



### A zoo where animals will roam free



### Quad opposes change of 'status quo by force'



### Bashundhara Kings win AFC Cup



### Half of mobile users have smartphones



Vehicles caught in a snarl-up on the New Airport Road in the capital's Nikunja area during yesterday's morning rush. Congestion keeps eating up people's time and wastes precious fuel in this city.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## INFLATION, FOREX PRESSURE Govt moves to rein them in

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has ramped up its measures to contain the pressure on foreign currency reserves and inflation, drafting an action plan to discourage non-essential imports and bring relief to the poor and the vulnerable from the spiralling cost of living.

To help people struggling to get essentials, the VAT on the import of refined soybean, palm, rapeseed, canola and olive oil will be withdrawn, said sources. The export of rice bran oil has already been banned.

The government is also trying to stop the decline in foreign reserves by discouraging unnecessary imports and suspending virtually all official tours abroad by government and Bangladesh Bank officials, employees of autonomous, state-owned, semi-government organisations and banks.

Projects with high import components have also been deferred.

The import duty on 135 products, including flowers, fruits, furniture and cosmetics, has been raised to 20 percent. It was zero to three percent before, said the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday.

Apart from discouraging unnecessary imports, it said the increased duty would help develop domestic industries, save valuable foreign exchange reserves and increase revenue.

As of May 19, Bangladesh had \$42.3 billion in reserves – enough to cover just about five months' import bills. In August last year, the reserves hit a record \$48.1 billion.

Contracting remittance inflow since last year and rebounding imports put reserves under pressure, exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

- Regulatory duties increased on 135 items
- Govt to increase number of import-restricted goods
- Subsidised food to be sold among 13.90 lakh families from June 15
- VAT to be withdrawn on import of refined soybean, palm oil
- Wheat to be imported from India under G-to-G arrangements
- Export of rice bran oil banned

This led to the taka losing its value against the dollar.

The official taka-dollar exchange rate is Tk 87.9, up from Tk 84.8 at the beginning of the fiscal year. However, in the kerb market, the exchange rate is as high as Tk 100 as greenbacks are proving hard to get hold of.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the cabinet meeting on Thursday questioned the necessity of importing foreign fruits, like apples, at a time when summer fruits are aplenty, The Daily Star has learnt from participants at the meeting.

Subsequently, she directed the finance and commerce ministries and the central bank to find ways to cool down the demand for dollars. Hasina, at a meeting of the National Economic Council on May 17, has called upon the people to practise austerity and be careful about spending in the face of a global economic slowdown.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bank has also sought the cooperation of the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association.

In the first nine months of the fiscal year, import payments amounted to \$61.5 billion, up 44 percent from a year earlier.

The volume of imports did not soar as much, but the global inflation tipped the value of imports, particularly of commodities.

The higher import value of commodities means the prices of essentials are racing beyond the means of the poor and the low-income people.

To alleviate their sufferings, the government will be taking a series of initiatives in the coming days, The Daily Star has learnt from commerce ministry officials.

From June 15, the government will start selling foodstuff at subsidised rates among 13.90 lakh families under family cards across the country, except in Dhaka and Barishal cities.

Cardholders can buy two litres of soybean oil, two kgs of lentils and a kg of sugar at subsidised rates from dedicated dealer shops in wards.

The authorities will also import wheat from India under the government-to-government arrangements and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh will directly buy essentials from external sources from next month.

The authorities have urged businesses to ramp up the import of soybean and other edible oils and requested the agriculture ministry to initiate moves to increase the production of soybean, rapeseeds, and sunflower.

The government will set aside adequate allocation in the upcoming

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

## PADMA BRIDGE OPENING June 25: Countdown to dream come true

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speculation over when the Padma bridge would open has come to an end, and the countdown to the long-awaited day that the country's longest bridge will be open to traffic has begun.

The public can start using the 6.15-kilometre bridge that will connect the capital with the south-western regions from June 25 – just 31 days away.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the bridge at 10:00am on the day, fulfilling the decades-long desire of the people, particularly those from the southern districts.

The PM yesterday fixed the date, which was announced by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader around 1:00pm.

The minister along with top government officials had met the prime minister at the Gono Bhaban earlier in the day, when she signed the summary setting the date of inauguration.

Hasina rejected a proposal to name bridge after her. The bridge will instead be named the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, Quader said.

Once in service, the bridge will connect the capital with 21 southwestern districts by road and railway, providing relief to tens of thousands who often face hardships while travelling across the river, especially around of major festivals.

The double-decker bridge – a four-lane road on top and broad-gauge single rail track on the bottom – is expected to boost the country's gross domestic product by 1.2 percent.

SPECULATION OVER OPENING DATE OVER

Since installation of the last span of the bridge in December 2020, Quader and other top officials have been saying that the bridge would be opened in June this year.

But Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last



PM approving the inauguration date.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

month told parliament that the bridge, being built under a Tk 30,193 project, would be opened at the end of the year.

Despite this, different officials continued saying that it would be opened by June, with Quader saying on May 11: "As a minister, after being briefed properly, I am saying the bridge will be opened next month."

And when the Bridge Division issued a circular announcing the toll rates for the bridge on May 17, the notion that the bridge would open sooner rather than later gained strength.

Other than June 25, the ruling Awami

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

## BCL swoops on Chhatra Dal Female activists among those beaten up on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some 30 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal members, including a few female activists, were injured as Bangladesh Chhatra League men swooped on them with sticks, iron rods and



BCL men assault JCD leader Tanni Mallick on DU campus yesterday.

PHOTO: GRAB FROM BANGLAVISION TV

machetes on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The attack first took place at the Central Shaheed Minar area around 9:30am when JCD men in a procession were trying to enter the campus for holding a pre-scheduled programme.

It resulted in a chase and counter-chase with both sides also throwing brick chips at each other.

Photos and video clips, which were doing the rounds on social media, showed female activists of JCD beaten up by BCL men.

Mansura Alam, member of DU JCD Convening Committee, and Tanni Mallick, joint general secretary of Private University JCD, were among the injured.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Ahead of polls, press freedom more crucial Speakers tell Press Freedom Day event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the two proposed acts relating to media freedom, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas feared that some of the provisions in the draft acts could be used to intimidate journalists.

"We are concerned about the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's draft 'Regulation for Digital, Social Media and Over-the-Top Platforms' and the draft 'Data Protection Act'. While neither draft has been finalised, we fear they contain provisions which could be used to further intimidate journalists and others eager to express themselves," he said.

Addressing a discussion styled "Commemorating World Press Freedom Day 2022" at the EMK Centre in the capital yesterday, he said the US has made its concerns about the Digital Security Act (DSA) clear – both in its Annual Human Rights Report and in meetings with government officials.

"As you all know, this law threatens reporters with criminal prosecution if they publish things the government finds false, offensive, derogatory or defamatory."

Referring to the "Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index," Haas said Bangladesh ranked 162nd among 180 countries, a drop of 10 places compared to the previous year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## BNP to talk to other parties about movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has decided to hold talks with other parties to devise a strategy for a united movement against the government.

At a press briefing in party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they made the decision to pursue a national unity for "restoration of democracy in the country."

Asked whether the party would speak to Jamaat-e-Islami, he

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

**GREE** গ্রিসি

বিশ্বের ১ নম্বর গ্রিসি নির্মাতা ব্র্যান্ড গ্রি-র সাথে বাসাকে করে তুলুন ভালো বাসা!

ভালো বাসা আর বিস্তৃত বাতাসে পরিবারের সবাইকে যুগ যুগ ধরে আসলে রেখেছে অত্যাধুনিক স্মার্ট ফিচার, অ্যান্টিবায়োটেরিয়াল ফিল্টার, বিদ্যুৎসঞ্চয়ী গ্রিন ইনভারটার টেকনোলজি, পরিবেশবান্ধব গ্যাস ও ৯০ বছরের কম্প্রেশার ওয়ারেন্টি সমৃদ্ধ গ্রি গ্রিসি।

WORLD'S No.1 Air conditioner Manufacturer 10 Years Warranty

Electro Mart Limited 16649



## Khaleda gets permanent bail in Cumilla arson case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has granted permanent bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Cumilla arson case.

The bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice SM Mozibur Rahman passed the order after hearing a rule on Monday.

Police filed the case with Chaudhagram Police Station on January 24, 2015, following an anti-government agitation.

In 2019, the HC had granted ad-interim bail to the BNP chief and issued the rule asking the state why she should not be granted permanent bail in this case.

Khaleda's lawyer Kayser Kamal said she is accused in 37 criminal cases and on bail in 35 of them. She is convicted in two more cases.

The BNP chairperson will get bail and acquittal in all 37 cases if the law can take its course and if any external interference is not made in the case proceedings, he added.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappy said the HC granted permanent bail to Khaleda as she did not misuse her ad-interim bail.

Khaleda landed in jail on February 8, 2017, after being sentenced to five years imprisonment by a special court in Dhaka in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

On October 30 the following year, the HC enhanced her punishment to 10 years after dismissing her appeal in the case.

The former prime minister was convicted by another special court in Dhaka in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case on October 29, 2018. She was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment by the court.

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25, 2020, after the government suspended her jail sentence for six months.



Chhatra League men beat up Abu Afsan Mohammad Yahya, organising secretary of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, near the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Leaders and activists of the pro-BNP students' platform came under attack from the BCL men when they were going to Dhaka University to hold a scheduled programme.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

### BATTLE ON EASTERN FRONT

# Russia moves to encircle Ukraine troops

20 countries offer new arms packages for Kyiv

#### AGENCIES

Russian forces were launching an all-out assault to encircle Ukrainian troops in twin cities straddling a river in eastern Ukraine yesterday, a battle which could determine the success or failure of Moscow's main campaign in the east.

Exactly three months after Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, authorities in its second-largest city Kharkiv re-opened the underground metro, where thousands of civilians had sheltered for months under relentless bombardment.

The reopening was evidence of Ukraine's biggest military success over the past few weeks: pushing Russian forces largely out of artillery range of Kharkiv, which they did from the capital Kyiv in March.

But the decisive battles of the war's latest phase are still raging further south, where Moscow is attempting to seize the Donbas region of two eastern provinces, Donetsk and Luhansk, and trap Ukrainian forces in a pocket on the main eastern front.

The easternmost part of the Ukrainian-held Donbas pocket, the city

of Sievierodonetsk on the east bank of the Siverskiy Donets river and its twin Lysychansk on the west bank, have become the pivotal battlefield there, with Russian forces advancing from three directions to encircle them.

"The enemy has focused its efforts on carrying out an offensive in order to encircle Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk," said Serhiy Gaidai, governor of Luhansk province, where the two cities are among the last territory still held by Ukraine.

Further west in Slovyansk, air raid sirens wailed yesterday morning but streets were still busy, with a market full, children riding bikes and a street musician playing violin by a supermarket, reports Reuters.

Gaidai said Ukrainian forces had driven the Russians out of the village of Toshkivka just south of Sievierodonetsk. Russian-backed separatists said they had taken control of Svitlodarsk, south of Bakhmut.

Comments by senior Russian officials yesterday suggested plans for a drawn-out conflict ahead. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Russia was deliberately advancing slowly to avoid civilian casualties.

The Donbas fighting follows Russia's biggest victory in months: the surrender last week of Ukraine's garrison in the port of Mariupol after nearly three months of siege in which Kyiv believes tens of thousands of civilians have died.

Petro Andryushchenko, an aide to Mariupol's Ukrainian mayor now operating outside the Russian-held city, said the dead were still being found in the rubble.

US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, in a meeting of allies, announced on Monday that some 20 countries offered new security assistance packages for Ukraine to battle Russian forces.

In Russia, foreign ministry announced that it was imposing an entry ban on 154 members of the UK parliament's House of Lords in retaliation for sanctions against Russian senators over Ukraine, reports AFP.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos yesterday, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Sweden and Finland, which have applied to join Nato, will attend the transatlantic alliance's summit in Madrid next month.

Spain will speed up its parliamentary procedure to give its backing for the entry of the two nations in the alliance, he said.

## The poet's return

FROM PAGE 12

was brought back to Bangladesh from India the day before – within six months of the country's independence.

Known to have portrayed love, freedom, revolution and opposed religious bigotry through his works, Nazrul stayed in the country till his last breath.

Today, Bangladesh is celebrating his 123rd birth anniversary through various programmes across the country.

"Bangabandhu brought Nazrul back to Bangladesh on his own will and declared him the national poet while celebrating his 73rd birthday," Mohammad Nurul Huda, Nazrul researcher, poet, and director general of Bangla Academy, told The Daily Star.

Researchers say the poet was invited to a newly independent Bangladesh on December 2, 1971, by the then prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad.

His family confirmed he would visit Bangladesh soon.

In February 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sent bouquets to the poet, who by then had begun losing his voice and memory due to old age, and invited him to visit.

While the literary genius was recognised as the national poet from the day after his return on May 24, 1972, no government gazette with regards to this recognition was ever issued.

Mohammad Zakir Hossain, executive director of the government-run Kabi Nazrul Institute, said, "It is

true that there has never been an official gazette in this regard. But there are at least two laws that were passed in parliament – Kabi Nazrul Institute Act 2018 and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Act 2006 – that recognise him as the National Poet."

In recognition of Nazrul's contribution to Bangla literature and culture, Dhaka University awarded the poet with the honorary Doctrine de Letter (D.Lit) degree on December 9, 1974.

In January 1976, the Bangladesh government granted him Bangladeshi citizenship and on February 21, he was awarded the Ekushey Padak.

Nazrul, a poet, lyricist, musician, revolutionary and philosopher, was born 11th Joishtha in Bengali calendar year 1306 (May 25 in the Gregorian calendar). He has gifted the nation with at least 2,400 songs, popularly known as Nazrul Sanget.

Although known for his criticism of imperialism, social and religious taboos, Nazrul also delved deeply into the themes of love, romance and devotion.

## Four migrants drown, three missing off Libya

AFP, Tripoli

Four migrants were found dead and three were missing after their boat capsized off the Libyan coast, the North African country's coast guard said yesterday.

## Ahead of polls, press freedom more crucial

FROM PAGE 1

He said one reason Bangladesh scored so low is the DSA, which the report calls "one of the world's most draconian laws for journalists".

In the same report, the US ranked 42nd among 180 countries. "Yes, that is in the top 25 percent but it's far from the top. Frankly, the United States needs to do better," he mentioned.

Stating that a free press is a key ingredient in a legitimate and free democracy, He said, "We all have an obligation to protect the free press and to allow journalists to seek and report the truth without fear, harassment or censorship."

About the next general polls, he said the US policy on Bangladesh polls is that the people of the country should have the ability to choose their own government through free and fair elections conducted in line with international standards.

It is Naoki, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh, said that as freedom of expression is protected in Bangladesh constitution, it shouldn't be constrained by a particular law, the DSA.

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement that "in this country you can express your opinion, no matter what it is", Naoki said, "I think it is a very important statement in light of the fact that Bangladesh is going to graduate from LDC status; Bangladesh is going to achieve inclusive growth and SDG goals. So, this is a very basis of further

democratic development of this country."

Terming Dhaka a centre of regional diplomacy, the ambassador said it's clearly there to see that Bangladesh needs to be better in every aspect of democratic development.

"So, I am sure that press freedom should be a part of that. This is related to branding Bangladesh. As Bangladesh develops, I hope it will be able to ensure press freedom in a more perfect sense."

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Lilly Nicholls said the role of journalists is unique and absolutely critical for a just and democratic society.

Praising Bangladesh media for carrying on work amid huge pressure and tough situations, British Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh Javed Patel said free and credible media is essential for good governance.

"As the election is due next year, it's essential that Bangladesh retains space for both the incumbent party and the opposition to campaign so that people can make their own choices and above all for their choices to count on the election day."

About the DSA, he said, "We share concern about the use of the Digital Security Act and note that the government stated interest in amending the act to prevent its misuse. We continue to encourage the government to follow through on its commitment."

About the new

communications laws that are in the pipeline, he said, "We will encourage further dialogue with media professionals and the civil society to pave the way for more inclusive and permissive information environment, particularly ahead of the election next year."

Presenting the keynote paper, former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul said freedom of press is guaranteed in the constitution but in some cases, freedom after expression is restricted by some laws in Bangladesh.

"There are more than two dozen laws that sometimes create obstacles to freedom of expression."

Pointing out the challenges for journalists, he said, "Doing journalism in Bangladesh is like swimming in a pond infested with crocodiles."

Putting forward a set of recommendations, Bulbul said it's necessary for Bangladesh to have a tolerant society and media literacy and see an end to the culture of impunity to uphold the freedom of press.

Matiur Rahman, editor of Daily Prothom Alo, shared his experience of five decades as a journalist and said Bangladesh media is moving forward despite various types of pressure and risks.

Referring to the 1962 movement against the then military ruler Ayub Khan, he said, "Even after 60 years, we are talking about media freedom and doing journalism without fear and

intimidation."

Matiur shared his experience as editors of Bhorer Kagoj and Prothom Alo, and said sometimes government advertisements and sometimes private advertisements were stopped. There were also instances of harassment through lawsuits in different districts during the tenures of BNP and Awami League governments.

He said the DSA has become a big barrier to free press in the country.

A moment of silence was observed in the honour of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was tragically killed in the West Bank on May 11.

## BNP to talk

FROM PAGE 1

said, "We will talk to all political parties."

About the BNP-led 20-party alliance, Fakhru said, "We have not dissolved it yet. The future of the alliance will be finalised through discussions."

He added, "The main objectives of the talks are to restore democracy and voting and other rights of people that the fascist government has snatched and to revive the economy and the institutions of the country destroyed by this incumbent government."

Fakhru said their dialogue is to forge unity among political parties to wage a movement for establishing people's voting rights.

Fakhru said after the talks, a set of united demands would be finalised. "We will then wage a united movement based on the demands."

## Body of IU teacher's wife recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered the body of a woman from her house in Kushtia Sadar upazila's Kamalapur area yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Nujahan Parveen, 42, wife of Nazrul Islam, who is an associate professor at Kushtia Islamic University (IU).

Sabbirul Alam, OC of Kushtia Model Police, said that according to the couple's 13-year-old daughter, Nurjahan and Nazrul were fighting on Sunday night. During the fight, he hit her with a bat.

Several IU sources said the couple would often have such fights and had to be taken to hospital many times as a result.

OC Sabbir added that after continuing the fight on Monday, Nurjahan locked herself in a room at night. She was found hanging from a ceiling fan yesterday morning.

The body was sent to hospital for autopsy. Nurjahan's brother Jahangir claimed she died by suicide as she was beaten. "We will file a complaint with the police."

Speaking to The Daily Star, Nazrul admitted to fighting with his wife. "She also used to hit me from time to time. But I cannot accept that she would die by suicide for this."

## Samrat back in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat to jail again after he surrendered before it, seeking bail in a corruption case.

The case was filed against him for siphoning around Tk 222 crore and channelling it to casinos in Singapore and Malaysia between 2011 and 2018.

Judge Al Asad Md Asifuzzaman, of Special Judge's Court-6, passed the order after a hearing and also directed jail authorities to provide him with proper treatment in jail as per the Jail Code.

Earlier in the day, Samrat appeared before the court from BSMU by an ambulance.

On May 18, the HC cancelled Samrat's bail and ordered him to surrender. Following the order, Samrat challenged the order with the Supreme Court.

The chamber judge, however, refused to stay the HC bail order on May 23.

Samrat was released on bail on May 11 after spending over two and a half years in jail in four cases.

## Man sentenced to life for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Thakurgaon court yesterday sentenced a man to life in connection with a case filed against him for raping a student of Thakurgaon Polytechnic Institute in 2010.

Md Golam Farukh, judge of Thakurgaon's Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, delivered the verdict.

The court also fined the convict Rizvi son of late Nurul Islam of Karnite village in Thakurgaon Ranishankoil's upazila, Tk 10,000, in default of which he will have to spend six more months in jail.

According to the prosecution, on May 27, 2010, Rizvi took the victim, who used to live in a dormitory for female students, to a local hotel and raped her there.

On May 29, the girl's father filed a case with Ranishankoil Police Station accusing Rizvi.

## June 25: Countdown

FROM PAGE 1

League's founding anniversary on June 23 also entered speculations, but Quader had ruled it out recently.

### RIVER DETERMINES NAME

AL leaders on several occasions had demanded that the bridge, which is being built with the country's own funding following the directive of Sheikh Hasina, be named after her.

The Bridges Division earlier sent a formal proposal in this regard but the PM rejected it. The division yesterday placed the same proposal before her.

"We have brought two summaries [for the PM]. She signed one setting the inauguration date on June 25. But she did not sign another summary, regarding naming the bridge," Quader told reporters in front of the Gono Bhaban.

"She [PM] told us the name of the Padma bridge would be named after the Padma river. She did not want to give any one's name here," the minister said.

She said the bridge would not be named after anyone from Bangabandhu's family, he added.

### PREPARATION FOR INAUGURATION STARTED

The Bridges Division has formed over a dozen committees to prepare for a gala event marking the inauguration of the bridge.

Project authorities are working at full tilt to complete installing guardrails, marking the road and connecting the

bridge to the power grid.

"We will complete all these works within June 15-20," Project Director Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

The work for building murals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Sheikh Hasina on both sides of the bridge and the inauguration plaque is also going on, officials said.

Although a test of the bridge's lights would be carried out later this month, it would take till around June 20 to complete the entire works, they said.

The process to release a commemorative coin and issue a postal stamp to mark the opening is also underway, Bridges Division Secretary Monjur Hossain, who accompanied Quader at Gono Bhaban, told this correspondent.

Quader, also the Awami League general secretary, said the prime minister will take part in rallies at the Mawa end and the Janjira end on the inauguration day.

Asked whether they will invite the BNP at the inauguration ceremony, the minister said they will invite all.

## Govt moves

FROM PAGE 1

budget to give some relief to the poor and low-income groups, said M Shamsul Alam, state minister for planning.

"Besides, we will not assess the new projects involving foreign purchase for the time being," he told The Daily Star yesterday. "The implementation of low-priority projects will be pushed by a few months. We are working on it."

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Work to be conducted in **3** phases in **5** yrs

Plan to be implemented on existing **75** hectares land

Zoo to remain open during construction

## MASTERPLAN

Work for masterplan started **2018-19** fiscal

Got stalled due to pandemic

Consulting firm to submit it next month

Will be sent to fisheries, livestock ministry



## FEATURES

Night safari from **7pm to 11pm** : **1.1** hectares for nurseries

Dolphin shows at floating restaurant : **4.8** hectares for parking

**3.52** hectares for wetlands : Two main entrances

## ZONE

Bangladesh Habitat

## SIZE IN HECTARES

**18**

## NO OF SPECIES

**102**

African Habitat

**22.40**

**40**

Tropical

**14.10**

**66**

Nocturnal

**4.5**

**15**

Activity for children

**5.38**

**10**

## Hatirjheel, Begunbari 'Public Trust Property': HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Declaring Hatirjheel-Begunbari project in Dhaka as a "Public Trust Property", the High Court in a full text verdict has issued four directives and nine recommendations in order to protect its original character, beauty and water.

"Water of Hatirjheel and its aesthetic structures are an invaluable asset which cannot be damaged in any manner," the HC bench of Justice Md Ashraf Kamal and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil observed.

In the 55-page full text verdict, the court directed the government to evict all business structures within the project in 60 days.

On June 30 last year, the bench had delivered a short verdict to this issue following a petition filed by lawyer Ripan Barai on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on September 9, 2018. The petition challenged the legality of the construction work there.

In the full text verdict, the HC declared allocation and construction of all the business structures illegal as those were constructed beyond the layout plan.

The HC judges have advised for formation of a "Hatirjheel Lake Protection, Development and Management Authority" directly under the PMO.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# A zoo where animals will roam free

After stalling for 2yrs due to pandemic, masterplan to give national zoo a huge facelift near completion

DIPAN NANDY

Caged wildlife being displayed for human entertainment -- this old-age arrangement of the zoo will be scrapped for good. And when that happens, the animals will begin to roam around in an open environment; people will enjoy their sight from a safe distance.

With such an idea, a master-plan is being prepared to transform Bangladesh National Zoo at the capital's Mirpur.

Mujibur Rahman, acting director and curator of the zoo, told The Daily Star that steps are being worked out to modernise the establishment.

A total of 233 species of animals will be housed on about six hectares of the zoo's land. Of the species, 102 will be native to the region, 66 will be tropical, 40 African and 15 nocturnal. In addition, 10 species of animals will be at the children's active zone.

Under the plan, the zoo will be divided into five zones.

A total of 18 hectares of land has been allotted for "Bangladesh Habitat Zone", which will have the theme of "Mangrove Waterland Forest"; 102 species of native animals will be arranged in an environment like the Sundarbans.

In the "Tropical Habitat Zone", 14.10 hectares of land will be arranged to act as a tropical forest for 66 species of animals.

For the "African Habitat Zone", an area of 22.40 hectares will be arranged like Namibia's Kavango region, where animals roam freely. In this habitat, a night safari will operate from 7:00pm to 11:00pm.

A habitat for nocturnal animals will be made in the form of a dense forest covering an area of 4.5 hectares.

In the zoo's active zone, four species of birds and six of mammals will be kept in

**We have waited long to make an international-standard zoo. That is why we are preparing this plan, work for which is being done by Bernard Harrison and Friends, the same organisation that did the master-plan for Singapore Zoo. We still don't have the finished masterplan. So, the detailed project proposal (DPP) is not ready. However, Bernard Harrison and Friends told us that it could cost around Tk 1,500 crore.**

ABDUL LATIF KHAN  
Former Zoo Director, who oversaw the planning

10 natural cages or enclosures, covering an area of 5.70 hectares, for children's entertainment, adventure and education.

According to the plan, there will be five walkways across 7.5 km of the zoo, two tram routes running for a total of 2.4 km, and two boating routes stretching for a total of 2.4 km.

Authorities are considering holding bird and dolphin shows at the floating restaurant. There will be alternative routes to facilitate movement of those with disabilities.

Asked when works will begin, Mujibur told this newspaper, "We hope our consulting firm will submit the final master-plan to us next month."

"After that, we will send project details to the fisheries and livestock ministry, and work will start according to all government rules," he said.

Earlier, former zoo director Abdul Latif Khan was overseeing works of the master-plan.

"We have waited long to make an international-standard zoo. That is why we are preparing this plan, work for which is being done by Bernard Harrison and Friends, the same organisation that did the master-plan for Singapore Zoo," said Abdul.

In 2018-19 fiscal, work for the masterplan started. However, due to the pandemic, all work was halted for two years. At present, all work has been completed except the plan's submission.

The master-plan will be implemented on the existing 75 hectares of the zoo's land. Proper use of the whole place will be ensured, he said.

Work for modernisation will be conducted in three phases in five years. The zoo will not be closed for a single day during work.

Regarding the budget, he said, "We still don't have the finished masterplan. So, the detailed project proposal (DPP) is not ready. However, Bernard Harrison and Friends told us that it could cost around Tk 1,500 crore."

ABM Shahidullah, retired curator of the zoo, told this newspaper, "I know about the master-plan. If all work is done according to the plan, we will be able to see an international-standard zoo. But if the plan is not fully followed, it will not bring all the benefits."

## No monkeypox case detected in country yet

Says BSMMU dispelling rumour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dispelling the rumour of detecting a monkeypox patient, authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday said no monkeypox case has been detected in the country yet.

Monkeypox, which spreads through close contact with infected people, typically causes fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes, and may lead to a range of medical complications, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Though BSMMU has no formal surveillance network countrywide, Prof Sharfuiddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of the university, said they have collected the updates from the health directorate and other healthcare facilities.

"The DG office [health directorate] and other medical colleges share information with us. There is no reported case of monkeypox [in the country] as of today," he told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the health directorate sources also said yesterday that no case of monkeypox were reported in the country.

On Monday, a social-media post claiming that monkeypox infection was detected in a patient at BSMMU went viral. However, it was a rumour, the doctor said.

"The matter was first brought to our attention by some responsible journalists," he added.

"We sought cooperation from journalists and the cyber crime investigation unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime to find the source of the rumour," he added.

With their help, it was found out that the rumour was posted by quoting Dr Asif Wahid Arko, assistant surgeon of Noakhali Senbagh Health Complex, he said.

Dr Asif, who is also a newly admitted resident

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## MOSQUITO MENACE

# DSCC to start drives from June 15: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will conduct mobile court drives to control Aedes mosquito from June 15 in its all ten zones simultaneously.

Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh disclosed the information at the 14th board meeting at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least 12 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours. With the new cases, the number of dengue patients rose to 239.

Taposh said they have already applied to the government for 10 executive magistrates for 10 zones.

He said they are expecting to continue the operation for two months. The drive lasted a month last year.

Taposh said they will also set up a control room in this regard.

He also urged all to come forward to control Aedes mosquitoes. "Don't wait for three days, rather clean stagnant water every day," he said.

The mayor thanked the councillors for their success to control Aedes mosquitoes compared to 2019 and urged them to remain more alert.

## 'Just like that 12 years went by'

PBI finally locates man who fled home in 2010

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After losing his phone while gambling in 2010, 17-year-old Md Suman did not return home, because he was afraid of facing his father.

Not for a day, a week, a month, or even a year -- he did not go back for 12 years.

At one point, his family filed a missing report and later an abduction case with Pallabi Police Station against five persons. Some of the accused had been arrested and interrogated on remand.

All the while, Suman was working at shops in Dhaka. He even got married and started living in Rayerbagh area.

Pallabi police, detectives, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and



Md Suman, then and now.

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) were struggling to locate him.

Finding no trace of Suman, they submitted final reports one after another. But his family filed no-confidence petitions against the reports, urging the law enforcers to find him.

Finally, a PBI team, led by Inspector Muhammad Torikul Islam, located Suman -- now aged around 29 -- from Kadamtali on Monday night, Jahangir Alam, special superintendent of (Dhaka metro-north) PBI, told a press briefing yesterday.

The SP said Suman studied up to seventh-grade at a local school and started working as a helper at a packaging factory.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A girl tries to squeeze through the space between a pile of garbage and a rickshaw, as a major part of the road has been turned into a dumping ground. This road beside the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Kakrail has been like this for the last couple of days, because authorities concerned failed to collect the waste on time.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Haji Salim challenges 10-year jail sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim yesterday filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court verdict that upheld his conviction and 10 years' jail sentence in a corruption case.

Salim submitted around 1,200-page appeal through his lawyer Sayeed Ahmed Raza, in which he also sought bail. The appeal will be placed before the chamber judge on May 29 for its hearing, the lawyer told The Daily Star.

Citing the appeal, he said there is no documents or evidence in support of the charge brought against Haji Salim of accumulating

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# Crucial third day for Tigers

FROM PAGE 12  
then on 47.  
However, Shakhib snatched back the momentum with a late blow, trapping Mendis (11 off 47 balls) leg before with a brilliant delivery angling into the right hander.  
The Mirpur pitch still appeared to be better for batters, with little assistance on offer for

spinners, meaning it will be crucial that the Tigers scalp early wickets and put pressure on the batting side.  
Earlier on the second day, overnight centurions Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das continued confidently before pacer Kasun Rajitha removed the latter after a brilliant 141, breaking a record 272 run

stand  
Mosaddek Hossain, making a comeback to the team after nearly three years, was dismissed in ugly manner, not moving his feet and edging a wide delivery to the wicketkeeper to give Rajitha his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket.  
Mushfiqur then paired with Taijul Islam and added

49 runs for the eighth wicket before the latter was dismissed for 15 off pacer Asitha Fernando, who ended with four wickets.  
Mushfiqur thereafter waged a lone battle, remaining unbeaten on 175 off 355 balls. Ebadot Hossain was the last Bangladesh batter to be dismissed after falling victim a run out.

# Just like

FROM PAGE 3  
On August 31, 2010, on his way to work, he lost Tk 100 while gambling in Mirpur-II market area. As he did not have the money, the gamblers forcibly took his phone.  
Instead of returning to his house in Pallabi, he went to Gulistan. The man who bought his phone from the gamblers has been arrested in the case, the SP said.  
Besides working at several shops and a restaurant, he also used to sell food at Shahbagh and nearby places. He even worked as the helper of a bus, which carried school children and hospital staff, the officer said.  
While working for the bus, he got acquainted with the mother of a student, developed a relationship with her, and got married four years ago. The couple, with a three-month-old baby, now stay in Rayerbagh, he added.  
PBI Inspector Torikul said they got a lead on Suman after he intended to talk to his cousin Sagar last Eid. Suman asked his wife to call his father and get Sagar's phone number.  
She then called her father-in-law, saying that she is related to Suman's wife. Hearing that, the father informed PBI, and the law enforcers finally managed to track Suman down.  
Suman last called his family 11 days after he fled. He did not try to communicate ever since, as he could not figure out what he would tell them. And just like that, 12 years have passed, Torikul said, quoting Suman.

# Nazrul's birth

FROM PAGE 5  
shows, book fair and a traditional fair styled "Nazrul Mela".  
State Minister for Social Welfare Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru will inaugurate the celebrations as chief guest with Mymensingh deputy commissioner Mohammad Enamul Haque in the chair.  
Meanwhile, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University also started a three-day programme on its campus. Their programmes include seminars, discussions, musical soiree, book fair and photograph exhibition on Nazrul. The event was inaugurated by ICT and Communications Minister Mustafa Jabber. Nazrul first visited Bangladesh in his boyhood and came to Mymensingh's Trishal upazila. The people of this locality still feel a strong bond with the bard even after all these years.

# Knowledge gained

FROM PAGE 12  
Helal said the group went to a university in the Netherlands famous for its research on food systems. "We went to gather experience on water-logging since we have to implement the Delta Plan."  
Regarding the Water Summit in Spain, he said due to the rising salinity in the southern districts, "we'll have to buy water in the future. We participated in the summit to learn how water can be marketed".

International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said one could ask whether Helal's trip was a parting gift before retirement.  
The three projects that covered the expenses of the high-level delegation have hardly anything to do with the stated purpose and apparent scope of the tour, he added. "This raises additional questions on transparency and accountability in the use of project funds intended to serve the public interest," he said.

**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: Senior Development Outreach & Communication (DOC) Specialist, FSN - 11

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of Senior Development Outreach & Communication (DOC) Specialist, FSN - 11 in the Office of Program (PRO).

Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: June 22, 2022

For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website: <http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers> and [www.bdjobs.com](http://www.bdjobs.com) D-58

**Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Office of The Superintending Engineer, RHD  
Chattogram Road Circle, Rahamatgonj, Chattogram.  
Phone No. 031-611163, Mobile No. 01730-782678  
e-mail: [sechic@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:sechic@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.1541.173.01.078.22-1020 Date: 23-05-2022

## Re-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tenders are invited and published on 23/05/2022 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the web site [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Sl.	Previous Tender ID	Present Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work	Date & time
01	608763	702027	e-GP/SE/CTG/DRD/PMP Road/02/2021-2022 (Re-tender)	Rehabilitation of existing pavement by strengthening and DBS Wearing Course at 1st to 17th Km. Ch: 00+000m (Patiya) to Ch: 16+732m (Chandanaish Yunus Market) of Patiya-Chandanaish (Boitoloi) Road (Z-1039) under Dohazari Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	Last Selling: 06.06.2022, 16:00 Closing: 07.06.2022, 13:00

(Ranjan Kumar Biswas) ID No. 700419  
Sub-Assistant Engineer, RHD  
Chattogram Road Circle  
Chattogram.

(Md. Qurashin) ID No. 602059  
Assistant Engineer (C.C.), RHD  
Chattogram Road Circle  
Chattogram.

(Mohammad Jahed Hossain) ID No. 601962  
Superintending Engineer (C.C.), RHD  
Chattogram Road Circle  
Chattogram.

GD-1053

## Hatirjheel

FROM PAGE 3  
They recommended for appointing the engineering department of Buet and 24th Engineering Construction Brigade of army as permanent consultant, among others.  
Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the HC that some structures including restaurants are obstructing people's free movement in the area and have damaged its beauty.  
Lawyer Imam Hossain appeared for Rajuk.

### To-Let for Office/ House/Clinic

Car parking/Garage Space/ With CCTV Security Around the Supply: Submersible Pump/Water Supply  
☎ 01845-849088, 01714-628444  
♥ Sapla Nearest Alamnagar, Robertsongonj, Rangpur.

### RENT @ UTARA (PREFER FOREIGNER)

4 stoned Full building Total 9000 Sft. (Sector-6, Road-5) with 24 hours Security Guard & under CCTV surveillance. Please Cont: **01711-525563**, email: [dilan@capital-bd.com](mailto:dilan@capital-bd.com)

### জমির শেয়ার বিক্রয়

নিরপুর জিওএইকস সংসদ পল্লবী থানা পাশে সাগর-৩ আঞ্চলিক প্রকল্পে ২০৫ ফুট রাস্তার সাথে সন্নিবেশিত আবেদনীয় প্লটের (জি+৯) ১০তলা ভবনের ১২০০ বর্গফুট জমায়ের জমির শেয়ার বিক্রয় চলবে।  
০১৭৪৫০০২০৯ ০১৭৭৫০০৭০৯

# Push for early

FROM PAGE 5  
**GLOBAL INSTTS NOT DOING ENOUGH**  
The UN and major global powers are putting little political pressure on Myanmar for Rohingya repatriation, said COAST Foundation, a local NGO in Cox's Bazar.  
"We consider voluntary repatriation to be the only solution," said Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, chair of COAST Foundation, in a statement yesterday.  
Rezaul said natural resources are at risk of dwindling because of the large population of Rohingyas living in the country.  
Underground water level has already gone down, which will create an ecological imbalance. Moreover, excessive plastic use in and around the camps is creating another environmental hazard.  
"We would like to propose two simple actions -- ban using plastic in the camps and introduce plastic alternatives," he said.

# Haji Salim

FROM PAGE 3  
assets beyond known source of income.  
Besides, the lawmaker had been on bail earlier and he "never misused his bail", the lawyer said, adding that his client is now seriously ill and he might be granted bail now on health ground.  
Haji Salim was taken to Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Monday for treatment, a day after he was sent to jail.  
Salim, who was sentenced for 10 years in the graft case filed in 2008, surrendered before a Dhaka court on May 22 and sought bail.  
Rejecting his bail petition, the court sent him to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

# No monkeypox

FROM PAGE 3  
of BSMMU's urology department, claimed that he did not make any such post on his social media account, Md Sharfuiddin added.  
Meanwhile, more than 100 cases of the virus have been confirmed in Europe, the Americas and Australia, reports BBC. In most cases, infected persons recover within 14 to 21 days.

**Office of the Patiya Pourashava**  
Patiya, Chittagong.  
Web site: [www.patiyapourashava.gov.bd](http://www.patiyapourashava.gov.bd)

Memo No. 00.00.1561.033.09.01.2022-298 Dated: 22-05-2022.

## e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the below schemes/packages:

Tender ID.	Schemes/Packages Name	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
696638	PPIDP/CC-04 Construction of 03-storied (With-5 storied Foundation) Munshi Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisarad Community Resource Centre.	22-June-2022 Time 17:00	23-June-2022 Time: 15:00

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

Parakram Chakma  
Executive Engineer  
Patiya Pourashava, Chittagong.  
[patiyapourashava1990@gmail.com](mailto:patiyapourashava1990@gmail.com)

GD- 1056

**বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিল**  
১৪ লিংক রোড, রাহাত টাওয়ার (৫ম তলা), পশ্চিম বাংলামেটার, ঢাকা-১০০০।  
E-mail : [info@pcb.gov.bd](mailto:info@pcb.gov.bd), web : [www.pcb.gov.bd](http://www.pcb.gov.bd)

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি তারিখ: ২৩.০৫.২০২২

স্মারক নং: পিসিবি/২০২২-৪৭৬৬ "মডেল মেডিসিন শপ স্থাপন ও পরিচালনা প্রশিক্ষণ ম্যানুয়াল" মুদ্রণ ও বাঁধাছিন্নের নিমিত্তে মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সীল মোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের বিবরণ/শর্তাবলী নিম্নরূপ। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।

১। মঞ্জুরা/বিভাগ	ঃ স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা
২। সংস্থা/দপ্তর	ঃ বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিল
৩। জন্ম/সংস্থের স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	ঃ সচিব, বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিল
৪। আহ্বানকৃত কাজের ধরণ	ঃ "মডেল মেডিসিন শপ স্থাপন ও পরিচালনা প্রশিক্ষণ ম্যানুয়াল" মুদ্রণ ও বাঁধাছিন্ন
৫। বাজেট ও অর্থায়ন উৎস	ঃ বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিল
৬। জন্ম পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত প্রতিযোগিতা
৭। দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	ঃ ২৪.০৫.২০২২ খ্রি.
৮। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	ঃ ০৭.০৬.২০২২ খ্রি. ১৬:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
৯। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৮.০৬.২০২২ খ্রি. ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
১০। দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ০৮.০৬.২০২২ খ্রি. ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা
১১। দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস	ঃ বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিল, ১৪ লিংক রোড, রাহাত টাওয়ার (৫ম তলা), পশ্চিম বাংলামেটার, ঢাকা-১০০০।

১২। দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবেঃ

(ক) আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ড্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত কপি (খ) যে কোন সরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক স্বশ্রীষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি (গ) হালনাগাদ আয়করের সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি (ঘ) স্বশ্রীষ্ট কাজের ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি (ঙ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি (চ) ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের ব্যাংক লেনদেনের স্টেটমেন্টসহ সনদপত্র (নাম ও পদবী সন্নিবেশিত সিল ও স্বাক্ষরসহ) (ছ) দরপত্রের সাথে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার।

১৩। কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণঃ

পণ্যের নাম	পণ্যের পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (অফারতথ্যে)	দরপত্র জামানত (টাকা) (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজের মেয়াদকাল
"মডেল মেডিসিন শপ স্থাপন ও পরিচালনা প্রশিক্ষণ ম্যানুয়াল"	২৫ হাজার কপি (১১x৮.৫" মাপের ৩২.২৫ ফর্মার ১০ গ্রাম সাদা অফসেট কাগজে ৪ রঙের মুদ্রণ, পজেটিভ, প্রেট। কাভার ৩০০ গ্রাম আর্ট কার্ড কাগজে গুলু লেমিনেশন পজেটিভ, প্রেট এবং ইনার পেইজ ১৩০±৫ গুলু বাইভিং বাঁধাছিন্ন)	১০০০/- (এক হাজার)	২,৫০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার)	কার্যাদেয় প্রাক্তি ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে

১৪। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা

মুহাম্মদ মাহবুবুল হক  
সচিব, বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিল  
১৪ লিংক রোড, রাহাত টাওয়ার (৫ম তলা), পশ্চিম বাংলামেটার, ঢাকা-১০০০  
ই-মেইল [info@pcb.gov.bd](mailto:info@pcb.gov.bd), ফোনঃ +৮৮-০২-৯৬৩২৭০৩

১৫। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

১৬। সকল শর্তাবলীসহ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিলের নিজে গয়েব সাইট ([www.pcb.gov.bd](http://www.pcb.gov.bd)) থেকে সজ্ঞহ করা যাবে।

(মুহাম্মদ মাহবুবুল হক)  
সচিব  
বাংলাদেশ ফার্মেসী কাউন্সিল

GD-1052

**Invitation for Tender**  
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

1 Ministry/Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.
2 Agency	Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board.
3 Procuring Entity Name	Directorate of Procurement
4 Procuring Entity Code	019
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6 Invitation for Tender Name	CCTV Camera & Accessories Supply with Installation, Testing and Commissioning.
7 Invitation Ref No.	27.12.0000.019.07.047.22.803
8 Date	22-5-2022

**KEY INFORMATION**

9 Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope (NCT)
----------------------	------------------------------

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10 Budget and Source of Funds	BREB OWN FUND
11 Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12 Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A
13 Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A
14 Tender Package No.	BREB-OWN Fund-G-3
15 Tender Package Name	CCTV Camera & Accessories Supply with Installation, Testing and Commissioning.
16 Tender Publication Date	25-5-2022
17 Tender Last Selling Date	14-6-2022 up to office time
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	15-6-2022 Date Time 12:00 Noon (BST)
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	15-6-2022 Date Time 12:30 PM (BST)
20 Name & Address of the office(s)	Address - Selling Tender Document (Principal): Directorate of Procurement (7th floor), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh. - Selling Tender Document (Others): N/A

**NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS**

- Receiving Tender Document	Directorate of Procurement (7th floor), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.
- Opening Tender Document	Directorate of Procurement (7th floor), Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

21 Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Date Time N/A N/A
---	----------------------------

22 Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer: Only Bangladesh Tenderer.

23 Brief Description of Goods: CCTV Camera & Accessories Supply with Installation, Testing and Commissioning.

24 Brief Description of Related Services: N/A

25 Price of Tender Document (Tk.): Tk. 3,000.00 (Each Document)

Tender Package No.	Sub Package No.	Description	Quantity	Tender Security Amount in Tk.	Description of Delivery & Completion Period & Places
BREB-OWN Fund-G-3	Lot-1/1	CCTV Camera & Accessories Supply with Installation, Testing and Commissioning.	Lot	4,00,000.00	As per Schedule in the Tender Document

27 Regarding Tender Document: Tender Document can be purchased by the interested tenderers on submission of a written application to the address below upon the payment of non-refundable BDT. 3000.00 (Taka Three Thousand) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of BREB, Dhaka. No tender document will be sent by courier or by mail. One tender document can not be used for submission of tender proposal(s) by more than one tenderer. One tenderer, however, may submit tenders against any number of sub-packages included in the tender document by purchasing only one copy of the tender document.

28 Mode of Payment: Payment will be made directly to the suppliers in Local Currency (BDT).

29 Delivery Period: Delivery Period shall begin from the date of signing of contract or from 28th day issuing of Notification of Awards (NOA) whichever is earlier.

30 Name of official Inviting Tender: Md. Jdite

31 Designation of official Inviting Tender: Director (Procurement)

32 Address of official Inviting Tender: Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, Head Office building (7th floor), Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

33 Contract details of official Inviting Tender: Telephone: 02-8900359 & E-mail: [reprocure@brseb.com](mailto:reprocure@brseb.com)

34 The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.

Director (Procurement)  
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board  
Head Office Building (7th Floor)  
Nikunja-2, Khilkhet  
Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.  
Telephone: 02-8900359  
E-mail: [reprocure@brseb.com](mailto:reprocure@brseb.com)

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড  
BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD  
ISO 9001, ISO 14001  
& ISO 45001 Certified  
বাবিযোগ্য নং ২২০৫-০১০২২-২০২২

GD- 1057



A flood-displaced family of four returns on a boat, carrying a bundle of bamboo and straw to rebuild their home. As the water starts to recede, the rehabilitation process begins in the flood-affected areas in Sylhet and Sunamganj. This photo was taken in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila.

FLOODS IN THE NORTH-EAST Time to focus on rehabilitation

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

With the fast receding of waters of the Surma and the Kushiyara rivers, the livelihood of flood-affected areas in Sylhet and Sunamganj is slowly getting back to normal.

However, as a side effect of the fast receding waters, the flood situation in some low-lying areas on the bank of the Kushiyara at Fenchuganj and Balaganj upazilas in Sylhet further deteriorated.

The Flood Forecast and Warning Centre (FFWC) in its daily report forecasted an improved flood situation in the districts.

With no floods in the forecast, government offices are now planning for the rehabilitation of the distressed people. The relief distribution is also going to end soon.

So far, 20 lakh people were directly and indirectly affected by the flood in all 13 upazilas in Sylhet and seven out of 11 upazilas in Sunamganj.

According to the district relief and rehabilitation offices, the relief last was sent to the upazilas on Monday and as the situation improves, no further relief will be distributed.

In Sylhet, 551 tonnes of rice and 11,800 sacks of dry food were distributed as relief along with other food materials worth Tk 15 lakh.

Meanwhile, in Sunamganj, 175 tonnes of rice, 4,000 sacks of dry food, and other food materials worth Tk 12 lakh were distributed.

Md Nurul Islam, district relief and rehabilitation officer in Sylhet, said,

"Now we're assessing the damage done by the flood. After the final report, the ministry of disaster management will allot corrugated tin and relevant support for rebuilding damaged houses in the district. Other respective departments will also work on recovering the damage."

Shafiqul Islam, the district relief and rehabilitation officer in Sunamganj echoed the same.

Besides that, the flood incurred a good amount of damage to the roads and crop production.

According to respective offices in Sylhet and Sunamganj, more than 650 kilometres of road under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) were damaged along with six culverts.

Meanwhile, around 19,000 ponds, fish farms and hatcheries washed away in two districts, causing a loss of around Tk 22 crore according to the fisheries offices in the districts.

Not only that, the Boro and the Aus paddy were also damaged.

According to agriculture extension offices in the districts, more than 2,500 hectares of Boro harvest were damaged along with more than 1,600 hectares of Aus saplings.

Additionally, 1,700 hectares of vegetables and 75 hectares of peanuts were also damaged. According to the FFWC, Surma at 3:00pm yesterday was flowing 38cm (above danger level) at Kanaighat in Sylhet while 23cm and 42cm below danger level at Sylhet city and Sunamganj town.

Push for early repatriation Momen urges UN on Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has urged the UN to take practical actions to ensure early repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.

He made the call when the newly-appointed UN Resident Coordinator to Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis presented her credentials to the minister yesterday at State Guest House Padma.

She handed over a letter from the UN Secretary General António Guterres, thereby officially entering into her new role, succeeding Mia Seppo. The minister thanked UN bodies for standing beside Bangladesh with humanitarian assistance for Rohingyas, but also underscored the importance of starting the work of UN bodies in Bhasan Char, following the signing of an MoU between Bangladesh and UNHCR in October, 2021.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Nazrul's birth celebrations begin in Trishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

A three-day programme celebrating the 123rd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam starts today at Darirampur Nazrul Mancha in Trishal.

The programme, organised by the cultural affairs ministry, will be assisted by Mymensingh district administration.

On the occasion, a series of programmes have been chalked out, including discussions, cultural

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Advertisement for Bangladesh Applied University, Dhaka, listing various courses and contact information.

Text box: 'We're assessing the damage. After the final report, the ministry will allot tin and relevant support.' MD NURUL ISLAM, Relief, Rehabilitation Officer in Sylhet

Large advertisement for 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' (Government of Bangladesh) regarding procurement of goods and services, including a detailed table of items and prices.

Advertisement for 'Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh' regarding an 'Invitation for Tenders' for the supply and installation of a conference system.

# Are we doing enough to preserve Nazrul's legacy?

**Today marks the 123rd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, a pioneering figure in Bangla literature.**

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Be it the courageous roar of rebellion or the face of undaunted faith, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's ideology, philosophy, and his expression has never failed to speak for the common masses. The legendary author was ahead of his time, and presented stories that treasure self-identity, ecocriticism, and most importantly, humanism.

Today marks the 123rd birth anniversary of this pioneering figure in Bangla literature. What should be a nationwide celebration of our National Poet, however, is now

organisations going through the motions.

"We only come across performances featuring Nazrul's songs or poems on his birth or death anniversary. Other than that, we seldom come across cultural programmes that are based on Nazrul, despite him being our National Poet," asserts Khilkhil Kazi, a renowned Nazrul Sangeet artiste and the poet's granddaughter.

While cultural programmes are evident in schools and colleges, there is limited integration of Nazrul's artistic creations and his ideology in universities, according to Nazrul exponent and cultural researcher Sujit Mustafa. "Nazrul is not present in our higher education system, and neither are we concerned about introducing his mature ideology to our youth." Sujit has received the Nazrul Padak, given by the Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Mymensingh.

While a few institutions have decided to include certain courses featuring Nazrul's literature, it is still not a compulsory course in most universities in Bangladesh. "Rarely do we see Nazrul being represented in the syllabus or curriculum in Bangladeshi institutes, unless the course is Bangla Literature," says Khalequezzaman, an avid Nazrul researcher and the founder of Bashori: Ekti Nazrul Charcha Kendra. "Along with my foundation, we have gone to every district to visit schools, and dissipate the knowledge of Nazrul - we are trying to make children recite 'Bidrohi'. However, how much can we, a single institution, do?"

Nazrul also seems to be absent from the mainstream mediums of entertainment. "I feel there is a lapse when it comes to the planning

structure of Nazrul Institute", asserts Sujit Mustafa. "This gap results in the reluctance when it comes to adapting and integrating Nazrul in our visual media, which seems to be the most preferred form of entertainment these days," he says.

"There is a lot that can be done to encourage our prominent and promising filmmakers to make Nazrul a part of their creation," he adds. "If the new makers are unaware of Nazrul's creations, it is the authorities who should step up and equip them with the knowledge they need in this regard."

Side-lining the odds, there are some Nazrul lovers who seem to keep coming up with productions based on Nazrul's songs, despite the challenges they face. "The Gems of Nazrul family has been trying to release renditions of Nazrul's songs for a while now," shares celebrated Nazrul singer Sadya Afreen Mallick, the founder of this organisation.

"The masses' understanding of our National Poet's works is tragically limited. Most people know only a handful of Nazrul songs. We intend to keep releasing music videos on days of national importance so that the songs can reach the mass and most importantly our youth," she adds.

The lack of funding research and translation is a major barrier in bringing Nazrul to a global audience.

"Other than 'Bidrohi', very few of his work has been translated multilingually. If the government sets out to produce a proper biography with a talented director, it can seriously help our cause," shares Khilkhil Kazi, who insists that modern representation for Nazrul is badly needed.

Our National Poet dedicated his entire life fighting tyranny, social imbalance, and inequality with his words, which have the power to greatly affect the mind of the youth. Hence, the responsibility of dispersing his message falls not only on the government or an institution, but every one of us.



ILLUSTRATION: SANJAY DEY RIPON



## Gems of Nazrul's 'Oi Agoto Jago' releases today

Gems of Nazrul is set to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam with the release of their 21st music video, "Oi Agoto Jago".

Nazrul's words, based on patriotic sentiments, are at the core of our rich cultural identity.

"Oi Agoto Jago" features performances by leading and upcoming Bangladeshi vocalists of Nazrul.

Gems of Nazrul is a platform for Nazrul artistes established by Sadya A Mallick in 2016 to promote the life and work of the National Poet.

The programme, featuring "Oi Agoto Jago", will be aired across social media, on major television channels, and on YouTube today.

## Kriti Sanon launches fitness brand 'The Tribe'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon has hopped on the startup bandwagon with the launch of her fitness brand 'The Tribe', which offers virtual and 'in-studio' products, including training workshops and tailor-made nutrition plans.

The website of the platform is still under construction, while its Instagram page has been operational for almost two years now.

Kriti discovered her passion for fitness during the filming of her movie, "Mimi", where she had to undergo a physical transformation in order to look the part of a pregnant woman.

"The Tribe" app will be launched later this year, according to the "Bareilly Ki Barfi" actress.

# NEWS

## EC yet to earn confidence

FROM PAGE 12  
day, the CEC added. His comments came against the backdrop of allegations by many political parties, including the BNP, that ballot stuffing took place the night before the polling day.

Habibul said no election commissioner or EC official has announced a reward of \$10 million for detecting any glitch in the EVMs.

He said a commissioner

might have uttered these words at a programme "misquoting someone due to slight memory loss", but it was not the commission's decision.

Addressing a programme in Madaripur on Saturday, EC Anisur Rahman said, "Every political party in Bangladesh has IT experts. We will show them our machines also. We will give them EVMs and ask them to show if there were

any glitches... Our chief election commissioner has also announced a reward of \$10 million for anyone finding any glitches in the EVM."

The CEC yesterday said it was not the commissioner's own comment, rather he tried to quote someone and that created confusion.

"Confusion has spread. The chief election commissioner cannot make such a bizarre

comment," Habibul said. The former bureaucrat said the EC doesn't want to turn an election into a farce. "As citizens [of the country], we want to strengthen democracy and make the political situation healthy by holding a fair and participatory election," the CEC said.

Four other election commissioners, including Anisur, were present at the press briefing.

## BCL swoops on Chhatra Dal

FROM PAGE 1  
The incident left around 80 JCD leaders and activists wounded, claimed Saif Mahmud Jewel, general secretary of JCD Central Committee. Many of them took treatment at two city hospitals, he said.

However, talking to campus sources and central JCD insiders, this newspaper learnt the number of people injured could be around 30.

DU BCL General Secretary Saddam Hussain, however, said it was the "general students of the university" who protested against "criminal activities" of JCD.

According to campus sources, members of BCL, a pro-ruling AL student organisation, were furious at a remark made by Saif on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina four days ago.

They had been bringing out processions since then and vowed to "resist" JCD, a pro-BNP student body, whenever its activists would be seen on the campus. Two days ago, the BCL men beat up JCD leaders in the TSC area, leaving three wounded.

Yesterday, over a hundred JCD leaders and activists were on their way to the campus to hold a pre-

announced press briefing at Dhaka University Journalists' Association to clarify Saif's comment on the prime minister.

The BCL men had taken positions in different areas, including at TSC, Madhur Canteen and Shaheed Minar, since the morning.

"As we reached near the Central Shaheed Minar area along with our activists, BCL men all of a sudden launched the attack in a planned way," said Saif.

Protesting the attack, JCD men led by Senior Joint Secretary General Rakibul Islam, DU unit JCD Convener Aktar Hossain and Member Secretary Amanullah brought out a protest procession from the emergency gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 11:30am.

Witnesses said when the JCD procession reached near Shahidullah Hall, BCL activists started throwing brick chips from inside and adjacent areas of the hall.

In the face of the attack, JCD men backtracked and within a few minutes they regrouped carrying sticks, and then began a chase and counter-chase.

Amid the running battle, one of the BCL men tried to beat up Tanni Mallick but

she fended off with a stick. Soon, a few more joined and started beating her up -- they pushed her to the ground and even kicked her. She was let go at one stage, added witnesses.

The BCL men then took position in front of the Physical Exercise Centre while JCD activists at Dowel Chatter.

DU JCD Convener Akhter Hossain said Vice President of Central Committee Rashed Iqbal Khan, Joint Secretary Rakibul Islam Rakib, Organising Secretary Abu Afsan Mohammad Yahya, joint secretaries Anamul Haque, Ezazul Kabir and Hasan Al Arif and members Mansura Alam and Nahiduzzaman Shipon were injured among others.

He alleged that the university administration failed to ensure co-existence of all student organisations on the campus.

Contacted, DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani said, "We have informed law enforcers and they took proper steps against those who had broken discipline of the campus."

Moudud Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said they detained three,

including two JCD leaders, and interrogated them. They have yet to make a decision to file a case against them, he said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir condemned the incident and demanded the arrest of the attackers. He also visited the two hospitals to see the injured JCD members.

The central JCD at a press conference last night announced the organisation would stage processions at all the educational institutions across the country tomorrow and in upazilas, districts and metropolitan cities the following day.

## UAE firm inks airport deal as Afghanistan eyes int'l flights

AFP, Kabul

A United Arab Emirates company signed a contract with the Taliban authorities yesterday to provide ground handling services at Afghanistan's three airports, officials said, as the country seeks to resume international transit.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Director Chattogram Medical College Hospital. www.cmch.gov.bd

Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2021-2022/MSR/6728

Date: 24-05-2022.

#### : INVITATION FOR TENDER :

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced Importers / Contractors / Suppliers / Distributors to supply MSR goods for CMCH in the fiscal year 2021-2022. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (Including all corrigendum); Terms and conditions are as follow(s):

KEY INFORMATION	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2 Agency	Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Chattogram.
3 Procuring Entity Name, Designation & Contact details	Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan; Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Telephone: +88031630179, Fax No.: 88-031-610022, e-mail address: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
4 Procuring Entity Code	GOB & RPA (GOB).
5 Invitation for	Procurement of MSR Goods for CMCH in the fiscal year 2021-2022.
6 Tender Ref. No & Date	CMCH/ CMCH/Tender/2021-2022/MSR/6728, Date: 24-05-2022.
7 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National). Item-by-item.
8 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB, Economic code:3252105 & GOB, RPA (GOB), Economic Code: 3252109.
9 Tender Notice Publication Date	24-05-2022.
10 Tender Schedule Selling Starting Date and Time	25-05-2022, During office hours.
11 Pre-Tender Meeting	30-05-2022, 11: 00 A. M.
12 Tender Last Selling Date and Time	07-06-2022, 12: 00 P. M.
13 Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	Dropping date: 08-06-2022, Dropping time: from 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Closing time: 12:01 P. M.
14 Tender Opening Date and Time	08-06-2022 at 01: 00 P. M.
Name and address of the Office's	
(a) Selling Tender Documents	1. Cashier, Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2. Cashier, Office of the Civil Surgeon, Chattogram District.
(b) Receiving Tender Documents	1. Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2. Officer in charge, Panchlaish Model Thana, Chattogram Metropolitan Police.
(c) Tender Documents Opening Place	Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

#### INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

16 Bidders Eligibility	Details in Tender Booklet
17 Description of Groups, Price of Tender Document, Tender Security etc.	Details in Tender Booklet
18 Description of Price of Tender Documents, Tender Security, Related Services etc.	Details in Tender Booklet

#### Note:

- (a) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- (b) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

(Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan)  
Director  
Chattogram Medical College Hospital.  
Telephone: 880-31-630179, Email: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

## Rich countries putting children at risk: Unicef Calls on states to reduce waste, cut pollution

AFP, United Nations

Rich countries are creating unsafe living conditions for children both at home and around the world, a Unicef report released yesterday said, calling on states to reduce waste and cut pollution.

Unicef's Innocenti Research Center studied 39 countries from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Union (EU) according to different criteria, including pesticide use, home humidity, lead exposure, access to light and waste generation.

While Spain, Ireland and Portugal performed relatively well, none of the countries studied were found to provide healthy environments for children, according to the report.

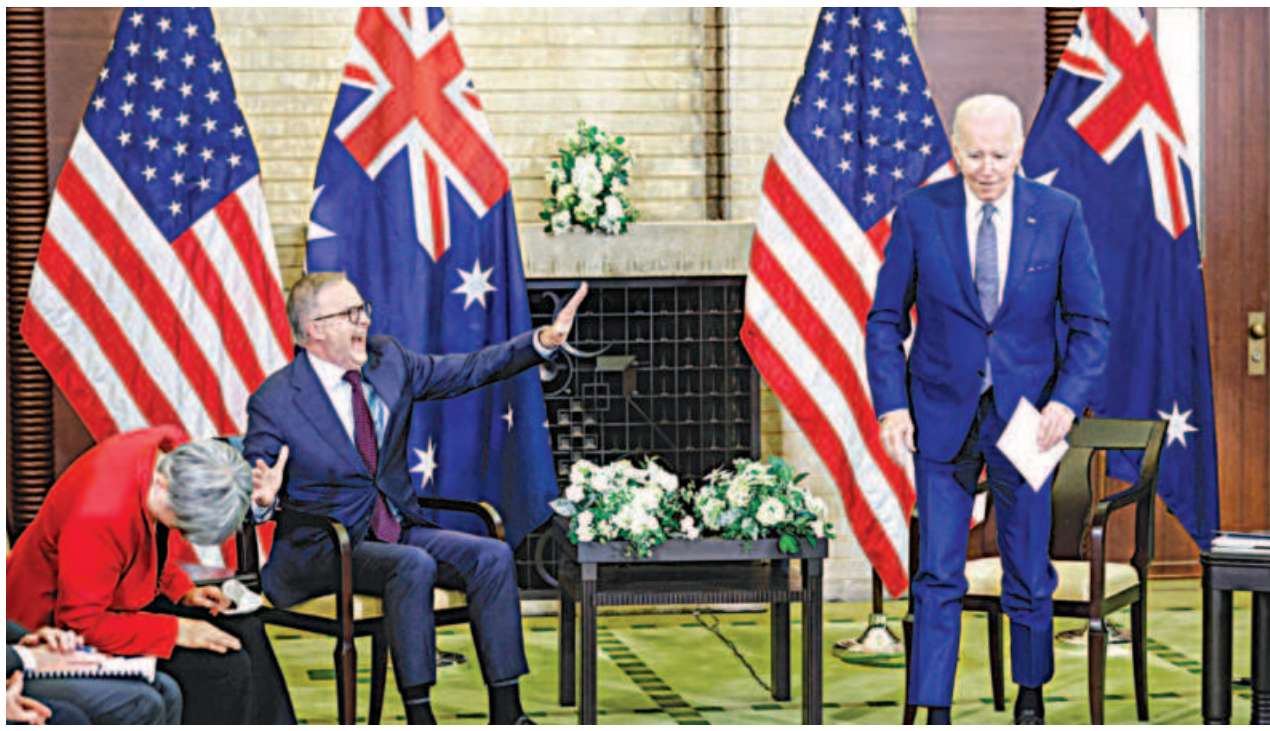


"Not only are the majority of rich countries failing to provide healthy environments for children within their borders, they are also contributing to the destruction of children's environments in other parts of the world," said the center's director Gunilla Olsson in a statement.

The report noted, however, that less wealthy countries in Latin America and Europe had a lower impact on the general state of the planet compared to some wealthier states studied.

While Finland, Iceland and Norway were in the lead for providing a healthy environment for their own youth, they were in last place in terms of their impact on the planet for their emissions rates, electronic waste volume and consumption level.

In Iceland, Latvia, Portugal and Britain, one in five children is exposed to damp and mold in their home, while in Cyprus, Hungary and Turkey, more than one child out of four was affected.



US President Joe Biden jokingly pretends to walk away as Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese talks about his broad experiences in the US years ago as a guest of a State Department program, during a bilateral meeting alongside the Quad Summit at Kantei Palace in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## CONCERNS ABOUT CHINA, RUSSIA Quad opposes 'change by force'

Unveils plans to invest \$50b into regional infrastructure projects

AFP, Tokyo

Leaders of Japan, India, Australia and the United States yesterday warned against attempts to "change the status quo by force" as concerns grow about whether China could invade self-ruled Taiwan.

A joint statement by the so-called Quad bloc avoided any direct mention of China's growing military power in the region, but left little doubt about where its concerns lie.

The carefully worded document also made reference to the conflict in Ukraine, but without offering any joint position on the Russian invasion that India has pointedly declined to condemn.

The Quad's other members have been less coy about their view that a strong response to Russia's war is needed, one that would a message

that will deter other countries, including China.

"As Russia's invasion of Ukraine is shaking the fundamental principles of the international order... (we) confirmed that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force

**Chinese, Russian fighter jets carried out joint flights near Japan as the leaders met in Tokyo, Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said.**

will never be tolerated anywhere, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region," Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said, using another term for the Asia-Pacific.

The group's statement made no mention of Russia, or China, but listed a range of activities that Beijing

has regularly been accused of in the region.

"We strongly oppose any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the area, such as the militarisation of disputed features, the dangerous use of coast guard vessels and maritime militia and efforts to disrupt other countries' offshore resource exploitation activities," it said.

The four nations unveiled plans to invest at least \$50 billion into regional infrastructure projects over the next five years and a maritime monitoring initiative seen as intended to bolster surveillance of Chinese activities.

Meanwhile, Chinese and Russian fighter jets carried out joint flights near Japan yesterday as the leaders met in Tokyo, the Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said.

## Pak bans ex-PM's protest march

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's government yesterday banned a planned protest march by ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is demanding fresh elections as a political and economic crises deepens in the South Asian nation, officials said. The ban was announced by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah hours after a policeman was shot and killed during a crackdown on Khan's leaders and supporters, according to a police statement and remarks by Information Minister Marriyam Auragzeb at a news briefing. An official of Khan's party had shot and killed the policeman, the minister said. Khan, who was ousted last month, has been leading rallies across the country, blaming the US for conspiring to topple his government. Authorities in Islamabad had started putting up blockades at roads leading to important installations, police said, and heavy contingents from police and paramilitary troops have also been deployed. Khan had urged his supporters to march on Islamabad today. "You try to stop us if you could," Khan told reporters, saying a peaceful protest was his right that could not be denied.

## UYGHURS IN CHINA Xinjiang police files reveal internment details

AFP, Beijing

A leak of thousands of photos and official documents from China's Xinjiang has shed new light on the violent methods used to enforce mass internment in the region, researchers said yesterday. The files, obtained by academic Adrian Zenz, were published as UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet begins a controversial trip to Xinjiang. Activists say Chinese authorities have detained over one million Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in a network of detention centres in the region, which Beijing has defended as training centres. But the trove of police photographs and documents -- sent to Zenz by an anonymous source who hacked into official databases -- add to evidence that the internees were far from voluntary, with leaked documents showing top leaders including President Xi Jinping calling for a forceful crackdown.



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর  
জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।  
web: dss.bogra.gov.bd  
**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১	মন্ত্রণালয় বিভাগ	ঃ	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২	এজেন্সি	ঃ	সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা।
৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার নাম	ঃ	মহাপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার জেলা	ঃ	বগুড়া।
৫	যে কাজের দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি	ঃ	২০২২-২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত (i) প্রতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী ছেলেমেয়েদের কারিগরী প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, আলিয়ারহাট, শিবগঞ্জ, বগুড়া (ii) সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বাগিকা), বগুড়া (iii) সামাজিক প্রতিবন্ধী মেয়েদের প্রশিক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্র, বগুড়া এবং (iv) সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, বগুড়া'র নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুসঙ্গিক, শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী ও বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
৬	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	ঃ	৪১.০১.১০০০.০০০.০৭.০০৩.১৩. ৫৮৩ তারিখঃ ২৩-০৫-২০২২ খ্রিঃ
৭	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	ঃ	তারিখঃ ২৫-০৫-২০২২ খ্রিঃ
৮	সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ও.টি.এম)।
৯	ব্যাংকট এবং তহবিল উৎস	ঃ	রাজস্ব ব্যাংকট (জি.ও.বি)।
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং	ঃ	০৪ (চার) টি।
১১	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম	ঃ	২০২২-২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত (i) প্রতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী ছেলেমেয়েদের কারিগরী প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, আলিয়ারহাট, শিবগঞ্জ, বগুড়া (ii) সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বাগিকা), বগুড়া (iii) সামাজিক প্রতিবন্ধী মেয়েদের প্রশিক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্র, বগুড়া এবং (iv) সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, বগুড়া'র নিবাসীদের জন্য "ক" গ্রুপঃ- খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুসঙ্গিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল), "খ" গ্রুপঃ- শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী ও অন্যান্য এবং "ঙ" গ্রুপঃ- বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	১৬-০৬-২০২২ খ্রিঃ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১৯-০৬-২০২২ খ্রিঃ, সকাল ৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ	১৯-০৬-২০২২ খ্রিঃ, দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকা, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বগুড়া। দরদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বীর উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৫	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঃ	(i) প্রতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী ছেলেমেয়েদের কারিগরী প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, আলিয়ারহাট, শিবগঞ্জ, বগুড়া (ii) সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বাগিকা), বগুড়া (iii) সামাজিক প্রতিবন্ধী মেয়েদের প্রশিক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্র, বগুড়া এবং (iv) সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, বগুড়া।
ক)	মূল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়	ঃ	(i) উপপরিচালক, স্থানীয় সরকার, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া (ii) জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বগুড়া (iii) প্রতিম ও প্রতিবন্ধী ছেলেমেয়েদের কারিগরী প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, আলিয়ারহাট, শিবগঞ্জ, বগুড়া (iv) সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বাগিকা), বগুড়া (v) সামাজিক প্রতিবন্ধী মেয়েদের প্রশিক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্র, বগুড়া এবং (vi) সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, বগুড়া।
খ)	দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ	ঃ	(i) উপপরিচালক, স্থানীয় সরকার জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া। (ii) উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
১৬	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ	বেধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেজারী চালানের মূলকর্প, পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজের ০৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদ, আয়কর সনদ এবং জাট প্রদান (২০২০-২১) সনদের অধিকারী হতে হবে।
১৭	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং ১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ তে (অফেরত যোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।
	গ্রুপ	ঃ	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ
	"ক"	ঃ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুসঙ্গিক (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল)
	"খ"	ঃ	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী ও অন্যান্য
	"ঘ"	ঃ	সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, বগুড়া।
	"ঙ"	ঃ	বিবিধ মালামাল
১৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	ঃ	আবু সাঈদ মোঃ কাওছার রহমান।
১৯	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	ঃ	উপপরিচালক
২০	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	ঃ	জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
২১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর	ঃ	০২-৫৮৯৯০২৮৪৪
২২.		ঃ	শর্তাবলী
	ক)	ঃ	পি.পি.আর-২০০৬ এবং সি.পি.আর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
	খ)	ঃ	পুঁজি দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিডিউলের অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যদেয় প্রদান করা হবে।
	গ)	ঃ	"ও" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যদেয় প্রদান করা হবে।
	ঘ)	ঃ	কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
	ঙ)	ঃ	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।

(আবু সাঈদ মোঃ কাওছার রহমান)  
উপপরিচালক  
জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।  
ফোনঃ ০২-৫৮৯৯০২৮৪৪  
e-mail: dd.bogra@dss.gov.bd

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona  
Phone No. 0951-61359, Fax: 0951-61263  
e-mail: eenet@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No-614 Dated: 23.05.2022

### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of Work	Last selling and closing date & time
01	Tender ID: 700377 Package No.: e-GP/Rev/88/NRD/2021-22 & APP ID 176541; Publishing: 19-May-2022.	Repair of Pavement by Aggregate Base Type-II, Carpeting, Seal Coat, Brick Edging & Earth work at 1 <sup>st</sup> (p), 2 <sup>nd</sup> (p), 3 <sup>rd</sup> (p) & 4 <sup>th</sup> (p) km of Avoypasha-Atpara Road (Z-3713) under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	02-Jun-2022 17:00 05-Jun-2022 11:30
02	Tender ID: 700378 Package No.: e-GP/Rev/89/NRD/2021-22 & APP ID 176541; Publishing: 19-May-2022.	Repair of Pavement by Brick Edging, HBB & Earth work at 7 <sup>th</sup> (p) km of Avoypasha-Atpara Road (Z-3713) under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	02-Jun-2022 17:00 05-Jun-2022 11:45
03	Tender ID: 700379 Package No.: e-GP/Rev/90/NRD/2021-22 & APP ID 176541; Publishing: 19-May-2022.	Potholes Repair, Carpeting, Seal Coat and Earthen Shoulder work at 3 <sup>rd</sup> (p) & 5 <sup>th</sup> (p) Km of Dharmapasha-Madhanagar Road (Z-2809) under Netrokona Road Division during the year-2021-2022.	02-Jun-2022 17:00 05-Jun-2022 12:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the web site: [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender.  
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Shahriar Sharif Khan**  
ID No. 602247  
Executive Engineer (CC), RHD  
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona

**Regional Public Administration Training Centre**  
Chattogram  
10, S.S. Khaled Road  
<http://patc.chittagongdiv.gov.bd>  
**e-Tender Notice**

No. 05.01.1541.062.07.99.002.10 Date: 24/05/2022  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Name of Goods	Online Tender Notice Publications date and time	Online Tender closing date and time
702815	Interactive Flat Panel Board, Zebra L14278 Bluetooth (100 Meter) Handheld ID Barcode Scanner, Dahua XVR5232AN-X-32 Channel Penta-brid XVR all items supply & installation.	23/05/2022 21.00PM	06/06/2022 12.00AM
701217	Supply of various linen materials required by RPATC Chattogram, through framework method. (This will be a Framework Agreement and the Supplier will be bound to provide the similar items at the same price for the next three years.	19/05/2022 12.00AM	02/06/2022 12.00AM
700295	Purchase of various types of official goods required by RPATC' Chittagong, through framework method. (This will be a Framework Agreement and the Supplier will be bound to supply of similar items at the same price for the next three years).	18/05/2022 12:00AM	01/06/2022 12.00AM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Registration in the National e-GP system (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is a must to submit an e-Tender. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the portal and the e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). For more details, please contact the PE's Support Desk (01833-789995).

Sd/-  
Monuara Bagum  
Deputy Director  
RPATC, Chattogram.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Enforce govt order to stop price manipulation

### Why has it been sitting idle for more than a decade?

It is unfortunate that price manipulation of daily essentials by unscrupulous businessmen continue unabated despite there being a government order to curb this illegal practice. According to a report in this daily on May 24, the government issued an order titled "Essential Commodities Distribution and Distributor Recruitment Order, 2011," under the Control of Essential Commodities Act, 1956, to curb price manipulation. But it has remained unimplemented for more than 11 years. That is because none of the stakeholders played their part—while importers and producers did not care to comply with the order, the authorities responsible for enforcing the order or monitor the market also did not do their job.

Since the government order was never enforced, dishonest businessmen often manipulated the supply of essential items by creating artificial shortages in the market to raise their prices. We have seen this recently in the case of edible oils, wheat, and other essentials. Had the government order issued in 2011 been properly enforced, we could have averted the edible oil crisis—or the authorities could have easily addressed it. Under the law, the government would have a list of distributors and the supply data of importers. With these crucial data in hand, the government could have identified and punished those responsible for creating the crisis without much difficulty.

The order states that 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. Importers or producers are also supposed to send information on the monthly supply of products to the committee. But this is not happening. And while the committee is supposed to sit every month to assess the stock, supply, sale and prices of essentials and take measures to ensure the availability of the goods in the market, so far, they have rarely met to assess the market situation and have not taken any measures to enforce the order.

Like most of our laws or government orders, this order was also formulated—when the market situation was volatile—with no visible intention from the government's side to implement it. And it is the ordinary people who have had to—and still are having to—pay the price for that. But that should not be the case. We urge the government to enforce the order without further delay and identify and punish those responsible for manipulating the market.

## Old age allowance simply not enough to live on

### To start, it must be adjusted for inflation

It is a disheartening fact that, while the government does provide allowances to certain vulnerable groups within the population, the amount is never enough to sustain them properly. A report by this daily has highlighted how dire the situation is for those who have no secondary sources of income or any support from close ones, and must rely solely on the government allowance for their survival. Shamsul Huda, an elderly man from Rajshahi, resides in a tiny and unstable tin shack, which used to be a tea stall (and his source of income). Being too old to work now, he must rely on his children for food and his medical bills. How much does the government allowance contribute to this? Only Tk 500 per month (paid at three-month intervals), which Huda would use up at once on the two inhalers that he needs.

But this is one story of one elderly man who is barely scraping by. And to think that the allowance has remained at Tk 500 since 2017, despite the prices of commodities increasing by so much over the last one year alone. Essentials such as cooking oil, rice, lentils, and some vegetables have been getting out of reach for many families. It is unrealistic to think that Tk 1,500 would be enough to help a person sustain themselves for three months, when even people with a monthly income are now struggling to make ends meet.

In the current fiscal year, the government allocated Tk 39,637 crore for cash transfer programmes, which include providing allowance to the elderly, widowed, distressed and destitute women, and financially insolvent people with disabilities, as well as for the pensions of retired government employees and their families.

While something is better than nothing, the government must commit to their safety net programmes by providing enough to each beneficiary to support their survival. We agree with experts that the amount of allocated allowance for vulnerable persons must be at least doubled in the budget for the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year. Authorities must also bring more people under these cash transfer programmes—namely widows, oppressed women and persons with disabilities. It should also be ensured that not only are beneficiaries from all upazilas covered under these programmes, but that the urban poor—whose number has increased significantly since the pandemic began—are also receiving substantive monetary assistance.



VISUAL: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

# There is just one way to save Dhaka



## THE GRUDGING URBANIST

Adnan Zillur Morshed, PhD, is an architect, architectural historian, and urbanist. He teaches in Washington, DC, and serves as executive director of the Centre for Inclusive Architecture and Urbanism at Brac University.

ADNAN ZILLUR MORSHED

THE notoriety of Dhaka's traffic is now daily news. Civil society members have been venting frustration about this maddening crisis. Transportation engineers—local and international—have been busy offering solutions akin to those in highly developed cities like Melbourne or Singapore. These solutions include, among others, improved public transportation and automated ticketing systems, dedicated lanes for bus rapid transit, smart road signals, and coordinated traffic management. They are all well-meaning suggestions. But they are, alas, pipe dreams, given our tangled urban realities. While technically sound, these solutions are likely to fail, because they ignore complex sociocultural issues and public behavioural patterns that make traffic congestion an insurmountable knot in the first place.

The hard reality is that Dhaka's traffic problem will not go away anytime soon. The causes for the city's clogged streets can't be undone overnight. Technical solutions alone are not enough, since the capital city's traffic jam is the result of a complex combination of sociocultural factors, lack of rational land use, and misguided urban governance. Let me explain these three issues briefly before contemplating ways forward.

First, to unpack the sociocultural roots of our capital city's notorious traffic congestion, it would be logical to zoom in on its primary contributor: the private car. Private cars occupy 70-80 percent of Dhaka arteries, while serving only 5-10 percent of daily commuters. This is a glaring example of social injustice and inequity. Neither Copenhagen nor Singapore would ever allow this asymmetric distribution of urban resources. Let's put it in perspective. Assume 150 people from a neighbourhood need to go from Point A to Point B. Compare the road space needed by three public buses that can carry them with the space needed by 75-100 personal cars to transport the same number of people. Imagine the street: three buses with a lot of free road space versus 75-100 cars with very little road space left. This is the reality of Dhaka's roads. And, this is not fair to the 90 percent of the city's daily commuters.

This is also simple maths justifying the utility of public transportation. An efficient public transportation system means people won't have to rely on private cars to go around. Yet, we don't embrace the idea of public transportation. There

are a host of reasons for this. For the rising middle class, the personal automobile is the ubiquitous expression of social mobility—a moving family fortress that ensures safety on a hazardous road and showcases social status. About 4,000-6,000 newly registered cars and other motorised vehicles pour into the streets of Dhaka every month. Banks offer up to 90 percent of car loans to help clients buy their dream cars. The mushrooming car dealerships across the city are viewed as symbols of a prosperous society. Rapidly growing personal car ownership is the future of the city. And that future is filled with insanely congested streets.

The personal car is not the disease. The problem is how we embrace the personal car as a lifestyle. In a democratic society, how would the government discourage a family from buying a personal car when there is no safe, comfortable, and gender-friendly alternative for mobility? Singapore deploys draconian measures to make car ownership an impossibly expensive and bureaucratic process. Policies are in place there to encourage the public to utilise an efficient mass transit. Owning a car in Singapore is, in fact, a burden. In Dhaka, such measures won't work yet, because there are no comfortable alternatives. The Singapore model won't work because we have not yet figured out what kind of city we would like to develop. It is a deeply political and cultural question.

Second, Dhaka traffic is a multigenerational crisis, long in the making. Since the 1980s, when the capital city's urbanisation began to accelerate, we have ignored one of the key tools of creating a sustainable urban DNA: land-use planning. We allowed the city to become an untenable urban juggernaut, an infernal urban agglomeration, paying little attention to how the city's land could be developed with a logical sequence of use and zoning. What is land-use planning? A basic example begins with your family. Your children should be able to walk safely to their school in 5-15 minutes. This means each neighbourhood or a ward should have a number of good schools, so that a kid from Dhanmondi will not have to make an exhausting trip to school in Uttara. A good Segunbagicha school for Segunbagicha kids is good land-use planning. A city with a prudent land-use template reduces unnecessary road traffic, because people will not have to crisscross the city to reach their destinations.

Third, it is inevitable that a lack of coordinated urban governance would result in unregulated clogged streets. Much has been said about the lack of coordination among Dhaka's different urban agencies responsible for providing services. The streets of a megapolis like this city are too heavy a responsibility to be left to too many agencies. Cleaning the traffic mess in the city needs one tsar. That tsar needs to go to sleep thinking about solutions for Dhaka streets and wake up

thinking about solutions for Dhaka streets. Period.

What are the ways forward? The hard truth is that if Dhaka's urban status quo continues, it is going to take a generation or two for the city to become sane before it bursts at its seams.

If we don't want to wait until Dhaka becomes Mohenjo-daro, the only way out is its decentralisation. Dhaka needs to stop being a monstrous primate city (greater than two times the next largest city in a country or containing over one-third of a nation's population). As the former World Bank economist Ahmad Ahsan studied, the economic costs of the capital city's overgrowth are a staggering 11 percent reduction in GDP, or about USD 32 billion in 2019. Ahsan wrote, "The urban population of Bangladesh has grown by nearly 10 times after independence, where as much as a third of which has taken place in Dhaka, whose population grew at an annual rate of 5.4 percent per annum between 1974 and 2017. Other large cities, though—Chattogram and Khulna with populations of more than one million—have grown at a far lower rate of 1.7 percent per annum."

Dhaka must stop being the only dream centre in the country. We need to lessen the city's burden. University education? Go to Dhaka. Heart surgery? Go to Dhaka. Establish a startup? Go to Dhaka. Why can't Sylhet become a national hub of healthcare? What's stopping Chattogram from becoming all things maritime? Why is Rangpur, with a new airport, not an industrial hub? Why can't Barishal be a new centre of high-tech industry, like Bengaluru, in the wake of Padma Bridge? Dhaka doesn't have to be everything. Being everything is killing Dhaka. Why are some ministries not located in other divisions?

Decentralisation is easier said than done, particularly when there is a pervasive but irrational political fear that being away from Dhaka—the centre of all powers—is to risk being forgotten, ignored, and diminished. Nobody wants to go outside Dhaka. The risk is too high. Time has come to fight this entrenched fear to save this city from the looming disaster. Dhaka must be decentralised. If necessary, the capital should be split between two cities. In an earlier column, I wrote, "Time has come when the idea of splitting the administrative functions of the capital into two cities should no longer appear absurd. On the contrary, the idea should rapidly sink in... Indeed, we should begin to incubate this idea in our political and administrative heads." I provided many examples of capital relocation across the world.

During Eid holidays, the insanity of Dhaka's streets disappears. That's because people return to their homes in other parts of the country. This "return" should be encouraged, facilitated, and incentivised by a policy of decentring Dhaka. Which ministry should we move to Rajshahi first?

**Dhaka must stop being the only dream centre in the country. We need to lessen the city's burden. University education? Go to Dhaka. Heart surgery? Go to Dhaka. Establish a startup? Go to Dhaka. Why can't Sylhet become a national hub of healthcare? What's stopping Chattogram from becoming all things maritime? Why is Rangpur, with a new airport, not an industrial hub?**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to [letters@thedailystar.net](mailto:letters@thedailystar.net)

## Create a healthy political environment

There was a time when politics was a means of practising patriotism, honesty, compassion, and selflessness. The main objective of politics was to ensure people's welfare. But nowadays politics has become a tool to earn money as well as to exercise power. Politicians often earn money through various

illegal practices. Students also join politics for the same purpose. We, of course, need young people to join politics. But we need educated young people with good intentions. The situation is quite different from what we need. The question is: How much can the less-educated young politicians contribute to the nation's

welfare? Or are they a burden for us? At present, our educated young generation avoids politics. But to create a healthy political environment in the country, they must step up. I think senior politicians have to take the responsibility to encourage them to join politics for the sake of public

good. Our country is moving forward economically. With good people joining politics, we can definitely make more progress both socially and economically.

**Mohammad Nader Hossain Bhuiyan**  
Feni Government College



# Put education back on track

Advice from five eminent educators to help the process



MANZOOR AHMED

Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at Brac University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network, vice-chair of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), and a member of the international advisory committee of the Yidan Education Prize Foundation.

EDUCATORS in these columns have been asking for recovery and remedial actions to overcome the pandemic-induced learning losses that threaten a generational learning disaster. The problems regarding quality, equity and inclusion in education that existed before the pandemic have been magnified by its effects. A medium-term recovery and renewal plan for education has become urgent.

Twelve years ago, in April 2010, when a new Education Policy commissioned by the Awami League-led coalition government was about to be finalised, five of the most respected educators of Bangladesh put out a joint statement, spelling out a nine-point agenda for the renewal of Bangladesh's education system. It was published in the media then.

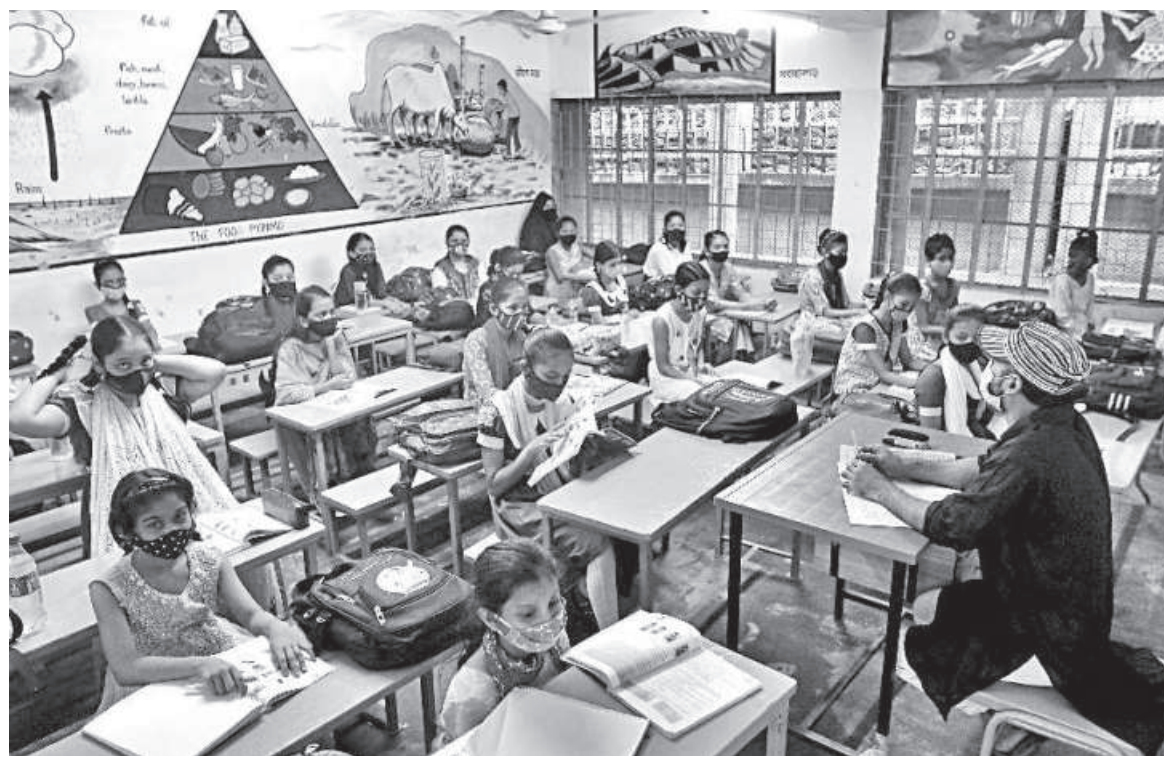
The National Education Policy, 2010, adopted in December of that year, remains largely unimplemented. And the nine-point advice of the eminent educators remain highly relevant today. The five education gurus were: Prof Kabir Chowdhury, who headed the commission that prepared the 2010 policy; Prof Anisuzzaman, national professor; Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University; Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, director of the Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the Chittagong University; and Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, professor emeritus of Dhaka University. Among them, only Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury is still with us today.

The nine points, abridged and paraphrased from Bangla, are as follows:

1) To keep students and the youth away from ill-politics and to protect the academic environment on campus, the Awami League should sever its links with the Chhatra League. All heads of institutions and local administrations

should be directed to strictly control criminal activities and rule-breaching by students; support from all levels of government should be assured for this purpose. This is essential to revive the glorious tradition of student politics.

2) The major goals of the education policy under preparation enjoy broad consensus. Subject to approval by



parliament, steps should be taken to realise the broadly supported goals.

3) Among the important issues about which there is no debate include: a) A unified core curriculum for all students in primary and secondary education; b) All students should acquire basic competencies, including Bangla and English languages, maths, science, history, social studies, and information technology, and the outcomes should be assessed by applying scientific methods; c) Primary and secondary education management and planning should be meaningfully decentralised with the heads of institutions possessing the skills, capability and status to provide educational leadership.

**The recovery and renewal of education in Bangladesh requires vision and political will.**

FILE PHOTO: STAR

4) A permanent education commission answerable to the parliament should be established to guide and oversee adapting and adjusting of the policy and to solve problems in the light of experience and emerging issues.

5) To fulfil the constitutional obligation regarding education, to define roles of the state and citizens, and to outline the

school lunch programme and other equity-promoting measures.

8) To invest public funds for education equitably, education budgets should be allocated on the basis of student population in each upazila. To fulfil the right to universal education up to at least Grade 8, coordinated and decentralised comprehensive planning covering state and no-state education services in each upazila should be undertaken.

9) Three specific actions should be included in the Sixth Five-Year Plan (2010-15): a) School meal in all schools to encourage a full school day; b) A 10-year plan to attract and retain the best talents in school teaching. It should include designing "education" as a "major" in the regular college degree course, with 100 colleges—at least one in each district—prepared to offer the education major, well equipped with physical facilities and good teachers, and creating an education service corps for government and government-assisted schools with appropriate social status, remuneration, and career path; c) A nationwide network of lifelong youth/adult community learning centres should be set up to extend widely opportunities for literacy, IT, skill-upgrading for the informal economy, and learning for personal development. This should replace the ongoing conventional and ineffective adult literacy courses.

The nine-point agenda and the priorities indicated for the sixth FYP remain almost entirely valid now for the current eighth FYP and beyond—an indication of unimplemented plans and unfulfilled expectations. One amendment in the agenda now would be that the universal education plan for Grade 8 should be replaced by a plan for secondary education up to Grade 12. Anything less is not acceptable for an aspiring higher-middle-income country.

The eminent educators urged that short-sighted views and narrow political calculation should be shunned, since such calculations do not serve the country or the regime well. They believed that a good faith effort by the political decision-makers along the line proposed, reflecting an enlightened political calculation, would attract overwhelming public support.

## 50 YEARS OF BANGLADESH-NORDIC PARTNERSHIP

# Past, Present, Future

WINNIE ESTRUP PETERSEN, ESPEN RIKTER SVENDSEN and ALEXANDRA BERG VON LINDE

THIS year marks 50 years of a long and strong friendship between Bangladesh and the Nordic countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The Nordic countries followed the struggle for freedom by the Bangladeshi people and simultaneously recognised the independent and sovereign nation of Bangladesh on February 4, 1972. Since then, our joint journey has taken us far, and as reliable partners and friends, the Nordic countries have stood by Bangladesh's side through challenges and successes.

From the very beginning and during its early decades, Bangladesh was one of the top recipients of development assistance from the Nordic countries. It started with humanitarian aid and then moved into development cooperation, creating long-lasting results and multifaceted impact. Our development partnership has covered a wide range of sectors and has been a key pillar of our relationship. It has contributed to fostering strong and sustained economic development and poverty reduction in Bangladesh.

Over the last decades, relations between Bangladesh and the Nordic countries have matured and broadened. We want to continue this vibrant partnership by joining forces to tackle the global challenges of today. Topping the list is countering the negative effects of climate change. As one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, Bangladesh has been a pioneer in managing the risks of natural disasters. The Nordic countries are proud to have been supporters in preventive measures, such as flood forecasting, cyclone shelters and disaster management. We commend Bangladesh's journey towards climate resilience and will continue to support adaptation and mitigation efforts, as well as promoting decarbonisation and green transition, by bringing climate-smart solutions to the country.

The importance of a sustainable and green transition in sectors such as water, energy, connectivity and digitalisation, smart urban cities, and waste management will continue to be a priority for the Nordics. We are known for our ability to combine economic growth with pursuing the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and energy consumption, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources. Nordic companies provide well-tested green solutions. The Nordics seek to share lessons learnt and our experience of sustainable economic growth with Bangladesh. Marine resources and Blue Economy are other areas with scope for closer cooperation. We also foresee increased partnerships in fields, such as environment-friendly high-tech extraction of coastal and ocean resources, shipbuilding and recycling, and development of port facilities. In light of Bangladesh's graduation from LDC status, the four countries are becoming well-positioned to expand their close cooperation within these sectors.

Already, more than 100 Nordic companies do business in Bangladesh. This is a further signal of a dynamic partnership in transition. The volume of trade and investment between Bangladesh and the Nordic countries has grown steadily over the years, and we are seeing an increased interest in expanding our overall business relations. Some of the Nordic investments and imports have gone beyond business purposes and helped empowering millions of people (eg. Grameenphone, H&M, and Arla).

The Nordics consistently stress the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, a priority that we share with Bangladesh. We have seen women in the RMG industry, a sector where important Nordic companies are active, contribute greatly to the economic development of the country. Investing in women's economic empowerment is not only the right thing to do, but also smart and profitable. For decades, the Nordic countries have worked with Bangladesh to explore ways of strengthening gender equality, including ensuring women's

rights, combating gender-based violence, accessing livelihoods and education, as well as improving health and nutrition. Our efforts have contributed to positive advancements, but more needs to be done. We look forward to continuing our cooperation in addressing social norms, power structures, and the root causes of gender inequality and discrimination.

Respect for democracy and human rights are cornerstones of the Nordic societies and permeate all areas of our foreign policies. We are convinced that democracy offers the best foundation for a sustainable society. A democratic, inclusive, and equal society based on the rule of law provides opportunities for all to achieve their full potential. Upholding human rights complements and reinforces democracy in building a just and stable society. Also, in this area we will continue to work with the Bangladesh government and civil society.

The Nordic countries are three relatively small countries, but among the keenest supporters of multilateralism, global solidarity and international law. We share this ambition with Bangladesh. This is also why the Nordic countries strongly support Bangladesh in its efforts to ensure the basic needs and rights of the Rohingya refugees. In addition to providing humanitarian aid to the refugees, the Nordic countries have extended their diplomatic support for Bangladesh in its efforts to ensure a dignified, safe, and voluntary repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar when conditions allow.

The Bangladesh-Nordic partnership reflects our common ambition to reach international goals pertaining to multilateralism and sustainability and jointly achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Nordic countries are thus well-placed to remain valuable partners to Bangladesh, to ensure sustainable development in all three pillars of sustainability: economic, social and environmental.

Reflecting on the past 50 years, we are all excited to continue our joint journey with Bangladesh—for the coming 50 years and beyond.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।  
তারিখঃ ২৩/০৫/২০২২ খ্রি।

**উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৬ এবং তৎপরবর্তীতে সংশোধিত আইন/বিধিমালা মোতাবেক ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে বগুড়া জেলা পুলিশের বিভিন্ন অফিসের মনোহারি সামগ্রী সরবরাহ/স্বাস্থ্যবিধি সামগ্রী সরবরাহ/ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ/পুলিশ হাসপাতালের ঔষধ/চিকিৎসা ও শৈল চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি ও রোগীদের পথ্য সরবরাহ/ফোর্সের ককেন্স খাবার/ফোর্সের পোশাক সেলাই ও রিনন ক্রয়/কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ, সয়েজাম, খোলা ও ফিটিং কাপড়/বগুড়া জেলার পুলিশ অফিসারগণের ও অন্যান্য কাজে ভাড়া ব্যবহারের জন্য মাইক্রোবাস/কার/পিক-আপ গাড়ী সরবরাহ এবং আউটসোর্সিং জনবল সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরসহকৃত বামে উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।
২	স্বত্বা	২	জেলা পুলিশ, বগুড়া।
৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	৩	পুলিশ সুপার, বগুড়া।
৪	সমাবেশকারী সত্তার জেলা	৪	বগুড়া।
৫	দরপত্রের বিধি	৫	জমিক নং-১৮ এর গ্রুপ নং-১ হইতে ১৩-তে বর্ণিত কাজ সমূহ।
৬	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	৬	উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)।
৭	বাজেট ও আর্থনৈতিক খাত	৭	বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
৮	দরপত্র আবেদন/প্রকাশের তারিখ	৮	২৪/০৫/২০২২ খ্রি. এর মধ্যে।
৯	দরপত্র সিদ্ধি/সম্পন্ন হওয়ার তারিখ	৯	১৬/০৬/২০২২ খ্রি. পর্যন্ত অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে (সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)।
১০	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০	১৯/০৬/২০২২ খ্রি. বেলা ১৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ ও সময়	১১	১৯/০৬/২০২২ খ্রি. বেলা ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা দরপত্রের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১২	দরপত্র মুদ্রাভানের তারিখ ও সময়	১২	২২/০৬/২০২২ খ্রি. বেলা ১৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম/পদবী/ফোন নং ও ঠিকানা	১৩	সুদীপ কুমার চক্রবর্তী বিপিএম, পুলিশ সুপার, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	১৪	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
১৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	১৫	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
১৬	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	১৬	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
১৭	দরপত্র ঘোষণার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে (প্রাক-যোগ্যতা)।	১৭	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ড্রি (পোস্টেড সাইজ), হালনাগাদ অয়কর সনদ, ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাক সলভেশন সনদ, মালিকানা এফিডেভিট, নতুন স্বাক্ষর, নাগরিক সনদ, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, ভোটার আইডি কার্ডের ফটোকপি, কাগজে তালিকাভুক্ত নয় এর অঙ্গীকার নামা (গেজেটেড অফিসার দ্বারা স্বাক্ষরিত), পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ এবং মোটামুড়ের টায়ার টিস্ট ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ, কাচালা ক্রয়/সরবরাহ এবং সয়েজামের ক্ষেত্রে সফটওয়্যার ঠিকাদারের স্বাক্ষরিত বিদ্যমান ওয়ারান্ট/পেমেন্ট/পারিসের সৌকর্য থাকিতে হইবে। যা দরপত্রের সঙ্গে সংক্রান্ত করাতে হবে। দরপত্র জমার সময় সকল কাগজের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন পূর্বক দরপত্র জমা করতে হবে।

১৮	কাজের বিবরণ	দরপত্রের সিদ্ধি/সম্পন্ন হওয়ার তারিখ (প্রতি সপ্তাহে)	টেন্ডারের পরিমাণ (বেসরিয়োগ্য)	কাজের সময়সীমা
১	বিভাগীয় ভাড়াহাওয়ার ও বিভিন্ন অফিসের মনোহারি সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	১ জুলাই/২০২২ হতে ৩০ জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত
২	বিভাগীয় ভাড়াহাওয়ার ও হাসপাতালের স্বাস্থ্যবিধি সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৩০,০০০/-	এই
৩	বিভিন্ন অফিসের ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	১০,০০০/-	এই
৪	বিভাগীয় ভাড়াহাওয়ার ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	এই
৫	পুলিশ হাসপাতালের রোগীদের পথ্য সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-	এই
৬	ফোর্সের ককেন্স খাবার সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	১০,০০০/-	এই
৭	পুলিশ সদস্যদের জন্য পোশাক সেলাই ও রিনন ক্রয়	৭৫০/-	১,০০,০০০/-	এই
৮	পুলিশ হাসপাতালের জন্য ঔষধ/চিকিৎসা ও শৈল চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি ক্রয়/সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	এই
৯	বিভিন্ন অফিসের কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ, সয়েজাম, খোলা ও ফিটিং কাপড়	৪০০/-	২০,০০০/-	এই
১০	মানববলের টায়ার, টিউবলেস খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ, কাচালা ক্রয়/সরবরাহ, সয়েজাম, খোলা ও ফিটিং কাপড়	১,০০০/-	৩,০০,০০০/-	এই
১১	বিভিন্ন যানবাহন সয়েজাম কাজ	৫০০/-	১,০০,০০০/-	এই
১২	অফিসারগণের ও অন্যান্য সরকারি কাজে ভাড়া ব্যবহারের জন্য মাইক্রোবাস/কার/পিক-আপ গাড়ী সরবরাহ	৪০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	এই
১৩	আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহ	১,০০০/-	৫,০০,০০০/-	এই

**বিশেষ আবেদন**

ক) ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারী স্বাক্ষরসহ প্যাকেট আবেদনপূর্বক নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সত্ত্বা করা যাইবে।

খ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য স্বত্বাধিকারী দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে হইতে জানা যাইবে।

গ) দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ হইতে ৬০ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বন্ধ থাকিবে।

ঘ) অস্বাভাবিক ব্রাহ্মণের আলোকে কার্যক্রম/বিল পরিচালনা করা হইবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

ঙ) দরপত্র/কার্যক্রমে উপস্থিত সমস্ত মনো কার্য সম্পন্ন করিতে হইবে।

চ) কোন কারণবশত দরপত্র জমা/ঘোষণার দিন সরকারী বন্ধ থাকিলে/অফিস বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যক্রমে একই সময়ে ও যথা নিয়মে দরপত্র জমা প্রদান ও ঘোষণা হইবে।

ছ) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ নির্দেশে ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

সুদীপ কুমার চক্রবর্তী বিপিএম  
২৩.০৫.২০২২  
পুলিশ সুপার, বগুড়া।  
ফোন নং-৭৫০৫১০৫১১১  
০২৫৮৯০০১২১, ফ্যাক্স-০২৫৮৯০০১২১।  
e-mail: spbogra@police.gov.bd

জিডি-১০৫১



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

## Two water ambulances lie abandoned in Sandwip

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Two water ambulances worth almost a crore have been lying abandoned on Sandwip island of Chattogram for a long time. This has barred locals from accessing healthcare facilities. Around four lakh inhabitants of the island have been facing untold suffering to cross around 17km long Sandwip channel to go to city hospitals during emergencies. The two water ambulances – one given by the health directorate in 2008 costing Tk 32 lakh and another by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in 2015 costing Tk 65 lakh – are not being used due to their poor fitness, lack of drivers and maintenance, according to sources. Upazila sources said the water ambulances are not fit for sea voyages but they are fit enough to



run in the haor region or river. Till now, the patients of the island are taking treatment by riding on local speedboats or trawlers or “red boats” locally known as “lal boat”, putting their lives at risk. The situation usually turns worse during rough weather in the monsoon. According to local journalists, one of the ambulances with “Water Ambulance” written on the back is lying abandoned near Guptochara Ghat coastal area. The other one – “Rescue Eagle” is kept near the Haramia 20-bed Hospital territory. The one given in 2015 is around 10 feet long, light-weight and with a low engine capacity. It’s not suitable for the sea. The other one, sent by the health directorate in 2008, is too damaged to use. Admitting that the ambulances are unfit for the Sandwip channel, Dr Hasan Shahriar Kabir, Chattogram divisional director of DGHS, said, “The water ambulances cannot cross the rough sea or heavy water current. I’ve sent letters to the authorities for suitable ambulances.”

## More than a graveyard

Chattogram War Cemetery offers glimpses of history

NAIMUR RAHMAN

19 Badsha Mia Road, Chattogram, holds an old cemetery on its lands. Except that it’s not just any other cemetery, but rather one with huge historical significance. The story of Chattogram War Cemetery goes back almost a century, to the tumultuous and horror-stricken times of World War II. Officially known as Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, this is the place where soldiers who died during WWII were buried.



Located on a seven-acre land in Dampara region of the port city, this burial ground was established by the British army after WWII as a memorial to honour the martyrs who died on the eastern front in the war. According



to the commonwealth war commission, the cemetery has 755 graves, both identified and unidentified. When the ground was established as a memorial at first, 400 graves were discovered under the supervision of the British army. The numbers gradually increased, confirming 17 unidentified casualties after the war commission’s research. Another reason behind the numbers increasing was the burial of sailors, pilots and citizens coming from England and other countries such as Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Canada and Australia in 20 burial grounds. Some of the graves were later transferred to temporary graveyards in Lusai, Dhaka, Rangamati, Patiya, Dohazari, Dhowa Palang, Cox’s Bazar, Chittagong Civil Cemetery, Khulna and Jashore. Four non-war UK military burials were also done here. The site has now turned into one of the finest tourist spots in the port city, maintained by the Commonwealth War Community. Visitors from both Chattogram and other cities visit the place to be in touch with its history and the tranquillity that the place offers. “The cemetery is surrounded by beautiful flower-bearing trees. The entrance gate leads through a tarmac lane to the burial grounds, offering a perfect place to spend the afternoon,” Sumon Chowdhury, a visitor from GEC area, told this correspondent. The identity of each deceased is engraved on their epitaphs, accompanied by tiny flower plants beside them. Sadia Afroz, another visitor, said, “The entire structure of this solemn memorial manifests a humbling feeling. The cemetery now serves as one of the oldest and most famous historical sites in the city.” This connection between the known and the unknown, the living and the dead – accompanied by the history of a war that tore the world apart – makes the experience of visiting the cemetery even more overwhelming, making it more than just another graveyard.

Some of the graves were later transferred to temporary graveyards in Lusai, Dhaka, Rangamati, Patiya, Dohazari, Dhowa Palang, Cox’s Bazar, Chittagong Civil Cemetery, Khulna and Jashore. Four non-war UK military burials were also done here.

## CU launches seven biotech research labs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) inaugurated seven international-standard biotechnology research labs at the Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology on May 23.

CU is the first and only university in Bangladesh to launch such labs, which have specialised equipment, on university premises.

Six labs will be facilitated by the university’s Biotechnology Research and Innovation Center, and one will be supported by Child Health Research Foundation (CHRF) in Dhaka, and Find Diagnostics of Switzerland.

That one lab, named “Next Generation Sequencing, Research and Innovation Lab Chittagong”, is the first international, joint laboratory for genome research in the country.

The labs were inaugurated by Dr Shireen Akhter, vice chancellor of Chittagong University. Researcher Dr Senjuti Saha, director of CHRF and advisor to the World Health Organization, was present as guest of honour.

Prof Benu Kumar Dey, pro-vice chancellor of CU; Prof Touhid Hossain, dean of the biology faculty; Dr Golam Mostafa, director of Laboratory of Science and Industry, and Dr Nasiruddin, director of Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, were also present at the inauguration event.

Senjuti said, “The reason for setting up labs at Chittagong University is that students have a lot of desire to do research here... Now, the researchers don’t have to go elsewhere with their samples.”

Associate professor of the department Adnan Mannan said, “In these labs, we can research cancer as well as infectious and genetic diseases... This is a huge milestone.”



## The land is green again

Forest department plants 4 lakh trees on 400 acres of recovered forestland

SIFAYET ULLAH

The forest department has reforested a total of 400 acres of protected forestland – which was grabbed by locals in Kodolpur area of Chattogram’s Raozan upazila – bringing a positive change for the region’s biodiversity.

Under the “social forestry” project, 25 native species of trees – including gamhar, arjun, olive, neem and haritaki – are now spreading their branches.

Besides, the department listed 400 destitute families in the area as beneficiaries under the project. These families will get 45 percent dividends from the sale of trees, after the project ends.

Around four lakh trees have been

planted under the project, which started in 2018 and will end in 2032.

During a visit to Kodolpur on Sunday, this correspondent saw the saplings being nurtured by locals. Many of the trees are now 10 to 12 feet tall, and beneficiaries were seen guarding the forest.

Md Didar, a beneficiary of the forest, told the newspaper, “We treat the forest’s trees as our children. We care about them; we protect them, so that on one can cause harm.”

“At one point, local encroachers grabbed the land and installed different kinds of illegal establishments. But now, the situation has totally changed. It’s now turning into a green haven, full of different species of trees,” said Abu Ahmed, another beneficiary.

“We will get money as beneficiaries after the trees are cut down, which will bring us prosperity,” he added.

“The project not only maintains ecological balance in our area but also brings happiness to poor families,” said Nizam Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, chairperson of Kodolpur Union Parishad.

Khasrul Amin, forest ranger of Ichamati (Raozan) Forest Range, told The Daily Star that the land had been grabbed by locals, but the forest department recovered the land from them and planted trees. “Four hundred indigent local families were listed as beneficiaries under the project. They safeguard the forest.”

Mozammel Haque Shah Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of Chattogram North Forest

Department, said the department’s hard work finally paid off, because the saplings have turned the place into a dense, green forest, inhabited by snakes, wild boars and birds.

Environmentalists have praised the work.

Kamal Ahmed, professor of Forestry and Environmental Science Institute at Chittagong University, told this newspaper, “Deforestation is one of the biggest problems in Bangladesh. Global warming has accelerated in recent years due to deforestation.”

“Stopping deforestation and focusing on reforestation is the need of the hour, but it is easier said than done. The forest department of Chattogram has shown that it is not impossible,” he said.



## 'Now I know the nature of Test cricket'

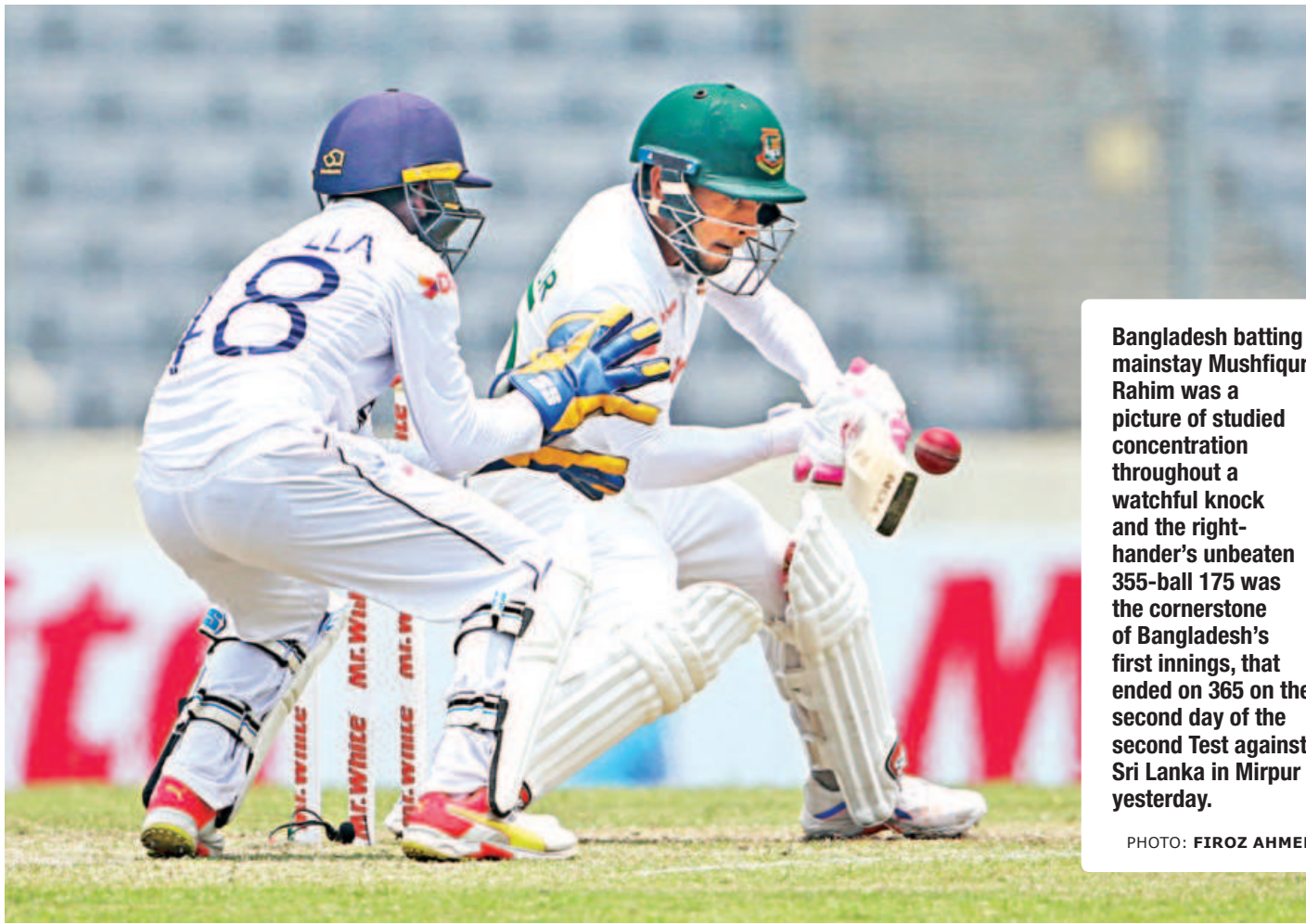
SPORTS REPORTER

Liton Das has been the name of a revolution for Bangladesh over the past one year or so as the elegant right-hander keeps taking his game to greater heights with commendable consistency.

With a magnificent 141-run knock against Sri Lanka in the second Test, Liton combined with another centurion Mushfiqur Rahim to rescue the Tigers from a disastrous position of 24 for 5 to eventually post a total of 365 runs in the first innings.

It was Liton's third hundred in the last seven months in the longest format and undoubtedly, his sheer elegance despite being under tremendous pressure remained the highlight of his innings as he went on to dominate the Lankan bowlers.

It seems something has definitely transformed in



Bangladesh batting mainstay Mushfiqur Rahim was a picture of studied concentration throughout a watchful knock and the right-hander's unbeaten 355-ball 175 was the cornerstone of Bangladesh's first innings, that ended on 365 on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



# CONFIDENT, COMPACT, COMPOSED

Mushy 'turning over a new leaf'

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

"He has a deeper understanding of his game and that is making the difference," Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, a long-term mentor to Mushfiqur Rahim, said about one of his favourite students while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

Mushfiqur's adherence to discipline is well known. Usually first to training sessions, Mushfiqur manages his routine industriously. However, 17 years since his debut, a determination that kept the hunger alive has never waned. It is almost surprising to hear that someone has learned how to better understand their own game over such a long career. But in Mushfiqur's case, signs are that he is turning over a new leaf.

There was a stillness to Mushfiqur, portrayed very well over the last two days, that had not been seen before. There was no anxiety in trying to do something extra or force the issue. His technique and mindset all perfectly fused to meet the match scenario.

"His skill level has increased. There are a lot more shots in his arsenal. If you look at his scoring chart, you will see that he has increased range whether you talk about drives or pull shots. He has a lot of confidence in his batting and it is showing. The increased ability has made his confidence level rise to new heights and he appears to be even more ready to score runs now," Fahim said of Mushfiqur's confidence following an

### SCORES IN BRIEF (Day-2)

**BANGLADESH V SRI LANKA**  
Bangladesh: First innings-365 all out in 116.2 overs (Mushfiqur 175 not out, Liton 141, Taijul 15; Rajitha 5-64, Fernando 4-93)  
Sri Lanka: First innings-143 for 2 in 46 overs (Oshada Fernando 57, Karunaratne 70 not out, Mendis 11; Ebadot 1-31, Shakib 1-19)

unbeaten 175 yesterday.

A few drives caressed the green carpet of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium and the positions he was getting himself into, especially to play some eye-catching cover drives, left the image of a Mushfiqur more compact than ever. That compactness has seen the confidence in his defensive shots rise to a new level.

"Compactness is everything. If you look at his defence, it is all about being compact. When a batsman feels that confidence in his defence, it is easier to get behind the line of deliveries and easier to spend time at the crease," Fahim opined.

Mushy's two back-to-back tons were far apart in terms of approach too. "The Chattogram innings gave him confidence, but in Dhaka he was freer and more

confident and he scored a lot more boundaries," Fahim said.

Mushfiqur even brought out his reverse sweep on the second day, having avoided it altogether in Chattogram and on the first day in Dhaka. The shot has caused Mushfiqur much suffering over a long career but he never shied away from saying that it was a shot he felt comfortable with.

However, when he played the shot yesterday, it did not feel out of place. "The field was setup in a way to cut out boundaries and he picked the right deliveries," Fahim opined on Mushfiqur's reverse sweep.

Mushfiqur records all his practice sessions and goes through them, putting his phone on 'flight mode'. Asked if Mushfiqur is now turning over a new leaf in his Test career, Fahim said: "Of course I feel he's turning over a new leaf and I am hoping he will keep scoring."

"He is enjoying his game and that is getting him more success," Fahim concluded about Bangladesh's 'Mr. Dependable'.

Just as Liton Das was feeling more confident in his new approach, Mushfiqur is also finding out his game better. "When you have discipline, it enables you to play a long period in Tests," Liton Das said yesterday at the press conference when asked about whether discipline was his and Mushy's biggest strength. Confidence, enjoyment and composure, it's all coming together for Mushfiqur.

## My heart beat starts to accelerate, says Ancelotti

REUTERS

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti said his team's performances were far from perfect on their journey to Saturday's Champions League final against Liverpool, but they managed to get there mainly thanks to their grit in the decisive moments.

"We haven't displayed exceptional quality in our play, but no one has beaten us in terms of commitment and motivation," Ancelotti told a news conference in the Spanish capital.

Ancelotti said his team were "calm and motivated" ahead of Saturday's game and that Kylian Mbappe's decision to stay with Paris St Germain instead of moving to Real had not created a distraction in the locker-room.



He said that his players' experience, going into their fifth Champions League final in eight years, could also be an advantage.

"Some of the players could be teaching me how to play a final, they have played more decisive games than me," Ancelotti said with a smile ahead of his record-breaking fifth Champions League final.

Despite being the first coach to win European football's top trophy three times with different clubs and on the verge of leapfrogging Zinedine Zidane and Bob Paisley to become the first to win four, Ancelotti said this season it was harder for him to control his emotions in the final hours ahead of big games.

"I'm sweating a lot, my heart beat starts to accelerate. It's been a difficult process for me and I can't really explain why," Ancelotti laughed.

## Rune strikes teen blow

AFP, Paris

World number two Daniil Medvedev eased into the French Open second round on Tuesday as Denmark's Holger Rune reminded Roland Garros that Carlos Alcaraz is not the only teenager dreaming of the title.

Medvedev, who came into Paris with just one match on clay this year following hernia surgery, routed Argentina's 103rd-ranked Facundo Bagnis 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 on the back of 35 winners and eight breaks of serve.



"I love Roland Garros, especially since last year," said Medvedev, who had lost in the opening round on his first four trips to Paris before reaching the quarter-finals in 2021. "I hope this year I can

go further."

Rune, 19 and just a week older than the highly-rated Alcaraz, marked his main draw debut with a 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) dismissal of 14th-seeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov.

Rune, the boys champion in 2019 and a former world junior number one, entered Paris at a career-high 40 having started 2021 outside of the top 400.

In the current clay season, he won his first title in Munich, beating world number three Alexander Zverev on the way.

# Robson takes Kings to the top

SPORTS REPORTER

A stunning performance from Brazilian forward Robson Robinho helped Bashundhara Kings grab the top spot in Group D of the AFC Cup with a 2-1 win over Gokulam Kerala FC in their final group match at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata yesterday.

The Bangladesh Premier League champions took their tally to six points from three matches but their fate hinged on the outcome of last night's second match between ATK Mohun Bagan and Maziya S&RC. A draw or a defeat for Mohun Bagan will give Bashundhara Kings a first-ever knock-out round berth while a win for Mohun Bagan will force Kings to return home once again with a second-place finish in the group stages.

The star-studded Bashundhara Kings had no option but to beat I League champions Gokulam Kerala FC to keep their hopes of advancing to the inter-zonal semifinals alive. The charges of Oscar Bruzon got off to a fine start with Biplo Ahmed, Nuha Marong and Mahbubur Rahman Sufil coming in place of Masuk Mia Jonny, Chinedu Mathew and Tariq Kazi following a 4-0 defeat against Mohun Bagan in their previous match.

Kings dominated the proceedings with their usual build-up game from the word

go before almost conceding the lead from a counter-attack in the fifth minute, but Gokulam's midfielder MS Jithin drove well from inside the box, much to the relief of goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico.


Robinho then danced past three defenders to come close to breaking the deadlock in the 27th minute but his powerful shot from inside the box punched away by Gokulam goalkeeper Rakshit Dagar, who however could not stop a curling effort from Robinho in the 36th minute. The Brazilian found the ball on the left-side of the box and he curled in the way he often does in domestic competitions.

Four minutes after the break, Robson found space again but this time narrowly missed the target. However, the Brazilian turned provider on 54 minutes as he delivered a well-judged cross for Gambian forward Nuha, who nodded home from inside the six-yard box.

Gokulam Kerala played came out all guns blazing and Jourdain Fletcher reduced the margin in the 75th minute with a low drive from the top of the box before rattling the Kings crossbar in the 90th minute.

In the stoppage time, Iranian defender Khaled Shafiei made an important clearance with his legs stretched as Kings emerged with all three points.





**To prevent corrosion of rods in water reservoirs, use corrosion-resistant steel**

**BSRM Centura**  
Fusion Bonded Epoxy Coated Rebar

**HIGHEST SELLING 15 CEMENT** for more than years

**SHAH CEMENT**

## Crucial third day for Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third day of the second and series-deciding Test in Mirpur will be crucial for Bangladesh and their hopes of seizing control by taking a first-innings lead against Sri Lanka. The visitors will resume on 143 for two, trailing by another 222 runs.

Lankan skipper Dimuth Karunaratne was solid during an unbeaten 70 and, along with Oshada Fernando, forged a 95-run stand for the opening wicket to ensure Sri Lanka replied solidly to Bangladesh's first-innings total of 365.

Pacer Ebadot Hossain broke the partnership, removing Fernando for 57. But Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis joined together and were looking to end the day on a dominant note. They even found some luck when Shakib Al Hasan failed to hold on to a rather tough chance to send back Karunaratne,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim is congratulated by Sri Lanka pacer Kasun Rajitha as the players go off the field at the end of Bangladesh's first innings of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Mushfiqur remained unbeaten on 175 as Bangladesh scored 365, with Rajitha taking five wickets.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## The poet's return

Celebrating 50 years of Nazrul coming back to an independent Bangladesh



DIPAN NANDY

It has been 50 years today since an independent Bangladesh got its national poet.

On this day in 1972, Kazi Nazrul Islam, having just turned 73, was declared the national poet by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Nazrul

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Hajj flights begin on June 5

BSS, Dhaka

The first hajj flight of this year will leave Dhaka for Saudi Arabia on June 5 instead of May 31.

The religious affairs ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification in this regard saying that the first hajj flight from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport has been delayed to ensure smooth completion of pre-arrival immigration formalities of pilgrims in Dhaka.

It said pre-arrival immigration for Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims is scheduled to be done at the Dhaka airport under the Route to Makkah Initiative.

The notification said the Saudi Arabian authority informed that its 40-member team of Route to Makkah Initiative will not be able to reach Dhaka before June 2.

The team will carry with it necessary devices and equipment. Later, the devices and equipment will be installed at the airport which will take time.

The ministry has also asked the authorities concerned in Bangladesh to make necessary arrangements to begin hajj flights on the rescheduled date.

## 'Knowledge gained' but for whom?

Senior secy retires a day after returning from official tour in Europe

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

A senior secretary embarked on a study tour in Europe just before retiring from his job.

Helal Uddin Ahmed, a senior secretary of the Local Government Division (LGD), came back from his all-expenses-paid trip to the Netherlands and Spain on Saturday. The next day was his last day at work before his LPR (leave preparatory to retirement) began.

The study tour at the end of his career as a bureaucrat begs the question: How will the training be of any use to the government?

The expenses of his 10-day trip were borne from funds of three government projects.

Experts termed the retiring bureaucrat's study tour a waste of money.

Contacted, Former Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumder said, "It was unethical. He cannot do that."

He added that learned individuals

become senior secretaries. "He does not need a study tour. It is needed for the new officers so that they can make a contribution to the nation."

Helal, however, said, "I'm not too old. Since I have retired, my experience can be of use in any sector. There is WASA, LGED and other organisations. They can take our expertise by involving us in different projects."

Helal joined Bangladesh Civil Service in February 1988 and was the Election Commission secretary during the 11th Parliamentary Election in 2018.

THE TRIP

Six others who went on this trip include Minister Tazul Islam of the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives ministry.

According to the ministry documents, the individuals participated in the International Study Tour on Delta Plan 2100 in the Netherlands and Global Water Summit in Spain between May 11 and May 20. The Global Water Summit took

place from May 17-18. The Netherlands tour was a part of the preparation for the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 Conference which will be held in Dhaka from May 26-27.

But Helal is not even participating in the delta plan conference.

The funds of Dhaka's Food System (DFS) Project, Emergency Multi-Sector Rohingya Crisis Response Project (EMCRP) and City Governance Project were used for this trip, says a ministry document.

The Netherlands granted \$12.5 million to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the DFS Project to develop a safe, sustainable and resilient food system for the Dhaka metropolitan areas. The EMCRP project, with \$165 million granted by the World Bank, is aimed at providing basic services and social resilience for the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar. And the JICA-funded Tk 2,904 crore City Governance Project is aimed at developing urban infrastructure.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Paraglider makes first legal flight off Everest

AFP, Kathmandu

A South African paraglider has made the first legal flight off Mount Everest, an expedition organiser said yesterday, opening doors for "climb and fly" adventurers on the world's highest mountain.

Pierre Carter, 55, leapt off near the summit at an altitude of nearly 8,000 metres (26,247 feet) last week, cruising above the Himalayas as other mountaineers descended on foot.

Carter flew down at a top speed of 80 kilometres (50 miles) per hour, taking only 20 minutes to land near the small settlement of Gorakshp at 5,164 metres.

"It was a beautiful flight down. Above the clouds and then through the clouds and down," Carter told AFP.

Weather conditions dissuaded Carter from climbing all the way to the top of Everest's 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) summit before his flight from the South Col ridge around noon.



A picture taken on Sunday shows the destroyed bridge connecting Lysychansk with Severodonetsk in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbass. Inset, Olga Khomenko, 67, looks for the remains of her son who allegedly died after a Russian tank shell hit his car outside the village of Mala Rogan near Kharkiv.

PHOTO: AFP

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## EVM USE EC yet to earn confidence of all: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal has said the Election Commission is yet to gain the confidence of all regarding the use of electronic voting machines.

Speaking at a press briefing at the EC office yesterday, he said the commission was working to earn the confidence.

The EC was holding meetings on the use of EVMs and would sit with the technical committee, he added.

Habibur said the next general election will be held in due course and it would of course not take place "at night".

He said he was in Sydney during the last parliamentary polls on December 30, 2018 and saw that voting was held during the daytime. BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir had expressed satisfaction at the atmosphere on the polling

**বিভ্রান্তি নয় সচেতনতাই প্রতিকার**

১৯৯৯ সালে US-FDA (United States-Food & Drug Administration) Rabeprazole Sodium ২০ মিগ্রা ট্যাবলেট ও ১০ মিগ্রা ক্যাপসুলের অনুমোদন প্রদান করে।

পরবর্তীতে ২০০১ সালে বাংলাদেশ ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর ২২০তম DCC সভার সুপারিশ মোতাবেক Rabeprazole Sodium ২০ মিগ্রা ট্যাবলেট এবং ১০ মিগ্রা ক্যাপসুলের অনুমোদন প্রদান করে।

**অপসোনি ফার্মার**

**finix®** ২০ মিগ্রা ট্যাবলেট

**finix®** ১০ মিগ্রা ক্যাপসুল

**বিজ্ঞাপনটি ঔষধ প্রশাসন অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত**

**Opsonin Pharma**  
Cares for healthcare

- \* শুধুমাত্র রেজিস্টার্ড চিকিৎসকের ব্যবস্থাপত্র মোতাবেক এন্টিবায়োটিক বিক্রয়, সেবন বা গ্রহণ করতে হবে
- \* সংক্রমণের হার কমানোর জন্য হাত ধোয়াসহ সকল সাধারণ স্বাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে চলতে হবে
- \* বদলে যাব বদলে দিব, ঔষধের নকল ভেজাল বন্ধ করে জনস্বাস্থ্যের উন্নয়ন করব