



Blinken's policy speech 'smears China'



Films, flashing lights and stars



Stuck in an endless loop



Not a sport, it's a business



Winners of Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards 2022 pose for a photo with Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and IPDC Managing Director & CEO Mominul Islam at the auditorium of the Independent University, Bangladesh, in the capital last night.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

After attacks, cases stalk BNP activists

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and activists have come under repeated attacks by the armed members of Bangladesh Chhatra League since Tuesday while trying to hold programmes in Dhaka University areas and some other parts of the country.

The attacks by the BCL activists carrying sticks, iron rods and machetes also led to clashes that left over a hundred people, mostly from JCD, injured.

No case has been filed against anyone from the pro-government student organisation though photos and videos of its activists with the weapons went viral on social media and were run by newspapers.

Instead, leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated student body JCD are getting arrested and facing cases in various parts of the country.

Police have so far held four JCD activists in two cases filed with Shahbagh Police Station following Tuesday's violence on the DU campus. Some 30 JCD members, including a few female activists, were hurt in the BCL attack.

Apart from a case lodged by the DU authorities



on Wednesday, Jahidul Islam Jahid, president of DU Shahidullah Hall BCL unit, filed a case with the police station against 60 JCD men, including 18 leaders named.

In the case, Jahid brought charges against the accused of assaulting BCL men.

Two days after the incident, armed members of BCL swooped on JCD leaders and activists in the High Court area, leaving reportedly some 50 people, including a journalist and a lawyer, injured.

“We went to the DU campus to hold a peaceful programme. It's our democratic right. There we came under brutal attacks. Now cases have been filed against us,” JCD General Secretary Saif Mahmud told The Daily Star yesterday.

“Those who attacked us were carrying machetes, sticks and other local weapons. The photos and videos went viral on social media. There is proof who carried out the attacks. Yet, police are arresting our leaders and activists. It is clear that these cases have been filed to harass us,” he added.

Saddam Hossain, general secretary of BCL's DU unit, however, claimed that it was the “general students who resisted JCD.”

Meanwhile, the Paltan police filed a case against 100-150 BNP and JCD men, naming 30 leaders and activists, after the party staged a torchlight procession in Bijoyagar area on Wednesday night in protest against the attacks in DU area.

The accused include BNP Senior Secretary General

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Breaking the glass ceiling

7 women changemakers receive The Daily Star-IPDC Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven intrepid women were yesterday felicitated at the sixth edition of the “Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards”, an initiative of The Daily Star and IPDC, for their meaningful contributions to building a better Bangladesh.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi gave out the awards at a ceremony held at the auditorium of Independent University, Bangladesh in the capital's Bashundhara.

“Handing out the awards to these women is my greatest reward,” he said.

Munshi went on to urge The Daily Star and IPDC to take the initiative all over the country to encourage women to stand up against the obstacles created for them.

“Using the pretext of religion and culture, many people repress women from doing anything -- we will have to stand up against the obstacles created by the society.”

Women are no less capable than men, and in some instances, they are more able than the men, he said, adding that

the prime minister is a great advocate of women taking up important roles in the government.

“Why should women be left behind? We have to kindle that spirit in them to forge ahead,” Munshi added.

The instances of courage that the awardees and many other unsung women have shown will serve as an inspiration for the rest, said Mominul Islam, chief executive officer and managing director of IPDC.

One such force of nature is Zannatul Ferdous Mohua, who is unable to walk, move her hands or speak clearly from birth. She beat all odds to become a successful entrepreneur, employing 25 women in Bogura's Sherpur upazila.

Through her Facebook page “Rainbow”, she sells hand-embroidered products like sarees, cushions and bedcovers. People from more than 18 countries buy her items, yielding her about Tk 60,000 a month.

Not just that, Mohua is also studying for her master's degree in English at the Bogura Government Azizul Haque College.

“People like us will feel encouraged and be successful if the society extends support towards us,” Mohua said while accepting the award.

Another awardee Tamanna Aktar Nura, 18, of Bankra under Jhikargachha upazila of Jashore was born with no arms and only one leg.

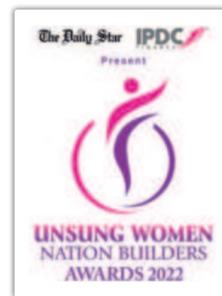
But this did not hold her back: nestling the pen between her toes, she took her exams and scored GPA-5 in HSC this year and SSC in 2019. Now, she wants to sit in the exam for Bangladesh Civil Service.

In Bangladesh, people with disabilities are still viewed as burdens, she said, adding that she wants to work towards changing that perception.

“With a changed mindset and support, people with disabilities can turn into assets,” Nura added.

Zannatul Sarkar Champa sold newspapers in Chatmohar Bazar to get by after the sudden death of her father, a union parishad member. She faced widespread criticisms for her source of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



“Using the pretext of religion and culture, many people repress women from doing anything — we will have to stand up against the obstacles created by the society.”

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi

India to export five lakh tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh

Development comes amid Delhi's ban on export of the grain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India is likely to approve the export of one million tonnes of wheat, with half of it to be sent to Bangladesh, amid restrictions imposed on its export.

Imposing the curbs on May 13, India made it clear that this would not affect its commitment of meeting the requirements of the neighbouring and vulnerable countries, according to a report in The Economic Times.

“It is learnt that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade [DGFT] has asked for approving the export of more than one million tonnes in the first phase against genuine letters of credit, of which about 5-6 lakh tonnes are likely to be exported to Bangladesh,” said a wheat exporter requesting anonymity.

About 2 lakh tonnes of wheat is expected to be sent by road, while the rest may be shipped by vessels, said trade sources.

Quoting a Kolkata-based wheat exporter, The Economic Times reported that traders in Bangladesh are not in a hurry to import Indian wheat because of their limited storage capacity.

India on May 13 banned exports of wheat amid rising food inflation and a fall in domestic output due to a severe heatwave in March-April.

However, New Delhi exempted shipments under contracts where LCs had already been opened. The latest

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (R) makes a despondent face as Sri Lanka players celebrate his dismissal during the fifth day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SL thrash Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sri Lanka kept their record of winning every Test series in Bangladesh intact with a comprehensive 10-wicket victory over the Tigers in the second Test of the two-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Pacer Asitha Fernando bagged 10 wickets, including a maiden five-wicket haul in the second innings, as Bangladesh lasted little more than one session on the fifth and final day of the Test.

Bangladesh were bundled out for 169 to throw a small target of 29 runs, which the visitors chased down in three overs to complete their domination over the hosts.

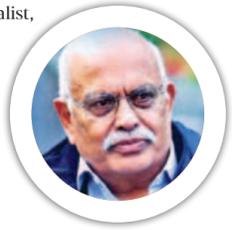
Resuming the day on 34 for four, Bangladesh lost in-form Mushfiqur Rahim when he was bowled for 23 by pacer Rajitha Fernando. A sixth-wicket stand of 103 runs between Liton Das and Shakib Al Hasan gave Bangladesh a ray of hope of saving the match.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Gaffar Chowdhury to be laid to rest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent journalist, writer and columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital today.



A flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying his body is scheduled to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:00am. His body is being brought from London under state management, said a foreign ministry press release issued yesterday.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque will receive the body at the airport.

Later, the body of Gaffar Chowdhury will be kept at the Central Shaheed Minar from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for people from all walks of life to pay tributes to the lyricist of "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano". A guard of honour will be given to him.

Around 3:30pm, his namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Dhaka University central mosque.

Then his body will be taken to the Jatiya Press Club at 4:00pm where journalists will pay homage.

Later, Gaffar Chowdhury will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard around 5:30pm, said the release.

On May 19, the eminent writer and journalist died of a heart attack at a London hospital aged 88.

The British-Bangladeshi community and other admirers paid their last respect to Gaffar Chowdhury after his first namaz-e-janaza was held in London's Brick Lane Mosque the following day.

Taliban dismiss UN concerns on women's rights in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban yesterday rejected the UN Security Council's call to reverse heavy restrictions imposed on Afghan women, dismissing their concerns as "unfounded".

The Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on Tuesday that criticised the Taliban for limiting girls' and women's access to education, government jobs and freedom of movement since seizing power last year.

Afghanistan's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada has also ordered women to cover up -- including their faces -- when in public, triggering international outrage.



A local resident walks past an industrial building damaged by a Russian military strike in the town of Bakhmut, in Donetsk region, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

West has declared 'total war' on Russia

Says FM Lavrov; Moscow presses Donbas assault, claims capture of key Ukrainian town

AGENCIES

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday accused Western countries of waging a "total war" on Russia and its people and culture as Moscow pushes on with its military operation in Ukraine.

"The West has declared war on us, on the whole Russian world. The culture of cancelling Russia and everything connected with our country is already reaching the point of absurdity," Lavrov said at a ministry meeting.

He accused the West of banning Russian writers, composers and other cultural figures. "It is safe to say that this situation will be with us for a long time," he added.

According to Lavrov, Washington "and its satellites are doubling, tripling, quadrupling their efforts to contain our country".

On the ground, Russia yesterday pressed its deadly offensive to capture key points in the eastern Donbas region of Ukraine, with more bombing of residential areas and pro-Moscow forces claiming the capture

of a key town on the way to Kyiv-controlled territory.

At least nine people were killed in shelling of Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv, raising fears that Russia had not lost interest in the northeastern hub even after Ukraine took back control following fierce battles.

And around 10 people were also killed in Russian strikes on a military facility in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky reiterated accusations that Moscow was carrying out a "genocide" in Donbas, saying its bombardment could leave the entire region "uninhabited".

Moscow's forces were closing in on several cities in the region including strategically located Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, reports AFP.

Oleksandr Stryuk, the head of the military and civilian administration of Severodonetsk, said two-thirds of its perimeter was already occupied by Russian forces and its chemical factory Azot had been bombed.

"Russia is pressuring the

Severodonetsk pocket although Ukraine retains control of multiple defended sectors, denying Russia full control of the Donbas," the British defence ministry said in its latest briefing.

Pro-Russian separatists said they had captured the town of Lyman that lies between Severodonetsk and Kramatorsk and is on the road leading to the key cities that are still under Kyiv's control.

Concerns are also growing over global food shortages due to the conflict, exacerbating problems for the world's poor at a time of rising energy prices.

Russia said yesterday it was looking to ramp up its production of grain to export in the coming season. "In the current season (2021-2022) we have already exported over 35 million tonnes of grain, including 28.5 million tonnes of wheat," Agriculture Minister Dmitry Patrushev said at a Russian grain forum.

"In the coming season (starting July 1, 2022) we estimate our export potential for grain at 50 million tonnes," he said.

After attacks, cases stalk BNP activists

FROM PAGE 1

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, JCD President Kazi Rawnakul Islam Srabon and General Secretary Saif Mahmud.

"We arrested nine activists of BNP in this case. Eight of them were taken on remand," Salauddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, told The Daily Star.

According to the case statement, the BNP men were chanting anti-government slogans, and at one stage, they attacked police and also hurled brick chips. They also attacked two or three moving buses, it read.

However, witnesses said they didn't see any such attack on police or buses.

Talking to this newspaper yesterday, a shopkeeper in the area said the activists marched in procession in front of his shop on Wednesday night. "I didn't see any attack on police or buses by the BNP men."

Another witness said police detained some BNP men from the procession, but he didn't see any act of violence.

In Khulna, police filed a case against around 800 BNP men, including Khulna city BNP Member Secretary Shafiqul Alam Tuhin, in connection with Thursday's clash between local leaders and activists of BNP and BCL men that left over 50 people wounded.

Following the incident, at least 37 BNP men, including Khulna

Metropolitan BNP Member Secretary Shafiqul Alam Tuhin, were arrested.

Biswajit Kumar, sub-inspector of Khulna Sadar Police Station, said he filed the case on Thursday against 92 named people, including Tuhin, and 708 unidentified people.

The case was filed against them for vandalism, obstructing police from discharging duties, and injuring 14 after attacking police, added the official.

Apart from Khulna, BNP men also came under attack in Patuakhali and Manikganj on Thursday while protesting the attack on JCD men in Dhaka.

Talking to this newspaper, BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, said "First, they attacked us, now they are filing cases against us. But still we will be in the field with our political programmes."

Contacted, Shahbagh Police Station OC Mowdud Hawlader said they arrested four JCD men over Tuesday's incident on DU campus. Of them, two were held on Thursday and they faced warrants in some previous cases.

Md Kamruzzaman, assistant inspector general (media and public relations) at the Police Headquarters, said when public properties get damaged or any attacks on law enforcers take place, police can file cases. It's a general procedure, he added.

Breaking the glass ceiling

FROM PAGE 1

liveliness but she did not give in.

Last year, she was elected as a union parishad member in Parshodanga union of Pabna's Chatmohar upazila.

Like her, Jamila Begum from Birganj upazila of Dinajpur dispelled the long-held notion of professions that women could work in.

After her husband abandoned her and their two children, she took up butchery. She cleared a debt of Tk 2.82 lakh that her husband owed and built a home in her village.

Takia Sultana Nova, 21, a third-year student of International Islamic University Chattogram, has taught more than 500 women how to ride scooters and take control of their own mobility and safety.

Girls can sign up for lessons on Nova's Facebook page "RoadBook BD", which was opened in 2019.

Birangana Shila Guha was raped by the Pakistan army during Bangladesh's nine-month-long War of Liberation in 1971.

After learning about the sexual assault once the war ended, both her father and husband refused to take her back, leaving her to fend for herself and her two daughters.

But she survived.

In 2018, Taheatul Jannat Remi established a free school named "Hasimukh Pathshala" for the underprivileged children in Faridpur. The school is providing education to 30 students, most of whom come from poor families.

Remi also gives training to women in Faridpur on self-defence and protecting themselves from sexual violence and creates awareness about child sexual abuse through her other organisation, Nandita Surakkha.

She said it was a

"The instances of courage that the awardees and many other unsung women have shown will serve as an inspiration for the rest."



Mominul Islam, chief executive officer and managing director of IPDC.

tremendous challenge to start an awareness programme on girls' reproductive health issues in a town like Faridpur.

However, she succeeded as her family supported her for the cause.

There are people like Remi who love to dedicate their lives to the welfare of people, said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, while

introducing her.

The other awardees were introduced by: Hasin Jahan of WaterAid Bangladesh, Senjuti Saha of Child Health Research Foundation, Sinthia Sharmin Islam of Shajgoj, Maria Mumu of Moshal Mental Health, Tawhida Shiropa of Moner Bondhu and Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori.

These women have moved forward by breaking glass ceiling as well as social and mental constraints and limitations, said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"Can you believe a female butcher is selling meat? It may seem to you a trifling achievement but she has actually commenced a revolution. Another woman overcomes her disability and runs an online shop. Today, when you will leave [the event venue], you will feel encouraged to break the glass-ceiling too," he added.

Theatre troupe Prachyanaut performed at the event, where the awardees were given cash support of Tk 2 lakh each.



Artistes performing at the award ceremony.

PHOTO: STAR

Two land in jail over gang rape of schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Moulvibazar court yesterday sent two people to jail on charges of gang-raping a 10th grader in Kulaura upazila.

The accused, Mukid Miah, 27, and Abdus Sattar, 32, are residents of the same upazila.

According to the case statement, the victim was returning home from school around 4:00pm on Wednesday. Five people, including Mukid and Sattar, intercepted her and forcibly took her to a secluded place and raped her.

After returning home, the girl became sick and shared the incident with her family members.

On Thursday night, the victim's father filed a case against the five with Kulaura Police Station. Police arrested the duo the same night.

Yesterday, the two were produced before the court that sent them to jail, said Binoy Bhushan Roy, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The victim was undergoing treatment at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, the OC added.

Police were conducting raids to arrest the other accused.

Road crash claims lives of 2 friends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Two students died after their motorcycle crashed into a lamp-post near Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Thursday night.

The victims are: Gopal Saha, 22, a third-year student of Government BM College, and his friend Antu Saha, 22, a student of Infra Polytechnic Institute.

Azimul Karim, OC of Kotwali Model Police Station, said Gopal was driving the motorcycle. The accident happened around 11:00pm when he lost control and the motorbike hit the lamp-post.

Gopal died on the spot. Doctors declared Antu dead at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, he added.

26 people involved in 'mugging, extorting money' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested 26 alleged criminals over mugging and extorting money after raiding different areas in the capital on Thursday.

"Several Rab teams raided different spots and arrested them. Sharp weapons and extorted money were recovered during the raids," Bina Rani Das, operations officer of Rab-3, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The arrestees admitted that they have long been extorting Tk 100 to Tk 500 from transport like human haulier, roadside vegetable and fruit shops, and other business outlets, she said.

Besides, some of them used to mug pedestrians, rickshaw-pullers and auto-rickshaw passengers at knife-point, the Rab official added.

Monkeypox cases could be 'peak of iceberg': WHO

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization yesterday cautioned that some 200 monkeypox cases found in recent weeks outside of countries where the virus usually circulates could be just the beginning.

"We don't know if we are just seeing the peak of the iceberg," Sylvie Briand, WHO's epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention chief, acknowledged in a briefing to countries on the "unusual" spread of the virus.

Since Britain first reported a confirmed monkeypox case on May 7, nearly 200 cases have been reported to the UN health agency in countries far from the states where the virus is endemic.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has put the number of such cases at 219.

Endemic in a number of west and central African nations, monkeypox cases have suddenly been detected in more than 20 other countries around the world, including the United States, Australia, the United Arab Emirates and nearly a dozen EU countries.

The Spanish health ministry said yesterday that 98 cases had been confirmed there so far, while Britain currently counts 90 verified infections.

Portugal has meanwhile registered 74 confirmed cases, health authorities said yesterday, adding that all the occurrences are in men, mainly aged below 40.

"We are still at the very, very beginning of this event," Briand told member state representatives attending the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

"We know that we will have more cases in the coming days," she said, but stressed there was no need to "panic". "This is not a disease the general public should be worried about. It is not Covid or other diseases that spread fast."

Monkeypox is related to smallpox, which killed millions around the world every year before it was eradicated in 1980.

But monkeypox is much less severe, with a fatality ratio of three to six percent. Most people recover within three to four weeks.

The initial symptoms include a high fever, swollen lymph nodes and chickenpox-like rash.

While many of the cases have been linked to men having sex with men, experts stress there is no evidence it was a sexually transmitted disease. Rather, it seems to be transmitted by close contact with an infected person who has blisters on their skin.

There is not much in the way of treatment, but some antivirals developed against smallpox exist, including one that was recently approved by the European Medicines Agency against smallpox, Briand pointed out.

'This is our movement'

BNP demands punishment for those who attacked JCD men
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said their movement on the street started with their student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Party's standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain made this comment while addressing a protest rally organised by the party's Dhaka north and south city units in front of Jatiya Press Club.

The event was organised, protesting the recent attacks on JCD leaders and activists on Dhaka University campus.

He said JCD has launched a street movement for the restoration of democracy through their protest programmes at DU.

The BNP leader said all the democratic forces and patriots will get united to make the ongoing movement a success. He warned that their will be dire consequences of the attacks on their party's student leaders and activists.

Mosharraf condemned the attack on the JCD's "peaceful procession" and also urged all to take their movement forward.

He demanded that the attackers be
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Every day at the break of dawn, Ibrahim Khalil sets out on a mission to collect as much scrap plastic bottles as he can. He packs them inside huge sacks and carries them on his shoulder, tied to a single piece of bamboo. After collecting a good amount, he sells them at scrap shops at Old Dhaka's Ananda Bazar for Tk 8-10 per kg. This 90-year-old man has been making a living this way for years, and in turn, contributing to keeping this city clean. The photo was taken in Dhaka University area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Sustainable resilience need of the hour'

7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction concludes in Bali

PINAKI ROY from Bali

With a call to generate and allocate necessary global funding for LDCs (Least Developed Countries) faced with natural disasters, the seventh Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2022 ended yesterday in Bali, Indonesia.

"Bali Agenda for sustainable resilience can be the answer to the world's challenges regarding disaster management after the pandemic, amid the threat of climate change," said Lt Gen Suharyanto, head of

BALI AGENDA

- ▶▶ Strengthening culture of disaster preparedness
- ▶▶ Investing in disaster science, technology, innovation
- ▶▶ Building infrastructure resilient to disasters, climate change
- ▶▶ Committing to implement global agreements at local levels

natural disaster management authority, Indonesia, while reading out the agenda.

Before the closing session yesterday evening, the Bangladesh delegation discussed lessons learned from the conference in a programme hosted by UN Bangladesh office.

Earlier in three days official discussions, ministers and other high-level government representatives, civil society members and development partners from 181 countries discussed their experiences and strategies to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Jubo Dal gets new committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has formed a new committee for Jubo Dal, the youth front of the party, led by former Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku. The party's senior secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the new committee yesterday through a statement. Monayem Munna was made general secretary of Jubo Dal.

The party has not announced details of the full committee.

Saiful Alam Nirob and Tuku were the president and general secretary of the previous committee which was formed on January 17, 2017.



The alumni of 1970-71 and 1991-92 batches of Buet's engineering discipline along with architecture discipline's 1971-72 and 1992-93 batches were given a warm reception on their 50th and 30th anniversaries of graduation yesterday. At the event, the university's former vice chancellor Dr MH Khan was present as chief guest, while current VC Prof Satya Prasad Majumder was present as special guest. The programme was organised by Buet Alumni at the university's central auditorium.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP upset over Padma Bridge completion

Says law minister

STAR REPORT

BNP activists are utterly upset as the long-cherished Padma Bridge project has been completed, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

He was answering queries from journalists after visiting the under-construction Ashrayan Project at Rajapur village under Akhaura upazila of Brahmanbaria, reports our local correspondent. "Leaders and activists of BNP are habituated to spreading propaganda... They don't want something beneficial for people to be implemented," he said.

"Their (BNP) hearts burn as people's dream has come true under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. For this reason, they are spreading propaganda about Padma Bridge," he said.



Bangladesh elected to all councils of UNESCAP

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been elected to the governing councils of all four regional institutions of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand. Bangladesh is the only country besides India who became elected to the governing councils in all four regional institutions, said a press release issued by Embassy of Bangladesh in Bangkok.

The election was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok as well as at the ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific, Suva, Fiji, and at the UN Compound, Beijing, China simultaneously. The members are elected for the period of 2022-24.

UN honours two fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers were honoured during the commemoration of International Day of UN Peacekeepers at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday.

The peacekeepers are Maj AKM Mahmudul Hasan, who was serving in the Central African Republic, and Lance Corporal Md Rabiul Mollah, who was serving in South Sudan UNMISS.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York Ambassador Rabab Fatima received the "Dag Hammarskjöld Medal" from UN Secretary-General António Guterres.



BCS PRELIMINARY EXAMS

Over 3.5 lakh candidates vying for 1,710 posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preliminary exam for the 44th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) under Public Service Commission (PSC) was held yesterday.

Over 3.5 lakh candidates appeared for the two-hour long test vying for 1,710 posts in different cadres.

The tests were held in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal, Sylhet, Rangpur and Mymensingh divisions simultaneously from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

According to PSC, a total of 1,84,339 candidates sat for the tests in Dhaka, 32,581 in Rajshahi, 30,229 in Chattogram, 25,967 in Khulna, 11,639 in Barishal, 10,519 in Sylhet and 28,532 in Rangpur.

PRAYER TIMING

MAY 28



| | Fajr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Azan | 4-05 | 12-45 | 5-00 | 6-43 | 8-05 |
| Jamaat | 4-40 | 1-15 | 5-15 | 6-47 | 8-35 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Myanmar situation not safe for civilians

Says Rabab Fatima

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Precarious security situation in Myanmar is causing delay in the repatriation of the Rohingya, said Bangladesh Permanent Representative to UN in New York, Ambassador Rabab Fatima.

"We remain concerned that the situation in Myanmar continues to remain unsafe for civilians, especially for the ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Rohingyas," she said.

She was speaking at an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, convened by the US Delegation as the current president of the Council on Thursday.

About 750,000 Rohingyas fled Myanmar military crackdown in 2017 and took shelter in Bangladesh.

Despite repeated efforts, none of the Rohingyas was repatriated as they fear security risks back in Rakhine State.

Myanmar military's takeover of power has further complicated the situation, with the military and civilians confronting with each other.

Bangladesh also called for strengthening national judicial mechanisms and, where necessary, supporting international accountability mechanisms, including in the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court.

She also mentioned Bangladesh's commitment to protect civilians, and the role its peacekeepers play in fulfilling this mandate.

"Nearly 7,000 peacekeepers from Bangladesh are serving in some of the most challenging missions, providing security at civilian sites, ensuring unhindered humanitarian services, supporting delivery of health and social services, community engagement and empowerment of women and youth," she added.

“ We remain concerned that the situation in Myanmar continues to remain unsafe for civilians, especially for the ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Rohingyas. ”

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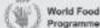
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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) – Ref. CXB22NF01EOI for Auction Services
Closing on 31 May 2022 at 15 hrs Bangladesh Time.

- A. Background**
- The United Nations World Food Programme hereinafter referred to as the "WFP", with its Headquarters located in Via C.G. Viola, 68/70, 00148 Rome, Italy is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience by assisting almost 100 million people in around 83 countries each year. About 17,000 people work for the organization, most of them in remote areas, directly serving the hungry poor.
 - The WFP Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar Sub Office seeks to auction used equipment and trucks through auction.
 - WFP therefore needs to have interested auction companies to express their interest by replying to this call.
 - WFP invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in providing the requested services.
- B. The purpose of this EOI**
- The purpose of this request for EOI is to identify suppliers with verified technical capacity to provide auction services for non-food items. Eligible suppliers will be invited to participate in the bidding process for the proposed tender.
 - Eligibility to participate in the proposed tender will be determined on the basis of the following minimum criteria:
 - Has minimum of 3 years of experience
 - Has full set of government business registration licences as auctioneer
 - Has sufficient and secured site auction site to accept, store, organize, advertise, and sell by public auction of items
 - After the deadline for submission of responses has passed, WFP will evaluate responses received and will notify eligible participants of the outcome of the evaluation.
- C. How to prepare and submit your Expression of Interest**
- In order to participate in the pre-qualification exercise, companies are required to provide the following:
 - Company to prove a minimum of three years' experience as an established business with good understanding of Auction Service Provision.
 - Meets all legal/administrative requirements to enter contract with WFP (Legal registration, Trade License, TIN registration VAT etc.)
 - Proof of experience in similar work from UN organization and Government bodies.
 - All supporting documentation listed above shall be prepared in accordance with the instructions provided and submit to coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org
 - WFP will not consider incomplete or unsigned submissions. All responses and supporting documentation received will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be made available to the public.
 - This request for EOI does not constitute a solicitation. WFP reserves the right to change or cancel this procurement process or any of its requirements at any time during the process; any such action will be communicated to all participants.
 - Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org

Goutam Chakrabarty no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*



Goutam Chakrabarty, former state minister for water resources, passed away yesterday while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital. He was 72.

Goutam left behind his wife, one son and two daughters. His son-in-law Biplob Chakrabarty confirmed the news.

Goutam was elected lawmaker in 1996 and 2021 national elections as a BNP candidate. He was later appointed as a state minister of the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

Before his death, Goutam was the rural development affairs secretary of BNP.

Sustainable resilience need

FROM PAGE 3
meet the growing cost of disaster risk reduction and recovery.

Following two days of preparatory sessions starting on May 23, the three-day programme had multiple plenary sessions on the Sendai framework, high-level dialogues, ministerial roundtable, thematic sessions, seminars and special sessions.

The socio-economic impacts of Covid-19 and the way to reconstruct the world were important points of discussion at the three-day-long conference.

High-level officials also discussed technological innovations to tackle disasters and sharing technological knowledge among those who need it most, restoring ecosystems, preparing to make cities resilient to disasters and empowering vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities.

Sabar Hossain

Chowdhury, chief of JS body on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, participated and discussed the progress of the Sendai framework and Dhaka declaration on the first day of the official programme.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Enamur Rahman took part in a ministerial roundtable on "Thinking resilience: Changing approach to DRR financing". In the closing session, Megawati Sukarnoputri, fifth president of the Republic of Indonesia, joined the programme online as chief guest, while Mami Mizutori, coordinating minister for human development and cultural affairs, chaired the session.

The GPDRR conference was the first international UN disaster forum since the start of the pandemic.

Some 4,091 participants from 184 countries,

including 3001 delegations, participated in person, while over a thousand followed the five-day event through virtual platforms.

JL to hold

FROM PAGE 5
of JL, told The Daily Star that he is interested in vying for the post of general secretary and has already submitted his portfolio. On the other hand, Nurul Azim Roni, a former general secretary of Chattogram city unit of BCL, is eyeing for the GS post. Asked about their eligibility for the post, they talked about their contributions to politics and party.

However, many leaders in the present committees of the units do not want to stay in JL anymore as they want to be included in the AL committee.

The incumbent convener of Chattogram city unit of JL Mohiuddin Bachchu and its joint convener Farid Mahmud are among them.

Tourist goes missing in Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

A tourist went missing while swimming at Zero Point of Kuakata beach in Patuakhali yesterday.

Firoz Sikder (26) was a textile businessman in Amkhola Bazar.

He came to visit the beach with six traders on Thursday. They went to take a bath in Zero Point area yesterday noon. After a while, others noticed that Firoz was missing. He was still not found at the time of filing this report around 8:00pm.

Abdul Khaleq, assistant superintendent of Kuakata Tourist Police Zone, said tourist police are continuing their efforts to find him.

Mohammad Ilias, officer at Kalapara Fire Service Station, said, "We have sent our divers to the spot."

Vacancy Announcement

SKS Foundation is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working in Bangladesh since 1987 with poor and marginalized population including char dwellers, ethnic minority, landless and marginal farmers. Special focus remains on disaster and climate vulnerable households. With multisectoral activities, our mission is to improve social, economic and environmental conditions of life by reducing exposure to climate and disaster risks and improving access to development opportunities and resources.

We have vacancy for two leadership positions to achieve our organizational goal and to continue growth & stability.

Director- Social Enterprising (01 position): Monthly salary for the position will be Tk 156,500. The position is also entitled to other admissible benefits (provident fund, staff welfare, gratuity, festival bonus etc) as per policy.

Qualifications and Competencies: Masters' degree in any discipline (preferably, Economics, Management, Marketing or Business Administration) from a recognised University. Applicants with Corporate background and professional experience would be preferred. At least 10 years' work experience in business management with reputed organization is required. For competent women applicant the experience bar may be relaxed. Professional skill about business planning, market analysis, financial management and policy development are prime requirements of the position. Basic knowledge on system development, risk analysis, government rules and regulations, sales promotion, market survey, tax and VAT structure, safety security and so on are also needed. Computer skill on common software is an essential requirement. Good communication skills and experience to deal with government officials and donors is desirable. Professional integrity is a non-negotiable quality required for this position. The applicant must be a professional leader with mutual trust and respect for each other in a mixed team. S/he is expected to be a role model and self-motivated gender sensitive person with ability to work under pressure and meet targets.

Assistant Director- Admin (01 position): Monthly salary for the position will be Tk 95,300. The position is also entitled to other admissible benefits (provident fund, staff welfare, gratuity, festival bonus etc) as per policy.

Qualifications and Competencies: Masters' degree in any discipline from a recognised University. Applicants with good academic background would be preferred. At least 8 years' work experience in administrative role with reputed organisations is required. For competent women applicant the experience bar may be relaxed. Professional skill about vehicle pool operation, tendering, competitive purchase, inventory management and policy development are needed. Basic knowledge on government rules and regulation, NGO activities, safety security and tax payment are highly desirable. Computer skill on common software is essential. Good communication skills and experience to work with government agency partners and donors is desirable. Professional integrity is a non-negotiable quality required for this position. The applicant must be a professional leader with mutual trust and respect for each other in a mixed team. S/he is expected to be a role model and self-motivated gender sensitive person with ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.

If you are passionate about advancing your career and meet the required experiences and qualifications, please submit your application to **Chief Executive, SKS Foundation, College Road, Uttar Horin Singha, Gaibandha-5700 within 15 June 2022** along with a CV and name of two referees including contact cell-phone/telephone number, 1 copy of recent passport size color photo. **Women are highly encouraged to apply.** For details job responsibilities requested to visit our website: www.sks-bd.org

They return home with innovative

FROM PAGE 5
Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said, "Australia Awards recipients are returning home with innovative ideas and knowledge, and the ability to make a

significant contribution to the country as leaders in their respective fields."

Jeremy Bruer said this year when Australia and Bangladesh are celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations,

48 Bangladeshis will be travelling to Australia to commence their Australia Awards Scholarships in 2022. Applications for the next round of Australia Awards scholarships will open on February 1, 2023.

It's a money-making

FROM PAGE 5
Documents also show that former VC Farzana Islam was paid Tk 2.86 lakh despite having little to no involvement. Meanwhile, current and former directors of Institute of Business Administration and Institute of Information

and Technology got Tk 1.38 lakh each -- based on their meeting attendance -- yielding Tk 9,857 for a meeting to each director.

While asked about this distribution, Dr Rasheda Akhtar, JU treasurer and finance committee chair, referred to their overtime.

"We intend to hold all exams of the one faculty on the same day. We are also thinking of proposing fixed number of seats in the merit list from every shift to the central admission test governing body," said JU Vice Chancellor Prof Nurul Alam.

This is our

FROM PAGE 3
brought to book immediately. "Chhatra League activists killed Bishwajit, Abrar and many others. This unselected government is patronising them."

The BNP leader alleged that the Awami League government has been indulging in criminal activities as it has become isolated internationally. "They have no international support and the country's people have rejected them."

Mosharraf urged the government to step down immediately by dissolving parliament and handing over power to a non-party neutral government.

Once a neutral government takes power, Mosharraf said it will take steps to create a proper atmosphere in the country for holding a credible election.

বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
(বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)
শ্রীমঙ্গল-৩২১০, মৌলভীবাজার।

"বেশী বেশী চা পান করুন, স্বাস্থ্য সুন্দর সতেজ রাখুন।"
"বেশী বেশী গিকার চা পানো ক্যান্সার, রক্তস্রাব হার মানেন।"

টি ব্যাগ প্যাকেজিং ম্যাটেরিয়াল ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| ১ | মহাপ্রাণ/বিভাগ | বাণিজ্য মহাপ্রাণ |
| ২ | এজেন্সী | বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড |
| ৩ | সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার নাম | বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট |
| ৪ | সম্প্রদায়িক সংস্থার অবস্থান | বিটিআরআই, থানা ও উপজেলা-শ্রীমঙ্গল, জেলা-মৌলভীবাজার। |
| ৫ | আহবানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম | টি ব্যাগ প্যাকেজিং ম্যাটেরিয়াল ক্রয়। |
| ৬ | সম্প্রদায়িক পদ্ধতি | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) |
| ৭ | দরপত্র নং | বিটিআরআই/২/সিস/চ-(৮)-৭২৮, তারিখঃ ২৬/০৫/২০২২ইং |
| ৮ | অর্ধের উৎস | বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ডের সংশ্লিষ্ট বাস্তব খাত হতে। |
| ৯ | দরপত্র সিডিউল তারিখ ও স্থান | ২৯/০৫/২০২২ইং হতে ২২/০৬/২০২২ ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। স্থান: ১। বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। ২। বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড, লিয়াজো অফিস, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা। |
| ১০ | দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান | ১৩/০৬/২০২২ ইং দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। |
| ১১ | দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান | ১৩/০৬/২০২২ ইং দুপুর ১২-১০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), শ্রীমঙ্গল, মৌলভীবাজার। |
| ১২ | দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা | হলনাদান নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের হলনাদান প্রমাণক, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধনকরণ সনদ পত্রের কপি, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ সহ দরপত্র দাখিল মোতাবেক অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে। |
| ১৩ | দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য | ৫০০/- (পাঁচ শত) টাকা প্রতিটি |
| ১৪ | দরপত্রের পরিচিতি | সরকারের স্থান |
| ১৫ | প্যাকেজিং ম্যাটেরিয়াল ক্রয় টেন্ডার সিডিউলটির অর্থ | বিটিআরআই, শ্রীমঙ্গল ৪০০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকা ২১ (একুশ) দিন |
| ১৬ | দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও যোগাযোগের বর্ণনা | ড. মোহাম্মদ আলী, পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ চা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিটিআরআই), ফোনঃ ০৮৬২৬-৭১২২৫, Email-director@btri@gmail.com, web: www.btri.gov.bd |
| ১৭ | বিশেষ নির্দেশনা | ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জানা যাবে। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র সম্পূর্ণভাবে গ্রহণ অথবা বর্জন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। |

Land Wanted

Land required for joint venture project in any prime location of Dhaka City for a reputed developer. Land requirement 5 Katha and above. Please contact landowner only. Contact: #0171639430, 01644496561

FLAT FOR SALE

With (EM) Facility Flat booking in ongoing project near Gulshan Lake & Manarat Int. School with modern amenities (1310-1545) sft. Cont: 01844-646688

United Nations Development Programme

জাতিসংঘ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী

Procurement Notice: Request for Proposal (RFP)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is in need for the requirement of proposal from interested Companies for the following requirements:

- ITB-BD-2022-002: Provision Of Advertisement Services for UNDP on Long Term Agreement (LTA) Basis.** Deadline for submission of proposal is at 4:30 p.m. (Bangladesh Local Time), 08 June 2022.
- ITB-BD-2022-003: Long Term Agreement for Fuel Services to UNDP.** Deadline for submission of proposal is at 4:30 p.m. (Bangladesh Local Time), 19 June 2022.

Proposals may be submitted on or before the deadline indicated by UNDP in the e-Tendering system. For submission through online e-Tendering system kindly use the following link: <https://etendering.partneragencies.org> and use the user name and password provided below to start the registration for the e-tendering. Username: event.guest Password: why2change

The complete user guide can also be downloaded from the UNDP Bangladesh website in the link below: <https://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/procurement.html>

University of Asia Pacific UAP
74/A Green Road, Dhaka-1205
Tel.: +880-2-58157091-4, 58157096, Fax: +880-2- 58157097
e-mail: registrar@uap-bd.edu, Website: www.uap-bd.edu

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are invited for the following positions at University of Asia Pacific:

- Registrar**
Qualifications: Minimum Master's degree with good academic background and good spoken and written English ability. Dynamic, energetic, capable of working under pressure, ability to provide administrative support to the Vice Chancellor and to the Board of Trustees. Relevant administrative experience of 10 years in similar position is essential. Any person having third class/division will not be eligible for this appointment. Must have computer literacy.
- Assistant Director, Human Resource Section**
Qualifications: Must have MBA/Master's degree with major in HR, having good command over English language and Computer proficiency in Word processing, Spreadsheet analysis and Database management. The incumbent is expected to efficiently handle multiple responsibilities to ensure that systems and process meet service expectations and strategic goals for HR and related activities. At least 5 (five) years' experience of which 3 years in a similar position in any University.
- Sub-Assistant Engineer (Civil), University Engineering Office**
Qualifications: Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering, or Diploma in Civil Engineering with at least 4 (four) years experience including maintenance of multistoried building.
- Socio Counselor, Directorate of Students Welfare (Full-time)**
Qualifications: Must have Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, having at least 3 (three) years' experience with proven leadership skills and an ability to work under pressure, excellent communication and IT skills; working experience in any Private University will be an added advantage.
- Socio Counselor (Female), Directorate of Students Welfare (Part time)**
Qualifications: Must have a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, having at least 3 (three) years experience with proven leadership skills and an ability to work under pressure, excellent communication and IT skills; working experience in any university will be an added advantage.
- Assistant Public Relations Officer (APRO)**
Qualifications: Must have Master's degree in Journalism or English from reputed University. Candidates with diploma in relevant field will be given preference. Should have at least 2 years relevant experience with good interpersonal skills, capable of maintaining liaison with different print and electronic media, excellent command over MS Word/Excel/Power point and English and Bangla language. Photography, Videography, Graphic Designing activities is essential
- Laboratory Assistant, Department of Civil Engineering**
Qualifications: Must have Diploma in Civil Engineering. Experience in Lab work will be preferred.
- Laboratory Assistant, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering**
Qualifications: Must have Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Experience in Lab work will be preferred.
- Laboratory Assistant, Department of Basic Sciences & Humanities (Chemistry)**
Qualifications: Must have Diploma in relevant field (Chemistry/Chemical Engineering). Experience in Lab work will be preferred.
- Laboratory Attendant, Department of Pharmacy**
Qualifications: Must have HSC (Science) and Trade Course in relevant field will be preferred.
- বার্তাবাহক (চুক্তিভিত্তিক)**
যোগ্যতা: এস.এস.সি. পাশ। শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠানে দুই বছরের চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতা। বয়স সর্বনিম্ন ২০ বছর।
- ড্রাইভার (চুক্তিভিত্তিক)**
যোগ্যতা: এস.এস.সি.। মাইক্রোবাস চালনার কমপক্ষে (০৫) পাঁচ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং বৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে।
- পরিচ্ছন্ন কর্মী (চুক্তিভিত্তিক)**
যোগ্যতা: জেএসসি/ক্লাস এইচ পাশ। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/হাসপাতাল/শপিংমলে (০৫) পাঁচ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। আধুনিক পরিষ্কার সরঞ্জামাদির সাথে পরিচিতি অপরিহার্য।

Salary and benefits: As per UAP scale.

Details of the positions and requirements along with UAP CV format can be found at the following link www.uap-bd.edu/vacancy.php. 2 copies of passport-sized photographs, copies of relevant certificates and mark sheets/transcripts, NID/Birth Certificate and other relevant documents including experience certificates should reach at the Office of the undersigned (either by e-mail to jobs@uap-bd.edu or by post) by 9 June 2022. All information mentioned must be backed by documents. Applications have to be submitted in proper UAP CV format. Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the deadline are not acceptable. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.

Registrar



'They return home with innovative ideas, knowledge'

Says Speaker on Australia Awards recipients

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis receiving Australia Awards scholarships are making immense contribution to the strong relationship between the two countries -- that will continue to grow in the coming days.

Speakers made the remarks at a reception hosted by Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Bruer at a city hotel on Thursday.

Australia Awards are international scholarships funded by the Australian government. Since 1971, over 3,000 Bangladeshis studied in Australia under this scholarship. Many are now working in leadership positions in government, business and the community.

Addressing the occasion as chief guest, Jatiya



Renowned singers Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin being honoured with the lifetime achievement awards at the Meril Prothom Alo Awards 2021 yesterday. The event was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

JL to hold council after over a decade

Party leaders upbeat, lobbying for desired posts

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Enthusiasm has grown among the leaders and activists of Jubo League in Chattogram over the long expected council scheduled to start from today.

The JL central committee has recently announced the schedule for holding the council of Chattogram south district, north district and city units on May 28, 29 and 30 respectively.

The last council was held over a decade ago. Due to the upcoming council, posters and banners have been pasted all over the city and districts, causing much nuisance to locals.

Meanwhile, a number of Jubo League leaders are lobbying with the central leaders so that they can be included in the committees with their expected portfolios, said sources. Many of them are persuading the influential local and central Awami League leaders.

The race for the president and general secretary posts in the three units will be quite tough as many of the active leaders of JL and former Chhatra League leaders are lobbying, JL insiders said.

Former BCL leaders of Chittagong University unit and five upazila units, and many incumbent JL leaders are interested to become president and general secretary of Chattogram north. In the city unit, many incumbent and former leaders of BCL's Chattogram city unit, vice presidents and general secretaries of central students' councils at colleges are also in the process.

Wasim Uddin Chowdhury, former VP at Omar Gani MES College and a member of present convening committee of Chattogram city unit

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স
লজিস্টিক্স শাখা
www.police.gov.bd
স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.০২৯.০৭.৯১.২১/৭১৬ তারিখঃ ২৫ মে ২০২২ খ্রিঃ।

ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরে পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.০২৯.০৭.৯১.২১-৫৮৩, তারিখঃ ২৮ এপ্রিল ২০২২ খ্রিঃ মূলে জারীকৃত ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তির সকল বিষয় অপরিবর্তিত রেখে শুধুমাত্র নিম্নবর্ণিত আইটেমের ছকে বর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহ সংশোধন করা হয়েছে।

| SN | Description | Tender ID No. | Revised Closing Date & Time | Revised Opening Date & Time | Revised Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission |
|----|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. | Oxford Shoe | 633463 | 08/06/2022 12:00 | 08/06/2022 12:00 | 08/06/2022 11:00 |

(মোহাম্মদ আতাউল কিবরিয়া)
বিপি-৬৮৯৮০২০৭৯৯
আ্যাডিশনাল ডিআইজি (লজিস্টিক্স)
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা।
ফোন ও ফ্যাক্স-৯৫৬৭০০১
ই-মেইল: adddigsupp@police.gov.bd

GD-1086

'It's a money-making business'

JU holding admission tests in shifts for years despite disparity in results

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

One entrance exam.

Multiple shifts, with different sets of question papers.

Result: severe disparity in the number of qualified candidates from different shifts.

That is how admission tests have been working in Jahangirnagar University every year. Analysing last year's B-unit test results -- which was held in five shifts -- this correspondent observed 217 candidates were qualified from the fifth shift alone, while only 12 students placed from the second shift.

From the fifth shift out of the 10

in the D-unit tests, 104 candidates qualified, while only one qualified from the third shift.

"We have urged the authorities many times to avoid the shift system and hold exams with the same question paper," said Prof Anu Muhammad, eminent economist and JU faculty member. "This controversial system has been kept alive for the huge sum of money the teachers get through this," he added.

According to official documents, on-duty faculty members were paid Tk 3,000 for each shift in the 2020-21 admission test, yielding an amount of Tk 15,000 per teacher for the five shifts in B-unit tests.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



RIVER CONFERENCE Momen leaves for India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday left for Guwahati, India to attend the third edition of an international river conference titled "NADI Conclave" from May 28-29 that will be inaugurated by his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.

The Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI) conference will be organised by Shillong based think tank Asian Confluence in collaboration with the Union External Affairs Ministry, Act East Policy Affairs Department of the Assam government, North Eastern Council and other partners. On May 29, Momen will travel to Delhi from Guwahati to hold the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting with his counterpart S Jaishankar.



"We intend to hold all exams of one faculty on the same day. We are also thinking of proposing fixed number of seats in the merit list from every shift to the central admission test governing body."

VC PROF NURUL ALAM

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Line Director
Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS
BMRC Bhaban(1st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900
E-mail: uhc@ld.dghs.gov.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the manufacturer/wholesaler/supplier for supply of Machinery & Equipments for Urban Dispensaries (Urban Health). As per PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

| KEY INFORMATION | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1 Ministry/Division | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Health Services Division. | | | |
| 2 Agency | Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), MOHFW. | | | |
| 3 Procuring Entity | Line Director, Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS. | | | |
| 4 Procuring Entity Code | 224330400 | | | |
| 5 Procuring Entity District | Dhaka | | | |
| 6 Invitation for | Supply of Machinery & Equipments for Urban Dispensaries (Urban Health). | | | |
| 7 Invitation for offer Ref. No | UHC/Proc./RPA-GOB/Machinery & Equipments-35/2021-22/211 | | | |
| 8 Date | 26.05.2022 | | | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | | |
| 9 Procurement Method | Open Tender Method (OTM) | | | |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | | | |
| 10 Budget and Source of Funds | RPA-GOB | | | |
| 11 Developments Partners | None | | | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | | |
| 12 Project/Program Code | 224330400 | | | |
| 13 Project/Program Name | UHC | | | |
| 14 Tender Package No | UHC/R-GD-2/2021-22 | | | |
| 15 Offer Package Name | Meachinary & Equipments for Urban Dispensaries (Urban Health). | | | |
| 16 Tender Publication Date | 27.05.2022 | | | |
| 17 Tender Last Selling Date | 15.06.2022 at 5:00 pm | | | |
| 18 Tender Closing Date and Time | 16.06.2022 at 12pm | | | |
| 19 Tender Opening Date and Time | 16.06.2022 at 2 pm | | | |
| 20 Name and address of the Office | | | | |
| a) Selling of Tender Documents | a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka. | | | |
| b) Receiving of Tender Documents | a) Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. b) Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka. | | | |
| c) Opening of Tender Documents | Office of the Line Director, UHC, DGHS, BMRC Bhaban, (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. | | | |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | | | |
| 21 Eligibility of Tenderer | As stated in TDS | | | |
| 22 Brief Description of Goods | Supply of Meachinary & Equipments (11Items) for 16 Urban Dispensaries (Urban Health). | | | |
| 23 Price of Tender Documents Taka | Tk. 5,000 (FiveThousand) only by Treasury Challan (with CTR) Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 to be deposited Sonali Bank Ltd. or Bangladesh Bank. (Non-refundable). | | | |
| 24 No | Identification & Name | Location | Tender Security Amounts in BDT | Completion time (in weeks) |
| Single Lot | UHC/R-GD-2/2021-22 | UHC office, BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. | Tk. 6,00,000 (Six Lac) only by Pay Order/Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in Prescribed format in favour of Line Director, UHC, DGHS. | 10 (Ten) weeks from date of signing the contract. |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAIL | | | | |
| 25 Name of Official Inviting Offer | Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman | | | |
| 26 Designation of Official Inviting Offer | Line Director, UHC, DGHS. | | | |
| 27 Address of Official Inviting Offer | BMRC Bhaban (1 st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. | | | |
| 28 Contact details of Official Inviting Offer | BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Phone:02-222280785, Fax-02-222282900 | | | |

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

(Dr. Md. Rizwanur Rahman)
Line Director
Upazila Health Care (UHC), DGHS
BMRC Bhaban (1st floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

GD-1085

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Daffodil pickers are seen on a meadow in Altaussee, Austria yesterday, during the 62nd Daffodil Festival (Narzissenfest), which takes place until May 29, 2022. PHOTO: AFP

G7 vows to stop fossil-fuel financing abroad by 2022

AFP, Berlin
Japan yesterday for the first time joined fellow members of the Group of Seven industrialised nations in pledging to end public financing for fossil fuel projects abroad by the end of the year to help combat global warming.
"We commit to end new direct public support for the international unabated fossil fuel energy sector by the end of 2022," G7 energy and climate ministers said in a joint statement following talks in Berlin.
At their G7 talks, ministers also committed to largely end the use of fossil fuels in their electricity sectors by 2035.
According to the IAEA, in order to maintain the goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius, all financing of new fossil fuel projects must be stopped immediately.

Blinken speech 'smears China'

Beijing slams US top diplomat's call for action against China's growing clout

AFP, Beijing

China's foreign ministry yesterday accused US Secretary of State Antony Blinken of "smearing" the country, after America's top diplomat delivered a landmark policy speech calling for action to counterbalance Beijing's influence.

In the most comprehensive statement to date on China by US President Joe Biden's administration, Blinken said on Thursday the Asian power posed "the most serious long-term challenge to the international order".

China has faced a chorus of warnings from the United States and Western allies in recent days over its growing influence and global ambitions.

Blinken on Thursday warned of China's "intent to reshape the international order" and called on countries to defend the status quo.

He also accused Beijing of raising tensions over Taiwan -- a self-ruled island China claims as its territory -- and said

Beijing has "cut off Taiwan's relations with countries around the world and (is) blocking it from participating in international organisations".

Beijing hit out angrily at the speech on Friday, saying it "spreads false information, exaggerates the China threat, interferes in China's internal affairs and smears China's domestic and foreign policies".

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters that China "firmly opposed" the speech and it showed Washington sought to "contain and suppress China's development and maintain US hegemony and power".

The United States recently launched a loose new trade framework across Asia and has set up a forum with the European Union to set technological standards.

The efforts are aimed at uniting like-minded nations as China dominates new fields, such as artificial intelligence.

Blinken acknowledged a growing consensus that other nations cannot

change the trajectory of China, saying that under President Xi Jinping it has become "more repressive at home, more aggressive abroad".

"There is growing convergence about the need to approach relations with Beijing with more realism," he said.

The speech by the US secretary of state contrasted with the approach under former president Donald Trump, whose administration spoke in stark terms of an all-out global conflict with China.

On trips to Africa and Latin America, where China has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure, Blinken has downplayed US-China competition and has not asked nations to take sides.

"We are not looking for conflict or a new Cold War. To the contrary, we're determined to avoid both," he said in his speech.

"We don't seek to block China from its role as a major power, nor to stop China -- or any other country for that matter -- from growing their economy or advancing the interests of their people."

But he said that defending the current global order, including international law and agreements, would "make it possible for all countries -- including the United States and China -- to coexist and cooperate".



Japan to 'drastically strengthen' military capability: draft

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan aims to "drastically strengthen" its military capabilities, according to an economic policy draft seen by Reuters, as officials worry that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could prompt instability in East Asia. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, meeting US President Joe Biden on Monday, pledged to "substantially increase" Japan's defence budget. The draft, a long-term economic outline that is updated annually, does not give details about spending, but says for the first time: "There have been attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force in East Asia, making regional security increasingly severe." It also does not specify security threats in the region, but Japan's military planners have expressed repeated concern about China, with which Japan has a long-running territorial dispute, and North Korea. Former prime minister Shinzo Abe called on Thursday for defence spending of nearly 7 trillion yen (\$60 billion) for next fiscal year, up from 5.4 trillion yen under this year's initial budget, in light of China's growing military spending and missile threats from North Korea, Nippon Television Network reported.

KILLING SHIREEN ABU AKLEH

Palestinian journalist finds 'murdered'

AFP, Ramallah

An Al Jazeera journalist shot dead in the occupied West Bank earlier this month was murdered in a "war crime" by an Israeli soldier, an official Palestinian investigation concluded Thursday. The Palestinian Authority (PA) and Al Jazeera have accused Israeli forces of killing Shireen Abu Akleh on May 11 when she was covering an Israeli operation in the West Bank city of Jenin. The television network said Thursday it would submit a case to the International Criminal Court. The



Palestinian-American journalist, who was wearing a vest marked "Press" and a helmet, was hit by a bullet just below her helmet. The report said Abu Akleh was killed with a 5.56 millimetre armour piercing round fired from a Ruger Mini-14 rifle. It added that bullet holes on a nearby tree indicated the "targeting of the upper parts of the body with the aim of killing."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
ঠাকুরগাঁও

উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
তারিখ: ২৬/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-১১৭৪/২২

নি পার্শ্ববর্তী প্রকৌশলী রেজিস্ট্রেশন/২০০৮ ও জংপরিবর্তী সংশোধনী মোতাবেক ঠাকুরগাঁও জেলা পুলিশ রেজিমেন্টের ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারের (জুলাই/২০২২ হইতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২২ মাস পর্যন্ত) সময় এর জন্য নিম্নলিখিত লিখিত আইটেম ওয়াই দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে।

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| ০১। | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০২। | সংস্থা | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০৩। | দরপত্র ক্রয় কর্তৃপক্ষ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০৪। | কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০৫। | দরপত্র পদ্ধতি | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০৬। | দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০৭। | দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০৮। | দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্ব শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ০৯। | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১০। | দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময় | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১১। | বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১২। | দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১৩। | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১৪। | দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তর | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১৫। | দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১৬। | মালামাল সংগ্রহ অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |
| ১৭। | দরপত্রাদারের যোগ্যতা | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ | ঃ |

১৮। দরপত্র গ্রহণ/মূল্যায়ন : পিপিআর/২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী অনুসরণ করা হইবে।

মালামালের বিবরণ

| লট নং | দরপত্রের বিষয় | মালামালের পরিমাণ | দরপত্র সিডিটলের মূল্য (অন্যকর্তব্যে) | দরপত্রের সাথে আর্নেস্টম্যানি (কেলতযোগ্য) | কাজের সময়সীমা |
|-------|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| ০১ | দেশী/বিদেশী উন্নুক্তমালের ছোট দানার মত্তর ডাল | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা মাত্র | ০১/০৭/২০২২ হইতে ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |
| ০২ | সয়াবিন তৈল | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা মাত্র | ০১/০৭/২০২২ হইতে ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |
| ০৩ | পোলাও এর চাল | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র | ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ০১/০৭/২০২২ হইতে ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |
| ০৪ | জ্বালানী খড়ি | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র | ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ০১/০৭/২০২২ হইতে ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |
| ০৫ | গম পেছাই | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র | ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ০১/০৭/২০২২ হইতে ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |
| ০৬ | পরিবহন | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র | ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ০১/০৭/২০২২ হইতে ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |
| ০৭ | লেবার/কৃষির কাজ | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র | ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ০১/০৭/২০২২ হইতে ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |
| ০৮ | ব্যবহৃত পুরাতন ও ছেড়া খালি চটের বস্তা ও ট্রান্সিকের বস্তা নিলামে বিক্রয় (মজুর সাপেক্ষে) | চাহিদা মোতাবেক | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র | ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র | ৩১/১২/২০২২ পর্যন্ত (৬ মাস) |

২০ বিশেষ নির্দেশনা : দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন ব্যাপক দর্শনো ব্যতিক্রমে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

২৫/০৫/২০২২
মোহাম্মদ জাহাঙ্গীর হোসেন
বিপি নং-৭৪০৫১২২৫২৬
পুলিশ সুপার
ঠাকুরগাঁও
ফোন নং-৬১৯৬০, ফ্যাক্স-১৯৬৩

China, Russia veto US bid at UN to punish North Korea

AFP, United Nations

China and Russia on Thursday vetoed a US-led bid at the United Nations to toughen sanctions on North Korea over its missile launches, laying bare divisions that Western envoys fear would be exploited by Pyongyang. The Security Council resolution put forward by the United States would have reduced the amount of oil North Korea could legally import as punishment for a test Wednesday of an intercontinental ballistic missile. The resolution enjoyed the support of the 13 other members of the Security Council, although some US allies quietly wondered whether Washington should have gone ahead with the vote knowing the outcome.

China, the closest ally of North Korea, and Russia, whose relations with the West have sunk over its invasion of Ukraine, said they would have preferred a non-binding statement rather than a fresh resolution with teeth against Pyongyang. China's ambassador to the UN, Zhang Jun alleged that the US wanted the resolution to fail so as to "spread the flames of war" as part of its wider effort to pressure China. "The crux of the matter," he said, "is whether they want to use the handling of the Korean peninsula issue on the chessboard of their so-called Indo-Pacific strategy."

চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন
সচিবালয় বিভাগ
সংস্থাপন শাখা
(www.ccc.gov.bd)স্মারক নং : ৪৬.১১.১৬০০.০০১.০১.০৪১.১৯.৪৯১
তারিখ: ২৬/০৫/২০২২

"নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের স্মারক নং-৪৬.০০.০০০০.০৭১.১১.০০১.২০১২(অংশ-১).৭৮ তারিখ: ২৬/০১/২০২০ এর নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুষঙ্গিক অর্গানাইজেশনাল নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি শূন্য পদের জনবল নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম | বেতনক্রম ও গ্রেড | পদ সংখ্যা | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| ১ | সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (যান্ত্রিক) | ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯) | ৩টি | (ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে বঙ্গ প্রকৌশল অনুষান দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের স্নিগ্ধিগ্রেডে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) বাংলাদেশ ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইনস্টিটিউট এর সদস্য হইতে হইবে। |
| ২ | সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (বিদ্যুৎ) | ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯) | ৩টি | (ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে বঙ্গ প্রকৌশল অনুষান দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের স্নিগ্ধিগ্রেডে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) বাংলাদেশ ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইনস্টিটিউট এর সদস্য হইতে হইবে। |
| ৩ | জনসংযোগ অফিসার-কাম-প্রটোকল অফিসার | ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯) | ১টি | (ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে গণ যোগাযোগ ও সাংবাদিকতা বা আন্তর্জাতিক সম্পর্ক বিষয়ে স্নাতক (সমমান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) শিক্ষা জীবনের কোনো গুরে তৃতীয় বিভাগ বা শ্রেণী বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (গ) কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষতা। |
| ৪ | ম্যালেরিয়া ও মশক নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্মকর্তা | ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯) | ১টি | (ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে প্রাণি বিদ্যা বিদ্যে- (খ) প্রথম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের স্নিগ্ধিগ্রেডে স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (গ) স্নাতক (সমমান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং স্নাতকোত্তর বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (ঘ) শিক্ষা জীবনের কোনো গুরে তৃতীয় বিভাগ বা শ্রেণি বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (ঙ) কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষতা। |
| ৫ | নিরাপত্তা কর্মকর্তা | ১২৫০০-৩০২৩০/- (গ্রেড-১১) | ১টি | (ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে অনুষান দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ বা সমমানের স্নিগ্ধিগ্রেডে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) প্রতিরক্ষা বাহিনীর জুনিয়র কমিশন্ড অফিসার বা সিনিয়র ওয়ারেন্ট অফিসার পদে ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অবসরগ্রহণ কর্মচারী; এবং (গ) সূত্রম দেখের অধিকারী। |

শর্তাবলী :-

- প্রার্থীদের বয়স ১৮ থেকে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে ক্রমিক নং ৫ এর ক্ষেত্রে বয়স অনূর্ধ্ব ৪০ বছর। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়স হবে ৩২ বছর। বয়স গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে কোনক্রমেই এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সত্যায়িত সদ্য তোলা ৩(তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের ছবি, জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র, অভিজ্ঞতা (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ছায়াছবি প্রথম শ্রেণির কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়নপূর্বক সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- মেয়র, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন বরাবরে ১০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্যমানের পে-অর্ডার/বাংকে ড্রাফট (অন্যকর্তব্যে) আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা হলে এ সম্পর্কে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান অন্যান্য সকল বিধি-বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- ক্রটিপূর্ণ বা অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- প্রথম নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন বরাবরে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- লিখিত পরীক্ষা ও সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টি.এ/ডি.এ নামা হইবে না।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা স্বাক্ষরিত "ফেরত খাম (স্ট্যাম্পসহ)" দিতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র আদানী ১৬.০৬.২০২২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সচিবালয় বিভাগের সংস্থাপন শাখায় (৪র্থ তলা, কক্ষ নং-৪০৬) জমা দিতে হবে।
- নিয়োগের বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

চসিক/জ/১-১০৪/২১-২২
সাইফ: ৯'৪৯৬
ক্রিডি-১০৮৪

প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা
চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন



Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Mostofa Sarwar Farooki with Indian actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Bangladeshi director Abu Shahed Emon and others at the festival.



Anne Hathaway poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Armageddon Time'.



'Squid Game' star Lee Jung-jae poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Hunt'.



Bangladeshi director and COO of Chorki Redoan Rony at the festival.

Films, flashing lights, and stars: Cannes Film Festival concludes today

Asia has a strong showing, despite the absence of China, with films by Park Chan-wook and Hirokazu Kore-eda in competition and "Squid Game" actor Lee Jung-jae premiering his new film "Hunt." Several celebrities from Bangladesh are promoting their films at the Cannes Market as well.



(L) Tom Cruise made a whirlwind appearance at the film festival, walking the red carpet, receiving a surprise Palme d'Or and watching a squadron of French fighter jets fly over the European premiere of 'Top Gun: Maverick.' (R) Producers Darya Bassel, left, and Yelizaveta Smith, right, wearing t-shirts that have an image of an explosion on the front and read "Sensitive Content: Russians Kill Ukrainians. Do you find it offensive and disturbing to talk about this genocide?" pose with director Maksym Nakonechnyi, who wears a t-shirt that reads "Free Tayra" in reference to Julia Paevska, aka Tayra, a Ukrainian medic who Russian forces have taken captive at the photo call for the film 'Butterfly Vision'.



PHOTOS: AP, COLLECTED

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Cannes Film Festival geared up for a bumper 75th anniversary edition with a selection of big Hollywood names, buzzy newcomers and previous Palme d'Or winners from May 17 – a splashy return even as the conflict in Ukraine looms over festivities.

As India is being celebrated at the beloved festival as the Country of Honour, a huge contingent of Indian celebrities led by jury member Deepika Padukone flooded the red carpet.

This year, the parties are back



Aishwarya Rai poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Armageddon Time'.

and Hollywood heavyweights include Tom Cruise's "Top Gun Maverick" – bringing the star

to Cannes for the first time in three decades – as well as Baz Luhrmann's Elvis biopic, starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks.

Asia has a strong showing, despite the absence of China, with films by Park Chan-wook and Hirokazu Kore-eda in competition and "Squid Game" actor Lee Jung-jae premiering his new film "Hunt." Several celebrities from Bangladesh are promoting their films at the Cannes Market as well.

Most notably, the trailer of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's biopic, "Mujib:

The Making of a Nation", was unveiled in the Marché du Film Commercial Branch at the Indian pavilion of the festival. The highly-anticipated film, directed by eminent Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal, is a joint production of Bangladesh and India. Arifin Shuvoo and Nusrat Imrose Tisha, who star in the film, attended the trailer launch, among others.

Actor Forest Whitaker will be on hand to receive the festival's Honorary Palme D'Or for lifetime achievement. The festival concludes today, with the jury announcing the winners at a gala ceremony.



1. (From left) R Madhavan, Ricky Kej, Vani Tripathi, Prasoan Joshi, Anurag Thakur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Shekhar Kapur attend the screening of "Final Cut (Coupez!)" and opening ceremony red carpet. 2. Arifin Shuvoo attended the Cannes Film Festival for the trailer launch of 'Mujib: The Making of a Nation'. 3. Director Baz Luhrmann, left, and Austin Butler pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Elvis'. 4. Jury member Deepika Padukone poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Armageddon Time' at the 75th international film festival, Cannes, southern France.



Satyajit Ray's 'Golpo Bolpo Tarini Khuro' to be adapted in Hindi



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A Hindi film adaptation of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray's short story, "Golpo Bolpo Tarini Khuro", is in the works. Ananth Narayan will direct the film, titled "The Storyteller".

The movie will feature Paresh Rawal, Adil Hussain, Revathi and Tannishtha Chatterjee. In association with Purpose Entertainment and Quest Films, "The Storyteller" explores the parallel mindsets of those who exploit and those who are exploited.

Ray's story is full of wit, drama, and suspense. Narayan expressed that it is an honour to bring the maestro's work to Bollywood, representing a young batch of artists.

Last week, the restored version of Ray's "Pratidwandi" was screened at the classics section of the 75th Cannes Film Festival.

Mithila's 'Maya' to be screened at North American Bengali Conference



Rafiath Rashid Mithila has quite a few films awaiting release, including Raajorshree De's "Maya", Ringu Banerjee's "A River in Heaven" and Arunav Khasanbish's "Nitishastro".

"Maya" will have a special screening at the North American Bengali Conference (NABC) Bongo Sommelen from July 1 to 3 in the United States. Mithila will be present at the ceremony.

"Maya" is based on William Shakespeare's famous tragedy "Macbeth". The film will feature Mithila in the role of the alter ego of Lady Macbeth. The role, Maya, is said to be a combination of the play's Wayward sisters and Lady Macbeth.

Apart from Mithila, Tollywood's Gaurab Chakraborty, Tanushree Chakraborty, Sudipta Bandyopadhyay, Rahul, Kamleshwar and others also star in the movie.

On the other hand, Mithila is currently busy shooting for the movie "Kajol Rekha", directed by Gias Uddin Selim.

Border roads

FROM PAGE 12

That's why the government is building roads in those areas, he added.

The minister said construction of the roads will be completed soon.

Seven BGB battalions in the Cox's Bazar region conducted raids last year and seized the narcotics which include about 90 lakh yaba pills, 23 kg of crystal meth, foreign liquor and beer.

Chile could

FROM PAGE 12

"There is only a 20% chance that the tree is younger."

The estimated age would beat the current record-holder, a 4,853-year-old bristlecone pine tree in California, by more than half a millennium.

"If one compares it with the trees already dated where we count all the rings, it would make it one of the oldest living trees on the planet," Barichivich said.

While it survived numerous eras of human civilisation, Barichivich is concerned about the tree's prominence in the Alerce Costero National Park. Visitors often leave the observation platform, step on the tree's roots and even take pieces of its bark, he said.

He said that similar trees in the United States have their location hidden to prevent similar damage.

Barichivich said he hoped people could "think for a fraction of a second about what it means to live 5,000 years," and put their lives and the climate crisis into perspective.

Govt should take up

FROM PAGE 12

"But it has to be a nationwide effort, reaching every school. Bangladesh has a population of over 170 million people and over a third of them are children. Unicef is working with the education authorities to plan and work for remedial action. We have to hurry -- this is critical."

The Unicef official also emphasised that parents demand remedial action from schools, instead of just accepting that the student who is promoted is fine.

Even before the pandemic, about 4.3 million children of school-going age were out of school and the authorities needed to ensure additional programmes for them, he said, adding that there was a need for part-time schooling for those who will not be able to come back to school,

and vocational training for older children.

For education, the allocation is currently about two percent of the GDP. "Bangladesh has already committed to the global benchmarks of the SDGs and the Education 2030 Framework for Action calls for allocation of at least four to six percent of the GDP for education."

"Bangladesh has done truly remarkably well. But when you reach this level of development, if you don't invest more in human capital, you lose the opportunity to accelerate and transition to even higher levels."

About the quality of education, he said there was a need for better facilities, improved teaching methods and teachers' training. Global standards had changed and so there was need for improvement in all spheres.

Geetanjali Shree first Indian

FROM PAGE 12

and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

The International Booker Prize is separate from the Booker Prize, which is awarded to novels written in English. In 1997, Indian author Arundhati Roy became the first Indian to win the Booker Prize for her novel, "The God of Small Things."

Shree and American translator Rockwell will split the £50,000 (\$63,000) prize money.

"I never dreamed of the Booker, I never thought I could," Shree said during her acceptance speech

in London on Thursday. "What a huge recognition. I am amazed, delighted, honored and humbled."

The chair of judges, Frank Wynne, said the book has "an exuberance and a life, a power and a passion, which the world could do with right now."

"This is a luminous novel of India and partition, but one whose spellbinding brio and fierce compassion weaves youth and age, male and female, family and nation into a kaleidoscopic whole," Wynne said.

Writer, critic and broadcaster, Viv Groskop, called it "a real masterpiece

"We have to invest more in teaching, making teaching more efficient, more enjoyable. Technology really helps and makes learning easier. Investment is required in teachers' support and supervision."

Bangladesh has the fastest growing economy in South Asia and is going to transition very soon to a developing country.

Asked how the country could meet the challenge of depleting foreign funds with its LDC graduation, he said, "Foreign funding is already going down. For us, we have to step up our fundraising to support our cause... Graduation does not mean that problems have disappeared overnight."

Even if the economy grows, it does not benefit all groups. It does not mean that the need for hospitals and routine immunisation is going away, he added.

India

FROM PAGE 1

clearance to the shipment of one million tonnes of wheat is expected to be granted exemption, the sources said.

The DGFT has put up a file before the food ministry after examining the LCs issued on or before May 13, the sources said, adding that it was found that many companies opened backdated LCs. The DGFT has weeded out such applications and compiled a list of genuine LCs to be approved by the commerce minister.

After the ban by India, the prices of the grain increased in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh depends on imports to meet 86 percent of its annual requirement of 85 lakh tonnes of wheat. It started procuring the crop in significant volumes from India in 2020.

And in India's financial year that ended on March 31, Bangladesh was the largest importer of wheat from India, according to estimates by the DGFT.

The Indian export restriction comes after searing heat in March and April, where temperatures of up to 45°C hit large parts of India's wheat belt, have heightened concerns about the country's domestic supply.

SL thrash

FROM PAGE 1

However, soon after Lunch, Fernando removed Liton for 52 with a wonderful return catch before Shakib became the right-arm seamer's next victim soon.

The hosts eventually surrendered helplessly with Fernando becoming only the second fast bowler from Sri Lanka to pick up 10 wickets in a Test match after Chaminda Vaas.

Asian nations must join hands

FROM PAGE 12

The premier once again requested all to contribute and help finding an amicable settlement of the Rohingya crisis.

"We are hosting 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar. They must be sent back to their homeland in the Rakhine State of Myanmar in safety, security, and dignity," she said.

Stressing the role of Asia

in the world, Hasina said it is imperative to ensure peace among conflicting countries by resolving differences through talks.

Referring to climate change, she mentioned that Bangladesh has been active and vocal on climate change action in all discourses, including at the recent COP26.

Highlighting Bangladesh's development in the last 13 years and its

graduation to a developing nation, the PM said her government was taking steps for smooth transition after 2026.

In this connection, she requested all, especially Japan and other OECD countries, to extend the preferential facilities to Bangladesh at least until 2029 to help it attain the overarching goals of sustainable development by 2030.

Bill passed to stop use

FROM PAGE 12

(EVMs) and i-voting for overseas Pakistanis and clipping the vast powers of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

The bills were presented amid talks about the possibility of early elections in the country and a day after ousted prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan abruptly ended his long march by giving a six-day deadline to the government to announce the election date.

After their approval from both houses, only the president's assent is required for them to become law.

Speaking about the legislation, federal Minister of Law and Azam Nazeer Tarar said it was of immense significance.

He recalled the previous PTI government had made multiple amendments to the Election Act, 2017, including those that allowed the use of EVMs and granted overseas Pakistanis the right to vote in general elections. The PTI government

had made the amendments through the Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021, which it had bulldozed through the NA along with 32 other legislations on November 17, 2021.

Tarar said the bill presented on Thursday sought to revive the Elections Act, 2017 in the shape prior to those amendments, which would ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

Under the new bill, he said, two amendments were being made to Sections 94 and 103 of the Act, both of which pertain to the Election Commission of Pakistan ECP conducting pilot projects for overseas voting and the use of EVMs.

He clarified that overseas Pakistanis had not been deprived of their right to vote.

The ECP had been asked to ensure voting rights while assuring secrecy, he told the upper house of parliament.

Under the amendment to Section 94 of the Election Act of 2017, the ECP may conduct pilot

projects for voting by overseas Pakistanis in by-elections to ascertain the technical efficacy, secrecy, security and financial feasibility of such voting and shall share the results with the government, which shall, within 15 days from the commencement of a session of a house after the receipt of the report, lay the same before both houses of parliament.

Woman

FROM PAGE 12

with his grandparents, he added.

Around 1:30am, Faruk and his parents woke up hearing screams of Eti.

Faruk said his parents saw Jalil running away when they came out of the house. Before she died on the way to a hospital, Eti told the family members that Jalil poured petrol on her and set her alight.

Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge of Dumki Police Station, said police were looking for the suspect.

The body was sent to Patuakhali Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Knee-jerk reaction is not the answer

DGHS needs realistic plan to bring unauthorised institutions under regulation

IN a rather dramatic move, the health directorate has ordered closure of all unregistered private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres within 72 hours, including those that have applied for licences but are operating without it.

There can be no doubt that unregistered hospitals must be brought under government monitoring and regulation, given the critical services they offer to the public, and the grave repercussions of allowing ill-equipped institutions with untrained staff to continue operations. Earlier this month, 25-year-old Sheuli Begum and her unborn child died at a local unauthorised hospital in Narail's Kalia upazila, when an unregistered health official failed to complete a caesarean operation. Reportedly, the DGHS decision to shut down unauthorised private hospitals follows a recommendation by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to bring those responsible for the untimely deaths.

Despite the urgency with which such institutions must be handled, we cannot but be wary of the knee-jerk reaction of the government in allowing only 72 hours to close down all such institutions. Is it even realistic when the government doesn't even have a list of all such unregistered institutions in Bangladesh? Does it have the capacity to follow up on its directive? And if it does, why has it allowed more than 5,000 unregistered hospitals and clinics to operate since 2018, when the DGHS introduced its online registration system? The DGHS issued a similar directive in August 2020 to private healthcare organisations to register online within August 23 the same year, warning of legal action against those unregistered. What major steps, if any, were taken following the directive? Who will answer for this inaction?

Unfortunately, what such hasty and unplanned reactions from the DGHS do is create the perfect conditions for underhanded transactions to take place. Leaders of the private hospital owners' association have long alleged that it is difficult, if not impossible, to meet all the criteria set by the DGHS for registration, and that only through payment of bribes can organisations get the required paperwork. There have been allegations, too, of many private hospitals getting registered via unethical means, despite not fulfilling all the requirements. Corruption, mismanagement and irregularities are built into the system, and the DGHS, we regret to note, is part of the problem.

The DGHS cannot absolve itself of its responsibilities as it attempts to provide prescriptions to bring the health sector under control. How can we trust it to do the needful when it has consistently failed to bring corrupt elements within its own department to book? If it really wants to bring some semblance of regulation and safety back to the sector, it must come up with a realistic timeline and plan to bring all hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres under registration and regular monitoring. It must strengthen its regulatory framework, ensure compliance, and check corruption at all levels of operation.

NHD can help target real safety net beneficiaries

But only if the data is accurate and updated

WHILE it's good to know that the government will be using the National Household Database (NHD)—which is expected to be complete by June this year—from the next fiscal year to better target the social safety net programmes, this can only be useful if the loopholes in the database are addressed and the data is regularly updated. Reportedly, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) have developed the database, expected to serve as a poverty registry, by collecting data from 35 million families from all 64 districts in three phases in 2017 and 2018. This means that even if it's ready for use in the next fiscal year, it will be challenging to identify the real beneficiaries as the data has become dated already, particularly because the Covid-19 pandemic has created many new poor who have not been included in the database.

We appreciate the government for gradually bringing more people under its social safety net programmes—362 of the 495 upazilas of the country will get full coverage of such schemes from the next fiscal year—but we think the focus needs to be on bringing the most vulnerable under these schemes. Thus, while choosing the beneficiaries, the government should prioritise the elderly and disabled people as well as widows, deserted and destitute women. Reportedly, there have been many irregularities in selecting the right people for such schemes. We have seen this during the pandemic, when the government struggled to provide cash incentives to the right people.

Direct cash transfer programmes through mobile financial services have been found to be more helpful than the provision of family cards or products at subsidised rates. However, the current allowance of Tk 500 is just not enough considering the rising costs of essentials.

In order for the government's safety net programmes to address the real plight of the poor and ultra poor, the most important work would be to enlist the right beneficiaries. Merging the NHD with the dataset collected by the local government bodies during the pandemic could be a good starting point, as experts have suggested. In addition, the latest edition of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, which is expected to be completed by December this year, should help in identifying the right beneficiaries. Moreover, the importance of updating these databases on a regular basis cannot be underestimated as only with updated data can the government take appropriate monetary policies to eradicate poverty from Bangladesh.

Stuck in an endless loop

Last week saw another reiteration of corruption and violence on our campuses



BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

Dr Shamsad Mortuza is the pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

LAST week was not a good one for those of us involved in academia or academic administration. We hit the press for all the wrong reasons.

We saw helmet-wearing, stick-wielding students of Dhaka University swooping on their opponents as the advanced guard infantry who fought to retain their campus territory. One would have thought that, after the recent Dhaka College fiasco, sanity would prevail and the ruling party's student wing would not engage in activities that could further smear its party's reputation before the upcoming national election. I have no way of knowing whether these students act on divine instructions or on their own volition, but it seems some student leaders are interested in scoring personal political mileage by strangling the voice of their opponents. Thanks to their over-enthusiastic intervention, an otherwise insignificant rally became national news.

Their action made me reflect on the wise words of the cricketer-turned-politician Mashrafe Mortaza, who pleaded with the party men of his constituency not to unwittingly give in to the wills of the central leaders to "size up" random people. He told them to think twice—e.g. "What is it in for me? Who will face the consequence? Who will feed my family or foot my bills if I go to jail?"—before indulging in violence at the whim of some leaders with remote control.

Last week, we saw police nabbing a member of the board of trustees of a university, who was trying to disgracefully dodge a court order. Four members of the Board of Trustees of North South University (NSU) were sent to jail in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for pilfering Tk 303.82 crore. Their dark infatuation with luxury cars, insistence on an obscene amount of meeting allowances, embezzling funds through the purchase of university land, and corruption in admission have recently come to light.

There are many other "crooks" in the private university sector who, for myriad reasons, have not only vitiated the system, but also choked the growth of higher education in Bangladesh. We have 108 private universities (including some black-listed ones) and 51 public universities and their affiliate colleges to cater to the needs of four million students. The growing demand for higher education has allowed many fraudsters to operate in the market. I use the word "market" with caution, as education today is pitched as an investment. It offers opportunity costs for those students who want to benefit from the educational capital and move

up the career ladder. It has also become a profitable commodity for investors. The actions of the latter group have led the overseeing body, the University Grants Commission (UGC), to distrust other noble and philanthropic gestures with which the private sector emerged as a non-profit alternative to the public system. As a result, private universities are getting one after another office orders that go against the spirit of higher education: standardise the

crore for research indicates that there are no real incentives for innovation. But more importantly, such meagre allocations can be justified through the acts of mishandling of the higher education system. For instance, we trust military institutions to offer the highest academic degree, but not the private universities with a high concentration of faculty members with PhDs and overseas exposure. Last week, we also read the sarcastic



▲ VISUAL: STAR

While the board of trustees of some private universities have defiled the trust of their students, the offices of certain public universities (not without the blessings of their political patrons) have tarnished the trust of the taxpayers.

curricula, offer cluster admission tests, introduce centralised "unique" ID cards for all private universities, retain just one campus in the officially designated plot; maintain one bank account; no public fund or research grants for the private system; no PhD programme. The list goes on to trim the edges that give the private system its edge and force it to behave more and more like state-run universities. The latest office order to follow the semester system in place of the trimester system is a case in point.

Last week, we also heard that the UGC is currently investigating the misappropriation of funds in three public universities. Earlier, it was reported that they had found allegations against 19 VCs of public universities. The UGC has also set a 60 percent cap on the use of admission fees as remuneration. The issue became scandalous following a report that the faculty and staff members of Jahangirnagar University "shared the spoils" of Tk 8 crore received through the admission process in the 2019-20 session. The UGC has also stopped increments for faculty members with PhDs.

While the board of trustees of some private universities have defiled the trust of their students, the offices of certain public universities (not without the blessings of their political patrons) have tarnished the trust of the taxpayers. This year, the government allocated Tk 10,444 crore for 51 public universities for the next fiscal year. This figure, significantly lower than any of the megaprojects that are making the news, shows the lack of priority given to education. The allocation of Tk 130

comments made by Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, who at a seminar at Dhaka University proposed the establishment of a BCS University where students would simply learn to join the public service sector. Islam knows the importance of the highly competitive exams through which officers are recruited. But his mockery is hinted at the mad rush of joining the government sector as the only objective of higher education.

While the better private universities have realigned their focuses on creating a "whole" education with a 360 degree perspective, the public system has reached the nadir from which students have a tunnel vision of becoming government cadres. I am sure many of these students become officers to dedicate themselves to repaying the debts of the taxpayers who once paid for their education; unfortunately, there are many others who are drawn to the public system for its power base that can be abused for personal gains. The initiation takes place on campuses. That's why wielding sticks while wearing helmets is as important as memorising guide books and specialising in topics that would yield high marks in BCS exams, more than mastering their own disciplines or acquiring essential skills for the job market. Campus corruption and violence are helping other agents to relegate our social role, and grabbing our budgetary allocation. No wonder, civil and military bureaucrats are now leading many academic projects.

I wish last week was different from the other weeks of our academic calendar.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY 2022

Time to put policy into action

Dr Hasin Jahan is the country director of WaterAid Bangladesh. Dr Khonker Taskin Anmol is strategic specialist at WaterAid Bangladesh. Shadma Malik is communications officer, media at WaterAid Bangladesh.

HASIN JAHAN, KHONKER TASKIN ANMOL and SHADMA MALIK

MENSTRUATION or period is a natural phenomenon for women of reproductive age and indicates a healthy life. Yet, many people—both men and women—consider the monthly period cycle as an illness. In recent years, awareness about menstruation and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) has received considerable tailwind from the policymakers in the Bangladesh government. Most women and girls in Bangladesh often face adversities regarding menstrual hygiene due to a lack of access to accurate information and sufficient knowledge. Over the last three years, the Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28) movement has been calling for more action and investment in menstrual health and hygiene. Using the hashtag #WeAreCommitted, organisations all over the world will start to publicly announce that they are committed to contributing to the creation of a world where no one is held back because they menstruate by 2030. The aim of this day is to increase transparency by making public commitments, provide a basis for accountability, and encourage others to follow our example.

In Bangladesh, menstruation is a taboo topic. Girls and women are still taught to be discreet about their periods and resort to secrecy in their hygiene maintenance while menstruating. Sanitary napkins and other menstruation hygiene products are still wrapped very promptly in brown bags at local drug stores, as if they are selling something illegal or immoral. This needs to

change in order to create an environment where talking about menstruation is considered normal. People should feel the same level of ease when buying sanitary napkins or tampons at drug stores as when they buy cough medicine.

In terms of awareness about menstruation and MHM, Bangladesh has achieved progress in some key areas in the recent years. Bangladesh is one of the only two countries (out of 46 countries) that have reported on Menstrual Health Indicators in the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2021. The National Hygiene Survey in 2018, conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), reported that 97 percent of women had a place to wash and change during periods. However, only 32 percent knew about menstruation before they had it, and 30 percent used disposable sanitary napkins. School absenteeism of girl students due to a lack of proper menstrual hygiene facilities, for three days per month on average, was 40 percent in 2014, which reduced to 30 percent for 2.5 days per month on average in 2019. In 2014, around 85 percent of women used old cloth during menstruation, which reduced to 63 percent in 2019.

Another important milestone has been the publication of the National Menstrual Hygiene Management Strategy, 2021. This national strategy aims to facilitate programmatic and systematic approaches to improve MHM across a range of diverse sectors, such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health, education, and environment. The national strategy identifies five guiding principles: 1) MHM information, material, and facilities should be made a fundamental right for girls and women to empower them; 2) The private sector should be enabled to bring MHM products to the market that are affordable and easily available all over the country;

3) Male engagement should be facilitated to create a friendly environment for MHM practices by girls and women; 4) Gender-friendly policies should be adopted and MHM mainstreamed in all relevant sectoral strategies and activities; and 5) No girl or woman should be left behind. The strategy also includes the way forward for improving the current practices and key MHM actions and responsibilities of government agencies and other stakeholders at households, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, workplaces, and public places. However, enacting sound policies will not bear much fruit unless they are implemented with commitment and vigour.

High prices make sanitary napkins less affordable for the poor. That forces girls and women from less privileged backgrounds to resort to using unhygienic means during their periods, often leading to infections due to unsafe menstrual management. Since only 23 percent of the menstruating girls and women use sanitary napkins, if the prices go down, the use of sanitary napkins is likely to increase massively in the country. The government's commitment to support girls and women has been well reflected via the withdrawal of VAT from locally produced sanitary napkins in the 2021-22 budget. However, market monitoring by the relevant agencies is essential to understand the impact of VAT repeal on sanitary napkins. In addition, necessary steps are required to make people aware about the VAT exemption for locally produced sanitary napkins, as well as having dialogues with the manufacturers to understand the impacts of the prices and come up with strategies to reach more marginalised women and girls. The government's commitment towards implementing the national MHM policy should also be supported by different development partners.

Things need to change in order to create an environment where talking about menstruation is considered normal. People should feel the same level of ease when buying sanitary napkins or tampons at drug stores as when they buy cough medicine.

How did the Supreme Court start housing planning for Dhaka's poor?

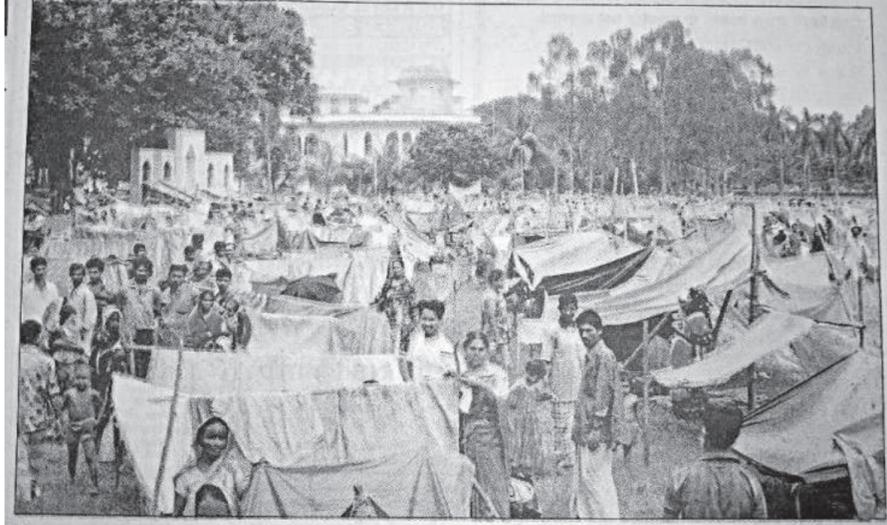
EFADUL HUQ and JAHID OYON

Dr Efadul Huq is co-convenor of Najjo Abashon Moncho and assistant professor of environmental science and policy at Smith College in Massachusetts, US. Jahid Oyon is a research associate at Najjo Abashon Moncho and studying law at Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh.

ON August 20, 1999, over 5,000 slum dwellers mobilised from various informal settlements in Dhaka and gathered in the Supreme Court premises to protest the "wholesale eviction" that was underway that year. The government had launched the *Ghore Fera* programme, a scheme to support reverse migration to villages. With *Ghore Fera* underway, the government decided to clear the slums altogether. Dwellers rallied and raised slogans against evictions and demanded resettlement with dignity. At least 1,500 dwellers camped in the Supreme Court premises for the next six days. In the Supreme Court, the judges were deciding on what has come to be known as a landmark case on Bangladesh's informal settlements, *Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Ors vs the Government of Bangladesh and Ors (1999) 19 BLD 488*—hereafter, *ASK v BD (1999)*. Under pressure, the judges halted the eviction and recognised the slum dwellers' right to protection from evictions without resettlement. The verdict was a win for organised dwellers.

The resulting judgment has since been the basis of anti-eviction advocacy in Bangladesh. By staying the evictions and keeping settlements in place, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has since been playing a crucial role in Dhaka's urban governance and planning. This role of the court has been no less than a de facto planning facilitator for the settlement dwellers as the judicial interventions have protected the dwellers' lives, enabled them to pursue livelihoods, and responded to their claims for right to the capital city.

The court's progressive stance against eviction without resettlement has also percolated upwards. Planners and policymakers for the urbanisation of Bangladesh increasingly recognise the need to include the needs of historically marginalised settlement dwellers in planning processes. Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakka's (Rajuk) new Detailed Area Plan (DAP) affirms the importance of low-income settlements and recognises the need for an inclusionary approach to settlements. The National Housing Policy, 2016 acknowledges the importance of resettlements in case of evictions and urges a shift in perspective



Poor pawns
Squatting continued and expanded on the national prayer ground inside the Supreme Court premises yesterday.—Star photo

and shanties were being bulldozed, the eviction process led to the death of a child. Major political parties, as well as rights and citizen groups, protested the eviction. Upon hearing the writ, the court initially gave orders in favour of the slum dwellers. However, the court only awarded a stay order.

In the years following, Public Interest Litigation (PIL) jurisprudence developed in Bangladesh. Equipped with PILs, rights organisations guarded the right to shelter of the informal settlers. Unlike individual writs, PILs can be initiated by petitioners not directly aggrieved in a situation. Prior to PILs, it was generally accepted that only the aggrieved person had legitimate standing at the court to claim a remedy. The concept of PIL enables a person or authority not aggrieved directly to come before the court to claim remedy. In Bangladesh, Dr Mohiuddin Farooque vs Bangladesh (1995) 49 DLR (AD) 1 set out the PIL jurisprudence. The court held that a "person aggrieved" does not mean only a person aggrieved personally, but also one whose "heart bleeds" for the aggrieved persons. That case marked the commencement of the PIL era in Bangladesh. PILs were

▲ The photo published in *The Daily Star* on August 24, 1999 shows slum dwellers in the Supreme Court premises in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

were used to stay eviction orders, pass injunctions for fair resettlement, and encourage a participatory approach to settlement planning. The constitution has been interpreted progressively in favour of the settlement dwellers through these PILs. The Supreme Court has construed the right to shelter as an integral part of right to life (Article 32). Such broad interpretation by the court in these PILs has provided a crucial foundation for building the housing right jurisprudence in Bangladesh.

In cases where PILs were creative and successful, PIL jurisprudence has facilitated in creating multi-stakeholder participatory spaces. In the ongoing case regarding Korail where ASK, BLAST and Brac are all involved, for example, the court has directed a collaborative approach to resettlement of Korail's dwellers. Beyond issuing an eviction stay order, the court initiated an open-ended "planning" process, requiring the state, developers, and Korail's residents to support and monitor a viable resettlement solution. The PIL has opened up a deliberative space for fact-sharing, housing policy debate, and forward-looking policy proposals for settlements. Whether deliberations reach a fruitful decision or not, the PILs generated a sense of agency among residents.

The limits of PILs

PIL jurisprudence can only go so far. Since no laws establish duties on government or private bodies to construct social housing and safeguard against evictions, settlements threatened with eviction remain vulnerable to the court's unfavourable interpretations. Therefore, in a few subsequent cases, the court tended to interpret in support of eviction.

There are also limitations in the court proceedings. Since settlement dwellers squatting on government land don't have legal ownership of the land, they are depicted as "unauthorised occupants." The concept of "unauthorised occupants" is premised on the idea that property owners are the only entities deemed worthy of protection by the court. The 30-day notice requirement, which the court uses to stay evictions where notices have not been properly served, doesn't apply to dwellers living on private land. Moreover, in the 1999 PIL, the court held that service of proper notice to the settlement dwellers was not possible due to their "floating" nature and lack of permanent address. The court also often refers to the fact that Bangladesh is party to a host of international commitments and conventions on securing housing rights for settlement dwellers. But till date, no laws exist to make these conventions legally binding in the country.

Apartments will not solve housing injustice

The resettlement option advanced by the courts might be reaching a dead end at present. Recently, the government created and rented out resettlement housing to settlement dwellers in Mirpur. Many are welcoming the apartment rentals as an exemplary approach to solving the urban poor's housing crisis. The 14-storey apartment buildings will provide over 500 serviced units. But when the flats were inaugurated in 2021, many of Mirpur's settlement dwellers refused to move into these apartments, because the rents were more than what people could afford. One dweller concisely pointed out, "I earn Tk 8,000 per month, and can't manage food and other needs with that. How will I pay Tk 4,000 per month for the flat?" With rising prices of basic necessities and under a pandemic-impacted economy, the economic precarity is ever more cruel on low-income settlement dwellers.

Besides, it is now well understood in urban policy and research that

the "provide everybody apartments" approach to solve the housing crisis only looks good on paper. Low-income settlements are not just residential areas, but also places of livelihood, trading, community, and myriad activities that support life in the urban margins, such as farming and recycling. An apartment building by design often destroys a sense of community, the long-accumulated social capital of dwellers, opportunities for work on site, and the possibilities for other productive activities, like farming. The Global South's experience with the apartment approach in countries like Thailand and India show that simply providing rental or loan-backed apartments is futile. Factors like site location, compensation, building designs, as well as pre- and post-resettlement participation and empowerment of settlement communities are more important than allocation of the physical apartment themselves. Even in terms of sheer numbers, over 500 apartments are a drop in the bucket for the millions of apartment units we will need. Along with building apartments, the government will also have to make sure that the settlement dwellers are meaningfully included in the process of their resettlement. In sum, "provide everybody apartments" may be an ideologically useful tactic to justify settlement evictions, but this approach is deeply flawed and impractical for Bangladesh's cities.

Will the other planners please stand up?

But why must the court be the primary lifeline of settlement dwellers? What are the roles of entities like Rajuk, the city corporations, and the National Housing Authority? Professional planning entities acknowledge but have not meaningfully acted on the fact that settlement dwellers are deeply embedded in the life of urban Bangladesh. Settlement dwellers make places liveable, shape the urban fabric, and sustain a growing economy. They do this almost invisibly and under a perpetual threat of eviction, unable to live fully and with dignity. Often more concerned with landowners' interests, professional planning authorities use dwellers' lack of land ownership as an alibi for excluding settlements from planning processes. In this way, planning authorities place settlement dwellers in zones of illegalised citizenship. That is, settlement dwellers are symbolically included (or even celebrated) as contributing to the city as citizens. But they are materially excluded on grounds of their illegal tenure. The predicament of settlement dwellers shows how the Bangladeshi state for the most part—and despite espousing commitments to solving the housing crisis—is far away from its landless and non-owning class of citizens. It also indicates that no matter how PIL jurisprudence has developed, ultimately the judicial approach is too weak to make transformative changes.

We need to broaden the conversation on housing justice from constitutional debates to popular demands for the cities our most vulnerable communities want. We also need to step beyond a technocratic language of institutional coordination and all of the niceties that sidestep the moral question at stake: Do we or do we not see settlement dwellers as equal citizens with the right to pursue their urban desires? Community groups and advocacy organisers need to strengthen their network across our cities and organise proactively against housing injustice, which should also include the housing precarity of apartment renters and small landowners. Residents, community organisers, lawyers, planners, professionals—anyone can initiate and take such steps. In the 21st century, urban planning is no more the sole prerogative of professional planners. As we organise and generate a popular pressure for housing justice, the PILs and a more rigorous housing law framework can be crucial tools along the way, but not the end of the road.

Over the past decades, the courts responded to the ministries and planning authorities' exclusionary urban planning processes by attempting to create more participatory grassroots approaches to settlement planning in our cities. Their effort has led to a delicate PIL jurisprudence to stay evictions, but this does not fundamentally transform our urban approach to settlement planning. As the number of settlements multiplies across our cities, particularly in the intensification of climate-related migrations, we need deep restructuring in the way we look at settlement dwellers. We need to recognise the indispensability and value of settlement dwellers' labour, community, knowledge, and dreams for arriving at a humane Bangladeshi urbanism. We need to invest resources, integrate the settlements into mainstream city planning, and create participatory planning processes for sustaining and upgrading the liveable places that dwellers have created over the decades.



Low-income settlements are not just residential areas, but also places of livelihood, trading and community.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

towards settlement dwellers. Although insufficient in tackling the housing crisis, government programmes such as *Ghore Fera* (Back to Home), *Asroyon* (Village Shelter Programme), and *Adorsho Gram* (Ideal Village Project) have been launched as flagship projects.

How did the court adopt a pro-housing interpretation of the constitution? What are the possibilities and limitations of the court's activist approach? As professional planning authorities continue to marginalise settlement dwellers, these questions must be looked into to make Dhaka's housing planning equity-focused and participatory. Lessons from the struggle and progress so far of housing advocates and grassroots groups can be instructive to advance housing justice in urban Bangladesh.

Planning for settlements through PIL jurisprudence

Over the past decades, several evictions have taken place on a grand scale, and that exclusionary urban development model persists to this day. Rights organisations and slum dwellers resorted to writ petitions to combat such evictions at the Supreme Court. Taltola Sweeper Colony (in Gulshan area) Demolition case, the first writ petition of its kind filed with the High Court, challenged settlement eviction back in 1989. When the demolition began

well-suited for housing activists and rights organisations as the question of standing would not bar them anymore. In the following years, shelter justice organisations filed a number of PILs to challenge evictions.

The landmark *ASK v BD (1999)* is perhaps the first PIL to challenge eviction. But the 1999 PIL went beyond challenging eviction. The 1999 case resulted in the High Court making a series of observations for the government to follow a guideline in case of slum eviction. In this judgment, the High Court established two principles: i) The protection of slum dwellers from forced evictions is integral to their right to life and livelihood; and ii) An alternative accommodation must be ensured before eviction. The guideline set out in this case paved the way for settlement dwellers, housing right activists and rights organisations to access the court more frequently to confront eviction. In the 2000s, several cases resulted in the courts granting stay orders in favour of settlement dwellers and stalled large-scale evictions like the ones in the previous decade.

Using PILs to advance grassroots struggles and contest evictions is unique in the case of Bangladesh. The PILs in Bangladesh have been driven by residents, community associations, and advocacy groups. Here, the PILs

How did the court adopt a pro-housing interpretation of the constitution? What are the possibilities and limitations of the court's activist approach? As professional planning authorities continue to marginalise settlement dwellers, these questions must be looked into to make Dhaka's housing planning equity-focused and participatory.



Sri Lanka pacer Kasun Rajitha (C) celebrates with teammates after removing Bangladesh batter Mushfiqur Rahim (not in picture) as Liton Das reacts during the fifth day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. (Bottom) Coach Russell Domingo walks off with his head down after he hosts were beaten by 10 wickets as the visitors won the two-match series 1-0.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Sri Lankans dedicate win to compatriots back home

SPORTS REPORTER

What the two-match Test series win over Bangladesh means to the Sri Lanka cricket team players, since their country is going through its most difficult period both financially and politically, reflects when the Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne dedicated the win to the people of the island nation during the post-match presentation ceremony yesterday.

"I would also like to dedicate this win to the Sri Lankans back home, who are having a tough time. I hope this brings them some joy in a difficult period," said Karunaratne after the 10-wicket victory over the Tigers in the second Test in Mirpur yesterday.

Despite the huge mental trauma when the cricketers left the country in a turmoil, the Lankan cricketers remained unaffected when it came to their fighting approach on the field in the two Tests.

The relatively inexperienced Sri Lanka pace bowling attack remained the highlight for the visitors in both the Tests, having wreaked havoc by removing the Bangladesh top-order as Bangladesh were reeling on 24 for 5 and 23 for 4 in the two innings, in that order.



Player of the Match pacer Asitha Fernando, who played just three Tests before coming to Bangladesh, becomes only the second Lankan fast-bowler to pick 10 wickets in a Test match after Chaminda Vaas.

Another fast bowler Rajitha Fernando, who was included as the concussion substitute in the first Test, also showed his hunger. The seamer also registered his maiden five-wicket haul playing his eleventh Test.

"They are the best bowlers in Sri Lanka, that's why they are on tour. All the fast bowlers have done their homework, and done their job whenever they were called up. He got an opportunity and I think he nailed it," said Lankan wicket-keeper Niroshan Dickwella yesterday.

The visitors were well ahead over the hosts in terms of rectifying the weak links of the opponents. According to Dickwella, the visitors have done their homework over the Tigers lack of confidence in the top order and opted to put the hosts under pressure on the final day.

"We had our plans cut out in the second innings. We knew the top-order was struggling in the first innings. We wanted to bowl line and length first. With Asitha's pace and tactics with the short ball, we knew it would be hard for them. We wanted to spread the field, not to give easy runs."

WE'RE GETTING CLOSE says Domingo

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh once more flattered to deceive as Sri Lanka put the pressure on the 'Tigers' at the opportune moments of the game to pick up yet another series win.

The Lankan outfit, especially the bowling unit, lacked experience and yet they got more out of the Mirpur pitch, which was good to bat on. The recent set of results both home and away, leads one to think whether there are pitches Bangladesh can cope without disastrous results. Over five days, Bangladesh did show fight, but the aggression of Test cricket was perhaps not where it should have been.

Despite Liton Das and Mushfiqur Rahim's incredible effort in the first innings, the batting collapses in both innings took centre-stage again. The Tigers missed out on vital moments to attack when they could have gotten a grip on the game. The argument of why Bangladesh could not doctor pitches for spin conduciveness the same way they did against the likes of England and Australia five or six years ago, returned after yet another familiar debacle.

"With all due respect to past Tests, those may have hurt us going forward. When we get on good pitches, and I'm a



"I think we're starting to get better in Test match cricket, we're starting to compete. But now we need to take a step further. I do [believe the gap in Test culture can close]."

Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo

big advocate of playing on good pitches, we come second. If we feel that we have to doctor pitches, then we have no chance away from home," head coach Russell Domingo dictated regarding the rosy home results of the past in the post-match press conference yesterday.

This argument on doctored pitches was as far as it could have gotten away from the idea of what Test cricket is about. Despite winning with pace in New Zealand only recently, the results at home appeared rosy because of the dominance shown by spinners at home against the big sides.

However, home results have been equally poor recently and while most teams try to take advantage of home conditions, doctored pitches and the experience of spin department bowling on such surfaces, often Bangladesh get the upper hand against opponents at home. But usually when another team from the subcontinent comes here, the pitches rarely help. The results against Afghanistan, Pakistan and now Sri Lanka come to mind.

This time the wicket had something for pacers, especially in the first hour over five days. It was in line with team management's vision but while Sri Lanka pace duo of Kasun Rajitha and Asitha Fernando reaped rewards,

Bangladesh pace attack failed to keep that line of attack fit for Test. The field settings were often defensive, in line with keeping runs down to bad deliveries. But a skipper cannot attack and set a field for bad deliveries at the same time.

"If you look at the stats, the number of balls that got scored between square leg or mid-wicket and fine leg, I've never seen so many runs scored there in my career as a coach," said the Bangladesh head coach.

Domingo was at a loss to explain what went wrong with the batters. He argued in favour of changes, either in batting order or the line-up. But change must start from culture.

"If we knew the answer [to batting debacles], it probably wouldn't happen (sighs and smiles)," he said before adding that a batting order change or changes in the line-up will happen. Domingo and his side are left reflecting on bad phases in sessions that take the game away from them.

"We're getting close. First Test against Sri Lanka, they were six down and ended up drawing," he cited before listing a few close match scenarios. But Domingo knows full well that a cultural shift would be required for better results and that takes time to build.

Pioneer league back after 4 years

SPORTS REPORTER

After a four-year hiatus, the Pioneer (U-15) Football League is all set to start today with less number of clubs compared to last edition in 2018.

Some 46 clubs, split into five zones with two groups in each zone, will play in round-robin format at five venues in Dhaka and Narayanganj. Top two teams from each of the 10 groups will advance into the 20-team final round.

"Many clubs have lost interest in football as 53 teams enlisted for the league. Six clubs have lost their eligibility due to having over-aged players in medical tests," said Pioneer football league committee deputy chairman Mohidur Rahman Miraz. "Some 1500 to 1600 footballers went through medical tests with 980 players getting clearance."

He also added that the last edition had featured 62 teams.

Kyrgios turns down Tomic's million-dollar challenge

REUTERS, Sydney

Nick Kyrgios has turned down a million dollar challenge from Bernard Tomic to sort out their differences on court as the Australian tennis players continue their spat on Friday.

Kyrgios described Tomic as the most hated athlete in Australia when the pair exchanged barbs over who was the better player on Instagram on Wednesday night.

Tomic, who won their only professional meeting at Kooyong in 2019, returned serve by offering to put

up a million dollars for a one-on-one contest.

"At the end of the day, talk is cheap," Tomic told the Sydney Morning Herald. "I'm ready to make it 2-0 whenever you want. Put your money where your mouth is."

"Let the public decide who is better. I'll beat you anywhere, any place. If not, shut your mouth and go back to playing doubles."

"I'll dominate you one-on-one," he added. "To not make excuses, I'll even play you on grass, whenever you want."

"You know what? Let's sort this out

in the boxing ring. Put your gloves on, I'll dominate you there also. Let's see who's better once and for all."

Kyrgios did not rule out a boxing bout one day but said the world number 418 would have to work his way back up the rankings to get on court with him.

"I'm still playing on the tour, my brother. I've got bigger fish to fry," the world number 76 said in an Instagram video. "If you want to play me and you want to set this straight, just get back to the top of the sport. I'm right here, I'm not going anywhere."



Serbia's Novak Djokovic makes a return against Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene during their third-round match of the French Open at Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris on Friday. The World No. 1 cruised through to the fourth round with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 victory.

PHOTO: AFP



“You certainly get used to winning in general. Winning the Champions League is a very particular feeling, but it’s really the journey that makes it special. Every journey that brings you toward a win is important.”

CLARENCE SEEDORF, former Dutch player who won the Champions League four times with three different clubs



Salah’s chance to dispel nightmares of Kyiv

SABBIR HOSSAIN

Mohamed Salah has created quite a stir ahead of the Champions League final against Real Madrid in Paris. The Liverpool forward posted on social media that they have a ‘score to settle’ after the Spanish champions set up a rematch of their 2018 Champions League final earlier this month.

Salah’s urge to settle the score is understandable. The Egyptian’s night ended in tears in Kyiv in 2018 when he had to be taken off following a cynical challenge by Sergio Ramos, skipper of Real Madrid at that time, in a final that the Reds eventually lost 3-1.

As he seeks to avenge and banish those unpleasant memories, the 29-year-old footballer has reasons to be confident about keeping his promise this time around. Salah is having his best season in the Champions League since 2018 in terms of goals scored. He has scored eight goals and provided two assists this season so far and has netted a total of 33 goals and accounted for 11 assists in the competition since the 2017/18 season.

Salah’s stature to this Liverpool team is well known, but his influence places him alongside some of the best players in the Champions League history. Given his relative obscurity at



this level before joining the English club, his transformation is even more remarkable. He will be desperate to add to his goals tally by scoring in another Champions League final after helping his side win the title by scoring against Tottenham Hotspur in 2019.

Salah’s remarks, however, have not been taken lightly in Madrid, with Uruguayan midfielder Fede Valverde responding vehemently. Real coach Carlo Ancelotti also revealed that his team would be out to avenge a 41-year-old Champions League final loss to the Reds in Paris.

All these lead us to the final question: Will Liverpool be able to exorcise Kyiv’s nightmares, or will Madrid make Salah suffer again?

LOGIC OR MAGIC

What will define the final showdown?

NABID YEASIN

How will things turn out in Paris tonight? The culmination of arguably the most captivating Champions League season in recent memory is set to be staged at the Stade de France with two of the most decorated clubs in history – Real Madrid and Liverpool – fighting for the ultimate glory.

For a football fan, it doesn’t get any better than this since this stage of the tournament, the final, is where fans, even the neutral ones, all get ready to be overwhelmed. And rarely has it ever failed to deliver.

In fact, the two finalists have their own tales of the surreal from their illustrious past. From that night in Istanbul in 2005 to Sergio Ramos’ ‘92:48’ in Lisbon in 2014, both Liverpool and Real Madrid have had their moments of the unimaginable at this very stage of the tournament.

And when they meet again, in what would be a repeat of the 2018 final in Kyiv, it is only natural that expectations from around the globe would be soaring.

Football pundits would probably have a clear pick for the winner – Liverpool. And if logic is allowed to govern, it is hard to believe otherwise since Jurgen Klopp’s team are a better side, with

better harmony and cohesion between the players.

Even the man at the helm for Liverpool, Klopp, a master tactician, has brought back the glory days for the Reds – ending their 30-year Premier League title drought and winning the club’s sixth European title in 2019.

He now stands against Carlo Ancelotti who, before this magnificent season by current La Liga champions Real Madrid with one of their least decorated squads in history, was considered as someone to be eventually wiped out amid the fierce tactical battle that prevails and dictates the modern football era.

From every angle, Liverpool seems to be on the way to lifting their seventh European title and joining AC Milan. But on their way stands Real Madrid who, in every step of their way, have defied logic and justification to reach Paris.

If anything, Real Madrid made the act of defining them by logic look illogical. Not only once, but they also resurrected thrice from the brink of elimination – each time turning the tables against the title contenders. They eliminated a star-studded PSG even after being down by two goals till the 60th minute of

the final leg, then stunned the holders Chelsea before breaking Pep Guardiola and Manchester City’s hearts in the final minutes – defying logic and explanation on every occasion.

In the dramatic and seemingly scripted way that Los Blancos have made it thus far, a title only seems to be written in the stars for them.

The game, however, will still be played on the field where only the action on the night will count instead of what had transpired in the past. It will boil down to the tactical approaches made, the tenacity, adaptability, sharpness, strength and the level of fatigue shown by the players out on the pitch.

Liverpool will be more concerned in this regard with their midfield brain Thiago Alcantara all but out of the UCL final showdown. Klopp said he will wait for a final scan but remained pessimistic about the Spaniard’s participation.

While Liverpool will hope to get around this issue ahead of the final, Real Madrid must be pondering over ways to stop a relentless, high-pressing and ruthless Liverpool side. Real have arguably the most compact midfield in the world – packed with maestros Toni Kroos and Luka Modric and the threatening Casemiro with Fede

Valverde and Eduardo Camavinga as options for lending versatility.

In the offense, they have Karim Benzema, the competition’s top scorer with 15 goals, leading the line along with the young Brazilian Vinicius Junior, who himself has been a sensation this season.

With how Liverpool usually hound their opponents through Luis Diaz, Mohammed Salah from the flanks and Sadio Mane from the center, what should be worrying Los Blancos is their apparent lack of depth in the defense.

Sure, Liverpool will miss Alcantara’s control and the piercing passes from the midfield but that will probably in no way have Salah bog down, especially now that he has openly vowed to avenge his injury-forced midway departure from the 2018 final.

Liverpool, meanwhile, will have to be on their feet at all times, realise the moments when Real Madrid are having their moments in the game and thwart the brief spells of footballing brilliance and stop the undefinable from happening – something that none of PSG, Chelsea and City could do despite their full knowledge of it.

Will logic be finally able to trump magic? As it seems, Saturday night will serve the answers on a plate.

HIGHLIGHTS

Only Cristiano Ronaldo (2016/17) and Karim Benzema (2021/22) have scored 10 goals in a single knockout stage in the Champions League era.

This season, Benzema has scored seven Champions League goals against English opponents, the most by any player in the competition’s history. In five previous outings against Liverpool in the tournament, the Frenchman has scored four goals.

Carlo Ancelotti has reached his fifth Champions League final, the most by any manager in the competition’s history (2003, 2005, and 2007 with AC Milan, 2014 and 2022 with Real Madrid).

Liverpool will be playing their third Champions League final under manager Jurgen Klopp. The German has reached the Champions League final in four of the last 10 seasons, including three of the latest five.

After scoring against Villarreal in the semifinal, Sadio Mane scored his 15th goal in the Champions League knockout stages. He became the highest African goalscorer in the knockouts of the competition, surpassing Chelsea’s Didier Drogba, who had 14 goals.

Phenomenal Benzema’s final confrontation

ASHEAQ UL MUSHFIQ

One may have heard many legendary tales of heroes who carried their troops single-handedly to the shores of victory, for there have been many instances in football’s vast and glorious history.

This season too, such a tale has been developing and now set for catharsis as Europe’s most elite club-football contest gears towards its climax, where all eyes will be on the Real Madrid and Liverpool’s megastars, especially on Los Blancos’ talisman Karim Benzema, who has made the task of rescuing his side from the brink of elimination in jaw-dropping manners.

This season, apart from becoming the most prolific French scorer in the competition’s history and the oldest player to score a hat-trick in the Champions League, Benzema has scored the most goals of his career for Real Madrid in the Champions League.

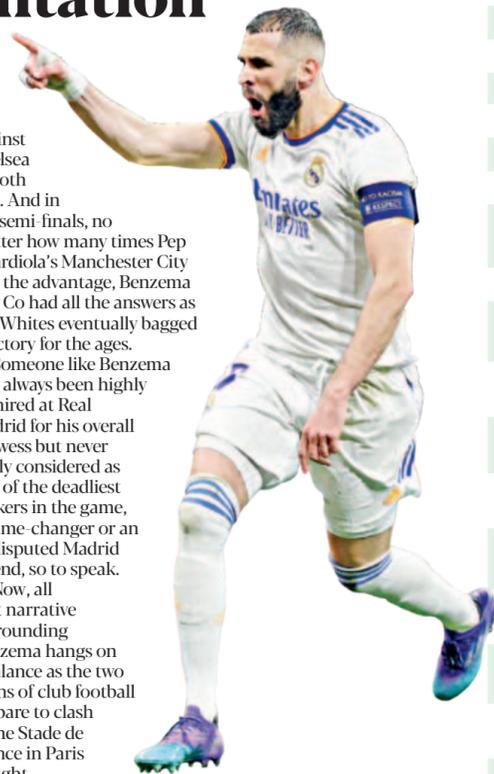
In the round of 16, Paris Saint-Germain were all over the thirteen-time European champions up until the first three-quarters of the two-legged contest. However, a Benzema hat-trick, in 18 minutes, had nudged the Paris side beyond recovery.

The Frenchman’s magic continued in the last eight when he scored three more sublime goals

against Chelsea in both legs. And in the semi-finals, no matter how many times Pep Guardiola’s Manchester City had the advantage, Benzema and Co had all the answers as the Whites eventually bagged a victory for the ages.

Someone like Benzema had always been highly admired at Real Madrid for his overall prowess but never really considered as one of the deadliest strikers in the game, a game-changer or an undisputed Madrid legend, so to speak.

Now, all that narrative surrounding Benzema hangs on a balance as the two titans of club football prepare to clash at the Stade de France in Paris tonight.



HEAD-TO-HEAD

| Real Madrid | | Liverpool |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 4 | Won | 3 |
| 1 | Drawn | 1 |
| 3 | Lost | 4 |
| 10 | Goals Scored | 8 |
| 13 | UCL Titles | 6 |
| 2017-18 | Most Recent | 2018-19 |



PREVIOUS RESULTS

| Venue | Result | Stage |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Paris | Liverpool 1-0 Real Madrid | Final |
| Madrid | Real Madrid 0-1 Liverpool | Round of 16 |
| Liverpool | Liverpool 4-0 Real Madrid | Round of 16 |
| Liverpool | Liverpool 0-3 Real Madrid | Group stage |
| Madrid | Real Madrid 1-0 Liverpool | Group stage |
| Kyiv | Real Madrid 3-1 Liverpool | Final |
| Madrid | Real Madrid 3-1 Liverpool | Quarter-final |
| Liverpool | Liverpool 0-0 Real Madrid | Quarter-final |

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Asian nations must join hands for better future

Says PM at Nikkei conference

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Asian countries must combine their forces to help address their common challenges for the betterment of future generations.

"The Asian countries have common development challenges and should face them collectively," she said in a video statement to the 27th International Nikkei Conference on Future of Asia in Tokyo.

Hasina said Bangladesh would always work with its friends and partners to ensure a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Asia.

She put forward five proposals, where the Asian countries can best cooperate for the benefit of the future generations.

These include cooperation on best use of ICT, safeguard fairness and justice, sustainable and balanced development and establishing win-win international relations.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



A part of a crowd at a BNP rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Topkhana Road in the capital yesterday morning. Central leaders of the party spoke at the rally, which was organised to protest Chhatra League activists' recent attacks on Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal members.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PAK PARLIAMENT Bill passed to stop use of EVM in polls

DAWN/ ANN

The National Assembly of Pakistan (NA) has passed the Elections (Amendment) Bill 2022, which seeks to remove the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in general elections as well as disallows overseas Pakistanis from voting.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Thursday presented the bill that was passed with a majority vote, with only members of the Grand Democratic Alliance opposing it.

Yesterday, the Senate passed the bill, along with the National Accountability (Second Amendment) Bill 2021.

The bills sought to reverse changes made in the election laws by the previous PTI government regarding the use of electronic voting machines

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Woman burned to death 'by husband'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A woman was burned to death allegedly by her husband at Pangashia union in Patuakhali's Dumki upazila yesterday.

Eti Begum, 26, a worker at a readymade garment factory in Dhaka, died on the way to a hospital, said her brother Faruk Khan.

She married Abdul Jalil, 32, of Kushtia, around seven years ago, he said, adding that she told her family members that Jalil often beat her up and asked for dowry in the last two years.

Around a week ago, Eti left her husband and came to her parents' house in Dumki with her four-year-old son and filed for divorce, he said.

On Thursday night, she slept on the veranda while her son slept inside the hut

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

Govt should take up nationwide programme

Unicef regional director for South Asia tells Star

PORIMOL PALMA

Unicef has recommended that the government prioritise a countrywide remedial programme for recovering the learning loss caused by 18 months of school closure amid the Covid pandemic.

"If we don't, I am afraid we are going to see more kids drop out as they struggle with their studies," said George Laryea-Adjei, Unicef regional director for South Asia, based in Nepal.

When children drop out, they are at greater risk of being engaged in child labour and trapped in low-paying and hazardous jobs, he said in a recent interview with The Daily Star.

"There will be economic growth, but intergenerational cycles cannot be broken... It has social implications and I am really concerned about it."

In late April, Laryea-Adjei visited Unicef programmes being implemented with the government and NGOs in Dhaka, Khulna, Cox's Bazar and Noakhali.



George Laryea-Adjei

Amid the pandemic, schools remained closed for one and a half years, one of the longest globally, affecting children's education and mental health. There were more dropouts and child marriages, and those who did not drop out faced immense learning losses.

Students passed to the next grade without attending the classrooms, he said. "So you are going to struggle. Those who had access to extra help may catch up, but others will

continue to face challenges." "We also have to find alternative learning to attract children who have dropped out so that they are encouraged to come back to school," Laryea-Adjei said.

Asked how learning loss could be addressed, he said expanding the accelerated learning programmes was one of the ways. The curriculum can get condensed in a way that allows children to have intensive learning and the necessary support.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

Border roads being built to check crimes

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said the government is constructing roads in border areas to stop criminal activities there.

"Once the roads are opened, crimes in those areas will be curbed," he said at a programme in Ramu of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The event was organised by Border Guard Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar region) marking the destruction of narcotics worth about Tk 400 crore, which was seized by BGB, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

Asaduzzaman said there are large swathes of Bangladesh's territory bordering with India and Myanmar and the border guards cannot easily travel to many of those areas, which are quite remote.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Chile could be home to world's oldest tree

REUTERS, Santiago

A lush green forest in southern Chile might be home to the world's oldest tree after a new study found that an ancient alerce tree known as "great grandfather" could be more than 5,000 years old.

Scientists were not able to determine an exact age based on tree rings because of the tree's massive trunk. Normally, a 1 metre (1.09 yards) cylinder of wood is extracted to count tree rings, but the great grandfather's trunk has a diameter of 4 metres.

Jonathan Barichivich, the scientist who led the study, said the sample they extracted and other dating methods suggest the tree is up to 5,484 years old.

"This method tells us that 80% of all possible growth trajectories give us an age of this living tree greater than 5,000 years," Barichivich said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

বিভ্রান্তি নয় সচেতনতাই প্রতিকার

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

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- * সংক্রমণের হার কমানোর জন্য হাত ধোয়াসহ সকল সাধারণ স্বাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে চলতে হবে
- * বদলে যাব বদলে দিব, ঔষধের নকল ভেজাল বন্ধ করে জনস্বাস্থ্যের উন্নয়ন করব

INT'L BOOKER PRIZE

Geetanjali Shree first Indian author to win it

CNN ONLINE

Indian author Geetanjali Shree has won the International Booker Prize -- making her the first writer from the South Asian nation to claim the prestigious literary award.

Shree's winning novel, "Tomb of Sand," follows an 80-year-old woman as she gains a new lease on life following the death of her husband. Set in the shadow of the 1947 partition of India, Shree explores themes of trauma, motherhood and feminism.

Translated from Hindi to English by Daisy Rockwell, the book is the first in an Indian language to win the award, which recognizes fiction translated into English

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

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প্যানটোনিব্র ২০, ৪০

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কেন্দ্রিক, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ



Boxer Al Amin weaving dreams

SPORTS REPORTER

Boxers Sura Krishna Chakma and Mohammed Al Amin made dream starts in their first-ever professional boxing tournament in Bangladesh as the two managed to beat their respective Nepalese opponents on May 19.

"I turned to Pro Boxing for financial security, as well as for more international exposure," said Al Amin, who beat Nepalese boxer Bharat Chand in the welterweight category to mark a memorable point on his journey.

"It's a new beginning for me and I believe Pro Boxing will pave the way for country's boxers to compete in Asian and World titles. And here, any individual gets a huge opportunity to secure their



financial life," said the 31-year-old boxer, who is looking forward to continuing as a boxer for another 10 to 12 years.

Al Amin trained under many foreign coaches and took part in different national and international tournaments since he took up the boxing gloves as a Grade IV student in 1997.

"I fell in love with boxing when I was a primary school student. You know, in my hometown [Rajshahi], boys and girls are playing different kinds of sports and suddenly I went to see a boxing competition and immediately I decided that I would go with it.

"Initially my family members had discouraged me but coach Shafiqul Azam Masud encouraged me a lot and I've also been getting support from another coach Kazi Shahadat Hossain," said Al Amin, a bronze-medallist in 64-kg category in 2019 South Asian Games in Nepal.

Al Amin, who idolises Ukrainian boxer Vasyl Anatoliyovych Lomachenko and USA boxer Floyd Joy Mayweather Jr, has been fighting in amateur boxing competitions for quite some time now. He believes the opportunity in amateur boxing is very limited in terms of financial stability and international exposures.

Al Amin is now, more or less, financially stable as he fights for Bangladesh Ansar in different competitions and yet, he has kept his bigger dreams in Pro Boxing well in sight.

It's not a sport, IT'S A BUSINESS

Boxing, a sport that showcases thunderous fights that see opponents land haymakers and rouse spectators as they battle for supremacy in the ring, has recently entered a new era in Bangladesh. While famous international boxers like Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Floyd Mayweather, Canelo Alvarez, Tyson Fury, Manny Pacquiao and many others have excited fans across the world and made headlines due to the enormous prize purses on offer, Bangladesh has recently started hosting professional boxing competitions on home soil.

ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladeshis are more familiar with amateur boxing, which they have competed in during different games like Olympics, Asian Games, South Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Amateur boxing is fought in different weight categories across three rounds of three minutes each, with a one-minute break between the rounds. Professional boxing, which made the likes of Muhammad Ali household names, has at least four rounds of three minutes each, and can have as many as 12 rounds depending on the experience of the boxers involved.

Other than that, professional boxing does not feature protective headgear, which is compulsory for amateur bouts. Boxers also require a licence to participate in professional bouts, but amateur boxers compete in different competitions under direct supervision of government-affiliated national boxing federations.

Under the supervision of the newly-formed Bangladesh Boxing Foundation (BBF), the recently-concluded professional boxing competition titled 'Xcel presents South Asian Pro Boxing Fight Night - The Ultimate Glory' made waves in Bangladesh, with proud Bangladeshis sharing pictures on social networks of boxer Sura Krishna Chakma draped in the red and green flag.

Professional boxing's journey in Bangladesh started in November, 2020 under the Bangladesh Professional Boxing Society (BPBS), which organised 14 professional boxing competitions that did not garner much media attention.

Before the BPBS started their journey,

Sura Krishna Chakma trail-blazed Bangladesh's start to professional boxing. The former BKSP student was the first Bangladeshi boxer to compete in a professional boxing competition beyond borders, fighting against Indian



professional boxers in Haryana in 2018. The Dhaka University graduate won both bouts in India before winning his third bout against a Nepalese boxer in Bangladesh on May 19.

"We have just started professional boxing's journey in Bangladesh. It is now our responsibility to create a roadmap and environment so that we can create long-lasting developments in professional boxing. We are planning to hold a national competition in each quarter of the year and two international competitions yearly," said BBF chairman Adnan Haroon, who was once the vice-president of BPBS.

BPBS was founded in 2020 by internationally recognised trainer, mentor and promoter MD Asaduzzaman, who is also the chairman of World Boxing Buddies Union, China.

"I have been involved in the professional boxing arena for nearly 30 years and worked in 67 countries," said Asaduzzaman. "I dream of giving Bangladesh boxing a professional shape. I took approval from world bodies -- ABC and Boxrec -- and returned to Bangladesh in 2020 to start working through BPS. I want to take Bangladesh

professional boxing to a certain level within 2024," Asaduzzaman said, adding that they had organized 14 professional boxing competitions in the last 18 months and that other boxers were set to feature in two international competitions in India and Colombia in June.

"Professional boxing is not a sport, it is a business. If everything is done properly, a boxer can earn Tk 60,000 to crores per fight. However, we have to work hard to get to that level," opined Asaduzzaman, who claimed that he had trained 17 world champions. As champion, Sura Krishna Chakma was awarded Tk 20,000 while debutants received Tk 5,000 each. Given the lack of a proper structure, it could not be discerned how many boxers, amateur or otherwise, there are in Bangladesh.

'It's difficult, but I made it this far and want to go further'

In pursuit of his passion from a very young age, boxer Sura Krishna Chakma made headlines around Bangladesh as he was crowned champion in the lightweight division of the recently-concluded 'Xcel presents South Asian Pro Boxing Fight Night - The Ultimate Glory', the first international professional boxing tournament held in the country earlier this week. The boxer from Rangamati's Juraichhari defeated the Nepali champion, who had previously fought two bouts, winning both. He shared his journey of becoming a professional boxer with The Daily Star's Ashfaq Ul Mushfiq. The excerpts are below:

The Daily Star (DS): What were the things you learned initially after first starting as a boxer in BKSP?

Sura Krishna Chakma (SKC): It starts with the basics. We were taught the fundamentals. Offensively, you have moves like jabs, cross punches, uppercuts and hooks. Alongside that, we had to learn to defend, how to slip and roll. Gradually, as we move to the next level, we prepare for matches. But the main focus is always the basics.

DS: You continued boxing alongside your studies. How did you form that habit?

SKC: As a student of BKSP, I formed this habit from a very young age. We had to wake up early in the morning and all the athletes would have breakfast together. Then we went to morning training sessions.

Afterwards, we went to classes and then practiced again in the afternoon or evening. We sometimes had classes at night. So before you know it, days and weeks just pass by. At my university, my teachers helped me a lot when I was away for the national-team camps so that I could sit for exams and finish my degrees.

DS: How was your experience at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow? What were the differences in levels and facilities there?

SKC: Of course, there were noticeable differences in the levels and facilities. In my first time, I faced an opponent from New Zealand who had experience of over 20 international bouts. Despite the result not going my way, I had a very close contest with him. Back then we had a coach from Ukraine and he was very good. He trained me very well and enabled me to have a good fight.

DS: What is Sura Krishna Chakma's daily routine?

SKC: When I am in a national camp, my routine starts with waking up around 6:00am. After breakfast, I go to the gym and train. After lunch, we have training sessions in the afternoon. Even on my days off, when I'm not in the camp, I wake up very early. This is a habit I formed from a young age. I try to keep myself active and fit. I play football with my friends at university. I don't stay up late either.



Sura Krishna Chakma

DS: Do you have any pre-match rituals?
SKC: Yes, I listen to music because it helps me focus and get pumped up before fights. I always listen to songs from the boxing movies like Rocky, Southpaw, and Creed. The song "Eye of the Tiger" from Survivors was my anthem. There is a song by a Chakma band that I listen to before every match. When I went to Nepal to take part

in a professional fight against an Indian boxer, I listened to our national anthem.

DS: People who follow their passions instead of opting for regular jobs usually encounter a lot of naysayers. When you decided to chase your passion for boxing, which is not a prominent sport in Bangladesh, did you encounter such people?

SKC: My family members have always inspired me since I was young, but there were always some people who would say otherwise. Even in BKSP, there were a few people who would tell me there is no point to boxing because there was not a future in it nor financial security. But I always had confidence in myself and believed in my dreams. I kept working hard and followed my passion. It's true that, in terms of result, I've started to get some success. But in terms of finances, I'm still struggling a lot. It's difficult to maintain fitness and continue training in return for the amount I have earned. If it was a different sport like cricket or football, the same amount of success would have brought me a lot more money.

DS: Who is your favourite boxer? Do you follow anyone's style?

SKC: I don't have a favourite specifically. Growing up, I've always heard about Muhammad Ali, who was not only a great boxer but also a great human being off the ring. He is considered one of the greatest sportspersons of all time. I follow all the great boxers like Mike Tyson, Floyd Mayweather and many more and try to capture the best from them according to what fits my style.

DS: Where do you see yourself in the future?

SKC: The dream has always been to be in the world championship. I want to work hard and go as far as possible. It's difficult, but I have made it this far and I want to go further.

Kazi Nazrul Islam and “World Literature”: Some Questions and Concerns

BY AZFAR HUSSAIN

Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976) has been customarily characterized as a rebel poet, particularly, if not exclusively, because of his 1922 poem called “Bidrohi” (the Rebel)—a poem that fiercely stages his political, linguistic, even metrical rebellion all at once. But, in his subsequent works, Nazrul emerges as more than a rebel poet as such. In fact, he is a revolutionary by his own, even repeated admissions. And the famous triad of the Turkish Revolution, the Irish Revolution, and, above all, the Russian Revolution variously inspired, informed, and inflected Nazrul’s work. Regarded as one of the greatest Bangla poets, Nazrul was also a musician, short story writer, novelist, playwright, essayist, editor, journalist, drummer, film-maker, actor, political activist. And he was even a creative “theorist” in his own right—one who offers intriguing, even provocative, formulations and crucial conceptual coordinates concerning different figures in what has come to be known as “world literature.”

Indeed, contemporary Nazrul criticism—while identifying him as a “versatile genius”—has not paid much attention to his creative engagement

many as six languages: English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, and Sanskrit. He even wrote “bhajans” in Hindi and “ghazals” in Urdu, marking new moments of multi-lingual creative interventions in colonial Bengal. And, of course, Nazrul translated exemplarily from Urdu, Hindi, Persian, and Arabic, remaining arguably the best translators of such great Persian poets as Hafiz and Omar Khayyam while his translations of as many as 38 *suras* from the Quran are nothing short of exceptional.

Nazrul read widely on literary, cultural, and religious texts across the world. And some of his favorites include the ancient Indian epics such as the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* while religious texts such as the Quran and Hadith, the Bible, and the Gita attracted him early on in his life. Then, for him, there was quite a constellation of literary figures from the Middle-East: Imrul Qayes, Sheikh Saadi, Omar Khayyam, Hafiz, Jami, Rumi, among others. As for the ones within South Asia, one can readily mention Kalidasa, Kabir, Nanak, Chaitanya, Tukaram, Chandidas, and Lalou, among numerous others. It’s telling that the center of Nazrul’s literary internationalism was by no means Europe—unlike the Eurocentric metropolitanism of his contemporaries known as the modernists of the 1930s—but, then, Nazrul was certainly interested in the works of Shakespeare, Milton, the English Romantics, Whitman, especially in some Russian writers, and in even some contemporary Polish and Norwegian writers.

Now, in his essay on world literature, Nazrul does not immediately deal with the conceptual incoherence of what has come to be known as “world literature” as such—a nebulous term that continues to be rethought today. But Nazrul—as a revolutionary—is quick to politicize the notion of “world literature” by noting polarities and mobilizing certain interpretive metaphors while calling attention to both converging and conflictual constellations and configurations of creative writers across linguistic and geographical borders and boundaries. For instance, he begins his essay by deploying the metaphors of “earth” and “heaven” to identify certain conflictual trends and tendencies in literature, and thus maintains that there are those writers who are earth-bound, rooted, in love with the mother-earth; while, according to him, there are also those who wing heavenward—Nazrul alludes to P.B. Shelley’s “skylark” and John Milton’s “birds of paradise” to characterize those writers—ones who are primarily dreamers, who even aim at some kind of idealist transcendence.

But Nazrul—well before such revolutionary Latin American poets as Ernesto Cardenal and Roque Dalton—also ranges beyond any easy binarism between “earth” and “heaven” to encompass a third



I think it might prove useful to have at least a quick idea of Nazrul’s range of readings and his languages. One who had no formal education after class 10, Nazrul knew—in addition to his native Bangla—as many as six languages: English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, and Sanskrit.

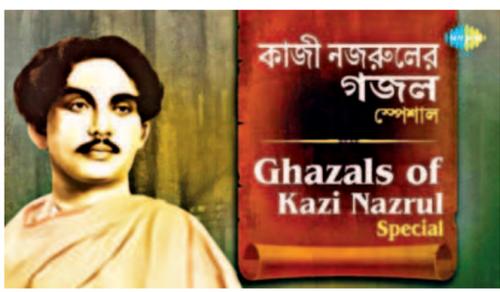
space inhabited by those writers who believe in “the realization of Paradise on earth.” In any event, while talking about world literature—one which Nazrul reads not as an established canon of European masterpieces but “as a mode of circulation and reading,” to use David Damrosch’s formulation from his book *What is World Literature?* (2003)—Nazrul is among the first ones in colonial Bengal to suggest, at least implicitly, that the literary itself constitutes a loaded site of ideological battles and even class struggles in history, although Nazrul remains opposed to the instrumentalization of the literary as such while remaining attentive to the dialectical interplay between the aesthetic and the political.

And it is both interesting and instructive that in his essay, Nazrul brings together—among others—Rabindranath Tagore and W.B. Yeats on the one hand, and Maxim Gorky and Bernard Shaw on the other, to suggest certain conflicts and polarities predicated on both aesthetic and ideological orientations. But, in his essay, Nazrul speaks of not only resistance, rebellion, and rupture, but also what he himself calls “rokto-makha revolution” (blood-drenched revolution), as he deliberately pits the aestheticism of John Keats against the hard, modern materialism of Walt Whitman, suggesting thereby that the revolutionary move resides, among other things, in making the great ideas deeply material and pervasively sensuous across the world. Then Nazrul pays a short tribute to one of his most favorite poets—Alexander

Pushkin—while he even enthusiastically mentions the great Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky, quoting from chapter IV of part IV of his novel called *Crime and Punishment*: “I bow down not to thee but to suffering humanity in you.”

It is by no means pointless that Nazrul admires both Dostoevsky and Maxim Gorky—one whose work Nazrul ardently compares to tidal waves—making the point indirectly that contraries and contradictions within the domain of the literary are to be dialectically engaged to advance a revolutionary cause, while he also accentuates—in the Marxist tradition, so to speak—the need for reading Honoré de Balzac and Emily Zola by way of quoting the French writer Anatole France, for instance. Towards the end of his essay, Nazrul even calls attention to the Italian writer Grazia Deledda and the Polish writer Wladyslaw Reymont to suggest how the insignificant and the quotidian—having to do with the simple peasant lives—matter in so-called world literature. In other words, for Nazrul, what is called “world literature”—as a mode of reading—cannot remain divorced from the materiality of a cause he envisages as a poet who is also a revolutionary.

Azfar Hussain will be teaching as Summer Distinguished Professor of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts-Bangladesh (ULAB). He teaches Integrative/Interdisciplinary Studies at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, and is Vice-President of the Global Center for Advanced Studies, USA.



with some global literary figures, exemplified as it is in his quite-ignored essay called “Bartoman Bishshya Shahittyo” (Contemporary World Literature), published in 1939. I myself wrote—more than once—about different aspects of Nazrul’s work for this page, underlining his staggering range while also emphasizing the need for engaging his essay on world literature. But I could not dwell on Nazrul’s ideas and concerns broached in that essay. In this very short piece, then, I intend to touch upon a few crucial dimensions of that work in order to make a start on an extended discussion in the future.

I think it might prove useful to have at least a quick idea of Nazrul’s range of readings and his languages. One who had no formal education after class 10, Nazrul knew—in addition to his native Bangla—as

Excerpts from Kazi Nazrul Islam’s *Hena*

TRANSLATED BY SOHANA MANZOOR

France
A thick forest by Paris

I had to come to this dense forest yesterday. I have no clue why we had to fall back. This is the beauty of military life—the order comes and you have to do it. You can never ask, “Why do I have to do it?”

There is a strange beauty in accepting the rules, in this gambling of one’s life. A strange softness in thunder. If the entire world could conform to such a military regime, then the entire world would turn into a heaven on earth.

Well, well! What do I see here? A friend of mine is trying to take a nap on that tree. See, he has tied himself with his belt to a branch quite tightly. It will be quite a joke if he falls down into that waterbody down there.

Should I shoot by his ear? Why? Poor thing! Let him sleep awhile. Nobody except me has such hapless eyes that they would not be able to sleep. Nobody has such a mind either that would think of all the silly things of the world.

It’s late at night I believe. I guess I will have to stay in this position like a rooster till dawn. . . . Perhaps when I am old (if I live that long), these memories will turn into sweet ones.

The game of shadow and light! What’s that bird calling out in the distance? The songs of the birds of this country elicit a strange sadness. I find it intoxicating.

In this light and shadow, I can recall so much! But most of it is full of pain. I recall telling her, “I love you so much, Hena.”



My cottage in Quetta
Near the grapevine garden

What happened? I was thinking while seated at this walnut and pear garden. All our Indian soldiers returned, and so did I. But how happily did those two years pass by!

After becoming an officer, I also received the title “Sardar Bahadur.” My boss would not let go of me. How can I make him understand that I am not here to purchase bonds. I did not go over to the land of the seven seas with any high ideals. I only went to purify myself—to bury myself too.

And I never thought I would return here of all places. But I had to—it seems I am tied to this land.

I have no one and nothing. And yet I

feel, everything is here. Who am I trying to pacify?

I have not hurt anybody; nobody hurt me. Still, I feel an inexpressible pain.

Hena! There’s nobody around and yet I feel the echo of “na” all around me.

The brook through the hill is still flowing, but the girl Hena, whose footsteps are still discernible on the stone-steps, is gone.

I have found her! She is—here. Hena! My Hena! I just saw you here today, here in Peshawar! Why then did you hide such a big truth?

She watched me from a distance and cried. She did not utter one word; she only stared at me and shed tears.

In such meetings, tears are most expressive. And then she told me again that she is still not able to love me.

That “no” was such a pitiful yearning that made even the air around us sad.

The biggest puzzle in this world is the mind of a woman.

Kabul
Dakka camp

When I heard that the great man Ameer Habibullah khan had been martyred, I felt that the top of the Hindukush must have fallen off. Suleiman mountain must have been torn out—roots and all.

And I wondered what I should do. For ten days I kept on thinking.

Then I decided that I would fight for Ameer. Why? Well, there’s no answer to why. But let me say candidly that I do not consider the British as my enemy. I have always thought of them as friends. So, was my sacrifice a gesture to protect the weak? I do not know. Even I do not

understand my own whims.

That morning, someone had set fire to the pomegranates. Perhaps, it was the blood of many like me.

I said, “Hena, I am going to war again, to fight for the Ameer. I won’t come back. Even if I live, I won’t come back.”

Hena buried herself in my chest and cried, “Sohrab, my love! Yes, go wherever you will. Now is the time to tell you how much I love you. I won’t hide the truth anymore. I won’t cause my love further pain.”

I understood. She was a warrior-woman, a daughter of the Afghans. Even though I have spent my entire life fighting, she had wanted me to fight for our country. She wanted me to sacrifice my life for our land.

My body has absorbed five bullets. Up until I lost consciousness, how I had held the enemy at bay!

O my Creator! If protecting my country with my blood makes me a martyr, so that’s what I am. I have done my duty with my last breath.

The Ameer has given me a place in his room. I am one of the leaders of his army. And Hena? There is Hena, sleeping by my side, clinging to my chest. Her heart is still fluttering in some unknown fear. Her sighs are still pervading the winds with some dissatisfaction.

Poor me! I have been badly wounded! Let me sleep. No, we’ll sleep together. O God, don’t trouble us by waking from this dreamless slumber.

Sohana Manzoor teaches English at ULAB. She is also the Literary Editor of The Daily Star.

I said, “Hena, I am going to war again, to fight for the Ameer. I won’t come back. Even if I live, I won’t come back.” Hena buried herself in my chest and cried, “Sohrab, my love! Yes, go wherever you will. Now is the time to tell you how much I love you. I won’t hide the truth anymore. I won’t cause my love further pain.”



The UNIQUE SUNDARBANS



A herd of Spotted Deer crossing a canal near Kokilmoni in the Sundarbans.



Asker Ibne Firoz is a Nature and Lifestyle photographer. He has been awarded with a number of National and International awards.

Want to share your travel experiences with us? Please send your stories to holiday@thedailystar.net

ASKER IBNE FIROZ

SHE NEVER GETS OLD.

The Sundarbans, with all her magical ambience and rich biodiversity, never fails to nourish your weary senses and soul. She never disappoints you. Every time you visit there, she keeps more surprises for you at every corner you go.

This was the sixth time in as many years when we, a group of wildlife photographers and nature enthusiasts, visited the forest, a Unesco Natural Heritage site, last November. Well, we had to. We couldn't resist her charm. The beauty of nature there – the unique landscape of the world's largest mangrove forest, the incredible wildlife, the silent canals, lifestyle of locals – drew us towards her.

SHE IS SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE.

We started our tour from Mongla, Khulna, on November 10, last year. As planned, we boarded the tour operator's boat from there after a hectic 11-hour bus journey from Dhaka. Our first destination was Kokilmoni in the Sarankhola range of the forest. Our nerves took some time



A pair of Whimbrels



Masked Finfoot

PHOTO: DR ABDUS ALIM

around 7:15 am, something caught our attention from a distance. A large animal was crossing the river. As we drew nearer, it became apparent what the animal was.

A ROYAL BENGAL TIGER!

The king of the Sundarbans looked clearly tired and we decided not to go close to it for its safety. Our guide and boat captain both agreed that it was highly unusual even for a full-grown tiger to cross a 600-700 meters wide river. We took as many photos as we could without disturbing the royal beast.

Now, few months after the encounter, I can't but think myself extremely lucky. One of our groupmates, Touhid Parvez Biplob, visited the Sundarbans for 26 times, without any luck!

According to the last census in 2019, only 114 Bengal tigers are in the 6017 square kilometers area of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh part.

For the next 3 days, luck stayed with us as we visited a number of spots and saw a plenty of wildlife at their natural habitat. We spotted all 7 species of kingfishers living in the forest, among which 5 species- Ruddy

exist only 100-300 of this critically endangered aquatic bird in the entire world. The Sundarbans is still a breeding ground for them.

However, deforestation and global warming are damaging the Sundarbans. To protect this unique ecosystem as well as the natural shield that saves us from cyclones and tidal waves, we need to act fast.

ABOUT VISITING SUNDARBANS

Though the Sundarbans can be accessed through various points, the popular starting points are Khulna and Mongla. Many tour operators run different package tours which starts from 6000 taka to 25000 taka per person for a standard 2 Nights 3 days all-inclusive tour. Most tours usually take you to Kochikhali Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotka beach, Jamtola Beach, Herbaria Mangrove Trail, Hiron Point, Dublar Char, Trikona Island, Dimer Char, Koromjol wildlife centre and few other places. We loved the food our tour operator provided us during the tour.

Please keep your environment clean.



Ruddy Kingfisher



Mudskippers



Scarlet Minivet

to settle down. Our brains had to struggle to realize that the next few days would be different from the urban, mechanical life that we live.

On the first day, we went to bed early to catch the sunrise to feel the forest, which literally wakes up with the Sun. You have to engage all your senses to feel the beauty, serenity and vibe of the forest.

As the first beam of the Sun pierced the fearsome darkness, illuminating the foggy landscape, we saw the transformation of the forest. The dark vines turned into glittering

canals, the frightening silence became a chorus of life.

It was breathtaking. But that wasn't the highlight of that morning! While cruising along the Pasur River, at



Exploring Sundarban- Season 6 team



Monocled Cobra



Saltwater Crocodile

Kingfisher, Brown-winged Kingfisher, Black-capped Kingfisher, White-collared Kingfisher and Blue-eared Kingfisher - are rare.

Colours of the sunbirds and minivets would simply blow your mind away.

The wader birds (Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, different Sandpipers, Common Green Shank, Red Shank etc), Lesser Adjutant, White-bellied Sea Eagle and many others would always catch your attention by their endless activities.

We saw Spotted Deer everywhere. The sight of otters hunting fish or spotting an Irrawaddy dolphin near your boat might make your day. You would be amazed if you closely observe the activities of a mudskipper, a small aquatic creature. The different colours of crabs were simply astonishing.

But the surprises kept coming! We spotted even a rarer species than the Bengal tiger before we concluded our tour on November 14.

MASKED FINFOOT!

According to a 2020 study, there



Asian small-clawed Otter



Rhesus Macaque

PHOTOS: ASKER IBNE FIROZ

Women's attires are reason the country is bad in all indexes: Study

"It's the attire of girls and women of this country. We would be a developed country decades ago if our women didn't wear those arm- and neck-showing dresses, distracting men, the most important group when it comes to earning."

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

"Corruption is high in Chapasthan. Do you guys really know why? Because of the dresses and clothes the women of this country wear," Jamanai Mia, the chief researcher of Meyeder Poshak Gobeshona Institute (MPGI) said yesterday while announcing the findings of the institute's latest study.

In the wake of destabilisation in all sectors following the Covid-22 pandemic,

scientists and researchers have been toiling hard to unearth the problems so that they can be solved.

While global scientists and researchers are on the verge of giving up, the proud members of MPGI have shown that it can be done.

"Finally, we could find out the reason for Chapasthan being bad at every index irrespective of local or global. It's the attire of girls and women of this country. We would be a developed country decades ago



if our women didn't wear those arm- and neck-showing dresses, distracting men, the most important group when it comes to earning," Chadokaner Raja, the senior-most member of the research team, told the media.

People have been applauding the team for uncovering the most fatal and actual cause of the continued downward slide in indexes published globally or locally.

"I knew it, I said it, but no one believed me. I knew the attires of women are responsible for all the evils," said Sobjanta Somsher, a vagabond of Apelpur Railway Station who came to the press conference.

"Our passport has become powerless, prices of daily commodities are increasing, the rate of unemployment is increasing. What do you think, all these are flukes? No, this is due to muscle-showing shalwar kameezes," shouted Vodro Mia, a daily commuter of a local bus.

It was learnt that this state of affairs will only worsen as the rising commodity prices will also hit the fabric markets, which could mean more sleeveless dresses and, some fear, even torn jeans.



WHEN READERS WRITE

Don't judge a judge by his designation

PRANTA DATTA

Prodhnan Biplob, a self-proclaimed judge and a revolutionary by name, was arrested by police in Chapasthan while establishing the veracity of the axiom "Don't judge a judge by his designation".

Backing his deed, Prodhnan Biplob told reporters, "I didn't twist any facts. I informed cops that I am an SC (Socialmedia Court) judge, which I really am. Why won't a SocialMedia Court judge enjoy the same facilities as their abbreviationsakes enjoy?"

Police had arrested Prodhnan while he was judging people at a street corner, and had sentenced a man to house arrest for the fashion crime of pairing sponge sandals with his three-piece suit.

Claiming more efficiency than Supreme Court Judges, Mr Prodhnan Biplob opined, "They have limited working hours, but we work 24/7 a week. We are more brilliant than them because we can judge everything, ranging from a woman's personal attire to Putin's decision, which Supreme Court judges certainly can't and don't judge.

Police had arrested Prodhnan while he was judging people at a street corner, and had sentenced a man to house arrest for the fashion crime of pairing sponge sandals with his three-piece suit.

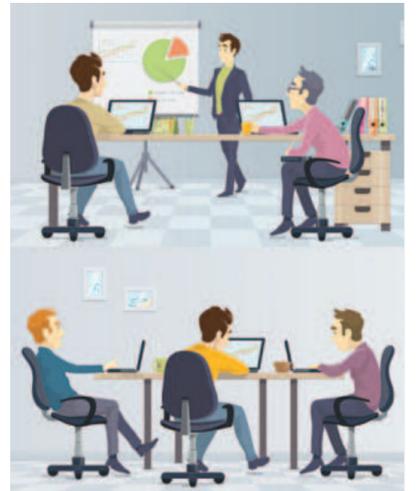
"And unlike them, we don't linger for years to deliver verdicts. It takes at best one to two minutes for us to deliver a verdict."

Defying the claims of police irresponsibility on this matter, Drihtantobihin Ahmed, Jamka Metropolitan Police (JMP) commissioner, said, "This case demonstrates how innocent, gullible and public-friendly Chapasthan's cops are. That makes us unique."

Judgemental Friend Association of Chapasthan (JFAC) expressed their concern regarding this matter through a press release.

"Once a judge, always a judge," reads the press release. Chapasthan Pasher Bashar Auntie Forum (CPAF) also held a press conference in solidarity with Prodhnan Biplob.

"We are also HC [home court] judges, so what's next? We will be arrested for not allowing our daughters to wear sleeveless kameezes?" an Auntie said over Viber.



FREEPIK.COM

CORPORATE MEETINGS

Where the date for the next meeting is set

STUFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered research firm has found that scheduling the next meeting was the only outcome in 98 percent of meetings in companies surveyed.

Call us High-Powered or We Sue (CHPWS) also found that in 88 percent of the remaining two percent, the meetings decided on issues varying from what would be for lunch, what the menu would be for the next meeting, who would foot the bill and where the next corporate retreat would take place.

A total of 420 companies were surveyed for the study.

"We sent our representatives to observe meetings in each of the corporate houses and they took notes on what happened," said Kobe Bosh Ben, the lead researcher, during a press conference on Friday.

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According to the findings, around one minute of every eight hourlong meetings on average is spent on talking about work. Other than issues already mentioned, the remaining time is spent on praising the boss's various initiatives and guidance, the good work they did since the last meeting, and talking negatively about those not in the meeting.

It was found that men aged 40 or above spend an average of 20 minutes per meeting unironically discussing sports and how they have the foolproof method to improve the national cricket team.

Another 15 minutes on average are spent on making sure that the three female members in a typical meeting of 30 people get to speak, and five additional minutes are taken up by a man explaining what they meant.

"This is the most comprehensive study of its kind," said Kobe.

"It could have been even more in-depth, of course, but we had a meeting on whether we should do that, and then we ran out of time."