killed and 22 others were injured in a head-on collision between two buses on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Muljan in Sadar upazila, Manikganj yesterday.

The deceased -- identified as Badshah Mia (40) -- was a cleaner at Kurmitola General Hospital in Dhaka.

Bhaskar Saha, additional superintendent of police of Manikganj Sadar Circle, said the accident took place around 1:45pm when Chudanga-bound bus of Janani Paribahan collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound bus of Sellie Paribahan.

The injured passengers were sent to Manikganj

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



## Not nominated, 'UP polls aspirant' beats up AL leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

An aspirant of Union Parishad election has allegedly beaten up an Awami League leader in Narail for not getting nomination to contest the polls.

The incident took place at Goalbathan village in Sadar upazila around 5:45pm on May 5, said locals.

Syed Tariqul Islam, the nomination seeker, along with his brother and relatives launched the attack on local AL leader Syed Samiul Alam Sharpu (50) at Chaltetala Bazar while he was exchanging Eid greetings with locals, said the victim's family. They indiscriminately beat him in the head, back, arms, leg and face with iron rods, they alleged.

In the attack, two of Sharpu's teeth were broken, they said, adding that Sharpu was undergoing treatment at Narail Sadar Hospital.

Contacted, Sharpu said instead of Tariqul, one Azizur Rahman Bhuiyan was nominated for last local UP election, which eventually led to the attack.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Pirojpur  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.7900.000.07.001.2022-913  
Date: 28.04.2022

**E-Tender Notice No. 43/2021-2022**

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

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No. & name of work	Procurement method	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1.	693407	SupRB/Peroj/Replace/21-22/W-238 Construction of 15.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Nazirpur Upazila H/Q-Boithakata GC Road at Chainage: 940m under Replacement category [579762002]	OTM	24.05.2022 17:00pm	25.05.2022 01:00pm
2.	693408	SupRB/Peroj/Replace/21-22/W-239 Construction of 15.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Nazirpur Upazila H/Q-Boithakata GC Road at Chainage: 9784m under Replacement category [579762002]	OTM	24.05.2022 17:00pm	25.05.2022 01:00pm
3.	693409	SupRB/Peroj/Replace/21-22/W-240 Construction of 20.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Mathbaria GC-Charduan GC (up to Nali Kheya Ghat) via Sapleza GC Road at Chainage: 4554m under Replacement category [579582001]	OTM	24.05.2022 17:00pm	25.05.2022 01:00pm

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

**Md. Abdus Sattar Howlader**  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Pirojpur  
0461-62463  
[xen\\_pirojpur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen_pirojpur@lged.gov.bd)

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## Two hits with a CHERY ON TOP

**Puja Chery is currently ruling over theatres with the films, 'Shaan' and 'Golui'. While 'Shaan' sees her reunite with her 'Poramon 2' co-star Siam Ahmed, 'Golui' is her first film with superstar Shakib Khan. We caught up with Puja to know more about the response to both films, her upcoming projects, and more.**

ZAHID AKBAR

**Two of your films are doing quite well at theatres. How do you feel regarding the audience's response to them?**

There is no denying that I have been anxious. However, the love I received from my audience on the first day of Eid took away my fear and stress.

I have worked with Shakib Khan for the first time, which led to curiosity among my fans for "Golui". They already like my chemistry with Siam, so "Shaan" was a second treat for them.

Overall, this Eid has been quite memorable for me.

**Which of the two films did you enjoy more?**

"Golui" is a romantic story, while "Shaan" is an action drama. Both the films are very different in nature from each other.

There is no comparison from my side. I am happy that I was able to deliver such variety to the audience.

**Critics often say promoting two films simultaneously is challenging for heroines.**

In that case, I don't think I have managed to become a heroine yet. If



I was one, I would not have dared to take up this 'challenge'.

**What else are you currently busy with?**

I am playing the role of Sohana in "Masud Rana".

I tried my best to present this character in a way that "Masud Rana" readers would expect. We did not use any stunt doubles while shooting.

**"Golui" is a romantic story, while "Shaan" is an action drama. Both the films are very different in nature from each other. There is no comparison from my side. I am happy that I was able to deliver such variety to the audience.**

As I did my own stunts, it was quite challenging, but we took all safety precautions on the sets.

On the other hand, I have recently finished shooting for "Naakful". My films "Djinn" and "Hridita" are awaiting release.



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



## 'What is love if not madness?'

Pori Moni and Shariful Razz had turned their 7-day love affair into marriage, after working in 'Gunin' together in October last year.

In a recent Facebook post, Pori Moni wrote as caption for her new pictures from their honeymoon in Cox's Bazar, "What is love if not madness?"

In the pictures that the actress posted on Saturday, they were seen staying in a luxury hotel room.

The day after, Razz also posted some beautiful pictures, displaying their love and willingness to be together.

Razz and Pori went to Cox's Bazar on May 2, celebrating Eid there alongside the actress' maternal grandfather Shamsul Haque.

## 'Only a matter of time' before Kylie and Travis tie the knot

Hollywood couple Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott, who share two children together, told the media that it was "only a matter of time" before they get married. According to a source, the couple plans to get married, but there is a 'great deal of assets' to protect, since both parties own a lot of wealth. Travis showed his love to Kylie by taking her away on a vacation yesterday, on the occasion of Mother's Day.



## NEWS

### Don't whine to foreigners

FROM PAGE 12  
country? We don't want it. Bangladesh will move ahead with self-dignity," said Hasina.

She stressed the need for maintaining a cordial relation between the industry owners and the workers for the sake of development.

Noting that her government has created the fund of Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation, Hasina said it is very unfortunate that

many owners have yet to contribute their shares to the fund.

"I think it should be given properly. Because, when anyone falls in trouble, you have to stand by them," she said.

The PM asked the owners and others concerned to take care of the issue.

Hasina said her government increased the minimum monthly wage for a worker in the RMG and other sectors from Tk 1,600 to Tk 8,000 in three

phases after coming to power in 2009.

She said there was no scope for formation of trade unions under the EPZ law. Her government formulated a law with a provision for the labour welfare organisation, changing the name of trade union, she said.

Under the provision, workers now can enjoy the trade union-like rights. "We ensured the system just by changing the name," said Hasina.

She said the government has taken measures to root out child labour from the country. Bangladesh has gained a tremendous success in eliminating the use of children in hazardous jobs, the PM added.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian presided over the event.

On behalf of the PM, she also handed over cheques of financial assistance to the families of 10 workers.

### 60 feared dead

FROM PAGE 12  
Sviatoslav Palamar told an online news conference.

In a week-long operation brokered by the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), scores of civilians who had taken refuge in the plant's underground shelters have been evacuated.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an address late on Saturday that more than 300 civilians had been rescued from the Azovstal steelworks and authorities would now focus on trying to evacuate the wounded

and medics, reports Reuters.

Other Ukrainian sources have cited different figures.

Russian-backed separatists said a total of 145 people, including 24 children, were evacuated yesterday from Mariupol to the village of Bezimenne, about 40 km (25 miles) east, in the area they control.

In an emotional address yesterday for Victory Day, when Europe commemorates the formal surrender of Germany to the Allies in World War Two, Zelensky said that evil had returned to Ukraine

with the Russian invasion, but his country would prevail.

"Evil has returned, in a different uniform, under different slogans, but for the same purpose," he warned.

US first lady Jill Biden yesterday made an unannounced trip to Ukraine to show support for its people amid Russia's invasion, visiting a school that is serving as a temporary shelter and meeting Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also made an

unannounced visit to the Ukrainian town of Irpin, which had been temporary held by Russian troops, the town's mayor said on Telegram.

US President Joe Biden and other G7 leaders were set to hold a video call with Zelensky yesterday in a show of unity ahead of Russia's Victory Day celebrations today.

Underlining Western support for Ukraine, Britain pledged to provide a further 1.3 billion pounds (\$1.6 billion) in military support and aid, double its previous spending commitments.

### 26 printers

FROM PAGE 12  
delays in delivering the textbooks.

The government has been successful in delivering almost all the textbooks to students on the first day of the year since 2010, when the government started giving school textbooks for free.

The government distributed 365.84 crore free textbooks between 2010 and 2021, earning praise from home and abroad.

### Shop owner beaten to death in Ctg

FROM PAGE 2  
Arifur Rahman, assistant commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (Double Moring zone), said Didar hit the victim with iron rods and sticks.

The arrestee is also accused in four more cases, including the one over BCL



Farid

leader Mohiuddin Sohel murder, he added.

A group of local criminals sought extortion money from Farid after he set up the workshop. He refused them and warned that he would file a case if they returned.

Around 11:00 yesterday, a group of 10 to 11 swooped

on Farid and hit him with sticks and iron rods.

At one point, Farid's wife got the information, rescued him and rushed him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The body was sent to CMCH morgue for autopsy and a case was lodged in connection with the murder, he said.

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড  
DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED  
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)  
Website: www.dpdc.gov.bd

Memo No: 87.404.401.07.01.001.2022.423 Date: 08.05.2022

**CORRIGENDUM: JOB OPPORTUNITY**

This is to notify that, the last date of submission of application has been extended to **May 31, 2022** against advertisement bearing memo no.:87.404.401.07.01.001.2022.378; dated: 10.04.2022 for the post of Assistant Engineer, DPDC.

Other terms and conditions of the aforementioned advertisement will remain unchanged.

Deputy General Manager, Employee Management (Administration), HR, DPDC

Form no.: HR/ROA/03427

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ  
প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, স্বায়ী ক্যাম্পাস প্রতিষ্ঠা  
১৩/৩, ৪-এ, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬  
ফোনঃ ০১৭৬৯-৭২১০৩৩, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০২-৫৮০৭০৪৫৭, ই-মেইলঃ pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com

**Invitation for Tenders**

No. BSMRMU Permanent Campus/Procurement-1004/OTM/02 Date: 09 May 2022

Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
Procuring entity name	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University (BSMRMU) Permanent Campus, Project Director
Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh
Tender Invitation for	Procurement of Computers & Computer Accessories
Invitation Reference No.	BSMRMU Open Tender No. 02/2021-2022
Date	09 May 2022

**KEY INFORMATION**

Procurement method	Open Tender Method (National)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

Tender last selling date and time	29 May 2022, 12:00pm
Tender submission date and time	29 May 2022, 12:00pm
Tender opening date and time	29 May 2022, 12:15pm

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

Eligibility of tenderer

- Manufacturers of their authorized distributors or agents having office establishment, repairing/servicing workshop, manpower, logistic support, qualification and experience of supplying brand new original and good quality Computers & Office Equipments to various reputed organization within assigned time (Details in STD).
- The tenderer should have a valid trade license, updated VAT and TAX certificate, up-to-date bank solvency and other document as per tender schedule.

Brief description of goods		Details description is available with tender document			
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Qty	Location	Tender security money	Completion time
01	Desktop Computer	As per STD	BSMRMU	2,500/=	60 days from the signature of contract
02	a) Toner Cartridge (PPC) b) Toner Cartridge (PRINTER)	As per STD	BSMRMU	2,700/=	60 days from the signature of contract

Tender document price Lot No-01 Tk 250/00, Lot No-02 Tk 250/00, (non-refundable) in the form of cash payment.

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

Name designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, BSMRMU Permanent Campus Establishment Project
Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Project Director, BSMRMU, Plot No. 13/3, Sagufa, De Akbar Pallabi, Chourangi, Mirpur-12, Dhaka-1216
Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 01714536885 Web: www.bsmrmu.edu.bd E-mail: pdofficebsmrmu@gmail.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

M Ehsanullah Khan  
Project Director  
BSMRMU Permanent Campus Establishment Project

GD-909

## ECONOMIC CRISIS Crowds jeer Lankan PM on rare outing

AFP, Colombo

Boos and heckles greeted Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday on his first public outing since nationwide protests erupted demanding his ruling family resign over the worsening economic crisis.

Months of blackouts and acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines have caused widespread suffering across the South Asian island in its worst economic downturn since independence in 1948.

Yesterday, the premier visited one of the holiest Buddhist temples -- housing a reputedly 2,300-year-old tree -- in Anuradhapura.



Enraged crowd, who had been waiting in line overnight for supplies, loot a truck transporting cooking gas cylinders in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. Outnumbered police watched helplessly as men climbed onto the truck and got away with 84 cylinders of gas, officials said. PHOTO: AFP



But dozens of people carried hand-written placards and chanted slogans demanding that "thieves" be banned from the sacred city, 200 kilometres (125 miles) north of Colombo.

"We will worship you if you stand down (as Prime Minister) and leave," one man shouted.

Heavily armed Special Task Force (STF) commandos were deployed while police moved to clear the road for Rajapaksa's convoy of six vehicles.

Officials said the premier would return to the capital by helicopter.

Several major roads in the country are blocked by people protesting the lack of cooking gas, petrol and diesel.

## Ex-security chief anointed HK's next leader

AFP, Hong Kong

A former security chief who oversaw the crackdown on Hong Kong's democracy movement was anointed the business hub's new leader yesterday by a small committee of Beijing loyalists. John Lee, 64, was the only candidate in the Beijing-backed race to succeed outgoing leader Carrie Lam. The elevation of Lee, who is under US sanctions, places a security official in the top job for the first time after a tumultuous few years for a city battered by political unrest and debilitating pandemic controls. Despite the city's mini-constitution promising universal suffrage, Hong Kong has never been a democracy, the source of years of public frustration and protests since the 1997 handover to China. Its leader is instead chosen by an "election committee" currently comprised of 1,461 people -- roughly 0.02 percent of the city's population. After a brief secret ballot yesterday, 99 percent of those who cast ballots (1,416 members) voted for Lee while only eight voted against, according to officials.



## PRESIDENTIAL POLLS Philippines on high alert

REUTERS, Manila

The Philippine police and military said yesterday they were on high alert as last-minute preparations continued for the country's general election, even as the overall situation remained "relatively peaceful". Filipinos will vote today to choose President Rodrigo Duterte's successor, a vice president, 12 senators, hundreds of congressmen and thousands of governors, mayors and provincial and city councillors. The presidential race is a rematch between Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the country's late dictator, and Leni Robredo, the human rights lawyer who narrowly beat him in the 2016 vice presidential contest. Duterte did not endorse a presidential candidate, but his party backs frontrunners Marcos and his running mate, Duterte's daughter Sara Duterte-Carpio.

## Putin can't 'afford to lose'

Says CIA chief, claims China studying Ukraine war as it eyes Taiwan

AFP, Washington

Russian President Vladimir Putin believes that he cannot afford to lose in Ukraine and is "doubling down" on the war, but shows no signs of planning to use tactical nuclear weapons, CIA director Bill Burns said Saturday.

Despite the failure of Russian forces to capture Kyiv and their struggle to advance along the war's main frontlines in the southeastern Donbas region, the Russian leader has not changed his view that his troops can defeat Ukraine's, Burns said.

Putin's belief in the Russian military's ability to wear down Ukrainian resistance probably has not been shaken despite key battlefield defeats, the US spy chief told a Financial Times conference.

"I think he's in a frame of mind in which he doesn't believe he can afford to lose," Burns said.



He said Putin has been "stewing" for years over Ukraine -- once part of the Soviet Union -- in a "very combustible combination of grievance and ambition and insecurity."

Putin has not been deterred by the resistance in the war "because he staked so much on the choices that he made to launch this invasion," Burns said.

"I think he's convinced right now that doubling down still will enable him to

make progress," Burns said.

Burns, a former US ambassador to Russia, said his and other Western intelligence agencies see no sign that Moscow is prepared to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in order to gain a victory in Ukraine or to target Kyiv's supporters.

Russia placed its nuclear forces on high alert shortly after launching the invasion on February 24.

Burns did not offer any assessment of the current battlefield situation or predict how the war would end. But he said that China, which Washington now sees as its primary adversary, is studying closely the lessons of the war and what they mean for Beijing's desire to take control of Taiwan.

Burns said he does not believe that Chinese President Xi Jinping has altered his goal of eventually uniting Taiwan with China, by force if necessary.

## TALIBAN ORDER TO COVER FACES

### Afghan women express defiance

AFP, Kabul

Women in Afghanistan yesterday expressed defiance after the Taliban issued a directive ordering them to cover fully in public, including their faces, or stay indoors, saying the change would effectively leave them "imprisoned".

Afghanistan's supreme leader and Taliban chief Hibatullah Akhundzada approved the order on Saturday in a move that threatens to push freedoms back toward the harsh rule imposed by the Islamists when they previously held power between 1996-2001.

It also goes against promises about a softer rule made to the international community after the Taliban took power in August last year.

"I am being imprisoned. I can't live in freedom and all my social life is being controlled by the Taliban," activist Tahmina Taham, a former government employee who lost her job after the Taliban stormed back to power last year, told AFP.

There were no immediate signs of Akhundzada's order being followed in Kabul yesterday, with many women seen on the streets without covering their faces.

In the western city of Herat, resident Fatima Rezaie said many women were now defiant and won't accept changes imposed by force.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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তারিখঃ ০৯.০৫.২০২২খ্রিঃ

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	মন্ত্রণালয় বিভাগ	ঃ	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২	এজেন্সি	ঃ	সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা।
০৩	সংগ্রাহক সন্থার নাম	ঃ	মহাপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, কুড়িগ্রাম।
০৪	সংগ্রাহক সন্থার জেলা	ঃ	কুড়িগ্রাম।
০৫	যে কাজে দরপত্র	ঃ	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরের সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক) এবং সমন্বিত দুটি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম কুড়িগ্রাম এর আবাসিক নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুযায়িক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ
০৬	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	ঃ	৪১.০১.৪৯০০.০০০.৩০.২৭.১২-২২৩ তারিখঃ ০৯.০৫.২০২২খ্রিঃ
০৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	ঃ	১১.০৫.২০২২খ্রিঃ
০৮	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম)
০৯	বাজেট ও তহবিল উৎস	ঃ	রাজস্ব বাজেট (জি ও বি)
১০	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ	০৪টি, ক, খ, গ, ঙ গুণ।
১১	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	ঃ	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থবছরের সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত (১) সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), কুড়িগ্রাম এর আবাসিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য ক-গ্রুপ (খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক) (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল), খ-গ্রুপ (শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য), ঙ-গ্রুপ বিবিধ মালামাল। (২) সমন্বিত দুটি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, কুড়িগ্রাম এর আবাসিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য খ-গ্রুপ (খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক) (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল), শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী, বিবিধ মালামাল), গ-গ্রুপ বিবিধ মালামাল।
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	০৫.০৬.২০২২খ্রিঃ (অফিস চলাকালীন)।
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৭.০৬.২০২২খ্রিঃ, বেলাঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৭.০৬.২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ। সময়ঃ ০২.০০ ঘটিকা, দরদাতা বা দরদাতার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে। (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)
১৫	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	০১। সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), কুড়িগ্রাম। ০২। সমন্বিত দুটি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, কুড়িগ্রাম।
ক, মূল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়		ঃ	০১। উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, কুড়িগ্রাম। ০২। সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান।
খ, দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ		ঃ	০১। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, কুড়িগ্রাম। ০২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, কুড়িগ্রাম। ০৩। উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, কুড়িগ্রাম।
গ, দরপত্র দলিল খোলা		ঃ	০১। উপপরিচালকের কার্যালয়, কুড়িগ্রাম।
১৬	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	০১। বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। ০২। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ত্রেজারী চালানের মূলকপি, পূর্বে দুই বছর অনুরূপ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরতার সনদ (২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরের মধ্যে), আয়কর সনদ (২০২১-২০২২) এবং ভাট নিবন্ধনপত্রের অধিকারী হতে হবে।
১৭	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ত্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২০৬৬ তে (অফেন্ডার) জমা দিতে হবে।
গ্রুপ	সংক্ষেপ বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত এর পরিমাণ
ক	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক (অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল)	৫০০/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক
খ	শিক্ষা স্বাস্থ্য প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য	৫০০/-	ঐ
ঘ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল), শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য	২০০/-	ঐ
ঙ	বিবিধ মালামাল	২০০/-	ঐ
১৮	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	ঃ	মোহাম্মদ রেজাউল ইসলাম।
১৯	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	ঃ	জেলা প্রশাসক, কুড়িগ্রাম।
২০	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	ঃ	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, কুড়িগ্রাম।
২১	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	ঃ	০২৫৮৯৯৫০০২২
২২	শর্তাবলী		
ক)	পিপিএ-২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এর প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সন্থার পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।		
খ)	গৃহিত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি অর্থ প্রাপ্তি ব্যাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।		
গ)	কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র ব্যতিরেকে ক্ষমতা সংকল্পণ করে।		
ঘ)	দরপত্র ক্রয়ের তারিখ হতে দরপত্র খোলার নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।		
ঙ)	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), কুড়িগ্রামের "ঙ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি ব্যাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।		
চ)	সমন্বিত দুটি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, কুড়িগ্রাম এর "ঙ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি ব্যাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।		
ছ)	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্রের সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে। স্বাস্থ্যবিধি দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়ায় অসংমূহন করতে হবে। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখ করা হয় নি এরূপ ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি ক্রয় বিধি প্রযোজ্য হবে।		
		জেলা প্রশাসক, কুড়িগ্রাম মহোদয়ের নির্দেশক্রমে	মোঃ রোকেনুল ইসলাম
			উপপরিচালক
			জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, কুড়িগ্রাম

জিডি-৯১১

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seeks applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following positions:

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience that we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview.

### Medical Assistant (Female), NSU Medical Center: 1 (one) position

#### Job Description:

- Assisting the Senior Medical Officers in attending the Faculty, Students, Officers and Staff at the NSU Medical Center as well as the emergency calls within the NSU premise.
- Collecting blood samples from the patients visiting NSU Pathology Laboratory.
- Recording and Maintaining accurate documentation of their patients' health to ensure they receive the proper treatment.
- Conducting Physical examinations like checking blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate and temperature of the patients as and when required.
- Making necessary arrangements for dressing to the injured patients.
- Administering essential and emergency medications and treatments to the patients with a physician's order as and when required.
- Receiving all kinds of office memo, letters, orders and decision of the authority and place it before the Senior Medical Officers.
- Maintaining inventory and ordering supply of medicines and medical accessories.
- Maintaining any kind of records like semester drop, refund files and leave applications of the students as well as employees of NSU.
- Operating medical equipments including Stethoscopes, Glucometers, Pulse Oximeters, Thermometers, Blood Pressure Machines, Multi-Parameter Patient Monitor and ECG Machine properly.
- Accompanying the team which visits the National Monument on various occasions.
- Any other task assigned by the authority from time to time.

#### Essential Requirements:

- B.Sc in Nursing from any reputed institution with good academic record.
- Minimum CGPA requirement is 3.00.
- Must have registration from Bangladesh Nursing Council.

Age: Not exceeding 32 years.

### Assistant Officer (MBA & EMBA Program Office) : 2 (two) positions

#### Job Description:

- Providing administrative support to the Program Director.
- Receiving and responding to enquiries concerning departmental matters from staff, students, external organizations and members of the public.
- Providing student counseling regarding course registration, academic curriculum and student activities.
- Writing official memos.
- Maintaining liaison with different departments of the university on behalf of the MBA & EMBA Program Office.
- Assisting with other administrative duties, including copying, scanning, faxing, and emailing.
- Maintaining faculty & student database, official document & office files.
- Drafting, distributing & maintaining official correspondent.
- Any other responsibility as and when required by the university authority.

#### Essential Requirements:

- Master's degree preferably in Business Administration/ English/ Public Administration with computer literacy.
  - NSU applicants with a 4-year Bachelor degree are also eligible to apply.
  - Experience (At least 3 years) in a similar position is required for this post.
- Age: The Age Limit of 30-35 years.
- Remuneration: An attractive salary package, with Festival Bonuses, Group Insurance, Provident Fund, Gratuity and in-house medical services is on offer.
- Other Terms and Conditions (for all positions):
- Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and well conversant in computer applications.
  - Experience in related field will be given preference.
  - Should be willing to work in shifts and holidays, if required.
  - Third division/class/ equivalent GPA of the candidates in any educational level will not be accepted.

NSU reserves the right not to appoint anyone if suitable candidates are not found  
Candidates should apply from her own e-mail address with a complete CV, recent photograph, copies of certificates, transcripts and other credentials by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Director (Administration)  
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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Getting BNP to join the polls

And creating enabling conditions for it

THE prime minister has made a very significant remark, as reported in this newspaper, regarding the ruling party taking initiatives to get the BNP to participate in the forthcoming elections. She said, criticising some of her party members, that those who were not confident themselves of winning the polls did not want the BNP to join the elections. This is a million-dollar statement, given the fact that, over the last 10 years, particularly during the election time, we saw every ploy being used to make sure that the BNP did not, or could not, participate in the JS elections. And given the incredibly impolitic nature of its raw leadership, the BNP fell hook, line, and sinker for this strategy.

We have always stressed that boycotting elections is not a politically wise step. Needless to say, the BNP also rues boycotting the elections. Admittedly, BNP has had to encounter encumbrances in carrying out its political activities, but that is no reason to deprive its supporters from exercising their franchise.

We take note of the PM's remarks, but believe that it is not for the ruling party to persuade its political opponent to participate in the polls. However, as the party running the administration, it is the AL's bounden duty to ensure that the playing field is level and that all candidates are able to conduct their political activities without any hindrance. It has been evident that, for the BNP—and for all shades of opposition—the space for organising rallies, criticising government policies, and exercising the right to differ, has become constricted.

The only way that a participatory election can be held, and a free and fair poll can be conducted is by allowing the democratic institutions (the EC, in particular), and the agencies that help them to run elections, to work freely without interference from the administration. In fact, it is a good time to delineate the administration from the ruling party—an essential divide that has been almost entirely blurred over the last 10 years. The apron string that ties the police (and other law enforcing agencies) and the civil administration to the ruling party must be released for good, and must work under the direct supervision of the EC during the polls. The EC has to exercise its remit in full and apply the laws and rules without fear. It has a difficult task since much of its credibility has been denuded by the manner in which the previous EC had run elections. We would suggest that the use of EVM without the consensus of all the stakeholders would be ill-advised.

Expressed intentions must manifest in deeds. For the ruling party, its work is cut out. If it really means what it says, it should desist from using the office to influence the polls, and create confidence in the minds of stakeholders. Then, and only then, can the elections to the JS be participatory.

## Railways minister should answer for wrongs done in his name

Reward, not punish, honest officials for doing their job

THE incident involving a travelling ticket examiner (TTE) of Bangladesh Railway has laid bare how difficult it is for government officials to do their job honestly and how easy it is for people with connections to exploit them or the system in which they work. Shafiqul Islam, the TTE, was suspended a day after he showed the audacity to fine three individuals who claimed to be relatives of the railways minister, after boarding a Dhaka-bound train at the Ishwardi junction without tickets. They were in an AC cabin but the TTE gave them tickets for a non-AC carriage, which wasn't to their liking. And he was punished for that. Even if their allegation of misconduct is true, the repercussion wouldn't have been as serious or prompt had the aggrieved trio not been linked to the minister.

Can the minister avoid the responsibility for what had happened in his name? The minister, on Sunday, revised his earlier comments about the identity of the trio, admitting that they are indeed his relatives and that it was his wife who had lodged a complaint against the TTE although she didn't ask the railways authorities to suspend him. He also said the suspension order was given "without following due process" and so it will be withdrawn. The whole incident was "embarrassing" for him, he added. We commend the minister for his frank admission and the quick decision to right a wrong. But is reinstating the TTE enough to counteract the wrong messages given by earlier acts/decisions? Can it remove the bad taste left by the spectacles of his relatives and eager-to-please officers? Will he do what's necessary to ensure such things are never entertained again, at least in his ministry?

We think the incident should be taken as a lesson in what happens when the mechanisms of accountability weaken and public officials become vulnerable to outside influences. This is but a symptom of a larger disease that saw politics corrupt the administrative culture to a point in which only political connections matter. Over the years, we have seen how corruption festered and became the norm of the day as a result. We have seen how honest officials got punished, and how dishonest officials, politicians and their cohorts got rewarded. If the authorities are sincere about not seeing a repeat of the TTE incident, they should make an example of these corrupt influences by holding them accountable, and reward those who still take their jobs seriously so that others may be encouraged.

# Should Bangladesh worry about debt servicing?



Selim Jahan is a former director of the Human Development Report Office and Poverty Division at the UNDP.

SELIM JAHAN

DEBT servicing has become a rising concern for developing countries in recent times. With sluggish growth worldwide, the havoc caused by Covid-19 over the past three years, and global economic instability due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the revenues of governments in developing countries are sliding down, and the need for them to borrow is rising. As a result, debt repayment (principals and interests), as a ratio of either revenues or gross national income (GNI), has been becoming more and more difficult. For example, with the advent of Covid, the average ratio of external debt to GNI for developing economies (excluding China) jumped by 13 percentage points to 44 percent in 2020, as a result of which, developing countries had to struggle to retain their pre-Covid human development expenditures.

The concern for debt servicing has been echoed in the case of Bangladesh too. During the last fiscal year, the debt service to revenue ratio in Bangladesh rocketed to 81 percent, which was 56 percent in the pre-pandemic year. The increased level of debt service to revenue ratio means that today, if the government earns Tk 100 in taxes, it has to spend more than Tk 81 to pay off loans, as opposed to Tk 56 in 2019. This simply implies that because of higher debt servicing payment, there would be less availability of resources for development and other priority expenditures, including those required for post-pandemic economic recovery. This will put pressure on public finance. Resources that could have been spent on essential sectors like health, education or public investment are now being dedicated to interest payments.

Debt repayment has to be undertaken with regard to domestic debt as well as external debt. In this context, three points are important. First, while domestic debt can be paid in terms of domestic revenue, foreign debt has to be paid in terms of foreign exchange accumulated through export earnings. Second, because of its nature, the government may have more flexibility in managing domestic debt servicing compared to external debt servicing. And third, sometimes, governments put more focus on external debt compared to domestic debt, even though domestic debt may be substantial. In Bangladesh, total public debt stood at USD 148 billion in fiscal year 2021, about 41 percent of GDP. Of this, external debt accounted for USD 62 billion, or 18 percent of GDP.

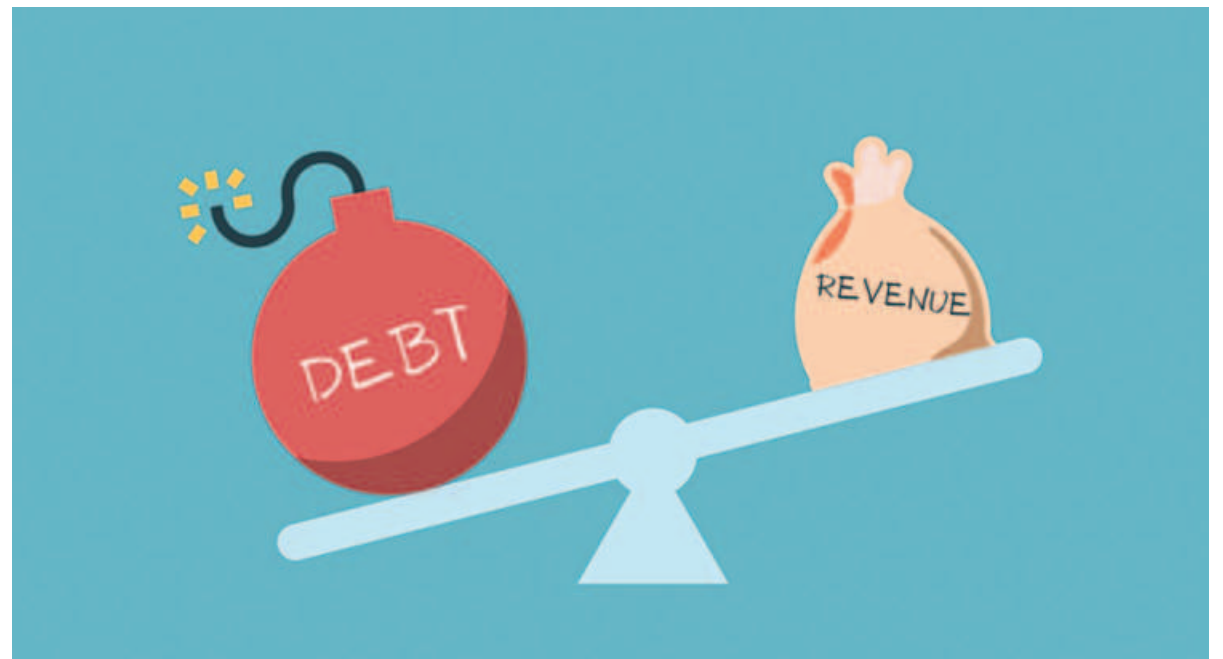
An in-depth look at the debt servicing of Bangladesh raises some structural public debt issues. First, interest payments on debts remain high because of higher rates on national saving certificates, expensive bank borrowing, delay in executing the projects, and irrelevance and overvaluation of projects. For example, the government provides higher rates of interest on national savings certificates due to the fact that people have limited sources for investing their hard-earned money. As a result, they opt to invest in risk-free national savings certificates, leading to a rise in government borrowing from expensive sources.

Second, because of revenue

constraints, the government has opted to borrow more in recent years, including through non-concessional and hard-term loans from foreign lenders, resulting in higher repayments. The borrowing has been undertaken to finance current expenditures, but also to service existing debts, accounting for the largest part of the expenditure. Sometimes, the government has to borrow to finance big

The external debt service to revenue ratio in the country reached 10 percent in 2020, but it is still below the risk threshold of 23 percent. In Bangladesh, all external debt indicators are below their corresponding risk thresholds under the most extreme shock scenario, and the risks of debt distress remains low.

But there is no place for complacency. Bangladesh needs to be cautious about its



▲ VISUAL: STAR

projects, the debt repayment on which is also substantial.

Third, in many cases, some multilateral and bilateral donors have increased their interest rates and service charges, but have reduced the grace periods. For example, the World Bank, Bangladesh's largest multilateral donor, has reduced the maturity period of its loans from 40 years to 30 years and grace period from 10 years to five to seven years, respectively. The government has also taken some hard loans from bilateral donors like China and Russia. Overall, the country needed to repay its interest and principal amounts simultaneously, resulting in repayment amounts to increase year-to-year.

Fourth, with Bangladesh graduating from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status, borrowing and debt repayment would become harder for Bangladesh in the future. In fact, since 2016, when Bangladesh graduated to a lower middle-income country (LMIC) category, loans started to get costlier. For example, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the second largest multilateral donor of Bangladesh, has enhanced lending from its non-concessional window. Since Bangladesh became a LMIC, the loans from ADB's soft window—the Asian Development Fund—have been decreasing year-on-year. Japan, the largest bilateral donor of Bangladesh, has also made its lending terms harder—as it's been charging 0.10 percent interest rate in recent years against 0.01 percent a few years back.

Fifth, the average revenue mobilisation is quite weak in Bangladesh. In fiscal year 2021, the revenue mobilisation in Bangladesh was around 10 percent of its GDP. It is less than half of that of 25 percent in emerging and developing Asian countries. The revenue-GDP ratio in Nepal is 22 percent, in India, it is 20 percent and, in Pakistan, it is 15 percent. Therefore, Bangladesh has a lot of catching up to do.

In the context of the preceding discussion, a crucial question is: Is debt servicing at risk in Bangladesh? The answer is "no". Bangladesh's public debt at 41 percent of its GDP is way lower than the risk threshold of 70 percent estimated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

debt and debt servicing. Even though the amount of external debt is still far below the risk threshold, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently directed all concerned authorities to take necessary measures to ensure the maintenance of the country's current position in future, regarding external debt.

Measures must be taken both on the revenue and the debt front. On the revenue front, the tax-base of Bangladesh must be expanded. The government had set an annual revenue collection target of 13.5 percent of GDP in 2020. Yet, last year, the actual revenue collection of Bangladesh was 9.4 percent of GDP. The government has expressed its commitment towards automating revenue administration and tax expenditure rationalisation. Thus, widening the tax base would require using technology for tax enforcement, while reducing expenditures on losing state-owned enterprises. The issue of export diversification is a long-standing issue in Bangladesh. With global growth being sluggish, this is extremely important for Bangladesh if foreign exchange revenue is to be enhanced.

On the debt side, Bangladesh should continue seeking concessional financing to the extent that is possible, even though with LDC graduation it may prove to be a major challenge for the country. After graduation, Bangladesh would have to borrow loans at higher rates, which would further increase its debt-repayment amounts in the near future. In that context, the country should also look to attract non-debt creating financial inflows, such as foreign direct investment (FDI). Furthermore, Bangladesh should ensure best use of the costly loans through quality implementation of projects as well as checking misuse and leakage of funds. Domestic borrowing should be further scrutinised, as it costs the economy more because of borrowing at higher commercial rates.

As far as the debt servicing of Bangladesh is concerned, right now, there is no need for anyone to panic. However, the country needs to be cautious so that unforeseen future shocks does not create any debt distress.

**The increased level of debt service to revenue ratio means that if the government earns Tk 100 in taxes, it has to spend more than Tk 81 to pay off loans, as opposed to Tk 56 in 2019. This implies that there would be less availability of resources for development and other priority expenditures, including those required for post-pandemic economic recovery.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to [letters@thedailystar.net](mailto:letters@thedailystar.net)

### The emergence of alternate reality

The emergence of the Metaverse is perhaps a complete game changer for our world. Metaverse blurs the line between reality and virtual reality. Hence, whether people try to resist or ignore its features, it is possible that eventually people will get imprisoned in this alternate reality.

Metaverse will bring immense changes to the business world and the concept of investment. Already we see some companies trying to have their own currencies and economies for the virtual world. Facebook, for example, recently started its own currency called Libra—which failed because of a lack of trust among people towards Facebook and how it deals with people's data.

Covid-19 has taught us how reliant the world has become on technology.

That is why if we here in Bangladesh fail to take full advantage of it, our companies and industries will surely get left behind. It is, therefore, essential for us to adopt these new technologies.

Companies should start building, exploring and trying to understand what virtual reality is really capable of. Organisations that rely heavily on having an online presence might try and find ways to incorporate it into their business models. Financial transactions of the future might be very different, thus, we should start experimenting with crypto currencies, which could possibly become a big part of the virtual world.

Tazin Islam  
Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP



# It's time to popularise climate resilient housing

MAHZABEEN MAHFUZ and MD BODRUD-DOZA

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WHAT does one imagine when thinking of a house? A place that is safe and secure, that can provide privacy and, most importantly, protection from extreme climates. For someone belonging to the most vulnerable and marginalised communities of Bangladesh, living in regions plagued by constant natural disasters, the above-mentioned concept of "a house" is simply an unobtainable dream. But does that have to be the case?

Bangladesh is a hotspot for natural disasters. About 40 percent of global storm surges have been recorded here. Cyclone Amphan (May 2020) alone caused damages amounting to more than USD 130 million—approximately 10 million people from 19 districts were affected and more than 330,000 houses were destroyed. Annually, there is not one but two cyclone seasons in Bangladesh. Aside from that, the country also experiences a wide selection of other climatic disasters—namely flooding, river bank erosion, flash flood, drought, landslide, tidal surge, and salinity intrusion. In the year 2020, the combined loss from all these natural disasters amounted to a staggering USD 11.3 billion, according to a report by World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

This number alone reflects the desperate need for climate resilient housing, which could be the key to preventing hundreds of millions worth of property damage. The regions most affected by climate change induced disasters are also amongst the poorest in the country, where a huge number of people live in substandard housing. This constant battle with nature not only threatens the lives of these vulnerable people but also dwindles their chances of a prosperous future, as they have to constantly spend whatever little savings they have, in rebuilding their houses and their lives. While moving to the multipurpose cyclone shelters during disasters can save their lives, they may still end up losing all their livestock and belongings. Women risk exposing themselves to physical abuse, harassment and molestation, which are common occurrences in these cyclone shelters. Hence, it doesn't come as a surprise that people sometimes choose to risk their lives in order to save their livestock and protect their family members from abuse. All these could be avoided if they had resilient housing.

So, why is this an unobtainable dream? Firstly, there is a lack of awareness about

the existence of feasible climate resilient housing. Concepts and designs for such housing are also not available for the general public who can afford them. The simplest of modifications can transform a substandard house into a disaster resilient one. For example, changing the shape of the roof can provide better protection against strong winds in

from considering such options. Loans are offered mainly for income generating purposes so the people can eventually pay back.

However, this scenario can be changed by popularising the concept of climate resilient housing.

If there is high demand for microfinance loan packages for such purpose, the sector will probably reconsider providing one since Brac (the largest organisation working in

the current house disaster resilient, in which case the lending organisation can also assign an expert for consultation.

Not only can this help thousands of people, it can also be an incredible business opportunity for lending organisations and developers. If the developers are fixed, building cost estimates will be more accurate and they can further assure that the house is built according to the design so the loan money doesn't get wasted. Additionally,

PHOTO:  
ZIAUL HAQUE  
OISHARJH



cyclone prone areas; building the base of the house a few feet higher than usual is effective against tidal surges; adding a loft to the house design can help protect valuables during floods. It is just a matter of disseminating the knowledge and techniques to the local population.

Secondly, financial barrier is a much bigger challenge. Climate resilient houses are more expensive and the poorer population hardly have the means to afford them or access bank loans. Lack of information regarding lending institutions, high interest rate and procedural complexities discourage a big percentage of the rural population

**The regions most affected by climate change induced disasters are also amongst the poorest in the country, where a huge number of people live in substandard housing.**

microfinance in Bangladesh) itself is looking for innovative sustainable solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. A loan which covers 90 percent of the construction cost for a specific resilient house design appropriate for a specific area could be an excellent option. Given these housing designs are fairly feasible, even the poor should be able to pay back the loan. Another loan package idea could be for a single climate resilient room in their regular house. This would be enough to protect the clients and their belongings from disasters. A third option could be a package providing enough fund to make

the communities can also benefit from a new income generating source, as the materials and workforce will be local. This also means that the locals can obtain the knowledge and skills to become experts at building climate resilient houses.

Being able to live in a house that will protect from climatic disasters is not an unobtainable dream, not even for the most vulnerable and marginalised people. It is just a matter of spreading awareness and organising. So why not work towards this and save hundreds of lives from the next environmental disaster?

## Commemorating Europe Day in solidarity with the suffering of the Ukrainian people

CHARLES WHITELEY, WINNIE ESTRUP PETERSEN, GUILLAUME AUDREN DE KERDREL, ACHIM TRÖSTER, ENRICO NUNZIATA, ANNE VAN LEEUWEN, FRANCISCO DE ASÍS BENÍTEZ SALAS, and ALEXANDRA BERG VON LIND

**Charles Whiteley** is Ambassador/Head of Delegation of the EU to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Winnie Estrup Petersen** is Ambassador of Denmark to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Guillaume Audren de Kerdrel** is Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of France to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Achim Tröster** is Ambassador of Germany to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Enrico Nunziata** is Ambassador of Italy to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Anne van Leeuwen** is Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Francisco de Asís Benítez Salas** is Ambassador of Spain to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and

**Alexandra Berg von Lind** is Ambassador of Sweden to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

TODAY, May 9, we mark Europe Day and commemorate the vision of the then French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman, who presented in 1950 a far-sighted blueprint to prevent war from happening again. This is traditionally a time to remember the founding values of the European Union and its evolution since the Treaty of Rome was signed in 1957, including the progressive construction of political and economic links amongst its member states.

At present, the European Union (EU) counts 27 Member States and 450 million citizens within its borders. Those citizens are not only citizens of their own nations, but also of the EU, entailing numerous rights and opportunities. The EU has fostered the largest single market in the world, with free movement internally of people, goods, services, and capital. The euro was launched as a currency in 1999 and now stands as the second largest reserve currency in the world. The EU has constructed strong central institutions, including the European Parliament, European Court of Justice, Council and Commission.

The EU also engages in the wider world and takes its international responsibilities seriously, not least as the largest provider of development and humanitarian assistance worldwide. More than 140 EU Delegations around the world support trade, political, economic and development ties with their host countries.

Here in Bangladesh, many of the EU's Member States have been celebrating

the 50th anniversary of their relations with Bangladesh and the EU itself will do the same next year. Such an important staging post is an opportunity to reflect on how much our ties with Bangladesh have deepened in five decades. This engagement now goes way beyond traditional areas such as trade and development assistance and encompasses policy priorities such as connectivity, climate change, renewable energy, human rights, security and digitalisation. The EU's new Global Gateway strategy—which is designed to deliver investment in sustainable, high quality projects in infrastructure and other linkages—affords new opportunities for EU-Bangladesh relations. As does the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy, which was adopted last year and which foresees deeper engagement with our partners in this region.

On the trade front, the EU is the largest destination for Bangladesh's exports, reaching around 20 billion euro annually. There is much potential for increased investment by European businesses, particularly if the business climate can be further improved. Our Team Europe partnerships—bringing together the EU and EU Member States—are delivering cooperation with Bangladesh in new fields, including decent work and the green transition. This complements our longstanding development assistance in areas such as education, food security, governance and support to civil society. As a major provider of humanitarian assistance, we will continue to stand by Bangladesh's endeavours to provide a

temporary home to Rohingya refugees and to secure their voluntary and safe return to Myanmar as soon as possible.

Whilst the European Union has delivered stability and peace within our own borders—recognised in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the EU in 2012—the European continent is now again tragically scarred by war. The Russian aggression in Ukraine, with its unflinching cost in human lives, suffering and economic devastation, has lasted almost three months. It is a violation not only of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, but also of the UN Charter. It has far-reaching consequences for the whole world.

First, in the chilling message it sends regarding the violability of internationally-recognised borders. This is not only a fight between the Ukrainians and the Russian aggressor. It is also a fight for democracy. For countries' right to self-determination and against colonisation.

Second, in the economic hardship the Russian invasion is inflicting through rising commodity prices, threats to food security and disruption to transport and other modes of connectivity. All this compounds the economic hardship wrought on the globe by the Covid-19 pandemic. The EU and its partners are striving to address this hardship, including through the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative for food security in the most vulnerable countries.

Third, in the war crimes that have been reported on Ukrainian soil. As the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, so powerfully articulated when she witnessed on April 8 the site of atrocities inflicted on Ukrainian

civilians in the small town of Bucha, "The unthinkable has happened here. We have seen the cruel face of Putin's army. We have seen the recklessness and the cold-heartedness with which they have been occupying the city."

The EU is doing its utmost to ensure a return to peace and to support the people and democratically elected government of Ukraine in this terrible struggle. As close neighbours, EU Member States have risen to the challenge of providing a safe berth to millions of Ukrainians. More than 11 million people have fled their homes since the conflict began. Over five million have left for neighbouring countries, where ordinary people have opened their homes to provide shelter.

The UN estimates that more than 12 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian aid, including medical supplies and shelter. The EU and its Member States are delivering massive support to the people of Ukraine, including humanitarian assistance and urgent supplies. Last week Poland and Sweden, along with the European Council and European Commission, convened a High-Level International Donors Conference for Ukraine in Warsaw on 5th May which yielded further pledges of support for Ukraine. The international community's solidarity in support of the suffering Ukrainian people is a ray of hope at a bleak time.

As we mark Europe Day 2022 in Dhaka, we will reflect on the bonds that have been forged amongst European nations and the wide-ranging relations that the EU and its Member States are building with Bangladesh. We will also hold the people of Ukraine in our thoughts and hope that peace returns swiftly to our continent.

**As a major provider of humanitarian assistance, the EU will continue to stand by Bangladesh's endeavours to provide a temporary home to Rohingya refugees and to secure their voluntary and safe return to Myanmar as soon as possible.**

161ST BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE

# Tagore's idea of nationalism

**Tagore's 'nationalism' has to be defined by moving beyond the national map. He kept himself abreast of the happenings outside his country. Some of his poems in Naibedya (1901) alert us about imperialism that was tearing Africa asunder during the Second Boer War (1899-1902), which he felt would lead to greater world catastrophe.**

PABITRA SARKAR

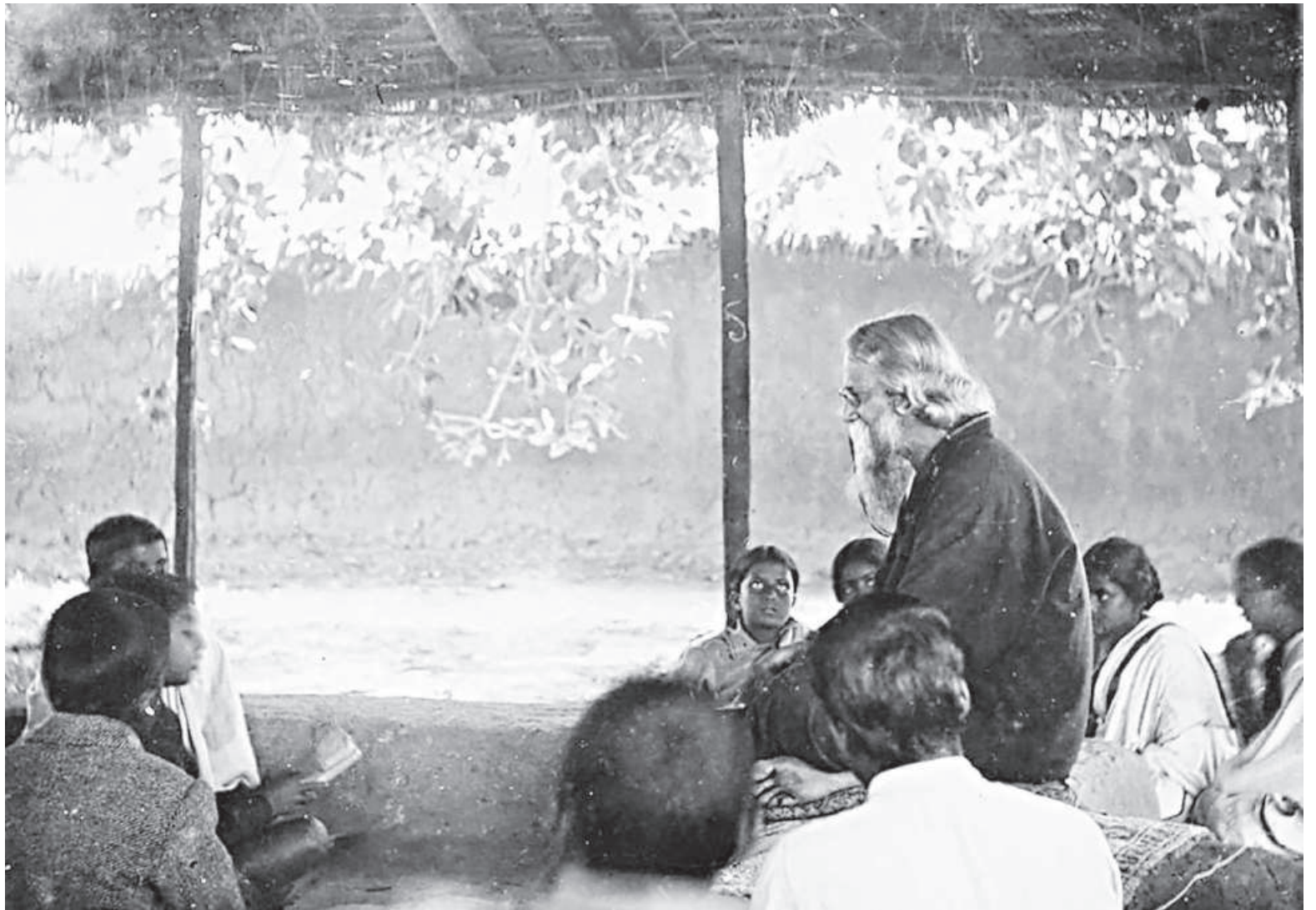
If you look for a definition of the word 'nationalism' on Google, or in an encyclopedia, you will find quite a few. However, this word, like many such words, is 'notorious' in its own way, as no single definition seems to define it thoroughly. It assumes different meanings in different contexts. And such contexts are countless. Feudalism, with its many faces, is one. Colonial rule is another, which itself has numerous varieties—colonization in the Americas or Australia cannot be compared with that of India or China. And an independent country cannot dispense with nationalism either; it must build up its own brand or brands.

Tagore was born and lived his whole life in a colonial country, then undivided India, which can be roughly identified with the modern South Asian subcontinent. It had long been under feudal control, to be replaced by British imperial occupation of India after a brief period of mercenary masquerade. A hundred years after the Plassey defeat of 1757, an attempt was made to replace the White occupation. This was a bid to revert to traditional feudalism, in the form of a mutiny. However, it failed. Rabindranath Tagore was born three years later, soon to become an imperial subject with the rest of his countrymen.

2

Growing up, like some of his fellow citizens, he had a love-hate relationship with the rulers. In the course of time, he had opportunities to study them from up close.

He, as a boy, would share the patriotism of his family and wish that his country were free. He would write poems about its past glory and present indignity as a subject-race. Beyond



Rabindranath Tagore teaching at Shantiniketan.

national, the people and those at the lower echelons of society. He had learned of a 'country-commoners' equation from a Japanese patriot, Yoshido Toraziro. Tagore had probed into the life of Toraziro, reading about the latter in Robert Louis Stevenson's book *Familiar studies of Men and Book*.

Tagore speaks of Toraziro in his 1905 lecture 'Chhatrader Prati Sambhashan' ('Address to the Students'). "...when Toraziro had decided that he would dedicate his life for his country, he asked himself, 'Do I know my country?' Searching for the answer, he treaded along the roads of Japan for three years, living in the huts of peasants and fishermen. At the end of it, he realized that to know Japan it was pivotal to know its people. He decided that he must devote his life's work to the underprivileged. He did and the feudal rulers hanged him for that."

Tagore did not have to travel the whole country (nor was he hanged, mercifully), but his sojourn in East Bengal did the trick for him. He discovered the real India. It was the nation where both, the Tagore estates and deprived and oppressed subjects, were located. His efforts to uplift the masses have been chronicled elsewhere and I would not like to expand on that.

by 'inclusiveness,' at a time when the society was deeply marked by the absence of it. Tagore did not care about which religion a person belonged to. It did not matter to him whether they were Hindus or Muslims. The communal divide had caused him much agitation. Often, his writings criticized Hindus for their high-handed social insensitivity. His vision covered both horizontal and vertical dimensions, as he focused more on the underclasses, irrespective of their communal identity. His poem 'Bharat-tirtha' and the song 'Jana-gana-mana' bear witness to this truth.

3

Looking from the inside of the national boundary, this was Tagore's idea of a nation. It was not just a geographical entity, a map or a beautiful, bountiful and natural expanse. A nation was to be fundamentally honored as a space full of people. Tagore's outlook was not selfishly limited to his own class, but moved beyond and below his social status. Tagore's perspective included those for whom liberation or independence did not mean having good jobs, but entailed surviving with dignity, on equal terms with others.

Tagore embarked on his own 'journey' of

popular song called "Dhanadhanya Pushpe Bhara Amader ei Basundhara" that carries such a strain. That is all right. When a country is under alien rule and the morale of the countrymen is low, such songs are essential. In times of prosperity, these very songs have the potential of evoking pride.

Nevertheless, privileging one's own country may also lead to dire consequences. It may prompt imperialistic designs, as history of the world has extensively displayed. Hitler's Germany can be cited as an example. The British patriotic song 'Rule Britannia' was not an 'innocent' song either.

Tagore was cautious to avoid themes which were not called for. He had said that he was blessed to be born in this country and that he loved his golden Bengal. He had asserted that he would place his head on the soil of his country; the soil on which the all pervading earth-mother's sari hemline was spread. For Tagore, his country was borderless; the world contained it, as it contained the world. He had a home in every country and he would seek out that home at will. There were no 'us' and 'others' for him. According to his beliefs, we were all one, in existence together. Moreover, this inclusive philosophy was not limited to the human world alone. It contained other living beings, the living environment, the non-living part of the universe, the hills, rivers and the sky with its stars and planets. In light of such viewpoints, it is apt to quote the following lines from Tagore's Gitanjali:

The same stream of life that runs through my veins  
night and day runs through this world  
and dances in rhythmic measures.

It is the same life that shoots in joy  
through the dust of the earth  
in numberless blades of grass and  
breaks into tumultuous waves of leaves and  
flowers.

It is the same life that is rocked  
in the ocean-cradle of birth and of death,  
in ebb and in flow.

Once life is visualized through a lens of interconnectedness (with everyone and everything), isolationism, typically a component of traditional nationalism, seems unappealing.

4

Towards the end of his life, he had fittingly said, 'I am the poet of the world. Wherever there is a stirring in it, you'll find an echo in my flute'. Some years ago, he had begun his lectures on nationalism. The book 'Nationalism' (published in 1917), which did not please many, was a venture in that direction.

The Japanese and the West were angered. Indians, too, had questions of their own. During the First World War, his words were mostly ignored.

It was soon evident that another world war was brewing. As a precursor to that, Japan invaded China. Japanese poet Yone Noguchi was bold enough to seek Tagore's support. Japan was planning to establish an Asian empire ruled by the Japanese.

Tagore wrote back in anger, "in launching the ravaging war on Chinese humanity, with all the deadly methods learnt from the West, Japan is infringing every moral principle on which civilization is based...You are building your conception of an Asia which would be raised on a tower of skulls...China is unconquerable..."

And he concluded by saying, "I wish for your people, whom I love, not success, but remorse." One still wonders how to define Tagore's kind of 'nationalism.'

Pabitra Sarkar in an Author and former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.



Lunch at the 'Kuthibari' at Shilaidaha with family members. Tagore's wife and children moved to Shilaidaha in 1899, and the family lived there until Tagore moved to Shantiniketan to found his school in 1901. Courtesy: VISVA BHARATI ARCHIVES/ Frontline

his singing 'Bande Mataram' in Congress conferences, his active participation in movements against the decisions of the rulers would come much later, in 1905. It was during the movement against the first Bengal Partition when he took to the streets.

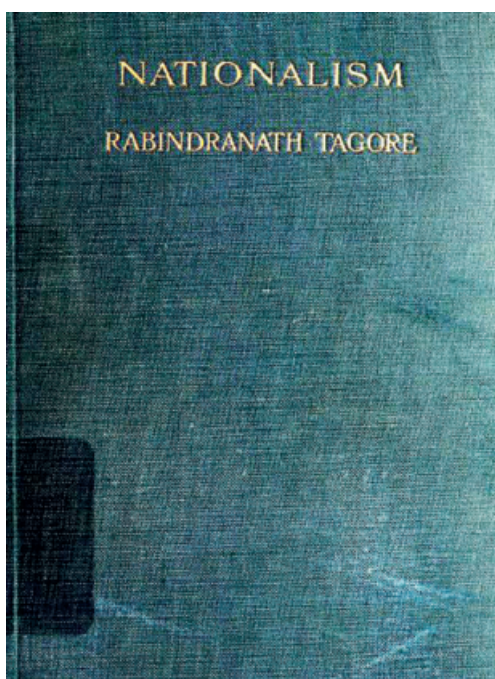
Till the late 1880s, he seemed to be leading a life of leisure, writing romantic poems, composing songs and creating and staging operas, both sombre and jubilant.

This of course, is just one side of the picture. He wouldn't turn his back on what was happening in his country and in rest of the world. In 1881, he published an article called 'Chine Maraner Byabosay' (Trade of Death in China), in which he wrote about the evil perpetrated by the British in China in forcing the latter's people to produce and consume opium. This was taking place against the wishes of the Chinese. He also composed some patriotic songs, lamenting the insensibility of the sons of the country who didn't care for her degraded state.

Patriotism was palpable in Bengal in the middle of the nineteenth century, and was being propagated in literature and theatre, with, I am afraid, unconscious implications of communalism. This may have been prompted by a book of Colonel James Todd called *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan (Vol. 1, 1829)*, which, back then, had a great influence on the educated Bengali Hindu. The poems, novels and plays of men like Rangalal Bandyopadhyay (1827-1887), Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838-1894) and Jyotirindranath Tagore (1849-1925) were notably patriotic. Most of them portrayed the Muslim rulers of the past as enemies of India's independence. The paradox was that during that era India was subjugated by the British.

There were exceptions like Dinabandhu Mitra (1829-1874) and Upendranath Das (1848-1895). Albeit, the aforementioned trend eventually led to a 'communal divide' in the freedom struggle, and ultimately to the Partition of India in 1947.

The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885, till which time Tagore did not involve himself in politics. His contribution to social movements included writing songs and poetic pronouncements. However, with his move to mid-Bengal to manage and administer the expansive Tagore estates, a sea-change was reflected in his attitude towards his country and its people. He realized that Congress ambitions did not exhibit the desires of the



(L) Cover of the book 'Nationalism' (R) Rabindranath Tagore in his study at Shantiniketan, West Bengal.

How Tagore perceived the state of the nation is amply clear from two telling statements from the same article, in which he juxtaposes the 'imagined' and the 'real' country.

"To imagine that Mother India is sitting on a peak of the Himalayas and strumming a melancholic tune on her Veena, is to hallucinate. But (instead), the Mother India in our village, sitting on the porch of her hut by the mud-full and weedy pond, and vacantly looking at her empty cupboard. On her lap is her malaria-struck son with a spleen. This deserves our keen attention. One distant greeting is enough for the (one) Bharat Mata that is watering the troughs of the Shami trees in the hermitages of Vyasa, Vishwamitra and Vashishta. But the (other) Bharat Mata in tattered clothes, who is hungry or half-fed, is cooking away in others' kitchens, so that she can send her son to an English school. All this to acquire for him the insufferable life of an office clerk. This deserves much more than a mere greeting."

The portrayal of a suffering woman in both the instances is doubly significant, as women in this region once occupied the lowest of the low positions in households and the society.

This form of nationalism is characterized



**Once life is visualized through a lens of interconnectedness (with everyone and everything), isolationism, typically a component of traditional nationalism, seems unappealing.**



The Bangladesh cricket team reached Chattogram yesterday to start preparation for the first of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, who arrived in the capital yesterday. The first Test will start from May 15, after which the two teams will head to Dhaka for the second and final Test, beginning on May 23. PHOTO:BCB

## Archers fire on point in Iraq

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh archers are on the verge of tasting glory in three events of Archery Asia Cup Stage-2 world ranking tournament as they booked their last hurdle clashes against India after beating their respective rivals in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq yesterday.

Bangladesh men's recurve team, women's recurve team and compound men's team reached their respective event's finals, scheduled to be held on May 11, while Bangladesh compound women's team had to remain content with advancing to the bronze-medal match after losing to Kazakhstan in the semi-finals.

Ruman Sana, Hakim Ahmed Rubel and Abdur Rahman Alif, of the men's recurve team, initially clean-swept Iraq 6-0 in the quarterfinals before notching a hard-fought 5-4 victory over Iran in the semi-final, where the men in red and green overcame the tiebreakers with a 29-24 win following a 4-4 score-line after four sets.

The women's recurve team then followed Ruman and Co's footsteps as Diya Siddique, Nasin Akhter and Beauty Roy thumped Iraq 6-0 in the quarterfinals before thrashing Uzbekistan 5-1 in the last-four hurdle.

In the men's compound event, Bangladesh progressed to semi-finals after getting a bye in the quarterfinal, after which the team of Ashikuzzaman, Mithu Rahman and Newas Ahmed Rakib beat Kazakhstan 231-228 in the semi-final to also book their final encounter against their superior Indian counterparts.



## 'It's not a funeral'

REUTERS

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told his side to stop behaving as if they had attended a funeral after a 1-1 draw against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday dealt a serious blow to their title challenge and handed the advantage to Manchester City.

Luis Diaz rescued a point for Liverpool as they went top of the Premier League on goal difference but City can open up a three-point gap with a win against Newcastle United on Sunday.

"First and foremost, we should stop behaving like it is a funeral," said Klopp. "I didn't say that to the boys but it's a little bit the mood here. We still talk about football and these kinds of things can happen. In my life, much worse things happened and I'm still here."

The German added that he did not expect champions City to slip up with four matches remaining.

Liverpool, who have already won the League Cup, are chasing a quadruple of trophies this season after reaching the finals of the FA Cup and Champions League.

Meanwhile, Tottenham Hotspur manager Antonio Conte said his side were worthy contenders for a spot in the Premier League top four.

"There are three games to go for us, four games for Arsenal. Not easy for us, not easy for Arsenal," Conte told reporters.

"We deserve to stay in this race, because I think in November, not many people believed that Tottenham could fight until the end for a place in the Champions League. Now we are in the race and we are deserving of this."



# 'Proper use of available weapons is key'

During the meeting between the Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan and the three captains and coaching staff yesterday, players' mentality was in the midst of discussion. According to veteran coach Mohammad Salahuddin, the combination of both mental and technical aspects could assist the Tigers in becoming more consistent. The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin spoke to the esteemed local coach about the challenges ahead of the upcoming Sri Lanka series during an exclusive interview, the excerpts of which are as follows:

**The Daily Star (DS): Do you think the time has come for Bangladesh to regularly win Test matches at home?**

**Mohammad Salahuddin (MS):** Considering the current situation of the Bangladesh team, I think we possess the ability to beat any side at home. We do have enough ammunition in our ranks to scalp twenty wickets in a Test match, especially considering the pace bowling department has evolved a lot. So, if we can bat well, it isn't impossible to win the series.

**DS: Is it the mental aspect that needs upgrading to combat our tendency of collapsing horribly in Test matches?**

**MS:** It's vital to adjust with the pitch and it won't happen only by the mental aspect, as you also need to be technically sound. When you believe that you can stay and bat in the wicket, then you actually can but if you feel it's hard to survive, then it creates doubt in your mind.

**DS: What could be the biggest challenge against Sri Lanka?**

**MS:** The strategy should be simple. But since I'm not part of the team, it won't be justified no matter what I say as the team will surely have their own strategy. I think the proper use of available weapons is key. At the same time, a lot also depends on the current form of batters. Ultimately, the combination and execution would decide things.

Speaking of challenges, I



think it'll be important for the players to rather play according to the strategy, in order to facilitate a high chance of success. Spin suits a lot on our wicket, and therefore I think we should take the home advantage since we have a good idea about the pitch and conditions and are aware of our ability. If the batters can play a long innings, especially the top six, we will have a great chance, in my

opinion.

**DS: The strategy of preparing spin friendly wickets at home was seen to backfire for the Tigers...**

**MS:** Spin is different in Bangladesh compared to spin in South Africa as bounce plays a big factor abroad. It's not that we didn't get the turn there but we couldn't purchase bounce off the surface while the

taller South African spinners extracted good bounce with turn, which was a huge factor.

In my opinion, it'll be important to see what type of bowlers can suit us here. Plus, we know which length to bowl, which is a key factor as well. You must grab the home advantage, I reckon.

I'd also like to appreciate the pace bowlers, who have improved considerably of late. When your quicks do well, it automatically puts a positive impact on the batting front since a total of even 300 runs on the board makes you stay in the game. Since the bowling department is firing and along with Shakib's inclusion, I think we'll have a huge advantage.

**DS: Do you think the expectation level is relatively higher on the younger players in the team?**

**MS:** Young or old, there will be eleven players on the ground representing the team, and so everyone needs to contribute. It's important to know the role in whatever position you bat, regardless of whether you are a newbie or have been playing for a long time.

Suppose, whoever bats at number three, even if he is young, he is the best player for that position. Therefore, it's important to bring the best out of him. Instead of categorising seniors and juniors, it is important to let the eleven players play as per their roles for the betterment of the team.

## Diabate rescues MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

A hat-trick from Suleymane Diabate helped struggling Mohammedan avoid defeat and eventually eke out a 3-3 draw against Chittagong Abahani in a chaotic encounter of the Bangladesh Premier League at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday.

Following a second-half penalty decision in favour of Chittagong Abahani by referee GM Chowdhury, the Black and Whites refrained from playing for more than five minutes and their Nigerian midfielder Obi Moneke argued with the referee and got into a scuffle with compatriot Ebimobowe Thankgod of Chittagong Abahani after the final whistle. The incident also led to brawls among the fans and officials of the two sides before cops intervened to calm the situation.

Chittagong Abahani were on the verge of victory but Malian forward Diabate spoiled their party by equalising – in the process completing his hat-trick – in the stoppage time of the second half with a



header. The draw kept Mohammedan's unbeaten run in the league against the port city outfit intact for three successive seasons. Diabate gave Mohammedan a brisk start, rising high to head in a cross from Abid Hossain in the second minute but the lead last only 10 minutes as Shakhawat Hossain Rony equalised for Chittagong Abahani.

Rony gave the port city side the lead in the 26th minute with a powerful shot from inside the box before Thankgod converted a spot-kick just before the hour-mark after Macedonian defender Jesmin Mecinovikj pushed the Nigerian inside the box.

Mohammedan mounted pressure and Diabate reduced the margin in the 67th minute before completing his hat-trick with another header in stoppage time. Chittagong Abahani are now in fifth position with 23 points, one point ahead of Mohammedan.

In the day's other match, Uttar Baridhara beat newcomers Swadhinata KS 2-0, with Mostafa Kaharba scoring both goals.



Tunisian Ons Jabeur became the first African player to win a WTA 1000 title after defeating American Jessica Pegula 7-5, 0-6, 6-2 in an entertaining Madrid Open final on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'Pace of Umran hard to be ignored'

AGENCIES

India's cricketing establishment has over the years shown patience in grooming a pack of world-class bowlers but in near future, the genuine pace of Umran Malik will be hard to ignore, according to former Australia captain Ian Chappell.

In a column for ESPNcricinfo, Chappell wrote, "India's pace-bowling revolution shows no sign of abating, and the name on IPL watchers' lips is currently that of the pacy Umran Malik. In the past India has displayed patience in developing its fast-bowling group but the genuine pace of Malik will be hard to ignore."

"In a world where fast bowling is a valuable commodity, India are now a shining light," the Aussie legend added.

# Don't whine to foreigners

PM asks labour leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged labour leaders not to make any complaint against the country to foreigners.

"As long as the Awami League or I am in power, we can assure that we can solve any problem if it is there," she said, criticising a section of labour leaders who take their problems to foreigners.

The PM was addressing a function marking the historic May Day from the Gono Bhaban through a videoconference. The labour and employment ministry organised the event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Hasina said her government has done a lot for the workers' welfare. Even then there are some labour leaders who like to make complaints whenever they see any foreigner.

The PM said she does not know the reason for this "mental poverty" or whether the interest of any other is involved here.

"We'll be able to solve our own problems. I would like to tell the labour leaders not to cry before the foreigners, rather come to me if you have any problem. If there is anything [benefit] that needs to be materialised from the owners, it is me who can do it."

The premier said she believes that the problem can be solved through negotiations between the owners and the workers.

Today's Bangladesh has acquired food security and can implement 90 percent of the Annual Development Programme with its own funds, which is a huge departure from total dependence on foreign assistance in the past.

"Why will we complain to others about our own

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Emergency crew tend to a fire near a burning debris, after a school building was hit as a result of Russian shelling, in the village of Bilohorivka, Luhansk, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## RUSSIAN STRIKE ON UKRAINE SCHOOL 60 feared dead

AGENCIES

As many as 60 people were feared to have been killed in the Russian bombing of a village school in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, the regional governor said yesterday.

Russian forces also continued shelling the Azovstal steelworks, last holdout of Ukrainian resistance in the ruined southeastern port city of Mariupol, where soldiers from the Azov regiment vowed to keep

on fighting.

Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said the school in Bilohorivka, where about 90 people were sheltering, was hit on Saturday by a Russian bomb that set the building ablaze for four hours.

"Thirty people were evacuated from the rubble, seven of whom were injured. Sixty people were likely to have died," Gaidai wrote on the Telegram messaging app, adding that two dead bodies had been found.

Ukraine and its Western allies have accused Russian forces of targeting civilians in the war, which Moscow denies.

In Mariupol, the deputy commander of the Azov regiment pleaded with the international community to help evacuate wounded soldiers from the sprawling Azovstal steel plant.

"We will continue to fight as long as we are alive to repel the Russian occupiers," Captain

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### SUPPLYING TEXTBOOKS

## 26 printers backlisted for failure

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government yesterday blacklisted 26 printing press companies and rebuked another six for failing to deliver textbooks on time.

The 26 firms will not be allowed to bid for textbook printing jobs for different terms ranging between one and five years while the six other firms had to sign bonds to deliver the textbooks on time in future, said Professor Moshuazzaman, acting chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

On January 1, the NCTB failed to distribute 60-70 lakh copies of textbooks among students due to delays by the firms, officials said.

Seventeen of the firms that delivered the books over 51 days after the deadline were blacklisted for five years.

They are Akkhar Binnyas Press and Publications, Monir Press and Publications, Sedna Printing and Publications, Abul Printing Press, Tangail Printers, Haq Printers, Nazmun Nahar Printers, Bonoful Art Press, Bulbul Art Press, Shikkha Seba Printers, Press Line Ltd, HR Printers and Paper Seller, Placid Printers, Amazon Printing Press, Ujjal Printing Press, Mohanagar Offset Printing Press, and PBS Printers.

Yousuf Printers and Sharifa Press and Publications were blacklisted for three years; Jitu Offset Printing Press, National Printers and Webtech Printers for two; and Bako Offset Press, Diganta Offset Printers, AB Colour Press, and Print Plus for one.

Firms that signed the bonds are Soma Printing Press, Rabbil Printing Press, Meraj Press and Publications, Letter N Colour Ltd, Samota Press, and Kashem and Rahman Printing Press.

Last year, NCTB blacklisted 14 contractors for

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