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Languishing in legal web for 24 years

Man has no strength left to fight court battle as trial drags on

WASIM BIN HABIB and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

As his name was called out, Ahad Ali stepped inside the courtroom and stood in the dock with both hands pressed together in a gesture of mercy, staring at the judge with pleading eyes.

He stayed in the same position for the next 10 minutes while the court held the hearing of a drug case filed 24 years ago in which he is the lone accused.

The judge of Special Judge's Court 2 of Dhaka left the courtroom, passing an order for a fresh date of the next hearing -- an inevitability Ahad has learned to live with.

He got down from the dock, walked out of the courtroom, enquiring about the next date with his lawyer. About two hours later, he left for his Rajshahi home with the thought of coming back on May 11 for the next hearing.

For more than two decades, Ahad

has been shuttling back and forth between Rajshahi and Dhaka to appear before the court for a crime that he claims he did not commit.

The long trial process is taking a heavy toll on him, costing him money, time and energy, and leaving him in constant worry.

He was in his mid-20s when he was arrested in 1998 from Dhaka's Gabtoli Bus Terminal on the allegation of possessing heroin. The man -- a father of two -- is in his early 50s now, but the case drags on. Until February this year, no witness came to testify.

"Only Allah knows when it will come to an end, when I will be free from this cursed life," Ahad told The Daily Star on the court premises after the hearing, held on February 8.

This is a glaring example of what happens when someone gets caught in a complex and lengthy judicial process and how a case can linger for so many years.

This newspaper has been following the case for the last six months, trying to track down the witnesses and the plaintiff, and going through the case documents.

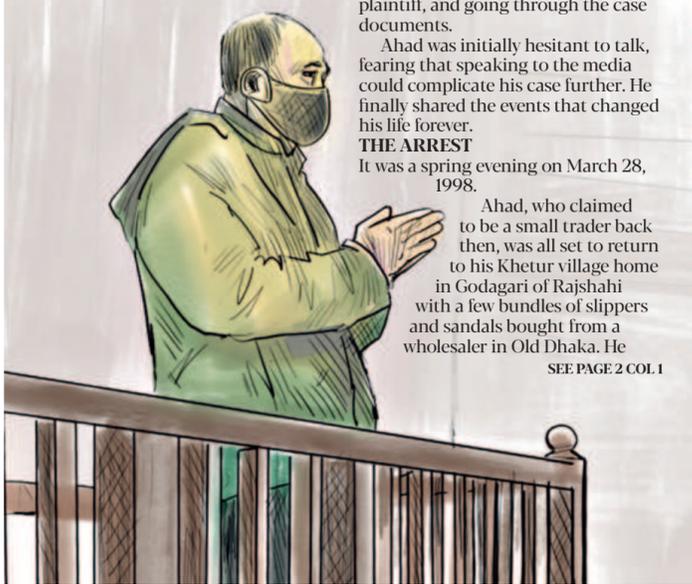
Ahad was initially hesitant to talk, fearing that speaking to the media could complicate his case further. He finally shared the events that changed his life forever.

THE ARREST

It was a spring evening on March 28, 1998.

Ahad, who claimed to be a small trader back then, was all set to return to his Khetur village home in Godagari of Rajshahi with a few bundles of slippers and sandals bought from a wholesaler in Old Dhaka. He

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Supporters of Sri Lanka's ruling party hold down and beat up an anti-government demonstrator during a clash between the two groups, amid the country's economic crisis, in Colombo yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

SRI LANKA ECONOMIC CRISIS

PM quits after violent clashes

MP kills protester, 'then self'; 3 others also die in violence; nationwide curfew imposed

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa quit yesterday, as an outbreak of political violence killed five people including an MP and wounded almost 200.

Lawmaker Amara Keerthi Athukorala from the ruling party shot two people -- killing a 27-year-old man -- and then took his own life after being surrounded by a mob of anti-government protesters outside Colombo, police said.

And another ruling party politician who was not named opened fire on anti-government protesters in the southern town of Weeraketiya, killing two and wounding five, according to police.

Sri Lanka has suffered months of blackouts and dire shortages



of food, fuel and medicines in its worst economic crisis since independence.

This sparked weeks of overwhelmingly peaceful demonstrations against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, as well as his brother the prime minister.

Scores of Rajapaksa loyalists yesterday attacked unarmed protesters camping outside the president's office on a seafont

promenade in downtown Colombo.

"We were hit, the media were hit, women and children were hit," one witness said, asking not to be named.

Police fired tear gas and water cannon and declared an immediate curfew in Colombo, which was later widened to include the entire South Asian island nation of 22 million people.

A total of 181 people were hospitalised, a Colombo National Hospital spokesman said. Eight were injured elsewhere.

Shots were fired from inside the prime minister's official residence later yesterday, as thousands of protesters breached the main gate and torched a parked truck, an AFP reporter said.

Police also fired tear gas to

push back protesters.

Police sources confirmed that shots were fired in the air to prevent the crowd breaching the inner security ring of the residence where Rajapaksa was holed up.

"Strongly condemn the violent acts taking place by those inciting & participating, irrespective of political allegiances," President Rajapaksa tweeted. "Violence won't solve the current problems."

Mahinda Rajapaksa tendered his resignation as prime minister, saying it was to pave the way for a unity government -- but it was unclear if the opposition would cooperate.

The US ambassador Julie Chung tweeted that Washington condemned "the violence against peaceful protesters today, and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Debt servicing may become tricky in three years

Says economist Debapriya Bhattacharya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The debt situation may become tricky from 2024-25 if the government does not ramp up its revenue base now as the repayment schedule for many of the costly loans taken recently would begin then, eminent economist Debapriya Bhattacharya yesterday.

At the end of the last fiscal year, the total outstanding debt stood at \$131.14 billion, increasing by \$16.45 billion on average in the past three years.

"Our revenue is already low, and the comfort we had from our foreign currency reserves is fading too -- we have to look at the situation holistically," he said in a dialogue styled 'Conversations on Public Debt in Bangladesh.'

At the end of fiscal 2020-21, Bangladesh's revenue-GDP ratio stood at 9.4 percent, which is the lowest among South Asian nations.

In a country of about 16.4 crore people, only 74 lakh have the taxpayer identification number and of them, 23 lakh pay tax.

"Is it possible to implement such mega projects with the tax collected from just 23 lakh?"

On the external front, things are looking even more wobbly.

The balance of payment was \$3.1 billion in the

deficit at the end of March, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank. A year earlier, it was \$6.9 billion in the surplus.

As of May 5, Bangladesh's foreign currency reserves are less than \$42 billion, which is an 18-month low.

"Bangladesh's external debt situation is now in

"Bangladesh's external debt situation is now in the green zone but it may slip to the yellow zone from 2024-25."

Debapriya Bhattacharya
CPD Distinguished Fellow

the green zone but it may slip to the yellow zone from 2024-25," said Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

At the end of fiscal 2020-21, Bangladesh's external debt stood at \$60.15 billion. It picked up much between fiscal 2018-19 and 2020-21, increasing by \$9.02 billion in the last fiscal year alone.

"The recent pickup of external debt growth demands close scrutiny of the portfolio."

Bangladesh's foreign debt composition has progressively changed: concessional loans from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Trusting the businesspeople was a mistake

Commerce minister says about edible oil crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the government still struggling to bring stability to the volatile edible oil market, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday said it was a mistake on his part to trust the businesspeople as they hoarded edible oil and hiked prices abnormally after the Eid-ul-Fitr.

"My mistake is that I trusted them. I requested them not to increase the prices... It's my failure," the minister said in reply to queries from journalists at a press conference at his Secretariat office.

Right before the Ramadan, he had asked the businesspeople not to increase edible oil prices and to maintain an uninterrupted supply of the item in the markets during the holy month. He had also said the prices would be hiked after the Eid in accordance with the prices in the international market.

About syndicates in edible oil trade, the minister claimed there were no syndicates at the refiners and millers level.

However, the dealers and retailers took advantage of the situation and hoarded the item to make hefty profits, Munshi said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
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স্মারক নং-এনআইএনটি/প্রশাসন/২০২২/৪৮১ তারিখঃ ০৯/৫/২০২২ইং

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্পূর্ণ শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদের কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস প্রাপ্তি আবেদন

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশে ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি-তে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থায়নে এবং স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের সার্বিক সহযোগিতায় শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদের কল্যাণে 'কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট কার্যক্রম' চালু করা হয়েছে। এই কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদেরকে সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে সরকারি অর্থে কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস (যন্ত্র) প্রদান করা হবে। সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অনুমোদিত কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট বরাদ্দ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদেরকে ডিভাইসটি বিনামূল্যে/আংশিক মূল্যে প্রদান করা হবে।

কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইসটি বরাদ্দ পাওয়া ও সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে কানে স্থাপনের জন্য আগ্রহী শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধী শিশু রোগীর অভিভাবকগণের পক্ষ থেকে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য ০৫ বৎসরের নীচের শিশুদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। আবেদনপত্র ও বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন- সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (বৃহস্পতি দিন ব্যতীত), রুম নং ৭০৯ (৭ম তলা), কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট বিভাগ, ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা। আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ ও জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ-৩১ মে ২০২২ইং পর্যন্ত।

২০২২-০৫-০৯
অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ আবু হানিফ
পরিচালক কাম অধ্যাপক
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তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা

GD-913

Help implement Delta Plan

PM urges ADB

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought support from the Asian Development Bank to implement Delta Plan 2100.

"This Delta Plan is very important for Bangladesh," she told ADB Vice President (operations-1) Shixin Chen when he called on her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

In 2018, the government launched the Delta Plan 2100 to secure the future use of the country's water resources and mitigate the impact of climate change and natural calamities.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said the premier urged the ADB to help Bangladesh foster regional cooperation, particularly in the areas of connectivity, trade facilitation and energy cooperation.

Hasina said the Covid situation in Bangladesh is under control now and after two years the people freely celebrated the Eid festival last week.

She highly appreciated the help of the Manila-based multilateral donor during the pandemic.

Regarding the transition period of Bangladesh's graduation to a developing economy, the PM said her government has undertaken various programmes to face it.

Talking about food shortage due to the Russia-Ukraine war, Hasina said her government has undertaken programmes to grow more food.

Regarding the regional connectivity for development, the PM said Bangladesh has opened the door for improving connectivity. The routes which were closed after the 1965 war (between India and Pakistan) have been reopened, she added.

The premier sought participation of senior Bangladeshi officials in the ADB's top management and administration.

Shixin Chen appreciated Bangladesh's economic development despite the pandemic under Hasina's excellent leadership.

He said the ADB will always stand by Bangladesh and help its development as it has strong ties with the country.

Talking about Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC group to a developing country, the ADB official said it is usually critical and the country is doing well.

He expressed ADB's interest in helping Bangladesh in the social protection programmes.

Ambassador-at-large M Ziauddin, PM's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus, Economic Relations Division Secretary Fatima Yasmin, ADB Deputy Director General (South Asian Department) Manmohan Parkash and its Country Director Edimon Ginting were present.



Men, including a labourer carrying a board, cross the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue amid an onrush of traffic. As the metro rail work from Shahbagh to Farmgate has been completed, barricades there have been removed. In the absence of barriers, people have stopped using the nearby footbridges and been crossing roads in a way that could result in tragic accidents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Don't ask govt to absorb contractual staffers

SC orders all courts about regularisation of project employees

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court has prohibited all courts from directing the government to absorb contractual employees or officers of projects as permanent employees unless there is a statutory provision to this effect.

In the full text of an order, the SC's Appellate Division has observed that "No court can direct the government or its instrumentalities to regularise the service of the officers and employees of development projects into the revenue budget in the cases where statutory requirements have not been fulfilled. Regularisation cannot be claimed as a matter of right."

"It is a statutory requirement that opportunity shall be given to eligible persons by public notification and recruitment should be according to the valid procedure and appointment should be of the qualified persons found fit for appointments to a post or an office under the government."

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique came up

with the observation in the 18-page full text of the order released recently.

On March 6 this year, the SC bench delivered the short order on this issue after the government filed 62 leave to appeal petitions challenging several High Court verdicts.

The judgements, from 2017 to 2021, directed the government to regularise/absorb the writ petitioners (employees) of a project under the health ministry as the tenure of their contractual services expired.

According to the full text, Md Kamal Hossain and several others had joined a development project titled "Revitalisation of Community Health Care Initiatives in Bangladesh (RCHCIB) as Community Health Care Provider (CHCP)" at different times since 2009 after being selected through proper procedures.

On February 7, 2012, the RCHCIB project director sent a letter to the health ministry, recommending that the project employees be absorbed into the revenue budget. Till date no progress has been made, though the tenure of their contractual services expired.

During the hearing of the petitions, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin informed the SC that the government in the meantime has formulated the Community Clinic Health Assistance Trust Act, 2018, for the officers and employees who were appointed in RCHCIB and the "Community Based Health Care" projects.

And by operation of the said law, services of the RCHCIB project employees have already been placed under the trust and as such the writ petitioners are now its employees, he argued.

In the full text, the SC said, "The officers and employees of 'Revitalisation of Community Health Care Initiatives in Bangladesh' and 'Community Based Health Care' projects who worked until 30 June, 2015, are now the officers and employees of the trust, automatically."

The government is directed to consider the case of the writ petitioners in the light of the provisions in the "Community Clinic Health Assistance Trust Act, 2018".

Languishing in legal web for 24 years

FROM PAGE 1

would sell those at his tiny shop in the village.

He reached the Gabtoli Bus Terminal around 7:00pm, bought a bus ticket and kept waiting.

Out of nowhere, a police team from the terminal outpost arrived and found a packet, a few feet from where he was sitting. They searched it and said it contained heroin. They immediately turned to him, asking whether it was his.

Ahad replied in the negative, but the policemen were not convinced. They kept insisting that the packet was in his possession. He told the police why he came to Dhaka and requested them to speak to his mohajon (wholesaler) from whom he bought the footwear.

The policemen went to a telephone shop nearby and came back to say they could not reach the wholesaler over the phone. "The police kept accusing me. I repeatedly told them the packet was not mine but they would not listen," Ahad said.

After he was hauled up to the bus terminal's police outpost, Ahad said, the police demanded he pay them Tk 5,000.

"Give us the money and we will let you go", one of them said. But I told them that I have Tk 500 to Tk 600 left after buying the products and I have to go home. There was no cellphone with me to communicate with my family."

From the outpost, he was taken to Mirpur Police Station.

"I had nobody to help me out..." said Ahad, heaving a deep sigh while recalling the nightmares he had gone through.

The Daily Star tried to verify Ahad's version but no policemen involved in the arrest were found for comment. These correspondents also could not contact the then officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station.

Mostazirur Rahman, current officer-in-charge of the police station, said he was not aware of anything about the case.

"We don't know where the policemen involved with the case are—whether they are still in the service or went on retirement. There is no such record with us," he said.

THE CASE
Abdus Salam, a constable of Gabtoli Bus Terminal's police outpost, lodged a first information report with Mirpur Police Station on March 28, 1998.

In the complaint, he stated that he along with four constables—Jafar Ahmed, Abdur Rashid, Haider Ali and Morshed—searched the accused's black bag after a tip-off.

They found "heroin weighing around 100 grams in a small polythene bag in presence of two eyewitnesses—Bidhan Kumar Sarkar and Sheikh Abul Kashem".

Apart from Bidhan and Kashem, seven policemen

and a government-appointed chemical examiner were also made prosecution witnesses.

A sample of the drug—200 milligram—was sent for chemical examination, which "found it to be heroin".

The case, filed under Narcotics Control Act-1990, was transferred to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) of Dhaka the next day. Ahad came out on bail a few weeks later.

According to the Act, people in possession of less than 25 grams of heroin could be punished with two to 10 years' imprisonment. Possession of more than 25 grams is punishable by life imprisonment or even death.

On September 17, 1998, Nasir Uddin Khan, then officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, submitted the charge sheet. Charges were framed a year later, the beginning of the trial proceedings that now seem an endless legal battle.

FIRST WITNESS TURNS UP AFTER 24 YEARS

After the charge sheet was accepted, the case was transferred to Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in March 1999, and to Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court several years later.

In April 2011, the case was sent to Special Judge's Court-2, where at least 40 hearings took place in the last 11 years, according to court documents.

Initially, the hearing

date would come in six months' intervals, but lately it has come down to three to four months.

Police and prosecution failed to produce any of the 10 witnesses in all those years, said court sources and Ahad's lawyer.

The court in its orders said since the quantity of drugs seized from the accused is large, it should not be proper to dispose of the case without hearing the testimony of the witnesses. The court kept on giving new dates.

On February 8 this year, a witness, Abul Kashem, appeared before this court for the first time.

He told the court: "I was working in the bus counter in Gabtoli on that day when police came to me and wrote down my name and address. They told me that they took my particulars for a case."

As the judge asked him why he gave his particulars to police without knowing the details, Kashem said, "Sir, what else could I have done since they are policemen?"

These correspondents were present at the hearing.

After the testimony, Kashem approached Ahad and asked, "Do you know me?"

"No" replied Ahad, posing a counter question, "Do you?"

"I have never seen you in my life, let alone knowing you," said Kashem.

Kashem, who has been living in his village home

in Faridpur for around 15 years now, told The Daily Star that he used to work in the Jaker Paribahan bus counter at Gabtoli in 1998. He left the job around 15 years ago and settled in his village.

About 10 days before the hearing date, he received a summons through the local police asking him to appear before the court to testify in this case on February 8.

"I was surprised. Until today, I had no idea what the case was, who was the plaintiff and who was accused. I came to know about it after coming to the court this morning," Kashem said on the day of his testimony.

"I was surprised to hear that a person could be tangled in a case for so long."

'CANNOT RECALL'
The Daily Star contacted Bidhan Kumar Sarkar, another civilian witness whose name comes second among the 10 witnesses.

He was surprised to hear the details of the case and said he "cannot recall" any such event or the fact that he was made witness in any such case.

"I cannot recall. I am hearing it from you. Neither did I receive any papers in this regard," he said over the phone.

Bidhan, now 62, worked as a counter master of Sohail Paribahan in Gabtoli terminal from 1994 to 2014. He now lives in Gopalganj.

Sanjib Mondal, who has been Ahad's lawyer for the

Man killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A man was killed after being caught in a dispute over land between two stepbrothers in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila yesterday.

The victim is Sumon Miah, 27, of Dakatmara village.

Quoting witnesses, Sarkar Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Nagarpur Police Station, said there was an ongoing land dispute between stepbrothers Rashid and Atoar of the village.

In the morning, Atoar picked up Rashid's 13-year-old grandson and confined him to his house. Rashid along with Sumon and one Sujon then went to Atoar's house, where he attacked them with a sharp weapon, injuring the three seriously.

Sumon died on the way to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

The OC added that they detained three people and filing of a case was underway.

Eight arrested for raping garment worker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A team of Rab-6 yesterday arrested eight people over the gang rape of a female garment worker in Bagerhat's Rampal upazila.

Rab-6 Khulna Assistant Director (media) Bazlur Rashid said the eight were arrested around 12:50am.

Shamsuddin, OC of Rampal Police Station, said the victim yesterday filed a case with the police station accusing nine, including the eight arrestees.

The arrestees are Abul Kalam Azad, 24, Aslam Sheikh, 22, Jony Sheikh, 18, Maruf Billa, 22, Hasan Sheikh, 20, Russell Sheikh, 22, Hossain Gazi, 18, and Raju Sheikh, 24.

Rab said the garment worker was returning to Rampal from Mongla, where the garment factory is located, around 7:30pm on Sunday.

While the victim was walking towards chairman's intersection in Rampal, the arrestees forcibly took her to an abandoned madrasa field and raped her.

Supreme Court stays Golden Monir's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court's chamber judge yesterday stayed a High Court order that granted bail to Monir Hossain, known as Golden Monir, in a money laundering case.

Justice Borhanuddin passed the order after a petition was filed by the state.

Deputy Attorney General Sheikh Saifuzzaman told The Daily Star that the judge stayed the bail considering the gravity of Monir's offences mentioned in the case.

On May 11 last year, CID Inspector Mohammad Ibrahim filed the money laundering case with Badda Police Station against 10 people, including Monir.

According to the prosecution, Monir owns around 30 plots, over a dozen buildings and two car showrooms, all bought with illegally earned money. Inspector Ibrahim added that Monir deposited over Tk 791 crore in 129 bank accounts during his involvement with gold smuggling.

Only Tk 6.18 crore is currently available in those accounts.

Russia

FROM PAGE 12

equipment move down the main road leading away from the city of Severodonetsk, suggesting Ukraine was giving up the defence of its last stronghold in the eastern Luhansk region.

Russian forces were heavily shelling the roads, while the Ukrainians were firing back to help cover the apparent pullout.

Luhansk region governor Sergiy Gaiday said yesterday there were "very serious battles" around Bilogorivka and Rubizhne, as Russia tries to take the Russian-speaking Donbas.

Donbas encompasses Luhansk and the neighbouring region of Donetsk.

The war is mired in history between the two ex-Soviet nations—Putin has said the so-called "special military operation" in Ukraine is in part to "de-Nazify" the country.

As troops poured into Moscow for the Victory Day celebrations, in Kyiv the commemoration day was largely shunned as life slowly returned to normal weeks after fierce fighting raged in its suburbs.

Zelensky earlier invoked the ghosts of the Second World War to chide Russia, saying Ukraine was "proud" of its role in ousting Nazi Germany's forces, reports AFP.

"And we will not allow anyone to annex this victory. We will not allow it to be appropriated," he said in a video speech.

in Rajshahi contacted one of Ahad's neighbours Jainul Ahsan, who said, "We heard it a long time ago that Ahad was accused in a case for drug peddling but we did not believe it."

He added, "Ahad is a good human being and has no problem with anyone in our locality."

Ahad has a few bighas of land which he cultivates and also works as a deep tube-well operator. "All his work is related to farming," added Jainul, himself a farmer.

Talking to this newspaper yesterday, OC Kamrul Islam of Godagari Police Station, said they have computerised criminal records of 10 years but Ahad's name is not there.

"We will have to check papers to know if he was ever named previously."

Meanwhile, Ahad is too exhausted. Every time he comes to Dhaka, he desperately wishes it were the last time. Instead, he goes back home with a fresh date on his mind—this time on May 11.

His wife was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and her treatment became his major concern. His elder son got a job a few months ago and daughter sat for the SSC examination this year.

"It's been so many years now. I just pray and hope that the court closes the case once and for all, so I don't have to bear it anymore," Ahad told these correspondents before leaving the court premises.

Our staff correspondent



The foot-over bridge in front of Azimpur Government Girls' School & College is in a dilapidated state. Rust and holes have formed all over and the metal sheets have detached from the welding in many places. Fearing risk of accidents, many have stopped using the bridge, but some students still use it to cross the road as there is no footbridge nearby. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Boom of unlicensed bikers

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The difference between the number of registered motorcycles and actual bike licence holders is growing due to lack of proper monitoring by the authorities.

The difference was around 11 lakh in September 2018, and it rose to 13 lakh in three and a half years, show government data.

While the government is playing a role in raising the number of bikes on roads by reducing registration fee, a move by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to ensure licences for new bikers did not see the light of day, as it faced opposition from bike importers and manufacturers, said experts and officials.

Absence of adequate public transport, hike of bus fare, and traffic congestion are pushing people to buy two-wheelers, which is considered as a risky mode of transport, they said.

In this situation, the number of deaths involving bike accidents has risen sharply, which was evident during the Eid rush.

But BRTA, the government's regulatory body for vehicles, is allegedly publishing some advertisements in newspapers to create awareness about how to prevent bike accidents.

At least 1,168 people were killed in 994 road crashes involving bikes last year, according to Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI). In contrast, there were 1,097 deaths in 958 bike-related accidents in 2020.

The numbers are set to jump even higher this year.



- ▶ Difference between registered bikes, licence holders 13 lakh
- ▶ Govt favourable policy, lack of public transport, bus-fare hike, traffic congestion pushing
- ▶ Direct link between number of bikes, road crashes, say experts
- ▶ Non-registered bikes abundant in districts, upazilas

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Impose taxes to discourage people from buying bikes
- ▶ Must not allow bikes with engine capacity over 165 CC
- ▶ Make licence mandatory for buying, registering bikes
- ▶ Ensure high-quality helmets

According to Road Safety Foundation, a non-government organisation, at least 2,144 people were killed in 1,733 road accidents in the first four months of this year.

Crashes involving bikes were responsible for killing 830 people, which is 38.71 percent of total deaths.

Some 52 lakh vehicles have been registered with BRTA so far since the country's independence; 36.5 lakh among them are motorcycles.

"There is a direct link between the number of motorcycles and road accidents. If the number of bikes increases further, road crashes would too, for sure," said Prof Hadiuzzaman, director of ARI.

UNLICENSED BIKERS ON THE RISE

In September 2018, there were 22.70 lakh registered motorbikes, with only 11.32 lakh licensed riders, which means that 11.38 lakh bikers were riding without licence.

Although the ratio saw a decrease in the last three and a half years, the difference is still growing.

BRTA, in an advertisement published in a newspaper yesterday, said the number of registered bikes and issued licences are 36.50 lakh and 23.50 lakh, respectively, which means that 13 lakh bikers do not have a licence.

BRTA published the ad for creating awareness to prevent bike-related accidents as, what it said, such accidents saw an alarming rise lately.

Besides, non-registered motorbikes are abundant in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Shouldn't the EC be deciding that? GM Quader questions PM's statement on using EVM in nat'l election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairperson GM Quader yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement, in which she said the next national election will be held using electronic voting machine (EVM), has created doubt and confusion among opposition parties.



Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition, said it is the Election Commission's responsibility to decide the manner in which the election will be held.

"It is only natural that the Election Commission should consult with political parties for any change in the electoral system," he said while addressing a meeting with Jatiya Juba Mahila Party at his Banani office.

The JP chief said, "Due to the prevalence of illiteracy in our country, we still have to use electoral symbols next to names of candidates. In such a scenario, the rationale for using EVMs in the national election is questionable."

According to news published in various media platforms, the prime minister told an Awami League Central Working Committee meeting that the next parliamentary election will be held using EVMs, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

It's nothing but a trap

Says Rizvi on AL assurance of fair polls

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said Awami League's assurance of a fair election is only a trap to deceive their party.

"Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader assured that the next election would be fair... We would like to say joining the polls without a non-party neutral government means falling into their trap of deception," he said.



Speaking at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office, Rizvi also said what the ruling party leaders and the prime minister are saying about the fair election is nothing but a deception.

He also said people cannot understand what Obaidul Quader exactly meant by "fair election", as there is an "Awami version" of the fair election which the country's people have been watching for 14 years.

The BNP leader also said the definition of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

The depressing case of homecoming

Exploited, 340 female workers returned last month within a year of migration



ISSUES

- Non-payment of wages
- Sexual abuse, torture
- Health complications
- Excessive workload

According to a 2021 report of Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Programme (Okup), 151 Bangladeshi female migrant workers, who make up around 58 percent of those surveyed, returned home within one year of their migration to Middle Eastern countries after facing various challenges, including exploitative work conditions.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 340 female migrant workers have returned home in April within one year of their migration abroad, according to the Expatriates' Welfare Desk.

Many of these workers returned after being exploited in the host countries, an official at the welfare desk said yesterday on condition of anonymity.

He said many returnees could not "adapt" to the new environment in the host countries, such as changing food habits and extreme workload. Some also developed various health issues and returned due to illness.

The desk, set up at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport by the expatriates' welfare ministry, in a Facebook post yesterday said it has provided the 340 "helpless" female returnees with Tk 5,000 each as transportation costs.

The official also said they provided the amount under an official directive of the ministry to those female migrants who returned home empty-handed after being cheated, tortured or exploited.

Female migrant workers from Bangladesh usually go overseas on a two-year job contract, and most of the returnees are from Saudi Arabia, he added.

According to a 2021 report of Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Programme (Okup), 151 Bangladeshi female migrant workers, who make up around 58 percent of those surveyed, returned home within one year of their migration to Middle Eastern countries after facing various challenges, including exploitative work conditions.

They returned before ending their two-year job "contracts", says the study report "Access to Justice for Bangladeshi Migrant Workers: Opportunities and Challenges".

Okup, a grassroots migrant rights group, surveyed 262 female returnees in Faridpur, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, and Narayanganj who had migrated between 2010 and 2019.

The majority of the workers returned between 2018 and 2019.

Non-payment of wages, illness, physical torture, sexual abuse, and excessive work were among the reasons behind their return, the survey found.

According to Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), 10,00,456 female workers migrated abroad between 1991 and 2021. Another 32,113 female workers have migrated abroad this year as of March, as per BMET data.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BNP will take part in polls, hopes Hanif

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday hoped that BNP will take part in the next general election.

He was talking to journalists while inaugurating a newly-constructed building of Seed Certification Agency in Kushtia.

He said the BNP's top leader has been jailed for embezzling orphans' money while

another leader has fled abroad on corruption and terrorism charges. Leaders and activists of that party should look in the mirror before commenting on other parties, Hanif added.

The Awami League is the only party in this country which believes in democracy. There is no precedent for peaceful transfer of power in Bangladesh, he said.

Hanif said Awami League does not engage in tricky regarding elections, rather, it's the habit of BNP.



PRAYER TIMING
MAY 10

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-36	8-00
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	6-40	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Permanent Sanad Holder

Admission, Summer 2022

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BA in English	Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering
BSS in Sociology	Information and Communications Engineering
BSS in Population and Public Health Sciences	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
BSS in Information Studies and Library Management	B. Pharm
LLB (Hons)	Civil Engineering
	Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

Application Deadline: 18 May 2022 | Admission Test: 21 May 2022

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MBA	MS in CSE, M. Pharm
EMBA	MS in Applied Statistics
MDS	Master of Population, Reproductive Health, Gender and Development (MPRHGD)
MSS in Economics	Postgraduate Diploma in Population, Public Health and Disaster Management (PPDM)
MA in English	
MA in ELT	
LLM	

Application Deadline: 20 May 2022 | MBA Admission Test: 21 May 2022

For Online Admission Forms and Payment Facilities- <http://admission.ewubd.edu> see www.ewubd.edu or Contact EWU Admission Office

EAST WEST UNIVERSITY
Aftabnagar, Dhaka-1212
Phone: 55046678, 09666775577, Ext. 234
Mobile: 01755587224

Scan to visit admission website

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www.thedailystar.net

10 May 2022 - Death Anniversary of Mr. Ali Ashraf Hawlader [Fifteenth]

10.05.22: The fifteenth death anniversary of former Barisal P.P. officer Late Mr. Ali Ashraf Hawlader (63), residing at "Khanik Nibash" 96, Gom Chand Das Road, Ward-16, Barisal City-8200. On 20th May Mr. Ashraf A. Hawlader left us forever in heaven (breathed last) at his own village residence "Hawlader Bari" West Charamaddi, Bakhergonj-8281. For the remembrance and recognition of unforgettable sacrifice of late Ashraf's holy soul with spirit in ultimate rest & peace, Doa & monajat is being organized at his town residence, village "Hawlader Bari" W. Charamaddi and several mosque by his only son Mr. Engr. Md. Anisur Rahman (Titu), M.Sc. (2nd), FIEB-12336(MIEB-22063); Life member of BUET Alumni-1998901590; Associate Professor, Civil Engineering, IUBAT.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, (BRAC JIGSPH) invites applications for the position of **Research Coordinator** for the project named "Kishoree Kontha, an on-going study evaluating the effects of a variety of training and conditional transfer packages on girls' marriage outcomes and economic opportunities".

Education: Bachelor's degree in economics, public policy, or other quantitative social science disciplines (Master's degree preferred) Experience as a survey expert or in managing surveys and field staff in developing countries is preferred.

Salary: Negotiable | **Job Location:** BRAC JIGSPH, Head Office, Mohakhali Suitable Individuals are interested in applying for this consultancy must submit their CV along with cover letter to HR, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University through email: recruitment.sp@brac.ac.bd by **16 May, 2022**.

Office Space for Rent

Bangladesh Services Limited (Owner of InterContinental Dhaka) has vacant spaces of 1500 sft in ground floor and 5000 sft in 3rd floor, both in Building No.3 and 2500 sft in 2nd floor of Building No.2 for rent in its office complex (adjacent to InterContinental Dhaka). Interested organizations are requested to contact the following address from **09:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m.** on working days (Sunday to Thursday).

Company Secretary Bangladesh Services Limited
Building No.3 (5th floor), BSL office complex
01, Minto Road, Dhaka-1000,
Phone: 55663030 Ext. 4401/4403

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering, Feni
e-mail: feni@dphe.gov.bd, dphe.feni@gmail.com

Memo No. 46.203.3000.061.014.0014.22.797 Date: 08/05/2022

Invitation for e-Tender Notice-(2021/2022)

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division.
2	Implementing agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.
3	Project/program name	Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Human Capacity Development Project (GoB-World Bank).
4	e-Tender ID	691530.
5	Description of works	Construction of Public Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities; New Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities in community clinics; Provision of running water and associated facilities in toilets of community clinics and Response to Covid-19 hand washing station with running water by installing Tube well with overhead tank and associated facilities under RWSHP of DPHE at Feni District.
6	Name, designation & address of official inviting Tender	Md. Shafiqul Haque, Executive Engineer DPHE, Feni District, Feni, Tel No. 0331-74034.
7	This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd .	

Md. Shafiqul Haque
Executive Engineer, DPHE
Feni District, Feni

GD-917

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2022-9174813

Request for Proposal (RFP): Developing Master Trainer and Core Trainer through providing Training of Trainers on existing The Journey of Life, Connection Module and Community Based PSS for protecting the children and adolescents from any sets of violence and harmful practices throughout the community engagement and reinforce their social initiatives.

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above-required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to "supplybangladesh@unicef.org"

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Thursday, 26 May 2022; Time: 11:00 Hrs**
Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org.bd

unicef for every child

Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd
Bangladesh Navy
Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj
Phone: 880-02-7661480, Fax: 8802223303501
E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd, www.dewbn.gov.bd

Ref: 06.02.6758.165.07.193.22.1881 Date: 09 May 2022

Invitation for International Tender

01	Procuring entity name	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, BN, Narayanganj
02	Invitation for	Water Blasting Machine with all necessary accessories, 04 set complete
03	Procuring method	Open tender
04	Budget & source of funds	Own finance
05	Tender selling date	09 May 2022 to 07 June 2022
06	Tender closing date and time	08 June 2022 time: 12:15pm
07	Tender opening date and time	08 June 2022 time: 12:30pm
08	Name & address of the office: a. Selling tender document b. Receiving tender document c. Opening tender document	Cash Section Account Department, Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj or Account Name: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bank name: Trust Bank Ltd, Account No. 00350320000056, Branch: Narayanganj, deposit slip submitted by tender document. (If tender schedule document download from website) Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj.
09	Double envelope system for submission of tender	The tenderer will use two separate envelopes. One is for technical offer and the other is for price offer and each envelope has to be marked separately in order. The technical offers and price offers should be sealed and marked separately and put in the tender box.
10	Price offer opening	Only those tenders which will be valid and eligible through technical evaluation will be informed in writing that tenders will be opened on the specified date and time. Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Tenderers and their authorized representative are allowed to attend.
11	Price of tender document	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two thousand only) (non-refundable)
12	Contact details official	Mobile: 01769719867, 01769719888 Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd
13	Eligibility and tender	1. Tenderer must be OEM/distributor/local agent. 2. Experience of supply, supply of goods as mentioned (if any) 3. Document required: a. Trade license b. TIN certificate c. VAT registration d. Bank statement e. Experience certificate if any
14	Earnest money	All bidders must submit earnest money 01% (one percent) of the actual quoted total value of the stores either by Bangladesh currency or equivalent to any International Trading currencies favoring the Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, in Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee/which will be issued by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. (Not applicable to enlisted suppliers)
15	Special instruction	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any part of the tender prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

For Managing Director

Boom of unlicensed

FROM PAGE 3
district and upazila levels, indicating that the number of bikers without licences could be even greater, sector insiders said.

Prof Hadiuzzaman said the number of bikes on the country's roads is estimated to be over 50 lakh, which means that over 14 lakh bikes are not registered.

So, around 50 percent of bikers do not have licences, he said.

Replying to a question, Prof Hadiuzzaman said the government's "favourable policy" regarding bikes is a major reason behind the rise.

When everyone is talking about the risks surrounding bikes, the government halved the registration fee last year.

A Bangladesh Road Transport Authority official said the launch of ride-sharing services is another major reason behind the sharp rise of bikes.

To ensure that every new biker has a driving licence, BRTA around three years ago proposed to make

licence mandatory to buy bikes.

However, it could not take the decision in the face of opposition from bike importers and manufacturers, he said, wishing anonymity.

Rather, a learner's licence was made mandatory to buy a bike, which actually makes little difference, he added.

Prof Hadiuzzaman said the government has to revisit its policy regarding bikes.

It also has to impose duty and other taxes in such a way that people feel discouraged to buy bikes, he added.

The demand for allowing bikes with engine capacity over 165 CC must not be met, because it will increase accidents and fatalities, according to Prof Hadiuzzaman.

Besides, acquiring a licence for both buying and registering bikes has to be made mandatory.

At the same time, high-quality helmets must be ensured to reduce fatalities, he added.

Contacted, BRTA

Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder admitted that there are many bikers without licences.

He, however, said the difference is not as big as the data show, as many bikes that got registered since independence are not operational.

Asked about the move to make licences mandatory for purchasing bikes, the BRTA chairman said they could not implement it due to opposition from some stakeholders.

"But we are going to make it mandatory, as the number of bike accidents is rising," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He refuted the allegations of poor monitoring and avoiding responsibilities.

BRTA has sent letters to all deputy commissioners (DCs) and police superintendents for taking action against unlicensed and reckless bikers two days ago.

"I, for the first time, also held a meeting with all DCs ahead of Eid to ensure road safety," he said.

The depressing

FROM PAGE 3
At present, Bangladesh sends female domestic workers to Saudi Arabia under a "zero cost" migration agreement.

Hit by UNO's car

FROM PAGE 5
in the afternoon. Rezwaniul Islam, officer-in-charge of Jhalmaliya Highway Police Station, said the assigned government vehicle for the Naldanga UNO hit Sohel's motorcycle, who was on his way to his workplace from his home. Mollah Imran Ali, president of Singra Press Club, said the Naldanga UNO's wife is a teacher at Singra Gol-e-Afroz College. The UNO's vehicle was going to Singra

to drop her off there. The accident happened on the way.

Contacted, UNO Sukhmoy Sarkar said the motorcyclist was injured when it collided with the vehicle in front of the filling station when the vehicle was going there to refuel.

He said only the driver was in the vehicle at that time.

OC Rezwaniul said they were investigating the reason behind the accident.

It's nothing

FROM PAGE 3
Awami League's fair voting is to hold the election without votes like in 2014 or stuffing ballots at night like in 2018 by using all the forces to subdue the people and by establishing a reign of terror.

He said people will be able to cast their votes as per their wish only if the election is held under a non-party government. "That's why we're on a movement for holding the election under a non-party neutral government."

Rizvi also opposed the government's plan to hold the election using the

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), noting that many countries already backed off from this system due to various faults.

He said ballot papers must be used instead of EVM for holding a fair, credible and transparent election.

He also slammed the ruling party general secretary for his remark that BNP must join the election for protecting its existence. "Obadiul Quader's remarks give an impression that he is not only the general secretary of Awami League, but also an advisor of BNP."

Shouldn't the EC

FROM PAGE 3
He questioned how relevant it was to hold a discussion about this issue in that meeting.

Quader further said that there is no democracy in the country. "Awami League and BNP have amended the constitution in such a way that it is not possible to practise democracy."

He said "constitutional dictatorship" is ongoing. As a result, there is no accountability of any part of the government.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Md Mujibul Haque

Chunnu and Presidium Member Shahidur Rahman spoke among others at the meeting chaired by Jatiya Juba Mahila Party Convener Nazneen Sultana.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the AL chief, at the meeting at Gono Bhavan on Saturday said voting in all 300 parliamentary constituencies will be held using EVMs.

Meanwhile, BNP said unless the current AL government resigns, participating in the election is out of the question.

Ticket checker

FROM PAGE 5
the railway's revenue. I always try to perform my duty perfectly," he said.

"On that day [Thursday], I was in the Sundarban express train and collected fines amounting to Tk 78,000 from the train," he claimed.

Meanwhile, a three-member probe committee that has been investigating the incident got statements from Shafiqul, the complainant Pranto and those who were present during the incident.

"We are working. We may need to talk to more people. After getting statements from all, we will submit the report," said Sajedul Islam, assistant transportation officer of railway's Pakshey division and head of the committee.

Lost
I, Daniel Haque, lost my candidate membership certificate (CH-171) of Institute of Architects Bangladesh on May 7, 2022. I have filed a General Diary (No. 399, Date: 8.5.22) with Mirpur Model Police Station.

Wanted
Urgently require an Electrical/Mechanical B.Sc. Engineer, minimum 1 (One) year experience with good computer skills and fluent communication in English. Kindly send CV to email: iptcdhaka@gmail.com or Contact Mobile: 01686-392324

SBI Bangladesh Operations
Shifting of Branch

State Bank of India's Dhaka Branch has Now at a New Location to Provide all the Benefits of Modern Banking Services.

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OPERATIONS WING ENGINEERING DIVISION
MIA AMANULLAH BHABAN, 63, DILKUSHA C/A (4TH FLOOR), DHAKA.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from bonafide Bangladeshi Interior decoration Contractor(s) having wide experience in Internal Construction, Shifting and other related works for performing Internal Construction, Shifting & other related works of Jhalokathi Branch (Urban), Jhalokathi. Details information regarding the Tender will be available in Bank's web site: www.islamibankbd.com from the next day of publication of this advertisement.

Engr. Md. Habibur Rahman
Vice President

INVITATION TO BID
For production and supply of bookshelves
First Date of Publication: Tuesday 10 May 2022

Room to Read ITB No: RIR/2022/ITB/002

Room to Read Bangladesh invites sealed tender from reputable and eligible suppliers/manufacturers having relevant work experience with large organization including UN agencies, INGO, and other international organization in supplying bookshelves for Room to Read School Libraries. Bidding is open to all bidders from registered companies with Bangladesh Government.

Package	Description	Quantity	Estimated date of delivery
A	Library Bookshelves Size: 762mm X 357mm X1362 mm Materials: 20 BWG Thickness Mild Steel sheet.	1129 Units	By Monday 27 July 2022. Total 1129 Pcs. 545 pcs in 100 different Primary schools in Kulaura & Juri upazila in Moulvibazar district and 584 pcs in 100 different Primary schools in Baraigram, Gurudashpur and Singra upazila in Natore District.

Envelope containing sealed bids must be marked with the ITB reference number (top right corner) as indicated above.

Interested bidder must have the following qualifications

A) At least 5 (five) years' experiences with large international organization/UN Agency/INGO
B) Able to meet the timeline specified above
C) Able to deliver the bookshelves in the specified location

Interested bidder who satisfy the above-mentioned criteria may collect the bid form by paying Tk 500 (Non-refundable) for the tender at the address given below from Tuesday 10 May 2022 to Tuesday 24 May 2022 (Except Govt. holiday) during working hours. Pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 11:00 am at Room to Read Country office, Conference Room (4th floor), House-31 (4th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be collected by interested bidders upon submission of a written application on bidder's letterhead. Bids must be delivered to the address below by **Tuesday 24 May 2022 no later than at 3.00 pm**. Any bid after the deadline will be rejected. All bids will be opened on **Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 3.00 pm** in presence of bidders' representative & Room to Read purchasing committee members.

Room to Read reserve the right to accept or reject all bids without any reason whatsoever.

Administration
Room to Read, Bangladesh House-31 (4th-6th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani Model town, Dhaka-1213,
Phone # 02222271275, 02222270874, Fax 02222270952.
Email: Bangladesh@roomtoread.org

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prisons Directorate
30/3, Umesh Datta Road, Bakshi Bazar, Dhaka-1211
www.prison.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.0000.030.25.007.22.335 Date: 09.05.2022

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal:

SL No.	Re-Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing, closing date & time
1	695745	Computer Equipment	09-May-2022 18:00:00 22-May-2022 11:30:00
2	695978	Sandal for Prisoner	09-May-2022 18:30:00 25-May-2022 12:00:00

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Suraiya Akter
BJ-01811100516
Asstt. Inspector General of Prisons (Finance)
For Inspector General of Prisons
Telephone No. 57300514

GD-921

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Rajshahi
Telephone No. 0247-812215
E-mail: eerajs@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.8185.465.41.007.22-916 Dated: 09/05/2022

e-GP Re-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders has been invited in e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Rajshahi for the procurement of following works.

SL No.	Tender Package No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last date of selling/downloading e-Tender document	Closing date and time	Opening date & time
1	e-Gp/Raj/46/2021-2022	695171	Repair and Maintenance of Hard Shoulder by Supplying Asphalt Material at 120th(P), 122nd(P), 123rd(P), 130th(P), 131st(P), 160th(P), 164th(P) and 171st(P) Km of Kashinatpur-Dashuria-Natore-Rajshahi-Nawabgonj-Kansat-Sohamasjid-Bahadighi Border (N-6) Road under RHD Road Division, Rajshahi during the year 2021-2022	23-May-2022 Upto 17.00 hr.	24-May-2022 Upto 12.00 hr	24-May-2022 Upto 12.00 hr

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on a e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Abdul Hakim
ID No. 602259
Executive Engineer (CC), RHD
Road Division, Rajshahi

GD-923

Hit by UNO's car, journo dies in Natore

STAR REPORT
A local journalist was killed in Singra upazila of Natore after Naldanga Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO) car hit his motorcycle yesterday. The deceased is Sohel Ahmed Jebon (33), Singra upazila correspondent of Daily Duranta Sangbad and an assistant teacher of Singra Bandar School and College. According to police and witnesses, Naldanga UNO Sukhmoy Sarkar's car hit Sohel's motorcycle in front of Ningin Filling Station in Singra around 10:30am, leaving Sohel seriously injured. He was later taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Vast areas have gone into the Jamuna due to the untimely erosion by the river. The photo was taken from Solimabad union in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Pabna BCL leader held in Rajshahi

He posed with pistol in viral photo
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rab on Sunday arrested a Chhatra League leader who posed with a pistol and shared the photo on social media recently. Abu Bakkar Siddiqui alias Ratul (30), programme and planning affairs secretary of the recently dissolved Pabna district unit of BCL, was arrested from Boalia area in Rajshahi, said a press release sent by Rab-5. Hailing from Pabna's Sujaganar upazila, Ratul was a vice-president of Manikhat union unit of BCL. Based on his information, Rab also recovered a foreign-made pistol and bullets from an abandoned building in Boalia, the press release added. Ratul posed with the pistol and shared the photo on Facebook which went viral, triggering an outrage.

Rab said Ratul admitted that he collected the pistol to commit crime in his area. He was involved in criminal activities in Pabna, under the banner of different political parties. He told Rab that he posted the photo with pistol on social media to let everyone know about his firearm and thus establish his influence in the area.

'Where will I go now?'

Riverside dwellers affected by untimely Jamuna erosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Sudden erosion by the mighty Jamuna river has devoured vast areas in four upazilas of Tangail in the last few weeks, adding to the worries of the riverside dwellers.

Affected villagers said the untimely erosion has already washed away vast croplands, houses and a number of other establishments in the last couple of days.

Erosion-hit families are taking shelter at different embankments and their relatives' houses, they said.

The Tangail Water Development Board (WDB) authorities said they have already taken necessary steps to check the erosion.

Locals said the erosion started with a sudden rise in water level in the Jamuna river and has continued devouring vast fresh areas at different villages under Solimabad and Bharra unions in Nagarpur upazila, Kakua, Mahmudnagar and Katulee unions in Sadar, Beltia, Gorilabari, Gohaliabari Alipur unions in Kalihati and Bhalkutia, Khanurbari and Govindasi unions in Bhuanpur upazila.



Due to continuous erosion for the last few years, the affected villages are shrinking every year, locals alleged. Instead of taking any permanent measures to prevent the erosion, WDB just dumps Geo bags in the affected areas during the rainy season, they said, adding that it does nothing but wastes people's money.

Although local public representatives pledged to take steps to construct a permanent embankment to resolve the problem, nothing has been done so far, they further said.

Rahima Begum (60) of Bhalkutia village in Bhuanpur upazila said, "Due to the erosion, I was forced to shift my home five times. I don't know where I'll go now."

Meanwhile, with the rise in water level in the Jamuna, the erosion has hit a newly constructed embankment at Beltia in Kalihati upazila a couple of days ago.

Blaming the substandard work, locals said the fresh erosion has already damaged a portion of the flood protection embankment.

Contacted, Tangail WDB Executive Engineer Mohammad Sirajul Islam said, dumping of Geo bags in the erosion affected areas was done to stop the erosion temporarily.

A project to construct an embankment, stretching from Mahmudnagar to Kakua area in Sadar upazila has already been approved, added the engineer.

Due to the erosion, I was forced to shift my home five times. I don't know where I'll go now.

Rahima Begum
Resident of Bhalkutia

TK 12.42CR GRAFT CASE
ACC approves charges against Arman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has approved a charge sheet against expelled vice-president of Dhaka South Jubo League Enamul Haque Arman for amassing about Tk 12.42 crore illegally.

Of the money, Arman laundered about Tk 6.56 crore to Singapore.

Rab arrested Arman and former president of Dhaka South Jubo League Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat from Cumilla on October 6, 2019.

According to the ACC, Arman amassed Tk 12.42 crore through various illegal means.

ACC's investigation officer submitted the findings before the commission, which gave approval for submitting the charge sheet before the court.

The ACC filed the case against Arman on November 12, 2019 with its integrated district office.

Both Samrat and Arman came under the spotlight after Rab busted illegal casino business at different sporting clubs in Dhaka.

According to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police, Samrat had visited Singapore 35 times, Malaysia three times, Dubai two times, and Hong Kong once between 2011 to 2019.

In those eight years, Samrat's associate Arman also visited Singapore 23 times.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
Directorate of Planning and Development
Invitation for International Tender

P&D/FP(S-3)/BEPRC-04/21/GCE-02 (International Tender)/DR-131 Date: 09 May 2022

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)/UGC
3	Purchaser name	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) represented by Director, Directorate of Planning and Development
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh
5	Invitation Ref. No.	P&D/FP(S-3)/BEPRC-04/21/GCE-02 (International Tender)
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (International Tender)
7	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget/Government Funds
8	Tender Package No.	BUET/GCE/EPRC/2021/Procurement/G01
9	Tender publication date	09.05.2022
10	Pre bid meeting	31.05.2022 at 11.00am
11	Tender last selling date	21.06.2022 (during office hours)
12	Tender closing date and time	22.06.2022 at 11.30am (BST)
13	Tender opening date and time	22.06.2022 at 12.00pm (BST). Tender shall be opened in presence of tenderers/tenderer's authorized representative (if any).
14	Name & address of the office(s)	Directorate of Planning and Development (P&D), BUET.
	-Selling and opening tender document	Directorate of Planning and Development (P&D), BUET or
	Receiving tender document	(i) Directorate of Planning and Development (P&D), BUET or (ii) Principal Investigator, Department of GCE, BUET, Dhaka-1000.
	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers from all countries with minimum of 3 years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services.
15	Amount of tender security	Lot-01: BDT 8,00,000.00 (six lac), USD 7,000 (seven thousand) and Euro 6,500 (six thousand five hundred) only in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favor of "Comptroller, BUET" issued by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh with full responsibility. If the Pay Order/Bank Draft is issued by a Foreign Bank, it must be duly endorsed by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh payable in favor of Comptroller, BUET, Dhaka.
16	Price of tender document (Tk)	Lot-01: Supply, installation and commissioning of Magnetron sputtering tool with accessories. Taka 5,000/- (BDT five thousand only)
17	Brief description of goods	Lot-01: Supply, installation and commissioning of Magnetron sputtering tool with accessories for the Department of GCE, BUET, Dhaka.
18	Name of official inviting tender	Prof. Dr. Khan Mahmud Amanat.
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (P&D).
20	Address of official inviting tender	The Directorate of Planning and Development (P&D), BUET, Dhaka.
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Director, P&D, BUET, Dhaka, Tel: 9666413, 55167228-57 Ext. 7350
22	Place/date/time of pre-tendering meeting	Directorate of Planning & Development, BUET on 31.05.2022 at 11.00am.
23	Special instructions	(i) Intending participants/bidders or their local Agent shall have to apply for purchasing tender documents to the undersigned along with Letter of Authorization of Manufacturer. (ii) The Authority reserves the right to accept any tender to annul the tender process or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contract award without assigning any reason thereof.

The purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

Director
Directorate of Planning and Development
BUET, Dhaka

GD-916

30,000 litres of soybean oil seized in Dhaka, Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In day-long drives, mobile courts seized 30,000 litres of soybean oil from Dhaka and Chattogram yesterday.

In the capital, a mobile court fined three grocery shop owners in Jatrabari Tk 1.5 lakh on the charge of storing 15,000 litres of soybean oil and selling those at a hiked price.

The shops are Adity Traders, Sifat Trading and Mintu Store.

The owners were fined Tk 50,000 each by the mobile court assisted by Rab and Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP), Bina Rani Das, operations officer of Rab-3, told The Daily Star.

They stored around 15,000 litres of edible oil in their shops and were charging Tk 34 higher, per litre of oil, than the government-set price, she said.

Meanwhile, a team of DNCRP seized 15,000 litres of soybean oil from a shop named Siraj Store at Pahartoli in Chattogram city yesterday, said Azizur Rahman, deputy director of DNCRP.

The team also fined the shop owner Tk 1.7 lakh, he said. Earlier on Sunday, DNCRP recovered 1,050 litres of soybean oil from the storage of a retail shop at Karnaphuli Market.

FINING 'MINISTER'S RELATIVES'

Ticket checker rejoins work

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Travelling ticket examiner (TTE) Shafiqul Islam yesterday rejoined his workplace at Pabna's Ishwardi railway junction, after his suspension was revoked on Sunday.

Shafiqul was suspended for fining three ticketless passengers, who were reported to be relatives of the rail minister's wife, on Thursday.

After media reports on the incident went viral and sparked criticism, the rail ministry removed the suspension order. Pakshey divisional railway commercial office issued an order to approve his rejoining.

After joining his work, Shafiqul expressed his happiness, saying that he has done everything for the sake of railway's development.

"As a TTE, it is my duty to ensure that no passenger travels without a ticket, for the sake of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



পুনঃ সংশোধন বিজ্ঞপ্তি
Bangladesh Election Commission
Election Commission Secretariat
Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase)
Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Addendum-02

Package Title:	Purchasing of IRIS Scanner & Fingerprint Scanner for Voter Registration
Invitation Number:	17.14.0000.240.07.061.2021-718, Date: 10 April 2022
Issued on:	11 April 2022
Tender Package No.	GD-22 (Lot-1 & Lot-2)

Addendum-02 of Invitation for Tenders (IFT)

SL No. of IFT	Existing Invitation for Tenders (IFT)	Amendments (Content to be read as) Invitation for Tender (IFT)
15. Tender last selling date	10 May 2022	16 May 2022, Time: 5.00pm
16. Tender closing date	11 May 2022	17 May 2022, Time: 2.00pm
17. Tender opening date	11 May 2022	17 May 2022, Time: 2.30pm

N.B. সংশোধিত Specification প্রকল্প কার্যালয় হতে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।

Abdul Kashem Md. Fazlul Kader
Brigadier General
Project Director

GD-922

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka- 1208, Bangladesh

EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ National / Landscaping /2022/267
Date: 09 May , 2022

Amendment of Tender Notice (Amendment No -3)

Project Title : Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj
Package Name : Landscaping including Arboriculture & Central Water Body
Ref. No : EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/Landscaping/2022/28 Date: 28 March, 2022.

Notice Sl. No	Subject to be Amended	Existing As	Shall be amended As
14.	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	11 May, 2022 at, Time : 03:00 PM (BST)	23 May, 2022 at, Time : 05:00 PM (BST)
15.	Tender Closing Date and Time	12 May, 2022 at, Time : 12.00 PM (BST)	24 May, 2022 at, Time : 02.00 PM (BST)
16.	Tender Opening Date and Time	12 May, 2022, Time : 12.30 PM (BST)	24 May, 2022, Time : 02.30 PM (BST)

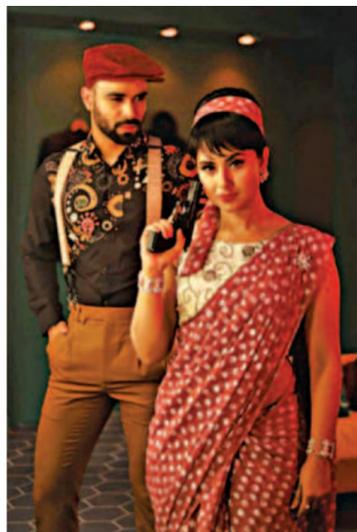
All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged

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

Size: 5 inch x 4 col.



Snippets from 'Floor Number 7'



'FLOOR NUMBER 7' crew happy with response

"Consciously appearing subconscious before the screen is key to achieving perfection while performing a certain character, and this is what I learned from my first film," he adds.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

A struggling actress trying to make her dreams come true, a superstar, a love story gone wrong – this is what Raihan Rafi's web film "Floor Number 7" opened with to its audience.

Bagging record-breaking subscriptions, the Chorki original was released worldwide this Eid. Marking its release date, streaming platform Chorki sold a record-breaking subscription among the audience.

With high expectations and a promising star-cast featuring Tama Mirza, Shobnom Bubby, Sumon Anwar, Shahriar Nazim Joy and the debutant Raaz Mania, "Floor Number 7" has earned both positive and negative reviews from its viewers.

While the audience lauded the performance by some of the artistes, some claimed that expressions were too loud to be natural. Nevertheless, the overall reception "Floor Number 7" received was quite overwhelming for the team.

Director Raihan Rafi feels seems to be

happy with "Floor Number 7". "As a director, I feel criticisms teach you more than praises," he asserts. Thus, I wholeheartedly welcome suggestions from my spectators. At the end of the day, its them I make films for."

Nevertheless, the maker also was commended for showcasing variation when it comes to characterisation. Alongside incorporating the cherished characters Pakhi (played by Tama Mirza) from "Khachar Bhiton Ochin Pakhi" or Abony from "Taan" (played by Shobnom Bubby) in a completely new form, this production also marked the OTT debut of Shahriar Nazim Joy and the acting debut for Abdullah Al Mahfuz, known by his stage name Raaz Mania.

"I always try to put forward a star in a way that the audience has not seen him before," adds the director. "New faces and portrayal of old faces in a new avatar always excite me."

Tama Mirza was praised for her performance in this project. "I believe that I still have a long way to go, and feel that this was not my best," shares the actress. "This

time, 'Pakhi' has many layers, and I had to tone down my expressions to fit the role."

The actress also had very minimal dialogues in this production. "When it comes to acting, I feel one's face should speak louder than their dialogues and that is what I aimed at in this project."

Debutant Raaz also showed promise in the role of Sadman Chowdhury. "I had been waiting to work for a director who would assure that the production quality will be delivered to the audience as promised. Working with Raihan Rafi was no less than a dream for me," says Raaz, who had auditioned alongside 40 other artistes for this role.

"Consciously appearing subconscious before the screen is key to achieving perfection while performing a certain character, and this is what I learned from my first film," he adds.

Regardless of criticism, the project does deserve a watch for the audience to decide for themselves.

'I would think twice before signing a remake'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"Kabir Singh", the Hindi remake of the Telugu film, "Arjun Reddy", was a turning point for Kiara Advani.

However, the popular Indian actress now feels that she will think twice before doing remakes in the future, as most of the films are available on several streaming platforms.

"I'd do 'Kabir Singh' eyes closed, hands down, but today even I'd think twice to do a remake if it is available on an OTT platform because I feel I can watch it," she told *Indian Express* recently, adding that she watches many dubbed films of other languages.

While Kiara says she might want to rethink before doing a direct remake of a film, she is open to doing an adaptation instead.



Elizabeth Olsen defends Marvel movies

During an interview with *The Independent*, Elizabeth Olsen expressed her frustration with people who seek to belittle the artistic quality of the Marvel movies.

The actress revealed that she gets "feisty" when people dismiss talented Marvel crew members, including "set designers, costume designers, and camera operators" for working on MCU projects.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has attracted many high-profile detractors in recent years, including directors Martin Scorsese, Denis Villeneuve, and Jane Campion.

Olsen has starred in several Marvel projects since 2015, including "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness".



NEWS

Law may enable govt

FROM PAGE 12
According to TIB's analysis, as many as 25 guidelines needed to be passed in the case of the Digital Security Act to prevent abuse, but only one has been passed so far.

It also said that the law contains many discrepancies in the area of data localisation and cross-border transfer.

The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific was signed by Bangladesh and came into

effect from February 2021.

The UN agreement, meant to accelerate trade digitalisation by the electronic exchange of trade-related data across borders, requires exchange of personal data, pointed out TIB.

"It is unclear whether commercial data will be excluded," said Alam.

No internet service can be availed without the exchange and processing of sensitive personal data, they stated.

"The law is quiet on direct marketing,

whistleblowers, witness protection and cookies," said Alam.

In the law, the penalties for companies are disproportionate, they said. Violations of the law can be punished with fines up to 25 percent of the annual turnover of the company.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "While trying to protect the rights to personal data of citizens, the law runs the risk of giving the government bureaucratic control over citizens' data."

Trusting the businesspeople was a mistake

FROM PAGE 1
Though the businesspeople didn't increase edible oil prices during the Ramadan, the millers, refiners, dealers, wholesalers and retailers hoarded the item 10 days before the Eid as they knew the prices would be hiked after the Eid. This caused severe disruption to the supply chain and led to an artificial crisis.

He further said that if necessary, his ministry would seek to engage the Rab in maintaining a stable

supply of edible oil in local markets.

The Corporation of Bangladesh will resume sale of bottled soybean oil at Tk 110 a litre from June, he mentioned.

Besides, the open market sale of edible oil through trucks will begin across the country in the middle of this month, he added.

Talking to this newspaper yesterday, Ghulam Rahman, president of the Consumers Association of

Bangladesh (CAB), said the commerce ministry's lack of appropriate measures led to the edible oil crisis.

The minister should have been aware that a section of unscrupulous traders might take advantage of the situation, as edible oil prices were on the rise over the last few months.

"This happened because appropriate action was not taken timely," he noted.

Rahman further said the minister relied solely on businesspeople's

commitments, but they didn't keep their word. The government should have intervened in the edible oil market at the appropriate time.

It should hand out exemplary punishment to those responsible for the artificial crisis so that they don't dare to do it again, he said.

Meanwhile, some consumers told this correspondent that they were grappling with the rising prices of soybean oil that is still in short supply.

Sayed Ali Sheikh, a resident in Mirpur Eastern Housing area, said his family's consumption of edible oil has come down considerably due to the increase in soybean oil prices.

He said his family of eight has already cut the consumption of vegetable and fish to free up money to buy cooking oil.

The government should revise down the prices of edible oil so that people with fixed income can afford it, he added.

Budget carrier Flynas

FROM PAGE 12
government allowed a third carrier which they thought would create scope for delivering better services to the pilgrims.

M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, president of HAAB, alleged that Biman and Saudia make and change decisions almost arbitrarily without considering the pilgrims' problems.

"Pilgrims will now have another choice. They will be able to buy tickets at a competitive price," he told *The Daily Star*.

He demanded that the government allow more Bangladeshi and

foreign carriers to ferry hajj pilgrims to ensure a better and smooth hajj management.

Some neighbouring countries, including India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia, are allowing third carriers to operate hajj flights.

The HAAB president said if more airlines are granted permission, hajj agencies would be able to offer more hajj packages, including those with shorter stays in Saudi Arabia, which would ultimately benefit the pilgrims.

Currently, the pilgrims need to stay in the Gulf

country for at least one month to perform the rituals under a hajj package.

This year, a total of 57,585 Bangladeshis will perform hajj, likely to be held on July 9, subject to sighting of the moon. Of them, Biman will carry half of the pilgrims and the rest would be ferried by Saudia and Flynas.

In 2019, around 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform the ritual. Due to the pandemic, the largest annual congregation of the Muslims was held on a limited scale in the last two years.

Debt servicing may become tricky in three years

FROM PAGE 1
multilateral lenders are being replaced with costlier bilateral loans.

And the bilateral loans are coming at a higher interest rate and shorter grace and repayment periods due to Bangladesh's graduation from the low-income bracket.

"There is \$50 billion of concessional and semi-concessional foreign assistance in the pipeline and yet I am going after bilateral loans," he said, while lamenting the low utilisation of the cheap funds.

At least \$10.5 billion against the high-value loans and supplier credit from

bilateral sources would become due soon as their grace period ends.

"The repayment implications for the macroeconomy will become evident from 2024-25 onward."

External private debt is posing to become a sore point too, he said. As of last fiscal year, external private debt is \$18.69 billion after it increased by \$4.6 billion in fiscal 2020-21.

"It is growing exponentially. And our domestic borrowing situation is no less worrying." Domestic debt increased by \$7.27 billion on average for the past three years and

in fiscal 2020-21 alone it surged by \$9.6 billion.

Although Bangladesh's debt-GDP ratio at 34.7 percent was among the lowest in South Asia in fiscal 2019-20, it misses several elements like private external debt, sovereign guarantees, contingent liabilities and intra-governmental liabilities.

The economist differed with the figure and said the country's total debt stood at 44.1 percent of GDP last fiscal year.

The government's tendency to borrow sees a spike ahead of national elections, according to the CPD's analysis.

"This happens in many

countries. If there is weakness in the democratic process, visible development projects are used to cover the shortcoming. And many of the projects are not economically justifiable. It remains to be seen whether the current trend will be continued or we will be cautious in borrowing."

The government has so far formulated 10 separate debt management policies in the last several years including preparing the Public Debt Act 2021 as well as publishing quarterly debt bulletin issues by the finance division.

"Are these documents used while taking borrowing decisions?"

He went on to express dissatisfaction that the finance division has published two quarterly bulletins until September last year and none after that.

Bhattacharya, however, is confident that Bangladesh would not become ensnared in a situation like Sri Lanka.

"The comparison is unreasonable. But surely there are lessons to learn from Sri Lanka."

Sri Lanka's major debt is tied to sovereign bonds, which Bangladesh has resisted so far.

"And the experts in Sri Lanka spoke against the Hambantota Port but the government did not pay heed."

PM quits after violent clashes

FROM PAGE 1
call(s) on the government to conduct a full investigation, including the arrest & prosecution of anyone who incited violence."

Mary Lawlor, UN special rapporteur, said she had heard "disturbing reports... of repression & disproportionate use of force against peaceful demonstrators who

are protesting against allegations of corruption & widespread impunity in Government".

After the Colombo violence, anti-government protesters who had been demonstrating peacefully since April 9 began retaliating across the island, despite the curfew.

MP Athukorala's car was surrounded by thousands

of people in the town of Nitambuwa as he returned home from the capital after the clashes.

He shot two people before fleeing to a nearby building and then "took his own life with his revolver", a police official told AFP by telephone.

Athukorala's bodyguard was also found dead at the scene, police said.

Angry mobs set alight the homes of at least three pro-Rajapaksa politicians, along with some nearby vehicles, while buses and trucks used by the government loyalists in and around Colombo were targeted for destruction.

Doctors at Colombo National Hospital intervened to rescue wounded government supporters,

with soldiers breaking open locks to open the gates.

"They may be murderers, but for us they are patients who must be treated first," a doctor shouted at a mob blocking the entrance to the emergency unit.

Mobs attacked the controversial Rajapaksa museum in the family's ancestral village in the deep south of the island

and razed it to the ground, police said. Two wax statues of the Rajapaksa parents were flattened.

On Friday, the government imposed a state of emergency granting the military sweeping powers to arrest and detain people, after trade unions brought the country to a virtual standstill.

Sri Lanka's crisis began after the coronavirus pandemic hammered vital income from tourism and remittances, starving it of foreign currency needed to pay off its debt and forcing the government to ban many imports.

This in turn has led to severe shortages, runaway inflation and lengthy power blackouts.

Overwhelming support for Nato bid among Finns: poll

AFP, Helsinki

More than three quarters of people in Finland now support joining Nato, a new poll showed yesterday, after opinion on the military alliance flipped following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

PHILIPPINES POLLS

Marcos Jr
poised for
triumph

REUTERS, Manila

Ferdinand Marcos Jr was headed for a stunning victory in the Philippines' presidential election yesterday with double the votes of his nearest rival, putting the son of the notorious late dictator on the cusp of a historic political fightback.

An unofficial tally by the election commission showed Marcos, 64, was close to passing the required 27.5 million votes to secure a majority in a presidential election for the first time since the end of his father's 1965-1986 rule.

The count makes almost certain a previously unthinkable return to power of the Marcos family, 36 years after its humiliating retreat into exile after being toppled in a "people power" uprising.

"I hope you won't get tired of trusting us," Marcos told supporters in remarks streamed on Facebook, a platform at the heart of his campaign strategy.

"We have plenty of things to do," he said, adding "an endeavour as large as this does not involve one person."

Marcos Jr had 26.3 million votes, more than double the 12.5 million votes for Leni Robredo, the vice president, with 81.8% of the eligible ballots counted, according to the unofficial Commission on Elections tally.

The Marcos family returned from exile in the 1990s and has since been a powerful force in politics. Marcos Jr has served as a governor, congressman and senator, his sister, Imee, is currently a senator and mother Imelda, widow of the late dictator, served four terms in the House of Representatives.



Russian Ambassador to Poland, Ambassador Sergey Andreev reacts after being covered with red paint during a protest for peace in Ukraine in Warsaw, Poland yesterday, on the day of the 77th anniversary of the 1945 Soviet victory against Nazi Germany.

PHOTO: AFP

Putin 'mirroring fascism'

Says UK defence secy, calls for court martial of Russian generals over handling of Ukraine war

AFP, London

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace yesterday accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of "mirroring fascism", as the country held an annual Victory Day parade on Moscow's Red Square.

Wallace, himself a former army officer, said in a speech that Putin's bemedalled generals should face court martial for their handling of the war in Ukraine.

He spoke after Putin defended Russia's offensive in Ukraine in an address to ranks of troops on Red Square for the May 9 holiday celebrating Soviet victory in World



War II.

Wallace said in an address at the National Army Museum in London that "through the invasion of Ukraine, Putin, his inner circle, his generals, are now mirroring fascism and tyranny 77 years ago".

He accused them of "repeating the

errors of the last century's totalitarian regimes".

"For them, and for Putin, there can be no Victory Day, only dishonour and surely defeat in Ukraine," he said.

Putin has justified Russia's military actions by saying they are carrying out "denazification" of the neighbouring country.

Wallace said he wanted to "call out the absurdity of Russian generals resplendent in their manicured parade uniforms, weighed down by the gold braid and glistening medals".

"Their top brass have failed their own rank-and-file to the extent that they should face court martial," he said.



Members of Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress take part in a protest against the recent price hike of petroleum products, in Hyderabad, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

EARTH'S DEGRADED LAND

COP15 talks open facing
'emergency'

AFP, Abidjan

Nine African heads of states attended yesterday's opening session of the UN's COP15 talks to fight desertification and land degradation that have devastated large swathes of the continent amid climate change.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 196 countries plus the European Union – is meeting for the first time in three years, in Abidjan.

Decades of unsustainable agriculture have depleted soils worldwide and accelerated both global warming and species loss, the UNCCD says, with an estimated 40 percent of land degraded globally.

"Our summit is taking place in the context of the climate emergency which harshly impacts our land management policies and exacerbates drought," Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara announced.

"Our people put great hope in us. We don't have the right to disappoint them.

"Let us act swiftly, let us act together to give new life to our lands," he urged.



Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari, Niger's Mohamed Bazoum and DR Congo's Felix Tshisekedi were among the continent's leaders listening to the Ivorian host.

French President Emmanuel Macron was to address the gathering by videoconference later in the day.

Ouattara presented the Abidjan Initiative to raise \$1.5 billion over five years to restore Ivory Coast's "degraded forest eco-systems" and promote sustainable soil management.

Ivory Coast is among numerous African nations badly affected by desertification. Forest cover has fallen by 80 percent since 1900 – from 16 million hectares to just 2.9 million last

year. "At the current rate, our forest could totally disappear by 2050," Ouattara warned.

COP15 runs until May 20 and is due to hear new proposals to try to halt the spread of desertification and deteriorating land quality.

The conference will pay particular attention to the restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030, future-proofing land use and drought resilience, the UNCCD said.

Debate is expected to include the question of the "Great Green Wall" scheme to restore 100 million hectares of arid land from Senegal in the west of Africa to Djibouti in the east by 2030.

2 Palestinians
shot dead in
West Bank

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian near the West Bank barrier and another was killed after infiltrating a Jewish settlement inside the occupied territory with a knife on Sunday, the Israeli army said, stoking worries a wider conflict may loom.

The incidents, along with the stabbing of a policeman in Jerusalem, came hours after Israeli forces caught two Palestinians who were suspected of sneaking into Israel and killing three people in the ultra-Orthodox Jewish town of Elad on Israel's Independence Day last Thursday.

COVID OUTBREAK

Beijing goes
quiet

AFP, Beijing

Millions of people in Beijing stayed home yesterday as China's capital tries to fend off a Covid-19 outbreak with creeping restrictions on movement.

Beijing residents fear they may soon find themselves in the grip of the same draconian measures that have trapped most of Shanghai's 25 million people at home for weeks.

Officials there have said the eastern powerhouse is winning its battle against the country's worst outbreak since the pandemic began.

Yet the Shanghai lockdown has intensified, causing outrage and rare protest in the last major economy still glued to a zero-Covid policy.

That policy has winded an economy which just months ago had been bouncing back from the pandemic. Customs data released yesterday said exports in April slumped to their lowest monthly rate since June 2020, as key supply chains became knotted by restrictions.

DEMOLITION DRIVE

Protests erupt
in Delhi's
Shaheen Bagh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Protests erupted in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh locality yesterday, which was a key centre of a prolonged agitation against the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019-20, as hundreds of people, including women, opposed the local civic body's anti-encroachment drive with bulldozers in the presence of heavy police deployment. Following the protest, the BJP-controlled South Delhi Municipal Corporation officials, who were part of the anti-encroachment drive, returned without conducting the demolition of encroachments, an official said. Protesters raised slogans against South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) as well as the federal government and demanded that the action should be stopped. Some women protesters also stood in front of bulldozers to prevent the exercise. Leaders from Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party and Congress also reached the spot and staged sit-ins.

MIGRANT CRISIS

Over 40 drown off
Western Sahara

AFP, Rabat

At least 44 migrants drowned on Sunday when their boat capsized off the coast of the Western Sahara, migrant aid agency Caminando Fronteras said. Twelve others survived the tragedy, which happened when the boat sunk off the coast of Cap Boujdour, the agency's Helena Maleno tweeted. The survivors were arrested, Maleno wrote. The bodies of seven victims were brought back to shore but the others could not be retrieved, she added. There was no immediate confirmation from authorities in Morocco. It was not clear where the boat was heading. Morocco is a key transit point on routes taken by migrants hoping for better lives in Europe.

বাংলাদেশ স্থলবন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ							
টিসিবি ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫							
www.bsbk.gov.bd							
বিভিন্ন স্থলবন্দরের নিরাপত্তা সেবার জন্য ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)							
১	স্বল্পবয়স/বিতাপ	নৌপরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়					
২	সংস্কার	বাংলাদেশ স্থলবন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ					
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার নাম ও জেলা	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ স্থলবন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা, জেলা-ঢাকা					
৪	কার্য/সেবার নাম	বিভিন্ন স্থলবন্দরে নিরাপত্তা সেবা প্রদান					
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৬	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি					
৭	ব্যাংক/ও অর্ডারের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ স্থলবন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের ব্যাংক ব্যাংক					
৮	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৩-০৫-২০২২ তারিখ অবশেষ চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত					
৯	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০২-০৫-২০২২ তারিখ মধ্য ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত					
১০	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০২-০৫-২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ২:০০ ঘটিকা					
১১	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের অধিকারের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ স্থলবন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, টিসিবি ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা					
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১৩	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান (অন্যান্য)	(খ) সহকারী পরিচালক (ট্রাফিক), বুদ্ধিমারী স্থলবন্দর, পাইয়া, লালমনিরহাট।					
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১৭	দরপত্রের মূল্য	০২					
১৮	দরপত্রের আনুমানিক অর্থ (সেরতবেগ)	০২					
১৯	নূনতম লিকুইড এয়েটে/শুপ সুবিধা/কার্যকরী মূল্য	০২					
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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Budget needs to address inflation, return stability

Spend more on essentials, less on extravagance

AS the government makes its final preparations for the upcoming budget, we would like to remind the authorities of the unique challenges that it needs to address utilising the next budget. As the country recovers from the pandemic-induced losses, inflation has become a major challenge due to various external and perhaps also internal factors. However, it appears that the government is planning to formulate its next budget with the same mindset that it did prior to the pandemic.

During the past two fiscal years, the budget size grew only in single digit, which was a departure from what had previously become the norm. This time around, the government is looking to return to a budgetary growth of double digits. According to a finance ministry report, the budget will seek to bring inflation under control, 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. Although we agree with all of these goals, we cannot help but remain sceptical as to how they would be achieved—particularly in light of past government failures, despite lofty promises.

For example, the government stimulus packages introduced for small and medium enterprises have largely failed to achieve their goals. Small and medium businesses struggled to access the benefits of these government schemes throughout the whole pandemic. As for the social security programmes for the poor, time and again we have seen corruption eat away at them—resulting in influential and people close to power benefitting from them, rather than the poor who really needed them.

Moreover, it would not be wrong to say that the country has not yet fully recovered from the damage done by the pandemic. As huge numbers of people lost their jobs and education had literally come to a halt, the budget should focus on generating more employment—which the government was struggling to do even before the pandemic—and budgetary allocation for education has to be substantial. Due to various external circumstances, the government's foreign exchange reserve has dwindled in recent times, and there are some concerns in terms of the growing national debt—and the high cost of servicing them. Therefore, the government needs to utilise whatever resources it has at its disposal more prudently—something that the government, again, has failed at in the past.

As highlighted by experts, it would be best for the government to remain cautious when it comes to budgetary allocations. When it comes to human development related expenses, the government should spend more. However, it should cut back on unnecessary spending such as foreign tours by government officials and car imports for government officials in order to lower the pressure on the country's reserves. The traditional procedure of wasting valuable funds needs to be abandoned. More focus should instead be placed at effectively implementing essential government programmes, rather than creating lofty plans that the government does not have the capacity to follow through with.

The worst place to live in Dhaka?

DSCC must solve the problems facing East Jurain's residents

THE condition which the residents of East Jurain, under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), have been living in for years is unbelievable. According to a report by this daily, round the year, waterlogging, mosquito infestation, dust pollution during dry season, unplanned urbanisation and the lack of a waste management system have made this area literally unliveable for its residents.

While many roads and houses of East Jurain remain submerged under filthy sewage water throughout the year—even without rain—dengue fever never leaves the neighbourhood as the waterlogged streets and abandoned homes have become the breeding ground of Aedes mosquitos. And while thick bouts of dust from uncontrolled construction works have made the air of the area unbreathable, the open drains have made it particularly risky for children, who have to play in the streets for lack of an open space or playground.

Reportedly, the waterlogging problem in the area started more than 20 years ago, but the authorities concerned did nothing to solve the problem. Rather, unplanned road construction and clogged sewerage systems have made the situation worse. According to East Jurain residents, DSCC has regularly been increasing the heights of the roads without considering the heights of the adjacent houses. While the residents believe that this is causing more waterlogging, the DSCC authorities claim that they have to do this to prevent runoff water from the nearby highways from flooding the area, as the main roads in the area are much higher than the roads going through this particular neighbourhood.

East Jurain is a classic example of what happens when unplanned urbanisation overtakes an area. Apparently, the entire neighbourhood has been developed by filling up many canals and low-lying floodplains adjacent to the DND embankment, which is the main reason for such persistent waterlogging. Without well-thought-out measures, these longstanding problems cannot be solved. And the responsibility to solve them falls primarily on DSCC authorities.

The DSCC, with help from other relevant authorities, must find a sustainable solution to the problems facing East Jurain. If the waterlogging problem can be solved, it will naturally eradicate the mosquito menace. And if the unnecessary road restoration work can be stopped, it will definitely lessen the air pollution in the area. Additionally, the DSCC must develop a proper waste management system and cover up the open drains. The residents of East Jurain are paying regular taxes to the DSCC; they definitely deserve a liveable neighbourhood in return.

Building social cohesion: How can education help?



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MANZOOR AHMED

FRENCH sociologist Emile Durkheim described social cohesion as organic solidarity arising from peoples' dependence on each other in a modern society. But is social cohesion—i.e., fostering solidarity, mutual trust, shared aspirations and acceptance of diversity in society—a matter of concern? Does education have a role in building social cohesion?

Three major parallel streams of education in Bangladesh divide the nation, entrench social and economic disparities, and stand in the way of building an equitable, inclusive and united nation.

Education Minister Dipu Moni, and Dean of General Education at Brac University, Samia Huq, have raised the curtain on the problem in a recent article ("Social Cohesion through Education," Whiteboard, March 2022): "In Bangladesh, different streams of educational institutions have emerged with particular histories and purposes," they write. "The class selection and characteristics of each type of institution turn the students into different types of citizens."

The mainstream Bangla-medium, government and government-assisted schools enrol the majority of Bangladeshi school-going students. The madrasa system, with one stream receiving government support and the other being an independent Qawmi stream, serves a substantial minority of students. A small elite section of society sends their children to English-medium proprietary schools.

One aspect of unfairness is the low quality of schools for the majority of children. This majority includes madrasa students (both in Alia and Qawmi madrasas), and most students in mainstream Bangla schools (excepting an elite enclave of special institutions such as cadet colleges and the highly-selective private Bangla schools). Students in the mushrooming low-quality, commercial English-medium "kindergartens" (which often include secondary level classes) are also among the deprived.

The three different streams also prevent building a common foundation of knowledge, shared experience and cultivation of common values among young people. Children study and live in different worlds from each other. Opportunities and life prospects disproportionately favour children attending English-medium schools and the elite enclave of Bangla-medium schools.

Schools cannot remedy all social divisions, but they can help mitigate them using a shared curriculum. At present, schools reinforce these divisions and extend them to the next generation.

Post-independence, the education policy report of the Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission envisioned a unified school system with a common core curriculum in a Bangla-medium public system. English-medium private schools and madrasas would be exceptions.

Madrasa education was to follow the common curriculum at the primary stage

This structure has suited the political and economic elite and, consequently, there has been little interest in rocking the boat.

When religion becomes a central tenet of the political agenda—as in Pakistan, and increasingly in India—it does not augur well for nation building or creating an equitable and inclusive education



Under the current divisive education system, children study and live in different worlds from each other, and many face unfairness and discrimination.

PHOTO: MARUF AREFIN MIM

and then become a vocational stream. The aim of madrasas would be to prepare people for religion-related occupations, rather than being a parallel system till university.

The Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission report was ignored by the military rulers after 1975. Madrasas—both Alia and Qawmi—grew rapidly in the 1980s, as did the proprietary English-medium schools. Both enjoyed government patronage and encouragement. Post-1990 democratic governments, both the BNP-led and the Awami League-led coalitions, found it difficult or undesirable to try reversing the trend.

The 2010 National Education Policy espoused the goal of the Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission of a unified public education system with equity and excellence. But it did not lay out specific guidelines for the major structural reform the system required to undo the three-way division that had become entrenched by then. Such a reversal called for major steps in financing, governance, curriculum development, pedagogy, teacher preparation and student assessment in the school system. An initiative of this scope and scale has not been taken.

The three major streams of education clearly parallel the larger divisions in society. The elite—representing business, political higher-ups, higher bureaucracy, and the higher echelons of the armed forces—patronise private English-medium schools. The middle and lower-middle mainstream send their children to government or government-supported Bangla-medium schools. The poor enrol their children in the Alia or Qawmi madrasas for reasons of affordability and/or due to religious motivation.

system to serve the nation's aspirations.

For example, the "safronisation" drive symbolising the Hindutva ideology of the current ruling regime in India has led to dropping the history of the Mughal period from the curriculum of secondary schools under the Central Secondary Education Board. Hindu mythology has been invoked to glorify the ancient scientific achievements of India.

In Bangladesh, we witnessed attempts to select and exclude literature and language content in school textbooks as a way of appeasing some religious groups, which was seen as an expedient in the electoral calculus. The growth of the two streams of madrasa as parallel systems rivalling the mainstream remains an intractable social cohesion challenge.

The questions raised are difficult and complex. The vision of the Qudrat-e-Khuda commission, with Bangabandhu's support, was to design an education system for independent Bangladesh guided by the pillars of the nation's constitution—democracy, nationalism, socialism, and secularism. This aim was derailed in 1975 and the pillars have become contested concepts in the last five decades.

The education minister and her co-writer have to be commended for flagging the challenge. And for posing the question: "How will teachers and learners engage with one another to live in pluralistic ways?"

The challenge for the policymakers and the citizenry is to reclaim the pillars of national ideology, render them a humane, progressive and contemporary meaning, and work on re-formulating educational purposes and practices based on these principles.

Bangladesh: A blueprint for sustainable supply chains



RMG NOTES

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

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

EVERYWHERE I go I hear the same maxim: sustainability is the only word forward for the fashion industry. Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) issues are at the forefront of investors' minds. I am not sure about that, as I think sometimes investors don't have the requisite knowledge to know what sustainability means when it comes to clothing production. That said, when the investment community begins to discuss these issues on a regular basis, we—as suppliers—must sit up and take notice.

Is sustainable clothing production even achievable? I certainly think it is possible to produce clothing with less environmental and social impact.

But what do we mean by the phrase "sustainable clothing production"? I'd like to explore what I believe this means and outline my own vision for how Bangladesh could become a blueprint for sustainable fashion value chains.

First, sustainable means more environmentally benign, in terms of our direct impact on the environment. This includes negative externalities, including the effluent our factories release. Is our effluent being treated properly before being released into the environment? Huge technological advances have been made in regards to effluent treatment in recent years, and many have been implemented

in Bangladesh. But there is always more we can do, and there is no reason why every single garment factory in Bangladesh should not be integrated with state-of-the-art effluent treatment processes.

The second area for Bangladesh to pioneer in is direct production processes. The use of dyes and chemicals has historically been linked with high environmental load in garment supply chains. But there's no need for this. The past few years have seen huge advancements in the development and use of safer, less toxic dyes and chemicals, and the use of completely natural dyes.

As always, cost is an issue. Safer, cleaner dyes and chemicals are often more expensive. I am generalising here, but the point is that when a new, best-in-class range is launched, it is often charged at a premium. But to achieve cleaner supply chains, we must invest in these areas.

The third area is energy and water saving techniques. Bangladesh has yet to shift to renewable energy to any great degree in garment production. For our garment industry to shift to renewable energy, we need infrastructural investment at the national level. While renewable energy in Bangladesh is slowly picking up pace, its share in the total energy mix remains negligible. A recent report showed that, for 2020, wind and solar account for just three percent of the local electricity production.

We can and must change this picture. ESG investors are heavily focused on green investment. This has huge ramifications for fashion supply chains, and renewable energy is an integral part of this. So, our government and energy companies need to now be setting the most ambitious targets possible to boost renewable energy's share in our overall energy mix.

Bangladesh can also lead the way in terms of the actual clothing we produce. For every major fashion retailer, recycling and circularity are the main goals right now. How can we support our customers on this journey? For this, Bangladesh needs to invest in textile recycling. Why can't we aim to become a global hub for new textile recycling technologies? Clothing is our lifeblood. And since we already have so much manufacturing infrastructure in place, why not take advantage of it to move more heavily into textile recycling—before a competitor does?

Quality and durability will likely become key issues in clothing production moving forward. There is an argument that our industry should focus on quality, not quantity, if it wishes to improve its environmental footprint. We have heavily focused on cotton clothing throughout the history of our garment industry, but perhaps we need to broaden the amount of other fibres used in clothing, including viscose, wool and other fibres.

Finally, the other side of sustainability is a social one. As well as becoming a leader on environmental issues, Bangladesh can show the world that working in a garment factory does not have to be a job with poverty pay, carried out in poor conditions with no career prospects. We should be aspiring to do much more for garment workers. There is still a huge room for improvement in garment pay and conditions, and supply chain costs would not have to increase hugely to accommodate these gains.

We've spent two decades talking about garment worker pay, yet progress has been painfully slow. Bangladesh can lead the way here, with factory owners, unions, rights groups and workers implementing a process of continuous improvement.

Sustainable means more environmentally benign, in terms of our direct impact on the environment. This includes negative externalities, including the effluent our factories release.

Alleged respect for Mostaq in DU: A politico-legal post-mortem



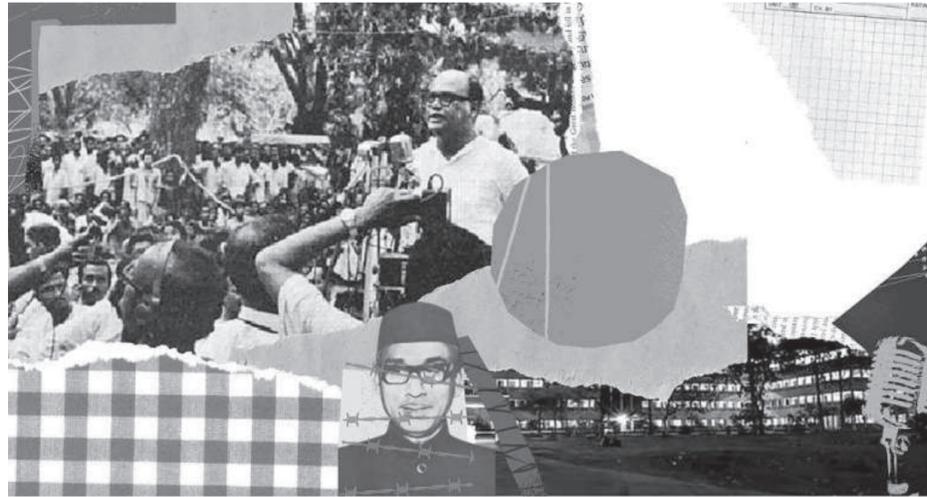
M RAFIQUUL ISLAM

M Rafiqul Islam is Emeritus Professor of Law at Macquarie University, Australia.

THE conflict between political correctness and incorrectness is as old as the history of political discourse itself. Political correctness refers to statements/opinions that are made in a politically acceptable manner; it requires self-censorship to avoid offending a prevailing socio-political expectation. Political incorrectness, on the other hand, refers to statements/opinions that may be perceived as offensive or disrespectful because they are not in conformity with the prevailing socio-political expectation. Recently, such a politically incorrect expression has been made in Bangladesh which assaulted the conscience and sense of propriety of many.

It followed Dhaka University's celebration of the historic Mujibnagar Day on April 17, 2022, where Professor Dr Md Rahmat Ullah gave a speech on the history of the provisional government of Bangladesh. He paid respect to the government, which included Khondaker Mostaq Ahmad, who later came to be known as "Khuni Mostaq" for his heinous role in the killing of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members. The alleged tribute to Mostaq, understandably, outraged many including the DU authority, which suspended Rahmat Ullah as Dean of the Law Faculty and relieved him of all academic and administrative responsibilities. The backlash and consequence of his politically incorrect respect are ongoing. The purpose of this writing is to approach the issue from a politico-legal point of view to facilitate an informed discussion.

The political history of Bangladesh shows Mostaq as one of the leading Awami Leaguers which had earned him the post of the foreign minister in the provisional government. The fact remains that Bangabandhu himself rewarded him by appointing him as the minister of land revenue on January 12, 1972, and as the minister of commerce on March 16, 1973. Any historical account of the provisional government inevitably includes Mostaq, and any "respect" offered to the government would also go to Mostaq. Prior to mid-August 1975, no one knew for sure that Mostaq would be involved in the killing of Bangabandhu. He deserves our utmost aversion and antipathy



▲ COLLAGE: TEENI AND TUNI

for his role as a traitor in 1975, which cannot expunge him from the history of the provisional government, however. Rahmat Ullah mentioned Mostaq's name not individually but together with other ministers of that government (the DU VC also acknowledged it). He did not create or distort history; he merely presented an undeniable historical fact. After 50 years of our independence, we must nourish our political stamina and wisdom to tolerate politically incorrect expressions.

However, any hint of respect for Mostaq after 1975 is certainly upsetting. Rahmat Ullah also acknowledged his mistake and apologised unconditionally. The VC, while talking to *The Daily Star*, also mentioned expunging the alleged segment. That, one can argue, should have been the end of the matter. But apologies and expunging have failed to prevent Professor Rahmat Ullah's plight from dragging on. This continuation is not to the wonderment of those who perceive an ulterior motive in a polarised political culture marked by conflicts between rival political groups of the ruling party.

Bangladesh has no law implicating anyone for making politically incorrect statements, which may be unpopular but not necessarily a wrongful act. Any law prohibiting political incorrectness would violate the right to freedom of speech as enshrined in the Constitution (Art. 39).

It should be mentioned that the positions of deanship are elected, and the DU authority cannot remove or suspend elected representatives unless they violate the university rules. The deanship is an important executive position under the

Dhaka University Order 1973 (ss 9, 17). Being elected (s 27), the deanship is not subject to the approval/endorsement of the syndicate. This Order contains no specific provision for the suspension of deans. According to the Order's First Statute, the VC can appoint an acting dean for a period not exceeding 90 days only in the absence of the elected dean (s 17:2). The suspension of an elected dean while he is present and performing duties contradicts the Dhaka University Order. The Dhaka University Act 1973 provides that "the service conditions shall be determined without any prejudice to the freedom of the teacher or officer to hold any political views" (Art. 56:2). And "A teacher or officer of the University may be dismissed only on grounds of moral turpitude or inefficiency, but no such teacher or officer shall be dismissed unless an enquiry into the charges of moral turpitude or inefficiency is held by an Enquiry Committee on which the teacher or the officer may be represented by a person nominated by him/her" (Art. 56:3).

Did Rahmat Ullah's expression constitute "moral turpitude" or

"inefficiency" under the DU Act? In the context of university teachers, moral turpitude must relate to academic misconduct and lack of professional integrity. However passionately and widely interpreted, political incorrectness goes beyond the ambit of moral turpitude. Rahmat Ullah's expression is totally unrelated to his academic responsibilities and the position he holds. No enquiry committee was commissioned before his suspension either. The syndicate, on April 20, 2022, established an enquiry committee which is yet to meet but punitive sanction was imposed without an adverse finding of the committee anyway—a gross procedural injustice. Suspending him from academic and administrative responsibilities beyond the DU Act-specified grounds thus appears as *ultra vires* and suffers from a legitimacy crisis.

The original transcript of the speech would have helped understand his actual narratives and contextuality. Nowhere is this document to be found yet. Does it exist? If it does, it needs to be made available for an impartial reading of the underlying contesting accounts. If it does not, media versions of the event or the DU account are just hearsay. The syndicate does not mention that it has considered the original transcript in arriving at its suspension decision. Were the reporting journalists physically present at the venue to cover the event? If they were not, where did they derive the information from? If their reports are based on someone's personal account delivered to them, the probative value of such an account is questionable. Anyone suffering from promotional jealousy can purposefully engineer or exaggerate their own account to achieve vested interests.

Persecuting a university academic for his politically incorrect expression is likely to have far-reaching implications. The opportunistic capitalisation of intra-party issues like this, if allowed to continue unabated, would maximise selfish interests and help sustain an environment in which people's freedom of expression are at risk. This is not how politically incorrect expressions should be dealt with in a democratic society.

Deans are elected, and the DU authority cannot remove or suspend elected representatives unless they violate the university rules.

BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



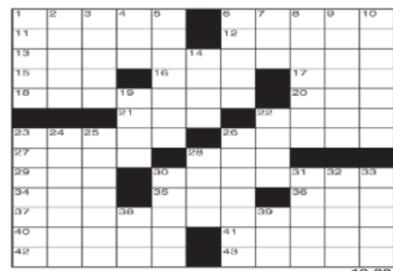
BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Gerbil homes
6 Preclude
11 Be of one mind
12 Cream of the crop
13 Make some travel plans
15 Form 1040 org.
16 Hawaii's Mauna
—
17 Boxing's Muhammad
18 In a spiteful way
20 Signing need
21 Curtain holder
22 Self-referential
23 Turn red, maybe
26 Art inspirers
27 Historic times
- 29 Swindle
30 Prepared to play
34 Plus
35 "... man — mouse?"
36 Much of N. Amer.
37 Appear untidy
40 Sensational
41 Calls out
42 Sports figures opener
43 Carmaker Ford
- DOWN**
1 Plane part
2 Greek market-place
3 Disgusting
4 "It's a mouse!"
5 Marine mammal
- 6 Hold up
7 Yale student
8 Lummoxes
9 Jock
10 Eye parts
14 Do origami
19 "— bien!"
22 Remote button
23 Brings to mind
24 Resolve
25 Famed box opener
26 King or queen
28 Lawn material
30 Marsh croakers
31 Became entrenched
32 Theater worker
33 Singer Cline
38 Young fox
39 Fuming feeling



SUNDAY'S ANSWERS



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
Office of the Project Director
Preparation of Comprehensive Transport Master Plan for Narayanganj and Gazipur City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban (Level-12), Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.

Memo: 35.02.0000.012.14.008.2022-61 Date: 09.05.2022

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Technical Consultant (Individual)

1. Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) is the Transport Planning and Coordination Authority of greater Dhaka. It has prepared the Transport Master Plan of Dhaka named as Strategic Transport Plan (STP) (revised and modified in 2015). Now, DTCA like to hire two (02) Technical Consultant (Individual) for Comprehensive Transport Master Plan for Narayanganj and Gazipur City Corporation Project whose scope of services and qualifications in brief are given below:

Post	Brief Scope of Tasks/Service	Qualification and Experience
Technical Consultant (Individual) (15 Man-months) (2 Nos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the Project Director and Project Manager and have to perform technical Support, technical analysis, GIS mapping, data collection and presentation, report production and related activities to project. Assist the Project Director for preparation of Master Plan related works and prepare necessary documents. Assist the Project Director to take over the relevant documents prepared by consulting firm according to ToR. Assist the Project Director to take over the transport modelling data, survey data, field verification and other related works. Assist to coordinate with other relevant Transport Agencies for information collection, project updates, drawing collections. Provide administrative support for maintaining the Technical schedule, arranging meetings, translating language, and providing logistical and general office support. Attend selected meetings and take notes or assist with presentations; and Provide such support to officials of the project as may from time to time be required. Assist the Project Director in procurement related works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have bachelor degree in Civil Engineering/Urban planning or equivalent (with major in transport) or Masters in Transport Planning/Engineering with 5 Years experiences in the relevant field. Have an understanding of principal urban transport issues, particularly public transport and road traffic management issues, in major cities in Bangladesh and be prepared to work with independence to conduct research. Have advanced abilities to obtain and display geographical and other data with high presentation standards. Have strong skills of personal organization and administrative abilities. Have high standards of spoken and written in English.

- Detail scope of services and qualifications are provided in Request for Application (RFA), which may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during normal office hours.
- Interested applicants are requested to submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the application forms provided in RFA.
- The consultant will be selected in accordance with Public Procurement Rules (PPR) 2008.
- It is expected that the service will commence in June 2022 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Expressions of Interest (EoI) for the above position must be delivered in sealed envelope to the address of the Project Director on or before 23 May 2022 up to 4:00 PM. The envelopes must be clearly marked "EoI for Technical Consultant (Individual)".
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EoIs.

Mizanur Rahman
09/05/2022
(Md. Mizanur Rahman)

Project Director
Preparation of Comprehensive Transport Master Plan for Narayanganj and Gazipur City Corporation Project
Phone no: 01737535321
mizanurrahman.buet07@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Consulting Services – Individual Consultant Selection (Open; National)

Country: Bangladesh
Name Of Project: Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE): Reintegration of Returning Migrants (P174085)
Credit No: IDA-6841 BD
Assignment Title: Selection of Procurement Specialist (1 No.)
Reference No.: 49.04.0000.005.05.032.2020(Part-2)-10, Date: 08 May, 2022

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE): Reintegration of Returning Migrants (P174085) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Responsibilities/Accountabilities of Procurement Specialist includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Continually update procurement plan for goods, works, and services under the project as and when needed (at least quarterly) through the World Bank's online system- Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement (STEP)
- Upload and update procurement transactions using STEP
- Prepare Request for Expression of Interest (REOI), Invitation for Bids (IFB), Invitation for Prequalification (IFP), Bidding Document, Request for Proposals (RFP), and Pre-Bid Meeting Minutes as per World Bank Procurement Regulations
- Guide and conduct procurement in accordance with "World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, (November 2020)"
- Conduct procurement activities under the project using CPTU's e-GP Portal as applicable
- Participating as member of the bid/proposal evaluation committee in evaluation of bids/proposals including following up with Technical Evaluation Committees, compiling and consolidating bid/proposal evaluation reports prepared by the bid evaluation committee before submission to the approving authorities.
- Monitoring the procurement processes to ensure compliance with the approved procurement plan and preparing procurement progress reports on the progress of each procurement package, identifying any bottlenecks and recommending measures for resolution. Submitting monthly, semi-annual, and annual progress reports and other required reports for the Government.
- Guiding and advising the concerned government officials involved with procurement in ensuring that all procurement financed under RAISE project is carried out according to the applicable World Bank Procurement Regulations.
- Reviewing and anticipating potential issues on procurement or any other issues and bringing to the attention of the PD
- Monitoring and keeping track of the deliverables during implementation of goods/works/consultant contracts.
- Building capacity and transferring knowledge to GoB and local staff on procurement by providing regular structured/classroom and hands-on/practical training to a specified number of government staff to be designated by WEWB, with the objective that the specified staff acquire adequate procurement knowledge and hands-on experience to be able to independently carry out the routine procurement tasks by the end of the consultant's contract.
- Support PMU in preparation of necessary documentation and reports and for procurement-related correspondence with the World Bank
- Support PMU to handle and resolve procurement-related complaints
- Closely monitor procurement activities according to the Procurement Plan timeline and the procurement approval process of the Government and take necessary measures or provide suggestions to the Project Director if there is any deviation or delay in the process
- Monitoring and keeping track of the deliverables during implementation of goods/works/consultant contracts.
- Assist in preparing TORs and associated documents as appropriate
- Participate in site visits and report on physical progress, if required
- Any other task assigned by the Project Director/project management as and when required

Deliverables

The key deliverables of the PS will be:

- Complete and regularly updated Procurement Plans.
- Procurement and contract documents (REOI, RFQ, RFP, bidding documents, Contracts etc.)
- Training program and material for procurement training of specified number of government staff designated by WEWB, quarterly reports on the trainings provided by the consultant and the learning progress of each staff. Consultant's performance at the end of the contract will include an assessment of the knowledge and capability of the designated government officials for independently carrying out the routine procurement tasks by the end of the consultant's contract.
- Monthly, semi-annual, and annual procurement progress reports based on format to be agreed with WEWB in consultation World Bank.
- Quarterly Monitoring reports of deliverables of works, goods and consulting services contracts (progress, quality, completion etc.)
- Procurement documentation and records are systematically maintained so as to be readily available for review and audit.

Place of work: Project office located at Dhaka; however, the consultant needs to do field visits in different districts; if required.

Duration of employment: 25 months, June, 2022 to June, 2024. Depending on the need of the client and satisfactory performance of the specialist.

Commencement of the Service: 01 June 2022 (Indicative)

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found in the website: www.wewb.gov.bd
"Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE): Reintegration of Returning Migrants" Project under the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) is now invites eligible "Consultants" to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The short listing criteria are: Educational qualification, experience (general & specific) and knowledge in procurement.

A Consultant will be selected through the 'Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants' method in accordance with World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, Revised November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations").

The Procurement Regulations can be viewed at the World Bank's external website:

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/178331533065871195-0290022020/original/ProcurementRegulations.pdf>

The attention of interested Consultants is drawing particular to:

- Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the Procurement Regulations setting forth the World Bank's policy on Conflict of Interest, and
- Section III, paragraphs, 3.21-3.24 of the Procurement Regulations setting forth the World Bank's policy on Eligibility, including the specific pre-requisite conditions to be met for the eligibility, on exceptional basis, of Government officials and civil servants of the Borrower's country under consulting contracts in the Borrower's country.

Individuals who are currently working as procurement consultants on another World Bank-financed project may also compete in this selection process, but if they are selected they will be required before signing the proposed contract to provide documentary evidence of having satisfactorily complied with their existing contract's requirements with respect to early termination of the contract by the consultant, including advance notice period, to avoid disruption in implementation of that project.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours].

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) must be delivered in a written form (hard copy)/E-mail to the address below by 15:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time on 23 May, 2022.



Md. Abdul Wadud
Project Director

Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE):

Reintegration of Returning Migrants (P174085)
Wage Earners' Welfare Board (Implementing Agency)
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban
71-72, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

E-mail: pdrise6841@gmail.com, web: www.wewb.gov.bd

Phone: +8802 49354283

GD-920

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Consulting Services – Individual Consultant Selection (Open; National)

Country: Bangladesh
Name Of Project: Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE): Reintegration of Returning Migrants (P174085)
Credit No: IDA-6841 BD
Assignment Title: Selection of Senior Financial Management Specialist (1 No.)
Reference No.: 49.04.0000.005.05.032.2020(Part-2)-11, Date: 08 May, 2022

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE): Reintegration of Returning Migrants (P174085) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Responsibilities/Accountabilities of Financial Management Specialist includes, but not limited to, the following:

As part of their duties, the Senior Financial Management Specialist will assist the Project Management Unit (PMU) to:

- Maintain register, books, and other records;
- Facilitate classification and analysis of financial information;
- Check and verify bills and cheques;
- Prepare quarterly financial reports for GoB and quarterly Interim Unaudited Financial Reports for the World Bank
- Prepare documents for timely replenishment of IDA funds;
- Manage project expenditures, ensuring full compliance with project rules and procedures;
- Assist in preparation of annual budgets, revised budgets, and financial plans, as well as annual and quarterly disbursement forecasts;
- Review receivables and payables and ensure prompt settlement of payables to the project's vendors and contractors;
- Operationalize computerized accounting system for the project for accurate and timely management of financial resources;
- Prepare disbursement forecast on a monthly/quarterly/yearly basis for the project;
- Attend entry and exit meetings with FAPAD auditors, facilitate timely completion of audits by arranging timely submission of annual financial statement in appropriate format, supply of information and documents responding to queries, initiate actions for holding tripartite meetings and coordinating with various units of PMU in meeting audit objections;
- Liaise with Accounts Officer (GOB) and both external and internal auditors for facilitating the smooth implementation of the project activities.
- Any other task assigned by the Project Management Unit.

Qualification and Experience Requirements:

a. Academic:

- Post-graduation in Accounting/Finance/Commerce/MBA or Post-graduation with Accounting credibility;
- Professional accounting qualification such as CA/CMA/ACCA/FCA/FCMA, etc. are preferable;

b. Experience:

- At least 07 (Seven) years of working experience as a Senior Financial Management Specialist in a public/autonomous/international organization.
- Candidates having 05 (Five) years of working experience as a Financial Management Specialist in similar World Bank aided projects and/or other donor agency projects/programs will be given priority.
- Extensive knowledge of Government/Foreign aided budgeting process, fund release, and reporting requirements;
- Extensive knowledge of IDA's financial management and disbursement procedures;
- Conversant with computerized account system;
- Ability to train project staff on financial management system;
- Excellent spoken and written Bengali and English skills and computer proficiency. Experience with Excel is strongly recommended.

Deliverables

The key deliverables of the PC will be:

- Updated financial accounts and register
- Quarterly financial reports
- Quarterly disbursement forecasts
- Processed withdrawal applications to the World Bank
- Documentation related to FAPAD audits

Duration of Employment and Place of Work:

- For period- June, 2022 to July 2024. Depending on the need of the client and satisfactory performance of the specialist, the contract period may be extended through mutual agreement.
- Duty Station: Head office located at Wage Earners' Welfare Board, Project Office, Probashi Kallyan Bhaban, 71-72, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka-1000.

Commencement of the Service: 01 June 2022 (Indicative)

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found in the website: www.wewb.gov.bd

Selection Method:

A Consultant will be selected through the 'Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants' method in accordance with World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, Revised November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"). The Procurement Regulations can be viewed at the World Bank's external website:

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The attention of interested Consultants is drawn in particular to:

- Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the Procurement Regulations setting forth the World Bank's policy on Conflict of Interest, and
- Section III, paragraphs, 3.21-3.24 of the Procurement Regulations setting forth the World Bank's policy on Eligibility, including the specific pre-requisite conditions to be met for the eligibility, on exceptional basis, of Government officials and civil servants of the Borrower's country under consulting contracts in the Borrower's country.

Individuals who are currently working as procurement consultants on another World Bank-financed project may also compete in this selection process, but if they are selected they will be required before signing the proposed contract to provide documentary evidence of having satisfactorily complied with their existing contract's requirements with respect to early termination of the contract by the consultant, including advance notice period, to avoid disruption in implementation of that project.

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Md. Abdul Wadud
Project Director

Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE):

Reintegration of Returning Migrants (P174085)
Wage Earners' Welfare Board (Implementing Agency)
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban
71-72, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

E-mail: pdrise6841@gmail.com, web: www.wewb.gov.bd

Phone: +8802 49354283

GD-919

Nawaz wants to take positives back to SL

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka's assistant coach Naveed Nawaz said his team wants to bring good tidings from Bangladesh to his country, which is going through severe economic and political crisis.

The former head coach of Bangladesh's U-19 World Cup winning team is currently touring Bangladesh for a two-match Test series between the two nations.

When asked about the political and economic turmoil in Sri Lanka, Nawaz said he hoped they could take some good news back.

"You can't see many positives at the moment. It will be very good for us to take some positives back home. We want to keep inspiring the young generation of the country."

"I think it is a great opportunity to put our name in international news. Playing at home, we have a good white-ball team as well. So hopefully the boys will do well and bring



Bangladesh batter Tamim Iqbal (L) has a friendly chat with batting coach Jamie Siddons after they walk back following a training session at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday ahead of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Shanto looking to 'set a high standard'

Having witnessed the ups and downs at the budding stage of his career, Najmul Hossain Shanto has been able to show a fair bit of consistency for Bangladesh in Test format recently. The 23-year-old, who is expected to play a vital role on the Tigers' batting front in the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, shared how he views his game as he spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin during an exclusive interview, the excerpts of which are as follows:

some positive news to the country," the former Sri Lanka batter added.

Meanwhile, Nawaz also praised two of his former pupils of the U-19 World Cup winning team - Shoriful Islam and Mahmudul Hasan Joy, who are both part of the senior team now.

"I think they are skilled enough to handle any situation, despite me being in the other dressing room."

"That does not mean anything to them because they have played and succeeded in international cricket already and in the future, they will have to go to many countries where they have to adapt, adjust and play international cricket," Naveed pointed to their impact and performances so far in their careers.

"I think those boys are really good players, two of them. One day they are going to be legends of Bangladesh."

The Daily Star (DS): You have managed to come back and showed glimpses of your potential in Tests recently despite the early setbacks. How do you see your role as a batter?

Najmul Hossain (NH): Alhamdulillah, I'm enjoying my cricket. But initially in my career, I struggled since I could only play just three Tests in the first three years. Since then, I recovered and was able to perform in the last ten to twelve Tests consistently.

I won't say that I'm playing really well but I feel that I can play a lot better, considering my ability to score big knocks. I hope to get the opportunity to regularly play more matches in the coming days, so that my performance graph improves.

DS: What areas have you worked on as a batter after being dropped from the national team?

NH: Well, my main challenge was to remain mentally strong. I used to visualise my batting and tried to remain honest to rectify my mistakes. Also, I repeatedly worked on both the technical and mental side of it. I never took it as pressure but thought of utilising my next opportunity to the fullest.

I've worked with our coach Sohel Islam after I was unable to perform in the T20 format and had a tough time in the first two or three editions of the BPL. He motivated me and [Khaled Mahmud] Sujon sir was



always there to guide me as a player.

DS: Do you favour the Test format or do you aim to evolve as a cross-format batter?

NH: Obviously my focus at the moment is completely on the upcoming Sri Lanka Test series. The best thing is that I'm also in the ODI squad although I'm yet to get an opportunity to play.

However, when I do, I think my confidence in the longest format would help me to flourish in the white-ball cricket. Fortunately, I've been among runs

consistently in the domestic circuit of late.

DS: As a number three batter, how do you plan to readjust to conditions at home against Sri Lanka following the seaming and bouncy tracks in South Africa?

NH: Test cricket is tough cricket, where you need to be on your toes and keep improving every day. As a number three batter, it's important to quickly adapt to different conditions.

During training sessions, we try to simulate scenarios while keeping the conditions and the nature of surfaces in mind. Against Sri Lanka, I think spin could be a big challenge, so I've begun working on it already. Since I'm playing Tests regularly, it's now gradually becoming easier for me to cope.

DS: A question mark always hovers over the temperament of our batters, especially in Test cricket.

NH: Since I bat at number three, there are occasions where we lose a few early wickets but I generally don't come out of my natural game. I stick to my game plan but yes, at times you need to be patient and buy your time as a batter according to what situation demands.

They say the best batter on the team should bat at number three so I'm looking to set such a high standard for myself.

Haaland Man City-bound?

REUTERS, Berlin

Borussia Dortmund top striker Erling Haaland is close to sealing a transfer deal with Manchester City and a move to the lucrative Premier League, several German media reported on Monday.

Haaland is among the hottest transfer prospects this summer with the Norwegian 21-year-old having scored 61 goals in 66 league games for the Ruhr valley club since joining them in early 2020.

Several top clubs including Real Madrid, Paris St Germain and City, among others, have been linked with the player at times.

Sky Germany, which holds the rights to the Bundesliga, reported on Monday the player had informed the club of his wish to leave and that Manchester City had contacted the club over the player's release clause.

Several other media, including Bild newspaper and Kicker magazine, citing unnamed sources, also said a deal could be finalised in the coming days.

The club did not comment on the matter on Monday.



Ruman back in form

SPORTS REPORTER

Ruman Sana moved into the final of men's recurve individual event for the first time in nearly three years and after nine international tournaments when the ace archer beat Sadikov Amir Khan of Uzbekistan in the semifinal of Asia Cup Stage 2 in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq yesterday.

Though Ruman dropped sets in the third round and the quarterfinals, the archer from Khulna did not give Amir Khan no space in the semifinal, beating the Uzbek opponent 28-27, 29-28 and 28-26 to set up the final clash against Chauhan Mrinal of India on May 11.

Ruman, who also qualified for men's recurve team event in the ongoing tournament, last played in a recurve individual final in Archery Asia Cup Stage-3 in September, 2019 where he eventually won gold with a 7-3 sets victory over Zhenqi Shi of China in the Philippines.

"I feel really happy and can't express myself in word as I have advanced to the final after a long time," Ruman said. "Though I have played in final of team events a few times, this is the first time I reached individual final after two years [actually 33 months] and it is a big achievement for me."

"I think my experience is better than the other finalist [Chouhan Mrinal] and it depends how I perform on the day, but I will try to give my best to win the gold medal," Ruman said.



The future of tennis is here

REUTERS

Men's tennis has waited more than a decade for a player to emerge with the game and mental fortitude to shake up the 'Big Three' establishment.

On Sunday, Carlos Alcaraz signalled the wait may finally be over as he captured his fourth ATP title of the season at the Madrid Open and affirmed himself as a genuine threat for the French Open title.

The 19-year-old Spaniard thrashed Alex Zverev 6-3, 6-1 in the claycourt final, having already toppled 'Big Three' titans Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic in a watershed week.

If Alcaraz is the future of men's tennis, the future is already here.

"Right now I'm trying to just assimilate everything that I am going through," Alcaraz told reporters.

"This year ... people are going to think that I'm going to be one of the favourites to win Roland Garros. I don't have it as tension, I have it as a motivation."

"I really look forward to going to Paris, to fight for the Grand Slam, and I am really looking forward to show my great level in a Grand Slam, too."

Outside the top 100 a year ago, Alcaraz is now ranked sixth, having torn up the record books this season. In a few dizzying days in

Madrid, he set another slew of benchmarks.

He became the tournament's youngest champion and the first player to beat both 21-times Grand Slam champion Nadal and world number one Djokovic at the same claycourt event.

Having won at Miami a month ago, Alcaraz is now the second youngest player to win two ATP 1000 titles, headed only by compatriot Nadal, who was 18 when he captured his second.

While Alcaraz would appear a natural successor to his countryman Nadal he regards his game more closely aligned with that of Roger Federer, the other member of the 'Big Three'.

It means a commitment to his attacking weapons but also a faith in his defence and ability to problem-solve through tricky situations.

The world's top players have bought into the Alcaraz hype, with a string of them, including Zverev, describing him as "the best player in the world right now", less than two weeks out from the French Open.

Alcaraz, however, has shown only humility and stuck to a mantra of learning from his defeats. "Look at Rafa, Djokovic, Federer, all of them improve and they have things to improve," said Alcaraz.

"That's why they are so good, and that's why they are so much time up there, because they don't stop. That's what I want to do."



AC Milan midfielder Sandro Tonali races in celebration after scoring one of his two goals during a 3-1 win against Hellas Verona in their Serie A fixture at the Stadio Marc'Antonio Bentegodi on Sunday. The brace from the birthday boy moved Milan one step closer to their first Serie A title in 11 years as they lead city rivals Inter Milan by two points, with two rounds of matches left.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Budget carrier Flynas to ferry hajj pilgrims

Biman, Saudia duopoly ends this year

RASHIDUL HASAN

After 10 long years, a third airlines -- Saudi Arabian budget carrier Flynas -- has been granted permission to transport Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims to and from the kingdom.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) in a letter on Friday gave the go-ahead, breaking the duopoly of hajj passenger transport business of Biman and Saudia.

Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), a platform of over 1,500 private hajj operators and different other platforms, had long been demanding more airlines be allowed as the current system was costing the pilgrims higher airfares.

Biman and Saudia were the only two airlines transporting hajj pilgrims from Dhaka since 2012 as per a hajj agreement signed between the two countries that year.

Since then, the two companies have enjoyed the duopoly, charging pilgrims high airfares, said leaders of HAAB and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB).

"The price of air tickets will drop due to competition from more than two airlines," ATAB President SN Manzur Murshed told The Daily Star.

The government has fixed this year's hajj airfare at Tk 1.40 lakh per person, up from Tk 1.28 lakh in 2019.

HAAB leaders said they were happy that the

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The Directorate of National Consumers' Rights Protection, during a raid, found 15,000 litres of illegally stockpiled soybean oil at a shop in Chattogram's Pahartali. The oil was later sold in cartons for retailers and stray bottles for consumers at Tk 150 per litre under the directorate's supervision. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

TIB ON DRAFT DATA PROTECTION ACT

Law may enable govt actors to control data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft data protection act empowers certain government actors with unbridled power to control the personal data of citizens, said TIB.

Transparency International Bangladesh analysed the law and pointed out several provisions that will lead to this.

The Digital Security Agency has been given limitless power in a manner that is contradictory to the constitution, said Sheikh Manjur-e-Alam, TIB's director of communications, at a virtual discussion

yesterday.

The director general of the Digital Security Agency will be considered the person in charge of overseeing the enforcement of the law.

In addition, the DG cannot be held accountable if any mishaps happen in "good faith".

"The police have been empowered to investigate these violations, but it [the law] does not take into account if the police have the capacity to investigate these offences," said Alam.

Furthermore, the law does not contain

any provisions regarding how to seek legal redress in case of abuse of power.

These, combined with the provision that allows the DG to give any "data controller" an exemption from following the law, ring an ominous bell, the speakers said.

TIB said this is extremely concerning, and giving such blanket power to the DG is not appropriate.

The organisation also said several provisions in the law can be susceptible to abuse or misuse unless relevant guidelines are passed extrapolating on their use.

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Two AL men shot in clash with LDP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Two ruling Awami League men were shot allegedly by Liberal Democratic Party's General Secretary Redwan Ahmed in Cumilla's Chandina upazila yesterday.

Redwan was arrested shortly after the incident and his firearms were seized.

The incident occurred following tensions over holding programmes by both parties on the same venue at the same time.

The injured are Jony Sarker, 27, a Dhaka University student and member of Chandina municipality Chhatra League, and Nazmul Islam Nayem, 28, member of Chandina upazila Swechhasebak League.

Witnesses and police said both AL and LDP men organised programmes at the auditorium of Redwan Ahmed Degree College yesterday afternoon.

As both groups began gathering at the college around 3:00pm, they chanted slogans that triggered tensions.

A few minutes later, Redwan arrived on an SUV that was chased by AL men.

At one stage, Redwan fired his gun twice from the window of his car, leaving the two injured, said witnesses.

He then rushed to Chandina Police Station to take shelter. He was, however arrested there later, said police.

"During primary investigation, we found evidence that he shot two people. That is why we have arrested him," said M Tanvir Ahmed, additional superintendent of Cumilla police.

The injured were rushed to Chandina upazila health complex, where doctors said one victim was shot in the hand and one in the leg. Both were moved to Cumilla Medical College Hospital after primary treatment.

Redwan was elected MP for Cumilla-7 in the 2001 election under BNP. He later joined LDP.

Meanwhile, LDP President Col (retd) Oli Ahmad condemned "the attack on Redwan Ahmed's car" and demanded that the attackers be punished. He also sought Redwan's immediate release.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

The Karnaphuli is ravaged by pollution due to mindless dumping of household and industrial waste every day. If it were not a tidal river, it would have died long ago, say environmentalists. Like the Karnaphuli, many rivers across the country are in their death throes, but the authorities concerned seem to remain oblivious.

Russia defending 'motherland'

Says Putin, blames West for war in Ukraine; heavy shelling reported in eastern Luhansk

AGENCIES

President Vladimir Putin yesterday insisted Russia was defending the "motherland" by its war in Ukraine, as Moscow staged a show of force at a military parade marking the 1945 victory over Nazi Germany.

Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky sought, however, to undercut his Russian rival's display



of might, saying Kyiv would not allow Moscow to appropriate the Soviet Union's triumph in World War II. Putin blamed the West and Ukraine for today's conflict, telling thousands of troops in Moscow's Red Square that Russia faced an "absolutely unacceptable threat" and warning against the "horror of a global war". But as huge intercontinental

ballistic missiles rumbled through the square, Putin made no major announcements, despite reports in the West that he could unveil an escalation of the Ukraine invasion.

The war, now well into its third month, is currently focused on eastern Ukraine. Russia is seeking to secure the region, having tried and failed to take the capital Kyiv and the north.

An AFP team saw columns of trucks filled with soldiers and heavy

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