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Forex market VOLATILE

Dollar sold at up to Tk 102 for travellers, Tk 97 for importers; devaluation to help export, remittance, but may drive up inflation

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Volatility in the country's foreign exchange market yesterday intensified further amid scarcity of the greenbacks, forcing travellers to buy a US dollar at up to Tk 102, the highest in Bangladesh, in open markets.

Importers had to pay a maximum of Tk 97 per dollar to settle their import bills, up from Tk 95-96 on Monday at many banks, even though the Bangladesh Bank injected \$96 million into the market to bring back stability.

The central bank has injected a record \$5.31 billion this fiscal year to ease dollar shortage faced by banks.

Although the central bank had instructed lenders to charge Tk 87.60 per dollar on importers, banks were compelled to ignore the directive in the last few days due to the falling supply of the US currency against surging demand to settle import bills.



EXPERTS SUGGEST

- OMS expansion
- Cash assistance for the poor
- Widening social safety net
- Increasing repo rate

With the market facing instability, the Bangladesh Bank depreciated the taka twice within a week.

Economists said the fall of the local currency against the dollar will help exporters and remitters, but it will fuel inflation further by increasing the cost of imported goods immediately, leading to extra burden on people already bearing the brunt of rising commodity prices.

So they suggested the government expand open market sales (OMS), provide cash assistance to the poor and strengthen the social safety-net programmes to protect the lower income groups.

The soaring import payments, now hovering around \$7 billion per month amid the price hikes in the global market, are the pivotal reason for the shortage of the US dollar in the banking sector.

"There is no other scope but to devalue the taka against the dollar to subdue the high import cost. This subsequently helps reduce the trade deficit, which will keep the economy sound," said Md Habibur Rahman, chief economist of the central bank.

The trade deficit reduced the reserves to \$41.92 billion last week in contrast to \$46.15 billion on December 31. The reserves had surpassed \$48 billion in August.

"If the central bank devalues the taka against the dollar, you [people] have to feel the pinch from inflation. In the greater interest of the economy, the central bank is doing its job," Habibur said.

Between July and March, import payments escalated to \$61.52 billion, up 44 percent year-on-year while exports grew 33 percent to \$36.61 billion. This inflicted the highest-ever trade deficit of \$24.90 billion on Bangladesh during the period.

The trade deficit caused a fall in reserves to \$41.92 billion last week from \$46.15 billion on December 31. The reserves had surpassed \$48

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal looks to the heavens upon reaching his 10th Test century, which helped the hosts reach 318 for three at the end of the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

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Struggling against bow waves of large launches and other vessels, a boat ferries people across the Buriganga near the capital's Sadarghat yesterday morning. Such transportation of passengers often leads to accidents.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

PM urges people to practise austerity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the people to practise austerity and be careful about spending in the face of a global economic slowdown.

She made the call while speaking at the meeting of the National Economic Council yesterday afternoon, said Planning Minister MA Mannan at a press briefing after the meeting.

The PM joined the meeting virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

The minister said austerity should be practised normally without being afraid of it.

"The prime minister earlier gave some directives to the government officials on practising austerity. Today, [yesterday] she called upon the private sector and the people to be economical," he added.

The government has already decided to stop overseas trips of government officials, employees of autonomous, state-owned and semi-government organisations as well as public banks and financial institutions in the wake of the current global crisis.

The PM asked the authorities concerned to ensure proper implementation of government directives, the planning minister said, adding that she urged all to be careful about misuse of resources.

"The country's economy is absolutely right on track. We are achieving our economic growth," Mannan said.

He said the government currently has over 1,500 projects. The PM in the meeting directed the ministries concerned to give priority to those projects which are necessary.

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HINTS AT ALL-EVM POLLS BNP's distrust of the govt to deepen

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The Awami League's hints at an all-EVM national polls will only raise the BNP's distrust of the ruling party, political analysts have said.

The BNP has long been opposing the use of electronic voting machines and polls under a partisan government.

At a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee on May 7, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that EVMs would be used in all of the 300 constituencies in the national election, slated for next year and that the government would make an all-out effort to ensure BNP's participation in the polls.

But experts say the EVM issue might harm the government initiative for an all-party election, as most of the parties and civil society members are against the use of EVMs in the general election, unless there is political consensus.

Contacted, Ali Riaz, distinguished professor of political science at the Department of Politics and Government of Illinois State University, said the discussion on the EVMs was a non-starter and a distraction from the primary issue related to the upcoming election.

"The central question regarding the next election is what kind of government will oversee it. It is now evident that an election under a partisan government will neither be fair nor participatory. This is a political question and cannot be pretended to be resolved through adoption of a controversial technology."

EVM, particularly the one that does not have a "voter verified paper audit trail", is open to manipulation, he said.

"Such machines have been discarded by most of the countries around the world. Therefore, engaging in such a debate is

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Tigers thrive on Tamim's 10th ton

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tamim Iqbal's 10th Test century gave Bangladesh a brilliant platform to take a first-innings lead over Sri Lanka as the Tigers trail by 79 runs with a score of 318 for three at the end of the third day of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

It was a day of collective approach from the Tigers' batting department and hosts will be hoping to take control of the game when the two overnight batters - Mushfiqur Rahim (53 not out) and Liton Das (54 not out) resume the fourth day.

It was, however, Tamim who stole the show at his hometown with a well-deserved hundred. The southpaw eventually retired hurt after suffering from cramps having scored 133 off 277 balls, the innings featuring 15 boundaries.

Tamim, alongside young Mahmudul Hasan Joy, started from where they had left off on the second day as the pair went on to register the eighth hundred-plus opening stand for Bangladesh in Test cricket.

The Tamim-Joy pair dominated the first session and went for Lunch adding 81 runs in 28 overs. The visitors made a comeback in the post-Lunch session,

PK HALDER His return may take time

Says Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh; pledges full cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bringing PK Halder back to Bangladesh may take time as it involves legal procedures, said Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami yesterday.

"This involves legal procedures.... You need to understand that this isn't like exchanging Christmas cards."

Doraiswami made the comment after meeting Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen at the foreign ministry on the preparation of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission meeting, a

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

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Dhaka to seek GSP Plus from Brussels

10th EU-Bangladesh joint commission meeting starts today

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh will seek to avail the GSP Plus facility, which will provide trade privileges after the country graduates from LDC status, during the 10th EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission meeting beginning in Brussels today.

Bangladesh's other priorities will include assistance for Rohingya repatriation, technology transfer for renewable energy and funds for development infrastructure, they added.

The EU will discuss human rights, democracy, labour rights and green transition at the meeting, officials connected to the meeting said.

Being among the least developed countries (LDCs), Bangladesh currently enjoys zero-duty benefit on exports to Europe under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

After graduation from LDC status however, the GSP will not apply and Bangladesh will have to avail the GSP Plus facility for trade privilege. Bangladesh is set to graduate in 2026 and can continue to avail GSP until 2029.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Fatima Yasmin will lead the Bangladesh delegation and European External Action Service Deputy Managing Director (Asia and the Pacific) Paola Pampaloni will lead the EU delegation.

EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley recently said availing GSP Plus requires ratification and implementation of 32 international conventions on environmental, social and human rights standards. Bangladesh has ratified all of them, which many countries have yet to do, he said.

"Any transition is challenging. Any graduation, in our system that is GSP Plus, inevitably is quite challenging," he told The Daily Star on Thursday.

He added that unlike GSP, the GSP Plus has conditions attached.

"And those conditions are quite closely monitored once that transition happens. We are not monitoring these things intensely now but will start as we approach 2029," Whiteley said.

The joint commission meeting, which usually takes place every two years, is being held after almost three years due to the coronavirus pandemic. The last meeting was held in Dhaka on October 21, 2019.

Ahead of this year's meeting, a team of EU officials from Brussels carried out an official monitoring mission to Bangladesh from March 13-18.

It reviewed the country's progress in the context of enhanced engagement process under the Everything But Arms (EBA) arrangement, based on LDC status.

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A still image taken from a video released by Russian defence ministry yesterday shows what it claims are service members of Ukrainian forces, who left the besieged Azovstal steel plant, being searched by the pro-Russian military in Mariupol.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BATTLE FOR AZOVSTAL STEELWORKS Over 250 Ukrainian troops surrender

Kyiv orders Mariupol to yield; Turkey threatens to block Finland, Sweden Nato bids

AGENCIES

More than 250 Ukrainian fighters surrendered to Russian forces at the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol and Kyiv said yesterday it had ordered its full garrison to evacuate, bringing an apparent end to the bloodiest battle in Europe for decades.

Reuters saw buses leave the steelworks late on Monday and five of them arrive in the Russian-held town of Novoazovsk, where Moscow said they would be treated for wounds.

In one, marked with the Latin letter 'Z' that has become the symbol of Russia's assault, wounded men were lying on stretchers three bunks high. One man was wheeled out, his head tightly wrapped in thick bandages.

While both sides spoke of a deal under which all Ukrainian troops would abandon the huge steelworks, many details were not yet public, including how many fighters remained inside and whether any form of prisoner swap had been agreed in advance.

President Vladimir Putin had personally guaranteed the prisoners would be treated according to international standards.

Russia said at least 256 Ukrainian fighters had "laid down their arms and surrendered", including 51 severely wounded. Ukraine said 264 soldiers, including 53 wounded, had left the plant and efforts were under way to bring out the rest.

In a television address, President Volodymyr Zelensky said: "Ukraine needs Ukrainian heroes alive."

Elsewhere, Russian strikes targeting a village in northern Chernigiv region where a military based is located left eight people dead and injured 12 more, a local official told AFP.

In response to Russian invasion in Ukraine, Finland and Sweden have announced plans to join Nato, bringing about the very expansion of the Western alliance Putin had invoked as one of the main justifications for his "special military operation".

The two Nordic countries will submit their bids to join Nato together

at the military alliance's headquarters in Brussels today, Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said.

However, Turkey's president has restated his opposition to Finland and Sweden joining Nato.

At a news conference, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sweden and Finland should not bother sending delegations to Ankara to persuade Turkey to support for their bids.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's top presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said negotiations with Russia on resolving the conflict have been suspended, blaming Moscow's "stereotypical mindset".

After the Kremlin sent troops to Ukraine on February 24, the West has introduced unprecedented sanctions against Russia.

Putin yesterday said the oil sector was undergoing a "tectonic change", but claimed Europe would be committing "economic suicide" with its sanctions on Moscow.

The International Criminal Court sent a 42-member team to Ukraine to probe alleged war crimes.

Rohingyas from India coming to Bangladesh

Says foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said a good number of Rohingyas have been coming to Bangladesh from India through the fences in recent times.

These Rohingyas went to India in 2012, he told reporters, adding that they are coming after hearing that they will have good food in Cox's Bazar.

He said their relatives in Cox's Bazar apparently conveyed to the Rohingyas in India that they are living happily in Cox's Bazar with good food supplies. "As a result, they (Rohingyas) are getting into Bangladesh in groups."

The bad news is that they are coming through fenced areas with the help of brokers on both sides of the Bangladesh-India border, he said.

A total of 18 Rohingyas have been detained recently, and they were coming in groups. "We have to engage more security forces to stop them."

Fugitive for 12 years arrested in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moubibazar

Police on Monday arrested a man who had been a fugitive from justice for 12 years in Habiganj.

Shahab Uddin, 45, of Tetaiya area of Habiganj, was sentenced to one year in prison for attacking a neighbour in 2010.

Mominul Islam, sub-inspector at Habiganj Sadar Model Police Station, said law enforcers were looking for him until he was arrested in a raid on a village in Madhabpur upazila of the district.

A court sent him to jail yesterday.

2 cops injured in clash with Jamaat-Shibir

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two police officers were injured yesterday during a clash between Jamaat-Shibir men and police on Jail Road in Sylhet city.

The clash happened when police intercepted a procession of Jamaat, witnesses said.

Mohammad Ali Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, and Nishu Lal Dey, sub-inspector of Bandar Police Fari, were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said a spokesperson of the metropolitan police.

Two Jamaat activists were arrested at the scene, said BM Ashraf Ullah, additional deputy commissioner (media).

"A regular case of assault on police will be filed," he added.

UN rights chief to visit China 'shortly'

AFP, Geneva

The UN rights chief will be arriving in China "shortly" for a long-anticipated visit, including to the Xinjiang region where authorities stand accused of widespread rights abuses, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

BNP's distrust of the govt to deepen

FROM PAGE 1
pointless... Who is making the decision about it? No political party, neither the incumbent nor the opposition, can and should make such a decision.

"For the Election Commission, the question is: Why is it even considering adoption of a machine that most of the political parties and members of the civil society have objected to?"

"The EC has yet to demonstrate any signs that it intends to earn the trust of the voters, it should rather focus on rebuilding some semblance of an autonomous body which is willing to act to ensure a fair election."

Other commentators said the opposition had adequate reasons for not trusting the ruling party, but they expressed hopes that both camps would reach a consensus in the coming days.

AlMasud Hasanuzzaman, professor of government and

politics at Jahangirnagar University, said, "The ruling party talked about a fair election. Maybe there are some national and international pressures [for a credible election]. We have to wait and see what sorts of steps it takes to hold an election that is credible."

Soon after the May 7 meeting, the BNP said the use of EVM was a new technique for vote rigging and the party would not participate in any election overseen by the incumbent government, because "a free and fair election is not possible" under this government.

The BNP boycotted the general election held on January 5, 2014, demanding that a non-partisan, interim government hold the polls. The party participated in the following parliamentary polls even though its demand was not met and got only six seats in the election marred by "vote rigging" and "ballot stuffing".

BNP later participated in some local government elections but started boycotting those elections too accusing of vote rigging.

The AL, however, maintains that an election-time non-partisan government is unconstitutional.

Shantanu Majumder, professor of political science at Dhaka University, said that both camps were likely to change their tough stance in the coming days.

"The Awami League could not hold credible elections in 2014 and 2018... Whatever the reality, the responsibility goes to the ruling party to a great extent," he said.

As the BNP has been out of parliament for a long time, boycotting the election would be a threat to its existence.

"Keeping these matters in mind, both the AL and the BNP will come to a consensus. But it is too early to say how things will pan out."

Forex market volatile

FROM PAGE 1

billion in August.

Against this backdrop, Habibur said, the government should take different measures including expanding OMS to insulate the poor households from the price increases.

Another central bank high official, on the condition of anonymity, said the BB might not devalue the inter-bank exchange rate further this week just after the latest depreciation of local currency by 0.91 percent to Tk 87.50 a dollar, the sharpest single-day fall in the past one decade.

The taka was devalued five times this year.

The exchange rate stood at Tk 85.80 a dollar on December 30 and Tk 84.80 on May 17 last year.

"We will observe the situation in the next couple of days, after which the central bank will take decision whether it will devalue the taka further," he said.

But managing directors of three banks, wishing not to be named, said BB should decrease the inter-bank exchange rate to Tk 92 a dollar in the quickest possible time in order to restore discipline in the foreign exchange regime.

Some banks are now offering Tk 95 a dollar to hunt remittances, but the rate is supposed to be Tk 86-87 in line with the central bank instructions.

Syed Mahabur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said the BB was on the right course of direction as it was now depreciating the local currency based on the market demand.

"But more depreciation is required," he said.

Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, echoed the same, saying the market is yet to be stabilised, which is why the central bank should think of weakening the local currency further.

Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the central bank should have followed a gradual depreciation of the local currency much earlier.

"But it did not do so, as a result of which it is now compelled to depreciate the local currency drastically," he added.

The exchange rate came under pressure against the dollar since the final quarter of 2021 when imports bounced back due to the pent-up demand and price hikes in the global market following the improvement in the coronavirus situation. "In this context, the depreciation will help exporters and remitters, but it will further fuel inflation due to price hike of the imported items," said Mustafizur.

Inflation in Bangladesh rose five basis points to 6.22 percent in March, driven by higher food prices, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Mustafizur suggested the government strengthen the OMS to shield the poor from the price hike stemming from the taka devaluation.

The depreciation will encourage remitters to send their hard earned money through formal channels as it will slash the exchange rate gap between formal and informal channel.

Many remitters are preferring hundi, an illegal cross-border transaction system, as they get a higher rate of the taka than what banks offer. This has left an adverse impact on the inflow of remittance, which is also squeezing the forex reserves.

Between January and April, remittances stood at \$17.307 billion, down 16.2 percent year-on-year.

Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office, said the central bank should increase its repo (repurchasing agreement) rate to rein in inflation.

Although money supply to the market has decreased, slashing the repo rate will create a psychological barrier among businesses to hike the products.

The repo rate is the rate at which the central bank lends money to banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. The BB also uses the means to reduce the money supply in the market to check inflation.

He suggested the government provide cash assistance to the poor in the wake of inflation.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling, says more devaluation of the taka is needed but the government also should lay emphasis on tackling inflation.

It takes time to reap benefits from weakening of the taka, but the inflationary pressure hits the commoners immediately, he said.

The coverage of social safety nets should be widened in the next fiscal budget to help the poor, Selim said.

PM urges people

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting discussed the Padma bridge rail link project.

Asked whether the highest allocation proposal for the transport sector in the new annual development plan (ADP) is a populist move ahead of the next general election, the planning minister said being a pro-people government, they must satisfy the people.

The next parliamentary election is scheduled to be held late next year.

Hasina in the meeting said, "I would urge the people to be a little more economical and careful. Then there should be no problem."

She said commodity prices have increased due to the global situation and this needs to be communicated to the people.

"Here, many will criticise it. As the Awami League is in power, it is being able to control the [rise in price] situation to some extent. How would this situation have been if anyone else was in power?"

Fighting would have started on streets, but that did not happen."

Hasina said people need to be careful as there is a global economic downturn and a famine seems to be appearing globally. "We have to be very careful about spending money. We should not spend our resources unnecessarily."

Mentioning that the Covid-19 pandemic and Ukraine-Russia war are

having a huge impact on the country's economy, she said the problem is not just in Bangladesh, but in all developed and underdeveloped countries of the world.

There are countries in Europe where commodity prices have gone up by 17 to 50 percent. Even Germany is facing shortage of edible oil, the PM said, adding that England has set a limit on the sale of cooking oil so no one can buy more than one litre.

Inflation in United States has risen above 6 percent and it is about to reach 10 percent, Hasina said, mentioning that the price of diesel has crossed the \$4 a gallon mark from \$1 and such a situation prevails across the world.

"Despite all these, we have been able to keep our economy moving. But there will be an impact as we need to import goods and the prices have risen," she said.

Tigers thrive

FROM PAGE 1

picking up three wickets in quick succession. Joy, who struck his second fifty in his fifth Test, was dismissed for 58 off 142 balls as the fourth-best opening stand in Tests for the Tigers ended after 162 runs.

Concussion-replacement Kasun Rajitha removed both Najmul Hossain Shanto and skipper Mominul Haque cheaply before Mushfiqur and Liton steadied the ship and made sure the hosts finished the day on a high.



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314 brick kilns shut down in and around Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To control the air pollution, some 314 illegal brick kilns out of 411 in Dhaka and four surrounding districts – Gazipur, Manikganj, Narayanganj and Munshiganj – were shut down from November, 2021 to May 16, 2022.

Although all illegal kilns in four districts – Gazipur, Manikganj, Dhaka and Munshiganj – have been evicted, some 97 of them are still running in Narayanganj and polluting the environment, Abdul Hamid, director general of Department of Environment (DoE), told the High Court yesterday.

DoE, district administrations and owners have shut down the kilns, in line with the HC directives, he said.

Abdul said this during the hearing of a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) in 2019.

Tk 20.71 crore of fines have been collected from 953 brick kilns across the country in the current fiscal, he said. The remaining illegal kilns could not be evicted, as the teams concerned could not reach the remote areas where those have been established.

Around 275 petitions filed with the HC, challenging the moves to shut the kilns down, have been received by DoE from November, 2021 to March, 2022.

Although all illegal kilns in four districts – Gazipur, Manikganj, Dhaka and Munshiganj – have been evicted, some 97 of them are still running in Narayanganj and polluting the environment.



Even though they just wanted to get some relief from the summer swelter, these three, being kids, turned this mundane event of cooling themselves off using a public tap into a fun activity by splashing water at each other. This photo was taken in Old Dhaka's Lalbagh area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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Homecoming Day of Hasina observed

BSS, Dhaka

The 42nd Homecoming Day of Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was observed yesterday, recalling her return home on May 17 in 1981 after a long exile.

Marking the day, various organisations, including Awami League, arranged elaborate programmes throughout the country.

Doa and prayers were offered at mosques, temples, churches and pagodas to mark the day.

On May 17 in 1981, AL President Sheikh Hasina returned home after six years of exile defying different obstacles of the then government.

Boarding an aircraft of Indian Airlines, Hasina reached the then Kurmitola Airport in Dhaka from New Delhi via Kolkata at 4:30pm on that day four decades back.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally killed along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

His two daughters – Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana – luckily escaped as they were abroad.

In a national council session of the Awami League on February 14-16, 1981, Sheikh Hasina was elected party president.

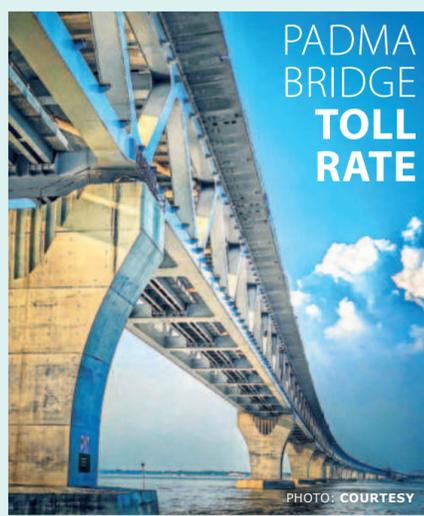
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Tk 750 for car, Tk 100 for bike

Govt fixes toll for Padma Bridge



PADMA BRIDGE TOLL RATE

VEHICLES	FERRY TOLL (in Tk)	PADMA BRIDGE TOLL (in Tk)
Bike	70	100
Car, Jeep	500	750
Pick-up, luxury jeep, Prado	800	1,200
Microbus	860	1,300
Minibus	950	1,400
Medium bus	1,350	2,000
Bus	1,580	2,400
Truck (up to 5 tonnes)	1,080	1,600
Truck (5 to 8 tonnes)	1,400	2,100
Truck (8 to 11 tonnes)	1,850	2,800
Truck (three-axle)	3,940	5,500
Trailer (4 axles)		6,000
Trailer (above 4 axles)		6,000+ (per axle 1,500)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has fixed the toll rate for the long-cherished Padma bridge, which is expected to open to the public by the end of next month.

The Bridge Division yesterday issued a circular with the toll rate, which is around 1.5 times higher than the average toll paid on ferries plying the Padma.

The circular was issued after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the proposed toll rate early this week, Monjur Hossain, secretary of the division, told this correspondent yesterday.

The toll rate will come into force on the day the bridge will be opened to the public. However, the date for opening the longest bridge in the country has not been fixed yet, the secretary said.

Meanwhile, National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways, a non-government organisation, demanded that the authorities reduce the toll. As per the rate, a private car will have to pay Tk 750 as a toll, while the ferry toll is Tk 500.

A bike on the bridge will have to pay Tk 100, while on the ferry, it would pay Tk 70. A minibus on the bridge would pay Tk 1,400, while on the ferry the toll will be Tk 950.

Contacted, Kandaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, said the government did talk with them before fixing the toll rate.

He said they will raise the issue at a meeting the

bridge authorities on May 24.

Asked about the possible impact of the toll, he said the toll will ultimately be adjusted with the bus fare. Asked whether bus fare may rise in that case, he said, "Not that much."

The construction of the Padma Bridge – which is being constructed to establish a direct connection between the capital and the southern region – is now at its final stage. Once operational, the 6.15km bridge will connect the capital with 21 southwestern districts by road and rail, providing relief to tens of thousands often struggling with only two ferry terminals on the route, especially ahead of major holidays like Eid.

The bridge – a dual carriageway with a single rail line on a separate level – is expected to boost the country's GDP by 1.2 percent.

After several revisions, the deadline of the project was set on June 2023, including a one-year defect liability period, for which the cost rose to Tk 30,193 crore from the original estimate of Tk 10,161 crore.

Top officials involved with the project, even Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader on several occasions said the bridge would be opened by June this year.

But the PM last month told the parliament that the bridge would be open to public by the end of this year, creating uncertainty over the timing of the opening.

Quader, however, said there is no scope of

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The toll rate will come into force on the day the bridge will be opened to public. However, the date for opening the longest bridge of the country has not been fixed yet.

Monjur Hossain
Secretary of Bridge Division

'Invest more in education'

Speakers tell event on achieving SDG 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring quality education at all levels is a major challenge in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the sector, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They were speaking at a session of the 2nd National Conference on SDGs Implementation Reviews (SIR). The three-day conference, inaugurated on Monday, is being hosted by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission in partnership with Governance Innovation Unit (GIU), of the Prime Minister's Office.

Speakers also opined that lack of inter-ministerial coordination and less budget in

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The Westin Dhaka, Bangladesh
Saturday 21 May 2022
11:00am - 04:00pm BDT

11:30 am - Inauguration by VIC Government Representative

AL likely to face

FROM PAGE 5
conference at the city's Town Hall Auditorium. They held the conference following a series of reports published in media in the last few days, stating that Rifat is a top patron of drug dealers and smugglers in the district. As per sources, the news reports cited a list of drug traders, smugglers and their patrons. The list was prepared by the Prime Minister's Office with assistance from a government intelligence agency in 2018. "The allegations are baseless and false. We don't accept it," said Atiqullah, joint secretary of Cumilla

city unit AL. Meanwhile, Rifat yesterday filed a Tk 10-crore defamation case with a court in Cumilla against national daily Bhorer Kagoj for publishing news against him. Bhorer Kagoj publisher Saber Hossain Chowdhury, editor Shyamol Dutta and three others of the newspaper were accused. After submitting his nomination with the election's returning officer yesterday noon, Rifat told journalists that he filed the case. On Sunday, the newspaper published a report that said Rifat was a top patron of drug dealers.

Tk 750 for car

FROM PAGE 3
confusion in this regard. "As a minister, after being briefed properly, I am saying that the bridge will be opened next month," he said on May 11. He said the main bridge witnessed 98 percent progress in construction. The river training saw 92

percent progress, while the carpeting is at a 91 percent progress rate. The overall progress of the project stands at 93.5 percent. Meanwhile, the government has decided to form a dedicated company for the operation and maintenance of the Padma Bridge.

314 brick kilns shut down

FROM PAGE 3
The HC has delivered stay orders for six months following the petitions, and therefore, necessary action could not be taken against several brick kilns, he added. The Air Pollution Control Rules-2022, which has been prepared to effectively control and reduce air pollution, is awaiting final approval from authorities concerned, the DG said after appearing before the

HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Mohi Uddin Shamim. Deputy commissioners of the five districts also appeared before the HC bench and explained their steps to shut down the illegal kilns. The bench ordered them to demolish all the remaining kilns immediately and submit detailed reports before it in two weeks.

The HC also fixed May 31 for hearing and passing further order on this issue and exonerated the DoE, DG and DCs from personal appearances before the court. Lawyer Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner, while lawyer Amatul Karim Swapna stood for DoE and Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hassan represented the state during the hearing.

Invest more in education

FROM PAGE 3
education, culture and other ministries were some obstacles to working holistically to implement the goals. SDG 4 targets to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning. Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Senior Research Fellow Zulfikar Ali pointed out that net enrolment in primary schools increased significantly but a good number of children are still out of school. "Quality of education from primary to higher education level has been deteriorating. The proficiency and

competency level of students are not up to the mark. It is a matter of great concern," he said. Primary and mass education additional secretary Ruhul Amin in his presentation said low contact hours, due to double shifts in most primary schools, lack of pedagogic skills of teachers, and inadequate training are some of the reasons behind the low quality of education. Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) executive director Rasheda K Choudhury said education and cultural ministries were allocated with low budgets. She also

pointed out that there was a lack of coordination among the ministries. "We have seen positive results of investment in the agriculture sector. We need to invest in human development similarly," she added. Rasheda also proposed the nationalisation of secondary education. Planning Commission member Mosammat Nasima Begum moderated the session in which representatives from Social Welfare Ministry, Culture Affairs Ministry, Secondary and Higher Education Division and Technical and Madrasa Education Division, presented papers.

No headway in 1.5 years

FROM PAGE 5
owing to the country lacking in technology and experts to crack a case's mystery by examining only the skeleton of a victim. A CID officer involved with the investigation said in developed countries, experts can reconstruct the face of a victim from skull, how long ago the victim was killed and can determine victim's height combining the bones. "If we had such expert and technology, it would help crack the mystery,"

said the official, adding that they are trying to hire one such foreign expert. The CID official said they scrutinised all GDs filed after people went missing from Shewrapara since 1991 when the building was constructed, but no clue was found. None also claimed that any resident of the house went missing. The CID inquired whether any family members of house owner, tenants or their family members who resided in the building since 1991 and

even those who worked as house helps went missing. However, no such instance was found. "Now we have been collecting information of all the missing persons since that time," said an official. Owner of the building, Abdul Halim Sarker, earlier said he started construction of the building, holding No 389, in 1990 and the work ended in 1993. He said the building remained abandon for several months after the construction.

Introduce specific

FROM PAGE 5
among all South Asian countries, except for Myanmar. He proposed that the retail price of low-tier cigarettes should be set at Tk 50 for 10 sticks, followed by Tk 32.50 as specific supplementary duty (SD),

while for the medium-tier, the retail price should be set at Tk 75 and a supplementary duty of Tk 48.75. For the high-tier products the retail price should be Tk 120 for 10 sticks, followed by a supplementary duty of Tk

78, while for the premium tier, the numbers should be at Tk 150 and Tk 97.50. He also proposed to reduce the tiers to two from four and a specific tax structure for the non-filtered bidis and smokeless tobacco products, like jarda.

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বিজয় স্মরণী কলেজ
জাতিয়ারী, চট্টগ্রাম
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বিজয় স্মরণী কলেজ, ডাক- জাতিয়ারী-৪৩১৫, জেলা- চট্টগ্রাম-এ সরকারের সর্বশেষ বেসরকারি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের (স্কুল ও কলেজ) জনবল কাঠামো ও এমপিও নীতিমালা-২০১১ এবং জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিভুক্ত বেসরকারি কলেজ শিক্ষকদের চাকুরি শর্তাবলি রেগুলেশন (সংশোধিত)- ২০১৯ মোতাবেক শূন্য পদে একজন অধ্যক্ষ নিয়োগ করা হবে। অগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের আগামী ০২ জুন ২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে স্বাক্ষর কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে এবং কলেজের নামে অফিসের মাধ্যমে ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার প-অর্ডার সহ আবেদন জমাদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
সভাপতি
কলেজ গভর্নিং বডি

INTERCONTINENTAL
DHAKA
(Owned by Bangladesh Services Limited)
Invitation for Tender
InterContinental Dhaka hereby invites sealed tender from experienced bidders for colleagues pick & drop microbus services. Bidders must have at least 4 years relevant experiences with any star hotel or renowned organization during last 5 years. Bidder must have average annual turnover of BDT 01 crore or more during last 3 years. Interested bidders who meets above criteria's are requested to obtain schedule from the Office of the Materials Manager up to 25 May 2022 during office hour on payment of BDT 3,000.00 in cash (non-refundable) & an application. A pre-bid meeting on this tender will take place on 22 May 2022. Prospective bidder(s) who will purchase tender document, only they will be allowed to participate in that pre-bid meeting. Prospective bidder(s) will submit Tender Schedule through email only at bid@intercontinental-dhaka.com on 26 May 2022 up to 02:00pm. Contract period will be for 12 months. InterContinental Dhaka reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever.
Materials Manager
InterContinental Dhaka
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GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Rural Development and Co-operative Division
Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)
Rural Livelihood Project-3rd phase (RLP-3rd phase)
05, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
Memo No.- 47.62.0000.911.07.055.22.455
Date: 11-05-2022

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Rural Development and Cooperative Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Rural Livelihood Project-3rd phase (RLP-3)
4	Procuring Entity code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	(i) Procurement of Computer, Scanner, Printer, UPS and related Goods. (ii) Procurement of Furniture for Project purpose.
7	Invitation Ref No.	47.62.0000.911.07.055.22.455
8	Date	May 11, 2022
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Project Code	13601-01-224343200
12	Project Name	Rural Livelihood Project-3rd phase (RLP-3)
13	Tender Package No.	(i) GD-3 (ii) GD-6 (iii) GD-4
14	Tender package name	(i) Procurement of Computer, Scanner, Printer, UPS and related Goods (ii) Procurement of Furniture. (iii) Office Equipment
15	Tender Publication date	May 11, 2022
16	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	May 31, 2022 Up to 5:00 pm.
17	Tender Closing Date and Time	June 01, 2022 Time: 1:00 pm.
18	Tender Opening Date and Time	June 01, 2022 Time: 3:00 pm.
19	Name and Address of the office(s)	
	- Selling Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, Rural Livelihood Project-3rd phase (RLP-3), BRDB, 6th floor, 05, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
	- Receiving Tender Document	
	- Opening Tender Document	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
20	Eligibility of the Tenderer	i) Manufacturer/Authorized Distributor/Dealer/Supplier in Bangladesh ii) Up to date Trade license, VAT & TIN Certificate. iii) The tenderer shall have a minimum 03 (three) years of overall experience in the supply of similar goods under any government/semi-government or autonomous bodies. iv) Minimum liquid asset or bank solvency Tk.1.75 crore and last 3 (three) years average annual turnover Tk. 5.00 crore.
21	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk.2,000.00 (Two thousand taka) for each lot Non-Refundable.
22	Brief Description of the Goods	
	Lot-1	Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in weeks
	Computer-(stated in the tender document)	Different Upazilas under project area. 5,20,000.00 (five lac twenty thousand taka only)
	Lot-2	Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in weeks
	Furniture (stated in the tender document)	Different Upazilas under project area 6,90,000.00 (six lac ninety thousand taka only)
	Lot-3	Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in weeks
	Office Equipment (stated in the tender document)	Different Upazilas under project area 10,95,000.00 (ten lac ninety five thousand only)
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Project Director Rural Livelihood Project-3rd phase (RLP-3), BRDB, 6th floor, 05, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. Phone No. 02-3180037, Mobile Number: 01931-999777. E-mail: pdpr2brdb@gmail.com
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	
26	Special Instructions: (Details in Tender Document).	
N.B: if there any leave of the tender opening date, the tender will be opened on the first office day after the leave.		

STUDENT'S DEATH

PBI given time again to finish probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit - by June 5 - the probe report in a case filed against Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir and seven others over the rape and murder of a college student in Dhaka's Gulshan. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yeasmin Ara passed the order, after investigation officer Md Alauddin, also an inspector of PBI, failed to submit the report yesterday, said court sources. With the latest one, PBI has taken 12 dates to submit the report. On April 20 this year, the same court asked the investigator to submit the report by yesterday. The magistrate also dismissed a petition seeking a travel ban against Anvir yesterday. She, however, did not mention any reason behind dismissing the petition. Police recovered the body of the 21-year-old college student in a Gulshan flat on April 26 last year. Her elder sister on September 6 filed a case with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-8 of Dhaka, bringing allegations of rape and murder.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat
+Tel: 0591-61770
email: eerhdial@yahoo.com, eelal@rhd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will accept in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).
e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer (PE), RHD, Road Division, Lalmonirhat for: Renovation and Interior works for Executive Engineer office at Division Office Building at Lalmonirhat under Lalmonirhat Road Division during the year 2021-2022.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Tender ref. No.	Tender last selling	Tender closing date	Tender opening date	Tendering method
1.	699785	eGP-47/EE/LRD/2021-2022	31-May-2022 17:00	01-Jun-2022 13:00	01-Jun-2022 13:00	OTM

Reference No. 398
Date:- 16-05-2022

Khalid Saifullah Sardar
ID No. 602287
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat

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

Memo No. 46.02.5200.000.07.030.22-1061
Date: 17/05/2022

e-GP Tender Notice No. 34/2021-22
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the work listed below:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing and opening date & time	Tendering method
696006	IPCP/LALM/PATGR/PP/21-22/5/01	1. (a) Improvement of Bawra Dakhil Madrasa Pond; (b) Construction of 01 Nos. Ghatla of 13.40mx5.00mx4.80m at Bawra Dakhil Madrasa Pond (Total R.C.C Qty. = 25.549 cum. 2. (a) Improvement of Bawra Union Parishad Pond. (b) Construction of 01 Nos. Ghatla of 15.20mx5.00mx5.40m at Bawra Union Parishad Pond (Total R.C.C Qty. = 32.835 cum. 3. (a) Improvement of Jasam Uddin Kazi Abdul Gani Degree College Pond. (b) Construction of 01 Nos. Ghatla of 13.40mx5.00mx4.80m at Jasam Uddin Kazi Abdul Gani Degree College Pond (Total R.C.C Qty. = 25.549 cum. 4. (a) Improvement of Kalir Hat High School Pond. (b) Construction of 01 Nos. Ghatla of 11.60mx5.00mx3.90m at Kalir Hat High School Pond (Total R.C.C Qty. = 22.858 cum. 5. (a) Improvement of Panbari High School Pond. (b) Construction of 01 Nos. Ghatla of 9.80mx5.00mx3.00m at Panbari High School Pond (Total R.C.C Qty. = 20.168 cum). 6. (a) Improvement of Mirza Coat Hafezeya Madrasa Pond. (b) Construction of 01 Nos. Ghatla of 17.90mx5.00mx6.60m at Mirza Coat Madrasa Pond (Total R.C.C Qty. = 38.582 cum under Upazila: Patgram, District-Lalmonirhat.	05/06/22 13:00	06/06/22 15:00	LTM

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

Md. Monzur Kader Islam
Executive Engineer
Phone: 0258-9986801
e-mail: xen.lalmonirhat@lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার হাতটি ধরে পথের শিখ যাবে ঘরে

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১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
২.	এজেন্সি	সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা
৩.	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার নাম	উপতত্ত্বাবধায়ক, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), ময়মনসিংহ
৪.	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার জেলা	ময়মনসিংহ
৫.	যে কাজের জন্য দুরপত্র	২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য গ্রুপ-'ক' এর আওতার খাদ্য, গ্রুপ-'খ' এর আওতার খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং গ্রুপ-'গ' এর আওতার বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
৬.	দুরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	নং-৪১.০১.৬১০০.০৩৭.০৭.০০২.১২-৪৬, তারিখ: ১৭ মে ২০২২
৭.	দুরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	১৮ মে ২০২২
৮.	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দুরপত্র পদ্ধতি(ও.টি.এম)
৯.	বাজেট এবং অর্থসূচী	রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি.ও.বি
১০.	দুরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	০১টি
১১.	দুরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরে সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য গ্রুপ-'ক' এর আওতার খাদ্য, গ্রুপ-'খ' এর আওতার খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং গ্রুপ-'গ' এর আওতার বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
১২.	দুরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৭ জুন ২০২২, বিকাল ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত
১৩.	দুরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৮ জুন ২০২২, দুপুর ১২.০০ টা
১৪.	দুরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	৮ জুন ২০২২, বিকাল ০৩.০০ টা
১৫.	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা: ক. মূল দুরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়	(১) সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), আকুয়া চৌরঙ্গী মোড়, ময়মনসিংহ; (২) উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ১৩, কাশীশঙ্কর গুহ রোড (চতুর্থ তলা), ময়মনসিংহ
খ. দুরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণ	(১) কক্ষ নং ৯, ২য় তলা, এলজি শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ; (২) উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ১৩, কাশীশঙ্কর গুহ রোড (চতুর্থ তলা), ময়মনসিংহ	
গ. দুরপত্র দাখিল খোলা	জেলা প্রশাসকের সেশ্যন কক্ষ, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ	
১৬.	দরনাতার যোগ্যতা	১) বৈধ সরকারীকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। ২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেজারী চালান (মূল কপি), দুরপত্র দাখিল অনুসারে অতিষ্ঠতা সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্টা সনদ, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভ্যাট প্রদান সনদ) সহ প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য দাখিলসমূহ দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৭.	দুরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	দুরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালান-এর মাধ্যমে কোড ১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২০৬৬-তে (অফেরৎব্যয়) জমা দিতে হবে।
১৮.	দুরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোঃ নাছীন নাহার
১৯.	দুরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	উপতত্ত্বাবধায়ক
২০.	দুরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), আকুয়া চৌরঙ্গী মোড়, ময়মনসিংহ
২১.	দুরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	০১৭০৮ ৪১৪৪২১
২২. শর্তাবলী:		
(ক) পি.পি.এ.২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর.২০০৮(সংশোধিতসহ) এ উল্লিখিত ক্রয় পদ্ধতি স্বাধীনভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।		
(খ) 'গ' গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।		
(ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ করণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দুরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দুরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		
(ঙ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনা: বিজ্ঞপ্তির তথ্য দুরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।		



Hundreds of farmed fish gather near the bank and jump out of the water as a farmer throws food into the waterbody. He cultivates cultures of rui, katla, pangash and tilapia in this reservoir. This photo was taken in Khulna's Dumuria upazila recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

AL likely to face a rebel in polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Awami League is likely to face a rebel candidate in the upcoming Cumilla city polls slated for June 15.

A total of six contenders have filed nominations to vie for the mayoral post till yesterday, the last date of filing nomination.

Arfanul Haque Rifat, general secretary of AL's Cumilla city unit, will compete under the party's banner.

AL rebel candidate Masud Parvez Khan Imran, who is a member of AL central sub-committee on information and research affairs, will take part in the polls as an independent candidate.

Imran is the son of Cumilla's late AL leader Afzal Khan and brother of Anjum Sultana Seema, a lawmaker from reserved seats for women.

BNP Cumilla south district unit joint secretary Monirul Haque Sakku and Cumilla city unit's Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal president Nizam Uddin Kawsar will contest as independent candidates.

The other candidates are Mohammada Rashedul Islam of Islami Andolon Bangladesh and independent candidate Kamrul Ahsan Babul.

Besides, 120 councillor aspirants have filed nominations against 27 wards, and 38 female aspirants for reserved wards. The nominations will be scrutinised tomorrow and the last date for withdrawal is May 26.

Meanwhile, a section of AL men in Cumilla yesterday claimed that the allegations against AL candidate Rifat of patronising drug dealers and smugglers is "baseless".

Under the banner of "Cumilla city Awami League and associate bodies", they made the claim at a press

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Defrauding 60 people a week!

DB arrests two for swindling many with fake job offers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Around 10:00am on March 23, Mosharaf Hossain requested Ansar member Ehsak Ali, who was on duty at the children's ward of national cancer research institute, to admit a patient.

At the time, Mosharaf identified himself as a top army official. Ehsak then assisted him to admit the patient. For the help, Mosharaf wanted to reward Ehsak, and so asked him whether he has a son or daughter who needs a job.

Two days later, Mosharaf informed Ehsak that a store-keeper position was vacant at the army, but Ehsak would have to cover some expenses for securing the post.

Mosharaf then provided an appointment letter for Ehsak's son, after the latter agreed to pay Tk 3 lakh, giving an advance of Tk 40,000. But Ehsak later found out that the appointment letter was fake. He filed a case with Banani Police Station.

While investigating the case, cyber and special crime division of police's Detective Branch (DB) found that not only Ehsak, a huge number of people were cheated by Mosharaf and Zia, an associate of his.

On Monday, police managed to arrest Mosharaf (43) and Zia (19) from the capital's Mirpur area. Zia's job was to call job seekers posing as a high official.

Md Nazmul Hoque, additional deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday that Mosharaf used to note down all his fraudulent

activities in a diary.

"The notes would include who would be the target, who would take money from whom and how much money was taken. Analysing the notes, it was found that he used to target at least 60 people a week," he said. Promising to provide jobs, he used to pocket money from unsuspecting people.

Regarding the victims, ADC Nazmul said he has found names and phone numbers of around 300 people after going through the diary and interrogating Mosharaf. "These people who were on the list were cheated by Mosharaf. But they did not take legal assistance," said the official.

Tareq Bin Rashid, deputy commissioner of cyber and special crime division, said Mosharaf used to communicate with Ansar members and security guards, identifying himself as a top government official.

ADC Nazmul said the two were experts in making appointment letters. To make them look authentic, they would use QR-code generators.

Once the victim scanned the QR code, they found their information, and paid the demanded money. The victims would find out that the appointment letters are fake after visiting the offices with the letters, said the official.

After each incident, Mosharaf would change his SIM.

The court granted one day remand for the arrestees, after police showed them arrested in the case filed with Banani Police Station.

Mosharaf used to note down all his fraudulent activities in a diary. The notes would include who would be the target, who would take money from whom and how much money was taken.

SKELTON RECOVERY CASE

No headway in 1.5 years

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Around one and a half years after the recovery of a human skeleton from inside a building's wall in the capital's Shewrapara, investigators still could not identify the victim and unearth the mystery despite making various efforts.

DNA tests conducted at Dhaka Medical College and at the forensic lab of the Criminal Investigation Department confirmed that the skeleton is that of a male aged between 18 and 35 years.

However, the mystery further deepened when the investigators and experts suspected it to be a woman as a long hair was recovered with it. DNA samples of 26 persons, including the family members of the building owner and tenants, have so far been examined to know whether any

AT A GLANCE

- On Sept 17, 2020, police recovered 156 bones after plumber finds skeleton
- Those were packed inside polythene bag mixed with tea leaves
- Primarily it was suspected bones were of woman's body as long hair was recovered
- DNA tests confirmed skeleton is that of male

sample matched with the victim but to no avail.

"The focus of our investigation has completely changed as DNA tests results revealed that the skeleton was of a male," Md Imam Hossain, additional deputy inspector general of CID, told The Daily Star on Monday.

On September 17, 2020, police recovered 156 bones, both whole and broken, following discovery of the skeleton by a local plumber while he was repairing water supply lines at the ground floor flat of the six-storey building. Those were packed inside a polythene bag mixed with tea leaves.

The recovery stunned locals and police alike with Mirpur police taking up the investigation. It was then transferred to the CID, prompting it to form a team to identify the victim and reveal the case.

However, the one-and-a-half-year-long investigation is yet to yield encouraging results.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Introduce specific excise tax on tobacco

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The existing tier-based tax structure has failed to stop the increasing number of smokers and tobacco users, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The government must introduce a specific excise tax structure for tobacco products in 2022-23 fiscal, they said at an event organised by Progga and the Anti Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA) at Jatiya Press Club. "No change is possible until the government withdraws its share from British American Tobacco," said Dr Kazi Kholiqzaman, convener of National Anti-tobacco Platform and chairman of PKSF.

While presenting the keynote, Hasan Shahriar, project head (Tobacco Control) of Progga, said the price of cigarettes in Bangladesh is the lowest

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা ও স্কেল	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স	শর্তাবলী
০১	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ, (০১টি স্থায়ী পদ) বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-	---	আবেদনকারীকে career.just.edu.bd ওয়েব সাইটে গিয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy, আবেদন ফর্ম আগামী ১৫/০৬/২০২২খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে। অনলাইনে আবেদন করা ও ফি প্রদানের বিস্তারিত নিম্নলিখিত লিংক থেকে করা যাবে। https://career.just.edu.bd/docs/how-to-apply.pdf এই লিংক-এ পূরণ করা যাবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে www.just.edu.bd হতে যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সন্গ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থীকে আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের Scanned copy সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- (ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য সকল প্রকার মূল/সাময়িক সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্র (খ) সদ্য তোলা ৩০০*৩০০ পিক্সেল ও অনূর্ধ্ব ২০০ কিলোবাইট সাইজের ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র (ঘ) নিজ নিজ এলাকার ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌর মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র। চকুরীতে নিয়োজিত প্রার্থীদের বর্ষাবধি কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। হ্রদীপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ক্রিয়াকলাপে অযোগ্য আবেদন (নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর) গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার সময় কর্মিক নং: ০১ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ১১০০ টাকা, কর্মিক নং ০২ এর জন্য ১০০০/- টাকা এবং কর্মিক নং ০৩ এর জন্য আবেদন ফি বাদ ৯০০/- টাকা ইন্টারনেট ব্যাংকিং/মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং এর মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। বিঃ দ্রঃ স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/১০০২/রাজস্ব জনবল (নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)/পাট-৬/২১-১৯৭৫, তারিখঃ ০৭/০৯/২০২১খ্রি. মোতাবেক ইডমিট্রিয়াল এন্ড প্রডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগে প্রভাবক পদে যারা আবেদন করেছেন তাঁরা বর্তমান বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী বিবেচিত হলে পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
০২	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (ক) ক্রাইমেট এন্ড ভিজ্যুয়াল ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ, (০১টি স্থায়ী পদ) (খ) ইরেজি বিভাগ, ০২টি পদ (০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ এবং ০১ টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের Consecutive vacant post এর বিপরীতে) বেতন স্কেলঃ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭১০০/-	---	
০৩	প্রভাবক ক) অ্যাকাউন্টিং এন্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস বিভাগ, ০২টি অস্থায়ী পদ (শিক্ষাচার্যের বিপরীতে) খ) কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, ০৩টি পদ (০১টি স্থায়ী পদ এবং ০২টি শিক্ষাচার্যের বিপরীতে অস্থায়ী) গ) ইডমিট্রিয়াল এন্ড প্রডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ (০১টি স্থায়ী পদ) ঘ) ইরেজি বিভাগ, ০৩টি অস্থায়ী পদ (০১ টি সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে এবং ০২ টি শিক্ষাচার্যের বিপরীতে) ঙ) রসায়ন বিভাগ (জৈব/অজৈব/ভৌত), ০১টি স্থায়ী পদ বেতন স্কেলঃ ২২০০০-৫০৬০০/-	৩০ বছর	

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GD- 995

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Films & Publications
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Tatthya Bhaban
112 Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000
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Memo No: 15.57.0000.003.07.022.21. ৬১১৮ Date: 17.05.2022

Invitation for e-Tender

SI No	Tender ID	Procurement Nature, Title	Ministry, Division, Organization, PE	Tender Publishing date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	699911	Procurement of Printing Books on the Monthly Sachitra Bangladesh	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Department of Films & Publications (DFP)	Date: 17 May 2022 Time: 12:30:00	Date: 05 June 2022 Time: 10:30:00
02	700106	Procurement of Printing Books on the Monthly Nabarun	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Department of Films & Publications (DFP)	Date: 17 May 2022 Time: 12:20:00	Date: 05 June 2022 Time: 11:00:00

1. This is an online tender, only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted
2. Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Shelina Aktar
Deputy Director (Admin)
Department of Films & Publications
112 Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000
Phone: 8300682

GD- 994

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১৬ মে, ২০২২

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়ীয় ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে রাক্ষস খাতে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি আগ্রহী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে প্রধান সহকারী, সীট-সুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর ও ইলেক্ট্রিশিয়ান পদে অস্থায়ীভাবে বিধি মোতাবেক সরাসরি কোটায় জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদন করার শর্তাবলি ও নিয়মাবলি, টেলিটকের <http://latc.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের ওয়েবসাইট www.latc.gov.bd থেকে জানা যাবে। তবে শুধু টেলিটকের <http://latc.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমেই আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে।

(সুলতানা রাজিয়া)
উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)
ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, ঢাকা।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পানি সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়
পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা সংস্থা
www.warpo.gov.bd

Memo No.42.02.0000.009.07.001.19-1180 Date: 16/05/2022

e-Tender Notice

E-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of Goods and related service

Tender Id	APP ID	Invitation Reference No	Description of works	Last date & time for Tender Document selling & Tender Security Submission	Tender closing date & time
697143	184725	WARPO/Gov/21-22/GD-01	Supply and Installation of Desktop Computer UPS, Printer, Scanner and Monitor with all necessary accessories.	Date:01/06/2022 Time: 17:00 & Date:02/06/2022 Time: 12:00	Date:02/06/2022 Time: 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP system Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

To get access to the e-Tender document, the required fees is to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks on or before of above mentioned date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and e-GP help(help@eprocure.gov.bd)

(ABM Golam Faruque)
Secretary (A.C)
WARPO, Dhaka.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষকের কার্যালয়
সরকারি ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল
মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১।
মেমো নং সইআমেহকা/টি-১৩/এএমসি/২০২১-২০২২/OTM/১৬৬ তাং-১৭.৫.২০২২ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (এএমসি)-২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছর

সরকারি ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা এর ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাশালা, ঢাকার অন্টারনেট মেডিকেল জেয়ার (এএমসি) এর ১২৭-১২৭০২-২২৪০২১০১১ অর্থনৈতিক কোডের আওতায় (জিওবি) খাতে (প্যাকেজ নং-১) ইউনাইটেড ঔষধ কোড নং-৩৫৫২১০৯ এবং (প্যাকেজ নং-২) আয়ুর্বেদিক ঔষধ কোড নং-৩৫৫২১০৯) ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীর বিধিবিধান মোতাবেক ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক প্রকৃত ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত প্যাকেজ আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২।	এজেন্সী প্রতিষ্ঠান	সরকারি ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা।
৩।	সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার নাম	অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক
৪।	প্রজেক্ট/প্রোগ্রাম কোড	১২৭-১২৭০২-২২৪০২১০১১
৫।	প্রজেক্ট/প্রোগ্রামের নাম	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছর বরাদ্দ থেকে ৪র্থ এটিএনএসপি
৬।	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের নাম	জিডি/এএমসি/গিডিএম/০১
৭।	দরপত্র জমা বাবদ চালানের কোড নং	১৬২০১০১১৩৩২১-১১০০০০০০-১১০০১০০০-১৪২২০২৮
৮।	কাজের নাম	(১) ইউনাইটেড ঔষধ (২) আয়ুর্বেদিক ঔষধ
৯।	দরপত্র জমা প্রক্রিয়া/পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত (OTM)
১০।	বাজেট ও অর্থবিলের প্রকৃতি	উন্মুক্ত বাজেট
১১।	দরপত্রের কাজের বিবরণ	(প্যাকেজ নং-১) ইউনাইটেড ঔষধ, (প্যাকেজ নং-২) আয়ুর্বেদিক ঔষধ।
১২।	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক ঔষধের প্রকৃত ঔষধ প্রস্তুতকারী কোম্পানী হইতে হইবে, মূল্য সংযোজনক নিবন্ধনকর, টিআইএনসহ আয়কর সনদপত্র, আর্থিক সচ্ছলতা সম্পর্কে ০১ (এক) বৎসরের ব্যাংক স্ট্যাটমেন্ট, মালিকানা সনদপত্র/প্রতিশ্রুতির ক্ষেত্রে (ফেমতাপত্র, ছবি-০২ কপি, নমুনা স্বাক্ষর), কালো জালিকাজু নম্ব এর অধীকারনামা গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি, পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার স্বপক্ষে বিপত্ত ২টি কার্যদেশের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি ও ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদপত্র দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করা দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা হিসাবে বিবেচিত হইবে।
১৩।	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) ও প্রাপ্তিস্থান	(প্যাকেজ নং-১) ইউনাইটেড ঔষধের জন্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা হারে এবং প্যাকেজ নং-২ আয়ুর্বেদিক ঔষধের জন্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা হারে টেন্ডারী চালানের মাধ্যমে অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক, সরকারি ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক অনলাইনে চালানের মাধ্যমে টাকা জমা দিয়ে, অনলাইন ডিপোজিট প্রিন্টের মূল কপি জমা পূর্বক দরপত্র তফসিল সরাসরি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর এবং পরিচালক, হোমিও ও দেশজ চিকিৎসা, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাশালা, ঢাকা এর অফিস হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
১৪।	দরপত্র তফসিল সংগ্রহের তারিখ ও সময়	১৮/০৫/২০২২ইং বুধবার হইতে ৩১/০৫/২০২২ইং মঙ্গলবার পর্যন্ত মোট ১৪ (চৌদ্দ) দিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
১৫।	দরপত্র তফসিল দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০৬/২০২২ইং বুধবার সকাল ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সমূহ অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক এবং পরিচালক, হোমিও ও দেশজ চিকিৎসা, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাশালা, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাসে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১৬।	দরপত্র তফসিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০৬/২০২২ইং বুধবার মধ্যাহ্ন ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৭।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক
১৮।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	সরকারি ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল, মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১।
১৯।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর টেলিফোন নম্বর	ফোনঃ ০২-৪৮০৪০০৩৯/মোবঃ ০১৮১৯-২৯৯৩৩১
২০।	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	ক. দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার দিন সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটি ঘোষণা করা হইবে, সেই ক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবস দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে। খ. দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী দরপত্র তফসিলের অনুলেখন সমূহে সন্নিবেশিত আছে।
২১।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক. কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র/ক্রটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ বাতিলের সর্বময় ক্ষমতা রাখেন। খ. সর্বক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনীর বিধিবিধান অনুসরণ করা হইবে।

(ডাঃ স্বপন কুমার দত্ত)
অধ্যক্ষ-কাম-অধীক্ষক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
সরকারি ইউনাইটেড ও আয়ুর্বেদিক মেডিকেল কলেজ ও হাসপাতাল
মিরপুর-১৩, ঢাকা-১২২১।
ফোনঃ ০২-৪৮০৪০০৩৯/মোবঃ ০১৮১৯-২৯৯৩৩১
E-mail: guamc@ac.dghs.gov.bd

রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ।
Memo No-JUST/Reg.(Ac.)/1423/M.Phil & Ph.D Admission Circular/2019-1565 Date: 16/05/2022

Office of the Registrar
Jashore University of Science and Technology
Jashore-7408, Bangladesh

Admission Circular
(Full-time/ Part-time M.Phil and Ph.D Program)

Applications are invited for admission in the full-time M.Phil program at Microbiology (MB), Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (GEBT), Pharmacy (Pharm) and Mathematics (Math) departments and full-time Ph.D program at Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Microbiology (MB), Chemical Engineering (ChE), Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (GEBT), Petroleum and Mining Engineering (PME), Pharmacy (Pharm) and Mathematics (Math) departments and full-time/part-time M.Phil and Ph.D program at English (Eng) departments in the July-2022 semester of 2022-2023 academic year.

- General qualifications, conditions and the process of admission form collection and submission of the M.Phil and the Ph.D program are available in the university website (<https://just.edu.bd>) or in the respective departments.
- The application form has to be filled-up properly and submitted to the respective department by 05/06/2022 (excluding holidays).

(Engr. Md. Ahsan Habib)
Registrar
Jashore University of Science and Technology

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)
BEPZA Economic Zone, Central Cell, BEPZA, Dhaka
BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.

No. 03.06.1553.394.14.053.19.421 Date: 16 May, 2022

Invitation for Tender (Re-Tender)
No-10/2021-2022

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

1	Ministry/Division	Prime Minister's Office			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)			
3	Procuring Entity name	BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram			
4	Procuring Entity district	Chattogram			
5	Invitation for	Goods			
6	Invitation Ref. no and date	03.06.1553.394.14.053.19.421, Date: 16 May, 2022			
KEY INFORMATION					
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
8	Budget and source of funds	GOB			
9	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not applicable			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
10	Project / Programmed Code (if applicable)	224252300			
11	Project / Programmed Name (if applicable)	BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai-1 st Phase (1 st Revised)			
12	Tender Package No.	BEPZA G-20			
13	Tender Package Name	Purchase of Motorcycle for BEPZA Economic Zone (Group Kha, Partial) Package No. BEPZA G-20			
14	Tender Publication Date	On or before 22 June, 2022			
15	Tender Last Selling Date	1 June, 2022 during office hour			
16	Tender Submission Date & Time	2 June, 2022 up to 12:00 PM			
17	Tender Opening Date & Time	2 June, 2022 at 12:30 PM			
18	Name & Address of the office(s)				
	Selling of Tender Document (principal)	Accounts section, BEPZA, 6 th floor, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.			
	Selling of Tender Document (others)	NA			
	Receiving of Tender Document	Office room of the Project Director, BEPZA, 2 nd floor, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.			
	Opening of Tender Document	Office room of the Project Director, BEPZA, 2 nd floor, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205			
19	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender meeting	Not applicable			
INFORMATION FOR Tenderer					
20	Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	The tender is open to all eligible tenderers who satisfy the following: a) Supply of Goods and related Services who have minimum 03 (Three) years of general experience in Supply and Maintenance of Motor-cycle b) The Tenderer must have successful completion experience of supply and maintenance of motorcycle in a single contract amounting not less than BDT 3 Lakh during last 05 (five) years in Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous Bodies. Completion certificates are to be issued by an Officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent Officer of concerned Department/ Organization. c) The required minimum liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line of the Tenderer shall be equal to the quoted amount. d) Debarred firms from any Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous bodies are to be treated as ineligible to participate in the Tender. e) Up-to-date trade license, Income Tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate etc. to be submitted. f) Other required conditions and documents of the tenderer are shown in Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of bidding documents must be fulfilled.			
21	Brief description of related goods	Supply of 3 Nos. Motorcycles for BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram			
22	Price of Tender Documents	TK. 500.00 (Five Hundred taka only)			
23	Sl. no	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security in BDT. (In favor of BEPZA)	Completion Time
(i)	Purchase of Motorcycle for BEPZA Economic Zone (Group Kha, Partial) Package No. BEPZA G-20	BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram	Tk. 10,500.00	30 (Thirty) days	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Hafizur Rahman			
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director, BEPZA Economic Zone, Mirsarai, Chattogram.			
26	Address of official inviting Tender	2nd floor, BEPZA Complex, House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.			
27	Contract details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone : 02-9665326, E-mail: pd.ez@bepza.gov.bd			
28	Special Instruction	(a) Eligible firms/authorized representative may purchase tender documents from the offices mentioned in SL-18 on submitting written request in their letter head pad. (b) Any false, forged and miss leading documents furnished by Tenderer shall result in rejection of the Tender. (c) In case of any confusion arises due to printing mistake or other reason, the Public Procurement Rules-2008 and its amendments will govern. (d) Tender should be submitted original along with one duplicate copy and it should be mentioned on the cover sheet. (e) All papers of submitted tender documents including bidder's profile must be signed by the contractor or its authorized representative. (f) The tender shall be valid for a period of 120 (One Hundred twenty) days from the date of submission the tender. The tender notice is also available at web site: www.bepza.gov.bd of BEPZA.			
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the Tenders or annul the bidding Proceedings.				

(Md. Hafizur Rahman)
Project Director
Phone: +88 02 9665326
E-mail: pd.ez@bepza.gov.bd

LAW OPINION

The Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

On 5 April 2022, Law Minister Anisul Huq has placed the 'Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022' in the parliament. The Bill is now with the parliamentary committee of the respective ministry for further examination. While placing the Bill, the Minister said that the law is aimed at preventing all forms of discrimination in light of the Constitution. However, the proposed law has already raised several concerns among the members of civil societies and human rights organisations. In this backdrop, four experts of the country have shared their opinion with The Daily Star on various aspects of the Bill.

Nina Goswami
is the Director-Programme, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), and an Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

The draft law appears to have been only prepared to fulfill the state's prior commitments to enact an anti-discrimination law, but there is clear lack of thought behind making the law effective. Firstly, this law does not clearly stipulate whether discrimination is a criminal offence. Secondly, it creates

As far as our international commitments are concerned, we have retained reservations on provisions which guarantee equal inheritance and guardianship rights for women.

several tiers which an aggrieved person has to go through, in order to obtain remedy, such as district, divisional and national forums. There is also a lack of clarity as to which court should be approached and what the penalty will be if the order or verdict is disobeyed by any person. It is not clear why a separate monitoring committee would be formed instead of utilising and strengthening the National Human Rights Commission. It is clear that the law will not be effective in providing any remedy to those who face discrimination. The law repeatedly refers to the formulation of rules for implementation of laws – rules can be passed by the concerned ministry without inputs from relevant stakeholders.

The law does not fully capture the complexities of group identities and how discrimination may be committed



Nina Goswami

against groups. Discrimination can take place in numerous forms; for example, a parent may give away a child because it is born as a hermaphrodite, which will result in the child being deprived of an upbringing, an education, and other rights. The law should be open to addressing discrimination committed against any individual based on different aspects of their identity. Many of such vulnerable groups have not been brought within the ambit of the law, and as it currently stands, the existence of these aspects of their identities are being denied. Section 3(Dha) states that no one shall obstruct the transfer or obtaining property "as per" law; this is very problematic as the law itself is discriminatory and reinforcement of such discriminatory succession practices is inconsistent with the spirit of an anti-discrimination legislation.

As far as our international commitments are concerned, we have retained reservations on provisions which guarantee equal inheritance and guardianship rights for women. Therefore, these aspects have been left out from the draft law.

Overall, the fact that the government has undertaken an initiative to pass an anti-discrimination law is appreciable. However, the spirit of the draft is not what we had aspired for.



Dr. Mizanur Rahman
is a former Professor of Law, University of Dhaka, and the former Chairman, National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh.

The National Human Rights Commission, along with the Law Commission of Bangladesh as well as the civil society organisations have wanted, for a long time, for there to be an anti-discrimination legislation. However, the draft does not incorporate the aspect of making discrimination a punishable offence – punishment is very loosely defined and only monetary penalty has been included. This bill can be called an example of "bureaucratisation" of law – the law will merely create an avenue for bureaucrats to reap allowances while discrimination and discriminatory attitudes are far from removed. We, the common people, are the owners of the republic – but this spirit is completely absent from the law. The law creates several tiers of the monitoring bodies without any clear indication as to why these committees are needed. This law should automatically have come under the jurisdiction of the NHRC, and if the NHRC had the necessary political will, the law could have been a very strong tool in tackling discrimination. During my tenure as the chairman of NHRC, we had prepared a draft Anti-Discrimination Bill which had the assent of the chairman of the Law Commission, but that has been discarded and the provision on discrimination being a punishable offence has been scrapped from the present draft. Without such provision, the law becomes merely a document of morality – only to raise awareness cannot be the objective of the law; the law must ensure that a wrong is punished. The law does not provide the aggrieved person to go directly before the court, but directs them to the bureaucrats. Many marginalised groups do not have the ability to approach the implementing bodies and go through their steps. The law is degrading,

insulting and humiliating for a dignified citizen of this independent nation.

One of the main forms of discrimination that we expected the anti-discrimination law to tackle is discrimination based on religious identities. This however is not adequately addressed in the present form of the bill. Section 3(Cha) is a very constricted provision. For example, not receiving equal

During my tenure as the chairman of NHRC, we had prepared a draft Anti-Discrimination Bill which had the assent of the chairman of the Law Commission, but that has been discarded and the provision on discrimination being a punishable offence has been scrapped from the present draft.

employment opportunities, being denied services, being subject to hate speech and racial slurs are only a few of the many ways in which religious minorities face discrimination. Blatant discrimination in the form of untouchability is still widespread in the society but these are not punishable under the present law. This law is not people-friendly, poor-friendly, women-friendly, marginalized-friendly, or even child-friendly, it is only rich-friendly and power-friendly.

Dr. Faustina Pereira
is Professor, General Education in Law, and Senior Fellow, Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University.

Moreover, this draft is silent on the point of *intra*-religious discrimination. While people are more familiar with incidents of discrimination against members of other religions, discrimination can be committed upon members of the same religion or religious community, such as, for example, against adherents of different sects within the larger religious identity. Again, the law would need to protect those who do not subscribe to any particular religious belief system. These groups too have been overlooked in the draft.

Such inclusive perspectives would be a good reflection of the spirit of Article 11 of the Bangladesh Constitution which outlines the state's protection of human rights and democracy and guarantees the dignity and worth of the human person. It could also be an exercise in an analogous reading of Articles 2A, 12 and 41 alongside Articles 26, 27, 28 and 29.

The structure of the monitoring committee shows that high-level government representatives will sit in the committee – it is not clear why that is the case. Moreover, various marginalised stakeholder groups and women have been offered merely top-down, tokenistic representation, which is unfortunate. This effectively leaves out the voices of those in whose name this law is to be passed.

Ultimately, political will shall be the driving force behind whether and how well this law serves its stated purpose.



Dr. Faustina Pereira

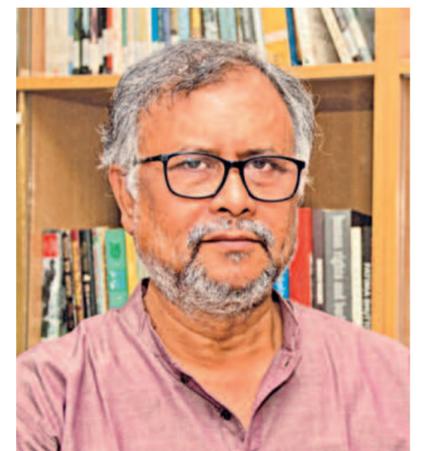
An overarching feature of the draft Anti-Discrimination Bill is that it is reactive, and not proactive or reflective. It comes into effect once a discrimination has already occurred, but it does not sufficiently touch upon the root causes of discrimination or its prevention. It also does not take into account the possibility that discrimination can take place simultaneously across intersections of identities such as race, gender, class, religion, occupation or political belief, and thereby offers a narrow, linear and formalistic approach to discrimination. This narrow outlook in turn fails to encompass the multi-dimensionality of discrimination widespread in the society – for example, discrimination on the basis of age, or of marital status, or on the basis of pregnancy, such as termination from employment due to pregnancy. Many such kinds of discrimination commonly occur in workplaces, but have not been adequately covered in the draft law. Again, discrimination can be committed against individuals with certain non-communicable diseases. These aspects are absent from the law. Furthermore, the law neither recognises deeper issues of restitution, reconciliation and healing; nor does it provide for (re)integration of vulnerable groups into society. Addressing and eliminating discrimination cannot only be limited to responding to a complaint of discrimination; rather, the aggrieved person or the aggrieved community or institution must be provided a holistic remedy.

Zakir Hossain
is the Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog (Citizen's Initiative)

The title of the law gives a fair notice about the purpose of the law. In this case the word "Anti-discrimination" fails to justify the social conditions. Moreover, it gives an idea that discrimination may exist in any ideal society. In this context, I would like to propose that the title should be "The Elimination and Abolition of Discrimination Act" as it accepts the fact that the discrimination is prevailing in the society and the idea of this law is to end that in all forms.

Gender based discrimination is prohibited under the Constitution of Bangladesh. But religion-based personal laws set discrimination in respect of choice regarding marriage, rights within marriage and on its dissolution and inheritance. Such personal laws also trap women in abusive marital life since there is no clean exit from this extreme abuse. The proposed law makes discriminatory treatment due to divorce, widow or marital relationship unlawful; but is mostly silent about discriminatory provisions of personal laws regarding inheritance and marriage.

Section 3 of the proposed law recognises the discrimination against third gender people. However, human rights activists have been raising objections against the terminology as it excludes other sexual minorities or orientations.



Zakir Hossain

I think, using 'hijra' and 'transgender' will be more inclusive instead of using 'third gender'. The law does not recognise the sexually diversified communities which ultimately weakens the broad purpose of the law.

In recent days, Bangladesh has been experiencing increasing rise in intolerance against the minorities and liberal groups. Social media has also become a tool of oppression against them. Lately, we have seen an alarming number of violence against minorities using digital platforms. Though the proposed law recognises several acts as discriminatory it does not address the issue of hate speech on social media and online platforms.

The section 3 (cha) identifies restrictions

Section 3 of the proposed law recognises the discrimination against third gender people. However, human rights activists have been raising objections against the terminology as it excludes other sexual minorities or orientations.

to enter any religious place or to organise or to participate in any religious festival as discriminatory act. However, the proposed law does not speak the volume of violence against religious institutions we witness regularly in our country. The remedial measures under this law are not satisfactory too. It is very preventive in nature rather than being protective.

Moreover, one cannot identify this law as enough gender sensitive. As a signatory of the CEDAW, which the country ratified in 1984 (with specific reservations); Bangladesh has obligation to end discrimination against women. Surprisingly, the Statement of Purposes and Reasons (*uddesho o karon shongbolito bibriti*) of the Bill mentions UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD, but not CEDAW. CSOs and human rights activists have been questioning the validity of such reservations under CEDAW in the name of personal laws. Not only CEDAW, but also ILO Convention No. 169 and other relevant conventions should be added in the Statement and the proposed law should clearly reflect the philosophy of these Conventions.

Taliban shut down human rights body Promise 'good news' on girls' education in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Taliban authorities yesterday said they have dissolved Afghanistan's independent human rights commission as it was "not considered necessary".

Since the hardline Islamists seized power last August they have closed several bodies that protected the freedoms of Afghans, including the electoral commission and the ministry for women's affairs.

"We have some other organisations to carry out activities related to human rights, organisations that are linked to the judiciary," deputy government spokesman Inamullah Samangani told AFP, without elaborating.

The work of the rights commission, which included documenting civilian casualties of Afghanistan's two-decade war, was halted when the Taliban ousted a US-backed government last year and the body's top officials fled the country.

The National Security Council and a reconciliation council that promoted peace were also shut down at the weekend as the government announced its first annual budget.

Heather Barr, associate women's rights director at Human Rights Watch, said it was shocking to see Afghanistan backslide with the closures.

Afghanistan's interior minister promised "very good news" soon on the return of girls to secondary schools, in a rare interview broadcast Monday by CNN. "I would like to provide some clarification. There is no one who opposes education for women," said Sirajuddin Haqqani.

He argued that girls could already go to primary school. "Above that grade, the work is continuing on a mechanism" to allow girls to attend secondary school, he said in his first televised interview.



Israeli security forces detain a man as they clash with Palestinians outside the Old City of Jerusalem, on Monday night. More than 70 Palestinians were wounded in overnight clashes with Israeli forces at a Jerusalem funeral, Palestinian medics said yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA President escapes censure motion

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's beleaguered president side-stepped a censure motion yesterday after his fractured coalition rallied to delay a resolution blaming him for the country's worst economic crisis.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa's shaky coalition voted against taking up the unprecedented "displeasure of parliament" motion.

The non-binding motion was proposed by the main opposition Tamil party, the Tamil National Alliance, saying it echoed the demands of thousands of anti-government demonstrators who have for weeks been seeking Rajapaksa's resignation.

Shortages of food, fuel and medicines, along with record inflation and lengthy blackouts, have brought severe hardships to Sri Lankans, in the worst financial crisis since



independence from Britain in 1948.

The president's elder brother Mahinda stepped down as prime minister last week and in a bid to defuse mounting public anger, Gotabaya appointed opposition politician Ranil Wickremesinghe to replace him.

Wickremesinghe has won crucial support from the two main opposition parties to form a "unity government" to pull the country out of the dire

economic crisis, but had yet to form a full cabinet on Monday afternoon.

He was expected to name a new cabinet later, but political sources said negotiations were still underway on sharing portfolios.

In an address to the nation Monday, Wickremesinghe said the country had run out of petrol and that the "next couple of months will be the most difficult ones of our lives".

Most petrol stations in the capital were closed yesterday with long queues outside the few that were still open. Sri Lanka had run out of dollars to finance essential imports, Wickremesinghe said, and three oil tankers were waiting off Colombo to be paid before they would unload.

The country was also out of 14 essential drugs including anti-rabies vaccines, the premier said, adding suppliers of medicines had not been paid for about four months.

Provide arms for fight against junta Myanmar's NUG urges West

REUTERS

The defence chief of Myanmar's shadow government has called for international help to arm its resistance forces fighting the ruling military, requesting support similar to that being given to Ukrainians battling invading Russian troops. The people of Ukraine and Myanmar's democracy militias are all fighting for freedom and giving their lives, but those taking on Myanmar's



well-equipped army need more than international solidarity, said Yee Mon, the National Unity Government's (NUG) defence minister.

"The stance of international community for Myanmar is moral support for us and we are grateful for it. We will be

much more appreciative if we get physical support such as arms and funding," he said in handwritten remarks provided to Reuters. "With that support, we will be able to end the revolution sooner..." The NUG declared a "defensive war" in the countryside to stifle efforts by the military to consolidate power after its crackdown on protests.

ASI releases pics of closed rooms of Taj Mahal

TNN, Agra

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) recently released pictures of some of the 22 underground rooms of the Taj Mahal, which were opened in January this year for carrying out conservation work, reports Anuja Jaiswal. This was done to debunk claims about the presence of Hindu idols and structures in the so-called "permanently locked" rooms, as was claimed in a petition filed in the Allahabad high court (HC). The Lucknow bench of the HC had dismissed the petition filed by BJP media in-charge of Ayodhya, Rajneesh Singh, last week that sought permission to open the "locked rooms" and get a survey done to ascertain the presence of idols of Hindu deities. TOI had reported on May 13 quoting senior ASI officials that the Taj Mahal's below the main structure were "not always locked" and that they had no idols. The officials had said that "various records and reports reviewed till now have not shown the existence of any (Hindu) idols".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited
Dhaka Mass Transit Development Project (Line-5) Southern Route [PRF]
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban, Level-02
71-72 Old Elephant Road, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000
Memo No 35.05.0000.301.14.002.21-966 Date: 18/05/2022

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

1	Ministry	: Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
2	Division	: Road Transport and Highways Division
3	Name of Procuring Entity	: Project Director Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line-5): Southern Route [PRF]
4	Expression of Interest for Selection of Individual Consultant	: Structure Specialist
5	EOI Reference No	: 35.05.0000.301.14.002.21.966
6	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	: 18/05/2022

KEY INFORMATION

7	Procurement Sub Method	: ICS
8	Type of Bidding	: National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget & Source of Funds	: Development Budget, GoB and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Fund
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10	Project Name & Code	: Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line-5), Southern Route [PRF] 223038600
11	EOI Closing Date & Time	: 31 May 2022, 11.59 PM in Manila time standard

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

12	Brief Description of Assignment	: Provide technical and analytical support to Project Director and other technical members of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) regarding civil engineering structural design for depot, tunnel, viaduct, underground and elevated stations. Specifically, the consultant shall assist the technical team of Project Director in ensuring adequacy, appropriateness, soundness as well as optimality, at least cost, of the designs developed by the Engineering Design Consultant related to railway structures as mentioned in the above section including the related documents (survey reports, drawings and other reports) submitted by consulting firm. To ensure consistency and optimality of the overall detailed engineering design of the project, the consultant shall work in close coordination with the other individual consultants including Railway Specialist, Railway Civil Engineering Specialist, and Tunnel Expert, to be engaged concurrently by the DMTC under the project.
13	Educational Qualification, Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	: Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or relevant field. Candidates having advanced academic degree, i.e., Masters or PhD and/or professional qualifications in structural engineering will be given preference. Have 15 years of general experience out of which 10 years' proven working experience in planning, designing and implementing projects which should include civil structure design.
14	Other Details	: Certificates of performance of similar services should be attached with EOI. TOR will be available in DMTC website (www.dmtcl.gov.bd) and in Project Office.
15	Duration of the assignment	: Required inputs would be 6 months on staggered time basis over a period of 24 months (on an on-call basis as and when needed) likely starting from August 2022.
16	Package No	: PRF-DM-IC-04
17	Submission of EOI	: EOI must be submitted electronically through the website of ADB (www.csm.adb.org)

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

18	Name of the Official Inviting EOI	: Md. Aktaruzzaman Haider
19	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	: Project Director (Additional Charge) Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line-5) Southern Route [PRF]
20	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	: Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Line-5) Southern Route [PRF] Probashi Kallyan Bhaban, Level-2, 71-72, Old Elephant Road, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000
21	Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	: Phone: +88-02-55137132 Email: akhaider1960@gmail.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept/reject any EOI.

Md. Aktaruzzaman Haider
Project Director (Additional Charge)
DMRTDP (Line-5), Southern Route [PRF]
Phone: +88-02-55137132
Email: akhaider1960@gmail.com

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Medical Superintendent
Chest Disease Hospital, Fouzderhat, Chattogram.
Telephone:-44075211.
E-mail-ctbh@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
Memo no: CDH/Tender/2022-2023/Outsourcing/325. Date:-16-05-2022.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tender are hereby invited from recognized Contractor/Suppliers to supply Outsourcing manpower for Chest Disease Hospital, Fouzderhat, Chattogram in the fiscal year 2022-2023. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (including all corrigendum). Terms and conditions are follow(s):

KEY INFORMATION

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare																																				
02	Agency	Chest Disease Hospital, Fouzderhat, Chattogram.																																				
03	PE Name, Designation & Contact details	(Dr. S M Nurul Karim) Medical Superintendent, CDH, CTG.																																				
04	Procuring Entity Code & District	GOB, Chattogram.																																				
05	Invitation for	Tender for procurement of supplying outsourcing manpower for CDH, Fouzderhat, Chattogram in the fiscal year 2022-2023.																																				
06	Tender Ref. no & date	45.00.0000.140.11.005.21.616: Date:-11-05-2022.																																				
07	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM).																																				
08	Budget and Source of Fund	GOB in Bangladeshi Taka.																																				
09	Tender Schedule Selling Date & Time	From Date of published to 02-06-2022 During office hours.																																				
10	Tender Dropping & Closing Date & Time	04-06-2022; 10.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M																																				
11	Tender Opening Date & Time	04-06-2022: 11.30 A.M.																																				
12	NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE'S																																					
	Selling Tender Document	Cashier, Office of The Medical Superintendent, Chest Disease Hospital, Fouzderhat, Chattogram.																																				
	Receiving Tender Document	Office of The Medical Superintendent, Chest Disease Hospital, Fouzderhat, Chattogram.																																				
	Tender Document Opening place	Office of The Medical Superintendent, Chest Disease Hospital, Fouzderhat, Chattogram.																																				
13	Bidders Eligibility (Bidders has to submit these certificate/attested photocopy (as applicable) deficiency of any of these document would be counted as ineligibility of the respective bidder)	Must be a Bangladeshi Citizen and should submit copy of National Identity Card (NID), 02 (two) passport size photo of the bidder/representative. Electronic TIN (e-TIN) registration certificate, Valid Trade license (manpower supplier) for the fiscal year 2021-22. BIN (Business identification number) certificate (13 Digits), chamber of commerce certificate the fiscal year 2021-2022. In case of Ltd. company corporation charter, bank statement (original sheet) from 01-07-2021 to 31-05-2022, = 20,00,000/- (Twenty laces) Bank Deposit status 01-07-2021 to 31-05-2022. Financial solvency certificate stating amount 50,00000/- (Fifty Laces) from any scheduled bank with the bidder holding an account.																																				
14	Details manpower	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>Job Title</th><th>Number of Manpower</th><th>Category</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Electrician</td><td>01</td><td>category-01</td></tr> <tr><td>Pump operator</td><td>01</td><td>category-02</td></tr> <tr><td>Plumber</td><td>01</td><td>category-02</td></tr> <tr><td>Gardener</td><td>01</td><td>category-04</td></tr> <tr><td>Baburchi</td><td>02</td><td>Category-04</td></tr> <tr><td>Aya</td><td>03</td><td>category-05</td></tr> <tr><td>Ward Boy</td><td>05</td><td>category-05</td></tr> <tr><td>Security guard</td><td>05</td><td>category-05</td></tr> <tr><td>Assistant Baburchi/Moshalchi</td><td>02</td><td>Category-05</td></tr> <tr><td>Cleaning staff</td><td>07</td><td>Category-05</td></tr> <tr><td>Total = 28 only</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Job Title	Number of Manpower	Category	Electrician	01	category-01	Pump operator	01	category-02	Plumber	01	category-02	Gardener	01	category-04	Baburchi	02	Category-04	Aya	03	category-05	Ward Boy	05	category-05	Security guard	05	category-05	Assistant Baburchi/Moshalchi	02	Category-05	Cleaning staff	07	Category-05	Total = 28 only		
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Total = 28 only																																						
15	Description of Group, price of tender document, tender security etc.																																					
Sl. No.	Description of Group	Price of tender document in BDT Code No-1-2711-0000-2366, any branch of Sonali Bank Ltd With Treasury Chalan Online Verification. Non Re-fundable.	Tender Security in BDT (In the form of pay order/demand draft)																																			
01	Tender for procurement of supplying outsourcing manpower	1000.00 (One Thousand Only)	2,00,000.00 (Two Laces Taka Only)																																			
16	Description of related services	Other's Detailed description in tender booklet.																																				

Note:-

01. Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

02. If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

(Dr. S M Nurul Karim)
Medical Superintendent
Chest Disease Hospital, Fouzderhat, Chattogram.
Telephone:-44075211.
E-mail: ctbh@hospi.dghs.gov.bd



In this photograph taken on Monday, train carriages are seen toppled over following a landslide caused by a heavy rainfall at New Hailong railway station on the Lumding-Silchar route at Dima Hasao district, some 100 km from Silchar in Assam state, India.

PHOTO: AFP

POST-BREXIT N IRELAND TRADE London unveils unilateral plans

AFP, London

The UK government yesterday announced its intention to drastically overhaul post-Brexit trade rules in Northern Ireland, arguing the plan was needed to end political paralysis in the territory but risking a trade war with the EU.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said she would introduce legislation reforming the so-called Northern Ireland Protocol "in the coming weeks" -- unless Brussels caves on its insistence that the pact cannot be rewritten.

The protocol was agreed as part of Britain's 2019 Brexit divorce deal with the European Union, recognising Northern Ireland's status as a post-conflict territory that shared the UK's new land border with an EU member.

Its requirement for checks on goods arriving from England, Scotland and Wales has infuriated pro-UK unionists in Northern Ireland, who claim the protocol is undermining their place within the UK and are refusing to join a new power-sharing government in Belfast.

"Our preference remains a negotiated solution with the EU, and in parallel with the legislation being introduced, we remain open to further talks," Truss told parliament.

Truss denied Britain was breaching international law by effectively abrogating a key element of the Brexit deal, arguing that the government had tried to implement the protocol "in good faith" but had been stymied by EU inflexibility.

The largest pro-British party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), said it would not share power with pro-Irish rivals Sinn Fein until the protocol is reworked.

Its hard line came nearly two weeks after Sinn Fein won a historic victory in elections for the devolved Stormont assembly, which entitled the party to the role of first minister in a joint executive with the DUP.

Under the new plan, the UK intends unilaterally to create a "green channel" for British traders to send goods to Northern Ireland without making any customs declaration to the EU.

The EU would have access to more real-time UK data on the flow of goods, and only businesses intending to trade into the single market via Ireland would be required to make declarations. The EU would need to trust the UK to monitor the flow, and Truss vowed "robust penalties" for any companies seeking to abuse the new system.



Arms for Ukraine could end up in wrong hands

Warn experts; Red Cross slams Europe's 'double standard' in treating Ukrainian, African migrants



AGENCIES

Western countries have been ramping up weapons and ammunition shipments to Ukraine as Kyiv fights off a Russian invasion, but arms trade experts warn some of the lethal assistance could end up falling into the wrong hands.

Ukraine in particular has a history as a hub of the arms trade during the 1990s, setting off alarm bells for those who study illicit flows.

"There are very significant risks associated to the proliferation of weapons in Ukraine at the moment, in particular regarding small arms and light weapons," said Nils Duquet, a researcher and director of the Flemish Peace Institute.

Western nations, above all the US, have announced successive shipments of both light and heavy weapons for Kyiv's forces since Russian troops crossed the Ukrainian border on February 24. Washington alone has delivered or promised military gear including hundreds of Switchblade kamikaze drones, 7,000 assault rifles with 50 million rounds of ammunition, laser-guided missiles and radar systems to detect enemy drones and incoming artillery fire.

"While the response to provide more weapons to Ukraine is understandable..., it would be prudent to consider the immediate and long-term security implications," the US-based Stimson

Center think-tank said in March.

"We've seen time and time again how arms aimed at aiding an ally in one conflict have found their way to the frontlines of unforeseen battlefields, often in the hands of groups at odds with US interests or those of civilians," it added, pointing especially to small arms.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, many weapons stockpiled in Ukraine were shipped off to other countries and conflict zones around the world.

That looting of the country's arms supplies resumed following Russia's 2014 annexation of the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula of Crimea and the seizure of two regions in the east of Ukraine by pro-Moscow separatists.

According to the Small Arms Survey (SAS) by the Geneva-based Institute of International and Development Studies, 300,000 light weapons were stolen or lost between 2013 and 2015, with just 4,000 retrieved since then.

Meanwhile, Francesco Rocca, the president of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies on Monday rebuked what he said was Europe's starkly different treatment of African migrants compared to those from Ukraine.

"Yes, there is a double standard" when it comes to people seeking protections in Europe, the IFRC president said during a press conference at the UN.

Hezbollah lose majority in Lebanon polls

AFP, Beirut

Shia group Hezbollah and its allies lost their majority in Lebanon's parliament, official results showed yesterday, while independents achieved a surprise breakthrough. Full results announced by the interior ministry two days after the election revealed that no bloc will control the 128-seat assembly, a deadlock observers fear could usher in a tense period of political jostling. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its main allies had the support of around 70 lawmakers in the outgoing parliament but will now fall just short of the 65 seats needed to retain a majority. At least 13 independents who backed the 2019 protest movement won seats. Twelve of them will sit in parliament for the first time.

US eases Cuba visa, remittance policy

AFP, Washington

The United States said Monday it is easing restrictions imposed during former president Donald Trump's administration on travel to Cuba and on the sending of family remittances between the United States and the communist island. The loosening of the embargo on Cuba will see increased visa processing, including at the Havana consulate, but with most visas still handled at the US embassy in Guyana. To boost the flow of remittances, the US government will lift the current limit of \$1,000 per quarter for each sender, and also allow non-family remittances to "support independent Cuban entrepreneurs." It said it would increase the number of flights permitted between the US and the Caribbean island, and serving cities other than the capital Havana.

Clashes rock Tripoli

REUTERS, Tripoli

Clashes erupted in Libya's capital yesterday as the parliament-appointed prime minister, Fathi Bashagha, tried to take over government there but was forced back by a rival administration that refuses to cede power. Bashagha entered Tripoli overnight after two months of stalemate between Libya's rival administrations, but withdrew hours later as fighting rocked the capital, his office said. The crisis risks plunging Libya back into prolonged fighting after two years of comparative peace, or returning it to partition between the eastern-backed government of Bashagha and a Tripoli administration under Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah.

Over 100,000 missing in Mexico

AFP, Mexico City

The number of people reported missing in violence-wracked Mexico has exceeded 100,000, according to official data, with rights groups calling for "immediate" action from the government to locate the disappeared.

The country's National Registry of Missing Persons -- which has been tracking disappearances since 1964 -- said that as of Monday, the whereabouts of 100,012 people are unknown. About 75 percent are men. Last April, the UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances warned that Mexico was facing an "alarming upward trend" in missing people cases.



Floods paralysing Sylhet

FROM PAGE 16

at Sarighat point in Jaintiapur upazila.

In Sylhet city, Upasahar, Sobhanighat, Kalighat, Chaararpar, Sheikghat, Taltala, Kalapara, Majumdarpara and Machimpur areas were submerged.

Hundreds of houses were waterlogged and the road network was almost snapped in the areas.

Debjyoti Das, said of Sobhanighat area, said they knew the Surma was swelling but had no idea that their neighbourhood would be submerged overnight.

"We are now shifting to the upper floors considering that the situation may deteriorate further," said said.

According to Sylhet City Corporation (SCC), more than 1,000 people took shelter at 15 shelter centres in the city.

SCC Chief Engineer Nur Azizur Rahman said,

"We are facing a crucial waterlogging because the rainwater could not reduce because of the overflowing Surma."

"Now we are working to supply food aid to the people who took shelter at different shelter centres," he added.

Besides the city, vast areas in Kanaighat, Zakiganj, Gowainghat, Jaintiapur and Companiganj upazilas remained submerged.

Meanwhile, a volunteering organisation in Sylhet -- Jaintia Kendriya Parishad -- yesterday urged Sylhet's deputy commissioner to declare Jaintiapur, Gowainghat, Companiganj and Kanaighat upazilas "Distress Zone".

Sylhet District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Shofique Uddin Ahmed, however, said that situation was not yet intense enough to be declared a "Distress Zone".

"We estimate a total of 12

to 13 lakh people directly and indirectly affected by the flood. We have prepared 199 shelter homes and allotted 129 tonnes of rice and 1,000 sacks of dry food for the victims," he said.

Meanwhile, the flood situation worsened further in Sunamganj's Sadar, Tahirpur, Bishwambarpur, Chhatak and Doarabazar upazilas.

In the district, the Surma was flowing 35cm above the danger level at Sunamganj town point at 9:00am while the Jadukata was flowing 70cm below the danger level at Shaktiarkhola point in Tahirpur upazila.

FFWC Executive Engineer Arifuzzaman Bhuyan said, "The situation will start to improve from tomorrow [Tuesday]."

He further said that the floodwater would reduce gradually but the situation would deteriorate in the north as the Teesta and other rivers were swelling.

Dhaka to seek GSP

FROM PAGE 2

The mission had discussed issues relating to human rights and labour rights, particularly on Bangladesh's implementation of the National Action Plan on the Labour Sector and the compliance with human rights obligations.

"The EU conveyed to the Bangladesh authorities the need to address all remaining issues in a timely and effective manner," according to the statement EU had put out at the time.

The EU imports about \$19 billion (Tk 1.66 lakh crore approximately) worth of products from Bangladesh a year and also provides Bangladesh more than Tk 5,000 crore a year in development assistance.

"Trade is a very important area of cooperation with the EU. We will try to boost our trade relations with the EU," an ERD official told

The Daily Star yesterday.

The EU has some issues that they discussed in the previous meeting in 2019, which they will bring to the table this time too.

"We will have our positions and present the progress we have made," said the ERD official, who wished to remain unnamed.

In 2019, the Joint Commission discussed the role of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, including the importance of holding free and fair elections. The EU had raised concerns on the situation of human rights, in particular reports of "extrajudicial killings", and "enforced disappearances".

The EU also raised concerns regarding certain provisions of the Digital Security Act and emphasised on improving labour rights in line with the International Labour Organisation Conventions.

His return may take time

FROM PAGE 1

foreign minister-level meeting to be held in Delhi on May 30.

He said they will give a response from their side once they are provided with due information, adding that they are working with the Bangladesh government and complying with the legal process.

Talking to the press yesterday, the Indian high commissioner also said extradition of criminals is part of the regular cooperation between the two countries and there are various frameworks, including legal aid, to bring criminals to book.

Doraiswami added the Bangladesh government provided information to the Indian agency concerned, which then arrested him after verification on May 13.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said

Halder's arrest was based on specific information provided by the Anti-Corruption Commission, and that his extradition will be done following a legal process.

"Doraiswami has assured us of India's wholehearted cooperation towards this end."

He did not clarify whether Halder will return only after the completion of the legal procedures, but said the Indian diplomat has not given any such condition.

"The issue around extradition can be better understood with the advancement of the legal process."

"It is up to India to determine the crime he committed there. Once the investigation is done, then it could be decided how the legal process [for extradition] should proceed," Momen told

journalists after the meeting.

He, however, said that in the existence of a "good relationship", legal frameworks are not always required, and both countries have dealt with and cooperated on such issues before.

"It is a financial crime case, not just any other criminal case. They [India] will first carry out legal processes and then consider our requests."

Asked if Dhaka has made a formal request to Delhi, he said, "We will make requests through the diplomatic channel and our home ministry will play an important role here. Our requests will include knowing the full extent of his financial illegality and if it helps our case."

"Halder needs to be brought back home and face the charges against him here."



‘Being a mentor to other actors is an honour’

Tariq Anam Khan reflects on his illustrious career

National Film Award-winning actor Tariq Anam Khan has been busy working for the silver screen, television, and OTT platforms lately. The actor recently completed shooting for the film, ‘Mike’. He is also starring in the second season of the mega series ‘Gulshan Avenue’. The actor talks to The Daily Star about his recent work, and more.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In 1990, you founded the theatre group ‘Natyokendra’, from where several celebrities emerged including the likes of Tauquir Ahmed, Zahid Hasan, and Mosharraf Karim. How do you look back on that?

I look at all of it very positively. Those actors were able to come this far because of their honesty, effort, and willpower to do well. They are all brilliant without a doubt. From my side, I opened a medium for the exchange of artistic ideas. It makes me proud when an actor like Mosharraf Karim says that I am his teacher. Being a mentor to other actors is the honour of my life.

Your recent released film ‘Mridha Bonam Mridha’ was widely appreciated. Why do you think there was such a positive response to the film?

Once upon a time, familial bonds were a central theme in our films and television projects. However, with time, that has

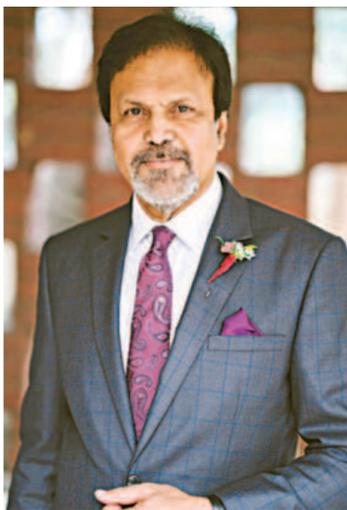


PHOTO: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK

changed. “Mridha Bonam Mridha” beautifully portrayed the relationship between a father and a son. It was an emotional film, which truly touched the hearts of the audience. This was a significant achievement for the cast and crew.

What, according to you, is the biggest achievement of your acting career so far?

People’s love is my biggest achievement. The life of an artiste is all about pursuit and patience. Artistes have to wait for a long time to carve a space in the hearts of people through their work. One cannot earn this respect overnight.

You have played a wide range of roles throughout your career. What do you believe is your biggest weakness?

I think acting is my weakness. I want to keep myself immersed in acting. A lot of young directors create characters and even write stories keeping me in mind – that is a privilege for me.

‘KGF: Chapter 3’ to begin production after October

Noted Indian producer Vijay Kiragandur has confirmed that shooting for the third film in the “KGF” franchise will begin after October, and it will hit theatres in 2024.

The makers plan to create a KGF universe that is similar to the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

“Going forward, we are going to create a Marvel kind of universe. We want to bring different characters from different movies and create something like Doctor Strange, so that we can reach a wider audience easily,” Kiragandur said in a recent interview.

“KGF: Chapter 2” has grossed over Rs 1,000 crores globally, breaking several records along the way.



Dua Lipa reveals she almost quit music because of online trolls

Dua Lipa revealed that she was at the verge of leaving her music career because of the hate she received online.

In an interview with The Sun, the “Love Again” singer talked about battling self-doubt as she kept receiving messages from trolls online.

She told the outlet, “There were moments of self-doubt, even though it was kind of unfair because a lot of the people that had sent those messages or were saying things online actually hadn’t been to one of my shows.”

“Social media is kind of run on this toxic currency of who can make people laugh at the expense of others,” the singer added. “Now, if anybody says anything, it doesn’t even bother me.”



COUNTRYWIDE

BRIDGE ON BELAN RIVER

Slow work causes months delay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Construction work of a bridge on Belan river could not be completed even after four months of its stipulated deadline due to alleged negligence of the contractor concerned.

Due to the delay, thousands of residents of six villages in Khansama upazila are suffering immensely.

The situation worsened further after the alternative earthen road just beside the under construction one washed away by the current on Sunday.

Locals said inhabitants of five villages – Baladangi, Dangapara, Khamarpara, Hossainpur, Sahajpur – are facing serious difficulties to go to Pakerhat, one of the commercial areas in the upazila, in absence of a permanent bridge.

Villagers build a bamboo bridge every year to go to Pakerhat, but that too wash away every time due to strong current on the river, they said.

Later, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) undertook a Tk 3.89 crore project to construct a 35 metre-long concrete bridge at Parkethat.

MS Basundhara Construction, a private firm, was given the work order and the construction work was supposed to be started in January, 2021, and completed by January this year.

But the work started six months later from the scheduled time due to unknown reason, locals alleged.

“Farmers are deprived of fair prices of their produces as most of them can’t take their crops at Parkethat Bazar through the alternative way and spending extra money,” Masud Rana of Bhandardah village said.

This correspondent could not reach Altaf Hossain, manager of MS Basundhara Construction, for his comment as he did not receive the phone calls.

Khansama Upazila LGED Engineer Mohammad Harun Ur Rashid said the contractor concerned was given a six-month extension to finish the work.



DEARTH OF IRRIGATION WATER

Higher input cost puts Boro farmers in despair

Buri Teesta irrigation project failed by influential quarter

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Thousands of farmers in Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas are unable to irrigate their Boro fields due to depletion of the reservoir of Buri Teesta irrigation project in Nilphamari. The farmers have alleged that the situation has arisen due to a decision of the Water Resource Development and Management Committee (WRDMC).

According to local sources, the decision to flush out the water from the reservoir was taken at the behest of some influential people living in the vicinity of the project barrage on the Buri Teesta river.

They applied to the deputy commissioner (DC) a few months ago saying that the reservoir has become silted and its water retention capacity has been reduced due to it.

As a result, the crop fields and houses of the villages located within 7-8 km are being submerged in the water.

The petitioners called for dredging the bottom of the reservoir by opening 14 gates to flush out the water.

Later, a meeting of the WRDMC chaired by the DC decided to flush out water from the reservoir.

At the meeting, however, the Water Development Board (WDB) Nilphamari Division opined not to flush out water from the reservoir in the interest of providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

WDB also rejected claims that crops and homes in the vicinity of the barrage were submerged.

Later, several thousand beneficiary Boro farmers, in a joint petition to the concerned authorities, demanded uninterrupted irrigation.

But ignoring this demand, the WRDMC headed by the outgoing DC opened the barrage gates and started releasing a certain amount of water from the reservoir.

WDB sources told The Daily Star that the committee had decided to evacuate a certain amount of water from the reservoir. But as the WDB employees went to close the barrage gate, they were beaten up by miscreants at the instigation of the influential quarter.

As the gate was not closed, water continuously flushed out and the reservoir became depleted hampering the irrigation system, it added.

A complaint was also lodged with the Dimla Police Station by the WDB Nilphamari Division in connection with the incident.

Farmers involved in the Buri Teesta irrigation project alleged that influential people living around the barrage area claim to own 1,217 acres of the project’s reservoir. They use force to cultivate crops and build infrastructure on those lands.

Sources said that WDB has also filed several cases with the concerned police station in connection with these incidents.

Local WDB sources informed that Buri Teesta irrigation project has 5,500 acres of command area belonging to 8,500 farmers in two upazilas.

In a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found that the reservoir in front of the barrage has turned a grazing field as entire water had been drained out and local grabbers along

with the petitioners occupied vast land to cultivate crops and do different activities.

SR Shafik Sadik, president of Buri Teesta farmers’ irrigation management committee, said “WRDMC was misled by a vested quarter and so genuine beneficiaries have been deprived.”

“We’re now compelled to use diesel-run pumps for irrigation which will increase production cost,” said farmer Rashidul Islam of Khariza Golna village. Ibne Sayed Shawn, section officer of WDB, said “A section of locals has been hindering Buri Teesta project and their intention is to grab land.”

WDB’s Sub-divisional Engineer in Nilphamari Abdul Hannan Prodhan said, “As Buri Teesta project has immense potentiality, the government has freshly allocated Tk 120 crore to upgrade it.”

Nilphamari DC Khondokar Yasir Arefin who has newly joined here, on contact, said “I’ll look into the matter and take proper steps for the sake of farmers’ interest as irrigation to them is urgent.”



An influential quarter has allegedly got Buri Teesta irrigation project’s reservoir emptied causing irrigation crisis for thousands of farmers in Nilphamari’s Dimla and Jaldhaka upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন
নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়
নির্বাচন ভবন, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা।

ভোটার তালিকা হালনাগাদ কর্মসূচি ২০২২

আগামী ২০ মে ২০২২ তারিখ হতে সারাদেশে ভোটার তালিকা হালনাগাদ কার্যক্রম শুরু হচ্ছে। প্রথম ধাপে ০৯ জুন ২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত হালনাগাদ কার্যক্রম চলবে। এবারের হালনাগাদ কার্যক্রম মোট ৪টি ধাপে সম্পন্ন করা হবে। এ সময় তথ্য সংগ্রহকারীগণ বাড়ি বাড়ি গিয়ে নতুন ভোটারের তথ্য সংগ্রহ করবেন। যাদের জন্ম ০১ জানুয়ারি ২০০৭ বা তার পূর্বে এবং ইতিপূর্বে যারা ভোটার হননি; হালনাগাদে তাদের তথ্য সংগ্রহ করা হবে। এ সময় মৃত ভোটারদের তথ্যও সংগ্রহ করা হবে এবং তাদের নাম ভোটার তালিকা হতে কর্তন করা হবে।

নতুন ভোটার হতে যা যা লাগবে-

- ১৭ ডিজিটের অনলাইন জন্ম সনদ
- পিতার মাতার জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি
- শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)
- ইউটিলিটি বিলের কপি (বিদ্যুৎ, গ্যাস, পানি, টেলিফোন)

প্রথম ধাপে যে সকল উপজেলা/থানায় তথ্যসংগ্রহ ও নিবন্ধন কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করা হবে-

অঞ্চল	জেলা	ক্রমিক নং	উপজেলা/থানা	তথ্য সংগ্রহ		নিবন্ধন কার্যক্রম			
				শুরুর তারিখ	শেষ তারিখ	শুরুর তারিখ	শেষ তারিখ		
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		২	ঠাকুরগাঁও	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৩	দিনাজপুর সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			নবাবগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৫	নীলফামারী সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			ডিমলা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৭	লালমনিরহাট সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			রংপুর সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৮	পীরগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			কুড়িগ্রাম সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		১১	রৌমারী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
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	জয়পুরহাট সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
রাজশাহী	রাজশাহী	১৫	বগুড়া সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		১৬	দুপচাঁচিয়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			সারিয়াকান্দি	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		১৮	ভোলাহাট	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			নওগাঁ সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		২০	পোরশা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			বদলগাছি	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		২২	বোয়ালিয়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			রাজপাড়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		২৪	নাটোর সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			সিংড়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
২৬	সিরাজগঞ্জ সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
	তাড়াশ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
২৮	পাবনা সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
	ঈশ্বরদী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
খুলনা	খুলনা	৩০	গাংনী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৩১	কুষ্টিয়া সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			কুমারখালী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৩৩	চুয়াডাঙ্গা সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			কালীগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৩৫	হরিণাকুন্ডু	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			যশোর সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৩৭	অভয়নগর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			বাঘারপাড়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৩৯	মাগুরা সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			নড়াইল সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
৪১	বাগেরহাট সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
	শরণখোলা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
৪৩	খুলনা সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
	সোনাডাঙ্গা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
৪৫	দৌলতপুর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
	সাতক্ষীরা সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
৪৭	তালা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
	বরগুনা সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২				
বরিশাল	বরিশাল	৪৯	আমতলী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৫০	রাঙ্গাবালী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			গলাচিপা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৫২	ভোলা সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			মনপুরা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৫৪	বরিশাল সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			আপেলঝাড়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৫৬	পৌরনদী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			ঝালকাঠী সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৫৮	পিরোজপুর সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			নেছারাবাদ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
ফরিদপুর	ফরিদপুর	৬০	গোপালগঞ্জ সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৬১	টংগীপাড়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			মাদারীপুর সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৬৩	শরিয়তপুর সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			ডামুড্যা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৬৫	ভাঙ্গা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			সদরপুর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		৬৭	রাজবাড়ী সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
			মানিকগঞ্জ সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
		ঢাকা	ঢাকা	৬৯	শিবালয়	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
				৭০	মুন্সীগঞ্জ সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
গজারিয়া	২০/০৫/২০২২				০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
৭২	শিবপুর			২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
	পলাশ			২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১১/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
৭৪	নারায়ণগঞ্জ সদর			২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		
	আড়াইহাজার			২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২		

অঞ্চল	জেলা	ক্রমিক নং	উপজেলা/থানা	তথ্য সংগ্রহ		নিবন্ধন কার্যক্রম	
				শুরুর তারিখ	শেষ তারিখ	শুরুর তারিখ	শেষ তারিখ
ঢাকা	ঢাকা	৭৬	দোহার	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৭৭	নবাবগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৭৮	কেরানীগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৭৯	সাতার	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৮০	সুত্রাপুর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৮১	কোতালী	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৮২	ডেমরা	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৮৩	শ্রীপুর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
			কালীগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৮৫	কাপাসিয়া	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
			টাঙ্গাইল সদর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
ময়মনসিংহ	ময়মনসিংহ	৮৭	সখিপুর	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৮৮	ঘাটাইল	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
		৮৯	দেওয়ানগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	২১/০৭/২০২২
			মাশারগঞ্জ	২০/০৫/২০২২	০৯/০৬/২০২২	১০/০৬/২০২২	

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Our food security is at genuine risk

Govt needs to react now to the ominous signs in the global market

AS the global market continues to remain topsy-turvy, and with India banning wheat exports on May 13, Bangladesh needs to put more focus on ensuring its short- to medium-term food security. Reportedly, the government is banking on having a good harvest of Boro paddy to bolster its grain stock. Experts, however, have warned the government not to solely rely on local production of food grains. The government should take heed of their warning, and look to secure other sources of import at the earliest—before more countries start to impose similar export bans to guarantee their own food security.

By the looks of things, the global market will continue to remain volatile—at least for the foreseeable future. Many predicted the current crisis in regards to a shortage of food grains globally due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other related factors. The export ban by India is a big concern, as Bangladesh has been importing significant amounts of wheat from its neighbour over the past years. But government officials say the ban is not likely to have much of an impact, since India has only banned commercial wheat exports, and the government can still import the item through government-to-government deals using its good relations with New Delhi.

Only a day after the ban was announced, however, wheat prices increased by as much as 25 percent in the local markets here. What explains such a sharp rise in price in such a short time? If what the officials have said is true, there is no reason for the price hike—except for traders trying to exploit the situation. Therefore, besides bolstering its grain stock by importing wheat and other food items from different sources, the government also needs to remain vigilant to check any attempts to manipulate prices by powerful traders and syndicates.

As experts have pointed out, Bangladesh is already under significant inflationary pressure right now. Because people in huge numbers are struggling to afford many essentials, they are being forced to give up on a variety of foods and fall back on their main staple—i.e. rice. That means they are already down to their last option. And so, if there is a shortage of food grains or the prices rise any further, the country could face a severe crisis.

That's why the government must not show any form of complacency in ensuring the country's food security for the foreseeable future. In regards to that, it should exercise all its options, starting with securing new import opportunities, supporting local production through the cheap availability of fertilisers—whose supply has also become volatile because of global factors—and other production-related items, as well as use the futures market if necessary.

Chattogram's carbon catastrophe

Stop suicidal power plant projects, save the region

IT is quite a startling fact that most of the coal-fired power plants in Bangladesh are located in the Chattogram region, which will encounter a catastrophic situation if and when all of these plants are completed and operational. It's worth noting that Bangladesh has one of the largest coal power pipelines—29 in total—according to a study conducted in 2019.

To begin with, why are we still investing in dirty energy when the whole world is moving away from them? Secondly, two-thirds of the new fossil-fuel-powered energy plants have been concentrated in one region—in Chattogram division alone—which bodes very badly for its ecology, flora, fauna and public health. To quote a recent study by a group of NGOs, Chattogram is at high risk of being one of the world's largest carbon catastrophes. We also wonder why a country like Japan, which has committed to stop coal financing, is bankrolling this damaging project in Bangladesh. How are we to mitigate the estimated 1.38 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emission during the lifetime of these proposed coal- and gas-fuelled power plants? The study highlights that once Matarbari, the most damaging of the projects, goes into operation, it will be the cause of 6,700 premature deaths during its lifetime.

We believe the time has come to rationalise our power policy, which must begin with addressing the contradictions in this regard. Why go for such big and damaging projects when there is unutilised capacity in the country's power sector? Shouldn't the government explain why about 60 percent of the installed capacity was left unused in the 2020-21 fiscal year, and why USD 1.6 billion of public money was paid to companies for underutilised power capacity in 2021? Whose fault is it, and who will answer for this pathetic state of planning? Why should the public have to bear the consequent rise in power tariffs? What can justify the overenthusiasm of the government to house coal-powered projects that have been proven to be both environmentally and economically unviable around the world?

Unfortunately, despite the global call to reduce the use of fossil fuel, and despite lofty promises that Bangladesh will reduce its dependence on dirty energy, we seem bent on investing in this damaging and dirty source of power. Regrettably, we don't have the same enthusiasm for finding renewable and clean sources of energy. We must purge our predilection for coal-powered projects, and utilise the unused generated power. In the meantime, we must adopt renewable and clean sources of energy that are both economic and sustainable and can lessen the burden on the consumers.

The Economy: What got you here won't get you there



Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud is a former professor of economics at Dhaka University.

WAHIDUDDIN MAHMUD

OVER the years, Bangladesh has achieved considerable economic progress despite many odds. The economy, however, has now reached a point where continued progress will require course corrections, as alluded to by the title of this article, which is also the subtitle of a bestselling business book. The imperatives for such policy changes have already been there, only to be heightened by the Covid-related economic slowdown and now by the global economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine war.

The extent of the fallout caused by the Russia-Ukraine war will depend much on how long the war will continue. Our external balance of payments is already under increasing strain due to the soaring price of imported crude oil. The impact of price speculation in the global edible oil markets has clearly upset the domestic market, leading to erratic moves by the government to keep the price within a limit. For two other essential import items, namely wheat and fertilisers, uncertainty has arisen not only from the global price hikes, but also from doubts about the very availability of these items in the global markets. How far the domestic consumers—and farmers in the case of fertilisers—can be protected from the increased import prices will depend on the amounts of subsidies the government can afford to provide through its various distribution channels.

It, thus, comes down to the space for manoeuvre within the government's budgetary allocations. That space has unfortunately shrunk due to the increasing burden of servicing public debt, which is now eating up an increasingly large chunk of the revenue earnings. The government has resorted to increased deficit financing, both through domestic and foreign borrowings, for managing the Covid crisis, and more so for funding the megaprojects.

But the main underlying reason for the looming budgetary problem is the low revenue earnings, which has remained obstinately low and stagnant as a proportion of GDP for the last three decades or so. Our tax-GDP ratio, which is one of the lowest among our comparator countries, has remained the Achilles' heel of our budgetary management, only to be more openly exposed by the pandemic fallout and the impact of the ongoing global economic turbulence.

Although the post-Covid export recovery has been a saving grace, it has not been enough to prevent the opening up of a gaping hole in the trade balance, and even in the overall external balance. The Bangladesh Bank cannot possibly continue to defend the taka-dollar exchange rate even though the level of foreign exchange reserves may still look comfortable. We need to have adequate cushion against the

impact of loan repayments incurred for the megaprojects, given that the significant amounts of debt servicing will begin within the next medium-term period. As for the more immediate future, while taka gets devalued, it is likely to add fuel to the fire of imported inflation. This in turn will require more social safety net protection and other support measures for the poor,

of ready-made (RMG) garment industry, manpower export and the scaling up of small and micro-enterprises. In order to go into the next growth trajectory, the economy needs to shift from replication to a deepening of skills and technology, associated with higher productivity and wages. A lot of homework is also yet to be done about how to negotiate our way into



▲ VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI

It is a sobering thought that, while rapid growth episodes for a decade or so is quite common among developing countries, sustained growth over a much longer period—as happened, say, in South Korea—is extremely rare.

while the low-middle class families will also likely come under distress.

There is an apprehension in Bangladesh about a looming spectre of a Sri Lanka-type situation of external bankruptcy. That possibility seems unlikely, given the current levels of macro-financial parameters in the country. But there are lessons to be learnt. Merely avoiding external bankruptcy, which is more of an African and South American phenomenon, should not be the yardstick of how well we are managing our externally-financed projects. It goes without saying that we need to manage these projects far more efficiently, in terms of reducing cost and time overruns, in preventing resource leakages and in setting priorities. The huge costs incurred in infrastructure projects should not be justified by their prestige value, but by their capacity to attract future private investments. In particular, investments in export-oriented industries can take care of the stress on the balance of payments created by future debt repayment obligations.

While our immediate policy focus needs to be on redressing the impact of price hikes in the domestic markets, this may also be an opportune moment for rethinking our longer-term development strategy. It is a sobering thought that, while rapid growth episodes for a decade or so is quite common among developing countries, sustained growth over a much longer period—as happened, say, in South Korea—is extremely rare. Agriculture apart, the laudable economic progress achieved so far in Bangladesh has been mainly driven by the replication of economic activities based on low-wage and semi-skilled labour along with low-productivity technology, as in the case

an increasingly turbulent global economy, particularly as we graduate out of the LDC status. Economic growth in the future will also be more costly, given the need for making industrialisation and urbanisation more compatible with environmental sustainability.

In the social sector development indicators, we have achieved even more remarkable progress, but the achievements so far have come from the adoption of low-cost solutions, such as reducing child mortality through diarrhoea treatment by oral saline and through successful immunisation campaigns. The enrolment rates have rapidly increased at all levels of education, but only at the cost of lowering quality. Further progress in the social sector indicators will depend not only on more social public spending, the level of which has remained extremely low even by the standards of low-income countries, but also on substantial improvement in the quality of public service delivery. The existing education system, with its deteriorating standards, is simply incapable of meeting the human capital requirements of our envisaged development goals.

While delineating an entire development strategy is beyond the scope of this article, I shall leave you pondering on a question rarely discussed in the development discourses: What made post-World War II Germany and Japan emerge again as economic powerhouses within a decade or two after having their physical infrastructure thoroughly ravaged by war? Although the post-war US support towards economic rehabilitation was a factor, a reasonable guess is that the major role was played by the existence of a highly skilled labour force.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

India's Covid Con



AWAKENING INDIA

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general, is an MP for Indian National Congress.

SHASHI THAROOR

INDIA is no stranger to political controversies. At least half a dozen rage in its fractious public life at any time. But perhaps the most unseemly dispute recently has been the one over the country's Covid-19 mortality figures.

The pandemic hit India hard, particularly during the second wave in April-June 2021, when people were dying from Covid in hospital waiting rooms and car parks, while others succumbed due to a lack of medical oxygen. Countless funeral pyres glowed in the darkness along the banks of the Ganges, even as some poor families, unable to afford a funeral, wrapped their loved ones in shrouds and sent them floating down the river.

But despite widespread anecdotal evidence of a catastrophic pandemic death toll, the official figures told a different, although still alarming, story. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government estimated that, between January 2020 and March 2022, just over a half-million deaths were attributable to Covid. Many Indian journalists were sceptical, pointing out that the official figure was well below even the number of compensation payouts made by state governments to the families of Covid victims. The respected

British medical journal *The Lancet* published a study suggesting that India's numbers were a gross undercount. But the government stood its ground.

It took an explosive report from the World Health Organization (WHO) earlier this month to blow the lid off the government's claims. Using the measure of "excess deaths"—based on pre-pandemic mortality rates in the same area—the WHO estimated the number of Covid deaths in India at 4.7 million. That was nearly 10 times higher than the government was prepared to admit, and accounted for almost a third of the estimated 15 million pandemic deaths globally.

The Indian government, which had at first tried unsuccessfully to stall the adoption of the report, denounced it, citing concerns about the WHO's methodology. But, given that lower Covid mortality figures are an essential part of the government's messaging, the denials were widely seen as an attempt to counter unfavourable publicity about its management of the pandemic.

Ironically, the WHO's figures confirm that India did not do all that badly relative to other countries in tackling the pandemic. Although India's Covid fatality rate of 1.2 percent of confirmed cases is the seventh highest globally, the country does not figure in the top 100 in terms of deaths per million population. Moreover, it is possible that many more people in India were infected than diagnosed, and that the true fatality rate is therefore lower, even if the absolute numbers are high as a result of India's large population.

It would therefore have been better

for the government to accept the WHO's figures and frame them as relatively good news, rather than kicking up a controversy that has put it in an unflattering light internationally. India should have admitted that the draconian, Chinese-style lockdown the government imposed when the pandemic began in 2020 paralysed much administrative activity, including the reporting and registration of deaths (not just from Covid). Field surveys were not conducted, and statistical sampling was based on inadequate data. While things improved in that regard in 2021, shifting patterns of lockdowns and the severity of the second wave also interfered with the maintenance of accurate records. The government could simply have asked the WHO to include a footnote in the report explaining that, for these reasons, the organisation's estimates of Covid deaths in India were based on a modelling exercise.

Instead, Indian officials made the preposterous claim that 99.9 percent of all Covid deaths to date were registered in 2020, and that the increase in "excess deaths" really reflects an improvement in registration. This is so palpably untrue as to cast doubt on the government's overall trustworthiness.

Life and death cannot be a matter of opinion. Accurate mortality figures enable a country to understand the scale of a tragedy, honour the dead, compensate the living, and better gauge what kind of measures will be required to prepare for future public health crises. India must not be victimised again by the Modi government's embarrassingly clumsy attempts to control its image.

Accurate mortality figures enable a country to understand the scale of a tragedy, honour the dead, compensate the living, and better gauge what kind of measures will be required to prepare for future public health crises.

Biman's misadventures continue



A CLOSER LOOK

TASNEEM TAYEB

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

BIMAN is once again making the headlines and, as usual, for all the wrong reasons. The country's national flag carrier has recently come under fire for performing a botched job in arranging logistics to operate the Hajj flights for 2022. According to media reports, Biman's board approved an agreement—signing with Lithuania-based Heston Airlines for wet leasing of two 266-seat Airbus A330s from the latter to operate the Hajj flights—despite having own capacity to run the operation with existing resources—at its 276th board meeting, held on April 30.

Mahbub Jahan Khan, Biman's director for corporate planning and training, had reportedly placed the same proposal earlier in April, which was turned down due to lack of insufficient study and analysis. However, when he placed the proposal again, it was approved for agreement signing. It has been alleged by Biman insiders that, due to vested interest of a certain quarter, the proposal had been placed for the second time before the board.

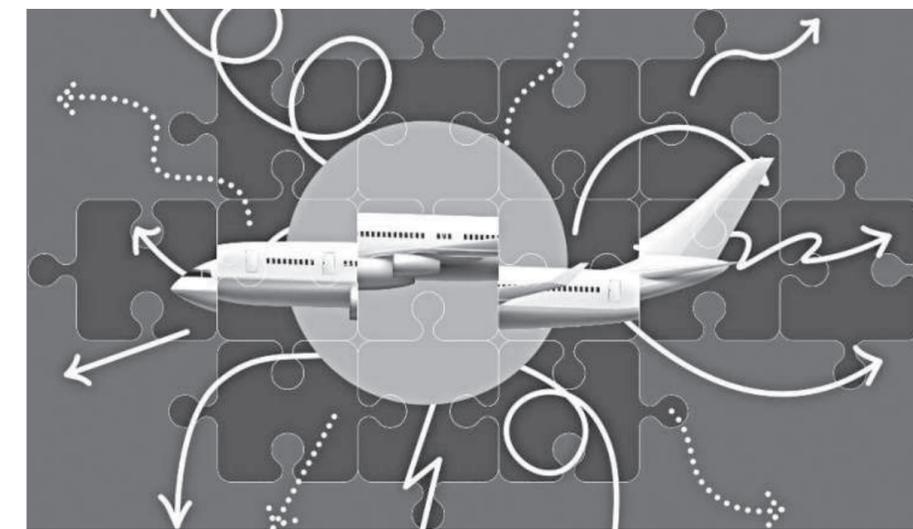
Air Asia and Avico had offered cheaper rates for the same, but Biman opted for the costly Heston block-hour offer of USD 7,000 per hour. In the face of allegations of irregularities and mismanagement, and backlash from various quarters, it was later announced that Biman would operate the Hajj flights with its existing resources—as it had done last year—by diverting three aircrafts from Middle East routes to support the operation.

This, however, is not Biman's only misadventure of this year. Earlier in March, the airline came under severe criticism from aviation industry experts for flying an "experimental commercial" flight on the Dhaka-Toronto-Dhaka route, carrying around 40 government officials and two MPs free of cost. There

were only 36 general passengers on the Dhaka-Toronto route, while the return flight had only six general passengers. The flight, operated with a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, had incurred an expense of around Tk 4 crore—a blatant misuse of the public's hard-earned money.

Even after repeated warnings from experts that the flight will not be

commercially viable—despite having 298 seats, the flight would be able to accommodate only 120 to 130 passengers because of fuel and luggage weight—Biman was confident that it would be the contrary. In the end, the flight was shelved because of its lack of commercial viability.



Now, the question is: Who is going to take responsibility for the massive waste of public money? And why did Biman high-ups not take into consideration the opinion of experts? When is Biman going to be held accountable for its misdeeds?

Over the years, Biman has been embroiled in multiple controversies with regards to mismanagement and corruption. One would recall the leasing of two Boeing 777 aircrafts from Egypt Air, for which Biman had to face a loss of

Tk 1,223 crore in total. The terms of the five-year lease, from 2014 to 2019, had been against the interests of Biman, and one of the aircrafts had to be grounded since 2017 due to engine defects. The two aircrafts had been returned in July and October of 2019, respectively, to Egypt Air. The fact remains Biman is a highly

substandard customer service and their constant misuse of public money. Biman seems to enjoy some form of government protection, which is why they are hardly ever held accountable for their misadventures. Perhaps this has given them the idea that they can get away with anything. This scenario needs to be changed."

Dr Iftekharuzzaman further suggested a three-pronged strategy that the government can adopt to address the situation: Cleaning up the Biman board by appointing aviation industry experts whose strategic and policy directions will help steer the organisation in the right direction; streamlining the top management through the appointment of competent individuals who can implement strategies with a focus on achieving competitive edge in the international market; and introducing a stringent code of conduct to strengthen the internal control system and make Biman accountable internally and to the government.

In addition to these, the government also needs to demonstrate a strong political will to reform Biman internally and transform it into an efficient and profitable organisation. And it can do so by thoroughly investigating the misdeeds of Biman's management and officials and holding accountable the culprits, irrespective of their identity or political connections.

Biman, as an organisation, is in dire need of exhaustive Business Process Reengineering, without which it will never be able to come out of its lullback, government-office attitude, enforce internal accountability, or grow the appetite for commercial viability. If it is allowed to continue on its current course, its losses will only grow in scale and the public and the nation will suffer because of it.

The government should take a hard look at the mismanagement and misconduct of Biman's board and management, and immediately take uncompromising and committed measures to reform the organisation from within. Public money cannot be allowed to be wasted for the gains of certain vested quarters.

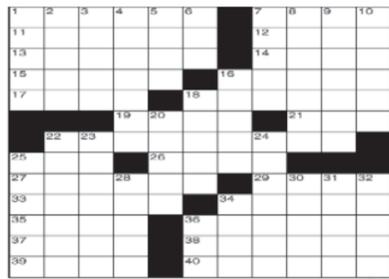
The government needs to demonstrate a strong political will to reform Biman internally and transform it into an efficient and profitable organisation.

inefficient organisation, mired in corruption and mismanagement since its inception of its operation, resulting in loss after loss, and significant wastage of public money.

While discussing the issue with this writer, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, said, "Biman has so far run as a government organisation. They do not seem to have any business strategy or even a basic plan, and clearly operate on ad-hoc basis having no concern for value for money of investments and expenses. And Biman's organisation structure could not internalise the corporate culture required to compete in the international market, despite their salary and benefit structure, which is on par with corporate standard. This is reflected in their

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Confines
 - 7 Tennis great Arthur
 - 11 Change over time
 - 12 Marquee name
 - 13 Arts section feature
 - 14 Turner of song
 - 15 Hat parts
 - 16 Chess pieces
 - 17 Rose part
 - 18 Big Apple player
 - 19 At any time
 - 21 Go wrong
 - 22 Party decorations
 - 25 Clock numeral
 - 26 Periods
 - 27 Types in
 - 29 Race goal
- DOWN**
- 1 Cook's collection
 - 2 Tennis star
 - 3 Studio output
 - 4 More willowy
 - 5 Composer
 - 6 With 18- and 36-Down, beginning of a sort
 - 7 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
 - 8 Cad
 - 9 Closet items
 - 10 Pencil part
 - 16 Sum of one's actions
 - 18 See 6-Down
 - 20 Turns suddenly
 - 22 Heartfelt
 - 23 Fairy queen
 - 24 Manor settings
 - 25 Trawler or tanker
 - 28 Stopped
 - 30 First-string players
 - 31 In itself
 - 32 German steel city
 - 34 Dole out
 - 36 See 6-Down



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



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কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়
ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি-০১



স্মারক নং-৩৩১/ইন-সার্ভিস (সিলেট)
"The Public Procurement Act-2006 & The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" এর প্রবিধান অনুযায়ী ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরে ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার সিলেট এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত মালামাল সরবরাহের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী ঠিকাদার/ব্যবসায়ী সরবরাহকারী ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠান এর নিকট সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত শর্তানুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

তারিখ-১৬/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ

ক্রমিক নং	সম্বোধক সত্তা ও তথ্যাদির বিবরণী	আম্রাহী দরদাতাদের জ্ঞাতব্য ও যোগাতার বিবরণী			
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বল্পে মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।			
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার), ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট।			
৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	৩৩১/ইন-সার্ভিস তারিখ-১৬/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ।			
৫.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
৬.	বাজেট ও তথ্যাদির উৎস	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরে পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হইতে অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্ত সাপেক্ষে।			
৭.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নম্বর	০১/২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থসাল।			
৮.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	১৬/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ এর মধ্যে যেকোন দিন।			
৯.	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	০৮/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ (১০:০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)।			
১০.	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৯/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১১.	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৯/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা। দরদাতা অথবা তাহার প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে।			
১২.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।			
১৩.	দরপত্র দলিলাদি বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট।			
১৪.	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট।			
১৫.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী/অফিস	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট।			
১৬.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার) ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট।			
১৭.	দরপত্রদাতার প্রাক যোগাতা এবং পিপিআর মোতাবেক দরপত্র দলিল (সিডিউল) জমা করিতে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীকে প্রাকযোগ্যতা যাচাইয়ের ক্ষেত্রে পার্শ্ববর্তিত শর্তসমূহ পূরণ করিতে হইবে	পিপিআর-২০০৮ এবং সংশোধনী মোতাবেক দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত দলিলিক কাগজপত্রের ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। যথাঃ (ক) হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ব্যবসায়িক বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স। (খ) যে কোন তফসিলিকৃত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে বিগত এক বছরের আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা সনদপত্র ও ব্যাংক হিসাব বিবরণী। (গ) টিআইএন নম্বর সম্বলিত হালনাগাদ পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদপত্র। (ঘ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট। (ঙ) নাগরিক সনদপত্র। (চ) মালিকানা সনদপত্র। (ছ) প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে ক্ষমতা অর্পণপত্র। (জ) দরপত্রদাতা কোনো ডালিকাকৃত নহেন মর্মে ঘোষণা/অঙ্গীকারনামা ১ম শ্রেণীর সরকারি কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রতী স্বাক্ষর করে দাখিল করতে হবে। (ঝ) সদ্য তোলা রঙিন ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র।			
১৮.	লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ	দরপত্র তফসিল (সিডিউল) এর মূল্য (অফেন্ডযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেব্রুয়ারি)	কাজের সময়সীমা
১.		প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী ও প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের বাবার সরবরাহ	চাহিদা অনুযায়ী ৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা)	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য
২.		অন্যান্য মনিহারি সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
৩.		ব্যবহার্য ম্রুবাদি সরবরাহ	৭৫০/-	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার টাকা)	
৪.		স্বাস্থ্যনিধান সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
৫.		কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
৬.		কম্পিউটার মেরামত সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
৭.		মোটরযান মেরামত সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
৮.		মোটরযানের কাঁচামাল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
৯.		অন্যান্য যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
১০.		ভাড়ায় চলিত মাইক্রোবাস সরবরাহ	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা)	
১১.		জীবা সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	
১৯.		দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	ফাহুদী পুরকায়স্থ।		
২০.		দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার)।		
২১.		দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট।		
২২.		দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	মোবাইলঃ ০১৩২০-২২২৯৯৮।		
২৩.		বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ	ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। খ) দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি বা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে। গ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।		

ফাহুদী পুরকায়স্থ
বিপি-৭৫০৬১১৬১৩৮
কমান্ড্যান্ট (পুলিশ সুপার)
ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিলেট
মোবাইলঃ ০১৩২০-২২২৯৯৮
E-mail: comistcsy/het@police.gov.bd



'Rain or shine, our woes linger on'

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Residents of West Bakalia (ward 17) in the port city are the worst sufferers of waterlogging during monsoon every year.

Not just the rainy season, many living beside different lanes and by-lanes in the ward suffer due to waterlogging even in the dry season.

Take the instance of Ujir Ali Shah by-lane in Rahattarpool area. Several hundred families living in the area seemed quite happy when this correspondent visited the area last week, as they said water just receded from their waterlogged road and they could move freely.

"Filthy water overflowing from the drain submerge the road now and then," said Sheikh Md Ledu, a local. "Rain or shine, the alley remains underwater."

Many do not want to live in this area, and some have already given their notice to leave the neighbourhood, said Ledu, owner of a four-storey building in the area.

Arif Ahmed, another resident, echoed him. "The ground floor of many buildings on the lane went underwater during the rain, influenced by cyclone Ashani, last week," said Tripti Dutta, a local. "Many people, especially the children, have been suffering from diarrhoea and enteric diseases since then."

"My two-year-old daughter has been suffering from diarrhoea for five days," she said.

Pushpal Barua, another resident, said he has been suffering from skin diseases as he had to walk through the filthy water quite often. "We have informed the authorities, but the situation has not changed."



Prof Dr Serajul Islam, former head of dermatology at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said due to the filthy water, people are at risk of suffering from skin diseases including itching, eczema and scabies.

Contacted, Shahidul Alam, councillor of ward-17, said his ward is in one of the low-lying areas, where waterlogging is a common scenario during monsoon.

Asked about the sufferings of residents in Ujir Ali Shah by-lane, Shahidul said it all started just a year ago when Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) started making temporary embankments in canals as part of implementing a mega project to address the waterlogging issue.

"As temporary embankments have been made in canals, drain water cannot recede rapidly, and so water overflows from the drains," he said. "Not only the residents of Ujir Ali Shah by-lane but people of many other areas have also been suffering for the same reason."

He said he will speak to CDA about the matter. CDA chief engineer Kazi Hasan Bin Shams could not be contacted for comments, despite repeated attempts.

Risks increase, initiatives don't

Open drains, canals pose more threats ahead of monsoon

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Accidents and casualties caused by open canals and drains are still fresh in the memories of port city residents. Yet the situation has not seen any significant improvement. Many canals and drains are left open, posing a threat of further accidents.

The city is gripped with even more panic as monsoon approaches.

While visiting different areas of the city last week, this correspondent found several canals and drains unguarded and filled with plastic waste.

During the visit, retaining walls were not seen in many canals and areas, including Jamal Khan, Chatteshwari Road, Chaktai Khal in Chawkbazar Phooltoola, Chashma

Khal in Sholashahar and Osmania Khal in Kalurghat.

The issue is not a recent one. Accidents have been occurring at regular intervals over the years. Shilbrata Barua, a retired government official from Hathazari, slipped and fell into a drain while going to a wedding ceremony in Bakalia on July 3, 2017. On June 9, 2018, a child named Al Amin fell into a drain in the Amin Jute Mill area of the city.

On June 30 last year, three people went missing after an auto-rickshaw fell into an open canal in Sholashahar's Chashma Hill area. The bodies of driver Sultan (35) and passenger Khadija Begum (65) were later recovered.

On August 25 last year, a vegetable trader named Saleh Ahmed (50) slipped and drowned in the rapid flow of drainage water in Muradpur. He was not found.

The issue came to the fore of all discussions when 19-year-old university student Sheherin Mahmud Sadia died after falling into a drain at Agrabad intersection of the city on September 27 last year.

After her death, a bamboo fence was made to guard the drain, which was replaced by a brick wall blocking the footpath. It is yet to be known who built the wall. None of the authorities concerned admitted to building it.

On December 7 last year, 10-year-old Kamal Uddin fell into a drain at Sholashahar Railway Station area. His body was recovered three days after he went missing. The drain is still left unprotected.

Even on April 15 this year, divers of the fire service rescued a woman from Osmania

canal in Kalurghat.

"I still remember Sadia's death. It keeps haunting me," said Taslima Akter, a student of Chittagong College living on Chatteshwari Road.

"We are in constant fear of such accidents, especially during the monsoon. I would like to request the authorities of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) to take immediate steps to protect the canal," she added.

"The authorities concerned cannot avoid the responsibility of such deaths. They did not take any step to prevent the accidents," said town planner Subhash Barua.

According to CCC officials, there are 57 canals -- measuring 161 kilometres in total -- and 765 kilometres of drains in the city. After Sadia's death, CCC conducted a survey of risky spots around drains, canals and footpaths last year. After the survey, a total of 5,527 risky spots were identified, measuring up to 19 kilometres.

However, works on safeguarding the risky spots have allegedly seen little progress, said CCC sources, adding that over 70 percent of works are yet to be completed.

Contacted, CCC chief engineer Rafiqul Islam said works for installing slabs over open drains and building retaining walls by the canals are ongoing.

"Slabs have already been installed over 25,000 square feet of drains, while retaining walls have been built for 15,000 square feet of risky canals so far," he added.

This correspondent could not contact CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury as he was abroad.

On June 30 last year, three people went missing after an auto-rickshaw fell into an open canal in Sholashahar's Chashma Hill area. The bodies of driver Sultan (35) and passenger Khadija Begum (65) were later recovered.



Temporary dams, prolonged sufferings

SIFAYET ULLAH

Temporary dams in the canals made by Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) as part of implementing a mega project to address waterlogging in the port city have worsened the waterlogging problem.

Locals alleged that there was no waterlogging in their areas before the dams were built in the canals. But now, all it takes is a little rain to inundate different areas.

Mohammed Yousof, a resident of Bahaddarhat area, said, "We have been suffering from waterlogging since a dam was set up in the canal."

At a recent coordination meeting, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, mayor of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC), demanded the removal of the dams. According to sources, the mayor repeatedly appealed to the CDA in this regard.

During a recent visit to the bank of Chashma canal of the port city, this correspondent saw that multiple dams have been set up in the canal from Sholashahar area of the city to Bahaddarhat.

According to CDA data, there are 56 canals in the port city, but work is underway in 36 canals under a

project to mitigate waterlogging. CDA is implementing the Tk 6,000 crore project in association with the army.

But the project implementing agency does not have an accurate estimate of the number of temporary dams in these canals.

Asked, Lt Col Shah Ali, director of the project, said, "They started removing the dams from the canal before monsoon."

Though the time of the project, launched in 2018, got an extension of two years in 2020, the authorities will need two more years to complete it, as 60 percent works of the project has been completed so far. But he

claimed that work to implement the project, which remained hamstrung for a year due to multifarious problems, including the coronavirus outbreak, is going on in full gear now.

Delwar Majumder, former president of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chattogram Centre, said when it rains, the city's water cannot drain into the canals because of the dams. As a result, even during light rain, water accumulates up to the knees in different areas.

"The canal dams should have been removed before monsoon to save people of the port city from waterlogging," he added.



More costs, more time, more troubles

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Costs and deadlines of four ongoing projects to mitigate the waterlogging issue in Chattogram -- worth Tk 11,000 crore -- have been extended multiple times. However, the sufferings of the port city dwellers have increased with them.

Several government audits have revealed that projects were undertaken without development project proposals (DPP), feasibility studies, correct designs and compliance with the city master plans.

According to Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) sources, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the largest project -- worth Tk 5,617 crore -- in August 2017. The project was scheduled to be completed by June 2020. However, it was extended by two phases to June 2022.

Meanwhile, only 65 percent of the work has been completed by April this year. The third extension of the project till December 2023 is awaiting Ecne's approval and will increase the cost by 70 percent, at an estimated Tk 9,526 crore.

The DPP prepared by CDA revised the costs at Tk 10,420 crore, while Ministry of Housing and Public Works revised it to Tk 9,526 crore.

According to an audit report published in July 2021 by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), the project was approved without proper feasibility study and coordination between the implementing and consulting firms.

The report states that the actual cost was much higher than the estimate because the DPP lacked a "practical work plan" for different project components.

Another Tk 2,310 crore CDA project, involving the construction of a road from Karnafuli to Kalurghat Bridge, is about to miss its deadline.



When Ecne, in August 2017, approved the project, the deadline was fixed at 2020, which has been extended till June 2022.

At least 8.55 kilometres of roads and embankments, regulators and pump houses are being constructed on the opening of 12 canals. Currently, 10 sluice gates are being constructed with a progress rate of only 56 percent.

CDA officials said that the deadline was extended due to the changes in the regulator design in the middle of the project.

Project Director Rajib Das said, "The construction of five sluice gates at Chaktai and Rajakhali canals is almost complete. We hope to complete the rest by June this year."

Another project, undertaken by Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) to excavate a canal from Baroipara to Karnafuli river in 2014 was supposed to end by December 2018.

Seven years have passed since the initiation, and CCC could not dig a three-kilometre long canal, due to complications in acquiring lands.

CCC itself revealed that the project has seen only 12 percent progress.

Recently, Ecne approved the increase in the budget from Tk 328 crore to Tk 1,373 crore and extended the deadline till June 2024.

CCC Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam said, "The work was stalled as we could not acquire the lands required. It will resume shortly, as we have received the budget, and works are underway to acquire the lands."

Meanwhile, a Tk 1,620 crore Water Development Board (WDB) project was approved in 2019, with a plan to build 23 regulators in the estuary of 23 canals along Karnaphuli river to ward off tidal water, along with an 18.96 km flood wall.

The project has already missed its deadline of December 2021. WDB could not start the work even in 2022 due to Chattogram Port Authority's (CPA) objections because of obstacles to port activities.

Project Director Lt Col Kabirul Islam said, "At present, the project is at a progress rate of 15 percent. A new design has been prepared, consulting the port authority, and hopefully, works can start soon."

Calling out the wrong implementations of the projects, architect and town planner Zarina Hossain said, "CDA developed a realistic 20-year masterplan, which all these projects have overlooked."

"The government has not held relevant agencies, such as CCC and CDA, accountable and failed to ensure professionalism on their part," added Zarina, also general secretary of Forum for Planned Chattogram.



Bangladesh's brilliant outing on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka yesterday was made possible by some tremendous partnerships. First, openers Mahmudul Hasan Joy and hometown hero Tamim Iqbal put on 162 runs to start the Tigers' first innings in Chattogram. Later, Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and Liton Das would see out the day for Bangladesh, set to continue their unbeaten 98-run stand today.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tamim's discipline sets the tone

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI, from Chattogram

Hometown hero Tamim Iqbal was a class apart at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday and the most remarkable aspect of his innings was the necessary poise and comfort he displayed during his 133 run-knock in the first Test against Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh reached a commanding 318 for three at the end of the third day, with Liton Das and Mushfiqur Rahim seeing off the last delivery after Tamim's wait to maximise his effect was interrupted when he suffered a cramp and had to retire hurt.

Tamim had missed quite a few Tests in recent times and his approach on his return to the Test format in the second Test against South Africa had not looked altogether convincing. There was the regular attacking intent on offer at South Africa, but Tamim may have lacked the harmony he offers when he is in flow. There was a hurried 47-run knock at Gqeberha which took South Africa's focus but did not provide the stability the Tigers needed.

"It was a great knock, Tamim was very disciplined today and didn't try and go fast. He looked like Angelo Mathews actually, just very patient and taking runs whenever they were available and only hitting fours that were handed to him on a plate with bad balls."

Bangladesh batting coach **Jamie Siddons**

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH V SRI LANKA (DAY 3)

SRI LANKA: First Innings-397 all out in 153 overs.
BANGLADESH: First Innings- 318 for 3 in 107 overs (Tamim 133 retired hurt, Joy 58, Mushfiqur 53 not out, Liton 54 not out; Rajitha 2-17, Fernando 1-55)

Tamim's approach, balance and confidence yesterday looked all-natural. The balance returned and so did the conviction in shot selection. He did throw his hand at one delivery on the second day, which was dropped in the slip cordon, but it would not have counted as it was a no-ball. Sri Lanka were left frustrated but it acted as a warning for Tamim. He appeared on the third day with renewed discipline and picking up a ton.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy turned out to be the perfect opening partner to Tamim's domineering approach and the duo showed class and application as Bangladesh's openers recorded a first 100-run partnership in five years.

Batting coach Jamie Siddons said that they got exactly what they wanted from the opening pair.

"Opening the batting is not an easy job and what they did yesterday [Monday], set up today [Tuesday]. Yesterday was very tough after almost two days in very, very hot conditions. They went none for 75 (76) yesterday and then continued. Tamim's performance was fantastic and there are plenty of more runs left. He's not out so he can come back in when we think he's fit. The discipline today is exactly what we asked for," Siddons said.

"I think after two days in the field and batting like he did, running between the wickets in the heat, it just takes it out of you," Siddons said of Tamim's cramp. But the coach was hopeful that the left-hander could come back in tomorrow and pick up where he left off.

Tamim had been the dominant partner during that 162-run stand with Joy and, after a few wickets fell, he was able to keep himself together and not get distracted by the wicket favouring stroke play. Being able to hold onto his process was what gave Tamim his natural flair back. Despite being lucky after finding a lifeline when Dhananjaya de Silva dropped one at slip yesterday, Tamim's calm was commendable.

Siddons spotted something similar in Tamim and said Tamim's approach was much more in line with the Test mentality Bangladesh were looking for.

"It was a great knock, Tamim was very disciplined today and didn't try and go fast. He looked like Angelo Mathews actually, just very patient and taking runs whenever they were available and only hitting fours that were handed to him on a plate with bad balls. Didn't take the bowlers on like I've seen him before. Thought he was very disciplined," Siddons said of Tamim's classy knock.

"We made a mistake in South Africa, not taking our time. It was a little bit of a thing we made sure we didn't do today, led by Tamim and then Mushy at the end. Test cricket is not a race. You've got to bat for a long period of time," Siddons said.

Bangladesh will be looking for more of that discipline from the batters today in order to put more pressure on Sri Lanka and also set the approach they are looking for in Tests.

DAY-3 HIGHLIGHTS

● Bangladesh openers were able to stitch a 100-run stand after over five years in Tests on the third day in Chattogram yesterday as the opening duo of Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudul Hasan Joy brought up their 100-run stand in the 24th over after resuming the day on 76 for no loss. The last time that Bangladesh had a 100-run stand was also against Sri Lanka, a 118-run partnership between Tamim and Soumya Sarkar at Galle in 2017. Since then, in the following 31 Tests, Bangladesh crossed fifty runs for the opening stand 10 times but was never able to get to the three-figure mark.

BANGLADESH'S 100-PLUS OPENING STANDS

- Tamim Iqbal - Imrul Kayes: **312 v Pakistan, Khulna, 2015**
- Tamim Iqbal - Imrul Kayes: **224 v Zimbabwe, Chattogram, 2014**
- Tamim Iqbal - Imrul Kayes: **185 v England, Lord's, 2010**
- Tamim Iqbal - Mahmudul Hasan: **162 v Sri Lanka, Chattogram, 2022**
- Tamim Iqbal - Junaid Siddique: **161 v New Zealand, Dunedin, 2008**
- Nafis Iqbal - Javed Omar: **133 v Zimbabwe, Dhaka, 2005**
- Tamim Iqbal - Imrul Kayes: **126 v England, Old Trafford, 2010**
- Tamim Iqbal - Soumya Sarkar: **118 v Sri Lanka, Galle, 2017**

● Concussion substitute pacer Kasun Rajitha, who replaced pacer Vishwa Fernando as a like-for-like substitution, removed Najmul Hossain Shanto for one and Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque for two to restore some parity in the game.



● Tamim hit his 10th Test ton and this was also the left-hander's first century in 16 innings. He had scored in the 90s twice, thrice in the 70s and a fifty during this time. His last century in the format, a 128-ball 126, was against New Zealand in Hamilton in 2019. Tamim's wait for reaching landmark 5000 Test runs, however, has been extended as the left-hander had to retire hurt after suffering a cramp in the second session of the day and he was on 133 off 217 deliveries, just 19 runs shy of reaching the landmark.

● Mushfiqur Rahim is just 15 runs away from becoming the first Bangladesh player to reach 5000 runs in Test cricket, ended the day unbeaten on 53. He was on 4932 runs in 80 Tests before the start of the Chattogram encounter.

Kings begin Asia venture

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings are set to kick-start their third AFC Cup campaign when the Bangladesh Premier League champions take on Maldives league champions Maziya S&RC in Group D opener at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, India today.

An established, modern powerhouse of Bangladesh club football, Kings could not enter the knock-out phase despite having remained unbeaten in their last two AFC Cup campaigns. However, this time around, Oscar Bruzon's well-balanced side aim to find the right rhythm and be the second Bangladeshi outfit to progress through the group stage.

Kings had started strong in both of their previous campaigns, a thumping 5-1 win over TC Sports in 2019 was followed by 2-0 victory over Maziya in 2021. Again, for the third time, a Maldivian outfit is in Kings' way, although a setback against Maziya would be considered an upset.

Spanish coach Bruzon, who once worked in Maldives, is clearly aware of the threat from their upcoming opponents, who would be hungry for revenge.

"Maziya are a very well-organised team, compared to last year. The match tomorrow is going to be a tough contest. I expect a lot of pace and tempo from Maziya's local players while their foreigners will provide

them with a good physical presence," Bruzon said yesterday, according to the AFC official website.

"Bashundhara Kings, however, have experience as this is our third time here. We want to grow and keep the vision of doing well at the international level."

Nevertheless, an outright triumph over Maziya will give Kings an advantage before facing two strong Indian outfits - ATK Mohun Bagan and Gokulam Kerala - up next.

No doubt, Kings will have to perform collectively and with a high intensity against Maziya with foreign recruits expecting to play key roles in the match, like how Brazilian Robson Da Silva did in the last edition of the AFC Cup.

Unlike now, Kings had suffered through injuries to their foreign players back then. With new-signing Miguel Figueira's scoring prowess and naturalised footballer Elea Kingsley in the ranks upfront, Kings' attack force seems well equipped.

Bruzon's counterpart Miodrag Jesic is unwilling to take any pressure against Kings.

"We think we have a chance in the group stage, and there isn't any pressure on the players," Jesic said.

"From the beginning we have analysed our opponents. Our focus will be on our game and not to worry about our opponents."



Europa League final tonight

AGENCIES

Ten years after financial oblivion plunged them into Scotland's bottom tier, Rangers are on the brink of lifting their first European trophy in half a century as they meet Eintracht Frankfurt in the final of the Europa League on Wednesday.

Administration, liquidation and relegation all blighted a broken club in 2012 but if the Rangers recovery was complete when they won the Scottish Premiership again last season, a final in Seville now offers them a shot at European glory too.

A victory would earn the club its first cup on the continent since Rangers beat Dynamo Moscow 3-2 in Barcelona to lift the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972.

Spain's chief of police warned of the potential for 'serious problems' as the southern city of Seville braces for an expected invasion of 150,000 Rangers and Eintracht Frankfurt for Europa League final.



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A girl with the belongings of her family waiting to take shelter at a safe place after floodwater inundated their home. The photo was taken in Shalutikar Bazar area at Nandigaon union of Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Floods paralysing Sylhet

Around 13 lakh people affected in Sylhet city, 5 upazilas

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The flood situation in Sylhet has further deteriorated yesterday as the Surma and the Kushiara rivers started flowing above the danger level.

The heavy torrential rainfall in the north-eastern region and India's Meghalaya and Assam has left parts of the district paralysed since May 12 while the cyclonic storm Asani worsened the situation.

Some 12 to 13 lakh people remained marooned in the region as all major rivers swelled and some exceeded danger level in the last couple of days, said the authorities.

The Surma river in Sylhet city area started overflowing early yesterday and was flowing 29cm above the danger level in the morning.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the Surma was flowing 143cm above the danger level in Kanaighat upazila headquarters point at 9:00am yesterday.

At the same time, the Kushiara was flowing 138cm above the danger mark at Amolshid point in Zakiganj upazila and above 45cm at Shewla point in Beanibazar upazila.

However, the water of the Sari-Gowain river was reduced by 13cm and flowing 5cm below the danger level

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CUMILLA CITY POLLS BNP to go tough on rebels

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP will take strong punitive measures against the party men running for Cumilla City Corporation mayor as the party is hell-bent on not contesting any polls under the incumbent government.

Top party leaders said if any of its leader runs in the June 15 Cumilla city polls, the contender will face tough punishment as high as expulsion from the party.

"The party's position is that it will not join any polls, be it a national or local government election. Stern action will be taken against the violators of this decision," Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of the BNP, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Monirul Haque Sakku, two-time mayor of the CCC, has decided to participate in the mayoral polls as an independent candidate. Yesterday, he submitted nomination papers to the Election Commission.

Party insiders said after BNP leader Taimur Alam Khandaker contested the Narayanganj City Corporation polls as an independent candidate early this year, the party expelled him.

Sakku, incumbent joint general secretary of Cumilla South city BNP, was removed as member of the party's executive committee last year over allegations of not joining its programmes.

Contacted, Sakku said he served as Cumilla city mayor twice and tried to work with people from all political backgrounds. He said he is taking part in the election this time as well because people want him to serve them as mayor for a third term.

"I have been involved with the BNP for the last 42 years. I never quit the party. As a mayor, I had to work with all. What can I do if anyone interprets this in a different way? I worked for the people and I will do so in the future, whatever my party's decision may be," he said.

"I worked for the people and I will do so in future whatever my party's decision may be."

Monirul Haque Sakku

Asked whether the BNP leaders and activists were with him in the polls campaign, he said people of all 27 wards of the city corporation were with him.

Sakku was the first elected mayor of the CCC. In the January 5, 2012, polls to the corporation, he contested as an independent candidate and defeated influential Awami League leader Afzal Khan with support from his party.

In the 2017 mayoral election, he defeated Afzal's daughter Anjum Sultana as the BNP candidate.

Other than Sakku, Swechasebak Dal leader Nizamuddin Kaiser has also submitted nomination for the mayoral post. He is the president of Cumilla city Swechasebak Dal.

BNP insiders said if Kaiser contests the polls, he is also likely to be expelled from the party.

The BNP earlier joined local government elections after the last parliamentary elections although the party had said that it would not participate in any election under the incumbent government.

But when the local government polls were marred by violence and allegations of vote rigging, the party boycotted the local government elections too.

Awami League has nominated Arfanul Haque Rifat as its mayoral candidate for the CCC polls.

The Election Commission on April 25 announced the CCC polls schedule and said that voting will be held using electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Lockdown in China hurting 3 mega projects

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

At least three mega infrastructure projects, including two fast-track ones, are facing supply chain strain due to the ongoing Covid-induced lockdown in China's Shanghai.

Contractor of Padma Bridge Rail Link Project (PBRLP) was forced to halt production of its sleeper factory for the lack of materials more than one month ago.

Some specific works of a station to be built in Cox's Bazar under the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Rail Link project were also halted for want of materials.

Both are fast-track projects of the government.

Project officials said if the situation prolongs, it would have an adverse impact on deadlines.

Another project that is facing problems is the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram.

Chinese contractors are involved in all three projects and most of the materials are collected from China, they said.

Almost all of the country's development projects faced huge setbacks when the government

imposed lockdowns in early 2020 and 2021 to halt the spread of Covid-19.

Although the situation has improved and the project works have gathered momentum, these projects faced a roadblock when the Chinese authorities last month imposed a lockdown in Shanghai - China's most important economic hub, boasting the world's busiest port.

CNN in a report on May 6 said Chinese cities including Shanghai have started easing

Covid restrictions in recent days, but experts say the damage has already been done and global shipping will suffer well into the summer.

That could exert even more pressure on global supply chains already reeling from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and keep inflation running hot, said the American news outlet.

The Padma Bridge Rail Link Project is being implemented to build a 169-kilometre rail line from the capital to Jashore via Padma Bridge.

The original cost of the project was Tk 34,989 crore when it was approved in 2016 and the deadline was June 2022.

But the project had to be revised even before the physical

work started, mainly due to the delay in signing the loan contract with Chinese Exim Bank.

The revised cost of the project is Tk 39,246 crore and the deadline extended to June 2024. Overall progress of the project was 57.5 percent till April this year.

Project Director Afzal Hossain said the steel girder prepared for bridges has been stuck at Shanghai port for over a month.

They had to halt operation of the sleeper factory at Faridpur's Bhanga since before Eid for the lack of materials, he said.

"Still, we are hopeful of making up the delay caused by the disruption in supply, but if the situation prolongs, it would create a serious problem," Afzal told The Daily Star yesterday.

Citing officials of the contracting firm, he said the lockdown in Shanghai may be extended by two more weeks.

The Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Rail Link project was taken up in 2010 at the cost of Tk 1,852 crore.

But revised cost of the project is Tk 18,034 crore and the deadline is June 2022. However, project authorities sought more time and hoped to complete the work by June 2023.

Project Director Mofizur Rahman said lockdown in Shanghai has had a "huge impact" on their project in the

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Two buses sideswipe intentionally as they try to block each other from getting ahead and picking up passengers at Banglamotor intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

3 lakh children under 5 severely malnourished

Says Unicef report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than three lakh children, aged less than five years, suffered from severe malnutrition across the globe, reads a report by Unicef.

Bangladesh is the fifth-worst among countries where children suffer from severe malnutrition, according to the report.

South Asia is the epicentre of severe malnutrition among children with India being the worst and Pakistan the third worst.

The report titled "Severe wasting: An overlooked child survival emergency" showed that Bangladesh ranks fifth with 327,859 children affected by severe wasting while India ranked first with 5,772,472 affected children and Pakistan third with 678,925 affected children.

The report said, "In South Asia, the longstanding 'epicentre' of severe wasting, roughly 1 in 22 children is severely wasted. The absolute numbers and prevalence are massive, with at least 7.7 million children affected, three times as many as sub-Saharan Africa."

It also said the situation in South Asia highlights most clearly how severe wasting is passed on from one generation to the next.

Almost 1 in 2 girls in the region are married before the age of 18, and 1 in 5 give birth before 18. "The region is also home to high rates of underweight and anaemia among adolescent girls and pregnant or breastfeeding women."

The other top 10 countries are Indonesia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Niger and South Africa.

It said the number of children with severe wasting was rising even before the war in Ukraine threatened to plunge the world deeper into a global food crisis and it was getting worse.

CONDOLENCE



We are deeply saddened by the demise of country's eminent academician **Prof. Dr. Rahim B Talukdar** who breathed his last early yesterday morning at United Hospital. He was 82. Former Director of IBA-DU, Prof. Talukdar had been at the institute since its inception in 1966 and also served as the vice chancellor of Eastern University and University of Business and Technology. As an expert in his field, he largely contributed to numerous projects of top development agencies namely World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UNFPA, USAID, CIDA, DFID etc.

We pray for eternal peace of the departed soul and convey our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Nazmul Hassan Papon, MP
President

On behalf of the fraternity



