



**P7** Biden vows to defend Taiwan



**P10** Furryghor: Where your pets feel at home



**P11** City crave Champions League legacy



**B1** Old-age allowances 'inadequate'

## CURBING PRICE MANIPULATION

# Mechanism there for 11 yrs but not in use

MOHAMMAD SUMAN and SUKANTA HALDER

More than 11 years ago, the government issued an order for the trade of essential commodities, aimed at controlling their prices and curbing price manipulation by unscrupulous businesses through hoarding and other unfair means.

But the "Essential Commodities Distribution and Distributor Recruitment Order, 2011" remains only on paper due to apathy of the authorities concerned and non-compliance by importers and producers.

The commerce ministry issued it on March 16, 2011, under the

**Consumer rights campaigners say the government has failed to tackle the recent edible oil crisis for not having any list of distributors and supply data of importers and refiners.**



"Control of Essential Commodities Act, 1956".

Dishonest businesspeople have been taking advantage of its nonenforcement, manipulating the supply of essential items to raise prices on different occasions.

The recent price hike of edible oil is a glaring example as traders created an artificial crisis to make a fast buck, putting the consumers in distress.

Consumer rights campaigners say the government has failed to tackle the recent edible oil crisis for not having any list of distributors and supply data of importers and refiners as prescribed in the order.

They also say that had the order been implemented, those responsible for the artificial crisis could have been identified and punished.

According to the order, importers or producers of essentials will designate one or more distributors in every upazila, city corporation and district and send their lists to a national committee.

It also states that importers or producers will send information on monthly supply of the products to the committee through fax, email or post.

Besides, the millers will issue SO (supply order) to their designated dealers, mentioning the prices and quantities of the items. The non-transferable SO will be valid for 15 days, the order says.

The national committee, headed by the secretary of the commerce ministry, will collect data from field levels -- upazilas and districts -- and sit at least once every month to assess the stock, supply, sale and price situation of essentials and act accordingly to ensure the availability of the goods in the market.

The committee is comprised of representatives of government and trade bodies, including the director general of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP), and presidents of the refinery owners' association, distributors' association, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

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Toxic liquid waste is being discharged into the Dhaleshwari by factories in the BSCIC Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar's Hemayetpur. The pollution of the river has led to an alarming decline in fish population. The arable land in nearby areas is also losing fertility. A parliamentary body has recommended closure of the estate. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## TACKLING IMPACT OF PANDEMIC, WAR

# Act fast, act in unison

PM suggests 5 steps for ESCAP to help developing nations, seeks int'l support for Rohingya repatriation

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday put forward five proposals to strengthen regional cooperation against the backdrop of the pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war.

"I would like to propose [five] steps that ESCAP may take into account as the Russia-Ukraine war must be stopped immediately and joint actions are needed to tackle the situation," she said.

Hasina said this in a video message broadcast in the 78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the UN, reports BSS.

She requested more pragmatic international support measures for countries graduating.

The PM said regional financial cooperation

should be enhanced to improve regional crisis management capacity.

Hasina also advocated for taking action-oriented steps to facilitate collaboration in pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

She said ESCAP member states should be assisted in getting united to pursue sufficient allocation of funds and technology for climate change victim countries.

The PM proposed leveraging ICT for employment generation and growth of IT and its enabled services to cope with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

She reiterated her call to the international community to do much more to ensure safe, sustainable and dignified return of over one million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh, adds UNB.

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# Taka weakens further

High imports, poor supply of dollar blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The taka yesterday weakened further against the US dollar amid the falling supply of the greenback due to surging imports.

The latest devaluation came when Bangladesh Bank depreciated the inter-bank exchange rate by Tk 0.40 or 0.45 percent to Tk 87.90 per USD.

The central bank has so far depreciated the taka six times this year.

As the shortage of the greenback has already created an instability in the forex market, the central bank has been trying to bring back discipline by depreciating the local currency, a BB official said.

The banking regulator has also increased the BC (bills for collection) selling rate by Tk 0.40 to Tk 88 a dollar and banks are supposed to follow it while selling dollars to the importers.

But banks are still charging importers more than Tk 95 for a US dollar and Tk 98 for travelers in the open market, said an official of a commercial bank, wishing anonymity, yesterday afternoon.

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# Mushy, Liton script epic turnaround

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a disastrous start from Bangladesh that saw them reeling on 24 for five in the first hour of the second Test against Sri Lanka, the hosts staged an outstanding comeback courtesy of a record-breaking unbeaten partnership between Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das. At the close of play on the first day, the Tigers had reached 277 for five at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Mushfiqur struck his second consecutive century of the series, his ninth Test ton, and remained unbeaten on 115 off 252 balls while Liton continued his sublime form, smashing his third Test hundred and remaining unbeaten on 135 off 221 deliveries.

It was undoubtedly one of Bangladesh's greatest comebacks, especially given the nightmarish start after Mominul Haque elected to bat.

The Lankans came out all guns blazing in the morning session, annihilating Bangladesh's top order with a fine spell of new-ball bowling from Kasun Rajitha and Asitha Fernando. The Tigers lost five wickets for 24 runs, including the prized

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**Mushfiqur Rahim (R) embraces Liton Das after the latter reached his century on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The former, too, got to three-figure mark later as Bangladesh went from 24 for five to 277 for five at the end of the day.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# E-COMMERCE SCAMS Find out those responsible: HC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday ordered finding out the persons and institutions responsible for the financial scams and money laundering through e-commerce platforms.

The authorities concerned of the government and Anti-Corruption Commission have been asked to submit separate compliance reports as early as possible after assessing the amount of misappropriated money.

The court passed the order after examining a compliance report from Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), which has found evidence of fraudulence, suspicious financial transactions and money laundering by eight e-commerce platforms.

The eight firms are Dalal Plus, Bangladesh Deal, Amar Bazar Limited, 24 TKT Limited, Daraz Bangladesh Limited, Anonder Bazar Limited, Sohoj Life, and Aladiner Pradeep.Com, which have transacted Tk 859 crore between 2018 and 2021.

The BFIU, which is responsible for enquiring suspicious transactions, sent its findings to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further probe and legal action.

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## TAQI MURDER CASE 5 accused show up in court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Five accused in the Narayanganj teenage boy Tanwir Muhammad Taqi murder case were present during the hearing at a local court yesterday.

They are: Rifat Bin Osman, Sultan Shawkat alias Bhromor, Youstuf Hossain Liton, Saleh Rahman Shimanto and Tayebuddin Ahmed Jacky.

Narayanganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Kawsar Alam set June 19 for the next hearing in the case, Court police Inspector Asaduzzaman told this paper.

The case is still under probe, he added.

The Rab is investigating the case.

Nine years have passed after the murder, but the charge sheet in the case is yet to be submitted.

The five accused, who were arrested earlier, are now on bail. Eight more accused are still on the run.

Prosecution lawyer Prodip Ghosh Babu said the court ordered the investigation officer to submit the charge sheet soon.

On March 6, 2013, 17-year-old Taqi went missing soon after he left home on

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Smoke rises from an oil refinery after an attack outside the city of Lysychansk in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas, Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Haji Salim taken to BSMMU from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmaker Haji Md Salim was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday, a day after he was sent to jail in a corruption case.

"He was taken to hospital for treatment," Brig Gen ASM Anisul Haque, inspector general of prisons, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Jail officials said Haji Salim was suffering from different health complications, including heart disease and was taken to BSMMU by an ambulance as per court directives.

Salim, who was sentenced for 10 years in a corruption case filed in 2008, surrendered before a Dhaka court on Sunday afternoon and sought bail.

Rejecting his bail petition, the court sent him to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

It, however, directed the authorities concerned to provide Salim with the first class division and better treatment in jail, following two separate petitions submitted by the defence.

Brig Gen Md Nazrul Islam Khan, director of BSMMU, said Salim was admitted to the hospital around 10:30am with cardiac problem.

"We would conduct some evaluation tests on his condition and then identify the problem."

# Send us weapons, stop Russia trade

### Zelensky tells Davos as Ukraine holds off latest assault in east; Russian soldier handed life sentence for war crimes

AGENCIES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky used the Davos summit to appeal for more weapons and "maximum" sanctions against Russia, lamenting that tens of thousands of lives would have been saved had countries acted faster.

Appearing by video link yesterday, Zelensky delivered the headline speech to the first World Economic Forum (WEF) to be held in the Swiss Alps in more than two years after the Covid pandemic derailed the event.

"The conflict shows that support to the country under attack is more valuable the sooner it is provided: weapons, funding, political support and sanctions against Russia," said Zelensky, who received a standing ovation.

"If we would have received them by 100 percent of ours needs at once back in February, the result would have been tens of thousands of lives saved," said Zelensky, flanked by Ukrainian flags and wearing an olive-green T-shirt.

"This is why Ukraine needs all the weapons that we ask for, not just the ones that have been provided," he said, adding that 87 people were killed in a May 17 Russian strike on a military base in northern Ukraine.

Zelensky called for an oil embargo on Russia, punitive measures against all its banks and the shunning of its IT sector, adding that all foreign companies should leave the country.

"There should not be any trade with Russia," he told the gathering. "I believe there are still no such sanctions against Russia -- and there should be."

While the United States, Britain and Canada have moved to ban Russian oil and gas, the European Union has been divided over imposing similar measures, reports AFP.

In the latest fighting at the battlefield, Ukraine said yesterday it had held off a Russian assault on Sievierodonetsk, an eastern city that has become the main target of Moscow's offensive since it finally

seized Mariupol last week.

Russian forces tried to storm Sievierodonetsk but were unsuccessful and retreated, Zelensky's office said.

In Kyiv, a court handed down a life prison sentence on a Russian soldier who had pleaded guilty to killing a Ukrainian civilian at the first war crimes trial of the conflict. The Kremlin complained that it was not permitted to defend its citizen.

In Mariupol, where hundreds of Ukrainian fighters finally laid down their arms last week after a nearly three-month siege, Russian mine-clearing teams were combing through the ruins of the giant Azovstal steel plant, reports Reuters.

Ukraine has been trying to secure a prisoner swap for fighters who surrendered at the steel plant last week. The leader of pro-Russian separatists in control of the area said they would be tried by a tribunal, but a Russian deputy foreign minister was quoted as saying Moscow could discuss a swap.

## Moscow offers to sell crude oil to Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Russia has offered to sell crude oil to Bangladesh amid reducing demand from European countries. "Russia offered to sell fuel [to Bangladesh], especially crude oil," Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources told reporters at the capital's Bidyut Bhaban yesterday.

"We are reviewing if we really need the fuel from them."

During the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, the USA and Britain banned import of oil from Russia, one of the top fuel exporters in the world. The European Union has also announced plans to ban Russian oil.

In the meantime, some countries including China and India have started importing Russian oil at lower prices, according to reports in international media.

Nasrul Hamid also said, "We want to keep fuel prices stable. We don't want to raise or decrease the price. Although the oil price has dropped in global market, it is not enough to adjust the price."

He also stressed on introducing electric vehicles as public transport to decrease demand on fuel.

## OC Pradeep's wife sent to jail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chumki Karan, wife of former Teknaf Police Station OC Pradeep Kumar Das, yesterday surrendered before a court of Chattogram in connection with a case lodged by the ACC over accumulating Tk 3.95 crore illegally.

Chumki, who has been absconding since the case was filed in August 2020, sought bail, but the court rejected her plea and sent her to jail.

The court of Chattogram Special Judge Munsif Abdul Majid also recorded the deposition of ACC Assistant Director Riaz Uddin, investigation officer of the case, in presence of Chumki, ACC lawyer Mahmudul Hasan told this newspaper.

With Riaz, the court has so far recorded statements of 24 witnesses in the case, he added.

The court also set May 29 for the defence hearing.

## 15 injured in AL infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least 15 people were injured in Awami League infighting in Munshiganj Sadar upazila early yesterday. Seven of them suffered bullet injuries.

Locals said supporters of Mollakandi UP Chairman Ripon Patwari and former UP chairman Mohsina Haque Kalpana clashed over establishing dominance in the area.

Ripon is also the Joint General Secretary of Sadar upazila unit AL and Kalpana is the unit's Women's Affairs Secretary.

The bullet-wounded were treated at Munshiganj General Hospital, and three of them were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Mechanism there for 11 yrs but not in use

FROM PAGE 1

However, every stakeholder disregards the order, which was issued following the volatility in edible oil and sugar markets in the country in 2008-09.

The millers don't mention the prices of items in the SO and also avoid providing lists of distributors and data on monthly supply.

The national committee, on the other hand, has not taken any measures to enforce the order; it rarely meets to assess the market situation.

Asked why the order has not been implemented in more than 11 years, AHM Safiquzzaman, additional secretary at the commerce ministry, said, "I don't know ... But we are now implementing the law [order]."

He said they found irregularities such as millers not mentioning prices and expiry dates in SO slips.

Besides, a broker was found collecting oil from a mill gate against an SO, which was issued one and a half years ago though the validity of an SO is only 15 days.

According to the rules, only a dealer, not a broker, is entitled to get an SO which is not transferrable.

Through such manipulations, the price of edible oil was hiked artificially several times before it reached the market from the mill gate, he said.

Shafiquzzaman, also DG of DNCRP, said the order is meant for all essential commodities, including edible oil, sugar, wheat, rice

and onion.

"The order has not been followed for any of the essentials. We, however, started following it recently for edible oil and wheat to overcome the crisis."

Following the edible oil crisis, a similar situation was created in the wheat market, he told this newspaper.

"We are collecting information on the wheat crisis from the field level and if any irregularities are found, those will be dealt with in line with the order."

SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of Consumers' Association Bangladesh, said, the order must be implemented to control prices of essentials.

"The millers must provide information as prescribed in the order. The administration should regularly monitor it and bring the violators to book. Otherwise, it will not be possible to control the prices of essentials."

DCCI President Rizwan Rahman said, "The 2011 order has not played any significant role in controlling the market and price shocks or in easing the sufferings of the end-users as the national committee for market monitoring hardly meets."

Monjur Mohammad Shariar, director of DNCRP, said they didn't have any list of dealers before the Eid when the edible oil crisis was at its peak.

"After the Eid vacation, we collected a list of dealers from the edible oil companies and sent it to the offices of deputy commissioners across the country. Now no one

can hide information and create an artificial crisis ...," he claimed.

Md Shafiqul Ather Taslim, director for finance and operations of TK Group, leading importer of edible oil, said the current pricing system of essentials is unsustainable.

"I don't know if any other country in the world sets commodity prices the way the government in Bangladesh does," he told The Daily Star.

"Letters of credit (LCs) are opened almost every week to bring in products ... But if the price is adjusted after three months, how will it be possible to do business?"

According to the 2011 order, manufacturers, refineries and importers will fix the prices of essentials, but they need to submit to the government the proposal for price change 15 days before it takes effect, subject to government approval.

Talking to this newspaper, Taslim Shahriar, senior assistant general manager of the Meghna Group of Industries, said, "Nothing in our business is outside the law."

"We have kept a steady supply of edible oil in the market. But some dealers may have created a crisis by not delivering the products, which is a bad practice."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Competition Commission sued eight edible oil firms on May 12 for manipulating supply and local production of the essential cooking ingredient.

The move came more than a month after the

DNCRP found that the edible oil refiners and importers reduced supply in the market in March to increase prices through an artificial shortage.

Section 6 of the Control of Essential Commodities Act, 1956, says violators face up to three years in prison or a fine or both.

## Mushy, Liton

FROM PAGE 1

wickets of Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Mominul, as Bangladesh started the day establishing a few unwanted records

Opens Tamim and Mahmudul Hasan Joy were left without scoring -- the third time that Bangladesh lost both openers for duck in Tests. After Najmul Hossain Shanto and captain Mominul Haque were sent back for single digits, the experienced Shakib was also dismissed for a duck.

Rajitha ended the day with three wickets for 43 runs from 19 overs while Fernando bagged two.

But after that initial barrage from the visitors, it was all Mushfiqur and Liton. The pair took their time and showed great patience in rebuilding the innings, ensuring Bangladesh did not lose anymore wicket in the next two sessions. Eventually, the duo went on to dominate the visitors.

The unbeaten 253-run stand between Mushfiqur and Liton was the highest sixth-wicket stand for the Tigers in Tests and the fifth-highest stand for Bangladesh for any wicket.

## Find out those responsible: HC

FROM PAGE 1

The agency submitted its report during the hearing of three writ petitions, following which the HC issued the order.

The report read that taking money in advance from a customer by an e-commerce institution for supplying products and not delivering the products on time is tantamount to fraudulence.

The e-commerce platforms may have used the customers' money to different sectors or transacted to their personal or business accounts and the money might have been laundered through such transactions, it added.

On April 21, the BFIU submitted another compliance report to the HC, saying it has found evidence of suspicious transactions and money laundering by three e-commerce platforms -- Boom Boom Ltd, Qboom Ltd, and Siraganj Shop.

## Taka weakens further

FROM PAGE 1

He blamed it on the rising import payments for the ongoing volatility in the forex market.

The coronavirus pandemic had initially disrupted the supply chain around the world, which subsequently pushed up the commodity prices in the global market.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has deepened the crisis.

The country's import payments, which were

HC DIRECTIVE AND RULES

Yesterday, the HC asked the government and ACC to identify the persons and institutions whose negligence and failure caused serious financial losses and damage to lakhs of customers of the e-commerce firms so that action can be taken against them.

The court also issued three rules questioning the inaction and failure of the respondents to prevent the financial scams of the e-commerce platforms, monitor their activities and protect the rights of consumers.

In a rule, the HC asked them to explain in four weeks why their inaction and failure to prevent the financial scams of the e-commerce platforms should not be directed illegal and why legal action should not be taken against them.

In another rule, it asked the respondents

to show causes why they should not be directed to compensate the consumers whose money has been misappropriated by the e-commerce platforms.

The court also wanted to know from them why they should not be directed to take necessary steps to protect the rights and interests of the consumers of e-commerce platforms and form an independent regulatory body to oversee the functions of the companies.

Secretaries to the ministries of commerce, finance, information and home; Bangladesh Bank's governor, and officials concerned of ACC, BFIU, Bangladesh Competition Commission and Directorate of National Consumers

Rights Protection have been made respondents to the rules.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Khizir Hayat came up with the order and rules following three

separate writ petitions filed by some Supreme Court lawyers and victim consumers seeking necessary directives on this issue.

Lawyers Mohammad Humayun Kabir Pallob, Mohammad Shishir Manir and Md Anwarul Islam appeared for the petitioners.

Lawyers Shamim Ahmed Khaled, Tapas Kanti Baul and Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the BFIU, the commerce ministry and the state respectively during the hearing of the petitions.

Lawyer Shishir Manir filed a petition on September 23 last year on behalf of 33 consumers of the e-commerce platform e-orange.shop.

In the same month, two other lawyers, Md Anwarul Islam and Humayun Kabir Pallob, filed two other writ petitions as public interest litigations seeking some other directive over the e-commerce scams.

He recommended the BB release more US dollars into the market and implement "a drastic depreciation of the local currency" in order to bring back stability.

The BB should have depreciated the taka gradually over the years, but it did not do so fearing inflation, and that's why a pent-up pressure developed in the market, the noted economist said while giving a lecture organised by The Daily Star at its office in the capital.

A BB official said the central bank might depreciate taka more in the days to come given the demand of the greenback in the market.

Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, on Sunday said there was nothing to panic about the current volatility in the foreign exchange market.

The trade deficit caused a fall in reserves to \$41.92 billion last week from

nearly \$5 billion on July last year, stood at over \$7 billion in March this year.

Between July and March fiscal 2021-22, import payments escalated to \$61.52 billion, up 44 percent year-on-year while exports grew 33 percent to \$36.61 billion. This inflicted the highest ever trade deficit of \$24.90 billion on Bangladesh during the period.



## DHAKA

## Don't harass passengers

State minister for civil aviation tells immigration police, warns of tough action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali yesterday asked the immigration police not to question passengers unnecessarily during immigration at the Dhaka airport.

He also instructed the immigration authorities not to interrogate all passengers.

The junior minister said around 21,000 passengers travel through this airport every day. Only those who need to be questioned should be interrogated.

Mahbub Ali said this while talking to reporters after visiting Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. He also spoke to passengers about the quality of service and their problems.

He said stern actions will be taken against airport officials or employees for their negligence in carrying out their responsibilities and in case of harassing passengers.

He said he has talked to custom officials at the airport to ensure that all passengers' bags are not checked. Only those who are suspected, based on information, will be checked. Only 1 to 2 percent of the passengers will be checked separately.

Mahbub said preparations are ongoing to launch e-gate at the airport soon.

Regarding the ground handling service at the airport, he said the civil aviation ministry has formed a team who will visit the airport three days a week to oversee the

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The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam presents a replica of the first issue of the newspaper to Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming after the envoy paid a courtesy visit to The Daily Star yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Boycott the profiteers'

CAB urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday urged people to boycott fraudsters, hoarders and profiteers.

The association said Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection is not enough to protect consumer rights, so there should be a separate ministry in this regard.

It demanded at least a "consumer rights" division under a ministry.

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh made the demands at a webinar titled "Consumers are victims of profiteering and fraud".

In the keynote speech, CAB vice president SM Nazer Hossain said it has been observed that the number of unethical business people is increasing, and nobody is being able to control them.

"Before festivals like Eid and Puja, we see businesses announcing big sales worldwide, while the situation is reversed here," he said.

"Here, we see traders competing to increase prices of all commodities," he added.

Adulteration is the most dangerous practice among traders, Nazer said.

"We see them adulterating food with chemicals and colours... They increase transport fares, produce fake products with original seals, manipulate weight

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**"We see them adulterating food with chemicals and colours... They increase transport fares, produce fake products with original seals, manipulate weight machines and so on. The consumers don't get justice."**

SM NAZER HOSSAIN  
CAB vice president

PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAY 24



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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Move part of Sadarghat terminal

Taposh asks BIWTA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday requested Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to shift a part of Sadarghat launch terminal, which is now in front of Lalkuthi and Ruplal House, to another location to protect the history and heritage of Dhaka.

The DSCC mayor made the request while delivering his speech at a programme on Lalkuthi premises.

Taposh said the Buriganga and its adjacent historical sites are inaccessible to people due to their occupation by

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Two schoolgirls squeeze through a narrow space on a footpath, which has been occupied by parked rickshaws. Not just the footpath, a part of the road beside it has become a parking spot for the three-wheelers, leaving no room for pedestrians to walk with ease. This photo was taken on Green Road yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Biman to use own planes for hajj flights

Decision may cause disruption on various routes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has decided to operate this year's hajj flights with its own aircraft, scrapping its earlier plan to ferry pilgrims in leased aircraft.

The latest decision of the national flag carrier may cause disruption in its flight operation on various routes, according to Biman sources.

Besides, Biman will also have to reduce the number of flights on different routes, they further said.

According to aviation experts, Biman's plans to operate this year's hajj flights has shown a lack of

**"It's [operating hajj flights] a matter of two months. There will be no major disruption to the scheduled flights. The frequency of flights to Middle Eastern countries will not be reduced."**

MD MAHBUB ALI  
State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism

told reporters that Biman would carry pilgrims via 75 dedicated Boeing-777 trips this year, and the decision has been finalised.

Mahbub Ali said he had asked Biman officials to ensure that passengers who had already booked tickets for Doha, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait routes are not harassed and the flight schedules are not disrupted.

He said four Boeing 777 aircraft of the 21 aircraft in Biman's fleet will be used to operate the hajj flights, like it was done back in 2019.

Biman will also reduce the frequency of scheduled flights, which are less urgent and less profitable, to different destinations, for smooth operation, the state minister for civil aviation and tourism said.

"It's [operating hajj flights] a matter of two months. There will be no major disruption to scheduled flights. The frequency of flights to Middle Eastern countries will not be reduced," he added.

Talking to this correspondent, Biman Managing Director and CEO Dr Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal said it is true that Biman will have to reduce its flight frequency on different routes to accommodate hajj flights.

However, he claimed that this disruption will

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## All cases against Yunus, Grameen Telecom withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All 110 cases filed against Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and his organisation Grameen Telecom have been withdrawn by the organisation's workers and employees, after they reached a settlement over claims of payments.

Advocate Md Yousuf Ali, a lawyer for the workers and employees, told The Daily Star that his clients had filed 104 cases with labour courts and six with the High Court, saying that Tk 437 crore of payments are due.

"As Grameen Telecom's management has agreed to pay the money, all 176 workers and employees have instructed us to withdraw the cases, and accordingly, we have done so," he added.

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## TK 304CR GRAFT CASE

### ACC can quiz 4 NSU trustees at jail gate: court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the Anti-Corruption Commission to interrogate four members of North South University's (NSU) trustee board at the jail gate for one day in a Tk 304 crore money laundering case.

The four accused are MA Kashem, Benajir Ahmed, Rehana Rahman and Mohammed Shajahan.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Farid Ahmed Patwary, also the investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court with a forwarding report.

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## Bangladesh role model for disaster management

State minister tells int'l conference

PINAKI ROY, from Bali, Indonesia

Over the decade, Bangladesh has earned a name as a role model for disaster management despite being one of the most disaster-prone and climate-vulnerable countries.

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in cyclone related disaster mortality, which has fallen from 7 digits to a single digit in the last 50 years, said Enamur Rahman, state minister for Disaster Management and Relief.

He said this in his speech on the preparatory day of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2022, jointly organised by United Nation Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Indonesian government, at Bali International Conference Centre (BICC).

Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture Muhadjir Effendy inaugurated the meeting yesterday morning.

Bangladeshi state minister delivered his

speech in the afternoon on "Addressing the recovery needs of women and girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups".

In the 1970 cyclone, 90 percent of the deceased were women and children. The ratio between women-children and men was 14:1, which has now been reduced to 1:1.

"This is a milestone achievement in terms of minimising the gender gap in disaster management," said Enamur.

Citing a recent study report by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), the minister said 75 percent of risks can be reduced through better preparedness.

Regarding Bangladesh's Covid-19 preparedness, the state minister said the humanitarian response was made with the principle of "no one will be left behind", as per Bangladesh's National Preparedness and Response Plan for Covid-19.

Bangladesh is also updating its disaster preparedness with a National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management 2021.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4





**Achievement of Graduation Degree on Maritime Law**

Major Muniruddin Hassan (Retd) has achieved graduation degree on Maritime Law from the World Maritime University, Malmo, Sweden- one of the well recognised institutions of the world. It took him a span of 08 months period to pass out the written examinations & fundamental assignments. The course comprehensively covered the law of Contract, Tort Law, Sales of goods by Sea Act, Bills of Lading, Charter Party, Maritime Insurance, Conflicts of Law & Forum Shopping, Maritime Law & International Trade. Etc. He is pursuing his studies with WMU to attain LLM degree (Masters) & it is scheduled to be completed by 2023. Presently he is practicing on Logistics disputes in Chattogram Judge's Court as a member of Bangladesh Bar Council. In near future, he desires to take up Admiralty suits. He sincerely expects blessings from all.

**Diseases lurk**

FROM PAGE 12 While the flood situation is improving, many low-lying areas in both Sylhet city and Sunamganj town still remain submerged as the Surma and the Kushiara are flowing above the danger level at some points. According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the Surma was flowing 57cm above the danger level at Sylhet's Kanaighat point around 3:00pm yesterday.

The Kushiara at the same time was flowing 78cm above the danger level at Amolshid in Sylhet's Zakiganj upazila, and 26cm above the danger level at Sheola point in the district's Beanibazar upazila. Yesterday, the Puratan Surma in Sunamganj's Deraipara upazila was flowing at the danger level, while the

Someshwari in Netrokona's Kalmakanda was flowing 16cm above it. The FFWC report, signed by its Executive Engineer Md Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan, yesterday stated that the flood situations in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrokona will further improve in the 24 hours till this morning.

**5 accused**

FROM PAGE 2 Shaista Khan Road for Sudhion Pathagar, a local library.

His A-level results were out on the next day and he achieved the highest marks in the world in physics obtaining 297 out of 300.

In chemistry, he got 294, the highest in the country. His body was found floating in the Shitalakhya on March 8.

**Verdict on Badiul's**

FROM PAGE 5 June 6 or 7, Badiul said. Badiul sought information from Cabinet Division on February 16, in line with the Right to Information Act 2009. The designated official of the division could not provide the information and said that the division has no jurisdiction to provide such information, he added.

Badiul appealed against the decision and the appellate official did not

respond. After that, he lodged a complaint with Information Commission on April 11.

At yesterday's hearing, in presence of Chief Information Commissioner Martuza Ahmed, Badiul presented his arguments, and the Cabinet Division official said if they provide the information, it could "tarnish the image of many, and there might be security issues for them".

**Biman to use**

FROM PAGE 3 4,000 will perform hajj under the government's management, while the rest will be under private hajj agencies, said Kamal.

In 2019, around 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform hajj. However, due to the pandemic, the largest annual Muslim congregation has been held on a limited scale for the last two years.

Biman will carry 28,792 pilgrims on 75 dedicated flights, while the rest will fly by Saudia and Flynas. Of the total pilgrims, 4,000 will perform hajj under the government's management, while the rest will be under private hajj agencies, said Kamal.

**Boycott**

FROM PAGE 3 Alam said, "CAB has the authority to file cases against such irregularities. But it seems that only filing cases are not enough; we have to form a movement."

CAB Senior Vice President Prof M Shamsul

Alam said, "CAB has the authority to file cases against such irregularities. But it seems that only filing cases are not enough; we have to form a movement."

**Maliha Khatun's death anniv**

CITY DESK

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Prof Maliha Khatun, said a press release.



She was an educationist, writer, philanthropist, social worker, recipient of Begum Rokeya Padak and many other awards, and a crusader for women and children rights.

Prof Maliha Khatun touched the lives of many in one lifetime. All are requested to remember her in their prayers.

**All cases against**

FROM PAGE 3 He said the cases filed with the labour court have been withdrawn already.

Yesterday, the High Court granted the appeal of the workers and employees to withdraw the

remaining six cases filed with this court.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar also dismissed a petition filed by the workers and employees, seeking liquidation of the company, after the lawyers for both parties informed the bench about the out-of-court settlement.

Lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan, who appeared for Grameen Telecom, said the organisation's officials and workers have been demanding a part of the company's profits under labour law for 10 to 12 years.

"In last month, the management and employees reached mutual understanding over the claim. Some of the money has already been paid to them. Accordingly, all cases filed against the company and Prof Yunus have been withdrawn," he added.

**Don't harass**

FROM PAGE 3 management. Addressing the officers and employees in charge of ground handling, he said those who are on duty at the airport should arrive at their work 30 minutes before the scheduled time.

"And they will go out from the airport after ending their schedule time so that we can ensure quality service to passengers."

Asked whether he was satisfied with the current situation at the airport, Mahbub Ali said, "I will not say that we are able to manage everything. We also have some limitations. Due to various difficulties, we are not able to provide proper service. We are working on this. We can't say that some mismanagement is not taking place..."

**Bangladesh role**

FROM PAGE 3 Bangladesh has emphasised risk informed and gender-inclusive development in its LDC graduation process, the minister added.

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, regional manager from Shifting the Power Coalition, and Nina Birkeland from Norwegian Refugee Council also spoke in the session, while Dr Rahel Steinbach, Disaster

Risk Reduction, UN Women moderated the session.

Nearly a 100-member delegation, including government officials from relevant ministries, local government representatives, development partners, officials from non-government organisations and volunteers have participated in the conference from Bangladesh.

**Move part**

FROM PAGE 3 government agencies and private encroachers.

The Ruplal House was built on the northern bank of the Buriganga, beside Buckland Dam in 1825. In 1840, it was bought by two merchants -- Ruplal Das

and his brother Raghunath Das -- and reconstructed by Martin Company.

The DSCC mayor also said they will recover the Ruplal House from encroachers and protect it if they get it under their jurisdiction.

**ACC can quiz 4**

FROM PAGE 3 In the report, the IO said all the four, including NSU Board of Trustee Chairperson Azim Uddin Ahmed, were directly involved with the money laundering. They should be interrogated at the jail gate for gathering more information.

Defence lawyers submitted four petitions for providing them with first class division in jail on grounds that they were holding high-profile social status in their respective position.

Upon hearing both the

sides, the judge sent them to jail and allowed the ACC to interrogate them at the jail gate for one day.

The judge also directed jail authorities to provide them with first class division in jail as per Jail Code.

On Sunday, the four were arrested after the HC rejected their anticipatory bail petitions in the case filed by ACC on May 5.

কৃষি সমৃদ্ধি  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
কৃষক পর্যায়ে পৌঁছানো ও রসুন সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি  
আধুনিকায়ন এবং বিপণন কার্যক্রম উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প  
কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর, খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫।  
স্মারক নং-১২.০২.০০০০.৫৪৭.৪৪.০০১.২২-৯৪ তারিখঃ ২৪/০৪/২০২২  
অফিস ভাড়া আবশ্যিক  
উল্লেখিত প্রকল্পের জন্য ১২০০-১৫০০ বর্গফুটের (পার্কিংসহ) অফিস ভাড়া  
আবশ্যিক। অফিসি ফ্ল্যাট/বাড়ির মালিকগণকে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১৪ দিনের মধ্যে  
প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তরে বাড়ি ভাড়ার টাকার পরিমাণসহ বিস্তারিত বিবরণী  
উল্লেখ করে আবেদন দাখিল করার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। প্রয়োজনীয় ফেচেরে  
সরকারি বিধিবিধান অনুসরণপূর্বক চুক্তি সম্পাদন করা হবে।  
(মোঃ হেলাল উদ্দিন)  
প্রকল্প পরিচালক  
ফোন নং-০১৭২২৬৩৩৭৪৭  
জিডি-১০৪৬

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ  
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director  
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project  
Directorate of Technical Education  
F/4-B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Memo No.: 57.03.0000.000.07.011-106 Date: 22/05/2022  
e-Tender Notice: ASSET/2021-22/02  
E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of  
Tender ID No. Package No. Description Last Selling Date & Time Closing Date & Time  
701887 ASSET/G2-A Procurement of Brand Desktop Computer, Laptop Computer, UPS, DSLR Camera etc. 12 June, 2022 5.00 PM 13 June, 2022 2.00 PM  
702263 ASSET/G2-B Procurement of Heavy duty photocopier machine, Monochrome Laser Printer, Ink jet printer, Scanner, Biometric attendance machine, CCTV camera package etc. 12 June, 2022 5.00 PM 13 June, 2022 3.00 PM  
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GD-1040

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কুষ্টিয়া-৭০০৬, বাংলাদেশ  
ফোন: ০২৪৭৭৭৮৬৭১০-১৯, সফক্স: ২২১২, ০২৪৭৭৭৮৬৭১২  
মোবাইল: ০১৭১২-৩৪৭৯১১, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮-০৭১-৭৪৯০৫  
ই-মেইল: tarequekst@gmail.com  
Office of the Chief Engineer  
Islamic University  
Kushtia-7003, Bangladesh  
Phone: 02477786710-19, Ext: 2212, 02477786752  
Mobile: 01712-347911, Fax: 88-071-74905  
e-mail: tarequekst@gmail.com

Memo No: Engr./IU-2022/OTM/28 Date: 22/05/2022  
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Tender Notice No. Engr./IU-2022/OTM/28  
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01 696771 Engr.-off/IU/2021-22/1152/M23-Re Vertical Extension of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> floor on the foundation of 5 storied building for residence (per floor 850sq.ft) 22 May-2022 10.00 06 Jun-2022 14.00 06 Jun-2022 14.00  
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(Munshi Shahid Uddin Md. Tareque)  
Chief Engineer (In charge)  
Islamic University, Kushtia.  
GD-1044

কৃষি গবেষণা  
বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট  
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute  
সংগ্রহ ও ভাণ্ডার শাখা  
গাজীপুর  
কৃষি সমৃদ্ধি  
Office Ph : 49270140, 5360  
E-mail : dd.procure@bari.gov.bd  
younusali.bari@gmail.com  
www.bari.gov.bd  
Date: 18 May 2022  
Memo no: 12.21.0000.021.07.001.22.6314  
e-GP: Tender Notice No. 38 (2021-2022)  
e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods.  
Details are given below:  
Sl No Package no. Tender ID & Ref No. Description of goods Tender documents last selling (Date & Time) Tender closing date & time Tender Opening date & time  
1. PN; 17 699568 & IRN: 001 Elisa kit 05 items 01.06.2022 17:00 02.06.2022 12:00 02.06.2022 12:00  
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Md. Younus Ali  
Deputy Director (In-Charge)  
on behalf of Director General  
GD-1047



**RTI ACT**  
**Verdict on Badiul's appeal early June**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Commission will announce its verdict in early June on Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar's appeal against a government agency's denial of providing information. The commission held a virtual hearing yesterday, after Cabinet Division refused to provide information about who proposed whose names before the search committee, which was formed to recommend people for the roles of chief election commissioner and election commissioner to the president.

After the hearing, the commission said it would announce its verdict on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Protesters occupied port city's Bayezid Bostami Road around 12:30pm yesterday, and blocked the road for nearly an hour. The garment workers said salaries of several months are pending, but the factory's manager denied the claim. PHOTO: COLLECTED

**5 killed in road accidents**

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed in road accidents in Netrakona, Tangail and Faridpur yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Netrakona, two people were killed and 10 injured in a head-on collision between a truck and a bus in Sadar upazila around 5:15am. The deceased are bus driver Sabuj Mia (45) and his helper Sohel Mia (35), said OC Khondakar Shaker Ahmed of Netrakona Model Police Station. The Netrakona-bound truck on Netrakona-Mymensingh road, the OC said. The injured were taken to local hospitals, he added.

A team of Mymensingh police removed the two vehicles from the road around 9:00am, resuming vehicular movement on the route, he said. Police seized the vehicles but the truck driver fled the scene. A case was filed.

In Tangail, two people were killed when a speeding truck hit their bike on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Mirzapur upazila.

The deceased are Yasir Hossain Kanon (20), a college student, and Shahidul Islam (20). SI Billal Hossain of Gorai Highway Police Station said the accident occurred around 9:30am. Yasir died on the spot while Shahidul succumbed to his injuries at a hospital.

In Faridpur, Abul Bashar, a sergeant of Bangladesh Air Force, was killed in a road accident in Sadar upazila around 3:00am. Bashar (34) of Satkhira's Assasuni upazila was recently transferred to Jashore airport from Dhaka headquarters. The accident took place on Dhaka-Khulna highway when he was travelling on a covered-van while shifting his furniture and valuables to Jashore.

OC Kangkan Kumar Biswas of Karimpur Highway Police Outpost said, "We suspect that the covered van, in which Bashar was travelling, hit a truck from behind. We found the covered van's front part damaged and recovered the body from its left seat." The van was seized but its driver fled the scene, he added.

The workers of Anwara Garments Factory blocked Bayezid Bostami Road in front of Atomic Energy Centre around 12:30pm, according to witnesses. Vehicular movement was disrupted in several areas - including Muradpur, GEC and Bayezid - due to the blockade, which continued for nearly an hour, said Santosh Kumar Chakma, officer-in-charge (OC) of Khulshi Police Station.

The workers said their salaries of several months are pending. However, Md Mukhtadir, human resources manager of the factory, claimed that only 15 days' salaries are due. He said they will try to resolve the issue after talking with all the stakeholders. On information, police rushed to the spot and cleared the area.



The damaged front part of a covered-van after it hit a vehicle on Dhaka-Khulna highway around 3:00am, killing an air-force sergeant. PHOTO: COLLECTED

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়  
সড়ক বিভাগ, শরীয়তপুর।  
☎-০৬০১-৬১৪০৬/ই-মেইল  
eesar@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং: ৩৫.০১.৮৬৬৯.৪৬৮.০৭.০০২.২১-৭৯৫  
তারিখ: ২২-০৫-২০২২

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Tender ID No	Package No.	Name of Work/Package Description	Last Selling date & time	Openine date & time	Remarks
701609	e-GP/38/EE/SRD/2021-2022.	Supplying of 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Bricks, Local Sand (F.M. 0.50), Coarse Sand F.M>2.50 (Sylhet Sand), 20mm down well graded Stone Chips (Pakur) & Fire Wood at RHD Stackyard Shariatpur for Maintenance work of Different km of Different Road under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year-2021-2022.	05-06-2022 16:00 AM	06-06-2022 14:00 PM	Only online tender.
701610	e-GP/39/EE/SRD/2021-2022.	Emergency Supplying of 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Bricks, Local Sand (F.M. 0.50), Coarse Sand F.M>2.50 (Sylhet Sand), 20mm down well graded Stone Chips (Pakur) at RHD Stackyard Shariatpur for Maintenance work of Different km of Different Road under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year-2021-2022.	05-06-2022 16:00 AM	06-06-2022 14:30 PM	Only on line tender.
701635	e-GP/40/EE/SRD/2021-2022.	Emergency Supplying of 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Bricks, Local Sand (F.M. 0.50), Coarse Sand F.M>2.50 (Sylhet Sand), 20mm down well graded Stone Chips (Pakur) & Fire Wood at RHD Stackyard Shariatpur for Maintenance work of Different km of Different Road under Shariatpur Road Division during the year-2021-2022.	05-06-2022 16:00AM	06-06-2022 15:00 PM	Only online tender.
701633	e-GP/41/EE/SRD/2021-2022.	Emergency Supplying of 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Bricks, Local Sand (F.M. 0.50), Coarse Sand F.M>2.50 (Sylhet Sand), 20mm down well graded Stone Chips (Pakur) at RHD Stackyard Shariatpur for Maintenance work of Different km of Different Road under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year-2021-2022.	05-06-2022 16:00AM	06-06-2022 15:30 PM	Only online tender.

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**Bhuiya Redwanur Rahman**  
ID No-602254  
Executive Engineer (c.c), RHD  
Road Division, Shariatpur.

GD-1037

**RMG workers block road over arrears**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

Hundreds of ready-made garment workers yesterday staged a demonstration by blocking a road in Chattogram city's Bayezid Bostami area, demanding arrears.

The workers of Anwara Garments Factory blocked Bayezid Bostami Road in front of Atomic Energy Centre around 12:30pm, according to witnesses.

Vehicular movement was disrupted in several areas - including Muradpur, GEC and Bayezid - due to the blockade, which continued for nearly an hour, said Santosh Kumar Chakma, officer-in-charge (OC) of Khulshi Police Station.

The workers said their salaries of several months are pending.

However, Md Mukhtadir, human resources manager of the factory, claimed that only 15 days' salaries are due. He said they will try to resolve the issue after talking with all the stakeholders.

On information, police rushed to the spot and cleared the area.

**আন্তর্জাতিক যাত্রীবাহী ট্রেন চলাচল সংক্রান্ত গণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সম্মানিত যাত্রী সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিশ্বব্যাপী কোভিড-১৯ করোনা ভাইরাসের প্রাদুর্ভাবের কারণে স্থগিতকৃত আন্তর্জাতিক "মৈত্রী এক্সপ্রেস", "বন্ধন এক্সপ্রেস" ও মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক উদ্বোধনকৃত নতুন "মিতালী এক্সপ্রেস" ট্রেনের শুরুর হতে যাচ্ছে।

- ২৯ মে ২০২২ তারিখ হতে ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট - কোলকাতা রুটে "মৈত্রী এক্সপ্রেস" ও কোলকাতা - খুলনা - কোলকাতা রুটে "বন্ধন এক্সপ্রেস" পূর্ব নির্ধারিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী চলাচল করবে।
- ০১ জুন ২০২২ তারিখ হতে "মিতালী এক্সপ্রেস" ট্রেন নিউ জলপাইগুড়ি (ভারত) - ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট (বাংলাদেশ) এর মধ্যে চলাচল করবে। ০২ জুন ২০২২ তারিখ হতে নির্ধারিত সময়ে ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট (বাংলাদেশ) - নিউ জলপাইগুড়ি (ভারত) এর মধ্যে চলাচল শুরু করবে।
- ২৪ মে ২০২২ হতে ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম স্টেশন থেকে "মৈত্রী এক্সপ্রেস" ও "মিতালী এক্সপ্রেস" এবং খুলনা ও যশোর স্টেশন থেকে "বন্ধন এক্সপ্রেস" ট্রেনের টিকিট সকাল ০৮:০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ১৭:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বিক্রয় কার্যক্রম শুরু হবে।
- ভ্রমণের পূর্বে স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয় হতে জারিকৃত কোভিড-১৯ প্রটোকল অনুসরণ করতে হবে। স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েব সাইটে ([healthdeclaration.dghs.gov.bd](http://healthdeclaration.dghs.gov.bd)) প্রদত্ত "Health Declaration Form" আবশ্যিকভাবে পূরণ করতে হবে।

**বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে**  
আপনার সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য

GD-1048

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
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ওয়েব: [www.health.nao.gov.bd](http://www.health.nao.gov.bd)

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তারিখ: ২২/০৫/২০২২ ইং

**"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"**

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়/স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর।
২	এজেন্সী	২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
৩	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থার নাম	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
৪	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থার অবস্থান	নওগাঁ।
৫	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
৬	বাজেট ও তহবিলের অবস্থান	জিওবি
৭	দরপত্র নম্বর	স্মারক নং-তত্ত্বাব/হাস/নওগাঁ/দরপত্র/২০২১-২২/২৯/৬২৩ তারিখ-২২/০৫/২০২২ ইং।
৮	দরপত্র কাজের নাম	বর্গ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা সংক্রান্ত দ্রব্যাদি
৯	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ এর কার্যালয়।
১০	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	ক) দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিগত ০৩ (তিন) বছরের যে কোন সরকারি কাজে নিয়োজিত থাকতে হবে। খ) দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিগত ০৩ (তিন) বছরের মধ্যে সরকারী/আধাসরকারী/স্বয়ংস্বায়িত্ব/বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে কম পক্ষে ৫০ লক্ষ টাকার সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের একক অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ থাকতে হবে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে বছর গননা করা হইবে। অত্র হাসপাতালের রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে।
১১	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর ২৪/০৫/২০২২ ইং হইতে ৩১/০৫/২০২২ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত কর্মদিবসের অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (১০.০০ মিঃ হইতে ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) (সরকারী/সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত)।
১২	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	দরপত্র জমা করার সময় কোড নং ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৬৮১ এ চালানে জমা পূর্বক সিটিআর এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে। প্রতিটি দরপত্র সিটিআরের মূল্য ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মাত্র (সফেক্ষযোগ্য)।
১৪	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০৬/২০২২ ইং তারিখ অত্র হাসপাতালের রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে সকাল ১০-০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বাসে জমা দেওয়া হইবে।
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০৬/২০২২ ইং তারিখ বলা ১-০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র বস খোলা হইবে।
১৬	দরপত্রের সহিত অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত থাকিতে হইবে।	ক) দরপত্র জামানত এর পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট খ) আয়কর পরিশোধ সনদপত্র (২০২১-২০২২) বৎসরের সত্যায়িত কপি গ) সিটি কর্পোরেশন/পৌরসভার সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের (২০২১-২০২২ সালের) সত্যায়িত কপি। ঘ) যে কোন সিটিউল ব্যাংক কর্তৃক নির্দিষ্ট সরবরাহ কাজের জন্য কমপক্ষে ৪৪ (চল্লিশ লক্ষ) টাকার নিশ্চেষ্ট আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সনদের মূল কপি দাখিল করিতে হবে। ঙ) জাতি রেজিস্ট্রেশনের সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি চ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি ছ) দরপত্রের জয়ের সিটিআর এর মূল কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ০৩ (তিন) কপি ছবি। জ) নিম্নস্ব/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে একই পাতায় ০৩ (তিন) টি নমুনা স্বাক্ষর (এ) নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। এ ছাড়া যাবতীয় শর্তাবলীসহ অন্যান্য সকল বিষয়ে দরপত্র বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস হতে পাওয়া যাইবে। বিঃ দ্রঃ- সকল কাগজপত্রাদি প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করিতে হইবে এবং সত্যায়নকারীর পদবী সহ নামের সীল ব্যবহার করিতে হইবে। অসম্পূর্ণ ফটোকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য নহে।
১৭	জামানতের পরিমাণ	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ
১৮	বর্গ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা সংক্রান্ত মাল্যমাল সরবরাহ	মোট মূল্যে ২% চুক্তি মূল্যের ১০%
১৮	বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা	দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া বিবেচ্য হইবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৯	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
২০	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	ডাঃ জাহিদ নজরুল চৌধুরী, তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।
২১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগ	টেলিফোন নং-০২৫৮৮৮৮২০২০ মোবাইল নং-০১৭১৬-৪৯১৮২২ ই-মেইল : <a href="mailto:naogaon@hospi.dghs.gov.bd">naogaon@hospi.dghs.gov.bd</a>

(ডাঃ জাহিদ নজরুল চৌধুরী)  
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক  
২৫০ শয্যা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নওগাঁ।  
ই-মেইল : [naogaon@hospi.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:naogaon@hospi.dghs.gov.bd)

GD-1041



# I have a thirst for learning

Moutushi Biswas

SHARMIN JOYA

Celebrating the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, Bangladesh has been selected as the theme country in this year's Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). Known as the oldest film festival of short and documentary films in South Asia, it will feature 11 Bangladeshi projects this year, from May 29 to June 4.

Moutushi Biswas will feature in "Araimon Shopno" and "Ripples (Dheu)", among the selected films.

We caught up with the artiste, as she discussed international acclamations, and representing Bangladesh on the world stage.

**Congratulations on being featured in MIFF. What was your reaction upon learning this news?**

It feels like a double treat! I am grateful to the entire team of both of the projects. Apart from putting best efforts, I have immensely enjoyed working in both of the projects.

**Tell us about "Araimon Shopno".**

The project is directed by Abu Shahed Emon, which highlights the struggles of marginalised people amid the COVID-19 crisis. It was one of the shorts featured in the series "Bagh Bondi Singho Bondi", aired in the streaming platform Binge. I feel honoured to have the opportunity of sharing the screen with Fazlur Rahman Babu, in this short film.

**"Ripples" is yet to be released. What is it about?**

Inspired by Purabi Basu's short story 'Eker Bhetor Paach', it is written and directed by Senjutee Suborna Tushee. This is her first project in Bangladesh -- she is a student of Film and Television Institute of India, also known as the Pune Film Institute.

The film is made by a woman, portraying a woman, for women.

We shot the project in Bikrampur during the pandemic. Keeping the storyline off-the-shelf, the presentation has been altered, thereby making it theatre based. I have portrayed a theatre activist, who is also a musician. For this I had to play guitar taking real lessons from a music director. It was challenging but a completely new experience for me. The project will release soon.

It will be premiered in Bangladesh Focus section at the festival.

**Bangladeshi films, and television projects are showing up in international festivals. However, we still lack proper filmmaking institutes and acting**

**schools. What is your insight on that?**

The fact that are trying to learn and making a conscious effort is commendable. Although we have departments on filmmaking, but most of artistes, still come from informal backgrounds. I am in no place to comment, but I can share what I do for myself. I research a lot on acting, I have a thirst for learning something new. Recently, I have enrolled for a workshop arranged by Shadhona, which will be supervised by the great Syed Jamil Ahmed. It is on screenplay writing. As an actor, we must explore and look for every resource we can use for our own improvement.

**What are your upcoming projects?**

I have completed working on "Dear Satyajit", directed by Prashoon Rahman. The film is expected to release soon.



PHOTOS: RAHUL CHOWDHURY LUNA

**The project is directed by Abu Shahed Emon, which highlights the struggles of marginalised people amid the COVID-19 crisis.**

## Shows of Kangana Ranaut's 'Dhaakad' cancelled due to zero audience

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



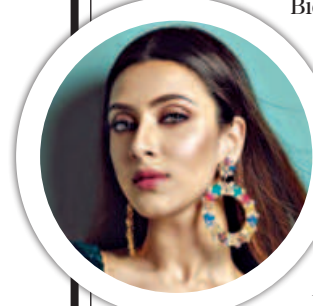
The Kangana Ranaut-starrer "Dhaakad" was released in cinemas on May 20. The trailer promised a stylish action thriller and attempted to bring something new to the table.

Sadly, according to reports, there was absolutely no excitement among the audience to watch "Dhaakad". There were a handful of viewers in the theatres on the film's opening day.

Many shows across India were cancelled due to no audience. On top of it, the word of mouth for the film was terrible. "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2", meanwhile, has been enjoyed by the audience. As a result, it has grown from strength to strength. "Dhaakad" collected a mere Rs. 50 lakhs on its opening day.

## Mim leaves 'MR-9'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Bidya Sinha Mim has dropped out of "MR-9" due to scheduling conflicts. The actress was supposed to play Sulota Ray, an Indian Raw Agent, and also the love interest of Masud Rana.

Subsequently, Jazz Multimedia offered her the role of Suhana, a character that does not have much screen time in the film. However, Suhana will be the female protagonist in the second instalment of the "MR-9" franchise. Mim has not confirmed if she will play the role yet.

Mim had signed the contract for "MR-9" in November last year. The actress stated that she lost out on some projects due to the delays in the shooting of the film.

# NEWS

## Khaleda sick again

FROM PAGE 12  
treatment abroad, party and family sources say.

Khaleda has also long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and eye problems. She was admitted to hospital on November 13, nearly a week after she was discharged from the same facility, and moved to the CCU the following day.

Khaleda was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, she was given temporary release on certain conditions on March 25, 2020.

The term of her release

has been extended five times so far. The condition was that she will stay in her Gulshan house and won't leave the country.

Fakhrul also urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to issue "a public apology" for saying "Khaleda Zia should be pushed into the river from the Padma Bridge".

"You issued a death threat to Khaleda Zia. She is the most acceptable and popular leader in the country and was never defeated in any election," he said, adding that it is unimaginable that such an "irresponsible" comment

came from a prime minister.

"People of any civilised country cannot tolerate such a remark. We would like to ask you [Hasina] to offer an apology to the people."

Issuing a warning, the BNP leader said the people will otherwise oust the government and will not offer a scope for apology later.

BNP's Dhaka south and north city units arranged the rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, protesting what they said was an "indecent comment" about Khaleda by the prime minister.

## PMO warns

FROM PAGE 12  
The DNCC and the Roads and Highways Department have been tasked to keep the road between the airport and the hajj camp unhindered.

Hajj flights are scheduled to start from May 31.

Asked, Biman Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal said, "We have been instructed to take maximum preparations ..."

"We have taken all kinds of preparations ... Hopefully, there will be no disaster with hajj flights."

A total of 57,585 Bangladeshis will be able to perform hajj this year, likely to be held on July 8.

Due to the pandemic, hajj was held on a limited scale in the last two years.

## 1.5m children

FROM PAGE 12  
government and working closely with our local partners."

Unicef is supporting the Bangladesh government's flood response by supplying clean water, hygiene kits, therapeutic milk and learning kits.

The statement said Unicef also works closely with the Department of Social Services to protect the safety and security of children.

## You can't

FROM PAGE 12  
deputy commissioner's office for conducting a hydraulic survey of the land and extraction of sand from the river, the lawyer added.

Last month, a senior metropolitan special judge's court issued a travel ban on Salim, also the chairman of Chandpur's Laxmipur Union Parishad.

Salim was allegedly involved in the price manipulation of the proposed land for Chandpur Science and Technology University (CSTU).

Bangladesh has been recommended to graduate from the LDC category in 2026. "It is the global recognition of our planned development journey that we have been following for the last thirteen years."

Hasina said Bangladesh expects enhanced focus and active support of the international community for safe, sustainable and dignified return of the Rohingya.

She said people are at the centre of our development pursuit and so are the SDGs. "Our government has been working diligently to build a hunger and poverty-free Bangladesh which is the main theme of SDG-1 and SDG-2."

The PM said the pandemic battered the health systems and economies of most of the countries across the world and the poor and developing countries were the worst sufferers.

"In Bangladesh, while tackling the pandemic, we have tried to strike a balance between lives and livelihoods. Our timely and prudent interventions

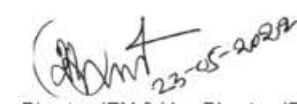
## Act fast, act in unison

FROM PAGE 1  
"Bangladesh has been hosting 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. This humanitarian crisis poses a serious security threat," she said.

Hasina said Bangladesh expects enhanced focus and active support of the international community for safe, sustainable and dignified return of the Rohingya.

She said when the world is struggling to recover from the impacts of the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war came as a huge blow to the global economic and social stability.

The PM said the theme of the session, "A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific", is rightly chosen to strengthen regional cooperation, partnership and solidarity for a sustainable world. She mentioned that

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Directorate General of Family Planning				
IEM Unit				
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215				
<b>Invitation for Tender</b>				
Memo: DGFP/IEM/SP-8/226/2022/632			Date: 23/05/2022	
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Medical Education & Family Welfare Division.		
2	Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning		
3	Procuring entity name	Director, IEM & Line Director IEC		
4	Procuring entity code	None		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Selecting Media/Advertising firm for procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign		
7	Invitation Ref No.	DGFP/IEM/SP-8/226/2022/		
8	Date	23/05/2022		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement Method	OTM (NCS), National		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and source of fund	RPA (GOB)		
11	Development partner	IDA		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
12	Project/program code	5/2781-5350		
13	Project/program name	Information, Education & Communication (IEC) under HPNSP		
14	Tender package no	SP-8/2021-22		
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign		
16	Tender publication date	24/05/2022		
17	Tender last selling date	08/06/2022 during office hours.		
18	Tender Receiving date & time	09/06/2022 up to 12.00 Noon		
19	Tender opening date & time	09/06/2022 at 1.00 PM		
20	Name & address of the office(s) of selling, receiving and opening of tender document	1, Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC, IEM unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. (Selling, Receiving and opening)		
21	Place/date/time if pre-tender meeting (optional)	None		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	The firm shall have to fulfill the qualifications criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) and other required conditions mentioned in the Tender Document and Technical Specification		
23	Brief description of goods	Procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign		
24	Brief description of related services	N/A		
25	Price of tender document	Taka 1000/- (One Thousand) (nonrefundable) per schedule & the aforesaid amount of taka should be paid through Treasury Challan of Bangladesh Bank/ Sonali Bank in favor of Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, in the following code '1-2781-0000-2366'		
26	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security
		Procurement of Social Media Contents Production and Campaign	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC, IEM unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215	45000/- (Forty five Thousand Taka)
				Completion time (in Weeks/Months)
				Four (04) months from the date of signing the contract
<b>Procuring entity details</b>				
27	Name of official inviting tender			
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC.		
29	Address of official inviting tender	IEM unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka		
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 88-02-55012350, email:iemdgfp@gmail.com		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all tenders without showing any reason.				
 Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC Directorate General of Family Planning 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215				
GD-1043				



WORLDWIDE CONFLICTS

Over 100m forcibly displaced: UN

AFP, Geneva

Russia's war in Ukraine has pushed the number of forcibly displaced people around the world above 100 million for the first time ever, the United Nations said yesterday.

"The number of people forced to flee conflict, violence, human rights violations and persecution has now crossed the staggering milestone of 100 million for the first time on record, propelled by the war in Ukraine and other deadly conflicts," said UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

The "alarming" figure must shake the world into ending the conflicts forcing record numbers to flee their own homes, the UNHCR said in a statement.

The figures combine refugees, asylum-seekers and more than 50 million people displaced inside their own countries.

UNHCR said the numbers of forcibly displaced people rose towards 90 million by the end of 2021, spurred by violence in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Nigeria.

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 and since then more than eight million people have been displaced within the country, while more than six million refugees have fled across the borders.

"One hundred million is a stark figure - sobering and alarming in equal measure. It's a record that should never have been set," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

"This must serve as a wake-up call to resolve and prevent destructive conflicts, end persecution and address the underlying causes that force innocent people to flee their homes."

The 100 million figure amounts to more than one percent of the global population. Only 13 countries have a bigger population than the number of forcibly displaced people in the world.

"The international response to people fleeing war in Ukraine has been overwhelmingly positive," said Grandi.



Migrants rescued by the Libyan Coast Guards in the Mediterranean Sea arrive in Garaboli, Libya yesterday. In recent months, dozens of people have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea, with an increase in the frequency of attempted crossings from Tunisia and Libya towards Italy. PHOTO: REUTERS

China 'flirting with danger'

Says Biden, vows to defend Taiwan if Beijing invades

AFP, Tokyo

President Joe Biden vowed yesterday that US forces would defend Taiwan militarily if China attempted to take control of the self-ruled island by force, warning Beijing was already "flirting with danger".

The remarks, made in Tokyo where he is meeting with Japan's prime minister ahead of a regional summit today, were Biden's strongest to date on the issue and come amid rising tensions over China's

growing economic and military power.

Washington and allies like Japan have framed their tough response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a warning to others, especially China, against unilateral military action.

Biden hammered that message home after talks with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in which the pair agreed to monitor Chinese naval activity and joint Chinese-Russia exercises. Biden then went further.

Asked if Washington was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan, he replied: "Yes."

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin swiftly responded, declaring that "no one should underestimate the firm resolve, staunch will and strong ability of the Chinese people in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"China has no room for compromise or concession," the spokesman said.



14 bodies found washed up on Myanmar beach

AFP, Yangon

The bodies of 14 people have been found washed up on a beach in Myanmar, police said yesterday, with a local rescue group saying some were Rohingya attempting to reach Malaysia. The migrants had been travelling by boat from western Myanmar, according to a local Rohingya activist.

Long fuel queues persist in Lanka

REUTERS, Colombo

Long queues snaked around gas stations in Sri Lanka's commercial capital and its outskirts yesterday even though the island nation's government was scrambling to deliver fuel supplies and douse any unrest as it battles a

devastating economic crisis. Kanchana Wijesekera, Sri Lanka's minister for power and energy, said supplies of 95-octane gasoline, mostly used in cars, had been received and were being distributed across the country of 22 million people that has been struggling with fuel shortages for

months. "With the 2 cargo vessels unloaded, petrol stocks will be available for the next 6 weeks comfortably," Wijesekera said in a tweet. Another 40,000 metric tonnes of petrol supplied by India had also reached Sri Lanka yesterday, the Indian High Commission (Embassy) said, two days after New Delhi delivered 40,000 tonnes of diesel to its southern neighbour.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগ
www.forestnorth.coxsbazar.gov.bd
অফিস আদেশ নম্বর : ৩৪
তারিখ : ১৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রি:।
যেহেতু, জনাব মোঃ মোকাদ্দেছ আলী, বন প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগের শহর রেঞ্জের রেঞ্জ সহকারীর দায়িত্বে কর্মরত থাকাকালীন শহর রেঞ্জের ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১৯খ্রি. মাসের মাসিক হিসাবের ভাউচার নম্বর : ৫২, ৫৪, ৫৬, ৫৮, ৫৯, ৬০, ৬১, ৬২, ৬৪, ৬৬ ও ৭০ মূলে সর্বমোট ২,৫৭,৩৯৩/- (দুই লক্ষ সাতাশ হাজার তিনশত তিরানব্বই) টাকা মাত্র সোনালী ব্যাংক, কক্সবাজার শাখায় চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা প্রদান না করে জাল চালানের মাধ্যমে মাসিক হিসাবে হিসাবায়িত্ব করে হিসাব দাখিল করা হয় যা অনলাইনে চালান যাচাইকালে মিল না পাওয়ায় ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১৯খ্রি. মাসের কাশ কপিতে বর্ণিত দফাগুলো এন্ড্রপাস (বোতিল) কব্রত: অত্র দপ্তরের পত্র নম্বর : ২২.০১.২২০০.৭৭১.০৫.১১৮.১৯/৭৫১ তারিখ : ০৫/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে জনাব মোঃ মেহেদী হাসান, ফরেস্টার, তৎকালীন রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, শহর রেঞ্জ, কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগকে কৈফিয়ত তলব করা হয় এবং অত্র দপ্তরের পত্র নম্বর : ২২.০১.২২০০.৭৭১.০৫.১১৯.১৯.৭৫২ তারিখ : ০৫/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে জনাব মুহাম্মদ বেলায়েত হোসেন, সহকারী বন সংরক্ষক (তৎকালীন সহকারী বন সংরক্ষক, সদর), কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগকে তদন্ত করে বিস্তারিত প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হয়। জনাব মোঃ মেহেদী হাসান, ফরেস্টার, তৎকালীন রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, শহর রেঞ্জ এর পত্র নম্বর : ২২.০১.২২০০.৭৭৫.০০৫.০০০.১৯/১৭ তারিখ : ১০/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে দাখিলকৃত প্রতিবেদন পর্যালোচনায় দেখা যায় যে, গত ০৬/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি. তারিখ বিকালে তৎকালীন রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, শহর রেঞ্জ, কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক ব্যাংকে যোগাযোগ করে সিটিআর আনার জন্য অভিযুক্ত বন প্রহরীকে নির্দেশনা দেওয়ার হলে তিনি অফিস ত্যাগ করে ব্যাংকে না গিয়ে আত্মগোপন করেন এবং তাকে খোঁজাখুঁজি করে না পেয়ে তৎকালীন রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, শহর রেঞ্জ কর্তৃক কক্সবাজার সদর মডেল থানায় অভিযুক্ত বন প্রহরীর নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারি করেন। যার জিডি নং-৬৮৭ তারিখ : ০৭/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি:। তাছাড়া, জনাব মোঃ মোকাদ্দেছ আলী, বন প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) কর্তৃক সর্বমোট ৩৪ (ত্রিশটি) জাল চালান মূলে ১০,৯৮,৯০৬.৫০ (দশ লক্ষ আটানব্বই হাজার নয়শত ছয় টাকা পাঁচ শূণ্য পয়সা) টাকা সরকারি অর্থ ভূয়া ও জাল চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা দেখিয়ে আত্মসাতের জন্য জনাব মোঃ মোকাদ্দেছ আলী, বন প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত)কে দায়ী করত: তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করায় অত্র দপ্তরের অফিস আদেশ নম্বর : ৩০ তারিখ : ১৩/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে অভিযুক্ত বন প্রহরীকে আদেশ জারি তারিখ হতে সাময়িক বরখাস্ত করা হয়। পরবর্তীতে অভিযুক্ত বন প্রহরীর আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে বন সংরক্ষক, চট্টগ্রাম অঞ্চল, চট্টগ্রাম এর অফিস আদেশ নম্বর : ৩০/পি তারিখ : ১৩/০৫/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে তার নির্ধারিত সদর দপ্তর পরিবর্তন করে উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রামের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন উড়িরচর রেঞ্জের উত্তর চর বিট পুন:নির্ধারণ করা হয়।
যেহেতু, জনাব মোঃ মোকাদ্দেছ আলী, বন প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) কর্তৃক চালান জালিয়াতির মাধ্যমে সরকারি অর্থ আত্মসাতের মত গুরুতর অপরাধ তার একার পক্ষে করা সম্ভব নয় মর্মে প্রতিয়মান হওয়ায় তা পুন:তদন্ত করত: প্রকৃত দোষীদের সনাক্ত করে স্বয়ং সম্পূর্ণ তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করার জন্য উক্ত তদন্ত কমিটিকে অনুরোধ করা হলে, তদন্ত কমিটির তদন্ত কমিটির পত্র নম্বর : ২২.০১.২২০০.৭৭১.০৫.০০১.১৯/২৫ তারিখ : ১১/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি: মূলে দাখিলকৃত তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন পর্যালোচনায় দেখা যায়, বিপত পাঁচ বছরে কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগের বিভিন্ন রেঞ্জের রাজস্ব আদায় সংক্রান্ত তথ্য যাচাই-বাছাই করে নভেম্বর, ২০১৮ খ্রি. হতে ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১৯খ্রি. পর্যন্ত সময়ে চার মাসে ফুলছড়ি রেঞ্জের ০৩(তিন)টি জাল চালান এবং শহর রেঞ্জের ৩১(একত্রিশ)টি জাল চালান সর্বমোট ৩৪(ত্রিশটি) জাল চালান মূলে ১০,৯৮,৯০৬.৫০ (দশ লক্ষ আটানব্বই হাজার নয়শত ছয় টাকা পাঁচ শূণ্য পয়সা) টাকা সরকারি অর্থ ভূয়া ও জাল চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা দেখিয়ে আত্মসাতের জন্য জনাব মোঃ মোকাদ্দেছ আলী, বন প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত)কে দায়ী করত: তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করায় অত্র দপ্তরের অফিস আদেশ নম্বর : ৩০ তারিখ : ১৩/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে অভিযুক্ত বন প্রহরীকে আদেশ জারি তারিখ হতে সাময়িক বরখাস্ত করা হয়। পরবর্তীতে অভিযুক্ত বন প্রহরীর আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে বন সংরক্ষক, চট্টগ্রাম অঞ্চল, চট্টগ্রাম এর অফিস আদেশ নম্বর : ৩০/পি তারিখ : ১৩/০৫/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে তার নির্ধারিত সদর দপ্তর পরিবর্তন করে উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রামের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন উড়িরচর রেঞ্জের উত্তর চর বিট পুন:নির্ধারণ করা হয়।
যেহেতু, জনাব মোঃ মোকাদ্দেছ আলী, বন প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্ত) কর্তৃক চালান জালিয়াতির মাধ্যমে সরকারি অর্থ আত্মসাতের মত গুরুতর অপরাধ তার একার পক্ষে করা সম্ভব নয় মর্মে প্রতিয়মান হওয়ায় তা পুন:তদন্ত করত: প্রকৃত দোষীদের সনাক্ত করে স্বয়ং সম্পূর্ণ তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করার জন্য উক্ত তদন্ত কমিটিকে অনুরোধ করা হলে, তদন্ত কমিটির তদন্ত কমিটির পত্র নম্বর : ২২.০১.২২০০.৭৭১.০৫.০০১.১৯/২৫ তারিখ : ১৩/০৩/২০১৯ খ্রি. মূলে জনাব মোঃ মাজহারুল ইসলাম, ফরেস্টার, তৎকালীন রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, শহর রেঞ্জ (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্বে) নির্দেশ দেয়া হলে তার কার্যালয়ের পত্র নম্বর : ২২.০১.২২০০.৭৭৫.০১.০০০.১৯/৩২ তারিখ : ২৭/০৩/২০১৯খ্রি. এবং পত্র নম্বর : ২২.০১.২২০০.৭৭৫.০১.০০০.১৯/৪০ তারিখ : ০৮/০৪/২০১৯খ্রি. মূলে দাখিলকৃত প্রতিবেদন দুটো দেখা যায়, শহর রেঞ্জের কাশ কপিতে বিভিন্ন বিক্রয় ও রাজস্ব জমা প্রদান দেখানো হলেও বাস্তবে শহর রেঞ্জের রশিদ মূলে বন রাজস্ব বাবদ নভেম্বর, ২০১৭ মাসে ২০০/- টাকা, ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১৮ মাসে ২,০০০/- টাকা, মার্চ, ২০১৮ মাসে ৩৫,৫৪০/- টাকা, মে, ২০১৮ মাসে=৫৭৫/- টাকা, সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৮ মাসে=২,০০০/- টাকা, ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৮ মাসে=১,০০০/- টাকা, জানুয়ারী, ২০১৯ মাসে ২,০০০/- টাকা, মার্চ, ২০১৯ মাসে=১,২০০/- টাকা এবং সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৮, নভেম্বর, ২০১৮ এবং ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১৯ মাসের বিদ্যুৎ বিল বাবদ যথাক্রমে ৭৪,৫৫৮/-, ৫২,৮৪৮/- ও ৮৬,৮৫০/- টাকা সর্বমোট ২,৭৬,৭৬৭/- (দুই লক্ষ ছিয়াত্তর হাজার সাতশত ছিয়াত্তর) টাকার সরকারি অর্থ আত্মসাত করত: জাল জালিয়াতির মাধ্যমে ভূয়া ও জাল চালান তৈরী করে মাসিক হিসাবে হিসাবায়িত্ব করা হয়েছে।
যেহেতু, শহর রেঞ্জ অভিযুক্ত বন প্রহরীর কর্মকালীন আর কোন অনিয়ম হয়েছে কিনা তা অধিকতর যাচাই-বাছাইয়ের জন্য শহর রেঞ্জের কাশ বহি ও বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ের নথিপত্রের সাথে তুলনা করে দায়-দায়িত্ব নির্ধারণসহ বিস্তারিত প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করার



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FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Overuse of anti-gastric medicine must be curbed

Awareness and proper policy are vital

ONE of the banes of poor regulatory controls and easy availability of certain medicines in Bangladesh is the long and random use of those drugs, which can result in self-medication—and overuse—and lead to the users suffering from harmful effects. It is our experience that people are generally predisposed to administering medicines on themselves without seeking doctors' advice. While till recently antibiotics topped the list of such drugs, a recent study shows that PPIs, or proton pump inhibitors, which work by reducing the amount of stomach acid made by glands in the lining of the stomach, have now topped the list.

It is little wonder that given the quality of cooking ingredients, the poorer sections of society get afflicted by gastric and stomach problems. The anti-gastric medicines are available over the counters, as most medicines are, and the need for quick relief encourages prolonged use, without the user knowing the irreparable harm that it can do to their bodies. And anti-gastric medicines are taken for all kinds of stomach ailments—from constipation to diarrhoea. The negative effects of taking such medicines were revealed at a recent seminar on the overuse of PPIs at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). It is astounding that around 45 percent of cases of gastric or stomach cancer is caused by the overuse of PPIs. Earlier this month, one of the five types of PPI medicines available, Rabeprozole, was banned by the health authorities for its adverse effects.

We believe that time has come to exercise stricter control on the sale of over-the-counter medicines. As it is, the national drug policy prohibits the sale of antibiotics without prescription. But the policy is observed more in its violation. Certainly, sale of those drugs that are commonly used for common ailments must also be brought under regulatory purview. One must also not lose sight of the reality that not all have the means to seek a qualified doctor's advice, and they consequently seek recourse to alternative means. So their predicament must be addressed, too. Besides, public awareness campaigns should be initiated to sensitise people to the danger of drugs whose long-term use is harmful. It is important to drive home the point that in curing gastrointestinal conditions without expert advice, one runs the risk of inviting more serious diseases on oneself.

## Is the world about to face another pandemic?

Take early measures to prevent monkeypox outbreak from happening

IT is deeply concerning that right as the world looks set to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, another deadly disease is making the rounds in countries where it is rarely found. As of May 21, 92 confirmed cases and 28 suspected cases of monkeypox have been reported from 12 UN member-states where this disease is not endemic, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Monkeypox is endemic in parts of West and Central Africa, where it can be caught from infected wild animals such as rats, mice, and squirrels. Recently, however, cases have been detected in the UK, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, the US and even Australia.

The WHO recently convened a videoconference of international experts on monkeypox because of the reported cases. And even though experts present at the meeting stressed that the monkeypox outbreak did not resemble the same scenario that we witnessed during the early days of Covid—as monkeypox is not as easily spread—they also recommended countries and individuals to remain cautious and learn about the disease, and how to stay protected from it.

Monkeypox is similar to human smallpox. Its initial symptoms include fever, headache, muscle ache, backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion. Though human-to-human transmission typically occurs through respiratory droplets or contact with an infected patient's skin lesions, many of the current cases have been identified at sexual health clinics—leading experts to suspect that it is being spread as a sexually transmitted infection. Similar to Covid, those infected with the disease should isolate themselves. Maintaining good hygiene is a great way to combat it as well.

Scientists have already discovered that the smallpox vaccine is around 85 percent effective against monkeypox. Therefore, governments around the world as well as the private sector and WHO should set up the capacity to mass-produce the smallpox vaccine, should that become required. However, given that the world is still reeling from the tremendous harm done by Covid, it would be more beneficial for all concerned if countries took early precautionary measures to prevent any such outbreak from happening altogether. Thus, we urge countries that have already seen cases to remain cautious and carefully observe those who have been infected, and make sure the disease does not get transmitted any further.

The Bangladesh government should also keep a close eye on how the situation develops, and consider setting up mechanisms to prevent the disease from entering the country, including through stricter monitoring of incoming passengers at airports and other ports of entry. Moreover, building expertise among healthcare providers early is essential.

# GDP: A misleading measure of development



Anu Muhammad is a professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

ANNUAL GDP refers to the financial value of all the products and services produced in a country in a given year. This means as a country's financial transactions increase, so does GDP. GDP growth in Bangladesh has been relatively good over the past decade. According to government estimates, Bangladesh's per capita income has now exceeded USD 2,800 a year. However, many reasonable questions are being raised about the methods used to measure GDP—as well as the acceptability and reliability of the data used to do so. Our obsession with GDP has overshadowed many urgent questions.

While there can be many questions about how much has been achieved and how, there is no doubt that our national income has increased. When it comes to measuring a country's economy with GDP, we follow the guidelines of the World Bank and IMF. The World Bank divides the world's countries into four main categories on the basis of per capita income: 1) Low-income countries (per capita income up to USD 1,025); 2) Lower-middle-income countries (USD 1,026-4,035); 3) Upper-middle-income countries (USD 4,036-12,475); and 4) High-income countries (more than USD 12,476).

Bangladesh became a lower-middle-income country in 2015. According to the rules of international organisations, Bangladesh is no longer eligible for certain facilities, such as special benefits of the World Trade Organization (WTO) meant for low-income countries, and loans at low interest rates.

Reviewing the experiences of different countries, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has shown that even if a country's GDP is very high, its performance when it comes to sustainable development can be weak. Even if a country's per capita income is high, the standard of living of the majority of its people can be low. In many African countries, the per capita income is higher than that of Bangladesh. Although they graduated to the middle-income status way before Bangladesh, the living standards of their populations are still poor. Nigeria's per capita income is more than double of ours, but it cannot be said that their standard of living is twice as good as that in Bangladesh. Sri Lanka's per capita income was higher than Bangladesh's, but that could not prevent their economic crisis.

Therefore, we can only get an idea about a country's financial transactions, commercial production, distribution, and the availability of services from per capita income, but it cannot perfectly depict the socioeconomic situation of the country. Rather, in a society where inequality is high, the average income estimate gives some misleading information. If one family earns Tk 10 lakh and another family earns Tk 10,000 per year, then the annual average income of both the families stands at Tk 5.05 lakh. Does their average income explain the financial

reality of the two families?

In fact, the per capita income of 80 percent of Bangladesh's population is less than 30 percent of the official figure. The top five percent of the population have one-third of the GDP. Black money or the thousands of crores of taka that is laundered abroad is not taken into account in this estimate. Since a large

people—they will be vulnerable to natural disasters—but it will increase the GDP.

Doubts are now rising in mainstream economics about measuring development on the basis of GDP and per capita income. That is why many ways and methods, such as Human Development Index, Genuine Progress Indicator, Gross National Happiness, etc are

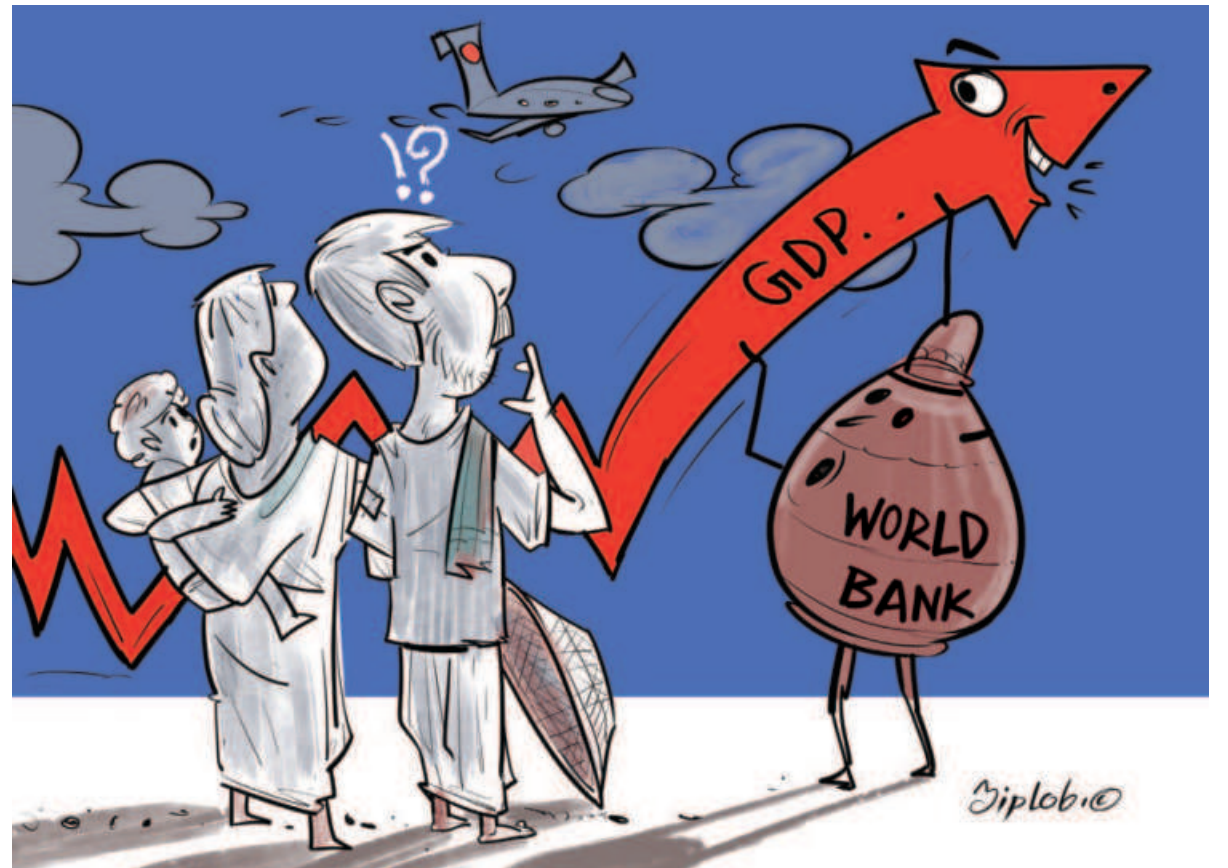


ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

amount of wealth is concentrated in the hands of a small group, even though the GDP swells, the condition of ordinary people remains unchanged, if not worsened.

In fact, remittance and RMG are the major contributors to the steady growth of GDP and per capita income in Bangladesh. There is also the agriculture sector, as well as non-institutional sectors. But both income and safety of life of those working in these sectors are uncertain. While the GDP increases due to the corrupt activities of people involved in money laundering, the livelihood of a large section of society remains precarious. GDP can also increase through the grabbing and destruction of rivers, canals and forests, but that does not ensure sustainable development—rather, it puts the economy and the livelihood of a large number of people at risk. When the project costs increase due to corruption and wastage, the annual development programmes also look big, and the GDP figure also increases. In addition, people's access to education and healthcare has decreased due to increased cost and commercialisation of these basic services. But this increased cost also increases the GDP.

The Sundarbans saves the lives and properties of millions of people during natural disasters, but that does not count in the measurement of GDP. On the other hand, if a coal-fuelled power plant is constructed there by destroying the Sundarbans, there will be irreparable damage to the country and its

used to measure development in many countries. Despite being a so-called underdeveloped country, Bhutan is far ahead of Bangladesh with regard to per capita income. When the per capita income in Bangladesh crossed USD 1,200, Bhutan's per capita income was more than double that figure—USD 2,500. Instead of obsessing over the per capita GDP, Bhutan rejected the method of GDP calculation and invented their own method to measure development, focusing on nine areas: psychological well-being, use of time, community vitality, cultural diversity and resilience, ecological resilience, standard of living, health, education, and good governance.

It is possible to hide many qualitative aspects of GDP by only highlighting the quantitative aspects. This is convenient for the government, the corporate groups and their economics. Due to the nature of various development projects, loans and taxes are also increasing in the country. Along with the increased cost of living, destruction of our rivers and forests are also continuing. If our GDP increases in this way, the country will be in danger in the long run.

Therefore, in order to measure real development, we need to take into account the qualitative aspects, rather than focusing on quantity only. Socio-environmental damages and opportunity costs must be included in the measurement as well.

The article was translated from Bangla by Naznin Tithi.

**Reviewing the experiences of different countries, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has shown that even if a country's GDP is very high, its performance when it comes to sustainable development can be weak.**

## How to prevent future cholera outbreaks

Dr Nurullah Awal is health adviser at WaterAid Bangladesh. Hasin Jahan is country director of WaterAid Bangladesh.

NURULLAH AWAL and HASIN JAHAN

CHOLERA outbreaks in Bangladesh are quite common, particularly during pre- and post-monsoon times. There are over 20 cholera hotspots in the country, and Dhaka also remains at high risk, according to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

One of the worst cholera outbreaks of the last 60 years took place two months ago in Dhaka. During the first week of March this year, icddr,b received around 500 patients a day, which more than doubled by the last week of the month. The highest daily average number of people who needed hospitalisation at the icddr,b was around 1,000 during the diarrhoea outbreaks in 2007 and 2018. This year, the number of patients exceeded 1,200.

The icddr,b noted that they were getting relatively higher numbers of patients from five areas in Dhaka: Jatrabari, Dakkhinkhan, Mohammadpur, Sabujbagh and Gandaria. The media revealed that the flow of patients was greater from areas that were suffering from water crisis. A group of researchers detected the cholera germ in water bodies within both the Dhaka city corporations and their peripheries. The chlorine level in the water at the consumer end was also found to be lower in some places. Having tested the water samples from

different zones of the capital, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) claimed to have found no contamination. Recently, Dhaka Wasa has been trying to replace the old pipelines with new and better ones. However, there have been instances of leakage in the existing pipelines, which could have led to infections.

Diarrhoea is mainly a water-borne disease. The number of patients rise during summer when people consume street food and drinks. And outbreaks in Dhaka are often most severe in slums and low-income communities. Many slums where NGOs do not operate lack access to safe water. Solid waste is also not collected in a systematic way from urban slums, which leads to poor sanitation.

Malnourished children face higher risks of suffering from diarrhoea and cholera. Due to having lower immunity and because of living in poor conditions, their conditions often become critical, requiring hospitalisation.

During summer, the quality of water generally deteriorates. Therefore, extra attention by Dhaka Wasa is required to ensure the quality of the water supplied, especially when they are collected from surface water sources. People from low-income communities, floating population and street food vendors are more vulnerable, as they neither have legal and safe water supplies, nor sanitation facilities. They should get more attention both from Wasa and the city corporations, so that they can have access to safe water easily,

affordably and, at the same time, can use public sanitation facilities available within their proximity. To bring this segment of the population under the required services, installation, proper operation, maintenance and management of water ATMs, mobile toilets and public toilets are required. Additionally, solid waste management system to the slum areas should be ensured.

Bangladesh is one of 20 countries in the world that are trying to eradicate cholera. It approved the National Cholera Control Plan in 2019, which clearly emphasised the role of safe water, sanitation and hygiene to eradicate the disease. The government is also thinking of preventive approaches like providing oral cholera vaccine to people. This initiative could be very useful during emergencies.

At the same time, however, it could be a quite costly venture and difficult to manage. Therefore, a combined multisectoral preventive approach might be useful by merging oral cholera vaccines with ensuring safe water supply, safely managed sanitation and adequate hand-washing practice with soap by Wasas and city corporations, with support from relevant government authorities and development agencies. To obtain a sustainable solution, the health ministry, together with city authorities and utility service agencies, should take preventive measures at the beginning of every summer to educate the people about the risks of cholera and diarrhoea.

**Diarrhoea is mainly a water-borne disease. The number of patients rise during summer when people consume street food and drinks. And outbreaks in Dhaka are often most severe in slums and low-income communities.**



# Bangladesh and the US need each other

Understanding the importance of Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal and the Indo-Pacific



TARIQ KARIM

Tariq Karim is a retired ambassador, and currently the director of the Center for Bay of Bengal Studies at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

OUR Planet Earth was so named by human beings who are essentially terrestrial creatures. But how would a visitor from outer space, from another planet or galaxy, react on discovering our planet for the first time? In sharp contrast to other planets he has seen so far, he would see a planet that is 71 percent covered with oceanic waters, with continental land masses as floating islands on these oceanic expanses. He would perceive all the oceans as being interconnected. Such an interplanetary visitor would probably name this planet of ours as "Oceana."

Zooming in on from outer space on our oceanic planet, our intergalactic visitor would see the vast Pacific Ocean on the east, the Atlantic Ocean on the west, the Antarctic Ocean on the south, and the Indian Ocean in the centre of this oceanic geosphere (geographers on Earth refer to the Indian Ocean as the great "Great Middle Bay"). Zooming in more, our intergalactic visitor would see the Bay of Bengal, the largest bay in the world as the "lesser middle bay" in this Great Middle Bay. Now, tempted to zoom in further on this triangular Bay of Bengal, our visitor from outer space would view Bangladesh, at the apex of this bay, as being at the epicentre of this oceanic planet.

## Historical development and legacy of Bangladesh

Bangladesh derives its historical legacy, and its current importance, from its geographical location at the epicentre of this vast oceanic planet of ours. Let us not forget that precolonial Bengal was famed since time immemorial, as a land of vast riches. During British colonial rule over India, Bengal was the largest of its three administrative presidencies, with highest GDP and its summer capital, Shillong, boasting the highest per capita GDP.

What enabled Bengal to achieve such remarkable attention? Historically, it was primarily through the web of riverine and maritime lanes extending through the Bay of Bengal via the coastal ports of Myanmar, Malaysia, Sumatra via Malacca to points further east. Colonial Britain added to this pre-existing riverine circulatory system the railway network from 1844 onwards. With the railways vastly augmenting the riverine routes, historical Bengal became a vital bridging country, oceanically connecting the western and eastern hemispheres. Historical Bengal flourished because of this bridging role.

Modern Bangladesh, today, is already discovering the benefits of acting as a connectivity facilitator between the West and the East. Its surge in growth and ability to attract attention and investment flows over the last decade is derived from this perceived newly established stature. To give credit where it is due, this would not have happened without the bold and visionary leadership of Sheikh Hasina, who well understood the importance of ensuring better bilateral relations with all immediate neighbours and embarked determinedly on the revival of all connectivity that had existed prior to 1947, but had been systematically uprooted after 1965.

## Re-evaluating Bangladesh's position and role within the Global Commons

Today, Bangladesh is not an inconsequential country. It is certainly not the "bottomless basket case" it was contemptuously dismissed as being on its wrestling independence from neocolonialism in 1971. It has not only survived as a state, but today is globally looked upon with respect and admiration as one of the fastest growing economies not just in the region, but in the world, thanks largely to the foundational policies adopted by its Father of the

Nation ("Bangabandhu: The architect of Bangladesh's foreign policy," *The Daily Star*, May 7, 2020). Bangladesh today can proudly claim that they have better human development indices than most of their neighbours. Two-and-a-half generations on from its gory liberation as a nation, Bangladesh today has a vibrant youthful population

VISUAL: STAR



that is eagerly forward-looking, replete with high aspirations, supremely self-confident and exuding pride in their nation and their achievements to date, and that does not take kindly to being patronised or dictated to by anyone. Its business community has demonstrated its entrepreneurial talents and zest by unleashing its animal spirit and driving the engine of national growth.

The bold and visionary leadership of Sheikh Hasina has stabilised the country economically and led it on the path to prosperity. This same leadership has reemphasised to the world Bangladesh's identity as a moderate, secular, inclusive Muslim majority state, with deeply embedded democratic aspirations that has zero tolerance towards forces of radicalism, terrorism, and destabilisation of any kind. By contributing the largest numbers of military, police and civilian personnel to the UN Peacekeeping Force and its global peace-building efforts, Bangladesh has palpably demonstrated its core commitment to peace and justice for all.

Ensuring economic prosperity and stability, deepening, widening, and broadening its educational base, ensuring equal participation by women, gender equality and social stability are the prerequisites for the first stage of development of any state, for progressing, consolidating, and stabilising its foundational pillars. This enables it to advance to organically ensuring social equity, inclusivity, good governance, and respect for human rights with justice for all. Most advanced industrialised nations have organically traversed this same path centuries ago. Bangladeshis are only now embarking on this second stage of development.

## Potential for growth: The next 50 years of Bangladesh-US ties

Today, the focus of attention by almost all major, middle or minor powers has pivoted to Asia. Contextually, the Indo-Pacific region is strategically at the heart of Asia. The increasing attention upon Bangladesh emanates from it being perceived as a bridging nation located at Asia's very epicentre. Bangladesh's prosperity is and will continue to be derived from this role and will also depend on its ability to maintain the best of relations with all countries, whether near or far from it. Indeed, its survival and continuing prosperity as a state depends on judicious management of its geostrategic location.

At the same time, this locational advantage and importance also devolves on Bangladesh an onerous responsibility. For Bangladesh to continue serving as a facilitator of free maritime passage in the

Bay of Bengal nested in the larger Indo-Pacific region in the vast global Oceanic Commons, there must be common understanding that it is in its own larger interest as well as the interest of all. However, ensuring this requires greater regional cooperation than the peoples of the region have so far had or indulged in. Bangladesh has always ardently

only be surpassed at current rates by the US, China, and the European Union. The US can help Bangladesh's leading role as the facilitator of this process.

Given Bangladesh's centrality, the US needs a stable and prosperous Bangladesh, just as Bangladesh needs the US as a continuing interdependent development partner. Of course, Bangladesh also needs to demonstrate its role as exemplar by ensuring better governance of itself that is based on the exemplary standards of social justice and egalitarian rights for all its own citizens as well. However, in this endeavour, the US, with its head start of over 250 years in nation building and state consolidation, would surely recall its own many challenges that it has had to overcome. Today, the US can draw upon its own often difficult experience and assist Bangladesh, which embarked on its journey as an independent state a mere 50 years ago. It can help Bangladesh in capacity-building and institutional development towards an inclusive rules-based society, avoiding the pitfalls that it itself faced and is still facing to some extent.

Bangladesh has historically been part of ancient Indo-Pacific connectivity, and it has declared that it shall continue to be a part of ensuring future connectivity in the region. It is indeed in Bangladesh's interest to advocate and work for an open, resilient, and interconnected Indo-Pacific, because its own continuing sustainability as an independent, sovereign prosperous nation-state depends on this.

As an increasingly self-confident and prosperous Bangladesh moves away from a sense of obligatory dependency that defined its relationship with the US in the last 50 years, it is in the US' interest to promote a sense of growing interdependence with the relatively new nation-state that is Bangladesh, looking ahead at the next 50 years.

This is a shortened version of an article published by the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) of Washington, DC and Seattle.

**Bangladesh derives its historical legacy, and its current importance, from its geographical location at the epicentre of this vast oceanic planet.**

advocated cooperation among neighbours. It has consistently punched well above its weight in promoting regional cooperation, as clearly evinced from its active roles in the formation of Saarc, Bimstec and IORA, as well as its proactive role in fostering subregional cooperation within the BBIN. Bangladesh can, and should, now look to working in concert with other Bay of Bengal littoral and adjacent countries (who together comprise a quarter of the world's population) to engage together in economic cooperation. Such cooperation could organically progress towards the emergence of a Bay of Bengal Economic Community, whose aggregate GDP would

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Prime Minister's Office  
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority  
Dhaka Export Processing Zone  
Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka-1349.  
(www.bepza.gov.bd)

Ref. No. 03.06.2672.333.018.049.20-7931 Date: 21-05-2022

**Auction Notice (2nd Call)**

Sealed auctions are hereby invited from the interested National/Foreign Buyers/Companies in order to sell Inventoried & Valuated Structure, Machinery & other Assets by auction "as and where basis" of terminated male wears, female wears and children wears made of fleece/knit fabric manufacturing industry named M/s. Shine Fashion Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., Plot # 269-276, DEPZ (Ext. Zone) or to operate the enterprise. To participate in the auction the terms & conditions are stated below:

**Terms & Conditions:**

- Interested Persons/Organizations/ Existing enterprises of EPZ(s) (Local/Joint Venture/Foreign) or any other interested persons/organizations from outside EPZ can take part in this auction who are interested to purchase the Structure, Machinery, Equipment & other Assets "as and where basis" of the company by observing the existing rules and regulations in this regard.
- Successful bidder will have to pay VAT, TAX and other payable fees as per custom rules for the duty free imported Assets of existing Assets of industry to be taken out to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).
- Auction documents attached with a single pay order/bank draft/FDD from any schedule bank of an amount of 15% as earnest money (non-refundable for successful bidder & refundable for unsuccessful bidder) must be submitted in favour of BEPZA. Auction documents without earnest money will be treated as rejected.
- Inventoried Structure, Machinery, equipment & other Assets under the inventory list may be seen on 22/06/2022, 23/06/2022 & 26/06/2022 from 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM. Information regarding the visit and the list of Assets may be collected by contacting with the Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ directly.
- If the auction is accepted by the Authority, the successful bidder will have to pay the remaining 85% amount of the quoted price along with applicable TAX & VAT within 15 days to BEPZA through Pay Order/Bank Draft/FDD. Accordingly, the delivery of Structure, Machineries, Equipment & other Assets will have to be taken as per Customs & BEPZA rules.
- Auction Schedule may be bought by paying Tk. 5,000.00 (non-refundable) within 27/06/2022 during office hours from the Accounts Department of Dhaka EPZ, Chattogram EPZ, Adamjee EPZ, Mongla EPZ, Cumilla EPZ, Kamaphuli EPZ, Ishwardi EPZ, Uttara EPZ & Accounts Department, BEPZA Executive Office, Dhaka.
- Auction schedule may be dropped into the auction box kept at the office of Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ on 28/06/2022 from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm and Submitted Auction documents will be opened in the same date at 12:30 pm at the office of Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ in presence of the bidders (if any). Updated copy of VAT, TIN and Trade License shall have to be attached with the Auction schedule; but this condition may be relaxed by the Authority in case of fully new 100% foreign owned company interested to invest in the EPZ.
- Persons/Organizations/Investors who are interested to operate the closed industry will get priority in auction.
- Successful bidder will have to take permission to operate the industrial unit in the EPZ by following the project sanctioning procedure of BEPZA as per rules.
- The Authority reserves the right to accept any auction or reject any or all of the submitted auctions without showing any reason. The Authority also reserves the right to cancel the Auction and accordingly take next action if the desired rates are not obtained.

(Md. Abdus Sobhan)  
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief  
(Common Service)  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka  
www.modmr.gov.bd

Memo No: 51.00.0000.213.07.016.21.391 Date: 22.05.2022

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods. Details are given below:

Sl. No	Tender ID, Reference No	Procurement Nature, Title	Type, Method	Publishing date & Closing date
I	702378, 51.00.0000.213.07.016.21.390	Goods, Supply of Desktop Computer, Laptop, Printer & Scanner.	NCT, OTM	22 May, 2022: 17:00 & 05 June, 2022: 11:30

(A S M Ashrafur Islam) 22-05-22  
Joint Secretary (Common Service)  
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief  
Bangladesh secretariat, Dhaka.

GD-1042



YOUTH IN ACTION

# Where your pets feel at home

**Furryghor has received immense support from pet lovers and parents since its inception. The guest animals are monitored around the clock with CCTV cameras. In addition, two resident caregivers are always present at the facility.**

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

Rakibul Haq Emil, the Founder of PAW Foundation, along with Nuzhat Nabila and Khalid Farhan launched Furryghor, a hotel for pets, in February 2022. Nabila is an architect by profession, while Farhan is a digital marketer.

"Hotels like Furryghor are quite common in developed countries around the world," says Nabila. "Many go through the dilemma of where to keep their pets whenever they have to travel, as ensuring proper care for the animals becomes tough for them. This is where Furryghor comes in. We ensure proper care and housing for pets at affordable prices."

Planning for Furryghor's construction began in December 2021.

"I met Emil through PAW when I was volunteering to nurse sick animals back to



Furryghor ensures proper care and housing for pets.

PHOTOS: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

Furryghor's café, Pat a Pet, welcomes pets and their parents without any restrictions. Cookies, cakes, and other delicious treats are available for pets there. Pastry chef and visual pop artist Saria Saguaro oversees the café, alongside the team members of the hotel.

Furryghor has received immense support from pet lovers and parents since its inception. The guest animals are monitored around the clock with CCTV cameras. In addition, two resident caregivers are always present at the facility.

"Proper measurements and laws for animal rights and care have yet to be legally determined in Bangladesh," adds Emil. "Many young people provide foster care to cats and dogs at their own homes.

We plan to bring animal services to the mainstream."

One of the biggest challenges in operating Furryghor for the founders is the lack of properly trained animal caregivers. "People don't usually set out to become animal caregivers. We had to train our staff from scratch. As an organisation, we are still in our initial stage. We hope to become self-sustaining as we grow," shares Emil.

Moving forward, the founders plan to turn Furryghor into a resort where pets and their parents will be able to stay together and enjoy vacations.

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Pat a Pet is a café at Furryghor, offering treats for pets.

health," shares Nabila. "He came to me with the proposal to open Furryghor just a floor above PAW's Animal Clinic."

YOUNG ACHIEVER

# Reigning over the hockey field

AZIBOR RAHMAN, from Jhenidah

A girls' hockey team in Jhenidah has made their presence felt at various competitions. This correspondent visited Jhenidah Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman Stadium to talk to the players of the team. Seventeen girls were practicing under the guidance of their coach and physical instructor, Suriya Begum, a teacher at Fazar Ali Girls' School and College.

The passionate coach formed the hockey team in 2015. Since then, after school hours, she has been training the girls at Jhenidah Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman Stadium. The girls won the Walton Inter-District Competition in 2016, and went on to compete at the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Games in 2021, where they were the runners-up against Narail.

Sharmin Aktar from the team is a second-year HSC student. She started playing hockey in 2015, when she was a sixth grader. She won the title of Best Goalkeeper at the Walton Inter-District Competition 2016.

Sharmin's step-father, Sahjahan Mollah works at the Ansar Battalion, while her mother runs a

tea stall. The young hockey player hopes to get a job in defence in the future.

Shanta Moni, another member of the hockey team, is an eighth grader.

Her father died a few years back. Her

mother, Nasima Khatun, works in an NGO.

Shanta expects to get a job in the police force.

All the girls belong to low-income families.

Suriya Begum hopes to stand by them for as long as she can. She is confident that as hockey players, they will make Bangladesh proud.



PHOTO: STAR

EVENT

# BD K-Family celebrates cultures at Dhaka K-Meet 6.0

TINA ZAHAN

Dhaka K-Meet 6.0 was organised by the BD K-Family on May 20, 2022 at Tokyo Square Convention Centre. The BD K-Family community is the first and only South Korean cultural community, which celebrated its 12-year anniversary this year.

The signature event Dhaka K-Meet was graced by First Secretary Youngmin Seo, along with Cultural Officer Yu Haeng Lee, from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Bangladesh. The event saw almost 4000 participants belonging from all age groups.

The event consisted of K-pop dance and music performances, merchandise stalls, Korean food stalls, Korean tourism landscape display and many more attractions related to the South Korean culture. There were 50 performances, including special K-pop performances by the founders Tashnuva Zahan and Tina Zahan, Shouvik Ahmed with his crew 2N8, singer Mahi Hasin and more.

A member of the community Ahnaf Nuan, from the crew Rakuzan klan, said, "After finally meeting everyone from the community, I feel like I am home. This past 12 years

slowly grew into a huge part of my life which is like a source of dopamine for me."

Saiful Islam, president of the community shared his vision of how this rapidly increasing fanbase would soon create a positive impact among youngsters. Founder Tashnuva Zahan stated, "I honestly feel very proud of each and every member of the community for their underlying love and devotion towards their passion which will surely take them places."

The purpose of the BD K-Family is to create a platform for the people of Bangladesh to train and explore their talents while creating a cultural bond between the two nations. There are similar events in South Korea solely dedicated to Bangladeshi culture, which acts as a bridge in creating a beautiful friendship.

In 2023, Bangladesh and Korea will reach 50 years of diplomatic friendship, which is a big celebration of harmony. The community will promote peace and harmony between both nations. The events of BD K-Family are maintained by volunteers from Smile, a non-profit organisation and an amount from ticket sales will be donated to help people in need.



Participants and guests at the programme. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BD K-FAMILY



Swayong team members and guests at the screening of the documentary film. Photo: Courtesy

NURTURING DREAMS

# Swayong's 'Jonglaphool' focuses on the strength of women

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Swayong's documentary film "Jonglaphool", produced in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation and UKaid, showcases diverse women of society, who, like wildflowers, know how to survive amid adversities. The storytelling platform has so far shared 121 stories and conducted 18 campaigns since its inception in 2020.

"We believe that women are like wildflowers growing in the forest. They do not need protectors; they are independent and beautiful," asserted Swatil Mahmud, the co-founder.

"Jonglaphool" recognises women's unaccounted and unpaid care work, creating awareness about intersectional feminist activities and promoting women leaders and women-led initiatives that combat gender bias. The film encourages the audience to reflect on the unfairness women encounter and their roles in dismantling the patriarchy.

The segments in the documentary film are "Sarbjaya: Women Empowerment", "Bon Jui: Unpaid and Unaccounted Care Work" and "Mahabhringraj: Women Leading Movements". By covering themes that reflect on several aspects of a woman's life, Swayong wishes to present a relatable story about ordinary women who need more

representation in media.

"Growing up, I did not see women like myself on television. When I got the chance to produce visual content, the first thing that came to my mind was the fact that we need to bring better role models and share everyday stories," Swatil explained.

The first segment talks about the lives of two women, who are similar, yet different in many ways. It focuses

features insights from experts who explain the nature of this problem. The women in this segment are ordinary working people, with the added burden of family responsibilities. It instantly connects with the viewers as they can associate these role models with people they know and thereby form a new idea about their lives.

The last segment showcases the feminist movements conducted by women across different generations. For this one, women from different backgrounds shared their take on conducting movements and how experience coupled with power helps them roar and rise.

Swatil, along with Nujhat Jabin Sumaiya, brainstormed the idea behind this film. She took help from her sister and Swayong's co-founder, Mitul Mahmud to design the story. "Jonglaphool is an ode to all the strong women out there, including the ones who made this documentary possible," she added. Apart from this, the videos were shot and edited by Mir Rabby and Emon Kalyan.

Swatil hopes to conduct private screenings of "Jonglaphool" in the future, to connect with more people.

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A snippet from the documentary film.





Mushfiqur Rahim animating a Tiger's roar is the apt depiction of how the opening day of Bangladesh's second Test against Sri Lanka went in Mirpur yesterday. Both Mushfiqur and Liton Das struck unbeaten tons and stitched together a record 253-run unbeaten sixth-wicket stand to help Bangladesh roar back into the Test.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 'AMAZING EFFORT' salvages the day

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were 24 for five as the early morning conditions confounded the hosts after opting to bat in the series-deciding second Test at Mirpur yesterday. Openers Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudul Hasan Joy went back to the hut for naught and captain Mominul Haque, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib Al Hasan failed to put up much of a resistance. But if morning shows the day, the Tigers must count themselves lucky to have turned the innings around after such a disastrous start.

Kasun Rajitha and Asitha Fernando had run rampant in that first session as Bangladesh lost five wickets inside seven overs. The last time a team had lost five in seven overs was Australia during a 2015 Test against England. The Aussies were bowled out for just 60 in that Nottingham Test and the premonitions were there that Bangladesh might slump to similar lows that they produced in South Africa only recently, bundled out for 80 and 53.

The fact that it ultimately did not happen was only made possible by the quite surreal sixth-wicket stand between the experienced Mushfiqur Rahim and ever-improving Liton Das. The duo saw to it that Bangladesh scraped through to

lunch and set the tone with their solidity. Bangladesh's approach in Tests is often questionable and the first five wickets had been suggestive of that lack of application or patience. While Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Mominul were late to their shots, Tamim Iqbal and Shakib were guilty of playing across the line. The Mirpur surface had enough in there for the pacers to extract that little bit of movement and Bangladesh top-order collapsed.

Grit, determination, patience and, above all, application was shown by both Mushfiqur and Liton in getting behind the deliveries, not trying to prod at anything too far away from them.

A straight bat was shown to most deliveries and they allowed the deliveries to come into their zone and then backed themselves up with good shot selection.

SCORES IN BRIEF (Day 1)

Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka  
**BANGLADESH:** First innings-277 for 5 in 85 overs (Liton 135 not out, Mushfiqur 115 not out, Mominul 9; Rajitha 3-43, Asitha 2-80)

**"It is one of the best partnerships I have seen as a coach in Tests. We were 20 for five, under a lot of pressure. It was an amazing effort by those two batters."**



Russell Domingo

After lunch, Liton found that stroke of luck, dropped on 47 at fine leg after he miscued a pull off an Asitha Fernando delivery meant as a bait. Liton, instead of shying away from pull shots, put away two more short deliveries that over to reach his fifty.

Sri Lanka's short-length strategy saw most of Liton's runs come through the leg-side region. The duo broke the record for a sixth-wicket partnership after a team had lost five wickets under 25 runs as they went past Pakistan's Wallis Mathias and Shujauddin Butt 86-run

stand set in Dhaka in 1959.

Liton got to his hundred first on the last session and was followed by Mushfiqur soon after as the unbroken 253-run stand – the highest sixth-wicket stand in Tests for Bangladesh – saw Bangladesh reach 277 for five at close.

"Liton has evolved his game. He has developed a very good batting technique. He has found a good way to prepare for Tests in the last year and a half. Knowing when to do the work, and when not to do the work. He has developed a good routine," head coach Russell Domingo said at the press conference yesterday.

That routine certainly worked its charm for Liton in the recent few Tests. "It is pretty much the start of hopefully a successful Test career," Domingo added. Mushfiqur's routine worked its charm too as he picked up his second successive ton after Chattogram. "For sure, he has worked a little bit on his technique in the last couple of games. But he knows how to get runs. It is all about supporting players who are going through a bad run," Domingo said about Mushfiqur's run of form.

"It is one of the best partnerships I have seen as a coach in Tests. We were 20 for five, under a lot of pressure. It was an amazing effort by those two batters," he said.

DAY 1: FROM CHAOTIC TO ECSTATIC

HOW THE DAY STARTED:

- Only the third time that Bangladesh lost both openers for ducks in a Test innings, and unfortunately, all three instances involve Mirpur and Tamim Iqbal as common denominators.
- Bangladesh were 24 for five in 6.5 overs, and it was the first instance in nearly seven years that a team lost their first five wickets inside seven overs.
- It was also the first time in 12 years that the first five wickets fell before lunch in Mirpur on day one of a Test match.

HOW IT ENDED:

- Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das stitched an unbeaten 253-run stand, which is a record partnership for the sixth wicket after a team had lost five wickets under 25 runs.
- Liton and Mushfiqur also broke a 63-year record. Previously, the highest partnership after a team had lost five or more wickets under 25 runs was the 86-run stand between Pakistan's Wallis Mathias and Shujauddin Butt against West Indies in 1959 after the team slumped to 22 for five in Dhaka.
- Mushfiqur and Liton's stand is also Bangladesh's highest sixth-wicket stand in Tests, surpassing the 191-run stand by Mohammad Ashraful and Mushfiqur, set in 2007 at Colombo against Sri Lanka.

## Kings face uphill task

SPORTS REPORTER

Having kept their sights on a knockout berth, Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings are hoping for a win over Gokulam Kerala while hoping that ATK Mohun Bagan slip up against Maziya S&RC in the final-day Group D fixtures of the AFC Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium today.

All four teams have three points each after two matches and have a chance to advance to the inter-zonal semifinals, but Kings are bottom of the table due to a poor goal difference.

ATK Mohun Bagan are on top, followed by Gokulam Kerala, Maziya and Bashundhara Kings. If more than one team finish with equal points, the head-to-head record will be considered first before goals difference and goals scored among teams, to determine the group winners.

Bashundhara Kings have no option but to beat Gokulam Kerala to keep their path open and expect ATK Mohun Bagan do not beat Maziya in the day's second match.

It is going to be difficult for Kings to beat Gokulam Kerala, especially following a 4-0 defeat against Mohun Bagan. Coach Oscar Bruzon is trying to boost the morale of the players ahead of the match against the I-league champions.

"Mental preparation is important after a big defeat. The mood in the team was low until yesterday [Sunday]. We have analysed what Gokulam Kerala can do and will work towards finding a way to defeat them," Bruzon was quoted as saying on the AFC website.

## Swiatek extends unbeaten streak to 29

REUTERS, Paris

World number one Iga Swiatek put on a commanding display against Ukrainian qualifier Lesia Tsurenko with a 6-2, 6-0 opening victory on Monday to kickstart her bid for a second French Open title and extend her winning run to 29 matches.

Swiatek, who won the 2020 Roland Garros title without dropping a set, arrived in Paris having won her last five tournaments, including four WTA 1000 events, and is the overwhelming favourite to lift the Suzanne Lenglen Cup again. "I just want to keep going. I am aware that someday my streak may stop," Swiatek said on court. "Basically I am just working every day to be 100% focused on my tennis, not on stats or not on some numbers." "Just playing tennis and focusing on my game and being kind of in a bubble. That's going to help me be consistent."

## Man City crave Champions League legacy

AFP, London

Manchester City's latest Premier League title triumph established the champions as a burgeoning dynasty, but Pep Guardiola won't be satisfied until their domestic bliss becomes the catalyst to conquer Europe.

City's fourth title in five seasons is arguably the greatest achievement of Guardiola's glittering career as he found a way to hold off Liverpool's relentless challenge by one point.

"The magnitude of our achievement is because of the magnitude of this rival," said Guardiola. "Never ever I had a rival like Liverpool in my career as a football player or manager."

But even Jurgen Klopp's men, in the midst

**This season is absolutely incredible and will not end today, it ends next week obviously. We have now five days to prepare the final (Champions League, May 28), that's what we will do. And of course, losing the league today increased the desire to put it right next week, it increased the desire.**



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp

of one of the best seasons in their history, were unable to surpass City, leaving them with just one Premier League title in 32 years.

Lauding his players' remarkable staying power, Guardiola said: "You cannot be here over the last five years if you don't have that resilience."

"We have the desire to win. To win titles, especially the Premier League, is not just how good we are with the ball."

Nothing resembled that resilience more than the manner of City's latest title triumph.

Losing 2-0 to Aston Villa with 15 minutes to go, City rallied in remarkable fashion to score three times in five minutes.

Yet, while Guardiola celebrates the ninth major prize of his six-year City reign, Klopp will be planning to add another chapter to Liverpool's rich Champions League history.

Liverpool face Real Madrid in the Champions League final on May 28 and Guardiola would dearly love to swap places with Klopp in Paris.

Since winning the second of his two Champions League crowns with Barcelona in 2011, Guardiola's relationship with Europe's elite club competition has been scarred by one agonising failure after another.

This season was no different as City crashed to a devastating semi-final exit against Real Madrid, blowing a 5-3 aggregate lead in the final seconds of normal time before losing in the extra period.

That heartache at the Bernabeu came a year after City's limp loss to Chelsea in their first ever Champions League final.



Spaniard Pep Guardiola became the most successful foreign manager in English football, in terms of league titles won, when he clinched his fourth Premier League crown on Sunday. With his latest success, the Manchester City manager moved above Frenchman Arsene Wenger and Portuguese Jose Mourinho who both have three Premier League titles to their names.

PHOTO: TWITTER



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## NEW ECONOMIC GROUPING

# Washington wants Dhaka in

STAR REPORT

The US wants Bangladesh to join the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), a new regional trade initiative launched by Joe Biden in Japan yesterday.

Apart from the US, the initial partners of the IPEF are Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, according to a White House Statement.

US Embassy Spokesperson in Dhaka, Bryan Schiller, in a message to the media said Bangladesh is an important regional partner of the US, which has been in contact with the government here about the IPEF since the partnership dialogue in March and at regular intervals in Dhaka and Washington.

"We look forward to continuing to exchange views on IPEF and the 21st century economic challenges it seeks to address, including the digital economy, clean energy transition, and supply chain resiliency," he said.

"I believe we'll win the competition of the 21st century together," said Joe Biden at the launch of the framework on his second day in Japan, where he also held talks with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida before joining a regional Quad summit.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has not made any immediate comment on whether Bangladesh would participate in the IPEF.

On various occasions he has said Bangladesh is not interested in any security alliance in the Indo-Pacific but is keen on socio-economic cooperation.

The statement said the IPEF will create a stronger, fairer, more resilient economy for families, workers, and businesses in the United States and in the Indo-Pacific region.



Two boys gather peanuts from a submerged field on Char Gabsara in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila yesterday, trying to salvage whatever has not yet rotted. Many croplands and low-lying areas along the riverside in different upazilas of the district have been inundated due to the untimely swelling of the Jamuna. PHOTO: STAR

## HAJJ FLIGHTS

# PMO warns Biman, others against any mess-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's Office has sternly warned Biman and others concerned about disruptions to hajj flights and asked them to remain extremely vigilant so that there is no fiasco.

During a hajj management review meeting, chaired by Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the prime minister, on Tuesday, the PMO issued nine directives to ministries and departments concerned.

The matter, however, came to light yesterday.

According to the instructions, hajj flights will only carry pilgrims and no other passengers, and carriers have to ensure that all pilgrims get their immigration procedures done at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

"For this purpose, the required number of booths should be set up in the hajj camp," a top official of the religious affairs ministry told The Daily Star quoting the instructions.

Two additional booths will be set up at the airport for special cases.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has to provide necessary information of pilgrims to the immigration authorities in advance.

The health department will take necessary steps in coordination with the religious affairs ministry, for designating a hospital for smooth RT-PCR tests of pilgrims, the instructions read.

All services at the hajj camp will be 24/7.

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# Diseases lurk as floodwater recedes

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

As the Surma has been flowing below the danger level at some points in Sylhet city and Sunamganj town for two consecutive days yesterday, floodwaters are receding fast in many areas.

Against this backdrop, doctors warn of the risk of locals contracting waterborne diseases considering that all sources of drinking water will remain contaminated for at least a few weeks.

Visiting some areas in Sylhet city, this correspondent saw that water has been stagnant in the drains, canals and low-lying spaces, and is beginning to emit bad odour.

Santu Das, a resident of the city's Jamtola area, said, "While the water is receding, all the garbage carried by the flood still remains and has been stinking up all the areas. Every previously flooded area is in need of quick cleaning and bleaching."

Meanwhile, Md Zahidul Islam, chief health officer of Sylhet City

Corporation, said, "By drinking contaminated water from tube wells or even the regular water supply, many people might contract waterborne diseases and this is a high-priority issue now."

"We will be running awareness campaigns in this regard twice a week in all wards,

**"All medical teams have been distributing water purifying tablets and providing necessary awareness information to the people." — Sylhet's Civil Surgeon SM Shahreer.**

while water purification tablet distribution continues. We are also planning to clean the city."

In Sylhet district, 140 medical teams are working in 103 flooded unions of all 13 upazilas and the city, according to Sylhet civil surgeon office.

It said 43 people in the district have had diarrhoea till

yesterday, while two people have been suffering from respiratory issues, three from skin diseases, and five others from other waterborne diseases.

Meanwhile, six people have so far died either by drowning or falling under landslides during the floods.

SM Shahreer, the civil surgeon in Sylhet, said, "All medical teams have been distributing water purifying tablets and providing necessary awareness information to the people. But local representatives need to play a more vital role in ensuring that the services reach the remote parts of the affected areas."

The situation in Sunamganj is better as not many cases of waterborne diseases have been recorded yet, said Ahmmad Hossain, civil surgeon of Sunamganj.

"As water purification tablets are being distributed among all flood-affected people, we are hoping not to see an outbreak of disease."

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## FLOODS IN NORTH

# 1.5m children are at risk

Says Unicef

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Over 1.5 million children are at increased risk of waterborne diseases, drowning and malnutrition due to extensive flooding in north-eastern Bangladesh, said Unicef Bangladesh in a statement yesterday.

Over four million people in five districts of north-eastern Bangladesh — Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Netrokona and Moulvibazar — have been affected by extensive flooding.

Sylhet and Sunamganj are the worst hit, with water flowing above dangerous levels. Agricultural land and critical infrastructure, including power stations and schools, have been submerged.

Cases of diarrhoea, respiratory infection, and skin diseases have already been reported. At least three children have died after being struck by lightning, the statement said.

Hundreds of schools have been closed, further jeopardising children's education after 18 months of school closures in the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The damage to lives, homes and schools is heartbreaking. In this disaster, as in most others, children are the most vulnerable," said Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

"Unicef is on the ground to protect children and to meet their urgent needs, supporting the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



BNP activists take part in a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. The party's Dhaka south and north city units organised the rally to protest what they said were "indecent comments" made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina regarding their party chief Khaleda Zia.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Khaleda sick again, needs to go abroad

### Says Fakhrul, wants PM to apologise for 'indecent remark'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has once again fallen ill, the party said yesterday.

"Khaleda Zia is very sick. If she is not given better treatment, her life will be threatened," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party.

At a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, he said, "We asked you [the government] repeatedly to release her [Khaleda]. I am calling on you again to allow her to go abroad for better treatment. There is still time."

The 76-year-old former premier is a patient of liver cirrhosis and needs immediate advance

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## You can't extract sand from Meghna

### HC tells AL leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to allow Awami League leader Md Salim Khan to extract sand from the Meghna in Chandpur and sell it.

The court summarily rejected a writ petition filed by Salim seeking its permission for extraction and sale of 28.4 lakh cubic feet of sand or earth from the river bed in Chandpur Sadar upazila's Shakhua, Ichuli and Mirzapur mouzas and Haimchar upazila's Monipur and Charkrishnapur mouzas.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Khizir Hayat passed the order after hearing arguments on the petition.

Lawyer Jafar Alam Khan appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hassan represented the state.

Jafar said his client would move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC order.

The HC rejected the petition as the Appellate Division had earlier stayed two HC orders that had allowed Salim to extract sand from other areas of the Meghna in Chandpur, he told The Daily Star.

Salim has deposited royalty to the Chandpur

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