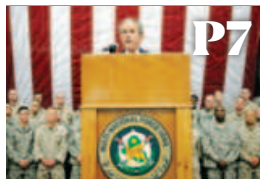




P5
Pratik Theatre:
Let there be light



P7
Bush
mistakenly decries 'brutal' Iraq invasion



P11
Frankfurt win Europa League



B2
RMG workers' buying power eroding: Sanem



This portion of the Sunamganj-Chhatak highway is almost submerged amid torrential rains and flash floods. With the water level of the Surma and Kushiara rivers rising, thousands in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts are suffering from a scarcity of food and drinking water. The photo was taken in Chhatak yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Hopeless revenue target

No major tax hike planned

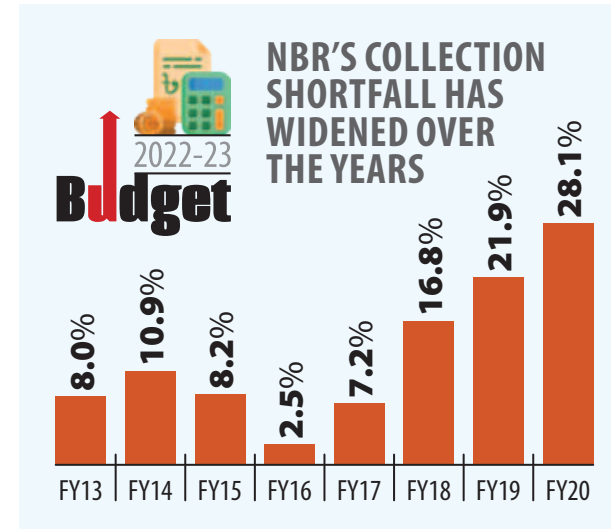
REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ZINA TASREEN

Wishy-washy -- is what best describes the government's stance on scaling up its narrow revenue base, which is posing to become the Achilles' heel to Bangladesh's growth aspirations.

While it is acutely aware of the longstanding shortcoming, it has not shown any willingness to take any bold, decisive actions to address the issue, relying instead on putting big collection targets in front of taxmen and crossing its fingers.

Take the case of the forthcoming fiscal year's collection target of Tk 370,000 crore for the National Board of Revenue, which, unsurprisingly, is the biggest yet.

The highest the NBR has managed is Tk 263,872 crore,



which was in fiscal 2020-21.

And in the first nine months of this fiscal year, the revenue authority has received about Tk 204,008 crore, meaning the target of Tk 330,000 crore will be missed by a wide margin.

Given the elevated inflation level and the recuperating economy, the government will maintain the status quo, resisting going for tax hikes, by and large, said a finance ministry official on the condition of anonymity as they are not allowed to speak with the media ahead of the budget.

"I would have gone for a tax hike on tobacco, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and luxury cars," said Nasiruddin Ahmed, a former NBR chairman.

Given the current economic conditions, it is not possible to increase tax rates anywhere else.

"The scope is very limited. Sri Lanka slashed the VAT rates from 15 percent to 7 percent -- look, what is happening there," he added.

So, without any radical reform, getting within a touching distance of next fiscal year's target seems overly optimistic.

This raises the question of what Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has up his sleeves.

"Strengthening VAT administration and expanding the VAT base holds substantial potential to address the tax gap," Kamal said in his letter to the World Bank in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

RAILWAY RESEARCH, DEV CENTRE

Chinese firm wants joint venture with BR

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A Chinese state-run company wants to set up a research and development centre for Bangladesh Railway (BR) in a joint venture with the BR.

The China Railway Design Corporation (CRDC) submitted a proposal to the railways ministry in January for the establishment of the centre, titled Bangladesh Railway Centre for Research and Development (BRCRD).

If approved by the relevant government authorities, the centre will be jointly funded and operated by the two state-run agencies, and the profit will be shared proportionately, according to the proposal seen by The Daily Star.

Instructed by the railways ministry, the BR evaluated the proposal and submitted its findings to the ministry last month. Its report said the proposal does not contain cost estimations or any economic and financial analysis. The proposal does not include any supporting studies either, BR sources said.

According to the proposal, the research and development centre would create "a new juncture and handle point" for the development

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

PM'S REMARKS

Star editor explains

On Wednesday, 18th May, during her speech marking her homecoming from exile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a reference to me and said: "... Dr Yunus and, what we heard, Mahfuz Anam -- they went to America, went to the State Department, and sent email to Hillary [Clinton]. Anyway ... the then World Bank president Mr [Robert Bruce] Zoellick on his last working day, not at any board meeting, stopped the funding for the Padma bridge project. However, it has turned out to be a blessing in disguise in one sense."

I categorically state that I made no such trip to the US, never visited the State Department, never sent any email to Hillary Clinton, never had any meeting or

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



ABDUL GAFFAR CHOWDHURY
1934-2022

The man behind the iconic song

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The man best known for penning the immortal song "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February", a popular columnist, litterateur and political analyst, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury breathed his last yesterday at a hospital in London at the age of 87.

The journalist was suffering from various age-related health complications.

Gaffar, in his late teens, in 1952, was moved with grief at the death of Rafiq, the first of the activists of the Language Movement to be shot. It provoked him to write the iconic lyric to honour the martyrs of the Language Movement.

Little did he realise that this poem would one day become a historical song portraying the intense love for one's motherland and a unique expression of remembrance of the sacrifice of the language heroes.

The tune was eventually given by Altaf Mahmud (who later joined the Liberation War and was killed by the Pakistani army) and received immense appreciation. Listeners of the BBC's Bengali service had voted the song as the third most popular Bangla song of all time.

As a staunch proponent of the spirit of the Liberation War, Gaffar inspired people with his emotive writing while working with Weekly Joy Bangla, the first newspaper of independent Bangladesh registered through the Mujibnagar government during the war.

Through his writing, Gaffar advocated the need for establishing democracy, which would lead to a non-communal, inclusive society.

His passing has evoked messages of commiseration from many important figures of the country.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, ministers, diplomats, distinguished personalities and top leaders of different political and socio-cultural organisations expressed deep sorrow at the death of the journalist.

In his condolence message, the president said Bangladesh lost a pioneer who was progressive, creative and believed in the spirit of the Liberation War.

The PM in her message said Gaffar Chowdhury with his talent and work upheld the spirit of the Liberation War, the non-communal spirit of the Bangalees till his death and also put forth the country's true history before the nation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A boy is wholly absorbed in following the trajectory of the marbles he has tossed to start the age-old game. Although the game of marbles is no longer as popular as it once was, some local boys were seen engrossed in it on Tuesday on the bank of the Buriganga in the capital's Kamrangirchar area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BUSINESS

Edible oil price shock may soften

Indonesia has decided to lift the ban on palm oil exports, a development that is expected to bring much-needed relief to the consumers in Bangladesh struggling to afford the cooking oil amid skyrocketing of prices.

Palm oil exports can resume from May 23, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said in an online briefing yesterday.

Local importers and traders say the move to withdraw the export restriction will bring much-needed relief to the global market as well as Bangladesh.

STORY ON B1

Jet fuel price hits record high

Air fare set to increase further
RASHIDUL HASAN

Local airlines are poised to raise ticket prices further after Padma Oil Company this week hiked the price of jet fuel for the 14th time in 18 months.

Jet fuel, also known as aviation turbine fuel, accounts for up to 46 percent of an airline's operational costs.

After the 6 percent hike on Sunday, the price of jet fuel is now Tk 106 per litre, the highest yet. In December 2020, it was Tk 48 a litre.

Fresh rounds of hike are not off the table as the Russia-Ukraine war, which sent the price of oil rocketing to a 14-year high, is raging on.

"We don't produce jet fuel – we need to import it. Therefore, the local price of jet fuel corresponded to those in the international market," said ABM Azad, chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, whose subsidiary Padma Oil is the lone supplier of jet fuel to airlines.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine comes at a critical time for the airline industry: it was hoping to recover the losses from the pandemic by cashing in on the pent-up demand for travel.

"It's really an ominous sign for our airline industry," said Kamrul Islam, spokesman of US Bangla Airlines.

The airlines will most definitely pass off the higher fuel prices by raising the airfare, which has doubled in the last year and a half on the domestic route.

The higher fares might change people's minds.

"Under the present circumstances, our survival will be at stake," said Mesbah UI Islam, head of marketing and sales at Novoair.

'No shortcuts' to Ukraine's EU membership

Says German Chancellor

AFP, Berlin

Ukraine's bid to join the EU cannot be sped up despite the country's invasion by Russia, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said yesterday, adding that the bloc must find a "fast and pragmatic" way to help Kyiv.

"There are no shortcuts on the way to the EU," Scholz said, adding that an exception for Ukraine would be unfair to the Western Balkan countries also seeking membership. "The accession process is not a matter of a few months or years," he said.

Scholz had in April called for Western Balkan countries' efforts to join the EU to be accelerated amid a "new era" in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



Showing a blatant disregard for safety, a man along with his son crosses the Bangla Motor intersection, one of the busiest junctions in the capital, though a footbridge (not in the picture) is only a few yards away. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Global food crisis may last for years

Warns UN chief as World Bank pledges extra \$12b; Russia says over 1,700 Mariupol fighters surrendered in 3 days

AGENCIES

The UN warned Wednesday that a growing global food crisis could last years if it goes unchecked, as the World Bank announced an additional \$12 billion in funding to mitigate its "devastating effects."

Food insecurity is soaring due to warming temperatures, the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has led to critical shortages of grains and fertiliser.

At a major United Nations meeting in New York on global food security, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the war "threatens to tip tens of millions of people over the edge into food insecurity."

He said what could follow would be "malnutrition, mass hunger and famine, in a crisis that could last for years," as he and others urged Russia to release Ukrainian grain exports.

"Let's be clear: there is no effective solution to the food crisis without reintegrating Ukraine's food production," Guterres said. "Russia must permit the safe and secure

export of grain stored in Ukrainian ports."

Food insecurity had begun to spike even before Moscow, which was not invited to Wednesday's UN meet, invaded its neighbour on February 24.

The World Bank's announcement will bring total available funding for projects over the next 15 months to \$30 billion.

The new funding will help boost food and fertiliser production, facilitate greater trade and support vulnerable households and producers, the World Bank said.

Ukraine used to export most of its goods through seaports but since Russia's invasion, it has been forced to export by train or via its small Danube River ports, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, Moscow said yesterday that 1,730 Ukrainian fighters had surrendered in Mariupol over three days, including 771 in the past 24 hours, claiming a surrender on a far bigger scale than Kyiv has acknowledged since ordering its garrison to stand down.

But while Mariupol has fallen,

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the wider invasion was an "absolute failure" as he marked "Vyshyvanka Day", an annual celebration of Ukrainian folk traditions.

G7 finance ministers were meeting in Germany to thrash out more cash support for Kyiv. The partners have to "assure Ukraine's solvency within the next days, few weeks", German Finance Minister Christian Lindner told the newspaper Die Welt.

In Kyiv, a 21-year-old Russian soldier asked a Ukrainian widow to forgive him for the murder of her husband, as a court met for a second hearing yesterday in the first war crimes trial arising from Russia's invasion.

The prosecution asked the judge to sentence Vadim Shishimarin to "life imprisonment" for the killing.

At the White House, US President Joe Biden yesterday offered his strong support to the leaders of Sweden and Finland to joining Nato. "They meet every Nato requirement and then some," Biden told reporters with the two leaders at his side.

The man

FROM PAGE 1

Gaffar was born in Barishal on December 12, 1934. He started his journalism career during his student life in 1950. He worked with Dainik Insaf and was a translator for Dainik Sangbad. He also worked for Monthly Sougat and Monthly Nakib until 1955.

He then worked at Dainik Ittefaq and Dainik Azad before leaving journalism for two years in 1964 to set up a press. In 1966, he returned to the profession and published Dainik Awaz.

He also worked with Dainik Azad and Dainik Ittefaq in his second stint in journalism till 1969.

When the Liberation War began in 1971, he took his family across the border and reached Kolkata via Agartala. There, he wrote for Anandabazar and Jugantar, two newspapers of Kolkata.

He left Bangladesh in 1974, when his wife became seriously ill, and went to London where he ended up living till his last days. In the UK, he started a newspaper called Notun Din. From London, he regularly wrote columns for Bangladeshi dailies, Bangla newspapers published by the Bangladeshi community in the UK, and a daily newspaper in Kolkata.

He has authored 35 books that include children's literature, poetry, a novel, short stories, memoirs and a book on Bangabandhu and the Liberation War. A short-story collection titled "Samrater Chhobi", a novel titled "Chandrodwiper Upakhkhyan", a play titled "Palashi Theke

Dhanmondi", children's fiction "Danpita Shawkat" and memoirs "Dhiree Bahe Buriganga", are some of his notable works which give an idea of his versatility as a writer.

Gaffar Chowdhury's repertoire also includes a film titled "Palashi Theke Dhanmondi" on the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He is the recipient of both the Swadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak, the country's highest civilian honours, for his contribution to literature. His other accolades include the Bangla Academy Literary Award, UNESCO Literary Award, Bangabandhu Award, Sanghati Lifetime Achievement Award, and PIB-Sohel Samad Memorial Award.

The Daily Ittefaq honoured him with the Manik Miah Padak.

On December 18, 2012, his wife Selima Chowdhury passed away in London. His daughter Binita Chowdhury died last month. Binita was the third among his four daughters and a son.

The Bangladesh High Commission in London has said in a statement that the time of Gaffar's namaz-e-janaza would be announced soon.

Although he has passed on, Gaffar will be remembered with love and admiration for unstintingly championing the values of the Liberation War and for the timeless song dedicated to the sacrifice of the Language Movement martyrs.

Chinese firm wants joint venture

FROM PAGE 1

strategies and construction of the 'Belt and Road', which will promote greater cooperation between Dhaka and Chattogram. The study was completed last year.

THE PROPOSAL

During his China visit on August 26, 2019, Bangladesh Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon and Chairman of China State Railway Co Ltd had "reached an important consensus," the proposal said.

"The two sides suggest strengthening the cooperation in railway technology, equipment, construction, operation, training, etc. The Chinese side will provide full support," reads the proposal.

It said establishment of the proposed centre will accelerate the formation of Bangladesh's localised independent technology research and development, improve project management capabilities, reduce dependency on foreign products and services, and thus save foreign reserves.

It can also generate forex income by exporting high-end products and services, it added.

CRDC estimates the center can earn some \$187 million per year by providing services, including training, planning, design, project management supervision, quality testing and product sales.

The Chinese company proposed two models for setting up the centre. One is by establishing a separate department within the BR to be staffed jointly by CRDC and BR. The other by launching a joint venture company, also manned jointly by the two state

agencies.

As a starter, the centre can be launched with personnel training for the proposed high-speed railway on Dhaka-Chattogram route, it said.

However, the railways minister told The Daily Star in October last year that the government would "go slow" with the high-speed train project due to the cost involved.

"It is proposed that BRCRD be elevated to the level of cooperation between the two governments and that the specification, scale and initial funding of BRCRD be resolved by making full use of the inter-government force," the proposal said.

BR Director General Dhirendra Nath Mazumder did not comment on the proposal, only saying they sent their evaluation report to the ministry.

The rail secretary did not pick up the calls nor respond to text messages requesting his comments.

But sources in the BR said the proposal is not supported by any detailed assessments and lacks details on cost and benefit sharing.

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said countries around the world have research and development wings in major agencies like railways.

"Unfortunately, we do not have such wings in any agencies, let alone in railway. If we want sustainable development, railways should have such a wing," he told The Daily Star recently.

But the BR has to lead the initiative and the Chinese company can provide necessary support, he added.

Hopeless revenue target

FROM PAGE 1

March when seeking budget support of \$250 million.

This action plan has been peddled for long – with little progress.

"We have been hearing about widening the tax net, automation and setting up tax offices in rural areas for a long time now," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

Reforms are too tough on the administrative side.

"When it takes them a year just to recruit officers, how can the entire tax administration be reformed in that time?"

Expecting collections will shoot up in a year because of administrative reforms is being overly optimistic.

"It is an unrealistic target," he said, adding that the forthcoming year's targets are most definitely set without considering the present state of collection.

Instead, overhauling the tax policy by simplifying rates would have brought immediate results.

There are numerous tax rates, which leads to manipulation, leakages and corruption, according to Hussain.

For instance, there is one rate for the import of capital machinery and a higher rate for its spare parts.

"Both are capital machinery, so what is the need for two different rates?"

This leaves the door open for businessmen to negotiate with customs

officials to lump both under the same category.

"If we don't design the rate structure in a way that it closes the loop for tax avoidance, the problem of revenue collection will not be solved," he said, adding that the VAT law, which was meant to have a uniform rate, has too many slabs and exceptions.

The government could also withdraw the tax holidays and tax breaks, which, according to the NBR's own calculations, cause revenue losses equivalent to 7-8 percent of GDP.

"This also creates scope for leakages. All policy decisions are taken on an ad hoc basis," he added.

Tax compliance is too weak in Bangladesh because of problems in both policy and administration, according to Ahmed.

"The corporate tax rate is too high. The VAT rates are not right – too many exemptions were made. The tax administration is not well-equipped. It is not digitalised, which gives scope for conflict of interest among tax officials."

He went on to call for accelerating the automation of the tax system.

"Let alone other reforms, just full automation would lead to collections that far exceed the target," he added.

Whatever the government does, it must act now and decisively as the existing revenue base, which is just shy of 10 percent of GDP, is insufficient to meet the

country's development needs, according to the WB.

"Bangladesh's aspiration of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2031 crucially hinges on the improvement of its revenue mobilisation."

The issue of domestic revenue mobilisation has been highlighted in several policy documents, including in the Five-Year Plans and the yearly budgets.

"But revenue generation continues to disappoint," it said.

Selim Raihan, a professor at the University of Dhaka's economics department, says it is because of a lack of strong will on the government's part.

"The government has failed to carry out longstanding reforms. Reforms cannot happen for vested pressure groups. Take the case of VAT law, which was implemented by accommodating everyone's demands – it has failed to make a difference," he added.

Star editor

FROM PAGE 1

communication in any form with the World Bank President on any matter directly or indirectly connected with the Padma Bridge funding or any issue relating to Padma Bridge either in Washington or in any other place or in any other city of the world.

I respectfully and humbly state that me comments made about me are not founded on facts.

Ex-MP jailed for 7yrs in corruption case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

BNP leader and former MP Noor Afroz Begum Jyoti was awarded with seven-year imprisonment in a graft case yesterday.

Emran Hossain Choudhury, special judge of a Bogura court, passed the order.

Abul Kalam Azad, public prosecutor of Anti-Corruption Commission in Bogura, said along with the jail sentence, the court also fined her Tk 53 lakh.

An arrest warrant was issued against her last Tuesday.

ACC Deputy Director Anwarul Haque filed the graft case in 2014 and the trial started in 2017.

Three to walk gallows for 1971 war crimes

BSS, Dhaka

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday sentenced three men to death for crimes against humanity in Moulavibazar during the Liberation War.

The death awardees are Abdul Aziz alias Habul, Abdul Mannan and Abdul Matin, of the same district.

A three-member panel of the ICT-1, led by its chairman Justice Md Shahinur Islam, handed down the verdict last morning.

Habul and Mannan were present at the court during pronouncing the verdict while Matin was still hiding.

Navy rescues 33 Rohingyas off Teknaf coast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Members of Bangladesh Navy yesterday rescued 33 Rohingya refugees off the Teknaf coast in Cox's Bazar while they were being trafficked to Malaysia through the Bay of Bengal.

Navy ship BNS Ali Haidar rescued the refugees around two nautical miles away from St Martin's Island, said the ship's captain Soheli Azam.

The Rohingyas – 12 female, 20 male and one child – were rescued before their sea voyage by an engine-run trawler, the Navy official said.

The Rohingya refugees fled a Rohingya camp in Teknaf around 8:00pm Wednesday, he said, adding that they were handed over to Coast Guard.

Govt imposes 65-day fishing ban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A 65-day ban has been imposed on all kinds of fishing in Bangladesh maritime from today.

The ban is in force for fair breeding, production and conservation of marine and sustainable fisheries, read a circular of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

The long ban, however, raised concerns among seafaring fishermen in Kuakata, Cox's Bazar and other fishing zones in the country.

According to fishermen, they face 147 days of ban each year at different stages.

A 22-day ban on mother hilsa conservation in October, a 60-day ban on hilsa sanctuaries in March-April and the latest ban from May 20 to July 23.

Conning customers with bank details

DB arrests bank staffer, hacker

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Around 1:10pm on March 12, Abu Bakkar Siddique received a call from “+16491”. The caller identified himself as an official of Social Islami Bank Limited (SIBL).

The caller told Siddique his personal details, like his name, address and credit card number, to gain trust.

Finally, the caller asked Siddique to give him the one-time password (OTP) that was sent to his phone, mentioning that the password is required to improve his card’s security.

“I was completely convinced it was a bank official, as only banks have such information. So, I provided the OTP. But moments later, I saw that a transaction of Tk 10,000 was made through my card,” said Siddique while explaining the fraud.

Siddique then filed a case with Demra Police Station, claiming that some SIBL officials joined hands with hackers and stole the money from his card.

While investigating the case, cyber and special crime division of police’s Detective Branch (DB) has found that an assistant relation officer (ARO) of the bank has been pocketing money using this tactic, joining hands with two hackers.

On information, DB arrested ARO Kabul Hasan Rashid and Hasan Khan, a hacker from Dhanmondi, on Monday, Tareq Bin Rashid, deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said Kabul used to take print-outs of customer information from the bank and handed them over to hackers.

THE CON

- Bank staffer gave hackers customer info
- Cloning bank’s phone number, hackers called customers
- Used personal info to gain trust
- Fraudsters asked for OTP
- Made transaction using customers’ card number

“For providing one page containing around 24 customers’ information, Kabul used to get Tk 5,000 to 7,000 from the hackers,” he said. In the last one and a half years, Kabul has provided at least 300 customers’ information.

“The nexus has another hacker -- Md Rabbi -- who is on the run. We are now conducting drives to arrest him,” he said.

THE PROCESS

Regarding the fraud, investigators said the hackers used to convince bank customers with the personal information provided by Kabul.

Rabbi, hailing from Domain village of Faridpur, is an expert in manipulating mobile financial services (MFS), said Mohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of DB.

They used to transfer money from the cards to MFS accounts, and for that OTPs are required.

He used to clone the bank’s call-centre number and call customers, identifying himself as the bank’s high-official. “Rabbi used to tell customers that someone from the bank would call them for details, and then Hasan would call the customer and ask for OTP,” said the officer.

For each successful transaction, Rabbi used to take 30 percent of the money and Hasan 70 percent.

Hasan and Kabul are relatives. During primary interrogation, Kabul told detectives that he has done this for money, as he is a low-paid employee of the bank, said DC Tareq.

Contacted yesterday, Md Moniruzzaman, head of marketing and brand communication at SIBL, said Kabul was a contractual employee of the bank’s card division. “We suspended him soon after we received the complaint,” he said.

Asked about what steps the bank will take for the victims of fraud, Moniruzzaman said the card division has already started an investigation to look into the issue.

PRAYER
TIMING
MAY 20

	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-30	5-00	6-40	8-00
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Although footpaths are meant for pedestrians to walk on safely, bikers have claimed the space as well. Many are often seen playing the footpaths whenever they want to avoid the gridlock. By doing this illegal manoeuvre, they put the wellbeing of pedestrians at risk. This photo was taken in Monipuripara area yesterday.

DEATH ON ROADS

2 children died every day in last 28 months



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of children are getting killed in road crashes every year, with the numbers sharply increasing with each passing year.

At least 1,674 children (up to 18 years old) were killed in the last 28 months, indicating that two children on average lost their lives on roads every day, according to Road Safety Foundation’s data, released yesterday.

Of the victims, 731 children (43.66 percent) got killed on their way to and from their educational institutions.

A total of 649 children were killed in 2020, while 734 were killed in 2021; 291 children have been killed in the first four months of this year.

Road accidents remain one of the prime reasons behind the unnatural and untimely death of children in the country, according to Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum. However, relevant government agencies show no sign of prioritising the issue in policymaking.

“The number of children dying in road crashes has reached an alarming level. However, it seems that relevant government agencies are not as concerned as they should be. There is not much awareness among the common people as well,” said Saidur Rahman, executive director of the foundation.

A DANGER NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED

Deaths in road crashes have been in discussion for the last few years. The country has witnessed several movements -- particularly by school and college students -- for road safety since July 2018. However, so many children dying on roads did not get due attention from the authorities.

According to Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum’s “monthly data on violence against children” till August 2020, 163 children were killed in road crashes from January to August 2020 (excluding data from March 15 to April 15 due to Covid), while 358 children drowned.

At least 507 children drowned in 2019, while 555 were killed in road crashes.

Abdus Shahid Mahmood, director of the forum, said neither government agencies nor non-government organisations discuss children dying

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

LIFTING SANCTIONS ON RAB

JS body seeks support from US lawmakers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs has sought the US lawmakers’ support for lifting US sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former officials imposed on December 10 last year.

While holding meetings with US Senator Ted Cruz (Republican-Texas) and Congressman Steve Chabot (Republican-Ohio) in Washington on May 18, the delegation said Rab is making tremendous contributions to the fight against extremism, terrorism, and cross-border crimes. Therefore, it is important that the sanction on Rab is withdrawn, they said, according to a statement of the Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC.

Following imposition of the sanctions, Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRY SCHOOL RECRUITMENT

Four held over question leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion claimed to have arrested four members of a question leak racket that leaked questions of various recruitment tests using digital devices, in exchange for hefty amount of money.

They were active in ongoing primary school assistant teacher recruitment test.

“We learned that the gang had provided answers to 16 people on April 22 by providing the device. An agreement was reached to supply answers to 12-14 more people through the device in the recruitment test to be held on May 20. Before that, Rab arrested four people including the kingpin,” Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Legal and Media Wing of Rab, told a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রেমিট্যান্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০১৯ ও ২০২০ অর্জন

প্রবাসীদের আস্থা, সোনালী ব্যাংক এর রেমিট্যান্স সেবা

ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে সিইও এন্ড ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর মোঃ আতাউর রহমান প্রধান এর হাতে এ্যাওয়ার্ড হস্তান্তর করছেন ডেপুটি ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর মো. মুরশেদুল কবির। এসময় ডেপুটি ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর নিরঞ্জন চন্দ্র দেবনাথ, মো. মজিবুর রহমান ও সফিয়া বিনতে আলী, জেনারেল ম্যানেজার মো. রফিকুল ইসলাম উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

সোনালী ব্যাংকের এ স্বীকৃতি অর্জনের জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, শুভানুধ্যায়ী ও প্রবাসীদের আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ ও কৃতজ্ঞতা।


মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী আ হ ম মুস্তফা কামাল, এফসিএ, এমপিএর কাছ থেকে সোনালী ব্যাংকের পক্ষে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রেমিট্যান্স এ্যাওয়ার্ড- ২০১৯ ও ২০২০ গ্রহন করছেন ডেপুটি ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর সফিয়া বিনতে আলী।

blaze নামে ইস্যুগার্ট ২৪/৭ ক্রস বর্ডার পেমেন্ট নেটওয়ার্ক এর মাধ্যমে মাত্র ৫ সেকেন্ডে রেমিট্যান্স পাঠান সোনালী ব্যাংকে।

বৈধ চ্যানেলে দেশে রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরণের বিপরিতে ২.৫% হারে প্রণোদনা/নগদ সহায়তা প্রদান করছে।

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

উদ্ভাবনী ব্যাংকিং এ আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সঙ্গী



INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) for Hiring Security Service

Project Name	Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP)
Source of fund	Donor fund
Tender package no	BPD-HCMP-Security/01-22
Tender Name	Hiring security guard service
Reference No & Date	IFT-BRAC (HCMP)-FY-2022-M-0003 May 19, 2022
Time of delivery	As per tender documents
Tender security	As per tender documents
Tender document available	Annex-1 building, BRAC HCMP procurement department, hatchery zone, marine drive road, Cox's Bazar. For download please visit: procurement.brac.net/tenderhcmp
Tender dropping place, date and time	Tender box no-01, annex-1 building, BRAC HCMP procurement department, hatchery zone, marine drive road, Cox's Bazar, 09 June, 2022 between 09.00 am to 2.00 pm
Tender opening place, date and time	Annex-1 building, BRAC HCMP procurement department, 09 June, 2022 at 2:30 pm

BRAC, HCMP Procurement Department, Hatchery Zone, Marine Drive Road, Cox's Bazar, Phone: 01847455601

Death anniv of Nurun Nabi

CITY DESK

Today is the 6th death anniversary of Alhaj AKM Nurun Nabi, former president of editorial council of The Daily Financial Times, said a press release.

Nurun Nabi, a former district registrar and father of the daily's Editor Anwarul Kabir Shahzada, died of a cardiac arrest at BSMU on this day in 2016, aged 78.



Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil will be held after the Juma prayers at Gopibagh graveyard.

A doa and milad mahfil will also be held today at Shah Saheb Bari Mosque, near his residence at Momenbagh after the Juma and Asr prayers, and at the mosque adjacent to his Niipanua village residence in Chhagalnaiya, Feni after the Juma prayers.

Don't go abroad unless urgent

CJ tells lower court judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique has prohibited the lower court judges from travelling abroad without urgency.

Supreme Court registrar general Md Bazlur Rahman issued a notification to this effect yesterday. He said it has been noted recently that the trend of lower court judges' visiting abroad on different reasons has increased.

The CJ has desired that they (judges) should avoid unnecessary foreign tours so that the litigants get justice quickly and no adverse impact falls on the national economy.

2 children died

FROM PAGE 3

in road crashes, despite the death toll increasing

"The number is much higher than the available data, as many incidents go unreported," he said.

According to Shahid, awareness campaigns spearheaded by the government and participated by NGOs can reduce the number of deaths. "Unfortunately, we do not see any effort in this regard," he added.

RURAL ROADS RISKIER

According to Road Safety Foundation's report, 889 children were killed on rural roads, which is 53.10 percent of the total deaths in road accidents.

At least 287 children (17.14 percent) were killed on national highways, while 328 children (19.59 percent) on regional highways.

According to Saidur Rahman, vehicles operating on rural roads seldom follow traffic rules.

Among the deaths, 331 children (19.77 percent) were passengers of different vehicles, while 1,028 children (61.4 percent) were hit or run over by vehicles.

A total of 48 children (2.86 percent) were killed while they were working as drivers or helpers of vehicles; 268 children (16 percent) were either riders or pillions of motorcycles.

Of the victims, 337 children (20.13 percent) were below the age of five, while 754 (45.04 percent) were between six and 12, and 583 (34.82 percent) were between 13 and 18.

The rights organisation

Four held over

FROM PAGE 3

press briefing yesterday. The arrestees are — Iqbal Hossain (42), the ringleader, Ramiz Mridha (30), Nazrul Islam (50) and Modasser Hossain (62).

Among them, Iqbal is working as a primary school teacher. Nazrul is a computer operator of Agargaon Social Services Department, Modasser a former social worker of Mujibnagar Social Service Office. Ramiz was responsible for managing the devices. They were arrested on Wednesday.

They used to make a contract for Tk 10-15 lakh. Of this, Tk 2 lakh had to be paid in advance before the examination. The examinee was then provided with a wireless kit through which the solution of the question paper was provided from outside, he added.

JS body

FROM PAGE 3

wrote to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, requesting to review the sanction. Later, during the partnership dialogue in Dhaka, security dialogue and ministerial level meeting in Washington, Bangladesh made the similar request.

Now, the four members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, led by its chairman Muhammad Faruk Khan, and Nazrul Islam Nahid, Nahim Razzak and Kazi Nabil Ahmed are visiting Washington to convince the US lawmakers. Bangladesh Ambassador to the US M Shahidul Islam was also present during the meetings. The delegation reiterated Bangladesh's request for the deportation of Rashed Chowdhury, the self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu.

গাড়ী বিক্রয় / ভাড়া

NISAN X-TRAIL JEEP বিক্রয় / ভাড়া দেওয়া হবে। মডেল-২০১৭, রেঞ্জ: মার্চ-২০২২, মিসি-২০০০, ওয়ে-কালার, একদম নতুন এর মতো। ১৫/২০ দিন ব্যবহৃত। যোগাযোগ: ০১৭৬৩-৩০৮৪৪৯

Financer/Partner Wanted

Looking for BIG Financer/Partner for running a 100% export oriented knit composite garment industry. Only the genuine investors are requested to contact 01755637270. D-55

আন্তর্জাতিক জাদুঘর দিবস

জাদুঘরের শক্তি ২০ মে ২০২২ সাল দশটি থেকে সন্ধ্যা ছয়টা পর্যন্ত মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জাদুঘরের প্রধান লবিত্তে বাংলাদেশের বিশেষ পাঁচটি ঐতিহাসিক স্থাপনার ভিয়ার প্রদর্শনী ও আর্চিয়াল মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জাদুঘর পরিদর্শন। বিকেল চারটায় মূল মিলনায়তনে আলোচনা সভা। সকলের জন্য উন্মুক্ত।



The Aga Khan Academy Dhaka is currently inviting applicants for the following positions



The Aga Khan Academies are an integrated network of residential schools in Africa, South and Central Asia and the Middle East, dedicated to expanding access to education of an international standard of excellence to exceptional young men and women regardless of their ability to pay.

The Aga Khan Academy Dhaka is the fourth school in a global network of Day and Residential schools aim to develop meritorious young men and women into homegrown ethical leaders, offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Curriculum from Primary years to the Diploma and provides a rich opportunity for both teachers and students to grow professionally and personally.

OPEN POSITIONS


Teaching Positions	Non - Teaching Positions
Core Science Teacher (Middle Year Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none">2-3 years' experience in teaching core science subjects: Physics, chemistry and Biology.Outstanding academic achievement, in middle and senior school, primarily related to students' achievement. Laboratory Technician (Middle Year Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Relevant experience of 3-5 years.	Admission Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">3-5 years of inline experience Head of IT <ul style="list-style-type: none">9-10 years of inline experience with 5 years in managerial role

Experience:
Experience in the education sector and candidates with knowledge and understanding of the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme will get preference.

Education:

- Bachelor's degree in relevant field.
- Professional relevant qualification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT WWW.AKADN.ORG/CAREERS



The City Bank Limited
Head Office : City Bank Center
136, Bir Uttam Mir Shawkat Sarak
Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212

Publication of City Bank 4th Subordinated Bond's Information Memorandum [IM] in Official Websites

For the purpose of raising Tier-II Regulatory Capital and thereby enhancing Capital to Risk-Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR) as per "Guidelines on Risk Based Capital Adequacy" of Bangladesh Bank, the bank decided to issue City Bank 4th Subordinated Bond worth BDT 700 crore.

Subsequently the bank applied to Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and received both regulators' consent for the issuance of the bond. Referring to BSEC Debt Securities Rules, 2021 and BSEC consent for the issuance of City Bank 4th Subordinated bond dated April 27, 2022, the issuer, arranger and the trustee of the bond made the Information Memorandum (IM) of the bond available in their respective official websites.

The web-addresses of the Information Memorandum (IM) of the bond are mentioned below:


Issuer (The City Bank Limited):
<https://www.thecitybank.com/upload/IM-22March2022.pdf>

Trustee (IDLC Investments Limited):
<https://investments.idlc.com/uploads/download/files/f0037a1f8c818bf1abc24d16524b1cad94740443337e5543fd33482da163102.pdf>


Arranger (City Bank Capital Resources Limited):
<http://www.cbcrf.com/documents/City%20Bank%20204th%20Subordinated%20Bond%20Information%20Memorandum.pdf>

Date: Dhaka
19-05-2022

On behalf of The City Bank Ltd.,
Sd/-
Md. Rakib Uddin Ahammad
Head of Finance (Acting)



Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission
Securities Commission Bhavan
E-6/C Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Administrative Area, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh



বিএসইসি/প্রশাসন/১৩:০৪/২০২২-৫৮৫ তারিখঃ ১৮/০৫/২০২২


দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (সংশোধনী)

বিগত ১৩/০৫/২০২২ইং তারিখে দৈনিক যুগান্তর পত্রিকার পৃষ্ঠা নং-১২ এবং Daily Star পত্রিকার পৃষ্ঠা নং-৯ তে প্রকাশিত “বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন (বিএসইসি) এর জন্য আউটসোর্সিং সেবা (নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী, মেসেঞ্জার, পরিচ্ছন্নতাকর্মী ও মালী) সরবরাহ” শীর্ষক দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি, যার প্যাকেজ নং: বিএসইসি/২০২১-২২/পিএনসিএস-০০২, তে বর্ণিত দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ০৬/০৬/২০২২, বেলাঃ ০৪.০০ ঘটিকার পরিবর্তে ০৫/০৬/২০২২, বেলাঃ ০৪.০০ ঘটিকা নির্ধারিত হলো। বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল শর্ত অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।


“মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার
উন্নয়ন-অর্থায়নের উৎস হবে পুঁজিবাজার”

জিয়াউর রহমান
উপ পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)
বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ
কমিশন

জিডি-১০১৪



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



Memo No:-46.02.6800.000.07.001.21-1384 Date: 16-05-2022

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

This is to notify for all concerned that the e-Tender Notice-34/2021-22 from the office of the undersigned vide Memo No: 46.02.6800.000.07.001.21-620, Date: 17.02.2022, the following change have been made due to unavailable circumstances.

Tender ID	Old Value	New Value
690536	Completion Date: 06/12/2023	Completion Date: 20/12/2023
	0	a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor shall be 5 (five) years. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. b) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in construction works of at least 1 (One) in a single contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction (BC road Improvement/Rehabilitation/widening) technology successfully completed within the last 5 (Five) years under a Public Sector with a value of at least Tk. 280 Lakh (Two Crore Eighty Lakh). Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. (a) The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Tk 380 Lakh (Three Crore Eighty Lakh) over the last 5 (Five) years. Payment Certificate is mandatory for Average Annual Construction Turnover. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. (b) The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be Tk 70 Lakh (Seventy Lakh). Supporting necessary documents required are as follows: i) Bank balance authenticated by day end bank statement, from any scheduled bank; or ii) Working capital: authenticated by recent past Audit Reports; or iii) Credit facilities: authenticated by credit sanctioned letter and bank statement of the credit account; or iv) Credit line: authenticated by any scheduled bank shall be furnished in accordance with the format as specified "Letter of Commitment for Bank's Undertaking for Line of Credit" (Unconditional) without alteration (Attached i.e. Section-B Letter for commitment of Bank); Note: The above statement/certificate issued not earlier than 28 (Twenty-Eight) days prior to the day of the original deadline for submission of tender for this package. c) All pending litigation shall in not represent more than 50% of the tenderer's net worth. The minimum tender capacity shall be: 280 Lakh (Two Crore Eighty Lakh) The following formulae shall be used to calculate the Tender Capacity Assessed Tender Capacity = (A*N)*1.5-B Where A=Maximum value of Works performed in any one year during last five years N=Completion time of the proposed work in years B=Value of Existing commitments and works to be completed during the next N Years Note 1: In case the value of N is less than 12 (twelve) months the value of N shall be considered as 01 (one) Note 2: In case of JV tender capacity requirement for leading partner shall be minimum 40% and for other partners shall be minimum 25%.
690537	b) The minimum specific experience with a value of at least Tk. 250 Lakh (Two Crore Fifty Lakh).	b) The minimum specific experience with a value of at least Tk. 300 Lakh (Three Crore).

All other terms & condition will remain unchanged.

(Khandaker Asaduzzaman)
Executive Engineer
Phone: 02-9462260
Fax: 02-9464478
e-mail: xen.narsingdi@lqed.gov.bd

GD-1010

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর
জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও
www.dss.thakurgaon.gov.bd

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ	:	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়		
২	এজেন্সি	:	সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা।		
৩	সংগ্রাহক সত্ত্বার নাম	:	উপতত্ত্বাবধায়ক, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), ঠাকুরগাঁও। উপতত্ত্বাবধায়ক, শব্দলহাট ফজিলাতুননেছা সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), ঠাকুরগাঁও। রিসোর্স শিক্ষক, সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, ঠাকুরগাঁও।		
৪	সংগ্রাহক সত্ত্বার জেলা	:	ঠাকুরগাঁও।		
৫	যে কাজের দরপত্র	:	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), ঠাকুরগাঁও ও শব্দলহাট ফজিলাতুননেছা সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), ঠাকুরগাঁও এবং সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, ঠাকুরগাঁও এর নিবাসীদের ক,খ, ঘ ও ঙ গুণ বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।		
৬	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	নম্বর : ৪১.০১.৯৪০০.০০০.১৮.০০৮.১৭.৪১১ তারিখ : ১৮/০৫/২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ।		
৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	:	১৯/০৫/২০২২ খ্রিঃ		
৮	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও, টি, এম)		
৯	বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস	:	রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি, ও, বি		
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	:	ক- ২ টি, খ- ২ টি, ঘ- ১ টি ও ঙ- ৩ টি = মোট ৮ (আট) টি।		
১১	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম	:	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), ঠাকুরগাঁও ও শব্দলহাট ফজিলাতুননেছা সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), ঠাকুরগাঁও এবং সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, ঠাকুরগাঁও এর নিবাসীদের ক,খ, ঘ ও ঙ গুণ বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।		
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	৮/৬/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বিকেল ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত		
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	:	৯/৬/২০২২ খ্রিঃ সকাল ১০.০০ টা হতে দুপুর-১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত		
১৪	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	:	৯/৬/২০২২ খ্রিঃ দুপুর ২.০০ টা দরপত্তা বা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)		
১৫	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা :	:	সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান ও জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও।		
	(ক) মূল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়	:			
	(খ) দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ	:	উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় এবং জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও।		
	(গ) দরপত্র দলিল উন্মুক্তকরণ	:	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও।		
১৬	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	(১) বৈধ সরকারদ্বারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। (২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেজারি চালানের মূল্যক, দরপত্র দলিল অনুসারে অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, ব্যাংক সঞ্চালতার সনদ (ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্টসহ), হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভাট প্রদান সনদ)সহ প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য দলিলসমূহ (টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে উল্লেখিত) দাখিল করতে হবে।		
১৭	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	:	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালান এর মাধ্যমে কোড : ১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ তে (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।		
	গ্রুপ	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	সিডিউল মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
ক	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যাদ্যন্যাসিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল)		৭০০/- (সাতশত) টাকা	প্রদত্ত দরের ২%	শিশু পরিবারের জন্য
খ	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য		৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা	প্রদত্ত দরের ২%	শিশু পরিবারের জন্য
ঘ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যাদ্যন্যাসিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল) সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, ঠাকুরগাঁও এর নিবাসীদের জন্য		৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা	প্রদত্ত দরের ২%	সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, ঠাকুরগাঁও এর জন্য
ঙ	বিবিধ মালামাল		৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা	প্রদত্ত দরের ২%	সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য
১৮	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম		মোঃ মাহবুবুর রহমান		
১৯	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবি		জেলা প্রশাসক, ঠাকুরগাঁও		
২০	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা		জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও		
২১	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর		০২৫৮৯৯৩৩০১১		

শর্তাবলী :

(ক) পি.পি.এ-২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিত) এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।

(খ) "ঙ" গুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।

(গ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(ঘ) দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।

(ঙ) বিশেষ নিদেশনা : বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র ডকুমেন্টে বর্ণিত আছে।

মোঃ মাহবুবুর রহমান
জেলা প্রশাসক
ঠাকুরগাঁও

GD- 1023

Let there be light!

Pratik Theatre making a difference in lives of tea workers for 35 years

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

This is the story of a group, but more than that, it's the story of the man behind it.

Sunil Biswas was born in a family of tea workers in Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila's Deondi garden in 1965. Education was a luxury in a family like his, where his parents earned a daily wage of Tk 11.25 each after a full day of work.

He, however, continued his studies alongside helping his parents in the garden and went on to become one of the very few graduates from his community.

With education, came awareness. His surroundings and the perils of his community include extreme poverty, oppression, illiteracy and addiction. Losing some of his close relatives to alcohol addiction was a point he realised he needed a voice against all of it.

That is when he started a theatre group. Drama and education, he says, "are the only weapons that we have in our fight against extreme poverty."

Thus, the journey of Pratik Theatre started on April 14, 1986. This year, they will be celebrating their 36th anniversary with a two-day festival starting from today.



Pratik Theatre has been active in Habiganj's tea gardens for 35 years, raising awareness of the tea community's issues and helping many members get over addiction. The community will be remembering the fallen of the May 20, 1921 revolution, for which they have also set up an installation.

PHOTO: STAR

The beginning was humble. The group had only 13-15 members initially, and all the expenses were carried out by Sunil from the little amount that he could save.

"The group now has over 70 members, working selflessly and

relentlessly," said Sunil, the founding president of Pratik Theatre.

The theatre has changed many lives ever since, apart from contributing to a collective change. Sorfullo Mal, a 57-year-old tea worker is one prominent example of that.

Sorfullo got addicted to alcohol at a very young age and later got involved in the alcohol trade. He also became negligent towards his family when alcohol addiction got the better of him.

Twenty years ago, it was a drama that made way for self-realisation for him. He became a member of the group and is currently one of the senior members. His college-going daughter is a member as well.

Sorfullo Mal is now sober for 20 years.

Many others like Pancham Bauri (52), Chandan Mahali (60) and Onila Urang (52) echoed the same.

Tofazzal Sohel, former organising secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation's Sylhet chapter, said, "Sunil is working with more enthusiasm than ever to bring a meaningful and sustainable impact in his community."

"Many are following Sunil's example. He is an asset to the community," said Mamunur Rashid, prominent actor, director and playwright.

THE FAILED REVOLUTION
Meanwhile, tea workers will observe Tea Workers Day today like every year.

On May 20, 1921, around 30,000 tea labourers in Sylhet started a march towards Chandpur Meghna Ghat, when the then Assamese police opened fire on the protestors, killing many of them.

Sunil has narrated the incident on multiple shows in many places, including Dhaka.

Tea workers have also set up an installation named "Mulluk Bhaskorjo" -- portraying the revolt -- in Deondi tea garden.

Form separate land commission for them

Say speakers on plainland indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government needs to strengthen its efforts to improve livelihood of the country's indigenous community people living in the plainland, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said like indigenous community people of the hills, indigenous people in the plain are also facing various forms of discrimination including those related to land ownership.

Indigenous Peoples Development Services (IPDS) and Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) jointly organised the roundtable on "Leave No One Behind: Inclusion of Plain Land Ethnic Minorities in achieving SDG 2030" at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Rashed Khan Menon, lawmaker and chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Welfare Ministry, said if Bangladesh wants to be a role model in achieving SDGs then it must include ethnic minorities in the agenda.

"The problem is political and it has to be resolved from that perspective."

Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University's history department said due to gradual landlessness, indigenous people of the plain are now facing challenges to ensure food security.

Presenting a keynote paper, IPDS President and an indigenous community leader Sanjeeb Drong said the government has its commitment to form a separate land commission for indigenous community people of the plain.

Prof Shuchita Sharmin of DU's development studies department said findings of an on-going study on indigenous community people of plain in five districts suggest 9.25 percent of those already belonging to poor group have become poorer amid the pandemic.



Drama and education are the only weapons that we have in our fight against extreme poverty.

Sunil Biswas
Founding President of Pratik Theatre



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Manikganj
www.lged.gov.bd



"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo No: 46.02.5600.000.07.001.21.1631

Date: 18/05/2022

Invitation for Tender (works)

Corrigendum for e-Tender Notice No. 43/2021-2022

Due to unavoidable circumstances, e-tender notice No. 43/2021-22 will be change as follows, all other terms and conditions will be remain unchanged.

LS	Field name	Tender ID No.	Old value	New Value
1	Document last selling date & time	683939	18/05/2022 16:00	25/05/2022 16:00
2	Meeting end date & time		10/05/2022 16:00	24/05/2022 16:00
3	Closing date & time		19/05/2022 16:00	26/05/2022 16:00
4	Opening date & time		19/05/2022 16:00	26/05/2022 16:00
5	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission		19/05/2022 14:00	26/05/2022 14:00

Md. Faizool Huq
Executive Engineer
LGED, Manikganj
Ph: +8802-7710911, Fax: +8802-7710517
E-mail: xen.manikganj@lged.gov.bd

GD-1019

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (EED) SIRAJGANJ.

web site: www.eed.sirajganj.gov.bd

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 12/e-GP/EED/Sir/5974/2021-22.

Date: 18.05.2022.

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works.

Tender ID	Lot/Package Location (Name of Institution)	Procurement Method	Document Last Selling Date & Time	Document Closing/Opening Date & Time
700161	Construction work of Boundary wall at Raidolotpur High School, Kamarkhand, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700162	Vertical Extension (2nd floor -01 Class Room) for existing academic Building in/c Electrical at Matia Malipara High School, Tarash, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700163	Repair and Renovation works at Blichalon bangobandhu Adorsho High School, Tarash, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700164	Repair and Renovation work for existing structure and re-construction for semi pucca building at Tahira Haque Science School, Tarash, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700165	Repair and Renovation work for existing structure and re-construction for Toilet block at Laila Mizan School and College, Raiganj, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700166	Construction work of Boundary wall at Fulzor Degree College, Raiganj, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700167	Repair and Renovation works at Teennandina Rashidiya High School, Raiganj, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700168	Construction work of Boundary wall and Main gate work at Chandaikona High School, Raiganj, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700169	Repair and Renovation works at Mohanpur K.M Institute, ullapara, Sirajganj. (FY-2019-20)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700170	Repair and Renovation works at Udhunia Manikjan High School, Ullapara, Sirajganj. (FY-2019-20)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700171	Construction of CGI Roofing House and Repair and Renovation work at Dolotpur High School, Belkuchi, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00
700172	Construction work of Boundary wall , gate and other renovation work at Tamai High School, Belkuchi, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	LTM (NCT)	06-Jun-2022 16:00	07-Jun-2022 11:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Package from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to the Following Date & Time. The Provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPR -2008 including latest all amendment" and STD will be Followed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.)

(Md. Habibur Rahman)
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GD- 1018



বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি

আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়
৫৩, মহাখালী, বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১২

www.bia.gov.bd

বীমা বিষয়ক এসোসিয়েটশীপ অব বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি (এবিআইএ) মে-২০২২ পর্বে ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত

বীমা শিল্পের প্রসারের দক্ষ জনশক্তি সৃষ্টি এবং এ পেশার নিয়োজিত জনবলকে যুগের চাহিদা মোতাবেক পেশাগত জ্ঞানে সমৃদ্ধ করে গড়ে তুলতে 'এসোসিয়েটশীপ অব বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি' (এবিআইএ) কোর্সটি অতীত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছে। বীমা শিল্পের ক্রমবর্ধমান অগ্রযাত্রায় অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য প্রতি বছরের ন্যায় এবারও বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমির এবিআইএ মে-২০২২ পর্বে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আগ্রহী সকলকে আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে। এবিআইএ ভর্তি ও পরীক্ষার কি এডানদের সময়সূচী নিম্নরূপ:

বিষয়	সময়সীমা	ফি
ভর্তি ও রেজিস্ট্রেশন	১৯ মে থেকে ১৯ জুন ২০২২ পর্যন্ত	৬০০/- টাকা
কাউন্সিলিং ফি এবং পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান	১৯ মে থেকে ১৯ জুন ২০২২ পর্যন্ত	প্রতি বিষয় কাউন্সিলিং ফি ৪৫০/- টাকা প্রতি বিষয় পরীক্ষার ফি ৫০০/- টাকা
কাউন্সিলিং ক্লাশ	২১ জুন-২০২২ থেকে শুরু	
প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ	১৪ জুলাই-২০২২ থেকে শুরু	
পরীক্ষা:	২১ জুলাই ২০২২ হতে শুরু	পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী ওয়েব সাইটের মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যাবে।

* ভর্তির জন্য যোগ্যতা: ন্যূনতম দ্ব্যাতক জিএ।
* ডিপ্লোমা ভর্তি ও পরীক্ষার নিয়মাবলী একাডেমির ওয়েব সাইট (www.bia.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।
* রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি, কাউন্সিলিং ফি, মেম্বারশীপ ফি Dutch Bangla Mobile Bank (A/C No: 1973) রকেট এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।
* E-mail: bangladeshinsuranceacademy@gmail.com
* মোবাইল: ০১৭১১-৯৬৩১৫৫, ০১৭৪৫-৩৫৯০৬৯ এবং ০১৯১৫-৮৭৬৯৭৬

১৯/৫/২০২২
এস.এম ইব্রাহিম হোসাইন, ACII
পরিচালক (অঃ দাঃ)

জিডি-১০১৭



BANGLADESH KRIRA SHIKKHA PROTISTHAN (BKSP)

ZIRANI, SAVAR, DHAKA

Tel: 02223371114, 02223371115

Fax No: 02223371104

E-mail: bksp1983@yahoo.com

admin@bksp.gov.bd



Memo No: 34.04.0000.002.00.092.19-2587

Date: 19 May, 2022

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method) (NCT)

This is to notify to all concerned that the following tenders have been published through e-GP portal.

Tender/ Proposal ID No	Name of Works & Package No	Publishing & last selling Date	Closing Date
Tender ID No- 697485	Supplying Fruits and vegetables (Package-1)	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 12-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	13-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr
Tender ID No- 700330	Supplying Fruits and vegetables (Package-2)	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 12-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	13-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr
Tender ID No- 700340	Supplying Grocery Items (Package-3)	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 12-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	13-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr
Tender ID No- 700345	Supplying Grocery Items (Package-4)	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 12-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	13-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr
Tender ID No- 700346	Supplying Meats and Eggs (Package-5)	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 19-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	20-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr
Tender ID No-700348	Supplying Fishes (Package-6)	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 12-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	13-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr
Tender ID No- 700349	Supplying Bakery Items (Package-7)	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 12-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	13-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr
Tender ID No- 700351	Washing and ironing Clothes and other materials at BKSP	18-May-2022 at 22:00 Hr 12-Jun-2022 at 17:00 Hr	13-Jun-2022 at 14:00 Hr

The interested Firms/Persons may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the Tender. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

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Md. Rakibul Hassan
Executive Engineer
BKSP.
Zirani, Savar, Dhaka.

GD- 1013

Second-year student Sumi debuts as heroine today

My mother played a great role inspiring me. Since she is a cinema lover, my taste was refined by her suggestions – I often accompanied her to the theatres. The first film I watched in a cinema hall was “Monpura”.

SHARMIN JOYA

Shahnaz Sumi’s passion for art started at the age of three, when she began learning the basics of dance. She was a participant in the talent hunt Shera Nachiye, in 2016. Making her television debut in Salahuddin Lavlu’s mega serial aired in 2016, she continued working with prominent directors like Abul Hayat and Meher Afroz Shaon.

Her first full-fledged feature film, the Giasuddin Selim directorial “Paap Punyo”, hits theatres today. The honours’ second year student will share the screen with Chanchal Chowdhury, Afsana Mimi, Siam Ahmed, and Fazlur Rahman Babu among other noted artistes. We talk to her about her excitement, on this auspicious day.

Congratulations on your first lead role. How will you spend the day?

Thank you so much! I am eager to watch the first show of “Paap Punyo” with the entire crew, and my family. I will observe my senior co-artistes to get idea about what are things to follow on silver screen release, so that I can follow it onwards.

As you were saying, dance has helped you improving your acting, would you explain?

Dance is a medium of expressing emotions, it has lot of expressions and gestures. I have been a dancer since childhood, thus I have worked a lot on expressions. It really helped me to perform as an actor as well.

You have worked in one of the chapters of Bangladesh’s first anthology film, “Eti Tomari Dhaka”. Now this will be your first full-fledged film, how would you describe your journey?

I was in “Akasher Poshha Pakhi”, directed by Tanvir Ahsan, in the anthology. Discovering myself in the silver screens for the first time

gave me immense pride. To me the journey is a learning process, with no ending.

How did your passion for acting grow?

I was mentored by noted directors in the industry, including Salahuddin Lavlu, Abul Hayat and Meher Afroz Shaon.

My mother played a great role inspiring me. Since she is a cinema lover, my taste was refined by her suggestions – I often accompanied her to the theatres. The first film I watched in a cinema hall was “Monpura”.

It is, perhaps, fate, that you are the lead in Giasuddin Selim’s fourth film?

Maybe it is, and truth be told, it feels surreal. While watching “Monpura”, I could only dream of working with such a great director. It left me speechless when I was offered to play Shathi in “Paap Punyo”. Working with Giasuddin Selim is like a scholarship for me, as I could explore my acting prowess.

I was a bit anxious during the rehearsals, but all the co-stars were extremely generous. I am a huge fan of Siam Ahmed, so acting opposite him was also like a dream come true.

Tell us about Shathi. Why should the audience go and see her in theatres?

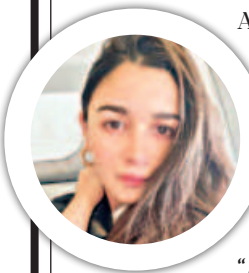
Shathi’s decisions perpetually effect the lives of her closed ones. The film is thematically based on the title, “Paap Punyo”, which translates to sin and virtue. It explains how one’s actions effect other lives, based on their positive or negative deeds.

The audience will relate to the film and its multiple, complex layers, and this is why they should see it.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SUMI

‘I feel like a newcomer all over again’



Alia Bhatt is set to join the cast of Netflix’s “Heart of Stone”, as she makes her Hollywood debut alongside Gal Gadot. The newly married actress is flying to the UK to kick off the shooting schedule.

Sharing a gorgeous selfie from her car, she wrote on Instagram, “And off I go to shoot my first ever Hollywood film!!!! Feel like a newcomer all over again - sooooo nervous!!!! Wish me luckkkkkkkk.”

Jamie Dornan is also set to star alongside Gal Gadot in “Heart of Stone”. Filmmaker Tom Harper is on board to direct with a story by Greg Rucka and Allison Schroeder.

Jaya Ahsan wins Anandalok Best Actress award in India

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Jaya Ahsan has won the Anandalok Best Actress award for her performance in “Binisutoy”, in India on May 18.

“It is my greatest pleasure to receive the Anandalok

Best Actress award for ‘Binisutoy’. Anandalok organised the award ceremony after 10 long years,” shared the renowned actress, on her verified Facebook profile.

“It is my greatest pleasure to receive the Anandalok Best Actress award for ‘Binisutoy’. Anandalok organised the award ceremony after 10 long years,” shared the renowned actress, on her verified Facebook profile.

Jaya Ahsan also won the Joy Filmfare Award (Bangla) for Best Actress in the popular category for her performance in “Binisutoy”. It was her third Filmfare Award.



NEWS

Another case filed

FROM PAGE 12
Rakibul Hayat filed the case.

PK Halder was arrested by the Indian Directorate of Enforcement, which investigates money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws, on Saturday.

According to the complaint filed yesterday, Shib Prashad applied for a loan of Tk 44 crore from FAS finance on November 10, 2014, proposing 322 decimals of land as collateral.

Russell Shahriar, then managing director of the organisation, placed the application in a board meeting where the loan was approved.

The money was later transferred to the bank

accounts of Deya Shipping between December 29, 2014 and February 9, 2015.

PK Halder had close links with the individuals running FAS Finance and he played a key role in getting the loan approved and the money laundered out of the country, officials said.

PK Halder’s financial scams came to the fore in 2019. While the ACC was carrying out an enquiry, PK Halder fled from Bangladesh.

On January 8, 2020, the ACC filed a case against PK Halder for amassing about Tk 275 crore from unknown sources.

Officers later found evidence suggesting that he had illegal wealth worth Tk 426 crore and laundered Tk 80 crore to Canada.

Troubles mount as more areas

FROM PAGE 12
3:00pm yesterday, down by 17cm 24 hours ago.

The flood forecasting centre yesterday forecasted that heavy rain may occur in the country’s north-eastern region and India’s Meghalaya and Assam in 24 hours till 3:00pm today. This may cause a further rise in the water levels of the two rivers.

Officials at the Sylhet civil surgeon’s office said

140 medical teams were providing service to the flood victims.

Sylhet Civil Surgeon Dr SM Shahreer said, “Medical teams are carrying water refining tablets, medicine and other necessary medical equipment. We have asked for more supplies in case the flood situation worsens.”

Meanwhile, Sylhet city Mayor Ariful Haque

Chowdhury yesterday urged the city residents to help the flood victims and demanded the Surma be dredged without delay.

The mayor was briefing journalists after visiting some flood-hit areas in the city.

The district administrations have distributed rice, dry food and cash among the flood-affected people.

Find ways to ease economic

FROM PAGE 12

“They [the ministries] will discuss how to handle the matter, where to put restrictions and where to relax restrictions. They will submit their reports,” he said, adding that the reports would be published before the media.

The ministries were asked to decide within two or three days whether tax should be temporarily increased on fancy and non-essential goods, Anwarul said.

“Proposals were made to increase import taxes on fruits. It is summer. We have enough mangoes, blackberries and jackfruits. Now, it will be decided whether the proposal is logical.

“We request you

[reporters] to make constructive discussions. We’re recovering from the Covid shock, but the war in Europe has not only created an economic crisis worldwide, but also a supply shortage.

“The inflation in the UK is nine percent and it is over eight percent in the USA,” he said.

SCHEDULED AGENDA

The cabinet approved the draft of Haat and Bazar (establishment and management) Act-2022 in principle.

As per the proposed law, no one will be allowed to set up a market without government permission.

The land of a market will be considered Khas land which will be managed by the district administration

and the government. The land cannot be transferred permanently, he said.

If anyone or a group of people illegally occupies Khas land of any market and construct any establishment, then every individual found guilty will be fined up to Tk 5 lakh or jailed for a year or both.

The cabinet also approved the draft Land Development Tax Act-2022 and Land Development Act-2022 in principle.

Besides, the draft National Mental Health Policy Bangladesh-2022 was approved by the cabinet.

An act is being formulated to give mental health as much importance as physical health, the cabinet secretary added.

Govt likely to miss

FROM PAGE 12
There are some other tasks, including arrangement of food for pilgrims and their transportation, he added.

After all the procedures are done, pilgrims get their visas, and the carrying of hajj passengers to Saudi Arabia begins.

Haab leaders said this year hajj package was announced late, causing problems for them to begin

the hajj-related tasks on time.

On April 27, the civil aviation ministry announced that the hajj flight would begin from May 31.

State Minister for Civil Aviation Mahbub Ali on that day told reporters that Biman would operate 75 flights to carry half of the 57,585 pilgrims.

Saudia and Flynas will ferry the rest.

PM’s remark

FROM PAGE 12
Thakurgaon.

“We are shocked and outraged by the statement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,” he said, adding that he strongly condemned the PM’s remarks. “These remarks are tantamount to a death threat.”

He said no one could expect such an indecent

speech. “But this is how she [Hasina] speaks to her political opponents and attacks them, which is completely devoid of political etiquette.”

Fakhru said, “I urge her to refrain from making such statements. If she makes such comments again, we will pursue legal means.”

26.5pc people suffer

FROM PAGE 12
according to officials.

One of the studies revealed that around 15.8 percent people in the country suffer from dyslipidemia – the imbalance of lipids in the body.

Speaking at the programme as chief guest, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, “Around

10 lakh people die in the country every year. Of them, 70 percent die from non-communicable diseases. Such diseases are claiming more than 1,900 lives every day.”

Lauding the DGHS’ research initiative, he said the research findings would help the government adopt the right policies

and plans to control non-communicable diseases.

He urged the people to maintain a healthy lifestyle to be safe from diseases.

Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of BSMMU, and Prof Dr Robed Amin, additional director general (administration) at the DGHS, attended the event, among others.


Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Janjira, Shariatpur

www.lged.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.8694.000.00.000.22-220

Date: 17/05/2022

e-Tender Notice No: 03/2021-2022/LTM

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of scheme	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time
01	699295	(a) Development of the road by BFS at Mulna starts from Kawadi Salma Sardar house pucca road to Mostofa Bepari house under Mulna UP, Zajira Upazila, (b) Maintenance of Mulna Kawadi Jamia Rashidia Karimia Arabia Madrasa under Mulna UP, Zajira Upazila, (c) Development of Mulna Lawkhola A. H. S. High School under Mulna UP, Zajira Upazila.	31-May-2022 17:00	01-Jun-2022 11:00
02	699294	(a) Development of the road by HBB at Bilashpur Meher Ali Madbor Kandi starts from Mangol Madbor house to Rubel Sardar house under Bilashpur UP, Zajira Upazila, (b) Development of Bilashpur Matior Rahman High School under Bilashpur UP, Zajira Upazila, (c) Development of Bilashpur Kuddus Bepari High School under Bilashpur UP, Zajira Upazila, (d) Construction of Box Culvert (U-Drain) at Bilashpur Budhai Madbor Kandi in front of the house of Anowar Madbor under Bilashpur UP, Zajira Upazila.	31-May-2022 17:00	01-Jun-2022 11:00
03	699264	(a) Development of the road by HBB at Senerchar 4 No. ward start from Monir Madbor bari pucca road to Amir Madbor house under Senerchar UP, Zajira Upazila, (b) Development of Senerchar Sheikh Hasina High School under Senerchar UP, Zajira Upazila, (c) Development of road by BFS at Senerchar Maniknagar starts from Sobahan Madbor house to Abdul Hai Fakir house under Senerchar UP, Zajira Upazila, (d) Development of Palerchar Kodom Ali Mridhar Kandi Fatematuazzohora (R.) Hafizia Arabia Mohila Madrasa under Palerchar UP, Zajira Upazila.	31-May-2022 17:00	01-Jun-2022 13:00
04	699258	Construction of 2-vent (size: 2X4.50X4.50m) RCC Box Culvert at East side of Zajira Mobarak Ali Sikder Bazar (near at Dhaka-Shariatpur RHO) under Zajira Upazila.	31-May-2022 17:00	01-Jun-2022 13:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 31-May-2022 on 17:00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Emon Mollah

Upazila Engineer

Zajira, Shariatpur

e-mail: ue.janjira@lged.gov.bd

GD-1012

GW Bush slams ‘Iraq invasion’

REUTERS, Washington

Former US President George W Bush mistakenly described the invasion of Iraq as “brutal” and “unjustified” before correcting himself to say he meant to refer to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Bush made the comments in a speech during an event in Dallas on Wednesday, while he was criticizing Russia’s political system.

“The result is an absence of checks and balances in Russia, and the decision of one man to launch a wholly unjustified and brutal invasion of Iraq,” Bush said, before correcting himself and shaking his head. “I mean, of Ukraine.” He jokingly blamed the mistake on his age as the audience burst into laughter.

In 2003, when Bush was president, the United States led an invasion of Iraq over weapons of mass destruction that were never found. The prolonged conflict killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced many more.

Observers were quick to seize on the startling apparent admission.

Andrew Strohlein, the European media director of Human Rights Watch, called the stumble the “Freudian slip of the century”.



‘World is falling apart’

Monitors say record 59.1m internally displaced worldwide in 2021

AFP, Geneva

Conflicts and natural disasters forced tens of millions to flee within their own country last year, pushing the number of internally displaced people to a record high, monitors said yesterday.

Some 59.1 million people were registered as internally displaced worldwide in 2021 – an all-time record expected to be broken again this year amid mass displacement inside war-torn Ukraine.

Around 38 million new internal displacements were reported in 2021, with some people forced to flee multiple times during the year, according to a joint report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

That marks the second-highest annual number of new internal displacements in a decade after 2020, which saw record-breaking movement due to a string of natural disasters.

Last year, new internal displacements from conflict surged to 14.4 million –



marking a 50-percent jump from 2020 and more than doubling since 2012, the report showed.

And global internal displacement figures are only expected to grow this year, driven in particular by the war in Ukraine.

“2022 is looking bleak,” IDMC director Alexandra Bilak told reporters.

The record numbers seen in 2021, she

said, marked “a tragic indictment really on the state of the world and on peace-building efforts in particular”.

NRC chief Jan Egeland agreed, warning: “It has never been as bad as this.”

“The world is falling apart,” he told reporters. “The situation today is phenomenally worse than even our record figure suggests.”

BIDEN’S ASIA TRIP

North Korea may test nuke during his visit

AFP, Seoul

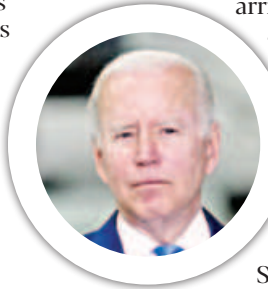
North Korea is poised to conduct a nuclear test, Seoul and Washington said yesterday, with the United States warning it could come as President Joe Biden visits South Korea this week.

Touted as proof of the US “pivot” to Asia, Biden’s first trip as president to the region looks set to be overshadowed by an increasingly belligerent North Korea bent on staging a new “provocation”.

Despite a spiralling Covid outbreak, Pyongyang’s “preparations for a nuclear test have been completed and they are only looking for the right time”, South Korean

lawmaker Ha Tae-keung said after being briefed by Seoul’s spy agency.

US intelligence says there is a “genuine possibility” that Kim could stage this “provocation” after Biden arrives in Seoul late today, his administration said.



This could mean “further missile tests, long-range missile tests or a nuclear test, or frankly both” around the time of Biden’s trip, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said.

After Seoul, Biden heads to Japan on Sunday for talks with Tokyo’s top leaders, before joining a Quad summit – a grouping of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States.

‘FIFA pay \$440m to Qatar’s abused migrant workers’

AFP, London

Rights group Amnesty International yesterday urged football’s governing body FIFA pay compensation equal to the total 2022 World Cup prize money for migrant workers “abused” in host nation Qatar. The call, backed by other rights organisations and fan groups, follows allegations that FIFA was slow to safeguard against the exploitation of workers who flooded into the tiny Gulf state to build infrastructure in the years leading up to the tournament that starts November 21. “FIFA should earmark at least \$440 million to provide remedy for the hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who have suffered human rights abuses in Qatar during preparations for the 2022 World Cup,” Amnesty said in a statement accompanying a report. It alleged that a “litany of abuses” had taken place since 2010, the year FIFA awarded the 2022 tournament to Qatar “without requiring any improvement in labour protections”. Amnesty said some abuses persist and described \$440 million as the “minimum necessary” to cover compensation claims. The sum is roughly the total prize money for this year’s World Cup.

Israel won’t probe killing of Al Jazeera journo: report

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The Israeli military is not planning to investigate the killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, according to Israeli media, leading her family to reiterate their call for a transparent probe into her shooting. Israel’s Military Police Criminal Investigation Division believes an investigation that treats Israeli soldiers as suspects will lead to opposition within Israeli society, the Israeli newspaper Ha’aretz reported yesterday. The Jerusalem Post confirmed the report. Abu Akleh, 51, was killed by an Israeli soldier last Wednesday, according to witnesses and colleagues who were present when she was shot while covering an Israeli military raid in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin. The veteran reporter, who lived in occupied East Jerusalem, was a US citizen. She spent nearly three decades covering the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Barisal PWD Division, Barishal.
Tel- 0431-64801, Fax: 0431-2173232
e-mail: ee_bari@pwd.gov.bd

Mem-4418/2

Dated: 19/05/2022

Invitation for e-Tender

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

Sl No	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender Closing date & time
1	700624	PWD/Bari/Nursing/Memo-112/08-05-2022/SI-7/21-22	Supply and installation internal security light (LED) at Barishal Nursing College	30-05-2022 12:30
2	700614	PWD/Bari/Nursing/Memo-112/08-05-2022/SI-6/21/22	Installation of Air cooler in the Conference room at 4 th floor of Barishal Nursing College	30-05-2022 12:30

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

Md. Kamrul Hassan
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Barishal.

GD-2015

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD. Division, Barisal.
Tel- 0431-64801, Fax: 0431-2173232
e-mail : ee_bari@pwd.gov.bd

Memo., ৪০৭২/২

Dated:-

Invitation for e-Tender

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

SL No	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	699584	bari/PWD/SBMCH/Memo-122/08-05-2022/SI-1/21-22	Expansion work with raise of Central Jame Mosque Eidgash area of Sher-E-Bangla Medical College & Hospital at Barishal.	29-05-2022 12:35

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

(Md. Kamrul Hassan)
Executive Engineer,
PWD. Division, Barisal.

GD-1006

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD
Barishal Zone, Barishal
Phone & Fax No. 64651/2175022
Email- acebar@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.0651.015.07.009.20-1620

Dated: 17/05/2022

Tender Cancellation Notice

This is to notify all concerned that this office memo No. 35.01.0651.015.07.009.20-176 dated: 19/01/2021 for the work of 'Construction of 1180M Long Bridge over the river "Andermanik" including Bank Protection and related work of Payra Port first Terminal Project (PPFTP) under Road Division Patuakhali, Invitation Ref Tender No. 03/ADP/PPFTP/WD-06/PAT/2020-2021" is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

A. K. M. Azad Rahman
ID No. 001501
Additional Chief Engineer (C.C), RHD
Barishal Zone, Barishal

GD-1009

Government of The People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Office of The Director
Chattogram Medical College Hospital
www.cmch.gov.bd

Memo No. CMCH/Tender/2021-2022/Hi-tech/6545

Date: 19-05-2022

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan, Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Chattogram for the Procurement of:

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/ Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Opening Date & Time
700505	Procurement of Fracture Comfortable OT Table for the F.Y 2021-2022.	02 Jun 2022 16:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00
700506	Procurement of Cardiac Monitor for the F.Y 2021-2022.	02 Jun 2022 16:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00
700507	Procurement of Hydraulic OT Table for the F.Y 2021-2022.	02 Jun 2022 16:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00
700508	Procurement of LED OT Light for the F.Y 2021-2022.	02 Jun 2022 16:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00
700509	Procurement of Anesthesia Machine for the F.Y 2021-2022.	02 Jun 2022 16:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00	05 Jun 2022 14:00

For pursuer e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-tender will be accepted only as stated in above list, accepted tenders will be opened online as stated in above list.

(Dr. Aung Swi Prue Marma)
Director (Incharge)
Chattogram Medical College Hospital
Tel: 031-630179. Email: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

GD- 1021

Address people’s suffering in flood-hit areas

Flood situation deteriorates in Sylhet and Sunamganj

WE'RE deeply worried about the deteriorating flood situation in the north-eastern region of Bangladesh as water from the upstream and heavy rainfall sent floodwaters surging into many villages and towns. Two districts, Sylhet and Sunamganj, have been particularly affected, with the Surma and Kushiara rivers flowing above danger level for over a week. Reports from the region paint a grim picture: a vast number of roads, houses and croplands inundated, people either trapped in water or taking shelter in the flood centres, poor access to food and other basic necessities, schools closed or converted into shelters, and no electricity in many flood-hit areas. The suffering that all this has caused is hard to describe.

It's an emergency made worse by both natural and manmade causes. Ponds, canals and haors, which once dotted these areas and traditionally served as reservoirs holding the excess water from floods, have all but vanished in recent decades, thanks to mindless development, urbanisation and flawed government policies. Many of the rivers have also been encroached, and consequently dry up during the summer and overflow after above-average rainfall. During a visit on Wednesday, the foreign minister, a lawmaker from the Sylhet-1 constituency, spoke of plans to dredge the rivers to restore their navigability. This is not reassuring, given the experience of previous dredging initiatives that rarely delivered results.

While we hope the authorities will put their heads together to better tackle floods, which are growing in frequency and intensity because of climate change, the immediate challenge is to deliver relief and medicine and restore normal life in the flood-hit areas. We're told that in Sylhet, where about 13 upazilas including the Sadar city were hit, about 150,000 people are living in the dark after several power stations were inundated. About 675 educational institutions were reportedly closed. Meanwhile, although traders have earlier said that there were adequate supplies of food and other essentials in the market, many shops and warehouses remain under water and the supply line disrupted, which may create a food crisis soon. The situation in the remote villages is reported to be particularly dire.

We, therefore, urge the government to take urgent measures to tackle the aftermath of the flood. Expecting that the water will soon recede automatically, as the foreign minister has said, is not enough. What we need is concrete action, starting with ensuring that help reaches the most affected immediately. Relief and medical teams should be sent out to all flood-hit locations and shelters with adequate supplies, and power should be restored as soon as possible. The government should also address the bigger issues affecting the flood situation in the long run.

Listen to the UN chief’s warning

Govts, private sector and financiers must band together to address climate change

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has rightly called for a global coalition to speed up the deployment of battery technology, and urged countries to ease intellectual property restrictions to hasten the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. His call comes in light of a report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which found that four key climate change indicators—greenhouse gas concentrations, sea-level rise, ocean heat and acidification—set new records in 2021. These are some extremely alarming findings. And we concur with the UN secretary-general that the report illustrates “a dismal litany of humanity’s failure to tackle climate disruption.”

According to the WMO, the last seven years were the warmest on record. Given the current trend, it is only a matter of time before even that record gets shattered. This has prompted the UN secretary-general to outline a five-point plan for the world to get back on track for a renewable energy revolution. Among them is a proposal for investment in the renewable energy sector to be tripled to USD 4 trillion per year, and for renewable energy to be treated as a “global public good,” rather than intellectual property to be monetised.

Despite considerable amounts of resources being poured into the shift to renewable energy, solar and wind still account for just eight percent of global electricity generation, while other types of renewables, such as hydropower, bring the total up to 30 percent. In order to increase their share, Guterres called on countries, manufacturers, technology firms and financiers to join forces to fast-track the deployment of batteries, removing red tapes and intellectual property constraints. Since the issue of climate change concerns everyone, there is no reason why advanced countries and companies shouldn't look to involve all stakeholders. In fact, they should be looking forward to sharing these technologies with others so that newer breakthroughs can be made, and the world can adopt them on a larger scale before temperatures rise beyond our control.

While most governments—particularly in developed countries that are most responsible for global carbon emissions—have not lived up to their own promises as per various international agreements, the ongoing effects of climate change continue to show why this issue is among the most important when it comes to the long-term survival of human civilisation. Therefore, the latest warning from the UN chief should not only be taken seriously by governments around the world, but also by the private sector, whose involvement in this project might be just as vital.

Why are there so many laws against free media?



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of *The Daily Star*.

MAHFUZ ANAM

WITH the numerous laws that already exist to regulate—or better still, suppress—the media, and the diligence with which new ones are being prepared, one would think that of all the areas that need fixing, our government expects the journalists to be “fixed” first. But why? Why is there never an acceptance that independent media is the lifeblood of democracy, good governance, rule of law and accountability? Why is there no recognition of the fact that countries that advance into the rank of “developing countries” do so not only with higher GDP, but also with higher levels of human rights and all sorts of freedoms? Development cannot be just in economy, it must also be in society. It must be holistic to be meaningful.

Last Saturday, in a belated observation of the World Press Freedom Day, all the apex bodies of journalists, and those representing the owners and editors, jointly expressed concerns about the state of the free press in Bangladesh, and the challenges before the industry as a whole.

Working journalists highlighted the issue of surveillance which has reached dangerous levels with the acquisition of latest listening and tracking devices by state agencies. Some of our district correspondents suffer a greater degree of surveillance than those in the cities—more direct and crude. They are sometimes told point-blank not to see some people and are called within minutes of their meeting with an opposition politician wanting to know what transpired. Sometimes, sources are called and warned against meeting certain reporters not in the good books of officials.

The occasional leaks in the public domain of personal telephone conversations of people that the authorities want to embarrass, or whose reputation they want to damage, prove the wide net of telephone tapping that goes on. During *Prothom Alo* reporter Rozina Islam’s detention by police, a telephone conversation between one of her female colleagues and the latter’s father became public. It was meant to show Rozina in a bad light, proving that both Rozina and her colleague’s phones were tapped. The question is, how many journalists’ phones are monitored? We assume that many editors’ phones are monitored, too. Is this operation authorised by anyone? If yes, then, by whom? Under what law? By what criteria



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

The time has come for a total change of mindset—instead of always looking at the media as the “enemy” that needs to be controlled, or at least kept under surveillance, it should be seen as an “ally” in the democratic and development journey that Bangladesh is well embarked on.

are those under surveillance chosen? Or is it left to the whims of the officers concerned? What about privacy? What about the misuse of this practice? Is there any accountability? People in power now enjoy the fruits of this. When things turn around, they become its worst victims. Here is a brief list of laws that directly or indirectly affect journalism: i) The Penal Code 1960 (Section 499—Defamation);

ii) The Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (sections 99, 108, 144); iii) The Official Secrets Act 1923; iv) The Contempt of Court Act 2013; v) The Printing Press and Publication (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973; vi) The Press Council Act, 1974; vii) The Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service) Act, 1974; viii) Information and Communication Technology Act, 2006; ix) The Digital Security Act, 2018; x) The (Draft) Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Regulation for Digital, Social Media and OTT Platforms, 2021; xi) The (Draft) Over The Top (OTT) Content-Based Service Providing and Operation Policy, 2021 (by ICT Division); and xii) The (Draft) Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Act 2022.

The defamation law is not only among the most frequently used but also one that is most abused. The law clearly states that only the person defamed can lodge a case, and that not more than one case can be lodged. In practice, literally anybody can lodge such a case claiming that, “I have been defamed because my leader was defamed”, or some such pleas. The tragedy is that the lower courts accept it, and also in more than one instance. Thus, journalists and/or editors are seen attending court hearings in all parts of the country and seeking bail. Thankfully, instances of defamation cases have reduced. However, only the day before yesterday, *Bhorer Kagoj* editor and publisher was subjected to a dubious defamation case.

Much has been written about the Digital Security Act and its devastating impact on the free media. Its harmful

How is Sri Lanka’s youth dealing with the economic crisis?

Adnan Abbasi, Tejashree Murugan and Vaishnavi Chandrasekar are writing fellows with the Fellowship for Freedom in India.

ADNAN ABBASI, TEJASHREE MURUGAN and VAISHNAVI CHANDRASEKAR

WE’VE been talking to a black screen for over an hour now. Paramie Jayakody, a Colombo-based journalist, is on the other end of the call. We haven’t been able to actually see each other yet, but with the wavering internet connection and frequent power outages she’s been facing, having to keep her video switched off is the least of her concerns.

“People have switched over to only one meal a day because they just can’t afford it,” Paramie says. Not only does this reduce the amount they need to spend on the exorbitantly priced food supplies in Sri Lanka, but it also helps them avoid waking up at odd hours to prepare meals due to the inconsistent power supply. Life revolves around these power cuts, with no escape from the brutal summer heat. Even travelling beyond a radius of three kilometres proves to be taxing, as one either needs to stand in extremely long fuel queues or shell out for the increased public transport fare.

With the economic crisis in Sri Lanka fuelling these deplorable conditions, a widespread protest movement has emerged across the island nation. The target of these protests is the ruling party—particularly President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. From our interactions with Sri Lankans, it appears that they are unwilling to forgive the president and believe any reform will take place only after all the Rajapaksas are stripped of their powers.

Despite the lack of adequate response from the ruling party, and the increasing contempt they seem to show towards citizens in these desperate situations, the spirit of the Sri Lankan youth still seems to be strong and unwavering.

As Sahan, a 27-year-old protester from Colombo, elaborates, “Other countries have funded Sri Lanka, and we have internal bonds piling up to be released in emergencies, but they [the Rajpaksas] are living a luxurious lifestyle, built on this and taxpayers’ money.” Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the president’s brother, has already been forced to step down, but the president himself overcame a no-confidence motion put forth by the opposition.

The appointment of the new prime minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, has been considered a victory by many Sri Lankans. However, according to Paramie, a lot of protesters are also perceiving it as a “way to ignore the people’s primary demand that the president must resign.” The transparency shown by the new prime minister with regard to the economic crisis, the solutions he has offered, such as privatising the Sri Lankan airlines, as well as his international ties have led to him gaining mainstream public support. But his appointment is also viewed by his critics as a mutually beneficial relationship of power and protection, which further adds to the uncertainty.

Due to this uncertainty, many protesters have not surrendered their original demands. The long-drawn-out quest to make the president resign has taken numerous forms. Perhaps the most notable one is *GoGotaGama* (Go Gota Village), a protest site right in the heart of Colombo. The vibrance of the village is evident through the sheer number of participants, estimated by Sahan to be at least 100,000 at any given point in time. Although most small businesses can’t openly support the protests, many of them, such as local bakeries, help out in whatever

effects are becoming clearer on a daily basis, forcing our journalists and editors to practice self-censorship in order to survive. After relentless complaints and many reports by the international media bodies, our foreign minister admitted that “some excesses” could have occurred. More to the point, our law minister said that no journalist will be directly arrested under DSA and that they will be summoned first. We welcomed the proposal, as a first step, and expected that this would be followed by a directive from the home minister to every police station to that effect. To the best of our knowledge, no move has been forthcoming.

At the moment, three draft laws are in the pipeline—one deals with data protection, the second with OTT platforms, and the third with the service conditions of media employees.

The draft law for data protection has many good aspects, but the dangerous part is that law enforcement agencies have been exempted, with the result that they are free to use personal data in any way they want, flouting all the rights to privacy.

The draft law for OTT platforms is designed to put serious restrictions on artistic creativity and freedoms of thought and expression.

The draft law meant to ameliorate the service condition of media workers ends up doing the exact opposite. As for service conditions, it basically repeats what already exists, like the wage board, etc. However, much to our concern, it introduces hitherto non-existent media courts to be set up in every district. They will be added to by media appeals courts at higher levels. The function and purpose of such courts remain totally unclear. We in the media feel—and here the editors, owners and working journalists’ unions are all in unison—that this law is a “medicine more harmful than the ailment”, and will entangle the media into complex and intricate legal battles. There are numerous provisions for enhancing bureaucratic interference in the operation of media houses through obligatory reporting, which is totally contrary to the operation of industries in the private sector.

The time has come for a total change of mindset—instead of always looking at the media as the “enemy” that needs to be controlled, or at least kept under surveillance, it should be seen as an “ally” in the democratic and development journey that Bangladesh is well embarked on.

I want to conclude by quoting Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, a senior journalist and union leader, who recently said, “Doing journalism in Bangladesh today is like swimming in a pond full of crocodiles”. We may be able to swim around them for a while, but when any one of them will devour us, we don’t know.

way they can. Another iteration of the village, *HoruGoGama* (Thieves Go Village), has been set up directly in front of the parliament.

However, the sheer strength of the protests does not seem to have daunted the government. On May 9, supporters of the ruling party attacked *GoGotaGama*, triggering a wave of violent clashes across the country. Paramie recalled the police doing nothing and simply watching as the mob entered barricaded areas and attacked women and children, forcing men to abandon tents which were then set on fire. Huge parts of the protest site were destroyed, and although the protesters managed to recover a few tents, most of the creative displays were demolished.

But despite the curfew that was imposed, people are rebuilding the village. The site was in complete disarray when Paramie reached it, and she realised a lot of supplies were required, so she got together with a few friends and found many people willing to donate for the cause. It took around half a day for people to just try and understand what was needed at the site, and by the time they left to procure the supplies, others were offering aid, donating resources, and putting up tents. Now, Paramie and her friends regularly visit the protest site, and activities such as poetry readings have slowly gone back to normal.

Authority errs when it underestimates the power of the people and tries to suppress legitimate protests. This is quite evident in Sri Lanka today. Despite the lack of adequate response from the ruling party, and the increasing contempt they seem to show towards citizens in these desperate situations, the spirit of the Sri Lankan youth still seems to be strong and unwavering.

101ST ANNIVERSARY OF MULLUK CHOLO MOVEMENT

Tea workers' suffering is not just a labour issue



Shamsuddoza Sajen
is a journalist and
researcher.

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ON May 20, 1921, around 3,000 tea labourers were waiting at Chandpur railway station. The last train had left at around 10:30pm. The stranded workers and their families went to sleep after having a scanty meal supplied by the local people. At the dead of the night, in the presence of the commissioner, the magistrate and the railway officials, after the lights were put out, after all the outsiders were turned out of the station yard, the infamous Gurkha troops were let loose upon these tea labourers.

That unprovoked and brutal attack has another parallel in the history of South Asia: The Jallianwala Bagh massacre led by Col Reginald Dyer on April 13, 1919 in India's Amritsar. Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das (CR Das), who visited Chandpur immediately after the event, pointed out in his testimony that the officials admitted they had wanted to "create 'an impression' on the coolies very much the same way in which Dyer had created 'an impression' in Amritsar."

What was that impression? Dyer, by his own admission, had sought to "teach a lesson" to the "wicked Indians" and create a "wide impression" of the costs of defying lawful authority by killing hundreds of people in cold blood. In the case of Chandpur attack, the British government, in collusion with tea estate owners, tried to teach the sanctity of capital and profits by suppressing a revolt by the tea workers, who abandoned *en masse* the tea estates in Chargola and Longlai valleys (in Sylhet) and marched towards their home of origin to escape serfdom (with the slogan "Mulluk Cholo" or "return to homeland").

But the tea workers won the day. The exodus created a political tumult for nearly three months (May 3-August 3, 1921).



An economic struggle in the beginning, the sporadic strikes culminated into a mass political action, as Amalendu Guha commented in his book *"Planter Raj to Swaraj"* (1977).

The widespread strike of tea workers was immediately followed by the equally famous Assam Bengal Railways and Inland Steamer Navigation workers' strikes. Various groups of professionals and workers joined the strikes in protest against the brutal police firing on tea garden workers. Almost the entire East Bengal cheerfully undertook sacrifice to support the cause of tea labourers. The British government was forced to make arrangements for the tea workers to return to their home states.

Although the massive strike and sacrifice of the tea workers "laid the foundation of Swaraj," as termed by Chittaranjan Das, the situation in the tea plantation estates didn't change much. The British Raj ended in 1947. Unfortunately, the tea labourers' struggle didn't end. The governments of the natives weren't any less brutal or unmindful to the woes of the tea labourers.

▲
Tea workers are paid by a European employer in Assam circa 1903.

PHOTO COURTESY:
BOURNE & SHEPHERD

Tea workers in Bangladesh again valiantly fought against the Pakistani hoarders in 1971. Has independence brought any change to their lives?

Tea workers are one of the least paid labourers in the country. Recently, the Minimum Wage Board finalised the draft of a wage recommendation for tea workers, fixing a ridiculous figure of Tk 117-120 as daily wage. It seems the tea garden owners have hijacked the wage board. Tea workers also don't enjoy the rights of workers as stipulated in the country's labour law. For example, after working all their lives in the tea gardens they don't get gratuity at the end of their services.


However, the sufferings of tea workers are not limited to the wage and labour issues. They are one of the most excluded and marginalised sections of society. The old colonial and racist system is still deeply entrenched in the estates. Tea labourers are kept isolated from the mainstream communities. They are tied to the tea gardens. They don't possess any land inside or outside the gardens. They have to live in labour lines (residential areas

of the workers). Therefore, when they demand gratuity upon retirement, they are threatened with eviction from their residence. A family member replaces the retiree to continue to live in the same small plot of land, and thus the exploitation perpetuates for generations. They have little access to government services. You will hardly find the "developmental state" there, except when there is a law-and-order problem.

Chittaranjan Das made a pertinent point in his testimony regarding the tea workers' march and subsequent attack on those workers in Chandpur. "I assert with all the emphasis I can command that these strikes are not labour strikes. They are not political either. They are national. They have sprung from the same spirit with which the battle of *Swaraj* is being fought all over the country, and is part of the general non-cooperation movement," he said. I think the government should learn from the insight of this great leader of undivided Bengal. The problem of tea workers is a national problem. In a modern, civilised nation, you can't continue a colonial production system and the extreme exploitation of labourers involved in the process.

Globally, the plantation system has undergone substantial changes. Previous plantation colonies such as the Caribbean Islands and Mauritius are now ruled by the descendants of those who were taken there as slaves and indentured labourers. The wage and living conditions of tea workers in neighbouring India are far better than those of Bangladeshi tea labourers. In India, for example, an unskilled worker gets a minimum wage of 331 rupees per day, which is more than double in comparison to a Bangladeshi skilled worker.

Along with the tea workers, we must raise our voice for restructuring the tea plantation system in Bangladesh. Not out of sympathy for their woes, but in solidarity with their fight for their rights. If we continue to maintain silence in the face of such injustice, we will only perpetuate the oppression of capital and its subservient state apparatus.



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পত্র নম্বরঃ ২৩.২২.৭০০৬.০১১.০৭.০০১.২১.৪৩৮

তারিখঃ ০৪ জুলাই ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ
১৮ মে ২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বগুড়া ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড ও বোর্ড পরিচালিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে অস্থায়ীভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা হচ্ছেঃ-

ক্রমঃ	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল	পদের সংখ্যা	ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা (ক্যান্টনমেন্ট সার্ভিস নিয়োগ ও পদোন্নতি নীতিমালা-২০১৯ (সংশোধিত) অনুযায়ী)	ফেসব জেলার প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
০১	ট্যাক্স ক্লার্ক (৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/-) গ্রেড -১৬	০১ (এক)	স্নাতক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ন্যূনতম ২.৫ জিপিএ প্রাপ্ত এইচএসসি (বাণিজ্য) অথবা সমমানের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ন্যূনতম ০৬(ছয়) মাস মেয়াদী কম্পিউটার কোর্স সম্পন্ন হতে হবে।	
০২	গাড়ী চালক (হালকা) (৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/-) গ্রেড -১৬	০৩ (তিন)	স্নাতক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে এসএসসি পাস এবং উপর্যুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স (হালকা) সহ ড্রাইভার হিসেবে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।	বগুড়া, সিরাজগঞ্জ
০৩	কম্পারভেন্স সুপারভাইজার (৯০০০-২১৮০০/-) গ্রেড -১৭	০১ (এক)	স্নাতক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে এসএসসি অথবা সমমানের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন।	
০৪	অফিস সহায়ক (৮২৫০-২০০১০/-) গ্রেড -২০	০১ (এক)	স্নাতক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে ন্যূনতম এসএসসি বা সমমানের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন।	বগুড়া, জামালপুর
০৫	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী (৮২৫০-২০০১০/-) গ্রেড -২০	০৪ (চার)	স্নাতক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ন্যূনতম ৮ম গ্রেপি পাস পাস হতে হবে।	টাঙ্গাইল নবাবগঞ্জ, শরীয়তপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ, বগুড়া, নড়াইল


(কি দ্রুত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/প্রতিবন্ধী কোটায় সকল জেলার প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।)

- ক্যান্টনমেন্ট এন্ড্রিকিউটিভ অফিসার, বগুড়া ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের আবেদনপত্র আগামী ১৩/০৬/২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) পৌঁছাতে হবে। খামের উপরের ডানপাশে আবেদনকৃত পদের নাম, নিজ জেলা ও কোটার নাম (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) উল্লেখ করতে হবে। উক্ত তারিখের পরে প্রাপ্ত/ক্রেটিপূর্ণ / অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- Application form for govt. Job (www.mopa.gov.bd)** অথবা বগুড়া ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের ওয়েব সাইট **www.cbb.gov.bd** থেকে আবেদন ফরম ডাউনলোড করে যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক (মোবাইল নম্বরসহ) নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- (ক) ক্যান্টনমেন্ট এন্ড্রিকিউটিভ অফিসার, বগুড়া সেনানিবাসের অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ এর যে কোন শাখা হতে নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার ফিস বাবদ ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অসমেরতযোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে (খ) সম্প্রতি তোলা ০৩ কপি পার্সপোর্ট সাইজের কালার ছবি (গ) প্রার্থীর নাম ও ঠিকানা উল্লেখপূর্বক অব্যবহৃত ডাকটিকিট মুক্ত (৯.৫ X ৪.৫ ইঞ্চি) পৃথক একটি খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীর বয়স ৩১/০৫/২০২২ তারিখে সর্বনিম্ন ১৮ (আঠার) এবং সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা/প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য হবে। বয়স প্রমানের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান/নাতিন-নাতিনির ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। এ ছাড়া সরকার অনুমোদিত অন্যান্য কোটা প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- সরকারি/আধা সরকারি সংস্থায় চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। কোন অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময় আবেদনে দাখিলকৃত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র/প্রত্যয়নপত্র, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদ, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র এবং বিভিন্ন কোটার প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র/প্রত্যয়নপত্র এর মূল কপিসহ এক সেট সত্যায়িত কপি সঙ্গে আনতে হবে।
- অসভ্য/ক্রেটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য/নিয়োগ কার্যক্রমের যে কোন পর্যায়ে বা নিয়োগদানের পরেও অসভ্য/ক্রেটিপূর্ণ প্রমাণিত হলে আবেদনপত্র নির্বাচন বা নিয়োগ সরাসরি বাতিল করা হবে। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিল করার ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময় আবেদনকারীকে ডাকযোগে নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্রের মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে। এ ছাড়াও নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্যাদি এ দপ্তরের ওয়েব সাইট থেকে জানা যাবে।
- নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপিত পদের সংখ্যা ত্রুটি/বৃদ্ধি, বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত কোন শর্ত বা অনুল্লেখিত সংশোধন/পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন বা বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন টিএ/ডিএ ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না।

(মোহসীম আফরিন)

ক্যান্টনমেন্ট এন্ড্রিকিউটিভ অফিসার
বগুড়া ক্যান্টনমেন্ট।

GD-1011



IBA Admission Test

BBA 30th BATCH (SESSION 2021-2022)

BBA Admission Test (2021-22) of Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka (DU) will be held on **Friday, June 24, 2022 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.**

ELIGIBILITY

1. For Applicants Who Have Passed SSC/HSC:

Students who have fulfilled the stipulated requirements for applying in different units of DU, and have passed their SSC or equivalent exam during 2016-2019 and HSC or equivalent exam in 2021 are only eligible to apply for 2021-2022 academic session. They must have a minimum 7.5 as total of SSC & HSC GPA (including the 4th subject). Candidates must secure at least 3.5 GPA in both the exams to be eligible to apply.

2. For Applicants Who Have Passed IGCSE/O-Level and IAL/GCE A-Level or Equivalent Exam:

Students who have passed IGCSE/O-level exam with at least 5 subjects (including mathematics) during 2016-2019 and IAL/GCE A-Level exam with at least 2 subjects (final result of at least one subject must have been published in 2021) are eligible to apply. Out of the 7 subjects in IGCSE/O-Level and IAL/GCE A-level, candidates should get minimum 4 B grades and 3 C grades. Among the best five grades of O-level and best two grades of A-level, **no 'D' grade will be accepted.**

3. No candidate is eligible to sit for this year's admission test, if he/she had appeared in any admission test of DU, including IBA in 2021 or before.

Candidates from O-level, A-level or from all other boards outside the country have to obtain "Equivalence Certificate" from IBA before applying. For equivalence certificate visit the DU admission website: <https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd> Those who have already received their equivalence certificate while applying in different units of DU, need not apply for the equivalence certificate again.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

All **Bangladeshi** applicants must take the Admission Test. The test has two components: Written Assessment and Communication Test. The Written Assessment component evaluates applicant's aptitude in: Language, Mathematics, and Analytical ability. To pass the Written Test, an applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in each of the stated areas. For the Communication Test, applicants will be selected on the basis of their performance in the Written Assessment.

Foreign nationals with a score of at least 1265 out of 1600 in SAT Reasoning Test (with at least 600 in Math and 575 in reading and writing) may be exempted from the Written Assessment, but must appear in the Communication Test.

HOW TO APPLY

The application is to be made **online (at <https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd>) starting from 9:00 am Saturday, May 21, 2022 to 12:00 am Saturday, June 11, 2022. The payment of application fees of Tk. 1250 (including online processing fees and bank service charge) **needs to be done by 5:00 pm Sunday, June 12, 2022. Admit Card can be downloaded from 12 pm Thursday, June 16, 2022 to 12 pm Thursday, June 23, 2022.** For detailed application procedure, visit the IBA website at <https://www.iba-du.edu> or the DU admission website: <https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd>.**

For further information, contact the BBA Program Office at 01772563303 or 01886171661 between 10:00 am - 5:00 pm any day or email at bba-admission2022@iba-du.edu.

Please note that the admission test will be held only in Dhaka city and in light of the current COVID scenario, necessary safety protocols will be strictly maintained while administering the admission test.

Director
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000

GD-1016

LAW INTERVIEW

Business and Human Rights:
The Pathway for Bangladesh

Surya Deva is a Professor at the Macquarie Law School and a founding Editor-in-Chief of Business and Human Rights Journal. He served as a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (2016-22) and has advised the UN agencies, governments, national human rights institutions, multinational corporations, trade unions and civil society organisations on issues related to business and human rights. Mohammad Golam Sarwar, Consultant, Law Desk, talks to him on the following issues.

Law Desk (LD): Bangladesh will soon be graduating from its LDC status. How will its compliance with human rights and international labour law standards impact its trade relationships with EU countries and other major investing nations?

Surya Deva (SD): International standards concerning human rights, labour rights and the environment are increasingly becoming an integral part of trade and investment regimes. After the unanimous endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) by the Human Rights Council in June 2011, neither states nor companies could afford to ignore the interface of human rights and business.

In this context, Bangladesh should see compliance with human and labour rights as a pre-condition for successful and sustainable trade relation with other states, specially the European Union. Instead of perceiving human rights as a compliance issue or a cost-increasing measure, Bangladesh should consider effective implementation of the UNGPs as a competitive advantage issue in the long run. Moreover, if businesses respect both people and the planet, this would create a more sustainable, inclusive and equal society in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In my view, the government of Bangladesh should take a holistic and long-term approach to economic development. It should introduce a range of incentives and disincentives for responsible business conduct. Moreover, the government should facilitate collaboration among companies, industry associations, trade unions and civil society organisations to achieve various national goals and overcome global challenges such as climate change.

LD: How has the pandemic impacted the performance of businesses’ human rights and labour law compliance around the world?

SD: The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the business and human agenda in paradoxical ways. On the one hand, many governments and companies started focusing on short-term recovery, economy revival and market survival, thus putting respect for human rights, labour rights and the environment on the back burner. On the

other hand, the pandemic also exposed many inequalities and vulnerabilities in our current economic model – we all saw the plight of many children, women, migrants and workers part of the informal economy.

We should see the pandemic as a wake-up call. Building a more inclusive and sustainable society would require businesses pursuing the path of “profit with principles”. Respect for human rights and the environment should not be seen as an afterthought or merely a tick box exercise. Rather, achieving sustainability – which would require respecting all human rights and planetary boundaries – should be integrated as a cross-cutting goal for all government ministries and all business actors.

LD: Considering the emerging economy of Bangladesh, how do you see the challenges for localising business and human rights framework?

SD: Promoting responsible businesses conduct and holding companies accountable for abusing human rights or polluting the environment is proving to be a challenging task for all states. Bangladesh is no exception. However, given that the UNGPs are here to stay, the government should take a proactive approach in implementing the UNGPs and other business and human rights standards such as the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. This would entail, among others, localising international standards to local conditions and circumstances in Bangladesh.

In my view, the government of Bangladesh should take several steps to operationalise the UNGPs in the local context. First of all, the government should make a public commitment to implement the UNGPs and start the process of developing a national action plan on business and human rights in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders. Such a plan should identify priorities for Bangladesh in short, medium and long terms.

Second, it should raise awareness and build capacity of companies (specially SMEs), workers, trade unions, consumers and civil society organisations in relation to international business and human rights standards. The National Human



Bangladesh should see compliance with human and labour rights as a pre-condition for successful and sustainable trade relation with other states, specially the European Union. Instead of perceiving human rights as a compliance issue or a cost-increasing measure, Bangladesh should consider effective implementation of the UNGPs as a competitive advantage issue in the long run.

Rights Commission of Bangladesh and universities could play a key role in accomplishing this task.

Third, the government should strengthen its governance institutions at all levels and enhance transparency. Doing so will also assist in improving access to remedy for business-related human rights abuses. After all, the business and rights agenda is a sub-set of the wider discourse about respect for human rights, democracy and good governance.

Finally, government agencies and state-owned enterprises should lead from the front in respecting human rights, labour rights and the environment. By doing so, the government of Bangladesh would set a good example for private business actors.

LD: What are some of the ways in which Bangladesh can improve its performance concerning business and human rights? Is there any scope of regional and international cooperation?

SD: The government could learn from good practices elsewhere to move the business and human rights agenda in Bangladesh. For example, developing policy coherence among various

government ministries will be essential. Equally important will be to break silos between agenda concerning business and human rights, the SDGs and climate change. Moreover, the government should link public procurement with responsible business conduct. It may also offer tax incentives and preferential loans for companies with a track record of respecting both people and the planet. At the same time, companies which do not get swayed by incentives should be held accountable to discourage free riding.

Many business and human rights challenges involve a cross-border or transnational element. Exploitation of migrant workers, environmental pollution, climate change and adverse impacts of new technologies are illustrative of this reality. Therefore, cooperation and collaboration with other states in South Asia and beyond will be essential. Collective action by states and business organisations should also help in accelerating the progress in implementing the UNGPs. We should also see the constant demand for an international treaty on business and human rights in this context.

LD: How do you evaluate the future of human rights and environmental compliance by businesses in a post-pandemic world?

SD: I feel that there is no turning back on increasing social and legal expectations from businesses to respect human rights and the environment. Because of various “push and pull” factors (including the mandatory human rights due diligence regulations emerging out of the European Union), most companies will feel encouraged or forced to take their human rights responsibilities seriously. In such a context, companies might be better off by adopting a proactive approach in moving towards socially responsible and sustainable business models. All stakeholders – from governments to investors, industry associations, trade unions, consumers, academia, lawyers and the media – have a role to play in ensuring that such a shift about the role and purpose of companies in society does take place.

LD: Many thanks for your time.
SD: You are welcome.

LAW LETTER

Is arbitration becoming more
expensive than litigation?



AIMAN R KHAN

Alternative Dispute Resolution methods, particularly arbitration has become increasingly popular in Bangladesh over the last two decades, so much so that a separate law on arbitration was enacted to accommodate it. An entire arbitration proceeding can be completed within less than a year or six months. This is faster

than the time it takes to prepare and file a case in a court, which is why arbitration is getting increasingly popular. Moreover, parties to a dispute often want their case to be settled at a private setting to keep things confidential.

While it is true that arbitration is viewed as a secure option, there is no guarantee that it is less expensive than court proceedings. This frequent

According to section 7 of the Arbitration Act 2001, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the costs of an arbitration shall be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal. It also states that the Arbitral Tribunal shall specify the party entitled to costs, the party who shall pay the costs, the amount of costs or method determining that amount and the manner in which the costs shall be paid.

assumption of ‘low cost’ is what gives arbitration its leverage over traditional court litigation. Surprisingly no research or study has been conducted to support this assumption.

According to section 7 of the Arbitration Act 2001, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the costs of an arbitration shall be fixed by the Arbitral Tribunal. It also states that the Arbitral Tribunal shall specify the party entitled to costs, the party who shall pay the costs, the amount of costs or method determining that amount and the manner in which the costs shall be paid.

The Arbitration Act does not specify any particular range or standard of the costs but mentions ‘reasonable costs’ relating to the fees and expenses of the “arbitrators and witnesses, legal fees and expenses, any administration fees of the institution supervising the arbitration and any other expenses incurred in connection with the arbitral proceedings and the arbitral award.”

In reality, the provision on ‘reasonable costs’ leaves room for arbitrators to set their own standards in terms of fees. The fees’ range largely depends on the valuation of the dispute but sometimes it goes ridiculously beyond the reach of the parties.

Arbitrators have the liberty to claim fees as per their own standard per sitting or sometimes even charge by the hour. While our traditional law practice does not allow billable hours, arbitrators take this opportunity to set hourly rates for their professional time, be it hearing the parties or for a simple task such as going

through a document. For example, in any typical arbitration proceeding consisting of two arbitrators and one Chairman, the standard fees can go up to BDT 15 lacs per arbitrator with the Chairman’s remuneration alone sometimes standing at BDT 25 lacs for an average of ten days’ sitting. This is farcical in comparison to an average civil suit filing cost that ranges from 20,000tk to 1,00,000 BDT. On many occasions, parties who agreed to arbitration earlier are compelled to back out due to not having enough funds.

It can be argued that the costs related to traditional litigation is no less than arbitration. The only difference is that in litigation, costs paid here and there sum up to just the same amount as arbitration but unlike the latter, it is evenly divided in instalments over a period of several years. The idea of having to pay large chunks of money within short intervals is what makes arbitration look expensive. However, that largely varies from one case to another.

A simple issue regarding fees should not undermine its capabilities and preclude litigants from reaping its benefits. With the above problem being addressed, the benefits of arbitration can never be underestimated. This ambitious mechanism still has the potential to get back its lost glory with regulating the standard of fees, training of arbitrators, setting standard rules of procedure, drafting clauses, and disposing of cases in an expeditious manner.

The writer is an Advocate, Dhaka Judge Court.

Mominul positive about Dhaka Test

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Batters getting some big runs led to Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque being positive about the upcoming second Test in Dhaka, slated to begin from May 23.

Opener Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudul Hasan Joy set the tone with a fine opening partnership in Bangladesh's only batting innings in the first Test in Chattogram after the bowlers did a solid job to wrap up Sri Lanka's innings under the 400-run mark.

Tamim's 133 was complemented by Joy before Mushfiquir Rahim and Liton Das took charge of the innings. Bangladesh were also able to exert pressure on the fifth day by picking up wickets, but it was not enough to bring a result.

"If we could have taken wickets in the middle part [today], the result could have been different. Since the batters got runs, everyone played as a unit. When we play as a team, we get results. That will certainly be of use in Dhaka," Mominul said at the press conference.

Bangladesh's pacers did not get among the wickets and the loss of Shoriful to injury will hurt the Tigers going into the second Test. Mominul rued the fact that pacers did not always zone in on a good line and length.

"I think the pace bowlers could have bowled better. We have expectations from them and I feel they could have bowled better in the first innings," he said. "Shoriful was not there in the first innings but I would have been pleased if Khaled [Ahmed] had bowled a better length because that would have been good," he added.

Spinners getting wickets was a positive for Bangladesh, considering that the Mirpur wicket is likely to be even more conducive to spin.

"The wicket in Dhaka is a bit faster and turns in sharply. I think we will be able to adjust," he concluded.



Bangladesh left-arm spinner Taijul Islam celebrates one of his four wickets with spinner Nayeem Hasan, who received the most valuable player award for his six for 105 in the first innings, during final day's play of the Chattogram Test. [Inset] Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiquir Rahim, who ended their run droughts with hundreds, discuss something during a drinks break as Sri Lankan batters showed stubbornness to share the honours at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Neither team wanted to force a result

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The first Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka ended in a draw, as expected due to the nature of the wicket, a flat surface which showed little wear and tear over the course of five days.

The players shook hands after the minimum number of overs that were required to be bowled on the day before the match could be called a draw was completed. Skipper Mominul Haque and his Lankan counterpart Dimuth Karunaratne appeared to be content after the match. Neither side had risked enough on a batting friendly pitch because of the how the match progressed over the first four days.

Four wickets fell on the first day, seven on the second, three on the third. The highest number of wickets then fell on the fourth day, when Bangladesh lost their seven remaining first-innings wickets before Sri Lanka lost two before the close of play. That gave Bangladesh some hope of getting more than a draw from the Test match and the morning session induced some excitement yesterday.

Resuming the day on 39 for two, Sri Lanka's intent was clear. The visitors wanted to throw Bangladesh off their game.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne looked

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh Vs Sri Lanka (DAY 5)

SRI LANKA: First Innings -- 397 all out & Second Innings -- 260 for 6 in 90.1 overs declared (Karunaratne 52, Mendis 48; Taijul 4-82, Shakib 1-58)

BANGLADESH: First Innings -- 465 all out in 170.1 overs.

Result: Match Drawn

Player-of-the-match: Angelo Mathews

solid while Kusal Mendis started putting pressure back on Bangladesh. Mendis in particular scored at a fast rate and it appeared that Sri Lanka would look to put pressure by putting Bangladesh in to bat on the final session of the day.

It was Taijul Islam who brought Bangladesh a chance at making a game out of it. Bowling in tandem with Shakib Al Hasan, he scalped three more wickets, including Mendis's with a near unplayable delivery. Shakib bagged one too, albeit with a long hop, but it reduced Sri Lanka

to 161 for six.

The pair kept creating chances, but on the last day and with a little bit of luck, Dinesh Chandimal and Niroshan Dickwella held on. In the absence of Shoriful Islam, out of the rest of the series following a fracture in his right hand, Bangladesh just could not create the necessary pressure.

"We tried to do something different and put them under pressure, but we played some poor shots and then we had to change tactics. We unfortunately couldn't put pressure on Bangladesh on the last day," Karunaratne said at presentations ceremony.

Later at press conference, Dhananjaya de Silva said his side were happy with the draw. "Definitely it was going to be a draw. We knew that on the first day when they were batting," he added.

Tamim Iqbal had batted positively during his 133-run knock, but Bangladesh, while looking good, lost wickets and did not up the tempo on the fourth day with the bat. It was clear Mominul did not feel comfortable going for the kill much earlier on Day Four by batting with more intent.

"If you get too excited on this wicket, you can lose wickets. If Liton [Das] didn't get out, we could have taken a chance," he said at the press conference after Bangladesh put pressure on Lankans on the final day, leaving it too late.

'Bangladesh made us work really hard'

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the initial pressure from Bangladesh, Dinesh Chandimal and Niroshan Dickwella dug deep to eventually draw the first Test of the two-match series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Dickwella remained unbeaten on 61 and Chandimal was not out on 31 runs as the pair frustrated the Bangladeshi bowlers after being reduced to 161 for 6 and showed great patience to negotiate the spinners.

"It was a batting-friendly wicket, but Bangladesh made us work really hard. Credit should go to them, they didn't give us any freebies and made us work for our runs," player-of-the-match Matthews said during the post-match presentation ceremony yesterday.

It was Matthews who struck a magnificent hundred in the first innings as the right-hander became the 12th batter in Test cricket to be dismissed on 199 runs. He fell at the bowling of Nayeem Hasan as Sri Lanka posted 397 in the first innings.

According to the 34-year-old, it was disappointing to miss out on the double hundred and said that he just wanted to take that single and go off the strike.

"Yeah it was disappointing, but once again it's cricket and you got to take what God gives you. I just wanted to get one run and get off strike," Mathews said.



Miraz, Shoriful ruled out of 2nd Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehedi Hasan Miraz is unavailable for the second Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, scheduled to be held in Mirpur, after the all-rounder missed out on the first Test following a finger injury while left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam also faces the same fate as the selectors announced the 16-member squad yesterday.

Shoriful fractured his right hand during the fourth day of the first Test in Chittagong and it was revealed that the 20-year-old was ruled out of the second Test, slated for May 23. The selectors, however, did not include any replacement of Shoriful for the upcoming Test, considering the hosts have four seamers in Ebadot Hossain, Khaled Ahmed, Rejaur Rahman and Shohidul Islam in the squad.

Off-spinner Miraz injured his right hand's index finger during the Dhaka Premier League game on April 24, following which he was prescribed to rest for two weeks but the cricketer is yet to recover from the injury.

Shoriful was deemed unfit to play for the next four to five week and that likely puts him, alongside another injured pacer Taskin Ahmed, out of the Test series in West Indies, where pace-friendly surfaces will be in store.

Bangladesh are likely to play the first Test in Antigua on June 16 before playing the second Test in St. Lucia from June 24.

Women referees officiate WC finals

AFP, Lausanne

For the first time ever there will be women referees at a men's World Cup finals after FIFA revealed the list for the quadrennial showpiece being hosted later this year by Qatar.

France's Stephanie Frappart, Salima Mukansanga from Rwanda and Japan's Yoshimi Yamashita are among the 36 match referees.

Brazil's Neuza Back, Mexico's Karen Diaz Medina and American Kathryn Nesbitt have been included in the 69 assistant referees.

"We are very happy that ... we have been able to call up female match officials for the first time in the history of a FIFA World Cup," said FIFA Referees Committee chairman Pierluigi Collina.

"This concludes a long process that began several years ago with the deployment of female referees at FIFA men's junior and senior tournaments.

"In this way, we clearly emphasise that it is quality that counts for us and not gender. I would hope that in the future, the selection of elite women's match officials for important men's competitions will be perceived as something normal and no longer as sensational."

All match officials for the finals will participate in early summer in seminars in Asuncion, Madrid and Doha.



Frankfurt win first European trophy in 42 years

AGENCIES

Eintracht Frankfurt won the Europa League final after holding their nerve to beat Rangers 5-4 in a clinical penalty shootout as they claimed their first European trophy in 42 years.

Eintracht keeper Kevin Trapp saved Aaron Ramsey's spot kick -- Rangers' fourth -- while Eintracht were flawless in their execution, scoring all five after the game had finished 1-1 after 120 minutes.

Joe Aribo had struck against the run of play in the 57th minute to give Rangers the lead, charging clear after a string of defensive errors and sliding the ball past Trapp.

The Germans, unbeaten in the competition going into the final and eyeing their first European title since 1980, bounced back as Rafael Borre snuck in between two defenders to turn in a Filip Kostic cross in the 70th.

"There is not just one hero. We are all heroes," Trapp said. "It's one of the most beautiful moments of my career. We couldn't have done it without the



crowd's support," he added.

Thousands of Frankfurt fans created a sea of white shirts at the Estadio Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, which along with the blue-clad Rangers half of the ground created a febrile atmosphere.

"We played 13 matches in Europe and we did not lose a single one," said Eintracht coach Oliver Glasner. "We took it step by step and at the end we were rewarded. I have no words to express what I feel for the players," added the Austrian, whose side

will now compete in next season's Champions League despite finishing in 11th place in the Bundesliga.

Frankfurt are the first Bundesliga team to win the Europa League, or its predecessor the UEFA Cup, since 1997, when Schalke beat Inter Milan on penalties.

They stand to collect around 60 million euros (\$63 million) in prize money and bonuses from both competitions, but club president Peter Fischer insisted he would not be blowing the money on signings.

"Just because we have qualified for the Champions League, we will not tear up all our loans and simply buy," he said.

The money will help bridge losses of 70 million euros that the club suffered from often having to play in empty stadiums during the pandemic.

"Of course, the financial income is extremely good for us after two years of the coronavirus. That will really help us for the future," said sports director Markus Kroesche.



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TK 44CR LAUNDERING

Another case filed against PK Halder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed another case, accusing PK Halder and 11 others of laundering Tk 44 crore.

The other accused include Shib Prashad Banarjee and Papia Banarjee, who were the managing director and director of Deya Shipping, which existed only on papers, and the former chairman and directors of FAS Finance.

PK Halder, the former managing director of NRB Global Bank, faces 35 cases over allegations of money laundering.

Yesterday's case was filed after an ACC enquiry found that the accused individuals managed to secure a loan of Tk 44 crore for Deya Shipping and laundered the money in 2014.

ACC Assistant Director
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Three oriental darters spotted at the Chorol Beel in Chapainawabganj's Gomostapur upazila. This bird, which catches fish from under water with its pointed bill, is found at a few places in the country. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

START OF HAJJ FLIGHT

Govt likely to miss May 31 deadline

RASHIDUL HASAN

The government is likely to miss the May 31 deadline for starting hajj flight as many hajj-related activities are yet to be completed with the hajj only one and a half months away.

The largest annual congregation of the Muslims may be held on July 8, subject to sighting of the moon.

Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, a platform of around 1,500 private hajj agencies, said it is certain that the scheduled date for commencing the hajj flight would be missed as all procedures in this regard have not been finished yet.

Haab President Shahadat Hossain Taslim recently sent a letter to the religious affairs ministry asking it to start the flight from June 10.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, he said the Saudi Arabian government was yet to finalise the slots for the hajj flights.

Haab said smooth hajj management would be a very challenging task this year.

"Hajj management is a massive work. Previously, the work used to begin seven to eight months before the hajj. Many tasks relating to this management are yet to be done this year although we have a few days left," Shahadat said.

For example, he said, the hajj agencies will have to hire monazem (representative of a hajj agency who coordinates all tasks of hajj in Saudi Arabia), rent homes or hotels for pilgrims, send money for this purpose, and pay moallem (guide) fees.

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SYLHET, SUNAMGANJ

Troubles mount as more areas flooded

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

As the Surma and the Kushiara keep rising, more and more areas of Sylhet and Sunamganj are going under water every day and large number of flood victims suffering from scarcity of food and drinking water.

Around 20 lakh people have been affected by the flash floods in the two districts. Thousands of them along with their cattle have taken refuge at 110 shelter centres in the last one week, said officials.

The Sylhet district administration has kept 231 more shelter centres ready. In Sunamganj, the number is 60.

At least four people died either from drowning in flood water or in landslides at hillocks in the last seven days. Besides, 96 people caught waterborne diseases during the same period, said sources at the Sylhet civil surgeon's office.

Police said three children were killed and eight other people injured by lightning strikes in Sundarpahari village of Sunamganj's Tahirpur

upazila yesterday while they were harvesting peanut in a field submerged in flood water.

According to officials, all 13 upazilas of Sylhet and five out of 11 in Sunamganj have so far been hit by flash floods due to onrush of water from upstream and torrential rains. As many as 873 educational institutions have been shut in the two districts.

Road communications have collapsed in about one-third area of the Sylhet city. Road links between Sylhet city and Gowainghat upazila remain snapped for six days.

Road communications between Chhatak and Dowarabazar upazilas of Sunamganj were cut yesterday.

Around 1.5 lakh families in Sylhet and Sunamganj have been without power since Tuesday.

Nizam Uddin, a resident of Purba Jallong area in Gowainghat upazila, said, "My house has collapsed and the Aush saplings have been damaged. I wonder how I will get back to normal life after the flooding is over."

Habiba Begum of Tukergaon

village in Sylhet said, "We are facing an acute shortage of food and drinking water. As flood water entered our house, I took shelter at a nearby home with my three children. I don't know when I will be able to return to my home."

The overall flood situation worsened in Sylhet in 24 hours preceding 3:00pm yesterday.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, the Surma was flowing 47cm above the danger level at Sylhet city and 21cm above at Sunamganj town at 3:00pm yesterday, up by 5cm and 13cm respectively in 24 hours.

The Kushiara was flowing 175cm above the danger level at Amolshid in Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila at 3:00pm yesterday and 57cm above at Sheola point in the district's Beanibazar upazila, up by 17cm at Amolshid 24 hours ago. The water level remained unchanged at Sheola in the same period.

However, the Surma was flowing 110cm above the danger level at Kanaighat of Sylhet at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Find ways to ease economic pressure

PM directs finance, commerce ministries, BB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the finance and commerce ministries and Bangladesh Bank to find ways to deal with the economic pressure caused by the Russia-Ukraine war and Covid pandemic.

After a cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told reporters that Bangladesh Bank was asked to find ways to control the volatile dollar market.

Speaking on the unscheduled agenda of the meeting, the PM instructed the ministries of commerce and finance to come up with a comprehensive plan within two or three days to address the price hike, the cabinet secretary said when asked whether the rising prices of essentials were discussed.

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26.5pc people suffer from obesity

Says health directorate report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 26.5 percent of the country's population suffer from obesity while 13 percent from hypertension and seven percent from diabetes, find multiple studies by the health directorate.

Alarming, around 68 percent people with high blood pressure are asymptomatic while 61 percent diabetic patients are asymptomatic, researchers said while disclosing the findings at the Annual Research Dissemination Programme-2022 at a hotel in the capital.

Of all the eight divisions, Rangpur has the highest 33.7 percent obese people, followed by around 32 percent in Dhaka.

Khulna division has the lowest 14 percent obese people while Chattogram has 29 percent, Rajshahi 26.7 percent, Sylhet 23 percent, Barishal 19.5 percent and Mymensingh 16.1 percent.

The non-communicable disease control wing of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) conducted the 12 studies last year.

Funded by the DGHS, the studies were carried out based on patients' data collected from different upazila health complexes, hospitals and analyses of related studies conducted earlier.

Researchers from different health organisations, including the icddr, Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, National Institute of Mental Health, and National Heart Foundation, conducted the studies,

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ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

Fuel shortage set to ease

Says central bank governor after securing foreign exchange

AGENCIES

Sri Lanka's central bank has secured foreign exchange to pay for fuel and cooking gas shipments that will ease crippling shortages, its governor said yesterday, but police fired tear gas and water canon to push back student protesters.

Most of Sri Lanka's petrol stations have run dry as the island nation battles its most devastating economic crisis since independence in 1948. At some pumps in the commercial capital, Colombo, dozens of people stood in lines holding plastic jerry cans, as troops in combat gear and armed with assault rifles patrolled the streets. Traffic was extremely light.

Residents said most people were staying at home because of the lack of transport.

Hundreds of students carrying black flags marched on Colombo's central Fort area, chanting slogans against the government, according to a Reuters witness.

Central bank Governor P Nandalal Weerasinghe told a news conference adequate dollars had been released to pay for fuel and cooking gas shipments, utilising in part \$130 million received from the World Bank and remittances from Sri Lankans working overseas.



Bangladesh players appear relaxed during a drinks break on the final day of their first Test against Sri Lanka, which ended in a draw at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. Read more on page 11.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PM's remark on Khaleda tantamount to 'death threat'

Says BNP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The BNP yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remark about pushing the party's Chairperson Khaleda Zia into the river from the Padma bridge was tantamount to a "death threat".

"I was surprised by the prime minister's statement on the Padma bridge involving our leader [Khaleda]. Being a prime minister of a country, no matter how she comes to power, [she] can't make such a comment," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, BNP secretary general, said while addressing a meeting of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal at the BNP office in

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