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Liverpool had the upper hand with their high-Spanish champions and Mo Salah twice testing Real the opening exchanges.

Sadio Mane came even Karim Benzema's effort statement. was ruled offside after a lengthy VAR review.

36-minute delay to the kick off as police tried to hold off people trying to force their way into the Stade de France and trouble was still going on after the game

stadium

2100 local time (1900GMT) kick off was being delayed security reasons, pressing game rattling the adding later that the start of European club soccer's showpiece had been keeper Thibaut Courtois in postponed "due to the late arrival of fans".

"Supporters attempted closer in the 21st minute to penetrate the stadium. with a low shot that They forced their way Courtois managed to tip through the first filter. onto the post. Real thought The screening at the Stade they had scored just before de France is watertight." the break but French striker French police said in a Reuters TV footage

showed riot police chasing Earlier, there was a fans outside the stadium as they ran away and others being escorted away.

Dozens of supporters forced their way into the stadium premises and others outside, including children, were being teargassed by riot police, a announcement said the Reuters witness said.

### One of them

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The facilities include Central Diagnostic Center Padma Clinic, Prime Diagnostic Center, Tamanna Digital Diagnostic Center, Medina Eve Hospital, Eye Clinic and Phaco Center, and Health Care Diagnostic and Consultation Center.

According Natore Civil Surgeon Office, there are around 40 unauthorised private healthcare facilities out of 200 in the district.

Health officials in Tangail

shut down three healthcare organisations and fined three others yesterday, our correspondent reports.

Civil Surgeon Office, a total of 181 out of around 300 private clinics and hospitals in the district had no approval.

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As per the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982, private healthcare service providers must have licence from the DGHS.

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#### FROM PAGE 1

Liverpool had the upper hand with their high-Spanish champions and Mo Salah twice testing Real the opening exchanges.

Sadio Mane came even Karim Benzema's effort statement. was ruled offside after a lengthy VAR review.

36-minute delay to the kick off as police tried to hold off people trying to force their way into the Stade de France and trouble was still going on after the game

stadium

2100 local time (1900GMT) kick off was being delayed security reasons, pressing game rattling the adding later that the start of European club soccer's showpiece had been keeper Thibaut Courtois in postponed "due to the late arrival of fans".

"Supporters attempted closer in the 21st minute to penetrate the stadium. with a low shot that They forced their way Courtois managed to tip through the first filter. onto the post. Real thought The screening at the Stade they had scored just before de France is watertight." the break but French striker French police said in a Reuters TV footage

showed riot police chasing Earlier, there was a fans outside the stadium as they ran away and others being escorted away.

Dozens of supporters forced their way into the stadium premises and others outside, including children, were being teargassed by riot police, a announcement said the Reuters witness said.

### One of them

#### FROM PAGE 1

The facilities include Central Diagnostic Center Padma Clinic, Prime Diagnostic Center, Tamanna Digital Diagnostic Center, Medina Eve Hospital, Eye Clinic and Phaco Center, and Health Care Diagnostic and Consultation Center.

According Natore Civil Surgeon Office, there are around 40 unauthorised private healthcare facilities out of 200 in the district.

Health officials in Tangail

shut down three healthcare organisations and fined three others yesterday, our correspondent reports.

Civil Surgeon Office, a total of 181 out of around 300 private clinics and hospitals in the district had no approval.

According to the Tangail

As per the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982, private healthcare service providers must have licence from the DGHS.

## DHAKA

#### A fitting farewell

#### People pay last respects to Abdul **Gaffar Chowdhury**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life gave an apt farewell to columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, best known for penning the immortal song "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano", before his burial yesterday.

In 1952, the adolescent Gaffar was heartbroken by the death of Language Movement hero Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, and wrote the iconic lyrics to honour the movement's martyrs.

So, fittingly, everyone said goodbye to Gaffar at Central Shaheed Minar, the monument built in memory of the Language Movement martyrs.

The body of Gaffar, who died on May 19 in London, was brought to Bangladesh yesterday morning. Many paid their last respects by joining janazas at Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka University Central Mosque in the afternoon.

He was buried at Mirpur's Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard, beside his wife's grave.

He was given a guard of honour by Dhaka district administration at Central Shaheed Minar.

On behalf of the president, his military secretary Maj Gen SM Salahuddin Islam, and on behalf of the PM, her military secretary Brig Gen Kabir Ahmed paid

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury paid respects on behalf of the

parliament. Led by Awami League general secretary Obaidul

Quader, the party's SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



After the body of Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury was taken to Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, for everyone to pay their last respects, Dhaka district administration gave him a guard of honour. The premises was echoing with the tales of Gaffar, who penned the immortal song "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February". The noted columnist was laid to rest at Mirpur's Martyred Intellectuals PHOTO: STAR

## A boost for battered tourism

3-day int'l tourism fair starts Thursday, participated by 50 orgs from home, abroad

RASHIDUL HASAN

With things slowly getting back to normal, airlines, tourism and hospitality sectors are expected to turn around this year, following immense loss due to the pandemic.

To kick-start that change, the 17th edition of Dhaka Travel Mart will begin on Thursday.

The three-day international tourism fair will take place at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of travel and tourism publication The Bangladesh Monitor, shared the

information at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

A total of about 50 organisations representing airlines, tour operators, hotels, resorts, travel agencies, healthcare providers from home and abroad are taking part in the fair, said Wahidul.

With a view to accelerate the recovery of the travel and tourism sector, The Bangladesh Monitor will organise the fair.

The adverse effects of Covid-19 were profound in Bangladesh's hospitality and tourism sector, as it

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

#### BNP trying to create anarchy: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is making ill attempts to create a chaotic situation in the country in the name of mass-movement.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said this at a press conference at his official residence in Dhaka.

He said people are so pleased with the development and achievement that they don't respond to BNP's repeated calls for movement in the last 13 years.

"I believe they will do the same in future too. So, BNP's desire for movement will turn into despair soon," he observed.

In response to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment that movement has spread all over the country, Quader said, "Through this comment we are noticing their evil-attempts to create a bad situation in the country."

#### Govt behind attacks on JCD members Alleges Khandaker **Mosharraf**

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday alleged that the attacks on the leaders and activists of JCD were carried out by BCL in Dhaka University area at the behest of the government.

> The videos containing the attacks on peaceful processions of JCD and repression on female JCD leaders by the goons of Chhatra League and Jubo League have gone viral, he said. "We would like to say the perpetrators indulged in such misdeeds at the behest of the highest leader of Awami League and the highest position of the government," he said.

Speaking at a rally, the BNP leader also strongly condemned the attacks. Jubo Dal arranged the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club.



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-43	8-05
lamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-47	8-35
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					



'Those in power

their bidding'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

time perform duties properly.

to launch his new book.

want police to do

Says ex-IGP Shahidul Hoque

at launch event of his book

Former inspector general of police (IGP) AKM

Shahidul Hoque yesterday said those in power

always want police to do their bidding. And so, it is

"In the context of Bangladesh, political forces

difficult to face these challenges and at the same

and bureaucracy never want changes in police.

The ruling party wants police to do what they say;

the MPs want OCs [officers-in-charge] to do their

and obstacles," he said at the event, in which

bidding," Shahidul said at a programme organised

"It is very difficult to overcome these challenges

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

A performance art consisting of 70 women across all generations and professions, titled "Himmati Mai", was held on the road beside Shilpakala Academy yesterday. Performers took to the streets for an hour, jointly hitting the bamboo they were carrying in expression of anger, protesting various forms of violence against women. Himmati Mai is the Bangla translation of the play "Mother Courage and Her Children" written by German dramatist and poet Bertolt Brecht.

DHAKA NAGAR JADUGHAR

## A museum with no visitors

DIPAN NANDY

Even on a good day, five to 10 people visit Dhaka Nagar Jadughar, the one inside Nagar Bhaban of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). On some days, not even a single visitor can be seen on the premises.

Visitors complain that the museum, maintained by three staffers, does not have enough publicity as well as an adequate collection, hence the establishment's miserable state.

Despite the situation, the museum's trustee board did not see any measures to develop the place, even after making repeated proposals to the mayor and officials since 1996.

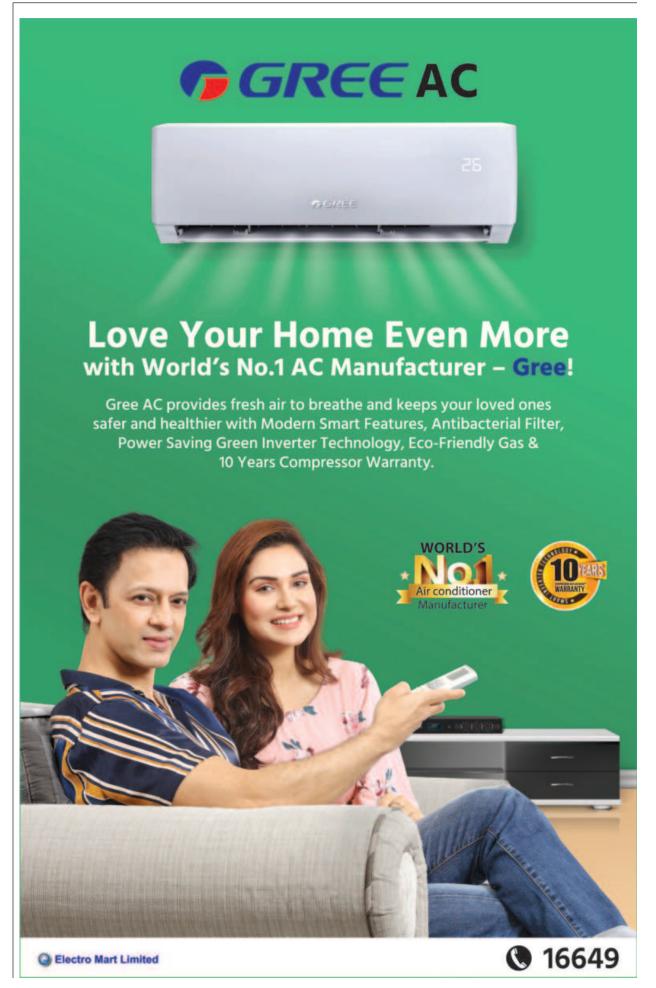
THE HISTORY

Dhaka Nagar Jadughar was first opened on June 20, 1986, in a



house on Panch Bhai Lane, Old The museum was inaugurated Dhaka. Its main initiator was on July 20, 1996, by Sheikh Hasina, historian Muntasir Mamoon; then prime minister. From that others involved in the endeavour day, Dhaka City Corporation got were historian Sirajul Islam, city the responsibility to maintain the expert Nazrul Islam, architect museum. Currently, it is under the Rabiul Hussain and artist Hashem jurisdiction of DSCC.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



#### A fitting farewell

FROM PAGE 3

presidium members Matia Chowdhury, Nurul Islam impeccable 'Ekusher Gaan' Nahid and Abdur Razzak, and joint general secretary Dipu Moni paid tribute.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman; Workers' President Rashed Menon; cultural Khan personalities Ramendu Majumdar, Ataur Rahman, Mamunur Rashid and Nasiruddin Yusuf; and educationist Muhammed Zafar Iqbal also paid their respects, alongside various political, cultural and social organisations.

After paying homage, Shirin said this nation will forever remember with reverence the works of Gaffar, along with his political struggle and

Quader will live on in everyone's heart.

Bangladesh till his death. If everyone follows his path, that will be the best tribute

Dipu Moni said Gaffar always inspired people in every movement. "He lived that he is not with us, for his columns."

"From his memory, we the glory of Bangladesh and the various aspects of history."

Nasiruddin said "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano"

Three Floors situated at Kemal Ataturk main Avenue Approx

Sqft. 5700 Available from 1st October, 2022 at present rented

out to a Bank Preferably for Bank insurance or big organization

Please contact 01670760293, 01922545318.

united the entire nation. has encouraged the Bangalees to come together culturally.

Zafar Iqbal said, "I was Razzak said Gaffar mentally lost because of fought for a secular his departure... We write everything in pieces, but he used to write in detail. because his knowledge of history was clear."

Gaffar's body was then from Shaheed taken Minar to Dhaka University in London, but we never felt Central Mosque, where a janaza was held. After that, his body was taken Ramendu said Gaffar to Jatiya Press Club, where was a living historian. Farida Yasmin, president of Jatiya Press Club, paid have come to know about tribute, alongside different journalists' associations. His body was finally taken to Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard, where funeral took place.

#### FLAT FOR SALE

With (EMI) Facility Flat booking in ongoing project near Gulshan Lake & Manarat Int. School (Utta Badda Gopipara road) with nodern amenities (1310-1545) sft.

Cont: 01844-646688

মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

रवार वाचि प्राचित्र क्यांन

জিভি-১০৯০

#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ নৌ পলিশ হেডকোয়াটার্স

পুলিশ প্রাজা কনকর্ড, টাওয়ার-১, ফ্লোর-১২, প্রট-২, সড়ক-১১৪, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা

#### উন্যক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রচলিত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ও বিধিমালা মোতাবেক ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ সালে নৌ পুলিশ, ঢাকা'র নিমুবর্ণিত গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক কাজ/সরবরাহের জন্য প্রকৃত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাসস্পন্ন ব্যবসায়ী/ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পথক-পথক সীলমোহরকৃত খামে কাজের নাম উল্লেখপূর্বক প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচেছ।

স্বরট্ট মন্ত্রণালয়

সংস্থা		শ পুলিশ।
দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর প্রধান	অভিরিত্ত	আইজিপি নৌ পুলিশ, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা।
কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান		ন্তক বিভিন্ন খাতে সেবা/সরবরাহ কাজ।
দরপত্রের সূত্র নং		শ স্মারক নং- নৌ/প্রকিউরমেন্ট/২০২২-২৩/৪৩৭৩।
তারিখ	26/00/	২০২২খ্রিঃ।
বিবরণঃ	- 1 COM - 50*	
দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উনুক দ	নরপত্র (OTM) ।
উৎসঃ	-	36004
বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব থ	াত (জিওবি), পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হতে প্রাপ্ত বাজেট সাপেকে।
8		
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ		২৯/০৫/২০২২খিঃ।
দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ		২৬/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)।
দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তা	রিখ ও সময়	২৭/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়		২৭/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ ১২,৩০ ঘটিকা।
ার নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ		
		পুলিশ সুপার, এ্যাডমিন এড ফাইনান্স, মৌ পুলিশ, পুলিশ প্রাজা কনকর্ড, টাওয়ার-১, ফ্রোর-১২, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা।
দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস		পুলিশ সুপার, এ্যাডমিন এন্ড ফাইনান্স, নৌ পুলিশ, পুলিশ প্লাজা কনকর্জ, টাওয়ার-১, ফ্লের-১২, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা।
দরপত্র খোলার স্থান		পুলিশ সুপার, এাডমিন এড ফাইনাস, নৌ পুলিশ, পুলিশ প্লাঞ্জা কনকর্ড, টাওয়ার-১, ফ্লের-১২, ওলশান-১, ঢাকা।
প্রি-টেন্ডার সভার স্থান, তারিখ ও	সময়	১৬/০৬/২০২২ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকা, পুলিশ প্লাজা কনকর্ড, টাওয়ার-১, ফ্রোর-১২, প্লট-২, সভক-১১৪, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা।
֡֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর প্রধান কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান দরপত্রের সূত্র নং তারিখ বিবরণঃ দরপত্র পদ্ধতি উৎসঃ বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত ঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্ত প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞাপ্ত প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র আপ্রদানের সর্বশেষ তা দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় র নাম ও ঠিকানাঃ দরপত্র ভকুমেন্ট/সিভিউল অধিস দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অধিস দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অধিস	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর প্রধান অতিরিপ্ত কি কারণে দরপত্র আহবান ক্রুপ ভি দরপত্রের সূত্র নং নৌ পুলি তারিখ ২৬/০৫/ বিবরণঃ দরপত্র পদ্ধতি উন্মুক্ত দ উৎসঃ বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত রাজস্ব খ হ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞান্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ ও সময় দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ ও সময় দরপত্র প্রকাশের দরপত্র প্রকাশির দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রন্থকারী অফিস দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস

गन्नाम	वाकि राजाकिक क्यार	
\$9.	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	১। হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেল ২। আয়কর সনদ ৩। ভ্যাট রেজিয়্রেশন সনদ ৪। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ ৫। অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র ৬। নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র এবং অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যা টেভার ডকুমেন্ট/সিভিউল এ উল্লেখ আছে।
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9.	দরপর		লাইসেন্স ২। আয়ক অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্ৰ ৬ উল এ উল্লেখ আছে।						
bb.	খাতসম	খাতসমূহের বিবরণ							
	গ্ৰহণ	আইটেম	পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময় (দিন)			
	2	স্বাস্থ্যবিধান সামগ্রী (অর্থনৈতিক কোভ নং -৩২৫২১০৮)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	900	90,000				
	3	অন্যান্য মনিহারি (অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং -৩২৫৫১০৫)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	2000	3,00,000				
	9	ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি (অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং -৩২৫৬১০৩)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	\$,000	2,50,000				
	8	কাঁচামাল ও খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ (অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং-৩২৫৬১০৫)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	2,000	2,36,000				
	æ	পরিবহন বায় (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২২১১০৬)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	poo	90,000				
	9	মোটরখান মেরামত (অর্থনৈতিক কোড-৩২৫৮১০১)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	600	90,000				
	٩	জল্মান মেরামত (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২৫৮১২৮)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	٥٥٥,٤	2,50,000				
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	ъ	খোরাকী রেশন (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২৫৪১০৪)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	роо	66,000				
	20	আউটসোর্সিং জনবল (অর্থনৈতিক কোড-৩২১১১৩১)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	2,000	2,00,000				
	22	কম্পিউটার মেরামত (অর্থনৈতিক কোন্ত- ৩২৫৮১০৩)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	@00	8,000	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ সাল			
	25	কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২৫৫১০১)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	poo	96,000				
	20	অন্যান্য যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি মেরামত (কোভ- ৩২৫৮১০৫)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	600	0,000				
	78	ক্রীড়া সামগ্রী (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২৫৬১০৭)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	@00	\$8,000				
	26	অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রশিক্ষণ (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২৩১২০১)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	600	\$0,000				
	26	শ্রমিক (অনিয়মিত) মুজুরী (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২১১১৩৪)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	٥,000	2,60,000				
	29	পোশাক সেলাই (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২৫৬১০৬)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	2000	०००,७४६				
	20-	কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৪১১২২০২)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	600	000,06				
	79	জন্যান্য যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৪১১২৩১৬)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	600	30,000				
	20	আসবাবপত্র (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৪১১২৩১৪)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	600	000,006				
	43	মুদ্রণ ও বাঁধাই (অর্থনৈতিক কোড- ৩২৫৫১০২)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	¢00	80,000				

দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণঃ ১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম মাসমা আক্রার। পুলিশ সুপার (এ্যাভমিন এভ ফাইনান্দ), নৌ পুলিশ, ঢাকা। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী পুলিশ প্লাজা কনকর্ড, টাওয়ার-১, ফ্লোর-১২, প্লট-২, সড়ক দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা 23. ১১৪, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম ফ্যান্ত- ৩২-৪৮৮১১৬১৩, ফোন- ৩২- ৫৫০৪৫৪৩৬ 22. বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ 20. ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না খ) কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। গ) দরপত্র কার্যক্রম প্রচলিত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ও বিধিমালা মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।

ঘ) অনিবার্য কারণে যদি নির্দিষ্টি তারিখে দরপত্র খোলা না হয় তাহলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র উনুক্ত

মাসুমা আক্রার বিপি- ৭৯০৬১১৯৮২৪ পুলিশ সুপার (এ্যাডমিন এন্ড ফাইনান) নৌ পুলিশ, ঢাকা

#### A museum

FROM PAGE 3

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Located on the fourth floor, the walls of the museum present historical pictures, like those of heritage sites, cultural monuments and scenes of the Liberation War in Old Dhaka.

Some rare photos include those of Old Dhaka Rose Garden, Ruplal House, Hosseini Building, Boro Katra, Choto Katra, Sat Gambuj Mosque, St James Church and Old High Court building.

A printing press stands in the middle of the exhibition hall. According to the description, the machine, made in 1822, was one of the earliest presses in Dhaka. National Professor Abdur Razzaq had donated it to the museum. The establishment also has hookahs, drinking bowls, coins, copper buckets, jugs, dressing tables and various utensils from Dhaka's Nawabi period in the nineteenth century.

On a wall near the entry gate, there is a poster of the inauguration held in 1996. THE DEARTH OF

#### **VISITORS**

The museum is open from 9:00am to 4:30pm on all days except Fridays and Saturdays. Even though the entrance fee is only Tk 2, the number of daily visitors is quite low. Since the start of this year, tickets have not been issued, so entrance is now free.

correspondent This stayed at the museum for hours recently but did not see any visitors.

Bhupendranath Chakraborty, caretaker of the museum, said families and educational institutions should visit the museum to create interest in history among students.

#### Remembering

FROM PAGE 5

and lived his life on its terms. He never went astray from his principles.

His artistic endeavours were true to his culture and art was his lifeline. We acted together on many occasions, and I was a fan of his writing. He loved to learn new things. Reading was his favourite pastime.

We worked together for many years in Nagorik Natya Sampradaya He was a true patriot.

#### He always remained true to his art and principles: **Mamunur Rashid**

I met Enamul Haque in 1972. We were supposed to act together in a play. We bonded instantly and our love and affection for each other only grew after that meeting.

We seldom come across people who are as kind and supportive as Enamul Haque. He beautifully balanced his academic pursuits alongside acting and was deeply in love with theatre. He has delivered powerful performances on both television and theatre. He was my favourite teacher: Shazu Khadem Him and I have the same birthday. I still find it difficult to believe that he is no longer amongst us.

I never imagined that I would be celebrating my birthday without him. He was my favourite teacher and mentor. He is always in my prayers.

#### Anisa Haque new president of Ladies Club

CITY DESK

The biennial election of the executive committee of Dhaka Ladies Club

(2022-2023) was held on May 21, said a press release.

Chief Election Commissioner Prof Fahima Khatun announced the results.

Anisa Haque was elected president, Prof Shabnam Sultana and Rubaba Jalil vice presidents, and Monowara Tahir general secretary.

#### A boost for battered | NSU holds

Plans have been made

to expand the museum's

MUSEUM TO BE SHIFTED

have passed since the

museum's establishment,

taken place. Now, DSCC

is planning for future

will shift to the historic

Rose Garden and will be

maintained by the Ministry

Abu Naser told The Daily

Star that the government

has taken an initiative to

Meanwhile, although

the trustee board was

formed in 1996, it has only

held one meeting so far,

Prof Muntasir Mamoon,

chairperson of the trustee

board, said, "We had given

the museum as a gift to

then mayor Mohammad

Hanif. But no mayor has

taken initiative for its

development. As a result,

we gave up long ago, out of

shift, he said, "We have

heard about it but did not

have any conversation

archaeology department

wants this museum to be

shifted to Rose Garden. We

are working on it. Before

shifting, we will talk with

all stockholders.

Abu Naser said, "The

regarding the matter."

Regarding the plan to

frustration.'

according to the board.

develop the museum.

of Cultural Affairs.

DSCC

26

development has

establishment

spokesperson

years

collection, he said.

Although

development.

The

TO ROSE GARDEN

lost about Tk 60,000 crore in gross value added during the pandemic, according to a survey by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), which was revealed in early April. The study mentioned that 1.1 lakh people lost their jobs amid the pandemic.

BIDS estimates the sector could have contributed about 1,50,000 crore in terms of gross value added in absence of the pandemic, but it was ultimately reduced to around Tk 95,000 crore.

According to the survey,

hotels and resorts (34 percent), tour operators (34 percent), and travel agents (26 percent).

The fair will remain open for visitors from 10:00am to 8:00pm every day. Entry fee will be Tk 40 per person.

Leaders of Tour Operator Association of Bangladesh (Toab) said towards the end of 2020, the tourism industry tried to recover from losses, but the slump caused by the second and third wave of the pandemic forced many tour operators to leave the business.

Rafeuzzaman, president of Toab, told The Daily Star the average reduction in that 40 lakh people are wages and salaries was currently employed in the quite substantial among tourism sector.

#### Those in power

FROM PAGE 3

litterateurs eminent launched the book "Police Jiboner Smiriti: Shwairaachar Patan Theke Jongi Daman [Memories of Police Life: From Bringing Down Autocracy to Subduing Militancy]" at National Museum.

The University Press published the Limited book.

Shahidul was between December 2014 and January 2018.

He said throughout his career as an officer, he never bowed down to political forces.

"When there was a

transfer order, I just obeved

Shahidul said during his service life, he never backed out from taking steps against ruling party leaders and workers.

"Not everyone can do that. For this, a system should be in place, so that police can act impartially," he added.

Bangla Academy president Selina Hossain, former Dhaka University vice chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, literature professor Syed Manzoorul Islam and others spoke at the programme, among

## orientation for freshers

CITY DESK

North South University (NSU) organised orientation for newly enrolled students of summer semester 2022 yesterday, said a press release.

This time around 1,800 students got admission in the graduate (honors) courses in 16 departments under four schools of the university.

Abed Khan, editor and publisher of the daily Jagaran, was present as the chief guest with Prof Atiqul Islam, vicechancellor of NSU, in the chair.

Among others, Prof M Ismail Hossain, pro-VC; Prof ABM Rashedul Hassan, treasurer; Dr Ahmed Tazmeen, registrar; Prof Abdul Hannan Chowdhury. dean, School of Business and Economics; Prof Abdur Rob Khan, dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Prof Javed Bari, dean, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences; Prof Hasan Mahmud Reza, dean, School of Health and Life Sciences; and directors of various departments, department heads, senior officials and teachers were present at the programme.



#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

/ডিসি(ডব্লিউ এস এড আই ডি)/২০২২

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ-২৫/০৫/২০২২ খ্রিঃ।

"দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন" ২০০৬ এবং রেণ্ডলেশনস ২০০৮ এবং তুদীয় সংশোধনী আইন মোতাবেক ২০২২-২৩ অর্থ বৎসরে ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের উইমেন

٥.	मञ्जालस	হরষ্ট্রে মন্ত্রণালয়		
٤.	गर्षा	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ		
٥.	দরপত্র ক্রম কর্তৃপক্ষ	উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা।		
8.		গ্রুপ-(ক) খোরাকী রেশন গ্রুপ-(খ) আউটসোর্সিং গ্রুপ-(গ) খাস্থ্য বিধান সামগ্রী	ঞ্ছপ-(এঃ) ইন্টারনেট /ফ্যাক্স/টেলেক্স ঞ্ছপ-(ট) চিকিৎসা ও শৈল চিকিৎসা ঞ্চপ-(ঠ)) আসবাবপত্র	
	দরপত্র আইটেমের নামঃ	গ্রুপ-(খ) পোশাক গ্রুপ-(ঙ) বইপত্র ও সাময়িকী গ্রুপ-(চ) ক্রীড়া সামগ্রী গ্রুপ-(ছ) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী গ্রুপ-(জ) কম্পিউটার ও আনুষাঙ্গিক গ্রুপ-(জ) কম্পিউটার মেরামত	গ্রন্থপ-(ড) আসবাবপত্র মেরামত ক্রপ-(ড) অন্যান্য মনিহারি গ্রন্থপ-(প) ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি ক্রপ-(ত) অন্যান্য যক্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি ক্রপ-(থ) যক্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি মেরামত ক্রপ-(দ) সেমিনার/কনফারেন্স বায়	
Q.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ		ভ আই ডি)/২০২২, 'তাং-২৫/০৫/২০২২ খ্রিঃ।	
৬.	টেভার সিকিউরিটি	টেভার সিকিউরিটি গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক আইটেম হিসাবে গ্রিংপ "ক" এর জন্য ১,০০,০০০/-(এক লক্ষ), গ্রুপ-"খ"এর জন ৫০,০০০/-(পঞ্চাশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "গ" এর জন্য ২৫,০০০/-(পঁচিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঘ" ২২,০০০/-(বাইশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঙ" এর জন্য ২০,০০০/-(পঁচিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "ছ"এর জন্য ৬০,০০০/ (খাট হাজার), গ্রুপ "জ"এর জন্য ৭২,০০০/-(বাহাত্তর হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঝ"এর জন্য ৬২,০০০/-(বাহাত্তীর হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঠ"এর জন্য ৬৬,০০০/-(ঘেষাট্ট হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঠ"এর জন্য ৬৬,০০০/-(ঘেষাট্ট হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঠ"এর জন্য ৬৫,০০০/-(বিয়াল্লিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "ঠ"এর জন্য ৬৬,০০০/-(বিয়াল্লিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "গ"এর জন্য ৮৯,০০০/-(বিয়াল্লিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "গ"এর জন্য ৮৯,০০০/-(বিয়াল্লিশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "গ"এর জন্য ৮৯,০০০/-(তানিলােশ হাজার), গ্রুপ "গ"এর জন্য ৮৯,০০০/-(আঠারা হাজার), গ্রুপ-"দ" এর জন্য ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার)] (ফেরৎ যোগ্য) টাকা বাংলাদেশ সরকা কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত যে কোন সিভিউল ব্যাংক এর পে-জর্ভার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট উল-পুলিশ কমিশনার, উইমেন সাপোর্ট এইনভেন্টিগেশন ভিভিশন, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে।		
9.	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	প্রতি গ্রুপ আইটেম এর জন্য ৫০০/-(পাঁচশ		
ъ.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)		
b.	দরপত্রের অর্থের উৎস	পুলিশ হেডকোয়াটাৰ্স কৰ্তৃক বরাদকৃত অর্থ।		
٥٥.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪-০৬-২০২২ খ্রি: তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (১৭.০০ ঘটিকা) পর্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ করা যবে।		
22.	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৫-০৬-২০২২ খ্রি: ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।		
١٤.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৫-০৬-২০২২ খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা (দরপত্র দাতা অথবা তার প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।		
30.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার, উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, তেজাগাঁও থানা কমপ্লেক্স, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়।		
38.	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, তেজাগাঁও থানা কমপ্রেক্স, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাব্দে।		
30.	দরপত্র খোলার ছান	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (উইমেন সাপোর্ট এর	ভ ইনভেস্টিগেশন ভিভিশন) এর কার্যালয়, তেজগাঁও থানা কমপ্লেক্স, ঢাকা।	
١७.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা।		
39.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা	উপ-পূলিশ কমিশনার, উইমেন সাপোর্ট এভ ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা।		
<b>3</b> b.	দরপত্র দাতার প্রাক যোগ্যতা	পিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং বর্তমান সংশোধনী মোতাবেক দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্ন্বর্ণিত দালিলিক কাগঞ্জপত্রাদি প্রথম প্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবেঃ  ক) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র থ) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র গ) সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি ঘ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যান্তে সত্যায়িত ৩৩টি নমুনা ছাক্ষর ঙ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেল চ) টিআইএন নম্বর উল্লেখ সহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র ছ) মুসক (ভ্যাট) রেজিট্রেশন সনদপত্র জ) যে কোন তক্ষসিলভুক্ত বাণিজ্ঞাক ব্যাংক হতে হালসনে আর্থিক ছচ্ছলতার সনদপত্র (বিগত ০৩ মাসের লেনদেনের বিবরণী সহ) ঝ) কোন সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষে ০২ বহুসবের মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র এ) নিজর প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যান্তে দরপত্র লাতা কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নহে এই মর্মে ঘোষনাপত্র/অঞ্জীকারনামা ট) দরপত্র দাতা কর্তৃক উন্বত একক মূল্যের হিসাব সংশ্লিষ্ট আইটেমের মোট সম্ক্রাব মূল্যের ৫% Liquid Asset (Working Capital) সংক্রান্ত ব্যাংকের আলাদা সনদপত্র।		
28.	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যমঃ	ফোন-৯১০৩০৫৭, ফাঙ্গে-৪৮১১৮৬৫৫, E-mail: vsc dmp@yahoo.com, গুৱেব সাইট:-www.dmpwsid.gov.bd		

বিহন্তঃ এই দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম পাবলিক প্রকিউরনেক্ট আইন/২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০০৮ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে। দরপত্র আব্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

> য়াকরিত/-(হামিদা পারজীন পিপিএম) বিশি নং-৭০০৩০২০৯০৬ উপ পলিশ কমিশনার উইমেন সাপোর্ট এন্ড ইনভেস্টিগেশন ডিভিশন

> > ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা।

GD-1089

## Riders on the storm!

A peek into the lives of men performing inside 'well of death'

MOSTOFA SABUJ

A well-like structure, inside which a rider braces himself for what's about to come. He starts his bike and goes around circling the well. Suddenly, he gains speed and goes higher up

the structure. However, the show doesn't end here. Often times, he's seen

with his hands off the vehicle, sometimes even standing on it, leaving the spectators breathless and in awe. In Bangladesh, this

is a common show that is presented on regional fairs organised on different occasions. This popular show has gathered many names over the years -- metrodome, velodrome, bike stunts, etc. But the most popular and perhaps most dramatic one would be "Mrittu Koop", which translates to the well of death.

The process consists of a silo- or barrel-shaped wooden cylinder, typically ranging from 20 to 30 feet in diameter and made of planks, inside which motorcyclists, drive along the vertical wall for the stunts.

Among the very few groups in the country which can

The process consists of a silo- or barrelshaped wooden cylinder, typically ranging from 20 to 30 feet in diameter and made of planks, inside which motorcyclists, drive along the vertical wall for the stunts.

perform the manoeuvrers, "Ma-Babar Doa" is one such group, hailing from Bogura. This correspondent came across their performance during a recent visit to "Bogura Taat Bostro o Kutir Shilpa Ponno Mela", arranged by different organisations, including the district

Md Sirajul Islam Panna (48) from Bogura's Shibganj upazila is the group's leader. He has been performing for 22 years

According to Siraj, at one point, there were around 15-20 groups in the country which performed such feats. However, many wrapped up their activities during the pandemic, as no fairs were being arranged to contain the spread of coronavirus.

"I fell in love with this activity some 25 years ago, when I first saw it in Rajshahi. I know it was risky, but the adventure attracted me. I started learning the stunts and later formed a group to perform," Siraj said.

"Initially we used to perform motorcycle stunts only. We added small cars to the routine some 10 years ago. Now, I have 12-15 people in my team, including two motorcyclists," he added.

Abu Bokkor Siddik (27), Siraj's nephew, said, "My parents passed away when I was very young. I had nowhere else to go, so uncle Siraj took me in. He trained me, and now I'm part of the team."

When asked about the risks, he said, "In my 15-year career as a stuntman, I've never faced a serious accident. I fell twice or thrice from the track but didn't get any serious injuries."

Siraj now has other disciples too. One of them is 20-year-old Md Sohanur Rahman.

"I'm staying with Siraj bhai to learn the stunts. I get a little remuneration, but the thrill is what keeps me going," said Sohan.

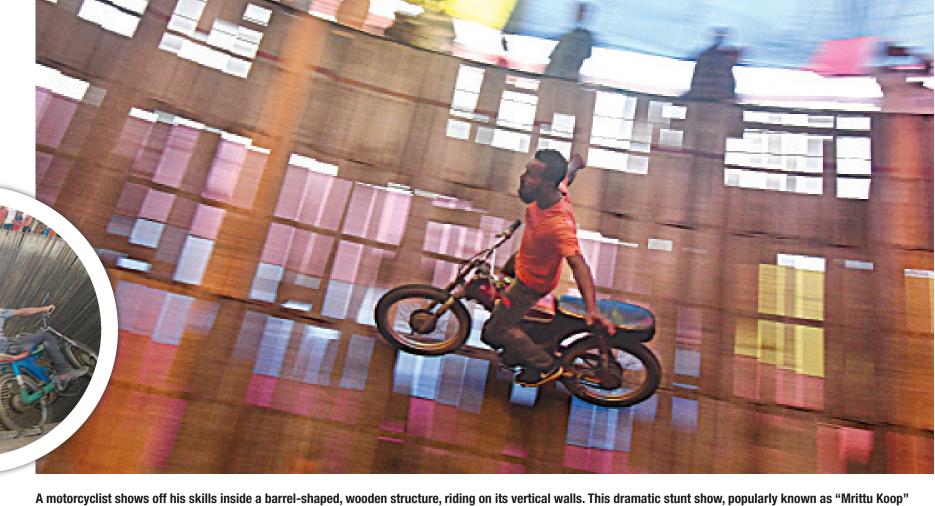
'We've performed in almost all the districts. But the charm has been lost," said Siraj.

"During the pandemic, I incurred a loss of Tk 8-10 lakh. I pay Tk 80,000 to 1 lakh in total to all the staffers per month," he added.

The group also faces extortion, bringing a drastic decrease to their income per show.

"When we travel to rural areas, local goons ask for a toll of Tk 500-1,000 each day. We have to pay the organisers 25 percent of the total earnings as well," explained Siraj.

"But everything feels worth the trouble when people applaud and bless us after the show," said Siraj, also a father of a 19-month-old baby boy, hoping that his son



used to be a common event in regional fairs. However, due to the absence of fairs amid the pandemic, many had to shift professions to survive. At present, Bogura's "Ma-Babar Doa" is one of the very few groups that still actively performs such stunts. PHOTO: STAR

# 'Don't turn JU into a concrete jungle'

Students, teachers against constructing new buildings without central masterplan

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

Jahangirnagar University (JU) is soon going to inaugurate construction works for 14 new establishments on the campus, under a Tk 1,445-crore mega project.

However, since the university has no definite or central master plan, JU takes up projects whenever a new budget is allocated. And so, stakeholders of the campus criticised the latest step, saying that the institution is not thinking long term and is building and demolishing structures without proper planning. Therefore, a significant part of money gets wasted.

The 14 establishments include library, administrative building, sports complex, lecture theatre/exam hall, guest house, playgrounds, living quarters. Besides, construction work for Shaheed Rafiq-Jabbar Hall would be completed for 152 students.

The cabinet committee on government purchase approved purchase orders for a 10-storey administrative building (around Tk 138 crore), six-storey library (around Tk 101 crore), and three-storey sports complex (around Tk 119 crore), said Md Nasir Uddin, director of planning and development at JU.

Mentionable, JU already has two administrative buildings, and authorities are planning to demolish the existing library to make the new one, a decision that many are against.

Besides, purchase orders for a six-storey lecture theatre (around Tk 64 crore), which will also be used as an exam hall, and a 10-storey guest house (around Tk 37 crore) for post-graduate researchers have been approved by the education minister, he informed.

Purchase orders for other establishments have been approved by JU's vice chancellor as the head of Procuring Entity, Nasir said. "The work will start

Prof Rayhan Rhyne, a faculty member and convenor of the campaign "JU against Corruption", said, "Jahangirnagar is becoming a concrete jungle day by day, as the university has no definite central master plan. Our demand is to save Jahangirnagar from such unplanned activities."

"In fact, this project has been prepared by an architect, not an urban planner. Such projects should be prepared by the country's best planners. We need specialists in this sector, who know what's best and will do the best for us," he said.

"No such planner was allowed to assist in this development project. Plans were made with the help of only architects, which is an unwise decision," he added.

"We are not against development. We are against unplanned development and corruption. What if a big budget is allocated again? Will authorities then demolish these new buildings

We are not against development. We are against unplanned development and corruption. What if a big budget is allocated again? Will authorities then demolish these new buildings too?

**Prof Rayhan Rhyne** 

Rakibul Rony, president of JU Chhatra Union, said, "We don't understand the validity of constructing a new administrative building, despite already having two."

Akhtaruzzaman Sohel, president of JU Chhatra League, proposed not to demolish the existing library from the very beginning, rather do so after ensuring a part of the new library is already prepared.

Contacted, JU VC Prof Nurul Alam said, "Until all stakeholders are satisfied, we will continue to sit with them to discuss what we can modify. A new probe committee will be formed to monitor the project work." About another administrative building, he said, "Since we have separate buildings for administrative works, a new building is required to include all offices in one building."

#### Remembering Enamul Haque



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Today would have been the 79th birthday of renowned actor, playwright, academician and Ekushey Padak awardee Dr Enamul Haque. This is the first time his family and friends are commemorating the day without him. He passed away on October 11, last year.

On his birth anniversary, we spoke to his loved ones and colleagues from the entertainment industry to know about their fond memories with

I miss laughing with him: Lucky Enam

I miss him every moment of my life. I walk across his writing table, sit on his chair and even browse through his stationaries, but I can't laugh with him, can't share my sorrows or meals with him. I miss laughing with him. He was my companion for life. We used to surprise him on his birthday every year but this time, no one will be waiting for us to walk through the door with cakes, balloons, and gifts.

He was a true gentleman: Abul Hayat Enamul Haque was a true gentleman. He was well-known for his kind and humble nature. I met this man with a golden heart before the country's independence was declared. We used to work together in theatre and remained good friends since then.

I have lots of fond memories with him. I never saw him lose his temper or be rude to anyone ever. We started our own theatre troupe after the Liberation War. This is the first time he won't be around on his birthday. May he rest in peace.

Enamul Haque was a true patriot: Asaduzzaman Noor

Enamul Haque was emerged in the essence of our Liberation War. He was a believer in humanism,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Litchi galore in Ishwardi

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

will follow in his footsteps.

Sweet succulent flesh covered in a prickly red exterior -- litchis, the popular summer fruit have adorned the trees in Pabna's Ishwardi. Litchi farmers are likely to get record

production this year, with a yield amounting to Tk 500 crore, sources said. Although litchi prices are less than previous year, that's no issue to farmers as they're expected to get double their usual production.

"Along with the traditional breed, we're also cultivating a hybrid variety called as Bombay litchi (China-3), which has gained popularity among both growers and customers," said Dr Md Saiful Alom, deputy director of Pabna Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

A total of 4,731-hectare land brought under litchi cultivation in the district this year is expecting to get 42,579 tonnes of litchi, he said. "We have the production target of 47,000 tonnes this year but the harvesting progress shows that the litchi output will reach more than 50,000 tonnes," he said.

Sonju Pramanik, a litchi farmer said, "Last year I got 7,000-8,000 litchis from each tree. This year I'm getting 15,000 litchis from each tree. This is the highest ever production in the last few years.'



Ishwardi's litchi farmers hard at work, sorting litchis in crates and shipping them to various wholesale markets of the region.

'Last year each 1,000 litchis was sold for Tk 3.000-3,200. This year I'm selling them at Tk 2,200-2,300, but that isn't an issue due to bumper production," he added.

"Litchi is the main cash crop for us. When harvesting begins, we invite our relatives for

PHOTO: STAR getting a taste. It turns into a festival," said Md Jamal Hossain, a litchi grower.

"Litchis loaded in over 150 trucks are supplied across the country from five to six wholesale markets in Ishwardi," said another litchi grower Nayeb Ali.

## Include them in govt census

Say speakers on under-represented minorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various under-represented minorities of the country have been facing discrimination and marginalisation. Due to lack of government census data on them and proper recognition, these people, most of whom are ultra-poor, are

Speakers expressed this concern yesterday in the launching ceremony of Brattyajan Resource Centre (BRC), a centre dedicated to conduct research on exclusion and marginalisation challenges in Bangladesh.

On the same day, BRC and Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) published 11 books and monographs on Bangladesh's

marginalised communities. Phillip Gain, director of SEHD, said, "Monthly salary of a cleaner from the Harijan community is only Tk 550 in Sreemangal municipality. They are

not even allowed to dine in the nearby

Gain said the government does not

have reliable data on marginalised groups. Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said compared to neighbouring countries, income inequality is comparatively low in Bangladesh. However, this fact is not applicable for

"Even our development policies and plans do not include these communities. As a result, sometimes what we consider as development projects, turn out to be a threat to their survival," he said.

Lilly Nicholls, high commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh; Prof Tanzimuddin Khan of international relations department at DU; Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairperson, Power and Participation Research Centre; activist Khushi Kabir; and Jeremy Opritesco, deputy head of diplomatic mission, EU Delegation, were also present.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN



(From Left) Anjan Chowdhury, Runa Laila, Ferdausi Rahman, Sabina Yasmin and Asaduzzaman Noor.



Afran Nisho won Best Actor (Television).



Mehazabien Chowdhury was awarded as **Best Actress (Television).** 

### **Meril-Prothom Alo Awards 2021**

A dazzling celebration of the best in showbiz

Runa Laila and Sabina **Yasmin** were visibly moved, when it was time to receive their Lifetime **Achievement** honours. "Why are you giving me the Lifetime **Achievement** Award, my life is just starting," jested Runa

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The image of legendary artistes Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin being given Lifetime Achievement Awards by an emotional Ferdausi Rahman -- will be immortalised as one of the most meaningful, significant and iconic moments in the history of the Meril-Prothom Alo Awards.

The 23rd iteration of the prestigious award function was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre's (BICC) Hall of Fame, on Friday night.

As stars poured in donning unique attires, the event became a melting pot of the best that our showbiz world has to offer - actors, directors, musicians, cinematographers and journalists made it a unique entertainment hub, that went sorely missing for two years due to the pandemic.

The show opened with a heartfelt speech by Matiur Rahman, Editor of The Daily Prothom Alo, followed by a vote of thanks by the Managing Director of Square Toiletries,



Siam Ahmed won Best Actor (Popular Choice) for his role in "Mridha Banam Mridha'

A minute of silence was observed for Aly Zaker, Sarah Begum Kabori, and all other stars that we lost, during the two-year hiatus of the programme.

The event, hosted by Riaz, Ferdous and Nusraat Faria, progressed with mesmerising performances, one after another. A mashup of timeless songs originally sung by the Lifetime Achievement Awardees were



For 'Alatchakra', Jaya Ahsan won Best **Actress (Popular Choice).** 

soulfully voiced by Dilshad Nahar Kona and Sanzida Mahmood Nandita. Animes Roy and Pantha Kanai rocked the stage with Coke Studio Bangla's "Nasek Nasek", on which Siam Ahmed and Bidya Sinha Mim performed a brilliant choreography.

Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin were visibly moved, when it was time to receive their Lifetime Achievement honours. "Why are you giving me the Lifetime Achievement Award, my life is just starting," jested Runa Laila. Eminent actor Asaduzzaman Noor adorned the awardees with ceremonial scarfs. As the legends serenaded the audience, they proved that they had not missed a beat. "Thank you Meril-Prothom Alo for this honour. The fact

that I get to receive it from Ferdausi apa makes it even better," said Sabina Yasmin.

The award function in itself was a jubilant celebration of new and old, with the likes of Jaya Ahsan and Siam Ahmed establishing their dominance with their wins as best actors respectively (Popular Choice) -- and the stars of television and OTT, including Mehazabien Chowdhury, Afran Nisho, Tasnia Farin, Manoj Pramanik leaving a mark, as they were awarded for their powerful onscreen performances.

After becoming a sensation in the Cannes Film Festival last year, "Rehana Maryam Noor" bagged two awards for Best Actress (Badhon) and Best Film in the Critics' Choice category. OTT sensation "Mohanagar" director Ashfaque Nipun was also awarded in this category. Fazlur Rahman Babu added to his legacy, as he won Best Actor (Critic) for his role in "Khanchar Bhetor Ochin Pakhi". N Rashed Chowdhury was rewarded as Best Director for "Chandrabati Kotha".

Talented rising musicians Abanti Sithi and Tanveer Evan made their presence felt, as they won awards for best singers in the Popular Choice category.

Performances continued to woo the audience, as Afran Nisho, Mehazabien, Sabila Nur and Tanjin Tisha performed in an energetic medley of songs, proving to the film fraternity that the small screen could go toe-to-toe with them when it comes to panache.

An inspired and content audience walked out of BICC on Friday -- getting to watch, interact with and even take selfies with their favourite stars - as the industry looks to have bounced back from the dire times of the pandemic.

READ THE ONLINE VERSION FOR THE FULL ARTICLE AND LIST OF WINNERS.

#### Meet Sriya Lenka, the first Indian K-pop star

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

18-year-old Sriya Lenka has made history by joining South Korean group, Blackswan. She, along with new member Gabi Dalcin from Brazil, after the duo trained for months under the group's label DR Music.

After the exit of Hyeme in 2020, the label hosted global auditions to find new members to join the group. Sriya, born in Odisha, was scouted from over 4,000 applicants.

The news was announced on May 26, by the label's Instagram account.

Blackswan comprises of Youngheun and Judy from Korea, Belgium-based Senegalese rapper Fatou, and Japanese-Brazilian singer Leia. They debuted as RÂNIA in 2011, and then took the name of BP RANIA in 2016. They debuted as Blackswan on October 16, 2020 with the full album Goodbye

#### Bangladesh to be celebrated as 'Country of Focus' at Mumbai **Int'l Film Festival**

Bangladesh is the "Country of Focus" at the 17th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), which begins today. India is honouring 50 years of Bangladesh's independence at the event.

> Around 11 films including "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale" will be screened at MIFF 2022. Netflix's "Mighty Little Bheem: I Love Taj Mahal" will have its world premiere at the prestigious festival. The NFAI restored version of Satyajit

Ray's documentary "Sukumar Ray" is supposed to be

premiered at the event. The 'Golden Conch', the highest honour of the festival, will be awarded to the best film. The MIFF 2022 will be held till June 4.

### Connectivity is a priority

Guwahati India in

Shillong-based tank called Confluence, in collaboration with the Union External Affairs Ministry, Act East Policy Affairs Department of the Assam government, North Eastern Council organised NADI (Natural in Development Interdependence) conference.

Momen said, over time much of the connectivity the two countries had between their rivers had been suspended but a lot of it is in the process of

He mentioned that over years, Bangladesh India have reestablished river, road and railway networks that are connecting India to Northeastern India.

Bangladesh, located South and between Southeast Asia, is eager to be the bridge between the rest of South and Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand, and landlocked Nepal and

"River routes are more important because they are cost-effective and environment-friendly.'

natural disasters, Momen said, citing examples of recent flash floods in Assam and Sylhet that have caused havoc to much of the infrastructure and crops.

forecasting system to take measures well ahead of time," Momen said.

added Bangladesh and India have 54 transboundary rivers, and a common can greatly help both the countries.

meeting While Jaishankar on the sidelines of the conference, Momen also spoke of signing the Teesta Water-sharing Agreement, which was left hanging due to West when the Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's lastminute opposition.

Dhaka and Delhi are

Bhutan, to ease the means working on the water- benefit from more access, FROM PAGE 12 in Assam's of trade, he said sharing of six creal rive

Meanwhile, Jaishankar said an India connected to Northeast and a Southeast India and Bangladesh more connected to India's have been facing similar neighbours will mean a our ability to overcome complete transformation

of the regional economy. He also spoke of the restoration of six historical rail links with Bangladesh. overland movement of goods using 28 notified Land Customs strong regional weather Stations, and the Maitree Bridge over the Feni River that connects Bangladesh

and Tripura.

Jaishankar that the intricate and intertwined cross-border geography is approach of managing synergised by agreements the rivers and navigation on the movement of goods from Indian ports through the Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh, and from and other parts of the

> Northeast. "What Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar get more deeply intertwined? Each of them stands to

markets. endeavours will literally bring the ASEAN closer

the

"It is definitely within geography and rewrite recent history if only we can get the policies and the economics right.'

DHAKA SEEKS DELHI'S HELP

At the event, Momen said there are more than a million Rohingyas in the country, many of whom may turn to extremism. He sought help from India and other neighbouring countries to repatriate

them to Myanmar. "They have temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh for the last five years and they all want to go back. Since repatriation has not vet begun, they are getting there overland to Tripura frustrated and many are getting involved in criminal activities."

> He said all should work Northeast, together to maintain stability and security of this region by repatriating Rohingyas from the Bangladesh to Myanmar.

### World's loneliest

kilometers from the nearest road, the Desert Post Office of inner Mongolia doesn't

see too much human traffic. But in the age of the internet, that's not an insurmountable hurdle. Ms Zhang and her friend, Luo Meng came up with the idea of a ghostwriting business for people who wanted to send letters and postcards from the

world's loneliest post office,

the place. Zhang's idea turned out

to be a big hit, especially during the pandemic, with people unable to travel to see their loved ones. Now, she and her colleagues at the post office can hardly keep up with the online requests from people asking for cards to be shipped both around China and to countries like Singapore or Australia.

Bringing this remote days to complete.

without actually visiting post office back to life was After building the somewhat of an adventure. structure, they filed an First, Ms Zhang and her friend, Luo Meng, had to Post, and after review, the convince a few other people wooden shack became

to help them rebuild it. difficult to pull off, so they ended up transporting the building materials there the spot, which took 20

application with China one of over 700 post At first, they planned to offices in China. Every build a wooden structure day, letters and postcards and transport it into the are written here, adorned desert, but that proved too with the post's special desert-themed transported 10 km to the nearest road, from where and building the shack on they are picked up by a post truck and then sent all over the world.

### Trading a lake for houses

If it's filled up, where would the rainwater from the areas

He said the pond is also earmarked as waterbody in the revised DAP, yet the Caab did not take any no objection certificate (NOC) from Rajuk before starting to fill it up.

Rahman Anisur Nayeem, councillor of ward-47 of Dhaka North Corporation, said waterlogging has already been worsening in these areas due to the move.

"For the last 50 years, the waterbody has been used as a rainwater retention pond. Filling it up would increase waterlogging problems," he Water bodies in and

around the capital have indiscriminately been filled up in the last few decades, primarily due to rapid urbanisation and unplanned growth.

According to a 2019 study by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), individuals, businesses, real-estate developers, organisations, and even government agencies have gobbled up 1,072 acres (57 percent) of the 1,879 acres of flood flow zones in Dhaka metropolitan areas in that

Since the official gazette on the city's Detailed Area 2010, the core city lost 3,440 out of 9,556 acres of flood flow zones, water retention areas, and water bodies till 2019, it said.

Experts say unrelenting stress on water bodies, along with the poor drainage system, exposes the city dwellers to severe waterlogging even after moderate rain.

"The master plan of Dhaka is not safe in the hands of the government. This is because the government agencies fill up water bodies at will and tend to justify it as being done in public interest," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Association.

"If filling up wetland contrary to the master plan is done by the government, it causes two long-term damages. First, it weakens the moral authority of the government to punish violators, and second, it devalues the sanctions of the master plan," she told The Daily Star.

Both are dangerous for a city already ranking very low in the livability index, not follow the wetland he said.

Adil Mohammad Khan, former general secretary Plan (DAP) was issued in of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said a government body like Caab cannot violate the DAP and fill up a waterbody.

"This is an immoral practice and they cannot fill up water bodies without taking NOC from Rajuk," he told this newspaper.

He further said many government agencies do not conduct proper impact assessment before taking up development projects. As a result, they end up filling the water bodies, he said.

Adil said there is a directive from the prime minister to keep around 12 percent waterbodies while building any housing project in any area.

It is not only Rajuk's duty, but Caab also has to keep 12 percent waterbodies in the areas that are under its jurisdiction, he added.

Councillor Anisur Rahman Naveem said the city corporation had repeatedly requested Caab not to fill it up and also informed the matter to the DNCC mayor.

"Caab is a government organisation. If they do

protection act, who wil punish them? Who will hold them accountable?" he asked.

"Under the leadership of the DNCC mayor, we have been cutting a lake for the last couple of weeks on the eastern side of the Hajj camp as an alternative, to reduce the waterlogging problem in the areas," he

Selim Reza, executive officer of DNCC, said they will take necessary steps in this regard after getting information from the field level Caab Chairman Air

Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman told The Daily Star that they are implementing the housing project without affecting the environment. "We have appointed a foreign consultant for

structural design of the housing project and the work is going on accordingly.' Mafidur also said they

are not violating the Playground, Open Spaces, Gardens, and Water Bodies Conservation Act 2000. He said the land on which

the housing project is being implemented is Caab's own land.

"This is not Rajuk's land,"

#### Russia willing FROM PAGE 12

has raised conversations with the Italian and Austrian leaders

The Kremlin chief also warned Macron and Scholz against ramping up arms supplies to Ukraine, destabilise the situation in Ukraine. the pro-Western country.

Ukraine and Western countries have accused Russia of weaponising the cooking oils, fuel and

fertilizer soaring. Russia has blamed the situation on Western sanctions against it, and on the mining of Ukrainian

The Kremlin said Putin also said Russia was willing saying they could further to resume talks with

"Special attention was paid to the status of the negotiations that are frozen because of Kyiv. President food crisis created by its Vladimir Putin confirmed invasion of Ukraine, which the Russian side's openness has sent the prices of grains, to resume dialogue," it said.

#### FROM PAGE 12

of law enforcement agencies, such incidents will recur. Most of those involved in campus violence are not students there. They raise no demands on students' rights. Implementation of political parties' agenda by student bodies is creating instability on campus."

JCD protests go

He said law enforcement agencies and the university administration need to take adequate measures to avoid further violence. Otherwise, large clashes may take place.

Criticising

government and university administration, he said, "Why should students carry rods, sticks, and weapons?" DU Vice Chancellor Prof

M Akhtaruzzaman said, "A certain quarter always tries to destabilise the campus and create panic to make political gains. We expect that educational environment on campus will always remain favourable."

Asked about the demand for calling a meeting of the Paribesh Parishad, he declined to comment.



Police use a water canon to disperse protesters during the 50th day of anti-government protests demanding the resignation of Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the country's crippling economic crisis, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

TEXAS SCHOOL TRAGEDY

## Trump bats for guns ât NRA

Police admits 'wrong decision' not to breach door during shooting

AGENCIES

Former US president Donald Trump rejected calls for tightened gun controls Friday following the Texas school massacre, saying decent Americans should be allowed the firearms they need to defend themselves against "evil."

"The existence of evil in our world is not a reason to disarm law-abiding citizens... The existence of evil is one of the very best reasons to arm law-abiding citizens," he told members of the National Rifle Association.

Trump's remarks came as he headlined an NRA event in Houston, three days after a gun

massacre at a Texas elementary school reignited the tinderbox debate about US gun

An 18-year-old gunman, Salvador Ramos, with a legally-bought AR-15-style rifle killed 19 children and two adults at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde,

Texas. on Tuesday, marking the deadliest school shooting in the state's history.

During the shooting, frantic children called 911 at least half a dozen times from the Texas classrooms, pleading for police to intervene, as some 20 officers waited in the hallway nearly an hour before entering and killing the gunman, authorities said on Friday.

"He's in room 112," a girl whispered on the phone at 12:03 pm, more than 45 minutes before a US Border Patrol-led tactical team finally stormed in and ended the siege

The on-site commander, the chief of the school district's police department in Uvalde, Texas, believed at the time that Ramos was barricaded inside and that children were no longer at immediate risk, giving police time to prepare, according to Colonel Steven McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"From the benefit of hindsight where I'm sitting now, of course, it was not the right decision," he added.

US firearms makers produced over 139 million guns for the commercial market over the two decades from 2000, according to a new government report. The US racked up 19,350 firearm homicides in 2020.

#### IMRAN KHAN'S MARCH TO PAK CAPITAL Why it ended so abruptly



DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's surprise decision about not going ahead with the sit-in at the end of the long march left almost everyone baffled — foes and allies alike - but there is convergence on one thing — the manner in which it all ended, at least for now, carried clear indications of who made it happen.

The government had attempted to prevent the convoy from reaching the capital by shutting down all entry and exit points around the city, but was forced to allow in protesters by an emergency

Supreme Court order. Since being removed from power through a no-confidence vote last month, cricket star turned politician Khan has heaped pressure on the country's fragile new coalition rulers by staging rallies, touting a claim he was ousted from office

in a "foreign conspiracy". The general perception, though most shy away from saying that openly, is that the military had to ultimately play its role to prevent things from getting out of control.

Pakistan's former National Security Adviser retired Lt Gen Naeem Khalid Lodhi candidly admits that he too agrees with this. "There is a strong possibility of positive interference by the military to prevent chaos and seek a return of semblance of political stability so that the process for resuscitating the economy could begin.

Another retired general, on the condition of anonymity, said there was a realisation in the top brass that no one at the helm of affairs would be

able to escape responsibility if matters were to go in a wrong direction.

The biggest challenge for the military, a source claimed, was to open up communication channels with Imran Khan, especially in view of their frayed relations. But, as the former prime minister proceeded with the long march plans, a sense of urgency was felt everywhere and multiple channels were employed to bring him around.

The source said those who acted as a gobetween included a former chief justice, a leading businessman, and a retired general.

"It was not an easy task given Khan's obstinacy and the fact that he had invested a lot of effort into it," the source privy to the negotiations said.

Khan agreed to go back, without staging the planned sit-in, on the assurance that the date for the dissolution of the assemblies and elections would be given in June. He too in his speech, in which he announced the end of the long march, had said: "I'm giving you six days. Announce elections within six days, announce elections in the month of June ...'

Khan was also asked to consider the return of PTI to the National Assembly by withdrawing the resignations of his party's legislators so that it could be part of the consultations on the interim setup — as per the Constitution — under whose watch next elections will be held.

The PTI chief, it is said, held on to the opportunity seeing that he was not able to pull out the numbers that he had expected, especially from Punjab — the government's crackdown notwithstanding.

#### Samoa signs China agreement amid South Pacific push

AFP, Apia

Samoa signed a bilateral agreement with China yesterday, promising "greater collaboration" as Beijing's foreign minister continues a tour of the South Pacific that has sparked concern among

The deal's details are unclear, coming midway through a Chinese delegation's eight-nation trip -- but an earlier leaked draft agreement sent to several Pacific countries outlined plans to expand security and economic engagement. The mission has prompted Western leaders to

urge regional counterparts to spurn any Chinese attempt to extend its security reach across the region. A press release from the Samoan government

confirmed that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Samoan Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa had met and discussed "climate change, the pandemic and peace and security". The release said that China would continue to

provide infrastructural development support to various Samoan sectors and there would be a new framework for future projects "to be determined and mutually agreed".

The Chinese delegation has already visited the Solomon Islands and Kiribati this week.

It arrived in Samoa on Friday night before flying on Saturday afternoon into Fiji, where Wang will attend a group meeting of foreign ministers from Pacific countries.

Other stops are expected in Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and East Timor.

#### UNSC fails to agree on Myanmar text

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council has failed to agree on a statement aimed at pushing Myanmar's junta to take steps toward a peaceful solution to the country's ongoing crisis, diplomats said. China and the United Kingdom, which drafted the text, blamed each other for the failure of the day-long negotiations, which followed a closed-door Council meeting on Myanmar in the morning. For London, China was asking "too much," which led to the collapse of the negotiations. The original text proposed that the Security Council express deep concern over "limited progress" in implementing a five-point plan on ending the crisis, which was set out more than a year ago by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). It also called for action to implement the roadmap.

#### Palestinian teen killed in West Bank

AFP, Jerusalem

A Palestinian teenager was shot by Israeli troops Friday near the town of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank

and died of his wounds, the Palestinian health ministry said. Zayd Mohammed Ghouneim was shot in the back and neck and died in hospital, a ministry statement said. Contacted by AFP, the Israeli army said that 'suspects hurled rocks and Molotov cocktails" at

its soldiers during a routine patrol in the Al-Khader district south of Bethlehem. Nineteen people, mostly Israeli civilians -- including 18

inside Israel and a Jewish West Bank settler have been killed in attacks in Israel by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs since late March. Thirty-five Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank during this time.

This is not a matter of money. This is a matter of will. If the United States has \$40 billion to send to Ukraine, we can do this.... As the age-old saying goes, the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.

Former US president Donald Trump

## UN rights chief defends China visit after uproar

The UN rights envoy yesterday said her contentious visit to China was "not an investigation", and insisted she had unsupervised access during meetings in Xinjiang, where Beijing is accused of widespread human rights abuses.

Michelle Bachelet's long-planned trip this week has taken her to the far-western region, where Beijing is accused of the detention of over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, forced sterilisation of women and coerced labour.

The US has labelled China's actions in Xinjiang a "genocide", allegations vehemently denied by Beijing.

Bachelet has come under fire from rights groups and Uyghurs overseas, who say she has stumbled into a six-day Communist Party propaganda tour.

Speaking at the end of her trip while still inside China, Bachelet framed her visit as a chance for her to speak with "candour" to Chinese authorities as well as civil society groups and academics.

"This visit was not an investigation," she told

reporters.



সাত মসজিদ রোড শাখা এখন নতুন নামে



বৃহৎ পরিসরে আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানের প্রত্যয় নিয়ে আমাদের সাত মসজিদ রোড শাখা আজ ২৯ মে ২০২২ রবিবার নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে ধানমতি শব্দ নামে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।

> সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে নতুন ঠিকানায় ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণের আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হচ্ছে।







## **EDITORIAL**

## The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

### Women nationbuilders are modern-day heroes

We must create an enabling environment for women

ESPITE attempts by different forces in society to keep women confined within the four walls or traditional gender roles, many have broken the glass ceiling and become self-reliant. These courageous women have shown that women and girls can do anything if allowed to take control of their own lives. We're glad to see that seven such fighters were recognised on Friday at the sixth edition of the "Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards", an initiative of *The Daily Star* and IPDC. We hope that the stories of their courage and resilience, entrepreneurial initiatives as well as contributions to building a better Bangladesh will inspire others to follow suit.

At the event, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, who gave out the awards, mentioned the multifaceted challenges that women and girls face while following their dreams or trying to stand on their own feet. Women are no less capable than men, he said, reminding all that the prime minister is a great advocate of women taking up important roles in various professions, including in the government.

Each of the women chosen for the award have shown unique potential. One of them—unable to walk, move her hands or speak clearly since her birth—went on to beat all the odds to become a successful entrepreneur in Bogura. Through her Facebook page "Rainbow", she sells hand-embroidered products like sarees, cushions and bedcovers which people from more than 18 countries now buy. Another woman, who sold newspapers to get by after her father's death, is an elected union parishad member in Pabna's Chatmohar upazila. Yet another woman, from the Birganj upazila of Dinajpur, challenged the long-held notion of professions in which women could work. After her husband abandoned her and their two children, she took up butchery and built a home in her village from the proceeds.

These are just some examples of what women, even those with disabilities who are particularly vulnerable in our society, are capable of doing despite facing numerous constraints and barriers. Their hard work, dedication and resilience are truly encouraging. Imagine how women and girls—who constitute half of the population—could transform our country if the right environment could be created for them with their rights ensured and their talent unleashed. Here lies the challenge: Families, social institutions, business houses and the government all must do their part to create an enabling environment for them. Women, especially those with disabilities, need the space and freedom to grow personally and academically, as well as proper policy support to pursue their career or business including bank loans on soft terms.

# Break the taboos around menstruation

Make sanitary napkins affordable and available to all women and girls

N a society where menstruation is still a taboo subject, it is only natural that the issue of maintaining health hygiene during menstruation would also remain neglected. Despite the many programmes taken up by the government and its development partners to raise awareness in this regard, studies have found that a majority of women still do not use sanitary napkins or other menstruation hygiene products. The National Hygiene Survey conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in 2018 found that only 30 percent women in Bangladesh used disposable sanitary napkins, while only 32 percent knew about menstruation before they had it. Studies have also found that due to a lack of proper facilities, school absenteeism of girls remains a big challenge.

While many rural women, thanks to increasing awareness of late, now know about sanitary products, they simply cannot buy them due to lack of availability and also because menstruation is still a taboo topic. The price is also an issue here. How will women and girls from less privileged backgrounds afford to buy them if a single napkin cost Tk 10 and a packet of 10 napkins cost Tk 100 on average? Thus, they resort to using old clothes during their periods which is unhygienic and can lead to various infections. But, of course, there has been some progress over the last few years—around 85 percent of women used old clothes during menstruation in 2014, which reduced to 63 percent in 2019, the BBS study found.

In order to break the taboo around menstruation and educate girls about menstrual hygiene management, the subject should be included in the school curriculum in a proper way. While girls should know about menstruation before they have it, boys should also be sensitised about the subject. Moreover, all schools should have proper menstruation hygiene facilities so that girls do not have to stay at home during their period. All our educational institutions can consider setting up vending machines from where girls can get sanitary napkins whenever they need.

Moreover, in order to increase the use of sanitary napkins among women and girls, local pharmaceutical companies should come forward to produce and sell them at low cost. The government should give them the support they need to be successful in this regard. If all the stakeholders play their parts, we can hope to see a positive change in menstrual hygiene management in the country.

# Our health sector needs urgent healing



Wasim Bin Habib is deputy planning editor at The

WASIM BIN HABIB

Of the 16,132

clinics and

private hospitals,

diagnostic centres

that have applied

via DGHS's online

only 10,892 have

received their

official data.

licences as per

ANISUR RAHMAN

registration system,

announcement, several thousand private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and blood banks applied online to get their licences or for the renewal of licences with the DGHS. Any private healthcare service provider is bound to obtain a licence from the DGHS as per the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982.

But the process got stuck, with the

T seems the country's health directorate has finally been jolted out of its stupor. At a meeting last Wednesday, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) came up with the decision of shutting down all unregistered health institutions within 72 hours. The countdown has thus begun.

After the meeting, the DGHS issued a circular, saying that the decision applies to all unregistered health institutions—those that are yet to apply for licences, those that have applied for licences but are operating without it, and those whose licences have expired and are yet to apply for a renewal. The regulatory authority even warned that operations of private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres will be stopped if the renewal application is not received within the specified deadline of 72 hours.

Needless to say, it's a very good initiative from the regulator. But one cannot be so sure of the measures to be taken since the DGHS has some precedents which are not encouraging. Such warnings were given in the past as well, with the last one being in July, 2020, when the DGHS set a deadline for private health facilities to obtain their licences by August 23 that year.

That move came following the revelation of a scandal in a private health institution, Regent Hospital, which was found to be providing fake Covid-19 certificates, although the DGHS entrusted the hospital with the responsibility of Covid-19 testing and treatment of patients. The law enforcement agencies conducted a drive at Regent Hospital and unearthed the gross irregularities there. It was even found that the hospital's licence had expired in 2014.

The revelation prompted the DGHS to issue the deadline of August 23, 2020 for private health facilities to obtain their registrations. At that time, health officials announced that legal action would be taken against those who did not complete the registration and licence renewal process by the deadline. Following the



owners of private hospitals and diagnost centres saying that the conditions set by the government for registration and renewal of licences were difficult for many organisations to meet within such a short period of time. They appealed for a relaxation of some of the regulations. It should be mentioned that the government had started issuing licences online in 2018. There were allegations made by the owners' association that many private hospitals could not renew their licences due to limiting conditions, while the licences of many others were being renewed using bribes and without fulfilling any registration requirements. Unfortunately, we have seen a laid-back

health facilities.

Last Wednesday's decision was no different. The DGHS awakened this time after the National Human Rights Commission asked it to take action against those responsible for the death of a pregnant woman and her unborn child during a Caesarean operation in Narail's Kalia upazila. Sheuli Begum, who was 25-years-old, and her unborn child, died on May 6 when an unregistered health

official tried to complete the surgery

attitude of the regulators in addressing

that the DGHS only wakes up after

the problem, with health experts claiming

incidents of gross irregularities surface at

at the local Hazi Khan Rowshon Ali Hospital and Clinic, which itself has no authorisation.

Although the DGHS has announced that it will take strict actions against errant health facilities, unfortunately, it does not know the exact number of such organisations. So, the question arises: Why does the health regulator not know the number of health organisations? This implies that the DGHS has no strong monitoring mechanism over the private organisations providing healthcare services. The lack of monitoring is also a reason why private hospitals can get away with overcharging patients.

According to the DGHS data compiled manually on November 8 last year, there are a total of 16,444 private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres across the country. Of those, 5,577 are private hospitals or clinics, 10,727 are diagnostic centres, and 140 are blood banks. Of all private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres, 10,892 have received their licences, out of the 16,132 that have applied via DGHS's online registration system.

There is no denying the fact that private hospitals and diagnostic centres have helped in supplementing the public healthcare sector in Bangladesh to a great extent over the last two decades. But it is not acceptable that countless health facilities are able to operate in the country without licences for years, while the DGHS only serves notices and warnings.

Herein lies the issue of poor governance in the healthcare sector. Despite making strides over the decades, the healthcare system of our country still lacks availability, equality and reliability. The pandemic exposed many gaps in our healthcare system, including poor governance and monitoring, corruption, and inadequate healthcare facilities.

The time has come for the DGHS to act and purge all corrupt elements that helped these dubious establishments to continue operations. For that, the government has to facilitate the DGHS with the required manpower to monitor health facilities across the country. This time, we would like to believe that the DGHS's decision would not remain ineffective like in previous cases. We would like to see an end to the nonchalant attitude of the authorities concerned in dealing with unauthorised health institutions. The directorate must stop the unregistered health facilities from playing around with the lives of innocent

# A prescription for the FY2022-23 budget



Dr Mohammed Parvez Imdad is an economist, governance specialist and policy analyst, and the founderpresident of the Bangladesh Knowledge Forum (BKF). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

MOHAMMED PARVEZ IMDAD

MID the ongoing global inflation and financial instability, the upcoming national budget has to be demand-driven and needs-based. Sector allocations could be prioritised for agriculture, healthcare, energy, manufacturing, education, social safety nets, and infrastructure—and should be aligned with overall programme efficiency and sustainability.

The overall size of the budget should be increased by five percent (as compared to the previous budget) with due provisions for keeping inflation within acceptable limits. This will support the process of sustaining and accelerating macroeconomic gains achieved over the past 12 years. The budget should envision a GDP growth of 7.5 percent. And priority driven sector allocations should be able to restore the pre-Covid growth momentum. Increased allocation for social safety nets and enhanced stimulus packages would enable mitigating the adverse impacts of Covid, reduce the mild increases in both relative and absolute poverty, and create the basis for subsequent interventions to reduce income disparities and inequalities.

Despite moderate increases in domestic resource mobilisation, tax revenues still remain inadequate to meet development expenditures. In the last budget, estimated expenditure was 17 percent of GDP, and estimated revenues 11.5 percent. It is unlikely that there will be a major deviation from this in the forthcoming budget. However, there are possibilities of moderate increase in revenues as compared to the outgoing year, and expenditure may slightly reduce. Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio, which

upcoming year, it would be necessary to scale down the budget deficit to 5.5 percent of GDP. Therefore, raising the tax-GDP ratio to 12 percent of GDP, keeping the budget deficit within 5.5 percent of GDP in the medium-term, and reduced internal and external borrowing should be useful for efficient control and management

of public debt.

For the

remains one of the lowest in the region, needs to be raised to 12 percent of GDP.

Due to fiscal challenges, the government planned limiting the budget deficit to 6.2 percent of GDP in the outgoing fiscal year. For the upcoming year, it would be necessary to scale down the budget deficit to 5.5 percent of GDP. Therefore, raising the tax-GDP ratio to 12 percent of GDP, keeping the budget deficit within 5.5 percent of GDP in the mediumterm, and reduced internal and external borrowing should be useful for efficient control and management of public debt.

The budget deficit should be met by domestic and external resources in similar proportions as that of the outgoing year. The budget should highlight incentives for stimulating private investment, entrepreneurship and employment expansion. Concrete incentives to boost exports (by 30 percent), reduce import costs (by 40 percent), and increase the forex reserves (by 25 percent), will add value to both stabilisation and growth. The budget should also include added provisions for food security, facilitate rural and urban consumer access to food and non-food items through rationing and improved storage, and transparent distribution. Allocations for pension and healthcare coverage for citizens over 60 years should also be reflected in the

The FY2022-23 budget should aim at enhancing productive efficiency and competitiveness of sectors bearing potential to stimulate growth. Currently, we have to rely on RMG and overseas remittances, and there is a possibility that these two key sources of growth may face external challenges in the medium term. In addition, strategy and supportive measures for economic diversification will enable overcoming probable challenges and loss of benefits from Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC category. The framework to diversify growth stimulants would necessitate the much-expected financial and banking reforms and simplified procedures to ease and promote business and investment. The income tax and VAT laws should be restructured, and should also give guidelines to significantly check unauthorised transfer of funds abroad, reduce non-performing loans, and minimise scope for illegal and non-transparent sources of incomes.

Increased allocation for expanding the current social safety net and overall social protection programmes should aim at broader coverage and easy access by the poor, especially the new poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable segments of the population. Social protection should be aimed at extensive reduction of poverty, easier access to resources, and small-scale entrepreneurship in rural and urban areas. The emerging post-Covid urban and rural poverty due to loss of jobs and incomes can be minimised through easy access to both institutional and non-institutional credit for the minimum wage-earners and lower-range fixed income groups. Supportive framework through Consumer Access and Protection Act reinforced by setting up specialised SME Bank and Cooperative Bank branches in every district could contribute towards meeting these objectives.

To achieve overall efficiency, the budget process should be based on results-based and performance-based approaches. The results-based approach would reflect the final output as the determinant of our economic strengths and potentials for faster growth, while the performance-based approach should present the opportunity for incentives for broadened competitiveness and efficiency, which would enable key sectors to demonstrate better performance for increased economic resilience and growth. Restructuring budget-related input-output models and improved monitoring and evaluation mechanisms aimed at addressing critical constraints in every sector could be useful in ensuring appropriate budgetary and policy interventions. These approaches would also add value to the process of internal monetary and fiscal adjustments and in cushioning external shocks.

# A nation bogged by pitiful pessimists



is an architect

and a professor, a Commonwealth

Donor Rotarian.

scholar and a fellow,

Woodbadger scout leader, Baden-Powell

**SINCE 1995** 

#### **NIZAMUDDIN AHMED**

**7** OU have perhaps heard the tale of these two neighbours. On learning that the son of the man living next-door got admitted to college, the grouchy sceptic said, "He'll not pass". But, he did. So, the doubter observed, "He'll not get a job". A few months later, the qualified son got a job. Now what? With a three-line frown across his forehead, the cynic observed gravely, "He'll not get his salary". At the end of the month, his pay was duly disbursed. "You guys are fools," said the serial loser, "He was not paid in full".

"But indeed, he was." "Some of the notes are surely

counterfeit.'

"He was paid through a bank account." "That bank will go bust."

"It's a nationalised bank with over 50 years of solid reputation.'

"Haven't you heard of Sri Lanka?" You can almost not beat the pessimists, and there are some pathetic ones around

In the context of the last 50 years, they began by questioning the ability of our freedom fighters with "kissu hobe na", and are unabated till now by wondering whether southern Bangladeshis will ever switch from launch to railway when Padma Bridge is completed.

In the meantime, they had derided Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resolve to go ahead with the 6.5km crossing after the World Bank had withdrawn funding against false (unproven in five years) claims of corruption.

Another case to study in human (mis) behaviour is scoffers being uptight before a flight. "I heard they are always delayed". Once airborne and on time, the worrywart will moan, "There will surely be delays on our return flight". Why so? "Arrey dosto,

**CHINTITO** they do not have enough aeroplanes". That flight too was on time. Now what? "Well, we were plainly lucky this time."

Some of these sad guys will find everything wrong with a would-be groom. His body colour (how awful?) will not match with Pinky. He should have been a shade taller; how will Sitara wear heels? I heard he has a short temper; poor Moutushi!

When it was explained that the bride is perfectly okay with the guy's everything, the grumbler goes on, "I detest his father". On inspection it was revealed that the guy had a fling for someone in that family he abhors. It did not work out. Thank

The most recent cause for joy among the unhappy Bengalis, fanned by the opposition vote bank, is of course Sri Lanka. Unfortunate though the islanders are, their economy was hugely dependent on the tourism sector, which made a nosedive under Covid.

The enemies within Bangladesh have always grossly underestimated the potentiality, tenacity and determination of Bangladeshis. Throughout the pandemic, even under selective lockdown, our export-oriented garment and knit factories have remained in operation. Earning has been steady, despite which without any rhyme or reason, a selfish lobby is trying to spread panic and fear. Fortunately, not many people have the time to pay heed to their groans of despair, read frustration.

You may have noticed too that. deviating from past party-political partisanship, there are now several topnotch party henchmen and the lesser ones behind bars or undergoing trial. That could not stop the chronic critics, who are largely convinced that these are just showmanship.

When news breaks out of a corruption case and high-level perpetrators are named, they will say, this is nothing but eyewash. Amra ki bujhi na?

After the big-fish politician is arrested, the suspecting critics are sure he will be out on bail. No sooner is a bail denied, they are the source of a rumour that no



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

When news breaks out of a corruption case and high-level perpetrators are named, they will say, this is nothing but eyewash. Amra ki bujhi

trial is in the offing. The lengthy trial is again considered (by the know-alls) as only a means to let the powerful political parasite off the hook.

The news of his long sentence is viewed as tamasha because the Appeal Court will surely set him free. But, no! The honourable jurists have signed. sealed and delivered him seven years of imprisonment. Now what? "Oh, surely he will end up in hospital!" grumble the moaners. They are finally right. Most politicians, charged with criminality, first try to take refuge in the plea that they are victims of political harassment. Failing which there is always the comfort of a bed

From time immemorial, there is an immense amount of negative thinking in our society that has been crippling our nation. What is the way out of

this quagmire of unconstructiveness? Easy-peasy, as it may be obvious, but the answer is not "positive thinking".

We need to cultivate tolerance, accept each other despite our political differences, which is prevalent in any country and is a health indicator of modern citizenship. It does not help to oppose for the sake of opposition; childish, you could say. We have to shun jealousy, assuming that praising the good work of an opponent will further the latter's career. So be it, for the sake of the country and the people. Let us educate ourselves to be happy for the success of others at all levels, personal, among groups, and nationally. For the other side shall do likewise, hopefully. If not, let us be the good guys. And, the magic will rub on, hopefully.

# Playing games in Nato, Turkey eyes its role in a new world order



Dr James M Dorsey is a senior fellow a the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute, and adjunct senior fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

#### **JAMES M DORSEY**

ATO'S spat over Turkish opposition to Swedish and Finnish membership is about more than expanding the North Atlantic military alliance. It's as much about Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's immediate political goals as Turkey's positioning itself in a new 21st-century

On its surface, the spat is about Turkish efforts to hinder support for Kurdish ethnic, cultural, and national aspirations in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq and a crackdown on alleged supporters of a preacher who lives in exile in the United States. Turkey accuses the preacher, Fethullah Gulen, of instigating a failed military coup in 2016.

The spat may also be a play by Nato's second-largest standing military to regain access to US arms sales, particularly upgrades for Turkey's aging fleet of F-16 fighter jets as well as more advanced newer models of the F-16 and

the top-of-the-line F-35. Finally, playing the Kurdish card benefits Mr Erdogan domestically, potentially at a time that the Turkish economy is in the doldrums with a 70 percent inflation rate.

The battle over perceived Scandinavian, and mainly, Swedish support for Kurdish aspirations involves the degree to which the United States and Europe will continue to kick the can down on the road of what constitutes yet another Middle Eastern powder keg.

Mr Erdogan announced this week that Turkey would soon launch a new military incursion against US-backed Kurdish fighters in northeast Syria. Erdogan said the operation would extend the Turkish armed forces' areas of control in Syria to a 30-kilometre swath of land along the two countries' shared border.

"The main target of these operations will be areas which are centres of attacks to our country and safe zones," the Turkish president said.

Turkey asserts that the US-backed People's Protection Units (YPG), a Syrian militia that helped defeat the Islamic State, is an extension of the PKK. The PKK has waged a decadeslong insurgency against Turkey, home to some 16 million Kurds. Turkey, the United States, and the European Union



have designated the PKK as a terrorist organisation.

Erdogan charges that Sweden and Finland give the PKK sanctuary and is demanding that the two countries extradite the group's operatives. Turkey has not officially released the names of 33 people it wants to see extradited, but some were reported in Turkish media close to the government.

Swedish media reported that a physician allegedly on the list had died seven years ago and was not known to have had links to the PKK. Another person named was not resident in Sweden, while at least one other is a Swedish national.

Swedish and Finnish officials were in Ankara this week to discuss Turkey's objections. Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson insisted as the officials headed for the Turkish capital that "we do not send money or weapons to terrorist organisations."

Conveniently, pro-government media reported the day the officials arrived that Turkish forces found Swedish anti-tank weapons in a cave in northern Iraq used by the PKK. Turkey recently launched Operation Claw Lock against PKK positions in the region.

Erdogan's military plans complicate Swedish and Finnish accession to Nato. The two Nordic states slapped an arms embargo on Ankara after its initial

PHOTO:

Turkey's

Nato gamble

is a game of

high-stakes

poker, given

that Russia

is as much

a threat.

a partner of

Turkey as it is

incursion into Syria in 2019. The Turkish leader has demanded the lifting of the embargo as part of any deal on Swedish and Finnish Nato membership.

A renewed incursion that would cement Turkey's three-year-old military presence in Syria could also throw a monkey wrench into improving relations with the United States due to Turkish support for Ukraine and efforts to mediate an end to the crisis sparked by the Russian invasion.

Turkey slowed its initial incursion into Syria after then US President Donald J Trump threatened to "destroy and obliterate" Turkey's economy.

The State Department warned this week that a renewed incursion would "undermine regional stability.

Revived US arms sales would go a long way to cement improved relations and downplay the significance of Turkey's acquisition of Russia's S-400 anti-missile system, even if Turkey's opposition to Scandinavian membership will have a lingering effect on trust. The United States expelled Turkey from its F-35 programme in response to the acquisition.

This week, Erdogan appeared to widen the dispute in Nato after Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis lobbied the US Congress against military sales to Turkey. "Mitsotakis no longer exists for me. I will never agree to meet him,"

Erdogan said. He said that Mitostakis' lobbying violated an agreement between the two men "not to involve third countries in our bilateral issues.'

The US arms sales would also impact Turkish Russian relations, even if Turkey, in contrast to most Nato members, will continue seeking to balance its relationships and avoid an open rift with Moscow or Washington.

"Russia's geopolitical revisionism is set to drive Turkey and the West relatively closer together in matters geopolitical and strategic, provided that Turkey's current blockage of Sweden and Finland's Nato membership bid is resolved in the not too distant future,' said Turkish scholar Galip Dalay.

Turkey's Nato gamble is a game of high-stakes poker, given that Russia is as much a partner of Turkey as it is a threat.

Nato is Turkey's ultimate shield against Russian civilisationalist expansionism. Russian support in 2008 for irredentist regions of Georgia and annexation of Crimea in 2014 created a buffer between Turkey and Ukraine and complicated arrangements between Turkey and Russia in the Black Sea.

Nevertheless, Erdogan risks fuelling a debate about Turkey's membership in Nato, much like Prime Minister Victor Orban's opposition to a European embargo of Russian energy has raised questions about Hungary's place in the

"Does Erdogan's Turkey Belong in Nato?" asked former US vice-presidential nominee Joe Lieberman and Mark D Wallace, a former senator, in an oped in The Wall Street Journal. Unlike Finland and Sweden, the two men noted that Turkey would not meet Nato's democracy requirements if it were applying for membership today.

"Turkey is a member of Nato, but under Mr Erdogan, it no longer subscribes to the values that underpin this great alliance. Article 13 of the Nato charter provides a mechanism for members to withdraw. Perhaps it is time to amend Article 13 to establish a procedure for the expulsion of a member nation," Lieberman and Wallace wrote.

The two men implicitly argued that turning the tables on Turkey would force the complicated Nato member back into

Adding to that, prominent Turkish journalist and analyst Cengiz Candar cautioned that "giving into Ankara's demands amounts to letting an autocrat design the security architecture of Europe and shape the future of the Western system.'

**DID YOU KNOW?** 

activity before birth.

access to food.

While the fetal clock

to rhythmic behaviour in the mother. The hypothalamus's suprachiasmatic nuclei (SCN) are

behaviour tells the time During foetal development, before the biological clock starts ticking on its own, genes respond

the body's timekeepers. Rhythmic gene activity in

SCN cells governs the activity of many other genes

locally and throughout the body, influencing

circadian rhythmic behaviour such as feeding

and sleeping. But rhythmic gene activity begins

late in foetal development, raising the question

of whether maternal influences entrain SCN gene

The authors compared gene activity in SCN

tissue from pregnant rats kept in the dark under

two conditions. Lesioned rats had disrupted SCNs

rhythm in their activity that their SCNs could not

They found that, within the SCNs of both sets

and limited food access to impose a circadian

sustain. Control rats had intact SCNs and free

of fetuses, there was a very small set of genes

groups and a much larger set whose activity

The study reveals that distinct maternal

signals rhythmically control a variety of neuronal

oscillated in sync with each other.

whose timing patterns differed between the two

develops, mom's

# What you need to know about monkeypox

The disease can be prevented by avoiding contact with the diseased person, practising personal hygiene maintenance, especially handwashing with soap and water, and wearing a mask. Isolate infected patients from others who could be at risk for infection.

PROF M KARIM KHAN

According to the BBC, over 80 cases of monkeypox have been verified in at least 12 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Italy, and Sweden recently. The situation is evolving and the World Health Organisation (WHO) expects there will be more cases of monkeypox identified as surveillance expands in non-endemic countries. Immediate actions focus on informing those who may be most at risk for monkeypox infection with accurate information, in order to stop further spread.

The monkeypox virus is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus, and this virus is similar to the smallpox virus and cowpox virus. The first human cases of monkeypox were recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The natural reservoir of monkeypox remains unknown. However, African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) may harbour the virus and infect people.

In humans, the symptoms of monkeypox are similar to but milder than the symptoms of smallpox. Monkeypox begins with fever, headache, muscle aches, and exhaustion. The main difference between the symptoms of smallpox and monkeypox is that the monkeypox causes lymph nodes to swell (lymphadenopathy) while smallpox does not. The incubation period for monkeypox is usually 7-14 days but can range from 5-21

The illness begins with fever, headache, muscle aches, backaches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion; within 1 to 3 days, sometimes long after the appearance of fever, the patient develops a rash, often beginning on the face and then spreading to other parts of the body. Lesions progress through the following stages before falling off: macules (flat, reddened area in a skin



rash), papules (raised area is a skin rash), vesicles (blisters on skin), pustules (pus), and scabs (a protective tissue covering that forms after your skin has been damaged). The illness typically lasts for 2-4 weeks. In Africa, monkeypox has been shown to cause death in as many as 1 - 10%.

Transmission of monkeypox virus occurs when a person comes into contact with the virus from animals, humans, or materials contaminated with the virus. The virus enters the body through broken skin, respiratory tract, or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth).

Currently, there is no proven, safe treatment for monkeypox virus infection. However, the treatment can be based on symptoms. To control a monkeypox outbreak in the United States, the smallpox vaccine, antivirals, and vaccinia immune globulin (VIG) can be used. The smallpox vaccine may protect against the infection to some extent.

The disease can be prevented by avoiding contact with the diseased person, practising strict personal hygiene maintenance, especially handwashing with soap and water, and wearing a mask. Isolate infected patients from others who could be at risk for infection. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for patients. No monkeypox cases have been detected in Bangladesh yet, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) says. However, Bangladesh declared a health alert amid rising cases of Monkeypox across the world.

infection, personal hygiene is sufficient to protect us from monkeypox infection. Furthermore, visitors from other countries should be quarantined for a few days. Passengers arriving from affected countries must be subjected to increased monitoring and health screening at all international airports and land ports. Nothing to be panicked about. Take care; stay safe and

The author works at Community Based Medical College (CBMC), Mymensingh. Email: mmukkhan@gmail.com

#### processes in the fetal rat suprachiasmatic nuclei before they begin to operate as the central circadian clock. The results indicate the importance of a well-functioning maternal biological clock in providing a rhythmic environment during fetal brain development. As we maintained in the COVID-19



#### **Natural remedies** for acne

DR TRISITA SAHA BISWAS

Acne occurs when skin pores become clogged with hair, sebum, germs, and dead skin cells. Acne requires medication and physical care. Here are the five acne fighting tips.

Cleaning: Clean your affected area with mild soap and lukewarm water, but no more than two times a day. Frequent

cleaning may irritate your skin, which will

**Skip touching:** Do not squeeze out the blackheads or pimples. This may result in a permanent scar. Resist touching your face repeatedly, as bacteria may transfer to your skin.

Caution with make-up use: Avoid using excess make-up or skincare products. If you do, use noncomedogenic water-based products. Also, make sure to remove your make-up before bedtime.

**Skin moisturiser:** Skin hydration is essential, for which you can use a moisturiser or fragrance-free water-based emollient.

Diet and exercise: A healthy, balanced diet works as a foundation for good skin. Again, stress triggers acne breakouts. Regular exercise can

boost your mind and relieve stress and anxiety. Acne is depressing, but it is possible to get rid of it by being consistent and patient with the

The writer works as a Research and Policy Assistant in Centre for Research, Innovation and Development Action (CRIDA).

#### Early exercise after breast cancer surgery improves outcomes

Axillary lymph node dissection causes arm and shoulder disability in breast cancer patients. This procedure is becoming less common since sentinel lymph node biopsy. In this multicenter United Kingdom trial, researchers assessed the effect of a structured exercise programme on functional outcomes in breast cancer nodal surgery and radiotherapy patients at high risk for upper limb

Total 392 patients were randomised to usual care alone or usual care plus a structured exercise program starting 7 to 10 days after surgery to improve shoulder movement, strength, and activity. At onevear upper limb function measured by the Disabili of Arm, Hand and Shoulder (DASH) questionnaire was significantly improved in the

exercise group compared with the usual-care group.

Exercise improved pain and disability symptoms. Exercise did not increase complications. Comparing the intervention to usual care showed cost-effectiveness. After nonreconstructive breast cancer surgery and radiotherapy, early structured exercise improves function and disability. Programmes, where this intervention is not normally the standard should change practice to include it.

### Dietary modification: an alternative approach to migraine prophylaxis

DR MUHAMMAD TOREQUL ISLAM, TAWHID ISLAM

Migraine can be defined as a primary headache, characterized by frequent headaches from mild to severe, usually affecting one side of the head and sustaining for hours to three days. This disorder can be ranked as the most prevalent consequence of the disability of people under 50 years of age. Approximately 14.4% of global adults have migraines.

Several facts, including vascular dysfunction, cortical spreading depression, activation of the pro-inflammatory and oxidative state, etc., play major roles in migraine pain generation. As a result, physicians are accustomed to using multimodal migraine treatment approaches to improve the quality of life in this group of patients.

Among the alternative strategies, dietary interventions may be the best. The ketogenic (a very low carb, high fat diet) and modified Atkins diets (a less restrictive variation of the ketogenic diet: it starts on an outpatient basis without a fast, allowing unlimited protein and fat and non-restricting calories or fluids) have been shown to provide neuroprotection, improve mitochondrial function and energy metabolism, compensate for serotoninergic dysfunction, and lower calories. A low glycemic diet's anti-inflammatory properties may help with headaches and migraines. Inflammation and irregular hypothalamic function

link obesity and headaches (including migraines).

Thus, weight-loss diets can reduce headaches and migraines. Balanced omega-6 and omega-3 intake affect inflammation, platelet function, and vascular tone, which improves headache/migraine, Migraine patients with food sensitivities can also follow the elimination diet. Dietary approaches can be effective migraine preventives.

Magnesium- and omega-3-rich foods may also help migraine sufferers. For example, pumpkin seeds, spinach, cashews, peanuts, dark

leafy greens, avocado, tuna, etc., are high in magnesium. In addition, fatty fish (pangash, Katla, carp, catfish, hilsa, salmon, etc.), seeds, and legumes are high in omega-3 fatty acids.

On the other hand, some diets can trigger migraines. There is no complete list of it, but some foods containing high nitrogen content (hot dogs, meats), beta-phenylalanine containing chocolate, processed food containing monosodium glutamate, food

containing aspartame (an artificial sugar), fermented food or old cheeses which contain tyramine and importantly alcoholic beverages (wine or beer) should be avoided.

Before taking any dietary steps for migraine, it is important to consult with a physician.

Dr Muhammad Torequl Islam is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Department, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj, Bangladesh. Email: dmt.islam@bsmrstu.edu.bd Tawhid Islam is a B. Pharm Student at the Department of Pharmacy, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj, Bangladesh. Email: tawhidislam2021@yahoo.com

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IPL final
Gujarat v Rajasthan
Live from 8:30pm

#### Booters train in Bandung

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team members trained for the first time in the Indonesian city of Bandung for the first time yesterday after reaching Indonesia on the previous

The men in red and green, who will play the hosts in a FIFA friendly on June 1, travelled to Bandung from Jakarta after flying out of Dhaka in the wee hours of Friday.

The training session, according to video footages and messages sent by the Bangladesh Football Federation, limited to tactical work including defending and set-pieces.

Rahmat Mia, one of the defenders of the team, said after the session: "This was out first training session in Indonesia today following a long journey yesterday. So far we had trained in groups (back at home) in absence of the Bashundhara Kings players who were busy with the AFC Cup



"We had the full team (23 members) at disposal today. We basically worked on defensive shape of the team – how we can create blocks. Towards the end of the session, we worked on set pieces, especially defending set-pieces. It was a low-intensity session," said the Saif SC full-back.

Coach Javier Cabrera also spoke about how the hour-long session was basically focused on recovery following the long

Following the friendly against Indonesia, who are 29 places above Bangladesh in FIFA rankings, Cabrera's charges will move to Malaysia for the Asian Cup Qualifiers, where they will play against Bahrain, Turkmenistan and Malaysia on June 8, 11 and 14 respectively.

Six group winners and five best runners-up teams will join 13 teams who have already qualified for next year's Asian Cup.







Bangladesh Test skipper Mominul Haque (C), who has been going through a lean patch for a while, will be under intense scrutiny in the Tigers' upcoming Test series away to the West Indies next month. Apart from Mominul, left-handed batter Najmul Hossain Shanto (L) will also have to prove his worth as the best-fit for the number three position while Yasir Ali (R) will be hoping to make a statement if given a chance in absence of Mushfigur Rahim, who is set to miss the tour for personal reasons.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# WI tour a litmus test for fragile top-order

SPORTS REPORTER

As two successive shambolic Test series
-- away to South Africa in March-April
and the recently-concluded home series
against Sri Lanka -- come to an end,
the main concern for Bangladesh is the
fragility of their top-order. In fact, barring
a few sparse instances of it coming to
life, the top-order's struggles have been
persistent.

On a pitch in the second Test against Sri Lanka that even the Bangladesh team management termed a sporting wicket, the Tigers witnessed a top-order meltdown in both innings. They were reduced to five for 24 inside just seven overs in the first innings and again were reeling at four for 23 in the second innings.

Had it not been for the heroics of Mushfiqur Rahim, Liton Das and Shakib Al Hasan, the second and final Test could have ended in a much more devastating result than a 10-wicket mauling.

If there is anything more concerning than the apparent top-order issue, it is the fact that the Tigers now have to travel to the West Indies in a few days' time for a much tougher challenge in a multiformat series.

rmat series. Bangladesh are scheduled to leave for the Caribbean in the first week of June for two Tests, three ODIs and three T20Is. The series begins with the first Test in Antigua from June 16, which means the Tigers have limited time on hand to even somewhat mend their top-order issues. Also, the fact that Bangladesh were bundled out for 43 in Antigua — their lowest total in Tests till date — ought to impact them adversely.

Mental issues have been blamed for batting failure in recent times but while that is an aspect to ponder and address, it is poor application and an apparent lack of game sense from the top-order batters that needs more immediate attention.

The way skipper Mominul Haque, who has been enduring a lean patch for a while, played away from his body off just in his second delivery that he faced only to edge through to the wicketkeeper in the second innings of the Dhaka Test against Sri Lanka proves that the problems of the top-order batters are more than just a mental snag.

The Bangladesh skipper has scored in single digits in his past seven innings. And more than anyone, the tour of the Caribbean will be a litmus Test for the 30-year-old left-hander.

Another player that will be under intense scrutiny in the upcoming series

is Najmul Hossain Shanto. Entrusted with the role of playing at number three, Shanto has been long dubbed as the future star of Bangladesh cricket.

But despite all the talent that he is said to possess, the left-hander has yet to show the one quality that is the most basic requirement for being a successful top-order batter -- consistency. The last time the 23-year-old scored a fifty in the format was during Bangladesh's historic away Test triumph against New Zealand in January this year. But Shanto too has produced single-digit scores in his last four innings.

To add to Bangladesh's worries, the Tigers are set to miss in-form Mushfiqur Rahim on the tour of the West Indies as the cricketer asked for leave to perform the Hajj pilgrimage. Head coach Russell Domingo mentioned that the batting order would be shuffled for the Windies

Mushfiqur's absence could open the doors for Yasir Ali, who will go in with the agenda to cement his spot in the line-up.

As it stands, the upcoming series away to West Indies could play a huge role in assessing the role of a number of players in the long run and also show how Bangladesh plan to go ahead in the Test format in the coming days.

# Rajasthan's 2nd or Gujarat's 1st?

AFP, AHMEDABAD

Indian Premier League debutants Gujarat Titans will take on a Shane Warne-inspired Rajasthan Royals in Sunday's final, both teams eyeing a fairy tale victory after each enjoyed a dominant season run.

Fourteen years ago, Warne led underdogs Rajasthan to glory in the marquee T20 tournament's inaugural season.

This year they face another set of first-timers in the final of a season that began just weeks after the Australian spin legend's shock death.

"Shane Warne... is such an influential figure for the Rajasthan Royals and having led the team to success in that first season," said star batsman Jos Buttler. "We will miss him dearly, but we know he is looking down on us with a lot of pride."

In-form Buttler led Rajasthan's fightback in the second qualifier to knock out Royal Challengers Bangalore and reach their first IPL final after they won the inaugural edition in 2008.

He equalled Virat Kohli's record of four tons in an IPL season with 106 not out during Rajasthan's chase, and leads the season's batting chart with 824 runs.

Gujarat skipper Hardik Pandya has established his side as the team to beat this year after topping the league table and storming into the final when they beat Rajasthan by seven wickets in the first play-off.

"It's really going to be a tough challenge," Rajasthan head coach Kumar Sangakkara said of the looming showdown.

"(Pandya) is an exceptional player. He has led his side really well. They are an exceptional team, highly skilled, really well settled, performing at



peak consistently through this entire tournament." Gujarat will be playing at their home ground in Ahmedabad. The franchise have been a force to reckon with since their opening win over fellow newcomers Lucknow Super Giants and they were the first to book a play-off spot.

South Africa's David Miller and Indian batsman Rahul Tewatia have been key to their success with the middle-order pair rescuing Gujarat out of tough spots.

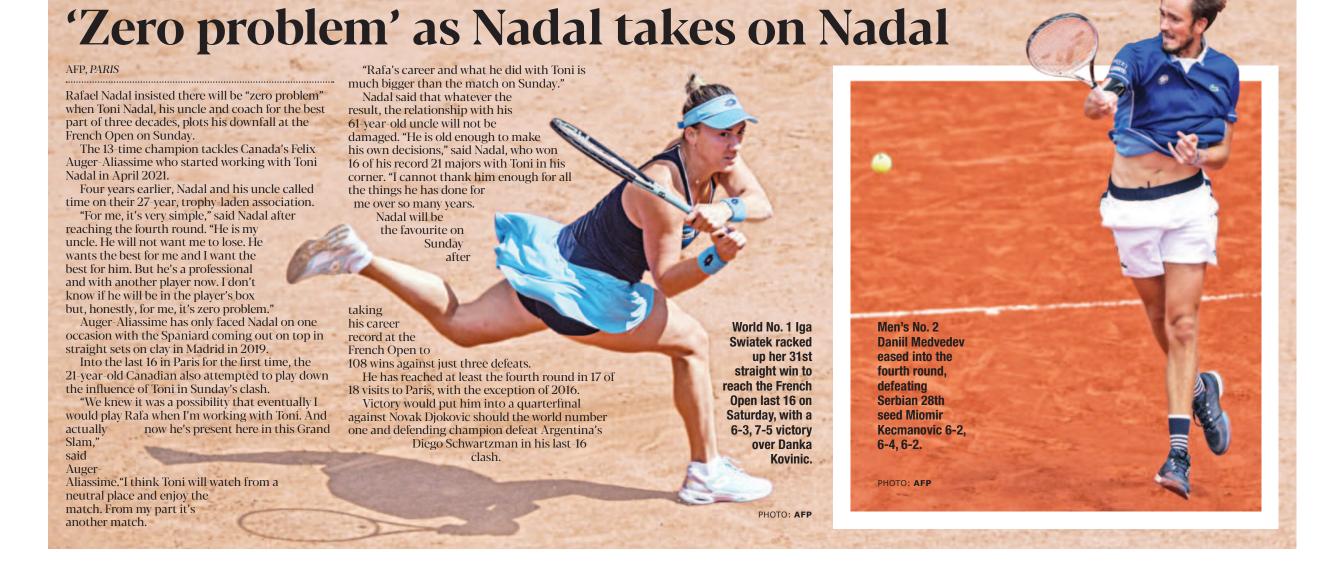
"Killer" Miller made an unbeaten 68 to power Gujarat into the final early this week with a seven-wicket win in Kolkata. Tewatia made two sixes in the last two balls to snatch a one-run victory over Punjab Kings last month.

Mohammed Shami has meanwhile led the team's dominating bowling charge with 19 wickets in 15 matches, ably assisted by Afghan spinner Rashid Khan.

Rashid not only claimed 18 wickets but also boosted the team's batting at crucial moments, including two sixes on the final two balls to pull off a respective feat.

"The more important thing was the balance that we had in the team really helped us to reach this position," said the champion leg-spinner.

Everyone on the team had been certain of what role they were to play, he added. "There was no confusion in the players' mind."





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#### **Every Dhaka** street will have CCTV coverage Home minister says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All roads in the capital will be brought under CCTV camera coverage, which would benefit the city's traffic management and help control crime, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

He was speaking at the ninth general assembly of "Nirapad Sarak Chai", a platform working to ensure safe roads.

"We are taking initiatives to make Dhaka a safe city. We will bring the whole city under CCTV camera coverage. If we can do it, then we will do the same for Chattogram and Rajshahi cities. We are working towards achieving that goal. It will benefit many areas, particularly in traffic and crime control," the minister said at an event held in the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Asaduzzaman said many people point fingers



A bit of greenery, a result of a private initiative, offering passersby shade and relief from the sun. Such foliage is hardly seen in the capital. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Paribagh yesterday.

## World's loneliest post office



Deep in the Tengger Desert of Inner Mongolia, surrounded by sand dunes as far as the eye can see, lies the world's loneliest post office, a surprisingly bustling outpost of human connection.

Measuring only 15 square meters, the wooden post office of Tengger Desert is not much to look at, but that's ok, it doesn't get too many visitors anyway. Besides, after being abandoned for over 35 years, it actually doesn't look half bad. Thanks to the efforts of a few intrepid individuals who learned about the existence of an old abandoned desert post office by mistake, it has been given a new lease on life, and thanks to the magic of the internet, it has actually become quite a busy operation.

Despite rarely receiving any visitors, over 20,000 letters and postcards were sent from the Desert Post Office in the month of December 2021 alone. And it was all thanks to the efforts of Ms Zhang, one of the people involved in the revitalization of the post office.

## Egg prices a new worry for consumers

SUKANTA HALDER

The prices of eggs, the most affordable source of animal protein, have gone up by 20 percent in a month at the retail markets in the capital, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Retailers were selling brown farm eggs (brown) between Tk 125 and Tk 130 per dozen over the last few days.

Farm owners said rising production and transport costs were behind the price

The prices of soybean meal and maize, the main ingredients for poultry feed, rose by 30 to 40 percent in the last few months, they said.

Also, many poultry farmers have suffered losses and gone out of business during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nurul Alam Shikdar, a wholesaler in Mirpur's Pallabi Extension area, said many people were buying fewer eggs nowadays.

Contacted, Kayser Ahmed, managing director of Diamond Egg Ltd, one of the largest egg farms in the country, said around 75 percent of the poultry feed was imported.

Feed manufacturers have also reduced their production due to a crisis of raw materials, he

The costs of hiring workers and electricity have also gone up, he said.

The overall production of eggs has decreased by 20 percent, Kayser said.

Taher Ahmed Siddique, president of Bangladesh Egg Producers Association, said the current production of eggs was not enough to meet the

> As a result, the prices have gone up, he said, adding, "The upward trend of the egg prices may continue until the feed

prices come down." Over 3.5 crore eggs re required to meet the daily demand in the country, he further

added. Prices of local chicken and duck eggs rose to TK 150 per dozen in Karwan Bazar yesterday.

These eggs were being sold at Tk 165 at retail

SM Nazer Hossain, vicepresident of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said there

was an inflationary pressure in the country now, and it would impact all the sectors.

"The prices of essential commodities have risen and become a major issue for people with limited

If this continues, it will not take long for the food security to come under a major threat, he added.

## JCD protests nationwide

#### BCL launches its own counter protests

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has staged protests across the country against the recent attacks by Chhatra League.

The BCL, however, has also announced protests against what it calls "attacks on its leaders and activists and general students by Chhatra Dal".

Educationists now fear clashes between the two major student fronts may spread across the country if the government and educational institutions don't take appropriate measures.

Amid this face-off between the BCL and the JCD, the Awami League and the BNP are also trading blame.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader vesterday said the BNP was making ill attempts to create a chaotic situation in the country.

Senior BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain alleged that the recent attacks on JCD men were carried out by Chhatra League in Dhaka University area at the behest of the highest levels of the government.

BCL men attacked JCD leaders and activists on Tuesday when they tried to enter the DU campus to attend a programme. On Thursday, JCD men again came under attack by BCL activists during their protest over the previous attack.

Yesterday, Chhatra Dal staged protests at the metropolitan and district levels. The organisation



will stage protests at the upazila and college levels

Chhatra League yesterday announced that it would form human chains in all districts today protesting "attacks by Chhatra Dal" and demanding peace on the DU campus. Witnesses said BCL activists yesterday took

positions in different areas of the DU, including TSC, Curzon Hall, Fuller Road, near the Central Shaheed Minar and Madhur Canteen. Many of them were carrying sticks and cricket stumps.

Saddam Hussain, general secretary of DU BC said they will make sure that no organisation can be violent on the campus. "We will prevent Chhatra Dal from entering

the campus at any cost," he told The Daily Star. Several JCD leaders told this correspondent that they would soon try to enter the campus

JCD General Secretary Saif Mahmud Jewel said they would come up with tougher protest programmes if they fail to enter the DU campus to stage protests peacefully.

"We have already urged the university authorities to call a meeting of the Paribesh Parishad to ensure peaceful coexistence of all student organisations on campus," he said.

Eight leftist student organisations have also raised the same demand.

Educationist Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said, "If the government and the university administration cannot stop clashes with the help SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

**UKRAINIAN GRAINS** 

## Russia 'willing to' allow shipments Putin tells French, German leaders

**AGENCIES** 

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday told the leaders of France and Germany in a phone call that Russia was willing to discuss ways to make it possible for Ukraine to resume shipments of grain from Black Sea ports, the Kremlin said.

Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat supplies, while Russia is also a key global fertilizer exporter and Ukraine is a major exporter of corn and sunflower oil.

Russia's offensive in Ukraine and Western sanctions have disrupted

supplies of the key commodities from the

two countries, fuelling concerns about the risk of shortages and hunger around the world. "For its part,

Russia is ready to help find options for the unhindered export of grain, including the export of Ukrainian grain from Black Sea ports," the Kremlin said.

It said he also informed French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz that Russia was ready to increase its export of fertilizers and agricultural products if sanctions against it were lifted - a demand



Labourers dump sandbags in the Sugandha to protect the bank from erosion in Jhalakathi's Nalchhiti upazila yesterday. The swelling river is threatening arable land and people's homes and business there.

#### Sri Lanka gets Russian oil to ease shortage

AFP, Colombo

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka vesterday took delivery of Russian oil -- which could soon be subject to a European embargo -- to restart operations at the country's only refinery, the energy minister said.

The island nation is suffering its worst economic meltdown since independence, with shortages of fuel and other vital goods making life miserable for its 22 million people.

The state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) refinery was shuttered in March in the wake of Sri Lanka's foreign exchange crunch, which left the government unable to finance crude imports.