

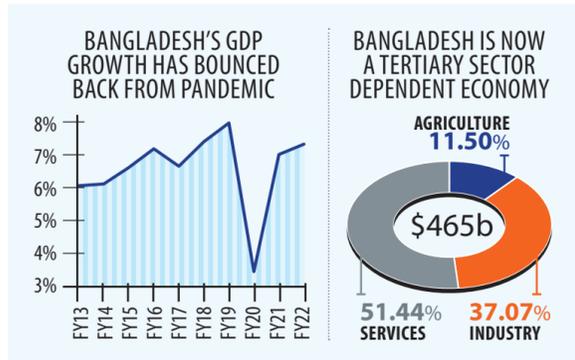
# Economy firing on all cylinders

Shows gov't's provisional data for FY 2021-22, although economists remain sceptical

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ZINA TASREEN

There are bright sparks in all corners of the economy, according to the provisional GDP figures for fiscal 2021-22, which do not show a hint of a pandemic hangover when others are still plodding along.

The Bangladesh economy will grow at a remarkable 7.25 percent this fiscal year, the third time since fiscal 2006-07 that the GDP growth will cross the 7 percent mark, according to the computation made by the



Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics based on data until March.

Incredulously, that is exactly the GDP growth target laid out in fiscal 2021-22's budget that was announced in June last year -- and surpasses the projections made by multilateral lenders as recently as last month.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund said the Bangladesh economy would grow at 6.4 percent this fiscal year and the Asian Development Bank has forecast a 6.9 percent expansion.

"There might be debate about the figure -- it could be 7.3 percent or 7.5 percent or 7.9 percent -- but there is absolutely no doubt that the economy is on an upward trend," said Planning Minister MA Mannan while unveiling the provisional figures after a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.

The growth momentum is down to the industrial sector, which, according to the BBS data, is roaring, led by the manufacturing activities of the large industries, whose output is estimated to grow at 12.87 percent.

And households are lapping up the output, too. Household

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Burnt cars, torched by anti-government protesters, are pictured near Sri Lanka's former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's official residence in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

EVM IN 300 SEATS

## BNP dead against, EC undecided

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The recent statements by the Awami League high-ups that electronic voting machines will be used in all constituencies in the next general election have triggered a fresh debate, as the BNP vehemently opposes it while the Election Commission remains undecided.

BNP leaders alleged that using EVMs is a new tactic of the ruling party to "steal votes". Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, also questioned the rationale behind



deploying the voting machines, pointing out that the common people are still not accustomed to this new technology.

The Election Commission said it will decide on it after discussing with the political parties and other

stakeholders.

"How will the polling be held? How will it be done -- through EVMs or ballots? How many constituencies will have voting through EVMs and how many through ballots? We have not made any clear decision yet. This matter is now under review," said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal yesterday.

Talking to the media at the Election Training Institute after addressing an event, he said political parties can give their opinions but the EC will review it before making the final decision.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### CURFEW IN SRI LANKA

## Shoot-on-sight ordered

Hundreds defy restrictions; military, police given emergency powers after clashes kill 8; former PM rescued

AGENCIES

Sri Lanka's defence ministry yesterday ordered troops to shoot on sight people involved in looting or damaging property, a day after mobs targeted the homes of ruling party politicians.

"Security forces have been ordered to shoot on sight anyone looting public property or causing harm to life," the ministry said.

The order came after the government gave emergency powers to its military and police to detain people without warrants, as

Monday's violence left eight people dead.

Tens of thousands of army, navy and air force personnel were deployed to patrol tense streets of the capital Colombo and elsewhere.

But hundreds of protesters continued rallying for the president to quit, including at the "Gota Go Gama" tent village that was attacked by ruling party supporters yesterday.

"Now the whole island is supporting us," said Lahiru Fernando, 36, who has been camped at the anti-government

protest site for weeks. "They kicked the wrong generation."

Speaking to AFP, protester Chamal Polwattage said: "More people are coming to the demonstration site after the emergency and curfews."

"People are angry about the attacks launched against us yesterday [Monday]. Despite the curfew since yesterday [Monday] afternoon, we have a lot of volunteers bringing food and water for us," the 25-year-old said.

"We will not go until the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা জেলার বনানী থানার মহাখালী বাণিজ্যিক এলাকার প্লট নং ১ এর রাজউকের বরাদ্দ গ্রহীতা ছিলেন জনাব আব্দুল বারিক চৌধুরী। জনাব আব্দুল বারিক চৌধুরীর মৃত্যুতে তার পুত্র আমার মক্কেল জনাব এ.কে.এম. জাকারিয়া হোসেন চৌধুরী ওরফে দিপু ওয়ারিশ সূত্রে ও পারিবারিক আপোষ বন্ডনে উক্ত প্লটটির একক মালিক হন। পরবর্তীতে আমার মক্কেল বিশেষ কারণে প্রথমে তার তৎকালীন স্ত্রী সাবরিনা চৌধুরী-কে উক্ত প্লটটি মৌখিকভাবে হেবা করেন। এতেও সমস্যা সমাধান না হওয়ায় আমার মক্কেলের তৎকালীন স্ত্রী সাবরিনা চৌধুরী, তার মা মহসিনা রহমান-কে উক্ত প্লটটি মৌখিকভাবে দান করেন। উক্ত পৈত্রিক সম্পত্তি ফেরত দেবার মানসে আমার মক্কেলের তৎকালীন শাশুড়ী মহসিনা রহমান একটি অপ্রত্যাহারযোগ্য আম-মোজরনামা (Irrevocable Power of Attorney) দলিল আমার মক্কেলের বরাবরে সম্পাদন ও রেজিস্ট্রি করে দেন এবং এর সাথে একটি ঘোষণা মূলক প্রতিশ্রুতি (Declaration of Undertaking) দলিল ও অরেজিস্ট্রিকৃত হেবা দলিলও সম্পাদন করে আমার মক্কেল জনাব এ.কে.এম. জাকারিয়া হোসেন চৌধুরীকে উক্ত প্লটটির প্রকৃত মালিক হিসেবে উল্লেখ করেন। এমতাবস্থায় আমার মক্কেলের সংসারে দাম্পত্য কলহ দেখা দিলে মিসেস মহসিনা রহমান, জনাব এ.কে.এম. জাকারিয়া হোসেন চৌধুরীর বরাবরে সম্পাদিত ও রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত উক্ত অপ্রত্যাহারযোগ্য আম-মোজরনামা দলিলটি অবৈধভাবে বাতিল করে দেন। ইহাতে ক্ষুব্ধ হয়ে আমার মক্কেল জনাব এ.কে.এম. জাকারিয়া হোসেন চৌধুরী তার পৈত্রিক সম্পত্তি রক্ষার্থে বাদী হয়ে ঢাকার বিজ্ঞ ১ম যুগ্ম জেলা জজ আদালতে মহসিনা রহমান-কে মূল বিবাদী সহ RAJUK-কে মোকাবিলা বিবাদী করে ২০১৮ সালের দেওয়ানী মোকদ্দমা নং ১৮ দায়ের করেছেন, যা বর্তমানে বিচারায়ীন অবস্থায় আছে। উক্ত মোকদ্দমার একটি আদেশের বিরুদ্ধে মহামান্য সূপ্রীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে ফাস্ট মিসুলেনিয়াস আপিল মোকদ্দমা নং ১০/২০২০ দায়ের করা হলে মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট বিভাগের একটি দ্বৈত বেধ মোকদ্দমাটি নিষ্পত্তি করে উক্ত প্লটটিতে নিদিষ্ট সময়ের জন্য স্থিতিবস্থা (Status Quo) বজায় রাখার আদেশ প্রদান করেন। কিন্তু উক্ত প্লটটিতে সদ্য নির্মিত "এ্যাডভান্স নূরানী টাওয়ার" নামক বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের ফ্রেমার স্পেসগুলি দখল ও বিক্রি করার জন্য ১নং বিবাদী এবং তাহার কন্যা সাবরিনা চৌধুরীর প্ররোচনায় বর্তমানে কতিপয় স্বার্থান্বেষী মহল অবৈধ ও অনৈতিক পন্থা অবলম্বন করছেন যা পক্ষান্তরে মহামান্য আদালতের আদেশের বরখেলাপ। যার দরুন আমার মক্কেলের পক্ষে থানায় সাধারণ ডায়েরী করা হয়েছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, আমার মক্কেলের পক্ষ থেকে সর্বসাধারণ ও উল্লেখিত স্বার্থান্বেষী মহলকে ঢাকা জেলার বনানী থানার মহাখালী বাণিজ্যিক এলাকার প্লট নং ১-এ সদ্য নির্মিত "এ্যাডভান্স নূরানী টাওয়ার" নামক বাণিজ্যিক ভবনটির ফ্রেমার স্পেস গুলি বর্তমানে ত্রয় ও দখল করার অবৈধ পায়তরায় লিপ্ত না হবার জন্য সতর্ক করা হচ্ছে। অন্যথায় মহামান্য আদালতের আদেশের বরখেলাপের/লঙ্ঘনের দায়ে প্রয়োজনীয় আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

জনাব এ.কে.এম. জাকারিয়া হোসেন চৌধুরী ওরফে দিপু এর পক্ষে-

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কেন্দ্রীয় ডিজিটাল কমার্স সেল  
বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

জিডি-৯২৮

## NEW MARKET CLASH 2 more shop employees arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested two more shop employees over last month's fierce clashes between Dhaka College students and shopkeepers of New Market that left two people dead and scores injured.

The arrestees are: Kawsar and Babu Hossain. Both were employees of Capital Fast Food at New Market. They were held at Hazaribagh, said Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

On April 18, the arrestees were involved in a brawl with the employees of nearby Welcome Fast Food that eventually led to repeated clashes the following day.

Rab arrested Mehedi Hasan Bappi and Moazzam Hossain Sajeeb, former employees of Welcome Fast Food, on May 4 for their alleged involvement in initiating the clash.

The two killed during the clashes are Nahid Mia, a delivery man, and Morsalin, a shop employee.

Nahid was attacked in front of Nur Jahan Super Market. Later, video footage of the incident went viral.

Five cases, including two for the murders, were filed.

In one of the cases, police accused 24 individuals, mostly leaders of the BNP and its affiliated bodies.

Besides, over 1,700 unnamed people were accused in the five cases.

At least six Dhaka College students were earlier arrested in the Nahid murder case.

## PHONE HACKING Spain's spy chief sacked

AFP, Madrid

Spain's government yesterday sacked the country's spy chief as part of a widening scandal over the hacking of the mobile phones of the prime minister and Catalan separatist leaders.



Farmers trying to salvage their watermelon after heavy rain, caused by storm Asani, inundates their cropland in Barguna Sadar upazila's Nimali village yesterday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

# 'I can assure you of best policy framework'

### PM tells visiting US-Bangladesh Business Council

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday invited US businesspersons with the assurance of the best possible policy framework for an investment-friendly atmosphere in Bangladesh.

"With strong prospects, I can now assure you of the best possible policy framework to ease our business and investment climate," she said.

The premier made the call during a meeting with the visiting first ever executive business delegation, US-Bangladesh Business Council, at the Gono Bhaban.

Sheikh Hasina said she believes that the US businesses will take the advantage and invest more in promising sectors like power and energy, ICT, infrastructure, light engineering products, mobile phone and electronic goods, automobile, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, and ceramics.

She mentioned that Bangladesh is

now recognised for the state-of-the-art manufacturing factories in various sectors like RMG, leather, plastic, jute, ICT and agro-processing.

The prime minister said that she believes that the US-Bangladesh Energy Taskforce which was launched in September 2021 will help advance energy cooperation among the stakeholders of both countries.

Likewise, the proposed US-Bangladesh Digital Economy Taskforce will contribute to deepen the cooperation of companies of both countries to ensure sustainable development, she noted.

"Our trade relations can be further strengthened with duty-free access and other trade privileges in the US market," she said, adding that "Bangladesh is ready to commence Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the US at an appropriate time."

Expressing gratitude to the US Chamber to recognise Bangladesh as one of its potential partners for enhanced trade and

investment, Sheikh Hasina hoped that this visit and exchange of views with the relevant government and private bodies will further explore the expected business to business partnership and, will definitely double the trade volume and benefit the private sectors of both countries.

Bangladesh has been recommended to graduate from the LDC in 2026 and the country is aspiring to become a developed and prosperous country by 2041, she said, adding that "We need enhanced investment from friendly countries, especially from the USA."

Terming Bangladesh as an attractive investment destination, she said along with physical infrastructures, the country has upgraded and eased the rules and regulations relating to investment and business.

The PM added: "Bangladesh has the most liberal investment policy in South Asia and its foreign investment is protected by acts of parliament and bilateral treaties."

Recently, all areas of Bangladesh have been brought under electricity coverage, she said, adding, "We are upgrading our road, railway and water communications by implementing some mega projects."



## Asani weakens, moves towards Indian coast

FROM PAGE 1

Bengal and deep sea have been advised to stay close to the coast and proceed with caution. They are also asked not to venture into the deep sea, said the bulletin.

"Light to moderate rain or thundershowers, accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind, is likely to occur at most places in Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions and also at many places in Rangpur division with moderately

heavy to very heavy rains at various places across the country."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) suspended operations of launches below 65 feet in length across the country since yesterday noon. Only those above 65 feet in length were allowed to ply.

"We will resume operation of small launches once the weather improves," Rafiqul Islam, director of BIWTA, told this newspaper.

Farmers mostly in the

southern part of the country fear losses of crops due to incessant rains caused by the cyclonic storm.

In Patuakhali, many pulse and chili growers said heavy rains caused severe damage to their crops.

"I cultivated Muggal and chili in around 25 decimals of lands. But the entire cropland is now submerged... I don't know whether the crops will survive..." said a dejected Ismail Khan, a farmer of Sonatala village in Kalapara upazila.

Rice growers in Pirojpur

and Jhalakathi were worried that heavy rains would badly damage their crops.

"Our Boro crop is almost ripe... We were getting ready to harvest it by next week. But our paddy fields are now flooded due to incessant rain," said Faruk Sheikh, a farmer from Sikdermollik village of Pirojpur Sadar upazila.

At least seven watermelon farms in Barguna's Nimala village were submerged due to heavy rains. Farmers said they would incur a loss of

around Tk 7 lakh.

"We had a bumper watermelon production this year. Watermelon plants cannot withstand much water. This rain has damaged everything," said Nasir Khan, one of the farmers in the area.

The Cox's Bazar district administration has kept 576 cyclone shelters ready in case it needs to evacuate people from the coastal areas.

[Our correspondents from Patuakhali, Tangail, Pirojpur and Cox's Bazar contributed to the report]

## BNP dead against, EC undecided

FROM PAGE 1

He, however, said the Commission does not have the capacity to use EVMs in all the 300 seats right now. "We can hold voting in around 100 seats with EVMs."

On Saturday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the AL chief, said at a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee that voting in all 300 constituencies will take place using EVMs, according to insiders.

The next day, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader told journalists at the Secretariat that EVMs will be used in the next general election due late next year.

Political and election commentators view these statements from the AL top brass as a pressure on the EC, the sole authority to decide on the matter.

"Whether EVMs will be used or not in the polls is at the absolute discretion of the Election Commission.

But the Commission is now under pressure as the Awami League said it wants EVMs in all the parliamentary seats," former election commissioner Brigadier General (retd) Sakhawat Hussain told The Daily Star.

Despite having the full mandate for making such decisions, the Commission now has to walk a tightrope, he added.

A number of civil society members and eminent citizens in recent talks with the EC opined that the Commission should refrain from using EVMs in polls unless there is a national consensus.

"The issue of EVM is contentious now and it is better to keep a distance from that unless there is a national consensus on it," Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya said during the dialogue.

Chattogram University Professor Muhammad Yehia Akhter proposed

not to use EVMs in any constituency, as it is a high-tech machine and most voters do not have knowledge about it.

Contacted, BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said the party's position is very clear: there has to be an election-time neutral government and ballot papers instead of EVMs.

Also, talking to the media at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir questioned, "How come the prime minister says EVMs would be used in all the 300 seats?" This proves that the ruling party controls the electoral process and it has destroyed the electoral system in a planned way, he added.

The party has repeatedly said it would not participate in any polls overseen by the incumbent government as

"free and fair election is not possible" under it.

The BNP boycotted the January 5, 2014, election demanding a non-partisan interim government to hold the polls. It, however, participated in the last parliamentary polls though its demand was not met.

On Monday, JP Chairman GM Quader told a programme that confusion and distrust were created among political parties centring on the PM's statement on EVM.

"I personally think that there is a huge scope of vote rigging through EVMs, and the system is faulty. But we will take a final stance after discussions in the party forum," he said.

When the EC used EVMs in the city corporation and union parishad elections in the last several months, many voters faced inconveniences as their fingerprints did not match.

On some occasions, voters also alleged that

after their identities were confirmed, agents of the Awami League candidates pressed the button for boat, the electoral symbol of AL.

Asked if the EC was feeling any pressure regarding the EVM issue, Election Commissioner Brigadier General (retd) Ahsan Habib Khan said, "We do not feel any pressure. We will sit with the national technical committee on EVM. We will also sit with experts nominated by political parties to discuss the EVM issue."

EVM Project Director Colonel Syed Rakibul Hasan said currently they have around 1.5 lakh EVMs. "We will need about 4.5 lakh machines for holding elections using this technology in all 300 seats."

Around 2.9 lakh election related officials have been trained on EVMs so far and over 5 lakh trained manpower will be needed to hold elections in all seats using EVMs, he added.

## Landslide kills two workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two construction workers were killed as a pile of earth came crashing down on them in Tangail town yesterday.

The deceased were Ananda Pal, 35, and Nidhan Pal, 30, of Kashil village in Basail upazila.

Rezaul Karim, assistant director of fire service and civil defence in Tangail, told The Daily Star that five workers were digging earth at 14-foot deep for constructing the building base at one Nazrul Islam's house in Ashekpur Purbopara area.

Amid downpour around 11:30am, a pile of earth collapsed on the two.

Fire service officials later recovered the two bodies after removing the earth by excavator, Rezaul said.

The owner started constructing the building just after filling up a pond with sand, Rezaul said, adding the accident happened for not taking necessary precautionary measures.

## Contractor hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals beat up and hacked a contractor to death in Munshiganj Clinic Para area of Chuadanga's Alamdanga upazila over land dispute last night.

The victim was Kamal Hossain, 65, of Jehala village of the upazila.

His wife Selina Khatun alleged that one Swadhi and his family members murdered Kamal over a land dispute.

She also alleged that they threatened to kill her husband before Eid. Police were informed of the matter, she added.

Inspector Abdul Alim of Alamdanga Police Station said they did not get any written complaint in this regard.

## Beaten by neighbours, homemaker dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A homemaker died yesterday after she was beaten up mercilessly by her neighbours in Jhenidah's Harinakundu over a trifling matter on Sunday.

Asmani Khatun, 40, was the wife of Amjad Hossain of Berbinni village.

Her husband Amjad Hossain said Asmani got locked into an altercation with her neighbour Sumaya Khatun, wife of Uzzal Hossain, over ducks having paddy on Sunday.

Later in the day, when Asmani went to a nearby waterbody for taking her ducks back home, Sumaya and her family members beat her up indiscriminately, Amjad added.

Asmani was taken to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. As her condition was worsening, she was referred to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where she died early yesterday.

After the incident, Sumaya and her family members went into hiding.

Saiful Islam, OC of Harinakundu Police Station, said filing of a case was underway.

## Economy firing on all cylinders

FROM PAGE 1

consumption is estimated to grow at 13.18 percent, the highest in five years.

Exports, which grew at an impressive 35.14 percent in the first 10 months of the fiscal year, are propping up the economy well.

Shamsul Alam, the state minister for planning, went on to cite the country's strong showing in the Nikkei Covid-19 Recovery Index, high vaccination rate and the improved performance in the Global Hunger Index as indicators of the economy's pink health.

"While the economy has not recovered fully from the pandemic, whatever recovery has been taken place is good enough."

The final growth figure might be higher, according to Alam, as the provisional estimate did not factor in the shopping frenzy in April centring Eid-ul-Fitr, the country's biggest festival in Bangladesh, which was observed on May 3.

Asked about the Russia-Ukraine war that has cast a pall of gloom on the global economic recovery from the pandemic trough, he said: "Admittedly, our recovery has been hampered but we are exercising good judgement."

Economists remain sceptical about the rosy picture presented.

"I demand full disclosure of data and methods of estimating the GDP growth rate for

fiscal 2021-22 -- these suspiciously high GDP growth estimates are not supported by the correlates and other proxy indicators," said Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The correlates include poor implementation of the annual development programme, weak offtake of private sector credit, sluggish import of capital goods and raw materials, tepid growth of energy use and so on, he added.

The fact the provisional growth figure is an exact match for the government's growth target is bound to raise eyebrows, said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the WB's Dhaka office.

"If we are so good at forecasting GDP growth, how come all other targets such as revenue, expenditure and the composition of deficit financing consistently elude us and are always on the downside in case of revenue and expenditure?"

He also remains sceptical about the back-to-back double-digit growth witnessed by the industrial sector and the manufacturing sub-sectors.

"Such an impressively sustained recovery in industrial growth is at odds with the growth in electricity and gas use. Industrial growth and energy growth are supposed to be positively correlated. That is not the case here. One can't help

but wonder why."

Real value-added growth in electricity declined from 11.65 percent in fiscal 2020-21 to 7.24 percent in fiscal 2021-22 and the same in gas declined respectively from 1.45 percent to 0.52 percent.

"On the demand side, there apparently was a boom in household consumption expenditures. Where has this come from? Remittance growth has been negative and agricultural growth has declined. Services grew by only 6.3 percent. Yes, garment exports have boomed, but the owners claim their profits have mostly been eaten away by increased prices of intermediate inputs."

Nominal wage growth in the production sectors for low skilled labour was 8.6 percent through March, which in real terms was less than 3 percent. "I am not sure pent-up demand financed by drawing down financial savings accumulated in the past can fully explain such a consumption boom."

Last but not the least, private investment rate has increased from 23.7 percent of GDP in fiscal 2020-21 to 24.6 percent of GDP in fiscal 2022-23. This is still less than the 25.3 percent of GDP in fiscal 2018-19, the year before the pandemic.

"Yet, growth has returned to the 7.3 percent pre-pandemic three-year average," Hussain added.

## Aedes larvae found at 69 structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday found Aedes mosquito larvae at 69 structures and houses on the first day of its three-day drive.



DSCC teams destroyed all of the breeding grounds and larvae and warned of fines if they found any larvae there again.

The teams visited 50 locations under DSCC – including Dhaka University, Nayapaltan, Bijoynagar, Fakirapool, Kaptanbazar, Joginagar, BCC Road and Shashi Mohan Basak Lane areas.

The drive will be held today as well.

Earlier, DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh directed its officials to start a three-day anti-mosquito drive in seven of its wards from May 10.

According to a DGHS pre-monsoon survey, wards 38, 40, 45, are marked as “high risk” areas, while wards 13, 15, 21 and 23 are at “medium risk”. The drives are being conducted in these wards, the mayor said.

Twenty-six mosquito-control workers will spray insecticide in each ward two times a day, he added.



PRAYER TIMING		MAY 11	
Fajr	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



Breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes are abundant this season, as stagnant water remains on top of structures, like this under-construction building, for days on end. The photos were taken yesterday from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## At risk of major dengue outbreak

DGHS survey shows Dhaka’s worrying scenario; experts for swift action

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka is at risk of a major dengue outbreak this year compared to the last couple of years, as clear, stagnant water, the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, at under-construction buildings is abundant this time around.

The scenario came to light after Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) conducted a pre-monsoon survey between March 23 and April 4.

Experts asked authorities concerned to take immediate steps to address the matter.

“The density [of Aedes mosquitoes] found in pre-monsoon the survey this year is higher than that of 2020 and 2021. So, there is a chance of witnessing a higher number of dengue patients this year,” said entomologist Kabirul Bashir of Jahangirnagar University.

It is essential to immediately destroy all

breeding grounds like discarded containers to control dengue. This work should start in every ward under leadership of councillors and help from locals, he said.

Of the places where mosquitoes were found, 42.11 percent, the highest, breeding grounds were found at under-construction buildings, while 31.58 percent were at high-rise buildings.

The survey found three Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) wards to be at “high risk” and 10 at “medium risk” of an outbreak. Nine wards in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) are at medium risk.

Of the objects that harboured mosquitoes, 23.98 were flooded floors, 21.64 percent plastic drums, 10.53 percent buckets, 10.53 percent water tanks (cement), and 4.09 percent flower tubs.

According to data of DGHS control room, 199 dengue patients were hospitalised in different hospitals across

the country till yesterday. It was 28,429 in 2021 and 1,405 in 2020.

Entomologist Manzur A Chowdhury suggested reintroducing “10 minutes at 10:00am every Saturday”, the campaign for cleaning houses, as it will be helpful to destroy breeding grounds.

Due to early rain this year, breeding grounds have already been generated, he said.

Dr Md Ekramul Haque, deputy programme manager of malaria and AITD control programme at DGHS, said to control Aedes mosquitoes, an integrated initiative, especially involving locals, is crucial.

**TACKLING DENGUE WITH GUPPY FISH**  
Apart from its regular activities, DNCC has released huge quantities of guppy fish in different water bodies.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## A welcome change

RHD, railway to hold follow-up meetings to evaluate preparations for Eid journey

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Ahead of Eid every year, officials of different ministries and agencies concerned hold a series of meetings. They have one goal: make people’s journey home and back relatively hassle-free.

However, the efforts remain futile due to the huge pressure created by the number of passengers and the authorities’ mismanagement, resulting in home-bound travellers suffering because of traffic congestion on highways and ferry terminals.

The difficulties don’t just end there. The rush often results in road crashes killing many people, followed by non-government organisations’ reports on the situation, criticising the government for its inaction.

This has been the picture for quite a few years now. The steps, taken by the authorities to mitigate the issues and their outcomes, are never evaluated properly.

However, this year saw a change, and for the better. The journey home and return went quite smooth without much hassle, except for the last couple of days of the return journey.

In light of this, Roads and Highways Department (RHD) will hold a meeting to evaluate its initiatives today, while Bangladesh Railway is scheduled to sit tomorrow, said officials.

“This is the first time RHD is going to hold such a meeting to improve our service in future,” Tanvir Siddique, RHD superintending engineer (road design and safety circle), told this correspondent yesterday.

He said they have been able to address traffic congestion on the most congested highways. However, some areas still saw congestion.

The meeting will discuss the congestion-prone sections of highways and ways of reducing road crashes, said Tanvir.

Demand for transport reaches its peak before the two Eids and some other occasions. The rush leads to an increasing number of road crashes. Hence, the meeting will be held to devise plans to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**This is the first time RHD is going to hold such a meeting to improve our service in future.**

Tanvir Siddique  
Superintending  
Engineer of RHD



RAINDROPS KEEP FALLIN’ ON MY HEAD... As the rain relieves the city of heat, these feathered-friends were spotted in Lalmatia yesterday, perched on their resting spot and enjoying the drizzle.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## New outfit trying to emerge following JMB’s footsteps

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A new extremist outfit, “Jama’atul Muslimeen”, has been formed, keeping strategic similarities with home-grown, banned militant outfit Jama’atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Majority of the members, including the so-called ameer of the new outfit, are followers of JMB. Their plan was to remove the democratic government.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-6) came up with the information following the arrest of 10 members, including ameer Anwar Kabir Milon alias Middat Hossain (50).

The other arrestees are Sohul Rana (30), Aminul (38), Kamrul Islam (55), Rifat Rahman (24), Abdur Rouf (62), Md Shaikh Farid (27), Abdul Alim (50), Rafiqul Islam (46), and Talha Islam (19).

Rab-6 officials said Middat was in Saudi Arabia between 2002 to 2006. After completing his studies, he came back to Bangladesh and met a suspect named Prof Mazid in

Bhola.

Mazid was a follower of then JMB chiefs Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Saidur Rahman. He was even involved in the series bomb blast in 63 districts.

Mazid was later arrested and sent to jail, but still had good contacts with JMB top leaders.

**The outfit was recruiting new members in Tangail, Gazipur, Jashore, Khulna, Mymensingh and Dhaka, according to Rab-6 officials.**

Middat was close to Mazid and later joined JMB. During the period, Middat got in touch with a number of JMB followers, officials claimed.

Middat was arrested by police’s Detective Branch (DB) in 2012 for suspected involvement in militancy. At the time, he planned to form a new outfit and has been working towards that goal since

2018, starting with recruitment, said a high-official involved with the investigation.

On information, a team of Rab-6 conducted a drive at a house on BIDC Road of Khulna’s Khalishpur and made the arrest recently. The elite force seized extremist books and documents from the arrestees’ possession during the drive.

A case has been filed with Khalishpur Police Station.

Lt Col Muhammad Mostak Ahmed, commanding officer of Rab-6, said, “We have applied through Rab headquarters to hand the case over to us. We are looking into the new outfit’s activities and keeping an eye on the arrestees’ associates to arrest them.”

According to officials, Jama’atul Muslimeen was recruiting new members in Tangail, Gazipur, Jashore, Khulna, Mymensingh and Dhaka. They had gathered in Khulna to sort out recruitment plans, said Rab-6 officials.

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**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
কমান্ড্যান্ট (এসপি) এর কার্যালয়  
আরআরএফ, চট্টগ্রাম

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২২-২০২৩**

১. প্রকল্পের নাম: পুলিশ প্রশাসনিক কর্মসূচির অধীনে ১০০ জন পুলিশ সদস্যের নিয়োগ।

২. প্রকল্পের বিবরণ: ১০০ জন পুলিশ সদস্যের নিয়োগ।

৩. প্রকল্পের আওতা: ১০০ জন পুলিশ সদস্যের নিয়োগ।

৪. প্রকল্পের আওতা: ১০০ জন পুলিশ সদস্যের নিয়োগ।

৫. প্রকল্পের আওতা: ১০০ জন পুলিশ সদস্যের নিয়োগ।

৬. প্রকল্পের আওতা: ১০০ জন পুলিশ সদস্যের নিয়োগ।

৭. প্রকল্পের আওতা: ১০০ জন পুলিশ সদস্যের নিয়োগ।

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### New outfit trying to emerge

FROM PAGE 3  
Asked, Md Moniruzzaman, additional deputy inspector general of Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU), said they have learned about the outfit's activities but have no information about the outfit yet to share.

Counterterrorism officials said in recent times, activities of JMB stopped in absence of any active leadership.

Rahmatullah Chowdhury, in charge of the bomb disposal unit at Counter Terrorism

and Transnational Crime (TTC), said the mainstream JMB still has some followers, but it is suffering from a leadership crisis.

A police high official, after following JMB's footprint, said a suspect, whose organisational name is "Khan Saheb", is leading the outfit's Bangladesh chapter.

Khan Saheb is working as a bridge between India and Bangladesh, the official said.

He is in charge of

supplying arms and providing financial support to outfit members, as per instruction of one Salehin, he added.

Contacted yesterday, Md Asaduzzaman, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, said some new outfits are trying to emerge, but before giving any information, officials need time to look into the specifics.

[Our Correspondent contributed to this report.]

**BUILDING & LAND RENT/ SALE**  
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Two Buildings (each 6 Storied@ 90,000sqft) total 1,80,000sqft. Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory running at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta.  
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Uday Tower, (1st Floor), 57 & 57(A), Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.

**New Address**  
Anabil Tower Plot No-3, Gulshan North Avenue, (Kamal Ataturk Avenue) Block-NW(J), Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

### A welcome change

FROM PAGE 3  
reduce accidents based on this year's experience, said another RHD official.

Meanwhile, BR will hold a follow up meeting over train ticket sales and railway operations during this year's Eid tomorrow. Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujon is expected to chair the meeting.

Like previous years, hundreds of people thronged Kamalapur and other railway stations to buy train tickets in advance ahead of Eid. Many spent sleepless nights buying tickets, while others complained over the online ticketing service.

Welcoming the move, Kazi Md Shifun Newaz, assistant professor of

Accident Research Institute at Buet, said the authorities should identify accident-prone areas by investigating major accidents and take remedial steps.

Similarly, they should identify the reasons behind traffic jams during Eid journeys and evaluate their steps for the future, he said.

"Unfortunately, we don't see such steps. This is a good initiative that two relevant agencies have decided to hold follow up meetings after Eid," said Newaz yesterday.

**World Health Organization Bangladesh**  
**VACANCY NOTICE**  
World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:  
**- National Consultant Monitoring and Reporting / SSA**  
For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:  
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>  
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>  
Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.  
WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

### At risk

FROM PAGE 3  
"We have been releasing guppy fish for the last two months in canals, other water bodies and drains of DNCC areas, and have already covered 90 percent of the locations," said DNCC Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Md Zobiaur Rahman.

"The fish eat mosquito larvae, and we are getting good results already."

"We have also cleaned all water bodies and canals under DNCC and kept some workers for each of the spots for monitoring and taking steps," he said.

DNCC is also putting novaluron tablets in water meters at homes, which will prevent growth of Aedes mosquitoes for 90 days. Novaluron is an insect growth regulator, which slowly kills insects over a few days by disrupting their normal growth.

Meanwhile, DSCC is conducting a three-day special drive in seven of its wards. The drive started yesterday and will continue till Thursday.

**UTTARA BANK LIMITED**  
HEAD OFFICE  
47, Shahid Bir Uttam Asfaq Samad Sarak  
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Bank in its 761st meeting held virtually by using digital platform at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, the 10th May, 2022 approved the un-audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the first quarter ended on 31 March, 2022 and disclosed the following financial indicators of the Bank :

Particulars	Consolidated		Solo	
	1 January to 31 March, 2022	1 January to 31 March, 2021	1 January to 31 March, 2022	1 January to 31 March, 2021
Net Asset Value (NAV) (Tk. in Crore)	1,901.61	1,782.70	1,886.82	1,788.00
Net Asset Value (NAV) Per Share (Tk.)	33.68	31.57	33.41	31.66
Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Tk.)	0.81	0.75	0.76	0.74
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) (Tk.)	(9.49)	(1.52)	(9.59)	(1.47)

The detail of the published quarterly financial statements will be available in the website of the Bank at [www.uttarabank-bd.com](http://www.uttarabank-bd.com)

Date: Dhaka, 10 May, 2022

By order of the Board  
IFTEKHAR ZAMAN  
Executive General Manager & Secretary

**BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, DHAKA**

No: R- 5220 Date: 10 May 2022

**Admission into Postgraduate Programs**  
Semester: April 2022

Applications are invited for admission into the following postgraduate programs for April 2022 Semester. An applicant must complete the online Application Form and upload the supporting documents (as described below) using the postgraduate admission section of the BUET website (<http://pgadmission.buet.ac.bd>) within the period from 16.05.2022 to 25.05.2022 (Until 11:59 p.m.).

**A) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Offered by the Departments/ Institutes:**  
Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and production Engineering, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Physics, Urban and Regional Planning, Water Resources Engineering, Glass and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Water and Flood Management.

**B) Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Degree in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.**

**C) Masters Degree Programs:**  
(i) M.Sc.Engg./M.Engg.in Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering(Environmental), Civil Engineering (Geotechnical), Civil Engineering (Structural), Civil Engineering (Transportation), Environmental Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Advanced Engineering Management, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Water Resources Engineering, Glass and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Nuclear Power Engineering, Information and Communication Technology.  
(ii) M. Arch. in Architecture.  
(iii) M.Sc. in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Materials Science, Glass and Ceramic Science (GCS).  
(iv) MURP in Urban and Regional Planning by Course and Thesis  
(v) M.Sc. in Water Resources Development  
(vi) M.Sc. in Management of Technology

**D) Post Graduate Diploma in Water Resources Development Information and Communication Technology.**

**Important Information**

- During the submission of the online application through the postgraduate admission section of the website of BUET, the following supporting documents must be uploaded within the period 16.05.2022 to 25.05.2022 (Until 11:59 p.m.).
  - Attached copies of certificates of all public examinations.
  - Attached copies of transcripts/ grade-sheets/ mark-sheets of all public examinations.
  - Attached copies of testimonial/ character certificate from the institution last attended.
  - Letter of consent, in prescribed form, from the employer for applicants in employment.
- After submission application, Pay 505/- (Five Hundred Five only) taka online as Application Fee.
- Prospectus containing detailed qualification requirements for admission into different programs and information regarding the submission of application is available at the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.
- Applicants in employment whether part-time or full-time must apply through their employers for both part-time and full-time enrollments.
- Selection of candidates for admission into a postgraduate program is performed by respective department/ institute. The selection procedure may vary from one department to another. Candidates are advised to contact the respective department/ institute for information regarding the selection procedure.
- A few Teaching Assistantships/ Fellowships may be awarded to suitable full-time students.
- Degrees obtained from institutions other than BUET will be subjected to equivalence by appropriate authority of BUET before a candidate is finally selected for admission to a degree/diploma program.
- Last date for submission of the application is 25.05.2022 (Until 11:59 p.m.) and classes will commence from 02.07.2022.
- The schedule regarding postgraduate admission may change due to any situation. Updated information will be available on the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.

Registrars

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**QUALIFICATION & OTHER COMPETENCIES**

**Education**

- Masters/4-year Graduation (Honors)/B.Sc. Engineering in any discipline from any reputed Public or Private University/Educational Institution.
- Minimum three (03) First Classes/Divisions/Equivalent CGPA (having no Third (3rd) Class/Division/Equivalent CGPA up to graduation).
- Minimum CGPA 4.00 in a scale of 5.00 or minimum CGPA 3.00 in a scale of 4.00 shall be considered as First Class/ Division.
- Minimum "B" in O-Level and A-Level (in case of English medium students).

**Additional Qualifications**

- Proficiency in Computer operating (specially in MS Office platforms)
- Candidate must be a citizen of Bangladesh.
- Have courage/willingness to work anywhere in the country.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered for the Written Test.
- Misrepresentation of any information and act of persuasion may result in disqualification of a candidate from the selection process.

**Language Proficiency**  
Effective verbal and written communication skills both in Bengali & English.

**Age Limit**  
Candidates must not be over 30 (thirty) years of age, but 32 (thirty two) years as of May 31, 2022 for genuine Freedom Fighters' children and existing OBL employees.

**WHAT WE OFFER**

- The position offers monthly consolidated remuneration of Tk. 50,000/- during the probation period (one year).
- On successful completion of probation period and subject to qualifying the prescribed tests, the candidates will be absorbed as Officer/Senior Officer of the Bank on merit basis.
- Candidates selected for appointment as Special Cadre Officers (7th Batch) will be required to execute a bond for serving the Bank for a minimum period of 5 (five) years including the probation period.

**HOW TO SUBMIT APPLICATION**  
Interested individuals are requested to apply online through [www.bdjobs.com](http://www.bdjobs.com) within May 31, 2022 with necessary accurate particulars. Only shortlisted candidates will be asked to sit for a Written Test and subsequent Viva Voce.

Last Date of Submission: May 31, 2022  
ONE Bank Limited is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based on gender, religion and so on.  
46, HRC Bhaban, Kawran Bazar C.A., Corporate Headquarters, Dhaka-1215

# Prepare a flawless voter list: CEC Awal

Updating begins May 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday said it is not possible to have a "true representative government" without an accurate and comprehensive voter list.

CEC and other election commissioners at a programme urged all officials concerned related to voter list updating to work for preparing a flawless voter list, which is precondition for a free and fair elections.

They were speaking at the opening ceremony of training of trainers of enumerators and supervisors of voter list updating work at Election Training Institute.

The voter list updating will begin on May 20 and this would be the last registration of prospective voters before the 12th parliamentary election. EC Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan urged all to prepare a flawless voter list so that it can be used during next general elections.



# 4 of family burnt in Narayanganj fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Four members of a family were burnt in a fire at their home in Narayanganj's Fatullah early yesterday. The injured are rickshaw-puller Anwar Hossain (45), his wife Rozina Begum (40), their sons Rohan (15) and Roman (12).

They were taken to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in a critical condition. The incident took place at 5:00am at Kausar Mia's house near Pilot Government High School.

The fire started at the gas line and later spread to the nearby house where Anwar and his family were asleep, Alam Hossain, senior station officer of Fatullah Fire Station, said.

Neighbours extinguished the blaze before firefighters rushed there, he said.

**Domar Health Complex has become an example of how a government hospital in periphery can be a model of quality health service.**

PHOTO: STAR



EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

"I never thought a government hospital in a remote upazila could render the quality service I received at Domar Upazila Health Complex. I was admitted here to give birth to my first child, and I felt at home," wrote Sadia Sultana (19) of Domar municipality in the hospital's comments register on January 24.

The health complex was ranked the best upazila hospital nationwide in January and kept the first position in the Rangpur division for seven months under the index of DGHS.

The zeal of young doctors, proper management, teamwork and quality leadership made it all possible.

Tapan Kumar Roy, a residential medical officer, said, "In April last year when present UHFPO Raihan Bari joined, the hospital's position was 54th in the national ranking. But then he started to upgrade the facility."

During a recent visit to the hospital, this correspondent saw patients resting in a place surrounded by trees. All the wards were spotlessly clean. Patients said even a year ago, the operation theatre remained locked. In the labour ward, dishonest employees took extra money from patients, while X-ray

and ECG machines were inoperative. Brokers actively diverted patients to private clinics. But the situation has changed completely.

Elius Hossain (50) of Jaldhaka said, "I didn't have to pay for surgery and paid the government-assigned fee for my pathological tests."

"During my first caesarean, my husband paid Tk 15,000 at a private clinic. But this time, I got free service and a new dress for my baby gifted by the complex," said Mohosina Akhtar (20) of Chandokhana village.

Medical officer Dr Abul Ala said, "About 200 patients are treated outdoor, while 80 take indoor treatment daily. People from low-income background and freedom fighters are provided with costly medicine from the outside pharmacy, which is covered by our social welfare department."

Asked about limitations, medical officer Dr Abul Ala said, "Only 16 doctors are posted in this 50-bed hospital and the lone ultra-sonogram machine went out of order."

Contacted, UHFPO Raihan Bari said, "If everyone performs their duties sincerely and utilises available facilities, we can achieve more here."

"A government hospital in the periphery can also be a model of quality health service. And this health complex is proof of that," said Civil Surgeon Zahangir Kabir.

# No polls under AL: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday reiterated that no election will be acceptable under the Awami League government.



"We have said clearly that BNP will not take part in any election under the illegal Awami League government. This government must resign and hand over power to the neutral government. Atmosphere of fair election will be created only after the neutral government formed a neutral Election Commission," BNP General Secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said.

Talking to journalists at BNP central office in Nayapaltan, he said use of EVM in the next election will also not be acceptable.

He also said the current government will face consequences far worse than that of Sri Lanka. "This government will not take any lesson from the Sri Lanka situation as they (Awami League) never learn from history. If they could, they would have learned lessons in the last 10 years."

Meanwhile, protesting the attacks on BNP leaders and activists, BNP will stage demonstration in Dhaka on May 12 and district headquarters across the country on May 14.

# Preserving Old Dhaka's heritage EUNIC launches initiative

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh chapter of European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) has announced a new initiative to study and preserve the architectural heritage of Old Dhaka.

The project titled River Heritage was launched at a city hotel on Monday when the European Union celebrated the Europe Day.

River Heritage is the third chapter of a long-running heritage-focused initiative by EUNIC involving Alliance Francaise, Goethe Institute British Council, Spanish and Belgian embassies, and the EU Delegation in Bangladesh.

The project, which will run between 2023 and 2024, will concentrate on architectural heritage, its peoples' way of life, the means of their subsistence, and the intricate relationship they keep between the river and the city.

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H.S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH,  
PHONE-8901500-19, 8901640-54, www.biman-airlines.com  
Procurement & Logistics Support Directorate  
REF: DACPL/OTM/e-GP/2021-22/ Date: 10-05-2022

**e-Tender Notice**  
e-GP Tender(s) are hereby invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following items:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date and time
695596	LP42122049	Crew Napkin Blue Qty: 10,800 Each	25-05-2022 at 17:00 Hrs.	26-05-2022 at 11:00 Hrs.	26-05-2022 at 11:00 Hrs.
694298	LP42122044	Linen Table Napkin JCL, Qty: 18,000 Each	25-05-2022 at 17:00 Hrs.	26-05-2022 at 11:00 Hrs.	26-05-2022 at 11:00 Hrs.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered branches of bank.  
Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).  
For more details please contact with the following person:  
Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman Akand  
Asstt. Manager Commercial Purchase  
GD-932

**Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University**  
Trishal, Mymensingh  
Ref: JKKNIU/EO/Goods/2021-2022/170 Date: 09/05/2022

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

Sl. No.	Invitation Reference No.	ID No.	Name of work	Last date & time of downloading e-Tender documents
01	JKKNIU/EO/ Goods/2021-2022/G-06	695302	Supply of Educational and Lab Equipment for Social Science Faculty at JKKNIU	09-May-2022 08:00 25-May-2022 15:30
02	JKKNIU/EO/ Goods/2021-2022/G-07	695319	Supply of Lab Equipment for Dept. of CSE at JKKNIU	09-May-2022 08:00 25-May-2022 15:40
03	JKKNIU/EO/ Goods/2021-2022/G-08	695320	Supply of Lab Equipment for Dept. of EEE at JKKNIU	09-May-2022 08:00 25-May-2022 15:50
04	JKKNIU/EO/ Goods/2021-2022/G-09	690703	Supply of Computer at JKKNIU	09-May-2022 08:00 25-May-2022 15:55
05	JKKNIU/EO/ Goods/2021-2022/G-10	690491	Supply and Installation of Air Condition System at JKKNIU	09-May-2022 08:00 25-May-2022 02:30

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

Engr. Md. Mahbulul Islam  
Deputy Chief Engineer  
Engineering Office  
Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University  
Trishal, Mymensingh  
GD-925

# 21st convocation of EWU held

CITY DESK

East West University (EWU) organised its 21st convocation on its campus in Aftabnagar, Dhaka yesterday, said a press release.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni conferred degrees on graduates.

A total of 1,693 students from undergraduate and graduate programmes received certificates. Besides, two students were awarded gold medals for outstanding academic performance.

Prof Dil Afroza Begum, chairman (in-charge), University Grants Commission, was present as special guest. MA Sattar Mandal, professor emeritus and former vice chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh was the convocation speaker.

Prof Mohammed Farshuddin, chairperson (acting), board of trustees, EWU, and former governor of Bangladesh Bank; and Prof MM Shahidul Hassan, vice chancellor of EWU, also spoke. Members of the board of trustees, pro-vice chancellor, treasurer, deans, departmental chairpersons, faculty members, officers, staff, graduates and guardians participated in the event.



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১০০/- টাকা মূল্যমান বাংলাদেশ প্রাইজবন্ডের  
১০৭তম "ড্র"

ড্র অনুষ্ঠানের তারিখঃ ২৫ বৈশাখ ১৪২৯ ব./চ মে ২০২২ খ্রি.

প্রথম পুরস্কার	টাকঃ ৬,০০,০০০	০১৯০০৭৬
দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার	টাকঃ ৩,২৫,০০০	০৯০৬৮০০
তৃতীয় পুরস্কার প্রতিটি	১,০০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার	০৯৩৭৪৭৯
চতুর্থ পুরস্কার প্রতিটি	৫০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার	০৯২৬২৭৩
পঞ্চম পুরস্কার প্রতিটি	১০,০০০ টাকার মোট ৪০ টি পুরস্কার	

০০০১৭৫২	০২৯৩৪০৭	০৪৩৬৩২৪	০৫৪২৮৪০	০৭৪১৪৫৩
০০৬৬৪৪১	০৩১৬৫৯৭	০৪৫৮৪৩২	০৫৬৫০৭৫	০৯০১৪৫৯
০০৭২৫৩৮	০৩২৯৬০৭	০৪৭১৭০৭	০৫৬৬৪২১	০৯১০৬৭৩
০১০৭৭৭৩	০৩৪০১৯৮	০৪৮৫২৮২	০৫৬৭১৮৮	০৯৫৩৩৯৬
০১১২০৯২	০৩৪৫২২১	০৪৮৯৮৮৮	০৫৭০৫৬০	০৯৬৩৫২৯
০১৫১৩১৮	০৩৫৫৪৪০	০৫১০৮১৬	০৬২৬৬৯৪	০৯৭৭৪৩৪
০২২২১৭১	০৩৭৯৬৩০	০৫১১১৭২	০৬৬৩৮১৪	০৯৮০৬৩৯
০২৬৪৯৬৩	০৪০৫৬৫৪	০৫৪১৮৯৫	০৭০০৪৬০	০৯৮১৬৯৩

বিঃদ্রঃ  
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরপত্রাভ্যন্তরীণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।  
২. দরপত্রাভ্যন্তরীণ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।

আবু রাকি মোহাম্মদ ইমতিয়াজ হোসাইন  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (পি এন্ড ডি) (পূর্ব)  
পক্ষে-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব)  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

এস(২২)(১২২)  
জিডি-৯২৪

**Govt. College of Commerce**  
Chattogram  
www.gov.commercecollege@gmail.com  
Memo No. CEDP/GCOM/2021-22/G-11/Retender Date: 10/05/2022

**e-Tender Notice Goods-11(Retender)/2021-2022**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	685859	Procurement of Furniture for Seminar rooms and Classrooms for Govt College of Commerce, Chittagong	01-Jun-2022 1:00pm	01-Jun-2022 2:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 31-May-2022, 4pm.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Sushen Kumar Barua  
Principal  
Govt. College of Commerce, Agrabad, Chittagong  
Phone: 031-721900  
E-mail: gcomidp@gmail.com  
GD-930

**প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়**  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে  
সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০  
ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ  
ফোনঃ +৮৮০৩১২৮৬৩১৬২, ই-মেইলঃ cee@railway.gov.bd

নং-সি/ই/ই-জিপি/০১/২০২১-২২; তারিখঃ ০৮/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) এ নিম্নোল্লিখিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	Tender আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের বস্তু ও কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১.	xenpne/east/e-tender/21-22/86	688011	Works: At SSAE/Works/KYTO: Construction of steel fencing work for access control at Mymensingh (MYN) railway station as per drawing.	OTM (NCT)	31-May-2022 12:00pm
১.	xenpne/east/e-tender/21-22/81	683643	Works: At Azampur (AZPR) Railway Station: Construction of Platform Shed No. 1 as per approved drawing.	OTM (NCT)	24-May-2022 12:00pm

বিঃদ্রঃ  
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরপত্রাভ্যন্তরীণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।  
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বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

এস(২২)(১২২)  
জিডি-৯২৪



## Consistency is the name of the game for Jovan

**The actor stamped his authority with three seasons of "Best Friend" opposite Mehazabien Chowdhury, and for his role in Shihab Shaheen's web film "Morichika"**

SHARMIN JOYA

He was a breath of fresh air when he made his debut in 2013, as he went on to solidify his place in the industry with his hard work and talent.

The actor stamped his authority with three seasons of "Best Friend" opposite Mehazabien Chowdhury, and for his role in Shihab Shaheen's web film "Morichika"

This year alone, Farhan Ahmed Jovan was in 17 Eid productions, and is now enjoying a much deserved Eid break.

This year, his performance in Sagar Jahan's "Monophobia", "Rafat Mazumder Rinku's "Prosroy", and Mahmudur Rahman Hime's "Touch" were appreciated.

"I spent some quality time with my family, which was much-needed as I am usually busy with my work," says the actor. "Having said that, I try to take feedback on my performance from my family members, as they always give me neutral responses. They don't shy away from criticising my work."

Some of his favourite Eid projects this year, done by her colleagues are "Kidnap", "Hangor" and "Champa House".



From his own works, Jovan suggested that his fans watch "Prosroy" directed by Rafat Mozumder Rinku, "Love VS Crush 2" directed by Probir Roy Chowdhury opposite Mehazabien Chowdhury, "Pukure Bhasha Shongshar", directed by Sagar Jahan, "Love Trip" opposite Tanjin Tisha, "Touch" by Mahmudur Rahman Hime, opposite Safa Kabir, "Ek Jonome" by Muhammad Miftah Anan costarring with Keya Payel, "Support" by Md Mehedi Hasan

and "O Amar Bon Na Anamika Tasnim" directed by Maburur Rashid Bannah.

The actor is currently busy with several web projects, along with television productions.

He has paired up with some of the most popular actresses in the industry, however, fans love his on-screen chemistry with Mehazabien the most. "I think apart from Mehazabien, audiences also like my on-screen chemistry with Tanjin Tisha, Tasnia Farin, and Keya Payel," he shared.

## Ranveer Singh in double roles for 'Cirkus'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



The poster for Rohit Shetty's upcoming movie "Cirkus" reveals double roles for Ranveer Singh. The makers have announced that the family entertainer will be released on December 23, 2022. The film also stars Jacqueline Fernandez, Pooja Hegde, Varun Sharma, as well as a host of ensemble actors.

Unlike Shetty's cop movies, this one gives out more of a "Golmaal" vibe and it seems like lots of chaos, confusion, and hilarity will ensue in it.

## Young people and their pursuit of theatre

MRITTIKA ANAN RAHMAN, Shout

Young people are drawn to theatre, but many don't know how theatre groups in Dhaka work.

Most troupes require interested individuals to complete an introductory course. One can learn vocal projection, dance, improvisation, script writing and more before they can start to work.

Theatre workers often testify to the personal growth theatre can provide.

"No matter where you are in life, when you get involved in theatre, you start a process of personal enrichment," shares Tisha Mahjabeen Chowdhury, CEO of Open Space Theatre.

Working in theatre also has its own set of challenges. According to many, the work can be unrewarding and financial benefits are limited.

"You really have to be in love [with theatre] and a tad bit crazy to go into it," says Fazle Rabby, a member of Aranyak Natyadal.

Learn more about the pursuit of theatre in tomorrow's issue of SHOUT.



## NEWS

### It's costing

FROM PAGE 12

anonymity, said there was no point in getting the trains operated by private firms and incurring losses.

"The committee asked the ministry to come up with the detailed statistics regarding income and expenditure in the committee's next meeting," he added.

### ACC

FROM PAGE 12

The apex court is yet to fix any date for hearing the appeal, he added.

On March 9 last year, the HC upheld the lower court's verdict that convicted and sentenced Salim to 10 years in the corruption case filed during the military-backed caretaker government in 2007.

It also upheld a fine of Tk 10 lakh imposed on the AL lawmaker from Dhaka-7 (Lalbagh) for amassing wealth worth Tk 14.65 crore beyond known sources of his income.

The HC, however, scrapped another part of the lower court's judgement delivered in 2008 which handed three years' imprisonment to Haji Salim for concealing information about his wealth to the ACC.

## Farewell to the sultan of strings

FROM PAGE 12

claiming the santoor was "unfit" for Hindi music, he went on to win hearts, skating from local stages to international platforms.

Gliding along his strings, Sharma's melodies worked like magic, intoxicating music lovers worldwide with the sweet twinkles of this folk instrument.

Garnering love and praise at every step towards success, Sharma managed to familiarise and establish the santoor worldwide.

Sharma ventured out into movies with the background score in V Shantaram's "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje" (1956). He went on to record his first solo album in 1960.

Aiming to introduce and integrate Kashmiri Sufism into the Hindi film scene, Sharma predominantly incorporated local instruments and folk musical tunes into his compositions.

As part of the Shiv-Hari duo, he went out to deliver some of the most cherished playback numbers with celebrated flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, for acclaimed films such as "Silsila", "Chandni",

"Lamhe" and "Darr". Alongside his Bollywood releases, Sharma went on to craft an array of experimental albums, including "The Glory Of Strings - Santoor" (1991), "Varsha - A Homage to the Rain Gods" (1993), "Hundred Strings of Santoor" (1994), "The Pioneer of Santoor (1994)", "Sampradaya" (1999), "Vibrant Music for Reiki" (2003), "Essential Evening Chants" (2007) "The Last Word in Santoor" (2009) and "Sangeet Sartaj" (2011).

He received the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001. He was also honoured with the Platinum Disc for "Call of the Valley" (1967), "Silsila" (1981) and "Chandni" (1989). Sharma was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the highest Indian recognition given to practicing artists, conferred by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama.

Mourning the legendary composer's demise, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Our cultural world is poorer with the demise of Pandit Shivkumar Sharma Ji. He

popularised the Santoor at a global level. His music will continue to enthrall the coming generations. I fondly remember my interactions with him. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan also took to his Twitter and wrote, "The passing away of Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharmaji marks the end of an era. He was the pioneer of Santoor and his contribution is unparalleled. For me, it's a personal loss and I will miss him to no end. May his soul rest in peace. His music lives on forever! Om Shanti."

Tributes also poured in from numerous Indian artistes, including musicians Jeet Gannguli, Vishal Dadlani and actor Annu Kapoor.

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma is survived by his son, Rahul Sharma, who is also a santoor player.

## Govt to take

FROM PAGE 12

we're taking preparations to initiate departmental proceedings."

On March 15, the Cabinet announced one institution and 10 individuals including Amir Hamza as recipients of this year's Independence Award.

Hamza was selected in the literature category. Later, it came to light that Amir Hamza, who died in 2019, had served nine years in a murder case.

Ever since the name of Amir Hamza was published, there has been a lot of discussion and criticism in the media and social media about the issue.

According to media reports, Asaduzzaman, son of Amir Hamza, applied for the award.

Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh made the recommendation and after scrutiny, the Cabinet Committee on National Award finalised the list of awardees.

When the conviction of Hamza came to the fore, the government dropped his name. The cabinet also sought an explanation for the recommendation from Tapan Kanti Ghosh.

In reply, Tapan Kanti said Asaduzzaman concealed information about the conviction from him and he did not either scrutinise independently.

Upon his reply, the cabinet has asked the public administration to take action. "We'll issue a show-cause notice to Asaduzzaman and will seek his explanation. A draft of show-cause notice is being prepared," said an official of the Discipline Wing of the Public Administration.

Issuing show-cause notice is the first step of filing a departmental case, he added. Earlier, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque termed the inclusion of Hamza's name in the list a failure of the respective cabinet committee.

## Proposed rules may discourage investment

FROM PAGE 12

Bangladesh's growth until now, concerns over working conditions and labour rights will become the crux of trade decisions as you transition to a middle-income country."

Haas said concerns over labour rights and working conditions cost Bangladesh access to the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefit in 2013. The European Union has given notice that the same concerns will determine if it would continue to give trade benefits to Bangladesh after it becomes a middle-income country, he added.

These issues are also causing Bangladesh to miss out on a massive source of investment capital from the United States.

The US Development Finance Corporation (DFC) which partners with US businesses to develop projects in sectors such as energy, healthcare, critical infrastructure and technology, would be an ideal financing source for projects in Bangladesh.

rights and workplace safety so it can qualify for DFC and attract more US trade and investment."

Mahbub Ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, highlighted the historic importance of US-Bangladesh business ties.

Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs; Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the prime minister; Tapan Kanti Ghosh, commerce secretary; and Jay R. Pryor, vice president of business development for Chevron also spoke at the event.

**Zila Parishad, Manikganj**  
www.zpmanikganj.org.bd

Memo No. ZPManik/e-Tender/02/2022/316 Date: 08/05/2022

**e-Tender Notice No. 09/2021-2022(OTM)**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of scheme	Document last/selling date & time	Document closing/opening date & time
695573	e-GP/ZPM/2021-22/09/OWN/W-06	Improvement of Road from Raidokhin Pacca Road to Wilton house (Ch-00-143m) by R.C.C under Singair Upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.	25/05/2022 17.00	26/05/2022 13.00
695578	e-GP/ZPM/2021-22/09/OWN/W-07	a) Improvement of East side of Zila Parishad Bhaban Ground floor by tiles & Maintenance under Manikganj Sadar Upazila, Dist.- Manikganj. b)Improvement of Zila Parishad Computer Training Center under Manikganj Sadar Upazila, Dist.-Manikganj.		
695662	e-GP/ZPM/2021-22/09/OWN/W-08	Development of Ground floor at Zila Parishad Bijoy Bhabon under Manikganj Sadar Upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.		
695680	e-GP/ZPM/2021-22/09/OWN/W-09	Improvement of Zila Parishad Own Land by Barbed wire fence & earth filling North side of Zila Parishad Bijoy Bhabon Mousa Paschim Bandutia, J.L No-55, RS Khatian No-02, Plot No-1154 under Manikganj Sadar Upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.		
695693	e-GP/ZPM/2021-22/09/OWN/W-10	a) Construction of Boundary Wall at Zila Parishad Shadhinata Bhabon & Bhabon-71 under Manikganj Sadar Upazila, Dist.- Manikganj. b) Maintenance of Zila Parishad Bhabon 71 under Manikganj Sadar Upazila, Dist.- Manikganj.		

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online from any registered banks branches up to the following date & time. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders published date & time 11/05/2022 at 12:00am. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Shahidur Rahman**  
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GD-937

NYT wins 3 Pulitzer Prizes

REUTERS

The New York Times won three Pulitzer Prizes and was named as a finalist five more times on Monday, while its rival the Washington Post took the public service award and Reuters claimed the prize for feature photography.

The annual Pulitzers are the most prestigious awards in US journalism, with special attention often paid to the public service award.

In feature photography, a team of Reuters photographers won the Pulitzer for coverage of the coronavirus pandemic's toll in India.



Members of Afghanistan's Powerful Women Movement, take part in a protest in Kabul, yesterday. About a dozen women chanting "burqa is not my hijab" protested in the Afghan capital against the Taliban's order for women to cover fully in public, including their faces.

PHOTO: AFP

World could see 1.5C of warming in 5 yrs

REUTERS, London

The world faces a 50 percent chance of warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, if only briefly, by 2026, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Monday.

That does not mean the world would be crossing the long-term warming threshold of 1.5C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), which scientists have set as the ceiling for avoiding catastrophic climate change.

But a year of warming at 1.5C could offer a taste of what crossing that long-term threshold would be like.

"We are getting measurably closer to temporarily reaching the lower target of the Paris Agreement," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas, referring to climate accords adopted in 2015.

The likelihood of exceeding 1.5C for a short period has been rising since 2015, with scientists in 2020

estimating a 20 percent chance and revising that last year up to 40 percent. Even one year at 1.5C of warming can have dire impacts, such as killing many of the world's coral reefs and shrinking Arctic sea ice cover.

In terms of the long-term average, the average global temperature is now about 1.1C warmer than the pre-industrial average.

"Loss and damage associated with, or exacerbated by, climate change is already occurring, some of it likely irreversible for the foreseeable future," said Maxx Dilley, deputy director of climate at the WMO.

World leaders pledged under the 2015 Paris Agreement to prevent crossing the long-term 1.5C threshold - measured as a multi-decadal average - but so far have fallen short on cutting climate-warming emissions. Today's activities and current policies have the world on track to warm by about 3.2C by the end of the century.

Marcos Jr wins big

REUTERS, Manila

The son of the disgraced late Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos yesterday vowed to work for all people after his stunning election victory, and told the world to judge him by his presidency, not his family's past.



Rare miss for Queen

AFP, London

Head of state Queen Elizabeth II missed yesterday's ceremonial opening of the UK parliament for the first time in nearly 60 years, handing the duty to her heir Prince Charles in a clear sign of the looming transition of power.



Charles, the Prince of Wales, was accompanied at the high-profile state engagement by his eldest son, Prince William, who is second-in-line to the throne.

Charles delivered the Queen's Speech from the consort's throne, symbolically an inch shorter than the monarch's sovereign throne, and was flanked by his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and son as he read out the government's agenda.

Advertisement for 'জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড' (Janta Bank Limited) with a table listing branches and their locations.

Advertisement for 'ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ' (Dockyard and Engineering Works Ltd) with details about their services and contact information.

Shoot-on-sight

FROM PAGE 1

president goes," he added. A mob assaulted a top police officer and torched his vehicle near the prime minister's official residence in the capital Colombo yesterday.

In another sign of rapidly deteriorating security, vigilante groups blocked the main road to Colombo's airport and stopped all traffic to check for any Rajapaksa loyalists trying to leave the island, witnesses said.

Thousands of angry protesters stormed Mahinda's official residence on Monday night, and the former premier had to be rescued in a pre-dawn military operation yesterday, firing tear gas and warning shots.

Mahinda and his family have taken shelter at a naval base in Trincomalee in the north-east part of the island nation, sources told NDTV.

Despite the attack on his residence, Mahinda's son Namal told AFP that his father would not flee, describing the surge of national anger against his family as a "bad patch".

Protesters and a key trade group yesterday called for a new government to take control of the crisis-hit country as the president called for calm.

Sri Lanka has been suffering its worst economic crisis in history, with a severe shortage of foreign exchange stalling the essential of imports, including drugs and fuel.

For months, its tottering economy has been largely supported by India, which has provided assistance of more than \$3.5 billion as the country began much-delayed talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a rescue package and also sought help from China.

Advertisement for 'বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট' (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute) including an invitation for tenders and a detailed table of tender specifications.

## The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

# A trial 24-years-old and still running

## A blatant miscarriage of justice

SHOULD the trial of a case last for 24 years? What does it say about a judicial system if a case for alleged possession of drugs runs for a quarter of a century, without any hope in sight of its completion? In a country where the rule of law is respected in letter and spirit, this is incomprehensible.

Ahad Ali has been caught in the tangle of our intricate legal process since 1998 on charges of drug possession. This case encapsulates everything that is wrong with our legal system. Firstly, the circumstance of his arrest is dubious. A packet containing heroin was found nearby where he was sitting while waiting in Gabtoli for a bus home in 1998. He was not found in possession of it. Does proximity to a banned substance merit arrest? If so, was he the only one in that area? From his statement, it appears that he may have been framed, the intention of the police being to extort money from him. He failed to pay up the Tk 5000 they had demanded, and that has cost him 25 years of his precious life.

Secondly, should it take a quarter of a century to dispose of the case? We must ask: Why hasn't a single witness been produced after all these years? The case is so old that the current OC of Mirpur Thana knows nothing about it, and for all that he knows, and we can guess, the policemen involved in the arrest may well have retired or be dead by now. And what can be more pitiful than to find that the main witness, the sole one produced after 24 years, knows nothing about the case? So is the case with witness number two.

Admittedly, the case is serious, since possessing heroin over 25 grams is a penal offence which carries the maximum sentence of death. But we wonder why the court has not considered the repeated dismissal petition of the defendant. Is it the fault of the accused if the state fails to prepare the case and conduct it properly in court? We agree that trial judges go by the evidence produced. But if no witness is produced to corroborate the charges even after 24 years, should the ruling of the court not go in favour of the accused, since everyone is innocent unless proven guilty?

We believe this is a case the High Court should take cognizance of. The logic and even the legal position of giving fresh dates every time after a hearing, when no witness has been forthcoming for so long, has to be explained. Such miscarriage of justice should be righted, and be never repeated.

# Why must female migrant workers return empty-handed?

## Their exploitation has to end

A new batch of 340 female migrant workers has returned home in the month of April to impart the usual depressing tales of exploitation, harassment and broken dreams. These unfortunate workers had spent large sums of money and foregone the love and affection of family in hope of saving some money from their wages abroad to secure happiness and a future. But, as is often the case, the reality turned out to be something tragically different.

The accounts of sexual harassment of female workers by foreign employers are unheeded by local police there, if and when complaints are lodged. It is discernible from first-hand accounts that female migrant workers feel at a loss, finding no sympathisers in the foreign surroundings, which eventually take a severe toll on their physical and mental health. The returnee female workers usually display tell-tale signs of distress upon landing in Dhaka.

The exploitation and coercion of migration aspirants by dubious agents and sub-agents for more money begins right from the time they hand over their passports to them, and such depraved activities continue until the date of their departure. Since the stories of Bangladeshi returnee female migrant workers sound so similar, one wonders why the government has not attempted to seek the root of the issue and establish the safety and dignity of these workers. In this regard, tangible steps should be taken by the respective ministries and Bangladesh missions abroad against oppressive employers and the Bangladeshi recruitment agent(s) who work on their behalf.

We believe the "zero cost" migration agreement with Saudi Arabia for Bangladeshi female workers is a praiseworthy bilateral contract, which would help in achieving the much-needed economic emancipation of women migrants to a large extent. As per the agreement, if female workers could work unhindered for two years and return home with sufficient savings, they would be able to invest the money in a revenue-generating project. Since women empowerment is the prime focus here, we feel both the Saudi Arabian and Bangladeshi governments should take up measures to make it easier and safer for women to work in Saudi Arabia. In this regard the Bangladesh mission there should be given the responsibility to look after the interest of Bangladeshi nationals to the best of their ability.

# A not-so-smart proposal for an offshore smart city



## A CLOSER LOOK

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem\_tayeb

TASNEEM TAYEB

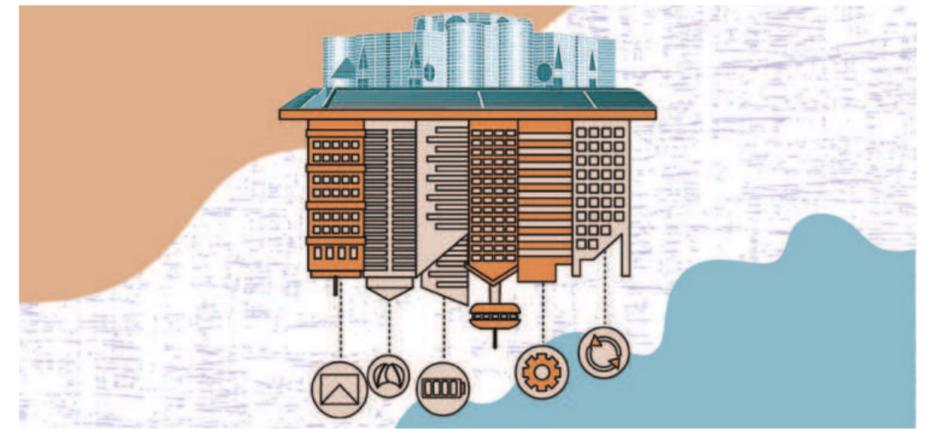
IN an unprecedented move, the parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry has directly recommended a major development project—to build an offshore smart city claiming land from the Bay of Bengal—directly to the prime minister.

The offshore smart city project involves the development of a seaside bayview smart city on a stretch of 60 square kilometres of land connecting Sagarika Point of the Patenga Beach with the Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar in Mirsarai. A consortium of two local companies—The Peninsula Chittagong and Mazumder Enterprise—and two Chinese companies—China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) and China Railway Design Corporation (CRDC)—are pushing for the approval of this project. In return for stake in the smart city, the consortium has also proposed to build a 20.5 kilometre metro rail line in the port city, which would cost about USD 2.2 billion.

The move is being termed unprecedented because article 76 of the constitution does not include scope of such recommendations within the jurisdiction of parliamentary standing committees. However, section 248 of rules of procedure of the parliament states, "the functions of a Committee shall be to examine any Bill or other matter referred to it by Parliament, to review the works relating to a Ministry which falls within its jurisdiction, to inquire into any activity or irregularity and serious complaint in respect of the Ministry and to examine, if it deems fit, any such other matter as may fall within its jurisdiction and to make recommendations." It is this particular section that the said parliamentary committee has utilised to make the recommendation directly to the PM.

There is a debate on whether a parliamentary standing committee can directly and unilaterally make a recommendation to the prime minister for such a massive project. This is especially the case as it would potentially involve significant engagement and inputs from multiple ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (since it deals with territorial implications), Ministry of Law (since legal advice on the way forward would be required, at both national and international levels), Ministry of Environment (since environmental impact assessments would be required), and the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (since the proposal includes construction of a metro rail line). But there are also many other inconsistencies in the narratives that have surfaced in a report published by this daily.

For one, while a memorandum of understanding signed between the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) and the consortium was mentioned in the documents presented in the parliamentary standing committee meeting, when



COLLAGE: TEENI AND TUNI

asked about it, CDA chief engineer, Kazi Hasan Bin Shams denied it, saying such an agreement would be signed "once the government gives the go-ahead." If that is the case, then why was it even mentioned? Was it a clerical error? Or has an MoU actually been signed which the authorities now are trying to keep under wraps? Secondly, while chief of parliamentary

proposed metro rail line by the consortium needs to be assessed, since this ideally should fall under the jurisdiction of the road transport and bridges ministry.

The environment seems to have been the least considered aspect in the recommendation. When land will be claimed from the Bay of Bengal, how it would affect the overall ecology—especially

standing committee on housing and public works ministry, Mosharraf Hossain—who also has a significant stake in The Peninsula Chittagong—is strongly pushing for the proposal and justifying his recommendation saying it's "a very good proposal," his son Mahboob-Ur-Rahman, also chairman of the same company, more tactfully suggested to this daily that they have partnered with two Chinese companies to assess feasibility of the project, which is "almost done."

However, the CDA chief engineer stated the contrary when asked about the feasibility study: "For that, they will need the government's permission."

If the feasibility study of the project is "almost done," then why is CDA not aware of it? And if the government's permission is indeed needed, then how could the consortium go ahead with the study? And who's paying for it?

Also, since the project is going to be based on land claimed from the sea, how is the CDA involved? Perhaps, because the parliamentary standing committee was too eager to materialise this proposal, they did not consider whether CDA was even eligible to place such a proposal to them. The CDA's jurisdiction is only limited to the existing land mass of the country, as per Section 6 of the Chattogram Development Authority Act 2018. As it is a new kind of project, involving land claimed from the Bay of Bengal, it needs to be understood, through legal advice, under whose purview this would fall.

A thorough discussion and evaluation of the proposal by the parliamentary standing committee could have also helped in understanding how the proposed metro rail line would affect the advanced-level ongoing discussion between road transport and bridges ministry and Korea International Cooperation Agency about the feasibility study to establish a mass rapid transit network in Chattogram. Also the role of the CDA in the building of the

marine life—needs to be taken seriously. And if such assessments have not been conducted before recommending the proposal to the PM directly, based on what information is the PM expected to make a call on it?

The issue of the consortium's share in the project demands detailed scrutiny. The public needs to know and, more importantly, the government and the PM need to know, what kind of share they are expecting from the sales of the structures in the smart city—and whether it would be feasible and profitable for the nation to allow such stakes. Surely, the consortium would not construct the metro rail line incurring a loss.

The conflict of interest involving the chief of the said parliamentary standing committee, along with that of Mazumder Enterprise—whose CEO, Mohammed Jashim Uddin Chowdhury, happens to be a ruling party sub-committee member on relief and social welfare since 2014—needs to be thoroughly investigated.

A project of this stature and scale needs thorough onboarding of all parties involved or of those whose involvement could be needed, along with buy-in from every single one of the stakeholders. One man calling it a "very good" proposal does not make it "very good" for everyone. It might be very good for certain individuals. But this is not the parameter by which to assess the greater benefits to the nation.

The authorities concerned should take this issue seriously and form a cross-ministerial and multisectoral stakeholder body to neutrally assess the proposal shared by CDA to the parliamentary standing committee, and take a holistic approach to decide whether to proceed with the proposal or not.

While we all want growth and prosperity of the nation, it should not come in a hasty package as a result of certain quarters' interests. We must set our priorities straight.

**Since the project is going to be based on land claimed from the sea, how is the CDA involved? Perhaps, because the parliamentary standing committee was too eager to materialise this proposal, they did not consider whether CDA was even eligible to place such a proposal to them.**

## FIFTY YEARS OF NEPAL-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

# A friendship with much potential



Sunil KC is chief executive of Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs (AIDIA), a Kathmandu-based foreign policy think-tank, and adviser at the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

SUNIL KC

NEPAL and Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations on April 8, 2022. Nepal was the seventh country to recognise Bangladesh as an independent country in 1972. During Bangladesh's Liberation War, Nepalese political leaders provided ideological and material support for a free Bangladesh. With Nepal recognising Bangladesh's independence, the then Pakistani leadership broke off its relationship with the former. The Bangladesh government has always regarded Nepalese politicians highly for their contribution to the independence of Bangladesh.

Since establishing diplomatic ties, the two countries have enjoyed excellent relations and supported each other on various international and regional political and economic forums. Nepal and Bangladesh began their official trade with the opening of the Kakarvitta-Phulbari-Banglabandha transit route in 1997. Bangladesh welcomed Nepal to use the Mongla Port facilities for its third country trade as well as rail corridor transit via

Rohanpur for easy and cost-effective bilateral trade. In 1978, the two countries established a Joint-Economic Commission (JEC) at the finance ministry level to enhance bilateral trade and investments. Foreign office consultations mechanism was also established in July 2012 in Dhaka at the foreign secretary level to discuss and review bilateral ties.

Power is the key to strengthening ties in the days to come, due to the huge energy requirements of Bangladesh for its rapidly growing industries. Bangladesh could invest in Nepal's hydropower and import surplus energy from Nepal, as the latter has the potential to generate 43,000 MW, whereas Bangladesh's requirements in 2035 will be 35,000 MW. Dhaka has already formulated a strategic energy policy to import 10,000 MW from Nepal. Last year, the Bangladesh Power Development Board requested the Indian ministry of energy to permit Bangladesh to import 450 MW of hydro power from Nepal. India has given a positive response towards the proposal and soon the cross-border power trade may begin.

The first Nepal-Bangladesh Business Forum was jointly hosted by the Bangladesh embassy led by the then Ambassador Mash'ee Binte Shams and the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs (AIDIA) in Kathmandu some years back. AIDIA facilitated field visits of various hydropower sites for business leaders. AIDIA played a key role in bringing FNCCI-FBCCI onto

one table for signing an MoU on January 24, 2016. The government of Nepal needs to pay attention to signing the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) with Bangladesh to secure the USD 1 billion FDI from the Bangladesh government, and another USD 2 billion from the private sector which will help generate and export power to Bangladesh from Nepal. It will enable Nepal to be a net energy exporting country in South Asia and help reduce its trade deficit with Bangladesh and improve its foreign currency reserves.

To take the bilateral relationship forward and create a strong bond, the two countries need to review the last five decades of their journeys and formulate active policies in the field of hydropower, trade, infrastructure development, and more. Nepal must learn from the rapid rise of Bangladesh and should harness the potentials in bilateral engagements. For instance, Bangladeshi conglomerate Summit Power invested in West Bengal for power generation and another company Summit Alliance Port Limited is operating the inland waterways terminals in Kolkata and Kalughat. Likewise, Pran RFL has been establishing food processing plants in some states of Nepal, but we are still not being able to tap the opportunities Bangladesh offers due to our weak economic strategies. Therefore, the government needs to encourage and support the private sector in Nepal to engage with Bangladeshi companies.

**Bangladesh could invest in Nepal's hydropower and import surplus energy from Nepal, as the latter has the potential to generate 43,000 MW, whereas Bangladesh's requirements in 2035 will be 35,000 MW.**

## Maa, all the things I've been silent about

SARA RASHID

Sara Rashid, based in New York, is interested in how religion and politics shape art in South Asia.

**M**AA, all the things I've been silent about are all the things that could've saved me. They could've saved me from the thoughts that persecute me daily. Thoughts that first paralysed me with a kind of terror and agony unknown to seven-year-olds, and have now ultimately seeped into my being, stubbornly sitting on my chest day in and out, snatching away any glimmer of hope that I had for the life ahead of me.

Maa, talk about injustice, prejudiced social norms, a misplaced fear of dishonour, and sexism banding together to stack all their cards against you. In a society that refuses to equip women against this sombre reality, and instead terrorises them into silence and powerlessness, you and I didn't stand a chance. And so it's no surprise that my silence started with yours, and yours with your mother's and grandmother's, getting passed down systemically and politically through generations.

It's unfortunate that the first thing I remained silent about is the one that weighed most heavily on me in the last 29 years. Now when I look back at it, I recognise the main reason for my silence: I didn't have the words to explain something I couldn't comprehend myself. Why was there suddenly a pair of eyes always following me everywhere, why was I being taken to bathrooms, hidden behind couches and why was I being hushed as my skirt got pulled down and my chest got rubbed?

Why was there a mouth forcing open mine, why were my legs being spread, why was there a finger inside of where I peed from, and why was everything hurting? But mainly, why was this called a game, one that was so different from the games I played outside? Where was everyone else and why were my cousin and I the only ones in this game?

The silence was a weapon I shielded myself with, just like you taught me, Maa. And this shield left me no choice but to grow up at the age of seven; it stole my childhood and left me in a state of constant paranoia and mental paralysis, and most unfairly, took from me the ability to love and trust. Maa, you were right when you said it takes only a second for life to change—that was the speed at which my life upended, taking from me my essence and sense of self, turning me into a shadow of who I used to be. I went from cycling in the streets, discovering new birds and flowers in gardens, racing boys in parks to a child stripped of her soul and spirit. In many ways, Maa, those seconds not only changed both our lives, it completely took our lives away.

Over the years, as the shock and trauma settled and I began navigating a



PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

**Silence is simply the other side of complicity; it sits like a lump in your throat that first paralyses, then suffocates and ultimately erodes your sense of self and strips you of your spirit, which in the end is too high a price for any person to pay.**

new reality for myself, I often questioned why neither of us spoke up. I didn't because you and I had made a pact that I was bound by: the first time we spoke about it would be the last, and that I was to never utter a word of it to anyone. I believe you didn't because you hoped there would be power in silence. You were convinced that it would save me from society's judgement. After all, a girl violated is a girl damaged and damned, without the possibility of marriage and a future that no parent would wish for them. It's unjustifiably cruel, but also not surprising that it's the girl and never the perpetrator who is looked at with that lens. It's ultimately the girl who turns into an outcast and has to pull the weight of a life that can no longer be salvaged.

Maa, I've grappled with your refusal to speak up, and as someone who isn't a mother herself, maybe I'll never be able to fully comprehend your decision till I have children of my own. As the fiercely protective and nurturing mother that you were and continue to be, your priority was to save me from any further harm, which silence promised. It was a way to confine what had happened, keeping it at a distance from causing more damage.

Equally importantly, you felt it was your duty to protect your family from learning about your nephew's depraved tendencies, and prevent a potential rift in the family. Your resolve showed how much you thought of everyone around you but yourself, and given the sense of family and community you were raised with, many would argue that it was the right thing to do. However, this subjectively right thing to do came at an unconscionable price, one that took immensely from a life I hadn't even entirely started living.

As much as I tried to replicate your silence, my emotional and mental

capacity to endure wavered, and I needed to speak my truth to save myself from further harm. However, the first thought of sharing my story was quickly expunged by the burden of concealing someone else's sins. That silence took from me any particle of strength and power I could muster to redefine my narrative, ultimately damaging my relationship with intimacy, and hurting my marriage. The more I suppressed, the more fervently it demolished me; I marinated the trauma internally as it coursed through my veins, desperate to bleed out but only managing to implode me.

So Maa, you have to know that when I did decide to speak up about what happened, it was because that was the only way I knew to take back control and power over my own narrative.

As many have claimed, it was not an act of vengeance, it was not meant to malign, punish or destroy lives. Maa, there's solace in knowing that even if others don't see the truth, you know that sharing my story was never about

him, it was always about me, about my life and what was taken away from it so mercilessly and wickedly.

Women's words and voices often have a price to pay, especially when we speak up against men. Speaking up was an attempt to find the pieces that were lost, it was about reclaiming justice. It was my desperate last try at saving what had become of me and my life. To appease the fear that fermented under my skin, but most importantly to know that I did right by me and others who didn't have a voice. I shared my story to free myself from it; what I did was an act of kindness toward myself and a way to discard the weight of a crime that was never mine to bear.

Maa, if anything, my experiences have taught me that it's impossible to please and protect everyone. It's our responsibility to protect our own selves, especially in the face of injustice and inhumanity. All this to say that silence is a sin, especially for those who have the ability to bring change with their stories. It's a poison that has altered the direction of my life, plaguing the relationships closest to me. Regrets come in abundance, and I often wonder whether, had I spoken up and sought help earlier, if I wouldn't be constantly looking over my shoulder to see who's behind me, wouldn't flinch at every touch, the purest moments of intimacy with my husband would feel different, and if I'd have braved having children of my own. But healing is not a destination, it's a journey and what keeps me going is how far I've come in this journey.

People will always have something to say, often they will reprimand, shame and out as a way to conceal truths that upset their perception of harmony and a moral society. Maa, you might not have used your words, but your actions have always taught me to find strength in the truth and seek change through the truth. And I had to start somewhere, for us; I had to break the cycle, for us. Through all this if there's anything I've learnt, it is that silence is simply the other side of complicity; it sits like a lump in your throat that first paralyses, then suffocates and ultimately erodes your sense of self and strips you of your spirit, which in the end is too high a price for any person to pay.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Burirhat, Shariatpur  
E-mail: [shariatpurpoly@yahoo.com](mailto:shariatpurpoly@yahoo.com)

**Re-Tender Notice**

Memo No. 57.03.8600.301.07.133.22.213 Date: 10/05/2022

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Procurement method	Publishing date & time	Last selling date & time	Tender opening & closing date & time
1	695890 Re-Tender ID 680546	Supply & Installation of Engineering & Other Accessories	OTM (e-GP)	10/05/2022 10:00	22/05/2022 10:00	22/05/2022 11:00

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

*Shaikh Mustafizur Rahman*  
Shaikh Mustafizur Rahman  
Principal  
Shariatpur Polytechnic Institute  
Burirhat, Shariatpur

GD-934

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Line Director  
Community Based Health Care (CBHC), CCHST  
BMRC Bhaban (1<sup>st</sup> floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.  
Phone No-02-222280785 (Official), Fax No. 02-222282900  
E-mail: [cbhc@ld.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:cbhc@ld.dghs.gov.bd)

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**

Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the Bidders for Supply of MSR for community Clinic. As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION	
1	Ministry/Division: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division.
2	Agency: Community Clinic Health Support Trust (CCHST), Health Services Division.
3	Procuring Entity: Line Director, Community Based Health Care (CBHC), CCHST.
4	Procuring Entity code: 224021006
5	Procuring Entity District: Dhaka
6	Invitation for: Procurement of MSR for Community Clinic.
7	Invitation for offer Ref. No: CBHC/Proc./GOB/MSR-44/2021-22/20
8	Date: 09.05.2022
9	Procurement Method: Open Tender Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10	Budget and Source of Funds: GOB (Dev.)
11	Development Partners: None
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12	Project/Program Code: 224021006
13	Project/Program Name: Community Based Health Care (CBHC)
14	Tender Package No: CBHC/G-GD-11/2021-22
15	Tender Package Name: MSR for Community Clinic
16	Tender Publication Date: 10.05.2022
17	Tender Last Selling Date and Time: 30.05.2022 at 5 pm
18	Tender Closing Date and Time: 31.05.2022 at 12 pm
19	Tender Opening Date and Time: 31.05.2022 at 2 pm
20	Name and address of the Office:
a) Selling of Tender Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, CBHC, CCHST, BMRC Bhaban (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.
b) Receiving of Tenders Documents	a) Office of the Line Director, CBHC, CCHST, BMRC Bhaban (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka.
c) Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Line Director, CBHC, CCHST, BMRC Bhaban (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
21	Place/ Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting: N/A
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
22	Eligibility of Tenderer: As stated in TDS
23	Brief Description of Goods: Supply of MSR (3 Items) for 14100 Community Clinics
24	Brief Description of Related Services: Not Applicable
25	Price of Tender Documents Taka: Tk. 7,000 (Seven thousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable).
PROCUREMENT DETAILS	
26	No: Identification: Location: Completion time (in weeks):
Single Lot	Package: CBHC/G-GD-11/2021-22, MSR for Community Clinic CBHC, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Taka 8,00,000 (Eight lacs) only by Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in Prescribed format in favour of Line Director, CBHC, CCHST. 10 weeks from date of signing the contract.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
27	Name of Official Inviting Offer: Dr. Masud Reza Kabir
28	Designation of Official Inviting Offer: Line Director, CBHC, CCHST
29	Address of Official Inviting Offer: BMRC Bhaban (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Offer: BMRC Bhaban (1 <sup>st</sup> floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone No-02-222280785 (Official), Fax No. 02-222282900, E-mail: <a href="mailto:cbhc@ld.dghs.gov.bd">cbhc@ld.dghs.gov.bd</a>

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.

*Dr. Masud Reza Kabir*  
Dr. Masud Reza Kabir  
Line Director  
Community Based Health Care (CBHC), CCHST  
BMRC Bhaban (1<sup>st</sup> floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

GD-926

## HALDA, MORE THAN A RIVER

The only source of naturally laid carp eggs in the country, Halda ensures the livelihood of a large population of the area, and nutrition for the country as a whole. On one hand, man-made reasons stand behind its rampant pollution, destroying its biodiversity to the core and the livelihoods of egg collectors. On the other hand, humans are the ones to jump right on to save the river and the people whose livelihoods depend on it, be it through surveillance or research. In today's Chattogram page, we highlight this contradiction, the perils of the Halda, and the efforts to save it.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

# Crisis of wells, crisis of livelihoods

**I have eight boats to collect eggs. So, I applied for an allotment of eight wells but got only four. It's not enough for the eggs I'm collecting.**

ASHU BARUA  
AN EGG COLLECTOR

SIFAYET ULLAH

Hundreds of fish egg collectors at Halda river, the only natural carp breeding ground in Bangladesh, are currently going through a huge crisis because of the limited allocation of wells.

The brood fishes release eggs during the last week of April or in the beginning of May every year. There are certain conditions for the proper releasing of eggs, including congenial temperature, heavy rain, tide, increased water flow from the upstream in the river etc. Then the collected eggs need to be kept in another waterbody in appropriate conditions for hatching, and that's where the wells come in handy.

That is the crisis that egg collectors of the area currently find themselves in. They fear that if wells are not allocated as per their demands, the eggs extracted from Halda will be wasted, resulting in a huge loss.

"I have eight boats to collect eggs. So, I applied for an allotment of eight wells but got only four. It's not enough for the eggs I'm collecting," said Ashu Barua, an egg collector.

And this is not the case for Ashu only. Majority of the egg collectors are on the verge of losses due to the issue.

According to the district fisheries office, there are 151 wells in four hatcheries on the bank of the Halda. But egg collectors of the



area have claimed that at least 400 wells are needed.

During a recent visit to the Middle Madarsha Baruapara hatchery, this correspondent talked to Gazi Selim, hatchery in-charge. "We have 32 wells here," he said. "All have already been allocated and we have made all kinds of preparations for the hatching," he added.

According to the data of Halda River Research Laboratory (HRRL), the river is the source of eggs worth about Tk 800 crore every year. Egg collection has become the primary earning activity for a large population along the bank of Halda, driving them towards self-reliance. Egg collectors will have to spend a total of Tk 40 lakh to collect

the eggs which will go in vain if they fail to hatch the eggs in time.

"Egg collectors informed us about the well crisis after the allocation was completed. We have advised them to make wells on the lands," said Farhana Lovely, district fisheries officer.

Halda researcher Prof Manzoorul Kibria said wells could be made on the ground at Halda's bank earlier but the embankment has made it impossible now.

"But egg collectors do need the wells, and relevant government agencies have to come forward in this regard. Otherwise the livelihood of the egg collectors will be destroyed," he added.

## Haunted by pollution

SIFAYET ULLAH

Halda is the only river in the country from where naturally laid carp eggs are collected for hatching. And yet, the river is being regularly polluted by industrial waste, posing a serious threat to its biodiversity.

The Halda originated at the Badnatali Hill Ranges in Ramgarh upazila in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. It flows through Fatikchhari, Hathazari and Raozan upazilas and Chandgaon Thana of the port city, and falls into the Karnaphuli.

The 81-kilometre-long river is the only natural carp breeding ground in Bangladesh, from where fertilised carp eggs are collected by local fisherman and egg collectors during April to June almost every year.

However, the ever-rampant pollution has led to 200 egg collectors losing their livelihoods.

According to a DoE report, wastes from various factories and residential blocks in Bayezid-Oxygen area are being dumped in Halda through Bamanshahi canal. Earlier, the canal used to flow directly into the Karnaphuli. But now it flows directly into Halda through Kwaish canal and the



residential areas' drains.

Engine-run boats and excavation from the river are among the other major reasons behind the pollution.

DoE analysis also suggests that according to almost every parameter, the water quality of the river and the canals were found unsafe for humans as well as the aquatic life.

Meanwhile, engine-run boats are still plying on the river even after the government banned them and sand mining on the river to protect the mother fish and endangered dolphins.

Researchers claimed that the river which was once a haven for brood fish to release their eggs has seen a drastic fall in the availability of eggs belonging to the natural species as the number of brood fish coming here to lay eggs has decreased in recent years due to all the pollution.

According to Halda River Research Laboratory's data, 8,500kg eggs were collected from the river last year, whereas the number exceeded 25,000kg in 2020.

"We recommended re-excavation of Bamanshahi canal and connecting it with the Karnaphuli to protect Halda. If the pollution continues this way, Halda will become fishless in near future," said Prof Manzoorul Kibria, noted Halda researcher.

Mufidul Alam, director of DoE-Chattogram region, told this correspondent that they will take necessary action regarding this as per law.

"We are always active in protecting the biodiversity of Halda. If something is illegal is going on, actions will be taken by the administration," he said.

## CCTV cameras protecting Halda from poachers

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Protecting Halda River's broodfish and dolphins from poachers has become much easier, thanks to a small technological initiative. Chattogram region's river police are now using CCTV cameras to monitor activities in the river.

Through the cameras – installed at different points of the river, which is the lone source of natural carp breeding in South Asia – police are surveilling around eight kilometres of the river round the clock.

Police officials said movement of sand-lifting dredgers, engine-run trawlers and poachers have been strictly controlled, and immediate action can now be taken following the initiative.

This initiative has been taken for the first time in the country. Eight high-resolution cameras, which cost Tk 4.65 lakh, were installed last year, said police.

Superintendent Md Mominul Islam of Chattogram river police told The Daily Star, "We have installed the cameras so that no one can catch fish or dolphins, or operate sand-lifting dredgers by

dodging police."

"We have installed cameras that have 360 degree movement from Madunaghat area to Amtua area. They can be accessed from the SP office and local police outpost," he said.

"Apart from that, we are patrolling the river regularly and destroying nets and other fishing tools, so that no one can interrupt breeding," he added.

ABM Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadarghat River Police Station, told this newspaper, "We have a temporary police outpost at Ramdas Munshirhat, where around 10 officers are working to protect the natural water body."

"Using live footage from SP and deputy inspector general's office, the local force is given directives during drives," he said. "We have also identified some key spots to install more cameras; the process is underway."

Unfortunately, despite monitoring and regular drives, a section of fishers are still casting illegal and harmful fishing nets in the river, said police and local sources.

A 10-kilometre area, from Ramdas Munshirhat to Sattar canal, is considered to be the breeding ground of brood fish during peak breeding period, say experts.



## CU HALDA RIVER RESEARCH LABORATORY Country's first research centre to study rivers

ARUN BIKASH DEY

The journey of Halda River Research Laboratory started on August 20, 2017 in two abandoned rooms at the Department of Zoology at Chittagong University (CU).

Supported by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Integrated Development Foundation (IDF), the Halda River Research Laboratory is the first research centre of its kind to pursue research on rivers in the country.

Since its inception, the centre has been researching on the Halda and creating mass awareness to protect the river's ecology.

The 1,000-sq ft research centre has three branches. The specialised laboratory branch has equipment for water quality testing and river biological analysis.

Documents, published articles, project papers of all kinds of scientific research done on the Halda so far are being kept in the river museum and archive branch. The third branch is the Digital Conference Center where scientific discussions, presentations and video documentaries are held.

Mohammad Manzoorul Kibria, a professor and chairman of Department of Zoology at CU, was behind establishing the research centre.

Asked about the importance of Halda river, Prof Kibria said, Halda is the only river in the world from where indigenous carp eggs are collected directly. It's the lone natural



PHOTO: COLLECTED

gene bank of indigenous carp fishes in the country.

"It's one of the main sources of drinking water supply to the port city.

Chattogram Wasa through two projects at Mohra and Madunaghat areas collects 18 crore litre water from the river per day. So the river's called the city's lifeline," he said. He added that it's also an important habitat of the endangered freshwater Ganges dolphins (Platanista Gangetica).

Prof Kibria said this laboratory is continuously running activities, including – Halda dolphin survey; evaluating Halda's water quality, creating awareness and co-ordination between stakeholders.

Fifty university students have completed their academic research on various topics

under this lab.

In 2022, full genome sequencing of four major carp fishes – rui, katla, mrigel and kalibaus, and dolphins of the Halda were unveiled under this lab. In the same year, the Halda River Management Plan was formulated for the river's management. The lab in collaboration with Jahangirnagar University, completed the DNA bar coding of the Katla Brood fish in Halda river. According to Prof Kibria, this is a breakthrough in the river's research history.

"Our previous generation did some works on Halda but they are outdated. We'll have to depart one day. Does that mean research on Halda will stop? The next generation needs to be prompted to keep it going. The research centre was made from this thought," Prof Kibria said.

## Covid-19 rules Shakib out of first Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh suffered a major blow ahead of first Test against Sri Lanka, starting at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram from May 15, as all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was ruled out after testing positive for Covid-19.

Shakib was due to join the Bangladesh squad in Chattogram today. "As part of the Managed Event Environment (MEE) protocols for the series, Shakib underwent a PCR and rapid antigen test as a pre-requisite to joining the team. Both tests returned positive results today (Tuesday). He will now recover in isolation and will be re-tested in due course. He has been ruled out of the first Test," the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) informed in a statement yesterday.

It makes the task of forming a balanced team a more difficult task for Bangladesh team



As the news of Shakib Al Hasan being ruled out of the first Test due to Covid-19 broke yesterday, Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque chanced his arm with the ball in the nets. However, the onus during the match will very much be on the Tigers' struggling batter order, including the captain who made only 13 runs in four innings on the recent tour of South Africa.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



management, especially given that all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz had also been ruled out with a finger injury sustained during Dhaka Premier League (DPL) match. The selectors included off-spinner Naveem Hasan as Miraz's replacement for the first Test.

"It's definitely a huge setback, especially after we lost another all-rounder. But it's the new reality and we have to accept it. We are not thinking about any replacement for Shakib because we have Tajjul Islam and Nayeem in the team," selector Habibul Bashar told The Daily Star yesterday.

Bashar also warned that the news should serve as a wake-up call to anyone reluctant to maintain protocols. "This is a clear message to everybody. We cannot be reluctant when it comes to maintaining Covid-19 protocols," he added.

## Rain spoils first day of Lankans' warm-up

SPORTS REPORTER

The scenic and tranquil backdrop of the BKSP did not provide the much-needed time in the middle in Bangladeshi conditions that the Sri Lankans had sought on the first day of their two-day practice match against Bangladesh XI yesterday.

Incessant rain from the afternoon saw nearly the entirety of the first day's play called off, with only 38 minutes of play possible before rain hit. There were precursors ahead of the start of play at 10:00am, but when play started on time, there was hope in the Lankan camp in particular about a full day's play. Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne had joined Asitha Fernando to open the innings and the visitors faced four overs each from Abu Jayed Rahi and Mukidul Islam Mugdho. Karunaratne did not get much of an opportunity to bat, falling to Mukidul after scoring two before rain hit after 8.3 overs with Sri Lanka at 14 for one. Another delivery was not bowled in the day.

While the umpires took an early lunch to counter the loss of time, the light drizzle soon gave way to heavy rain. Before play was called off, Karunaratne and Angelo Matthews headed to the indoor nets, batting batted against spin, in particular against left-arm spinner



Praveen Jayawickrama, who had been the destroyer-in-chief the last time Bangladesh played Sri Lanka in Tests.

While coach Mizanur Rahman rued the fact that the Bangladesh XI, consisting of some of the country's promising youngsters, did not get an opportunity to display their talents, selectors worried about weather leading up to the first Test in Chattogram.

The weather will be a concern for the time being as Cyclone Asani, named in Sri Lanka, brews over the bay. Heavy rainfall is expected and could play spoilsport for day two of the practice match while showers may hinder the start of the Test in Chattogram as well.

Meanwhile, the disheartening situation back home for Sri Lanka has led to the visitors averting media attention since landing in Bangladesh. Upon requesting

an interview, this reporter was told by coach Chris Silverwood that they 'didn't receive permission to talk to the media yet'.

Later, when the team manager was approached, he informed that they were likely to talk to the media after the first Test. The team management had contacted SLC higher-ups to get a status update on their media responsibilities but had received a 'no-go' signal, adding to the aura that the Lankans wanted a bubble around them. During their practice session at Mirpur a day before, media personnel were requested to stay away from practice facilities.

While many protocols were observed during the pandemic, the upcoming series will not be played in the environment of a bio-bubble. Seemingly, that did not apply to the Lankans as, despite testing negative for Covid-19, the side refrained from talking to journalists in close quarters. "We did test negative but we are in a bubble," a support staff said. Reminded there was no bio-bubble, the support staff replied: "That is for the Bangladesh side, but not us."

Despite shying away from media activities, team management sources informed that the players were in good spirits. That will come in handy, although the cricketers would have liked nothing more than to get some time in the middle.

## Paddlers create history

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh clinched a gold medal for the first time in their South Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships history as the paddlers in red and green beat their Sri Lankan counterparts 3-2 in the boys' U-19 team final in Male, Maldives yesterday.

The Bangladesh team -- featuring Muhtasin Ahmed Ridoy, Ramhim Lion Bom and Nafis Iqbal -- initially led the five-game match 2-0 but Sri Lanka team, comprising Chanul, Thisara and Hiruna, bounced back to level the margin in the next two matches. In the deciding match, Bangladesh national champion Ridoy held his nerves to steer Bangladesh into a new chapter in its sporting history.

It was Ridoy who put Bangladesh on the front foot by winning 11-9, 13-11, 9-11 and 11-6 before Ramhim capitalised on the momentum despite losing the first set 12-10 as he won the next three sets 13-11, 11-8 and 11-6.

Sri Lanka found steam from then on as Nafis lost in straight sets in game three with scores of 11-9, 12-10 and 11-3. The fourth set saw Ramhim go down 13-11, 9-11, 11-9 and 11-4 without much fight. In the end, Ridoy was there to pull off the rescue act and even though the national champion lost the first set 11-8, he trumped the next three in identical score-lines of 11-9.

## Hockey captain not content yet

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national hockey team captain Rezaul Karim Babu said that their mission has not been completed yet with the Asian Games berth following a 3-1 win over Sri Lanka in their qualifying campaign in Bangkok yesterday.

"We feel really good as we confirmed the Asian Games berth but our mission has not been completed yet. We have just successfully completed the first step of our mission but our mission will be completed if we win the tournament," Babu told The Daily Star over phone. "We could not play according to our plan because of player-shortage due to card problems during the match. We had to play with 10 or nine players for 19 minutes. The weather and bumpy pitch were other reasons for not performing well," he added. The second successive win took the men in red and green to the semifinals of the nine-team qualifiers with a match in hand against Singapore, which will be played on May 12.

The charges of Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurthy initially some challenge from an ever-improving Sri Lanka team before Bangladesh took the lead in the 18th minute through Ashraf Islam's penalty corner and they doubled the margin in the 23rd minute, with Khorsheer Rahman converting a penalty stroke.

Sri Lanka pulled back a goal in the 44th minute to bring some excitement into the match before Bangladesh took the match away with Roman Sarkar scoring the team's third goals in the 53rd minute, keeping Bangladesh's nine-year winning run over the island nation intact.

## City confirm Haaland deal

AGENCIES, Manchester

Manchester City have reached an agreement to sign striker Erling Haaland from Borussia Dortmund yesterday, the Premier League club said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The transfer remains subject to the club finalising terms with the player," City said.

City did not provide financial details of the deal but German media reported that the total cost of buying Haaland in a multi-year deal could exceed 300 million euros, including his salary, agent fees and bonuses. It was widely reported that City will pay just €60 million to activate the striker's release clause at Borussia Dortmund.

The relatively low fee also means the Norwegian may find a place among City's top earners, alongside De Bruyne, who makes about £400,000 a week.

The 21-year-old Norway striker's value has skyrocketed thanks to his prolific form at Dortmund after joining them from Austrian side Salzburg two years ago. Halaand scored 41 goals in as many games in all competitions last season.

The son of former Nottingham Forest, Leeds United and City midfielder Alf Inge Haaland, Haaland began his career at Bryne and Molde in Norway, then spent a year with Austria's Red Bull Salzburg before joining Dortmund in January

2020.

He has scored 85 goals in 88 appearances there, and despite interest from the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain, the reigning English champions and current leaders find themselves on the brink of sealing a sensational move.

The move will be a setback for Borussia Dortmund, but while club CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke launched a tirade against state-backed clubs, he also had a message of hope for supporters.

"We have played football for 113 years, and for 111 years, we played without Erling Haaland. We had Robert Lewandowski and then he left us in 2014, but we played football in '15, '16, '17 until now," Watzke said on Monday. "Then next came Pierre-Emerick

Aubameyang and then Erling Haaland and you can be sure if Erling decides to leave us, we will find the next [player] 100 per cent."

"When a player performs really well, we have to fight against the big, big clubs with the oligarchs and the Arab states at their back. And this fight we cannot win, but we can win a fight over an 18-year-old player, like Jude Bellingham, because this player loves to play at Borussia Dortmund because we have always 80,000 spectators, it's a very good atmosphere and the club knows how to manage young players."



Lionel Messi arrived in Jeddah on Monday after the Saudi Tourism Authority announced that the Paris Saint-Germain and Argentina footballer is his new official brand ambassador. Messi arrived at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, accompanied by a group of friends including his PSG teammate Leandro Paredes. Later the Argentine star posted pictures of himself enjoying sights and sounds of Saudi Arabia.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## Proposed rules may discourage investment

Says US envoy about BTRC's draft for digital platforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Peter Haas yesterday said the proposed regulation on data protection and governing online contents could force digital businesses to reconsider investment plans in Bangladesh.

At an event at the InterContinental Dhaka titled "US-Bangladesh Business Forum: Building on 50 years of friendship", he asked, "Can Bangladesh say it fully understands the impact on business of proposed regulations?"

"For example, does the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission understand how its proposed rules governing data protection and online content will force digital businesses to reconsider investing in Bangladesh?"

The event was organised by HSBC Bangladesh in partnership with the US-Bangladesh Business Council (USBBC).

The comments came as the BTRC framed a draft of Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms-2021 and published the draft of the regulations in February this year for comments from stakeholders.

Haas also questioned whether Bangladesh could

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Smoke rises following Russian shelling in an oil refinery near Lysychansk, eastern Ukraine on the 75th day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

## HIDING WEALTH INFO ACC challenges Haji Salim's acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An appeal was filed with the Supreme Court yesterday challenging a High Court verdict that acquitted Awami League lawmaker Haji Md Salim of the charge of concealing information about his wealth in which he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment by the trial court.

The Anti-Corruption Commission appealed through its lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan seeking to uphold his three-year jail sentence.

The lawmaker left for Bangkok on April 30, raising questions on the legality of his travel abroad despite being sentenced to jail for 10 years in another charge of the graft case filed by the ACC.

He returned home on May 5.

Citing the appeal, Khurshid told The Daily Star that the HC verdict did not properly consider the offence of Salim by scrapping his jail sentence.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## COMPANY-RUN TRAINS It's costing BR dearly

JS body on railways unhappy over scanty information

RASHIDUL HASAN

For every kilometre an individual travelled by train operated by private firms, the Bangladesh Railway spent Tk 2.43 and earned Tk 0.62, incurring a loss of Tk 1.81, according to the last three years' data presented before the parliamentary body on railways ministry.

The cost of transporting each tonne of goods per kilometre was Tk 8.94, incurring a loss of Tk 5.76, said the statistics by the railways ministry yesterday.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Railways discussed the information at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The parliamentary watchdog expressed dissatisfaction over the way the data was presented and asked for income and expenditure of each train.

According to the working paper submitted by the ministry to the parliamentary committee, the ministry has said that they do not prepare train-based expenditure accounts.

Forty trains in the eastern and western parts of the railway are operated by different private firms. The data did not mention how much losses these trains make every year.

The committee members also expressed dissatisfaction that the data mentioned the trains earn over Tk 98.61 crore a year, but did not say how much was being spent to operate the trains.

According to a press release issued by the Parliament Secretariat, the committee asked the ministry to provide the details of annual income and expenditure of 40 privately run trains.

Contacted, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary committee, declined to comment on the matter.

A member of the committee, speaking on condition of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Death toll 'thousands higher' than reported

Says UN rights official on Ukraine war; Russia pounds Odesa; US pledges fresh arms for Kyiv

AGENCIES

Thousands more civilians have been killed in Ukraine during nearly 11 weeks of war there than the official UN death toll of 3,381, the head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission for the country said yesterday.

The United Nations team, which includes 55 monitors in Ukraine, has said most of the deaths were caused by explosive weapons with a wide impact area such as missile and air strikes.

"We have been working on estimates, but all I can say for now is that it is thousands higher than the numbers we have currently given to you," Matilda Bogner told a news briefing in Geneva, when asked about the total number of deaths and injuries.

"The big black hole is really Mariupol where it has been difficult for us to fully access and to get fully corroborated information," she added, referring to the port city in southeast Ukraine that has seen the heaviest fighting of the war.

Bogner was speaking following a trip to Ukraine last week where she visited areas around Kyiv and Chernihiv previously occupied by Russian forces.

Her team has reports of over 300 unlawful killings in settlements north of Kyiv, including Bucha, she said and expected this number to rise.

They met a 70-year-old man who hid for more than three weeks in a basement that was so crowded he had to sleep standing up, tying himself to wooden rails to prevent himself falling over.



Bogner also voiced concern that both sides were using schools as army bases.

Her team was also investigating what she described as "credible allegations" of torture and executions by Ukrainian forces against the Russian invading forces and affiliated armed groups.

Meanwhile, Russian forces pounded away at the vital port of Odesa, as part of an apparent effort to disrupt supply lines and weapons shipments. One person was killed and five people were injured when seven missiles hit a shopping centre and a depot in the port city.

On the other end of the southern coast, they hammered Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol where Ukrainian fighters are denying Moscow full control of another critical port, reports Reuters.

Air raid sirens could be heard across several regions of Ukraine early yesterday including Luhansk, Kharkiv and Dnipro. The governor of Luhansk said the region was attacked 22 times in the past 24 hours.

US President Joe Biden said he was worried Putin "doesn't have a way out right now, and I'm trying to figure out what we do about that".

Sources say US Democratic lawmakers have agreed on a \$40 billion aid proposal for Ukraine, including a massive new weapons package.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said yesterday US believes that Putin is preparing for a long conflict in Ukraine and a Russian victory in the Donbas in the east of the country might not end the war.

More than eight million people are estimated

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Farewell to the sultan of strings Pandit Shivkumar Sharma leaves behind his soul in twinkling melodies



ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Giving a voice to the twinkling stars above us with his santoor, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma always echoed the beauty of his home state Jammu through his music.

Born to singer Uma Dutt Sharma on January 13, 1938, the Dogri-speaking music legend started his journey with vocal and tabla lessons at the mere age of five, under the tutelage of his father. By the time he was 12, he had started performing for the local radio station in Jammu.

The santoor maestro passed away yesterday at his residence in Mumbai at the age of 84 of a cardiac arrest.

Shivkumar had been suffering from kidney-related issues for the last six months and been on dialysis. Despite suffering from renal alignment and undergoing regular dialysis, he was due to perform in Bhopal next week.

He picked up the santoor, originally a folk instrument resembling a dulcimer, at the age of 13 and went on to give his first public performance in Mumbai in 1955. Despite his performance stirring up criticism from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

## SWADHINATA PADAK

Govt to take action against Khulna Zila Parishad CEO

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The cabinet division has asked the public administration ministry to take departmental action against Khulna Zila Parishad Asaduzzaman CEO Asaduzzaman for concealing information in the application for Swadhinata Padak (Independence Award) 2022, said sources.

Seeking anonymity, an official of the public administration ministry said, "As the Cabinet has asked for taking action,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



A homeless man takes shelter under a footbridge on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue to shield himself from the driving rain. The capital yesterday saw intermittent showers.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.**  
(A Joint Venture Company of BPDB and NTPC Ltd.)  
Borak Unique Heights (Level-17), 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.

IFT Ref No: BIFPCL/HO/VEHICLE/862 Date: 11/05/2022

**Tender Notice for Hiring Vehicles**

- BIFPCL invite tender from interested tenderers with the following details:
 

Name of the tender	Hiring of Vehicles on monthly rent basis for Dhaka office for 2 years.
Brief scope of service	Hiring 08 Nos. of Vehicles (06 Nos. Sedan car & 02 Nos. Microbus) on monthly rent basis for Dhaka office for 2 years.
Tender fee	Nonreturnable Tk.500/- by Pay Order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh to the "Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd"
Tender Security	Tk. 2,40,000.0 (BDT Two Lakh Forty Thousands only)
Tender document sell date and time	From 11.05.2022, 09:00 Hrs. to 31.05.2022, 17:00Hrs.
Last Date of Pre-Bid Query submission	18.05.2022, 17:00Hrs.
Last date for submission of Bids	01.06.2022, 12:00 Hrs.
Opening the Technical proposal	01.06.2022, 12:30 Hrs.
- Interested tenderers having service facility to perform the required service may participate in the tendering process.
- Tender document shall be collected within office hours from Office of the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL, Unique Heights (Borak), Level-17, 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. e-mail: cpo@bifpcl.com.
- For any information bidder may contact to the office of the CPO mentioned above.

**Md. Mofijul Islam, Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL.**