



## P7 Clashes as Israel stages 'flag march'



## P8 Dev projects: Where is the omelette promised?



## P10 Nazrul: The eternal rebel warrior



## B1 Tyre imports fall amid BB curbs

### BUSINESS

#### BB raises key interest rate for first time in a decade Devalues taka further to stabilise forex market

Bangladesh Bank yesterday raised its key interest rate for the first time in a decade and devalued taka for the seventh time this year against US dollar as part of efforts to tackle inflationary forces and restore stability in the foreign exchange market.

The rise in the repo rate means the taka will be costlier, which will subsequently help contain inflation.

The BB raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5 percent, the first hike since January 5, 2012, while it depreciated the exchange rate of the taka by 1.25 percent to Tk 89 per US dollar.

STORY ON B1



Schoolboys playing dangerously close to a train in the capital's Karatitola. Fatal accidents on the rail lines are not uncommon in the country and people not keeping clear of the tracks is one of the reasons for the tragedies. We are publishing the photo of children to raise awareness about the risks.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## It's official, it's Padma Bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bridge over the Padma river, the country's longest, will be named "Padma Bridge".

The Bridges Division under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Bridges published a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rejected a proposal to name the bridge after her. She had directed the authorities concerned to name the bridge after the mighty river.

The PM will inaugurate the long-cherished bridge on June 25.

Once in service, the 6.15km bridge will connect the capital with 21 southwestern districts by road and railway, providing relief to tens of thousands

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

# Abandoned on OPERATION TABLE

Doctors, nurses flee illegal hospital leaving c-section patient, newborn in operation theatre as DGHS raids nearby facilities; directorate shuts down 882 establishments

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Doctors, nurses and other employees of a hospital in Narayanganj yesterday abandoned a mother and her newborn on an operating table after hearing that health directorate officials were raiding unlicensed hospitals in the area.

The mother had just given birth through a Caesarean section at the Padma General Hospital in Shimirail.

Officials of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) were conducting raids in Jatrabari when the hospital's doctors and staffers locked up the facility and left the newborn and the mother helpless.

DGHS officials told The Daily Star that they rushed to the facility after being tipped off about the matter and found the mother alone on the operating table with the baby next to her.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## CLOSED UNAUTHORISED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

➤ Dhaka – 167 ➤ Rangpur – 14

➤ Chattogram – 229 ➤ Rajshahi – 78

➤ Sylhet – 35 ➤ Khulna – 204

➤ Mymensingh – 96 ➤ Barishal – 59

TOTAL – 882

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## 15 hurt in AL- BNP clash in Bogura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between Awami League and BNP activists in Purbopara area of Bogura's Gabtali upazila yesterday.

Eight of them, including three with shotgun pellet injuries, were admitted to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical Hospital, said hospital sources.

Witnesses said AL activists damaged several posters and banners of BNP around noon when they were passing by the house of upazila BNP President Morshed Milton during a procession in Purbopara area.

At one stage, the AL men started hitting a boundary wall of the

### TAX MEASURES

## Tailored for 'Made in Bangladesh'

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

There is bad news for consumers of imported luxury items: they will get dearer thanks to the tax measures the National Board of Revenue is preparing for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1.

Following last week's increase in regulatory duty on the import of 120 items including cosmetics, flowers, fruits and furniture, the NBR is planning a bigger hike for fiscal 2022-23.

At present, an import is subjected to customs duty, advanced income tax, value-added tax, supplementary duty and regulatory duty.

The NBR is considering raising the rate for all or just one or two components, said a finance ministry official on condition of anonymity as he is not authorised to speak with the media ahead of the budget, which will be placed before the parliament on June 9.

"It is still being worked out but luxury imports will definitely face higher tariffs next fiscal year."

In the tax law, there is no definition of what constitutes a luxury item.

The revenue authority is now drafting a list of items that can be treated as a luxury, he said, adding that high-tariff value items will be marked as luxury.

The next course of action will be decided once the list is in place.

"The AIT for some items can be increased, or the supplementary duty or the rates for all tax components can be raised. There is still time for the NBR to do its computation."

But items like cars, refrigerators and air conditioners will most definitely become more expensive, the official added.

The move is expected to preserve the precarious level of foreign exchange reserves.

On May 25, foreign exchange reserves stood at \$42.3 billion, enough to cover at best five months' import -- much lower than the prescribed safety net of eight to nine months' import bill.

At the same time, the government is hoping it would give impetus to the 'Made in Bangladesh' agenda.

It is expected to encourage the local manufacturers of home appliances and improve the quality of their merchandise so that importing those items would not be necessary in the long run.

In a push for the 'Made in Bangladesh' plan, the government will also slash the corporate tax rates by 2.5 percentage points for both listed and non-listed companies that are in manufacturing.

For listed companies, the corporate tax rate will come down to 20 percent. But for banks and mobile operators, the corporate tax rate will remain unchanged.

The move is expected to also encourage companies to get listed with the bourses, which are in want of quality stocks.

For non-listed companies, the corporate tax rate would come down to 27.5 percent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## 'Reckless driving' claims 10 lives

25 hurt as bus crashes into tree

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Ten people, including a nine-year-old, died and 25 others were seriously injured as a bus of Jamuna Line Transport crashed into a tree in Sanuhar area of Ujirpur, Barishal, in the early morning yesterday.

Survivors of the crash said they repeatedly asked the driver to slow down the vehicle, but he did not listen and kept on driving recklessly.

They added the bus left Gabtoli bus terminal for Bhandaria, Pirojpur about an hour late and the driver was apparently trying to make up for the delay.

Police and family members identified nine of the deceased as Arafat Hossain, 9, Nazrul Islam Akon, 35, Tajine Ara Begum, 35, Halim Mia, 30, Sentu Mollah, 50, Ramzan Haldar, 38, Madhab Shil, 40, Reza Chokdar, 23, and the driver's helper Ibrahim Miah, 26.

Many of the injured, including driver Muhammad Arif, were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal.

Hospital officials said three of the injured were in a critical state.

"All the passengers were scared as the bus was moving too fast. We repeatedly requested him to drive slowly. But he would not listen," said Mohammad Selim, one of the injured at the hospital.

Most of the victims were residents of Pirojpur, Barguna and Barishal, said police.

Nasir Hawladar, a resident of Sundarkathi village in Bakerganj, Barishal, said, "My sister died on Saturday evening. My brother Ramzan was coming home from Dhaka to see her for the last time. But now he is also dead."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Wreckage of the bus that crashed into a tree in Sanuhar area of Ujirpur, Barishal, early yesterday, killing 10 people and injuring many others. Survivors said the driver was reckless and he would not listen when they asked him to slow down.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

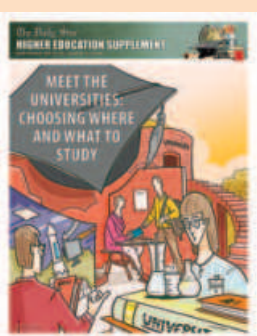
## Stakeholders must have a say

Says law minister on personal data, OTT laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must accept logical suggestions from stakeholders while formulating Personal Data Protection Act and OTT Platform Regulations, said Law Minister Anisul Huq.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



Don't miss today's Higher Education Special

MEET THE UNIVERSITIES: WHERE AND WHAT TO STUDY



# Train services between India, Bangladesh resume

STAR REPORT

Train services between Bangladesh and India resumed yesterday after remaining suspended for over two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Maitree Express, which plies the Dhaka-Kolkata route, left the Dhaka Cantonment Station at 8:15am with around 170 passengers, Shafiqur Rahman, divisional railway manager (Dhaka) of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star.

As the train resumed operations after a long while, BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder welcomed the passengers with flowers, he added.

Meanwhile, the Bandhan Express, which operates on Khulna-Kolkata route, reached Benapole railway station from Kolkata around 9:45am with 19 passengers.

Earlier, the Khulna-bound Bandhan



Express started its journey from Kolkata station at Chitpur at 7:10am (Indian time).

While the Bandhan Express runs two days a week, the Maitree Express operates five days.

Eklavya Chakraborty, ER PRO, said people on both sides of the border are excited about the resumption of the train services. The trains are fully booked for the next few days, reports our Delhi correspondent.

Mitali Express, the third passenger train to be operated between the two countries, will start operations from June 1.

The train would travel between Dhaka and West Bengal's New Jalpaiguri four days a week.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, who is visiting India now, and Indian Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will jointly inaugurate the new train from the Rail Bhavan in New Delhi virtually, sources said.



People walking on the middle of the street as traders left planks on the footpath and part of the road in the capital's Dholaiarp. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Bangladesh ready to send more peacekeepers

Says PM on International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2022

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh is ready to send more members to the UN peacekeeping missions as it is committed to playing a stronger role in establishing world peace.

"If needed further, we're ready to send the required number of peacekeepers in response to the call of the United Nations," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme marking the International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2022, held at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. She joined the event from the Gono Bhaban through videoconferencing.

Hasina said, "We are committed to playing a stronger role in the establishment of world peace, keeping in view 'People Peace Progress: the Power of Partnership,' the theme of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2022."

She called upon all Bangladeshi peacekeepers to carry out their respective responsibilities with sincerity while maintaining professionalism and integrity in the global peacekeeping operations.

The PM also asked them to try to keep their lives protected in the missions and brighten the country's image on the world stage.

"Always keep in mind that self-confidence is the most important thing in performing any duty. So, you all

should carry out your respective duties with confidence. If so, you will be successful."

Noting that a war following the pandemic is now badly affecting the world economy, Hasina said, "We don't want any conflict or war. We want peace to be established throughout the world."



The premier said Bangladesh currently has 6,825 members in UN peacekeeping missions. They account for 9.2 percent of a total of 75,516 peacekeepers from 121 countries deployed in establishing world peace.

At present, 519 women peacekeepers from Bangladesh are engaged in world peacekeeping operations, she said, adding that participation of women peacekeepers from Bangladesh armed forces and police is rising gradually.

She said Bangladeshi peacekeepers have successfully completed 55 missions in different countries. Now Bangladeshi peacekeepers are engaged in 13 missions around the world.

The PM said Bangladeshi peacekeepers have earned unconditional love, trust and confidence of the local people through the restoration of peace in the conflict-ridden countries by working together with other allied peacekeepers, risking their lives.

Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations, Rabab Fatima, is the current chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, she added.

## Tailored

FROM PAGE 1

"This is the right step as the corporate tax rate in Bangladesh is higher than the South Asian average," said Nasiruddin Ahmed, a former NBR chairman.

Gradually, the corporate tax rate will be brought down to 25 percent, according to the finance ministry official.

"I don't see why there needs to be a distinction between listed and non-listed companies. If the corporate sector flourishes, it is good for the economy as it will generate employment," Ahmed added.

Another measure that is in the works is the withdrawal of tax exemption for poultry and fisheries industries.

The purpose of tax exemption is to help the domestic industry become more competitive.

"But poultry and fish are not imported, so there is no competition from foreign producers. There is no need for tax exemption for these two sectors," the finance ministry official said.

Instead, retracting the tax exemption will compel

the local industries to level up.

Besides, many use the facility to evade taxes, according to Ahmed.

"This is actually a concern and the Anti-Corruption Commission has lodged many cases," he said.

The poultry and fisheries sectors are composed of a large number of small producers who are outside the tax net, according to the finance ministry official.

"You could say those industries have perfect competition, as they say in economics."

In economics, perfect competition is when a large number of producers with the willingness and ability to supply the homogenous product at a certain price exists. As a result, individuals are unable to influence prices more than a little.

"And the taxmen are yet to reach them, so removing the tax exemption facility will have no impact on them. On the upshot, one of the many loops for tax evasion will be closed," the official added.

## Reckless driving

FROM PAGE 1

Ali Arshad, officer-in-charge of Ujirpur Police Station, said, "It appears from the wreckage that the vehicle was speeding."

Police and firefighters went to the scene and recovered the bodies soon after the crash around 5:30am.

Firemen had to cut part

of the vehicle to free the bodies from the wreckage, he added.

Officials formed a three-member committee headed by Barishal Additional District Magistrate Rakibur Rahman to find out the cause of the crash.

The committee was asked to submit a report in seven work days.

## Abandoned on operation table

FROM PAGE 1

"When we got the tip-off, we thought we had misheard ... perhaps the mother was scheduled to go into surgery or something. Never did we imagine finding this," said Mahmudur Rahman, assistant director (hospitals and clinics) at DGHS.

The officials found three other patients, who had undergone C-section surgeries in the previous days, and their newborns in general beds and cabins.

That was not the end of the shocking revelations.

At least three doctors from the nearby Institute of Child and Mother Health in Dhaka's Matuail

— a government-run specialised healthcare organisation — were serving the hospital regularly as enlisted consultants, the DGHS officials found after inspecting the hospital documents.

Officials could not identify the surgeon and

anaesthesiologist who abandoned the mother and child in the OT.

"Whatever the situation is, we cannot leave a patient before completing the surgery. It is a serious violation of ethics; it is a crime," Mahmudur Rahman said, adding that the matter would be investigated.

Officials arranged necessary medical support for the patients immediately and shifted the mother and her baby to the Institute of Child and Mother Health.

They sent the three others and their babies to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

DGHS officials also sealed off the hospital following the drive.

Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (administration) of the DGHS, told The Daily Star, "We learnt that the incident was an attempt to create controversy over the ongoing drive. So, I rushed

there immediately."

The directorate has asked police to identify the owners of the hospital and ordered the Narayanganj civil surgeon to investigate as early as possible.

Civil Surgeon Mosiur Rahman said no official of the hospital could be found yesterday.

At least 882 unauthorised private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and blood banks were closed by the DGHS officials during the nationwide crackdown as of yesterday.

Of those, 167 were in Dhaka division, 229 in Chattogram, 35 in Sylhet, 96 in Mymensingh, 14 in Rangpur, 78 in Rajshahi, 204 in Khulna and 59 in Barishal, according to the DGHS data.

Of the facilities closed in Dhaka division, only 12 were in Dhaka's two city corporation areas.

"Our officials countrywide are being encouraged by the support

came in a procession and started vandalising the upazila BNP office in Gabtali town. The clash broke out when BNP activists tried to resist them.

He added that seven BNP men were wounded. Md Sirazul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gabtali Model Police Station, said, "We have deployed additional police personnel at the spot."

Abdul Wadud, deputy director of Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, said eight people injured in the clash were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

## Penalise 19 cops for not giving witness statements

HC to IGP in murder case verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the full text of the verdict in a murder case, the High Court has asked the inspector general of police to take action against 19 police personnel, including the investigation officer, for not giving statements as witnesses before the trial court.

The case was filed with the capital's Shahjahanpur Police Station on April 10, 2005, a day after the severed head of a boy was recovered beneath a foot footbridge in the area.

In the full text of the verdict released yesterday, the HC acquitted accused Md Anowar Hossain and Md Zakir Hossain, who were sentenced to death by the trial court.

The bench of Justice Krishna Debnath and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol observed that the acquitted accused were victims of miscarriage of justice and they can seek an order of compensation and proper rehabilitation.

Lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir, who appeared for Anowar and Zakir in a pro bono move, told The Daily Star that the investigation officer of the case and then sub-inspector of Shahjahanpur Police Station Rafiqul Islam and 18 other police personnel were named as witnesses in the charge sheet, but none appeared before the trial court to give statements.

"The trial proceedings of the case remained halted for eight years due to the absence of the witnesses," he said.

## Fire breaks out at power plant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A fire broke out at Shahjibazar 330 MW Power Plant in Habiganj yesterday morning.

Six fire engines brought the blaze under control at 11:45am, around two hours after it broke out, said Shimul Mohammad Rafi, officer at Habiganj fire service and civil defence.

The power plant — under the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) — was closed due to the fire.

Md Abdul Majid, executive engineer of Habiganj BPDB, said an inquiry committee will be formed to investigate the incident and BPDB officials will visit the power plant.

Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of the plant, said they suspect that two transformers had caught fire due to a short circuit.

The damage caused by the fire could not be immediately determined, he said.

## 7 Rohingyas held in Cox's Bazar for illegal entry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police detained seven Rohingyas, including three children, in Cox's Bazar's Ukha upazila on Saturday night for illegal entry into Bangladesh from India.

They were held from Lambasia camp-1 in Kutupalong, said Naimul Haque, commanding officer of APBn-14.

The detainees — Sajjan, 20, Hamida Begum, 23, Ibrahim, 3, Mohammad Tahir, 33, Anwar Kalim, 22, Saima, 5, and Ramina, 2 — are members of two families.

Naimul said several detainees confessed to police that they came from India. They were sent to Kutupalong transit camp.

## Sri Lanka police tear-gas students in fresh clashes

AFP, Colombo

Police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of students trying to storm the Sri Lankan president's home yesterday as the government offered an olive branch to demonstrators demanding his resignation.

Anti-riot squads used water cannon followed by tear gas, as protesters pulled down yellow iron barricades across a road leading to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence in Colombo.

Nearby, thousands of men and women demonstrated for the 51st straight day outside Rajapaksa's seafront office on Sunday, demanding that he step down over the country's worst economic crisis since independence.

## Stakeholders

FROM PAGE 1

He made the remark yesterday after attending the inauguration programme of the 145th refresher course for chief judicial magistrates and chief metropolitan magistrates.

The event was organised by the Judicial Administration Training Institute at its seminar hall in the capital.

Talking to the journalists, he said the inclusion of stakeholders would make the law acceptable to all. However, no "absurd advice" should be accepted during this process.

"Before finalising the draft of the Personal Data Protection Act, we'll discuss with the representatives from media, business institutions and other stakeholders who are interested and may be affected," he said.

"I'll hold a meeting with the state minister for information and communication technology on June 1 on the issue... Plus, I'll discuss with the Bangladesh Telecommunication

Regulatory Commission in a day or two."

Asked about the Digital Security Act, he said it was made to tackle cyber offences.

Responding to another question, he said the continuation or cancellation of the Jatiya Sangsad membership of a convicted accused is not affected until the apex court delivers its final decision.

Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, director general of Judicial Administration Training Institute, presided over the meeting where Md Golam Sarwar, secretary to the Law and Justice Division, also spoke.



Our focus is on  
grassroots dev

Says Hasina after receiving  
Cirdap award

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is developing the country in a planned way from the grassroots.

The premier said this while receiving “Azizul Haque Polli Unnayan Padak-2021” (Azizul Haque Rural Development Award-2021) from Cirdap Director General Dr Cherdasak Virapat at an event at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

The Bangladesh-based Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) has honoured the prime minister with the prestigious award in recognition of her contribution to rural development.

Hasina said that the country would achieve desired development and prosperity once rural development is ensured.

She said the Awami League had undertaken necessary plan even when it was outside the state power and that is why after coming to power, it has been able to take the country ahead by working as per its plan.

The premier thanked the Cirdap and its board of directors for honouring her with the award, which she dedicated to the people of Bangladesh.

“I think people of Bangladesh are the recipient of this award and I am dedicating this to them,” she said.



A herd of reared buffaloes taking a relaxing dip in a waterbody in the capital's Purbachal area yesterday. After a hard day's work at nearby fields, they swam in the waters for hours, before their owner took them back to their shed.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Serajul Islam  
Choudhury  
awarded  
first Nazrul  
Puroskar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From this year, Bangla Academy has launched the “Nazrul Puroskar” to honour individuals for their contributions towards research on National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The first Nazrul Puroskar has been awarded to Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury.

State Minister of Culture KM Khalid handed over this award to Prof Choudhury at an event arranged by Bangla Academy on the occasion of the 123rd birth anniversary of the national poet yesterday.

At the event, Prof Leena Taposhi Khan gave a speech on “Kazi Narul Islam. Bangla Academy president Selina Hossain presided over the event.



‘He cannot  
extract sand  
from Meghna’  
SC scraps 2018  
HC verdict on  
Chandpur AL  
leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday scrapped a 2018 High Court verdict that allowed Md Salim Khan, a local Awami League leader, to extract sand from the Meghna river in Chandpur.

The SC order means that no sand can be extracted from the river in the district without permission from proper authorities, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told The Daily Star. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order following a petition filed by the state, seeking cancellation of the HC directive.

Following a petition, the HC on April 5, 2018 allowed Salim Khan, now chairman of Chandpur’s Lakshmipur union and also AL president of the union unit, to extract sand from the Meghna in Chandpur Sadar and Haimchar areas.

Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hasssan told this correspondent that Salim Khan had taken the HC directive by misleading it, as he had no permission and valid documents from the government.

Senior lawyer Ajmalul Hossain appeared for Salim.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
MAY 30

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-43	8-05
JAMAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-47	8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Shahbagh has worst  
air, Gulshan-2 noisiest

Finds study on Dhaka’s pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The air quality in Dhaka’s Shahbagh area is the worst, while Gulshan-2 has the worst level of noise pollution in the capital, finds a new study.

Jatiya Sangsad area is the least polluted in terms of both air quality and sound level.

The scenario came to the fore in the study on Dhaka’s air and noise pollution. Measurements were taken from 10 points of the capital between April 2021 and March 2022.

The 10 points include Ahsan Manzil, Abdullahpur, Motijheel, Shahbagh, Dhanmondi-32, Teigaon, Agargaon, Mirpur-10 and Gulshan-2. Air quality and noise level were monitored for four hours every day.

Waterkeepers Bangladesh Consortium, Department of Geography and Environment of Jahangirnagar University (JU), and Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS) of Stamford University revealed the findings at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The annual average particulate matter (PM) 2.5 in Dhaka is 5.1 times higher than the national standard level, finds the study, while the annual average PM 10 is two times higher.

In Shahbagh, the average PM 2.5 was 85 micrograms per cubic metre, 5.6 times higher than the standard level; even the least polluted spot measured 70.

Among the 10 points, an annual average of 95.44 decibels (dB) of noise was recorded in

“It is everyone’s responsibility to save Dhaka from pollution. Noise and air pollution are claiming lives. Children are getting sick, medical expenses are on the rise, and nature is losing its balance.”

PROF AHMAD KAMRUZZAMAN  
MAJUMDER  
CAPS Founding Director

Gulshan-2, 1.7 times higher than the standard level of 55 dB in residential areas. The peak noise level, 132 dB, was recorded in the area.

Abdullahpur recorded 95.43 dB on average; the standard for a “mixed area” is 60 dB, the report shows, adding that in Jatiya Sangsad area, 31 dB on average was recorded.

CAPS Founding Director Prof Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder, in his keynote paper,

FINDINGS

- PM 2.5 in Dhaka 5.1 times higher than standard level; PM 10 two times higher
- Peak noise level, 132 dB, recorded in Gulshan-2
- Jatiya Sangsad area least polluted

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase budget allocation for environment ministry
- Finalise draft of Clean Air Act 2019
- Appoint environment BCS cadres
- Make public aware about noise pollution policy
- Monitor noise pollution regularly
- Implement HC directives to prevent air pollution

said the study found overall annual average PM 2.5 to be 77 micrograms per cubic metre, while the standard is 15.

He said a number of development activities are ongoing from Abdullahpur to Shahbagh. As a result, PM 2.5 is high in those places.

“It is everyone’s responsibility to save Dhaka from pollution. Noise and air pollution are claiming lives. Children are getting sick, medical expenses are on the rise, and nature is losing its balance,” Kamruzzaman said.

In the press conference, a number of demands were made, including increasing the budget allocation for the environment ministry, finalising the draft of Clean Air Act 2019, appointing environment BCS cadres, making the public aware about the noise pollution policy, monitoring noise pollution regularly, and implementing High Court directives to prevent air pollution.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon General Secretary Sharif Jamil said air pollution can be checked if construction work is checked, as it is

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Ensure  
accurate data  
on house helps  
in survey  
Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said accurate data of domestic workers following proper definition as per the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015 is required to determine their contributions to the country’s GDP.

They called for strengthening awareness among all stakeholders, including domestic workers, employers, statisticians, and local government representatives, to ensure accurate data on domestic workers in the labour force survey.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) organised the discussion at the capital’s Jatiya Press Club marking May Day, said a BILS press release.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Workers Party of Bangladesh President and lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon said workers’ due rights will not be ensured by creating so-called bond between employers and workers overlooking workers’ interest.

He said domestic workers have to be more organised for bringing their issues to the fore.

Mentioning domestic workers are “not treated with dignity” compared to their contributions to the GDP, BILS Joint Secretary General Wazedul Islam Khan urged everyone to work unitedly to ensure their due rights.

BILS Deputy Director Yusuf Al Mamun said three domestic workers were tortured to death and at least nine were hurt in January-March this year.

EDU INSTITUTIONS  
Attempts on to  
create anarchy  
Says Dipu Moni

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said attempts are being made to create anarchy at the educational institutions of the country ahead of the national election.

“Their plan of destabilising the country through creating anarchy at educational institutions will not be implemented. Conscious students will obstruct it,” she said while speaking at a prize giving ceremony at Baburhat High School in Chandpur town.

“The evil forces are trying to raise their heads ahead of the national election and trying to take advantage of the chaotic situation created by them,” she said.

DU student  
drowns in pond

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student drowned in the pond of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall yesterday afternoon.

Deceased Polish Ahmed hailed from Jamalpur and was a third-year student of the anthropology department.

He drowned in the pond while bathing along with fellow students after playing on the hall playground around 12:30pm. The students then carried out a search and rescued him.

He was declared dead at DMCH around 2:00pm, inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH Police outpost, said.

BNP denounces  
govt amnesty plan  
Says it will legalise money  
laundering

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday described the government’s plan to offer an amnesty for money launderers as a devilish trick to legalise the funds the ruling party leaders siphoned off abroad from Bangladesh.

“They (AL leaders) are looting the assets of the country and siphoning off public money abroad,”

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Buses continue to park illegally, right in front of the main gate of Jagannath University in Sadarghat area, taking up a large section of the road. Despite repeated efforts by the university, the situation remains the same, as authorities concerned turn a blind eye to the issue. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

লেজার পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা অপারেশন, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, পলিপ, কোলোনস্কপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোস্কপি

পেটের খাদ্যনালী ও মলদ্বারের (Colon, Rectum and Anus) বিভিন্ন সমস্যা যেমন- মলত্যাগের পর রক্ত যাওয়া, মলদ্বারের বিভিন্ন সমস্যা, ফিস্টুলা, এনালফিশার, রক্ত আমাশয় (Ulcerative Colitis), লেজার পাইলস অপারেশন, সর্বাধুনিক লাইপো পদ্ধতিতে পাইলস অপারেশন, মলদ্বারে বারে বারে অপারেশন ব্যর্থ হওয়ার কারণ, বাধগ্রস্থ মল ত্যাগের জন্য (Obstructed Defecation) STARR অপারেশন, পেটের ভেতর খাদ্যনালীর ক্যান্সার (Colon Cancer), Colonoscopy, পায়ুপথ ক্যান্সার (Rectum Cancer) মলদ্বার না কেটে অত্যধুনিক হ্যাপলিং পদ্ধতিতে পেটে ব্যাগ না লাগিয়ে অপারেশন, ল্যাপারোস্কপিক পদ্ধতিতে পেট না কেটে কোলন ক্যান্সার অপারেশন, শিশুদের পায়ুখানার সাথে রক্ত যাওয়া ইত্যাদির অত্যধুনিক ও বিশ্বমানের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে জানতে হলে বইটি পড়ুন।

বইটি লিখেছেন বাংলাদেশ এবং উপমহাদেশের পাইওনিয়ার কলোরেক্টাল সার্জন কলোরেক্টাল সার্জরাতে বিশ্বব্যাপী অধিক সংখ্যক সফল অপারেশন সম্পাদনকারী সার্জন

অধ্যাপক ডাঃ এ. কে. এম. ফজলুল হক  
এমবিবিএস, এফসিসিএস, এফআইসিএস  
ইউরোলজিস্টাল স্কলার (ইউরোল), ডেপু, কলোরেক্টাল সার্জারী (সিগাথু) প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ), কলোরেক্টাল সার্জারী বিভাগ, এফআরসিএস (ইন্ডিয়া), এফএসিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র) এফএসসিএস (ইন্ডিয়া), এফএসসিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র) স্বনামধন্য শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল ইউনিভার্সিটি। কনসাল্টাণ্ট ল্যাপারোস্কপিক, লেজার ও কলোরেক্টাল সার্জন

সম্পাদনা : ডাঃ আসিক আলমাস হক  
এমবিবিএস (এসএসএসসি), এফআরসিএস (এডিনবরা) এফসিসিএস (সার্জারী), এফআরসিএস (গ্র্যান্ডেটো) এফআরসিএস (ইন্ডিয়া), এফএসিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র) এফএসসিএস (ইন্ডিয়া), এফএসসিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র)

ইউনেস্কো মাস্কি-কেয়ার হসপিটাল

৭০৩ সাত-মসজিদ রোড, আবাহনী মার্গের দক্ষিণ পশ্চিমে, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা। ফোন: ০২-৫৮১৫০০৭-১০ মোবাইল ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৩, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৪, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৫-৬

www.profdrakmfazlulhaque.com

www.facebook.com/Prof.AKM.Fazlul.Haque





With a demand to increase tax on all kinds of tobacco products in the upcoming budget to discourage consumption, people under the banner of “Samhati Prokash” formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



### Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Project Director  
Development of Different Infrastructures  
Under Dhaka South City Corporation (2nd Revised)  
Level-4 (West Block), Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka

Ref No. 46.207.007.09.00.067.2022

Dated: 26-05-2022

#### e-Tender Notice (Tender)

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Project Director, Development of Different Infrastructures under Dhaka South City Corporation (2nd Revised) for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from date 30/05/2022 time 22.00.

Sl No.	Re-Tender ID, Ref No. & Package No.	Name of works	Last selling date and time	Tender closing date & time
01.	Tender ID- 693590 Ref: 46.207.007.09.04.2021-2022 Package No. WD_P_50_DDIP	Development of Different infrastructure including Beautification Island, Footpath, Road Median & Construction of Public urinal under Dhaka South City Corporation	28/06/2022 17.00	29/06/2022 15.00


This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Munshi Md. Abul Hashem**  
Project Director  
Development of Different Infrastructures Project  
Under Dhaka South City Corporation (2nd Revised)  
Room No. 318, Level-4 (West Block)  
Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/২৫৫/২০২১-২০২২  
জিডি-১১০১



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি



### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters  
6, Phoenix Road, Dhaka

#### Invitation for Tender

Sealed tender are hereby invited from the medicine manufacturer companies in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka for the financial year 2022-2023.

	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs/Public Security Division.
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs/Public Security Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Police.
3	Procuring entity name	AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
4	Invitation for	Purchase of Medicines.
5	Invitation Ref No.	AIG (Health Services)/Tender-01/2022-2023.
6	Date	29/05/2022.

#### KEY INFORMATION

7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
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#### FUNDING INFORMATION

8	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB).
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#### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9	Tender publication date	30/05/2022
10	Last date of selling tender schedule	26/06/2022
11	Closing date and time tender	14.30 hrs. on 27/06/2022.
12	Opening date and time of tender	15.00 hrs. on 27/06/2022.
13	Name & address of the office(s)	
	Place of selling tender documents	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
	Place of receiving tender documents	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
	Opening tender document	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
14	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting.	Office of the AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
	Bidder must remain present in the meeting to avoid any future ambiguity.	Date: 13/06/2022 Time: 11:00


#### INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) Up-to-date trade license (2) Up-to-date income tax certificate (3) VAT registration certificate and (4) Others documents described in tender document.
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Sl. No.	Name	Tender security in Taka	Price of tender document	Completion time in days
1.	Lot-1 (Capsule Group)	33,50,000	Tk 3000	The whole lot must be delivered in four installments; July/22, Sep/22, January/23 & April/23.
	Lot-2 (Syrup Group)	10,50,000		
	Lot-3 (Tablet Group)	1,35,00,000		
	Lot-4 (Injection Group)	26,50,000		
	Lot-5 (Eye & Ent Group)	4,00,000		
	Lot-6 (Topical Preparation Group)	6,50,000		
	Lot-7 (Chemotherapeutics & Anti cancer Group)	4,50,000		
	Lot-8 (Others Group)	12,00,000		

#### PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

17	Name of official inviting tender	Sharif Mostafizur Rahman.
18	Designation of official inviting tender	AIG (Health Services).
19	Address of official inviting tender	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
20	Contact detail of official inviting the tender	Tel & Fax 88-02-55101621.
21	Special instructions	
	a) No tender will be received after the deadline for submission of time date.	
	b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason.	
	c) The procuring entity also reserves the right to omit increase or decrease the quantity of any item(s) from the tender.	
	d) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue.	
	e) Evaluation will be on item by item basis.	
	f) The tenderer must comply with all requirements as per the tender data sheet provided with the tender schedule.	
	g) Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods.	
	h) The procurement will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Rules 2008.	

  
**Sharif Mostafizur Rahman**  
BP 7605104564  
AIG (Health Services), Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters, Dhaka  
Tel & Fax 88-02-55101621  
[aighealth@police.gov.bd](mailto:aighealth@police.gov.bd)



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

## Six years of inaction

### Vital road, bridge remain unrestored despite locals' protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Residents of Dhobaura upazila in Mymensingh have been suffering immensely as the 100-metre road in Muktagacha area has been in a dilapidated state for six years.

The road, locally known as “Jaal Bridge”, broke down some six years ago after its construction in 2010 and is yet to be repaired, according to locals. It now mostly stays submerged and unusable.

In addition, the condition of the three-kilometre Kalsindur-Ransinghpur road, an important passage for the villagers to connect to the mainland, is also in a critical state.

Demanding immediate repair of the bridge and the road, hundreds of people from all walks of life formed a human chain at the broken bridge recently.

They also alleged that the authorities concerned didn't take any step to mitigate the prevailing problem, despite repeated protests by them.

Anwar Hossain Khan, chair of Gamaritola Union Parishad, said he already informed the authorities several times but to no avail.

Although locals suffer throughout the year, it gets particularly difficult during the monsoon, said Anwar.

Contacted, Abu Bakar Siddique, LGED upazila engineer in Dhobaura, said an estimated budget for repairing the road and “Jaal Bridge” has been sent to the department concerned three months ago.

“The tender will be floated within a month,” said the LGED engineer.

## Shahbagh has worst

FROM PAGE 3

one of the key contributors of pollution.

Md Nurul Islam, professor of JU's Department of Geography and Environment, when a country develops in regards to infrastructure and economy, the environment is bound to be impacted, but still, not to such an extent.

“Air and noise pollution will increase to a certain extent, and this is normal. But these are getting out of control now,” he said.

At the programme, Counterpart International's chief of party Mainuddin Ahmed, and former additional secretary of Department of Environment Kazi Sarwar Imtiaz also spoke.

## Patients suffer

FROM PAGE 5

“We've written to the health ministry regarding the matter,” he added.

Sources said the Hitachi 1.5 Tesla machine was installed in the radiology and imaging department of CMCH in October 2017, at a cost of Tk 10 crore.

Contacted, Prof Dr Kamal Uddin, head of the neurosurgery ward at CMCH, said around 10 patients of his ward needs MRI test per day.

“Before installing the machine, we used to refer patients to private diagnostic centres for the test,” he said.

“Many patients belonging to lower income groups couldn't afford it, so they waited till they could save the money. This often resulted in a lag in treatment.”

Dr Kamal also expressed hope that the MRI service would resume soon in CMCH.

## College authority

FROM PAGE 5

constituency, and then Nilphamari civil surgeon Ranjit Kumar Barman demarcated 30 acres of land -- owned by the government's health department, near the present temporary campus at Notkhana village, and only 5 kilometres away from the town.

However, Bangladesh Police recently claimed that they own a major part of the land. This put the progress of the medical college's construction project in uncertainty.

Contacted, Nilphamari Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Saiful Islam said as per the land documents and survey reports, police own a big part of the land.

The claim of the medical

institute owning the entire land is wrong, he said.

Prof Mohammad Robiul Islam Shah, the college's principal, said, “In 1953, then East Pakistan government issued an order to acquire 50 acres land for the health department.”

Of which, 30 acres have been demarcated for constructing the medical college complex, he said.

“A police official recently met me and claimed that 7.5 acres of land belongs to the police. He also asked me to remove our signboard from the land,” the principal said.

Nilphamari civil surgeon Zahangir Kabir said DGHs in collaboration with other respective departments will resolve the issue through inter-ministerial dialogue.

## BNP denounces govt

FROM PAGE 3

said BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Speaking at a discussion, he said the government is now saying that it will bring back the laundered money by offering an amnesty. “It's another devilish trick. It means they themselves laundered the money and will now bring it to the country to make it legal.”

By giving the money launders such an amnesty, the BNP leader said the government will create further scope for the ruling party leaders to plunder more public money.

He urged BNP leaders and activists to get united and intensify the movement for the restoration of

democracy by ousting the government.

BNP organised the programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka, marking the 41st death anniversary of party founder Ziaur Rahman.

On Thursday, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said the government is planning an amnesty for money launders to bring back the money they had taken out of the country.

He said Bangladesh Bank will issue a circular in this regard with more information before the national budget is placed in Parliament.


Fakhrul alleged that the current government has obliterated democracy and

snatched people's rights to hang onto power.

“We're going to different districts outside Dhaka to hold the councils of (our party's different units) and observing a serious urge among people to get back their rights,” he said.

BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said the present Awami League government has been taking the country to the brink of destruction by destroying the spirits of the Liberation War.

“There's is now no democracy, no human rights and no right to vote. People are hit hard by the growing price hikes in essential commodities,” he said.



### বাংলাদেশ শিল্প কারিগরি সহায়তা কেন্দ্র (বিটাক)

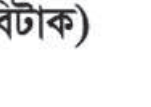
১১৬(খ), তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা  
ঢাকা-১২০৮

বিটাকের স্মারক নং-৩৬.০৬.০০০০.০২৫.১৫.০০২.২২/১৩৬৪ তারিখঃ ২৯/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ

#### সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ শিল্প কারিগরি সহায়তা কেন্দ্র (বিটাক) এর স্মারক নং- ৩৬.০৬.০০০০.০২৫.১৫.০০২.২২/১৩৬৪, তারিখঃ ২৪/০৫/২০২২ মোতাবেক গত ২৬/০৫/২০২২ তারিখে ‘দৈনিক সমকাল’ ও ‘The Daily Star’ পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ স্থগিত করা হলো।

**ড. মোঃ জালাল উদ্দিন, পিইঞ্জ**  
জিডি-১০৯৭  
প্রকল্প পরিচালক



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি



### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Narsingdi  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.6800.000.07.001.21-1475

Date: 26/05/22

#### Corrigendum Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that the e-Tender Notice No: 34/2021-22 (e-Tender ID No: 694347) from the office of the undersigned vide Memo No: 46.02.6800.000.07.001.21-1321, Dated: 09/05/22, the following change have been made due to unavoidable circumstances.


Last selling date & time	02/06/2022 11:00 instead of 29/05/2022 11:00
Closing date & time	02/06/2022 13:00 instead of 29/05/2022 13:00
Opening date & time	02/06/2022 13:00 instead of 29/05/2022 13:00
Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	02/06/2022 12:00 instead of 29/05/2022 12:00

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

**Khandaker Asaduzzaman**  
Executive Engineer  
Phone: 02-9462260  
Fax: 02-9464478  
GD-1092  
E-mail: [xen.narsingdi@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.narsingdi@lged.gov.bd)



উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র



### Chattogram City Corporation

Head Office, Tigerpass, Chattogram

Memo: 46.11.1600.002.31.99.22.139

Dated: 29/05/2022


#### EOI Corrigendum Notice-1

This is to notify for all concerned that following amendments are made for the EOI titled "Different road & important infrastructural development including Airport Road under Chattogram City Corporation" which has been circulated vide this office Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.31.99.22.121 date: 12/05/2022.

Heading/descriptions	As in EOI notice	Amendments
EOI closing date and time	31/05/2022, Time: 12.00pm	15/06/2022, Time: 12.00pm
Experience, resource & delivery capacity required	Consulting firms with minimum 20 (twenty) years' experience of following etc. Experience of works in brief but not limited to: a) Experience in working with Structural/Steel Structure/Road project in Metropolitan Area of Bangladesh. b) Specific experience with at least 1 (one) completed Flyover/Elevated Expressway project in Metropolitan Area of Bangladesh within previous 10 (ten) years. c) Having experience in Road Project within last 5 (five) years.	Consulting firms with minimum 20 (twenty) years' experience of following etc. In case of Joint venture (JV), Associate firms should have at least 8 (eight) years of experience fulfilling other said criteria with the lead firm having minimum 20 (twenty) years of experience. Experience of works in brief but not limited to: a) Experience in working with Structural/Steel Structure/Road project in Metropolitan Area of Bangladesh. b) Specific experience with at least 1 (one) completed Flyover/Elevated Expressway project in Metropolitan Area of Bangladesh within previous 10 (ten) years. c) Having experience in Road Project within last 5 (five) years.

All other terms and conditions of the EOI will be remained unchanged and this amendment will be integral part of the EOI.

**Engr Rafiqul Islam**  
Chief Engineer  
Address: Chattogram City Corporation  
Head Office, Tigerpass, Chattogram  
Email: [ce.cc.cta@gmail.com](mailto:ce.cc.cta@gmail.com)  
Phone No. 880-31-633486



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি



### Department of English Rajshahi University

#### Applications Open for Evening MA in English and MA in ELT

(July Semester 2022, 5th Batch)

Deadline: 5 June 2022

Admission Test: 11 June 2022

Contact: 01742191344, 01715650175, 01712982547

Web: <http://www.ru.ac.bd/english/notices>

**Chairperson**  
Department of English  
Rajshahi University

GD-1091



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি



জিডি-১০৯৮



# I never said anything inappropriate

Sazu Khadem

Tele-fictions are simultaneously entertainment and art. An artiste can do a lot when it comes to bringing about positive change in this society and I believe, tele-fictions play this role actively.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Noted television actor Sazu Khadem has been spending busy days on the sets. The actor, who recently hosted Meril-Prothom Alo awards, is now in conversation for his quick wit, as well as three new films this season.

Yesterday marked both his and Dr Enamul Haq's birthday, the latter of whom we lost last year.

We talk to Sazu Khadem about his recent projects, feelings and more.

**This is the first time that you celebrated your birthday without Dr Enamul Haque.** I still find it difficult to believe that he is no longer amongst us. I had never imagined celebrating my birthday without him – my favourite teacher and mentor. He is always in my prayers.

**While your segment at the 23rd Meril-Prothom Alo Awards was appreciated, many also called you out on 'going too far' with your jokes. What do you have to say about it?**

I only hosted a small portion of the event, and I had a lot of fun with it. I do not think that I made any jokes that was too inappropriate – and I do not know where this criticism is coming from.

Some lines, that might be considered as inappropriate, may have come from the other hosts, but I had nothing to do with it.

**You are ever-present on the television screen. How are you coping up with the hectic back-to-back shooting schedules?** Acting is my profession and muse. Just as any job holder would get up and go to work every day, I get up and start getting ready for shoot. I believe in professionalism, and thus, never get bored of my work.

**Who is your idol in this field?**

I look up to many actors, but I dearly miss

watching Humayun Faridee on the screen. His acting brilliance and consistency are always inspiring.

I had an intimate bond with him, and will always love and respect him.

**How can we make our television projects better?**

Tele-fictions are simultaneously entertainment and art. An artiste can do a lot when it comes to bringing about positive change in this society and I believe, tele-fictions play this role actively.

It also works as a mediator when one looks to deliver a social message, and has the power to alter

perception in masses.

**Tell us about your upcoming films.**

I am eagerly looking forward to Aranyo Anawer's "Maa", Manik Manobik's "Ajob Chele" and Hridi Huq's "1971: Sheishob Din". Be it films, television projects, or OTT productions, I just want to keep entertaining my audience through my performances.

Sazu Khadem arriving at the 23rd Meril-Prothom Alo award ceremony.



## Swedish film "Triangle of Sadness" bags Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or award

The 75th instalment of the Cannes Film Festival wrapped up recently after two weeks of screening films from all over the world.

The best film award at the Palme d'Or was awarded to the Swedish film Ruben Ostlund directorial "Triangle of Sadness". It is the second time the director bagged one of the cinema's most prestigious prizes.

His last film, "The Square", won the Palme d'Or in 2017.

## Teaser of 'JK 1971' impresses

The official teaser of the first English Language film based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, "JK 1971", released yesterday to critical acclaim.

The Fakhrul Areeen Khan directorial project revolves around the historic incident, which took place during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in France. It showcases the unforgettable heroic actions of French citizen Jean Kay.



On December 3, 1971, he hijacked a flight of Pakistan International Airlines at Orly Airport in Paris, and demanded that 20 tons of medical supplies and relief materials be loaded on the plane so that he could set out to reach his desired destination – Bangladesh.

The film stars US actor Francisco Raymond and Russian artistes Derya Guvrosenko and Nikolai

Novominski, alongside Subhra Sourav Das and Sabyasachi Chakrabarty in pivotal roles, among others.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Erosion halts Mujib Killa construction

Unplanned site selection blamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmonirhat

The construction of a Mujib Killa (elevated structure in flood plains) in the middle of Char Falimari in Mogholhat of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has been stopped due to erosion of Dharla river.

The completion of the Killa has become uncertain much to the worry of 300 families living in the char area.

The killa was being constructed just 18-20 metres away from the river.

Char Falimari belongs to the community of fishers and their sufferings know no bounds especially during natural phenomena like floods visit the char. During floods, this char gets submerged. They suffer immensely with their cattle and other belongings. The construction of the Mujib Killa was to provide them with a safe shelter during floods.

The construction work of Mujib Killa has been kept unfinished citing erosion of Dharla. As the construction work has

not been completed, the char people will have to suffer in the coming floods like in past, they said.

Saidul Islam, 48, a resident of Falimari Island, said that it was unplanned site selection that has caused the abandonment of the construction. There is much khas land in this char but the killa was not constructed in a safe site.

"The river was eroding some 100-120 metres away while the construction of the killa started in February 2021," he said adding, that the government fund has been destroyed due to unplanned site selection.

According to Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila administration sources, the construction of Mujib Killa started on February 18 last year at a cost of Taka 2 crore 8 lakh 5 thousand 590 funded by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The work was supposed to be completed on August 17 last

year. A contractor from Dhaka was doing the construction work and received 68 per cent of the bill.

Contractor Shafiq Rahman said he has already removed construction materials from the site.

The construction work will resume if the concerned authorities give permission, he said.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Mashur Rahman said construction work of the Killa was halted on the instructions of higher authorities.

According to the decision of the higher authorities, the construction work of the killa was started on the site as per the design of 2016, he said.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahmuda Masum said that it is not possible to protect the under-construction Mujib Killa without preventing river erosion.

The higher authorities of the project were informed of the matter, she said.



Construction of Mujib Killa in Char Falimari under Lalmonirhat Sadar has been declared abandoned due to an eroding Dharla causing much to sufferings of the inhabitants.

PHOTO: STAR

## JCD leader

FROM PAGE 12

She first went to Shahbagh Police Station to file the case, but police refused to record her statement, according to the complaint. But Moudut Hawlader, officer-in-charge of the police station, said no JCD activist went to the police station to file a case.

After recording the case, the magistrate directed the officer-in-charge of the police station to investigate the allegation and submit a report to the court by June 26, said Syed Nazrul Islam, a lawyer of the plaintiff.

BCL leaders and activists on Thursday attacked JCD activists with machetes, sticks and other local weapons when the former were coming towards the campus from Doyel Chatter to take part in an event, said the complaint.

On DU campus, eight progressive student organisations yesterday held a rally demanding congenial atmosphere for students.

On Thursday, some 50 people, including a journalist and a lawyer, were injured as armed members of BCL activists and leaders swooped on JCD leaders and activists in the High Court area, just two days after some 30 JCD members, including several women, were injured as BCL activists and leaders attacked them with sticks, iron rods and machetes on the campus.

## Ukraine holds

FROM PAGE 12

"I do not believe that we can restore all of our territory by military means. If we decide to go that way, we will lose hundreds of thousands of people," he said.

## Plane missing

FROM PAGE 12

members on board the missing plane, which left for the town of Jonson at 9:55 am (0410 GMT), airline spokesman Sudarshan Bartaula told AFP.

## Both contact families

FROM PAGE 12

went to the European country on a 15-day trip on May 9, officials said.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Rasel's elder sister Kamala Pal said, "Rasel told our elder brother [Subhas] that he won't return home. Now he is in the Netherlands. He called my Dubai expatriate brother from an unknown number."

Rasel's parents and wife reside in Cox's Bazar municipality.

Quoting Subhas, Kamala said Rasel did not disclose his whereabouts. He just said he needed some money, but his brother refused and asked Rasel to return home.

"Hearing this, Rasel hung up and switched off his phone," she said.

Kamala added that the Cox's Bazar police superintendent talked to her parents at his office on Saturday.

The family of another missing constable Shah

Alam lives in Chaudhagram upazila.

Shuvo Ranjan Chakma, officer-in-charge of Chaudhagram Police Station, said Shah Alam's father is a rickshaw-puller and his mother works at a government official's house as domestic help.

"His family members said they don't know the whereabouts of Shah Alam. He called his father [after May 22] from a foreign number," the OC told this correspondent.

## Cumilla city polls

FROM PAGE 12

election ... Remember, voting is a citizen's responsibility and duty."

The CEC added that in case of difficulty in EVM use, election officials will be responsible to fix it.

He also said the EC can, in special cases, cancel the election and candidature of aspirants.

Meanwhile, local police

and the administration will help the candidates in case of complaints, the CEC said.

At the meeting, independent candidate Mohammad Nizam Uddin said, "I became a candidate after leaving the party. I'm worried about the election atmosphere, and voters too are worried whether they will be able to rightfully

cast their votes. We don't want a 'midnight polls' like in the last parliamentary election."

This led several ruling Awami League men to begin yelling at him.

Cumilla DC Kamrul Hasan and city Awami League Joint General Secretary Atiqullah Khokon later calmed the situation.

## Zia's 41st death anniv today

FROM PAGE 12

The programmes will end on June 7.

The events include arranging discussions, seminars, photo exhibitions, wearing black badges, publishing posters and supplements in newspapers and distributing food and relief materials among the poor.

Zia, who founded Bangladesh Nationalist Party in 1978, was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army officers at the erstwhile Chittagong circuit house on May 30, 1981.

In observance of the day, black flags will be hoisted and BNP flags will be flown at half-mast atop

the offices of the party and its associated bodies today.

Besides, BNP senior leaders, led by party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, will place wreaths at Zia's grave at the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the morning.

BNP and its associated bodies will arrange discussions on Zia's activities until June 7 as part of the death anniversary programmes.

The party leaders of Dhaka south and north city units will distribute food and relief materials among the poor in different parts of the city.

All of the party's district, city and thana units will

also observe the day holding various programmes, including discussions, to be participated by senior BNP leaders.

## Dolphins

FROM PAGE 12

Gabriella La Manna and her team at the University of Sassari in Italy studied the whistling habits of common bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) in six geographically distinct populations in the Mediterranean Sea.

The sites include Port Cros in the French Riviera, Alghero in the Sardinian Sea and Ostia Fiumicino in the Tyrrhenian Sea – all in the western Mediterranean region.





**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
কমান্ডারী (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়  
ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিরাজগঞ্জ  
**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)**  
অর্থসাল-২০২২-২৩

তারিখঃ ২৯/০৮/২০২২খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-ইসার্ভিস/৮১৬

২০২২-২৩ অর্থ সালঃ ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিরাজগঞ্জ এর (বিজ্ঞপ্তির ২১নং ত্রিমিক বর্ণিত) বিভিন্ন প্রকার পণ্য/সেবা ক্রয়/সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত প্রকৃত ডিকানার/সরবরাহকারী/ধাবাদারদের নিকট হতে বাধ্যতামূলক প্যাকেজিং প্যাকেজ লিখিত আবেদনসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উক্ত পদ্ধতিতে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	৪	৪.১১. মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।	
০২. সংস্থা	৪	৪.১২. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।	
০৩. ক্রয়/সেবারে বস্তাদিকারীর নাম	৪	৪.১৩. কমান্ডারী (পুলিশ সুপার), ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিরাজগঞ্জ।	
০৪. ক্রয়/সেবারকারী বস্তার বৈশিষ্ট্য	৪	৪.১৪. সিরাজগঞ্জ জেলা।	
০৫. দরপত্রের বিবরণ	৪	৪.১৫. ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিরাজগঞ্জ-এর ২০২২-২৩ অর্থ সালের জন্য খাত চিত্রিত বিভিন্ন পণ্য/সেবা ক্রয়/সরবরাহ কাজ।	
০৬. দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	৪	৪.১৬. স্মারক নং- ইসার্ভিস/৮১৬, তারিখ-২৯/০৮/২০২২খ্রিঃ।	
০৭. দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	৪	৪.১৭. উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।	
০৮. ন্যাক্ট ও অর্থনৈতিক বাত	৪	৪.১৮. প্রাক্কন ব্যালেন্সের আওতাধীন পুলিশ ব্যালেন্সের সফটওয়্যার কোড।	
০৯. দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	৪	৪.১৯. ০১/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ এর মধ্যে (যেকোন এক দিন)।	
১০. দরপত্রের দলিল বিরোধের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৪	৪.২০. ০১/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ বৈশিষ্ট্য ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১১. দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৪	৪.২১. ০১/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১২. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	৪	৪.২২. ০১/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকাঃ দরপত্রদাতা বা মাসেনিড প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।	
১৩. দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	৪	৪.২৩. ০১/০৯/২০২২খ্রিঃ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকাঃ।	
১৪. দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর অফিস ও ঠিকানা	৪	৪.২৪. ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, পুলিশ লাইন, সিরাজগঞ্জ।	
১৫. দরপত্রের দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	৪	৪.২৫. ১। ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, পুলিশ লাইন, সিরাজগঞ্জ। ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, সিরাজগঞ্জ।	
১৬. দরপত্রের দলিল দাখিল ও খোলার স্থান	৪	৪.২৬. ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, পুলিশ লাইন, সিরাজগঞ্জ।	
১৭. দরপত্রদাতার যোগাযোগ	৪	৪.২৭. (ক) উন্মুক্ত ডিকানার হিসেবে প্রমাণের জন্য সফটওয়্যার কোড। (খ) পারসনাল প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পারসনাল প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮। এবং তৎপরতীতে সংশ্লিষ্ট ও প্রণীত আইন/বিধিমালা এর সকল শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্য হবে।	
১৮. দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে	৪	৪.২৮. (ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রুইন-ইউনিক, হালনাগাদ ভাউচ রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র ও জাতীয় আইডি এবং মানবিকৃত সনদপত্র-এর সত্যায়িত কপি। (খ) কোনো ডিকানার/সুপার নথি অসীমকালের মধ্যে নিম্নের প্যাকেজ (১) প্রকারের প্যাকেজের কর্তৃত্ব কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত, মূল্য অনুযায়ী, হালনাগাদ সনদপত্র, সফটওয়্যার কোডের পূর্ণাঙ্গ প্রকিউরমেন্ট এবং হালনাগাদ ব্যালেন্স খলকাল সনদপত্রের টোয়েন্টি এক মূল কপি, পাশাপাশি সফটওয়্যার ০১ কপি সফটওয়্যার, দরপত্র জমাণের ও দরপত্রের সফটওয়্যার সফটওয়্যার কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র সফটওয়্যার শর্তাবলি ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি দরপত্র সফটওয়্যারে নিম্নে স্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে হতে জানা যাবে।	
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	৪	৪.২৯. মোহাম্মদ শরিফুল হক, কমান্ডারী (পুলিশ সুপার), ইন-সার্ভিস ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, সিরাজগঞ্জ।	
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	৪	৪.৩০. ফোনঃ ০২৬৮৮৮০১৮২৪; কালারঃ ০২৬৮৮৮০২০২৬	
২১. পণ্য/কার্যের সফটওয়্যার বিবরণ			
কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তমান	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
০১. মনিহারী সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	২০০.০০	৫০০০.০০	জুলাই/২০২২
০২. লাবহারী সুব্যবস্থা সরবরাহ	৫০০.০০	১০০০০.০০	হতে
০৩. পান্থবিধান সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	২০০.০০	৫০০০.০০	৩০ জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত
০৪. প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী ও প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের খাবার সরবরাহ	৫০০.০০	৫০০০০.০০	
০৫. সফটওয়্যার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ	২০০.০০	৫০০০.০০	
০৬. অন্যান্য স্বাক্ষরিত এবং সফটওয়্যার সরবরাহ	২০০.০০	৩০০০.০০	
০৭. কাজের ব্যাবহারের জন্য ইলেক্ট্রনিক/কার সরবরাহ	২০০.০০	২৫০০০.০০	
০৮. যানবাহনের কীটনাশ ও মটর যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ	৩০০.০০	৫০০০.০০	
২২. বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য			

(১) প্রতিটি কাজের আলাদা আলাদা শর্তাবলী সফটওয়্যার সিডিউল বিরক্ত করা হবে। (২) ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বাক্ষরকারীর স্বাক্ষরপত্র প্যাকেজ আহ্বানসম্পর্কিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির ১৮নং ত্রিমিক এর (ক)-(ড) বর্ণিত সকল কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদানপূর্বক বর্ণিত স্থানে হতে অফিস সফটওয়্যার সময় দরপত্র সিডিউল সজ্জা করা যাবে। (৩) টিকাদার ব্যক্তি বা টিকাদার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাপত্রসহ সফটওয়্যার প্রতিটি কাজের আলাদা আলাদা ব্যক্তিগত সিডিউল প্রদান করা হবে না। (৪) সিডিউল বিরক্তের শেষ ও দাখিলের এবং খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখে অনিবার্য কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কর্মদিনের একই সময়ে ও নিম্নের দরপত্র বিরক্ত, দাখিল বা খোলা হবে। (৫) সফটওয়্যার কোন সিডিউল বা সফটওয়্যার কোডের অফিসিয়াল প্রদান করা হবে। (৬) পুলিশ সফটওয়্যার/সিডিউল, ডাকা হতে অর্থ ব্যয় প্রাপ্তি সফটওয়্যার কোডের সাথে হবে। (৭) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শালে ব্যক্তিগত যে কোন বা সক



# Govt report to UNHRC masks a bigger problem

## It must ensure justice for victims of enforced disappearance

FOR the first time, the government has responded to the United Nations Human Rights Council’s (UNHRC) working group on enforced disappearances by submitting the information sought on Bangladeshi cases. While we recognise the effort, we must express our disappointment that it took the government so long to respond to a matter this serious. It displays a type of callousness that is not only concerning, but also extremely damaging to the country’s image. Moreover, it sends a bad signal about how much importance the government places on human rights, rule of law, and accountability of different state organs.

What is further concerning is that the UNHRC has already stated that the information provided by the government is inadequate. Reportedly, its response consisted of details about 76 incidents of enforced disappearance. The working group said that information on 66 of them is inadequate. Having taken so long to prepare its response and having faced censure for that, surely the government could have done better. This has, unfortunately, become a pattern for the government when it comes to enforced disappearances.

Over the last decade or so, hundreds of people have allegedly been forcibly disappeared. Nearly every time, however, officials dismissed the reports off-hand, and even make jokes about the victims, despite there being witnesses to these abductions in many cases. In fact, instead of showing sympathy to the families of victims and helping them out, law enforcers have repeatedly been accused of intimidating and harassing them, as well as refusing to file their complaints.

To prepare the report for the UN, law enforcers had to visit the families of victims. Some of them told this newspaper that this was the first time they had ever been contacted by the law enforcers, which simply sums up the whole scenario. Our report also includes narrations from families on how they were threatened and harassed to disbelieve what they saw with their own eyes or heard with their own ears—of their loved ones being taken away by people in plainclothes identifying as law enforcers—and to change their stories more in line with the state’s.

This entire situation is nothing short of shameful. We reiterate the UNHRC’s call on the government to ensure protection of human rights defenders and the families of victims of enforced disappearance. Moreover, it is the duty of the state to find these people or their bodies. It needs to stop avoiding its responsibility by giving lame excuses such as that these people are hiding, when it is evident that hundreds of people cannot disappear like this without there being some powerful force behind it.

# CAAB cannot just randomly fill up a water body

## It is against our conservation law

WE are shocked to learn that the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is filling up a large pond at the capital’s Ashkona area to build a housing project for its officials and employees, in clear violation of the conservation law. While the CAAB chairman claims that they are not violating any law as the land is owned by CAAB, not RAJUK, environmentalists say that the around-30-acre pond is clearly earmarked as a water body in RAJUK’s Detailed Area Plan (DAP). Reportedly, the aviation regulator has also not taken any permission from RAJUK before starting to fill up the pond which has long been used as a water retention area for Ashkona, Uttar Khan and Dakkhin Khan areas. It goes without saying that, without the pond, the waterlogging problem in these areas will aggravate further.

Dhaka has already lost the vast majority of its ponds, canals and waterbodies due to unplanned development. A study by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) in 2019 found that individuals, businesses, real estate developers, organisations, and even government agencies gobbled up 1,072 acres (57 percent) of the 1,879-acre flood flow zones in Dhaka metropolitan areas over the last few decades. The result is that city residents have been experiencing regular waterlogging during monsoon, with many residential areas and main thoroughfares going under knee-to-waist-deep water even after a moderate rain.

For example, waterlogging in the East Jurain area has now become a year-long problem, making the place almost uninhabitable. Reportedly, the neighbourhood was developed on the flood flow zones and agricultural land, filling up a number of big canals. Since Ashkona, Uttar Khan and Dakkhin Khan are already suffering from regular waterlogging, filling up this large pond may also make this situation more permanent, which will eventually affect surrounding areas, too.

Against this backdrop, we think CAAB should immediately shun this project for greater public good but also because it is illegal. We hope the authorities concerned, including RAJUK, will take necessary measures to stop the project and recover the pond. We have already lost too many wetlands, and cannot afford to lose any more. Furthermore, CAAB authorities must be held accountable for taking this project without permission and for violating the law. If a government agency undertakes such a damaging project and goes unpunished, it will certainly embolden others to do the same.

# Big projects, big dreams

## But where is that omelette we’ve been promised?



OF MAGIC & MADNESS

Badiuzzaman Bay is an assistant editor at The Daily Star.

BADIUZZAMAN BAY

IN a 2014 article on sterile policy measures of European technocrats, Slavoj Žižek cited the example of Romanian leftist writer Panait Istrati who visited the Soviet Union in the 1930s. It was a time of big purges and show trials. So a Soviet apologist, trying to convince Istrati of the need for violence against the enemies of the state, evoked the proverb, “You can’t make an omelette without breaking eggs.” To which the latter tersely replied, “All right. I can see the broken eggs. Where’s this omelette of yours?”

The same can perhaps be said, *mutatis mutandis*, of the drive for development in present-day Bangladesh. For years, big government projects and initiatives were packaged under that umbrella term with a promise to end the country’s perennial poverty. Citizens were assured that there would be food at affordable prices, jobs in every household, proper housing, schooling, and healthcare. That their rights would be protected, their mobility unrestrained, and their safety guaranteed. In return, all they have to do is have faith and be patient. But seeing how long that waiting period has been, citizens may well ask: Okay, where is that omelette that the government keeps promising us?

The omelette and broken eggs are apt metaphors for the ever-widening gulf between that promise and the reality. The omelette, or as you may like to call it “*Sonar Bangla*,” is the glue that has held a disgruntled nation together. For 50 years and counting, it gave politicians the equivalent of the American Dream to entice citizens with a future that would be transformative—not just for the nation in general, but at the individual level as well. After all, what is development if its fruits are not enjoyed by all intended beneficiaries? The broken eggs, the price to be paid for the proverbial omelette, give them a sobering reality check.

The pitfall of measuring development based on macrodata is that it shows the big picture, but fails to account for development achieved, if at all, on a micro/personal level. There is no scope for taking stock of the lived experience of individuals. One of the reasons for having public representatives in the policy circles is that they can offer insights that technocrats sitting in their armchairs cannot. But if the lived experiences are any indication, both groups have miserably failed to recognise or offer any solution to the continued sufferings of ordinary people.

Just think of all the road- and transport-related projects taken up over the last decade or so. Have we experienced increased mobility during this time? Have our roads become safer? Do women and girls feel more secure? Does any of us? Despite all the money that has been spent during this period, the daily traffic hasn’t thinned out, nor has it become more manageable. Out in the highways, the mobility has increased somewhat, but at the cost of commuters being more at risk



▲ ILLUSTRATION: STAR

**The pitfall of measuring development based on macrodata is that it shows the big picture, but fails to account for development achieved, if at all, on a micro/personal level. There is no scope for taking stock of the lived experience of individuals.**

than ever before. The state of air and sound pollution—largely due to mismanagement and irresponsible behaviour in the transport sector—has deteriorated to a point where Dhaka is cited as a cautionary tale for botched urban planning.

As I write this, a national daily reports that the price of rice has increased again, despite the high yield of Boro rice. We’re

requiring imports. But the drive wasn’t born out of a genuine desire to cut all unnecessary expenses of the government, which would have required fixing internal, systemic challenges that are draining public coffers across the administrative spectrum. Today, public projects and initiatives are essentially money guzzlers—thanks to corruption, mismanagement and lack

repeatedly told how Bangladesh has become self-sufficient in food production. On the other and more relatable side of this picture is how access to food is becoming costlier and more difficult by the day. How do you reconcile these contrasting scenarios? The prices of all food and non-food items have skyrocketed beyond comprehension, even though ordinary citizens’ capacity to purchase hasn’t risen concurrently. More people today are living in semi-starvation. The sad part is, this is never reflected in any official statistics. The robust economic growth figures shown by the government are thus either designedly selective or manipulated to cover the gaping hole underneath our feet.

True, our economy has grown in size and scope, but so has public spending on ill-planned and ill-executed projects. Unnecessary projects are being taken up to fill the coffers of groups with vested interests, even before the scars of old projects are healed. Amid ongoing concerns about a currency crisis, there seems to have been a realisation in the policy circles about the importance of tightening our purse strings from austerity measures, leading to the cancellation of foreign trips of public officials and postponement of projects

of coordination. They exist to serve the interests of the politico-bureaucratic complex. Citizen welfare makes for good lip service only.

The situation in law enforcement, education, health, environmental and other sectors is no less dystopian. Many had hoped that the end of Covid-19 would usher in Vivid-22, but the pandemic has laid bare—for all to see and panic while doing so—how fundamentally flawed these sectors have been all along, nipping in the bud any lingering romanticism about the pre-Covid time. The pain and sufferings that are being caused on a daily basis are bound to disillusion anyone.

I can rattle off a long list of problems dogging each public sector from newspaper reports alone, which show how the lived experience hasn’t reflected the rosy picture drawn of the country’s development. It’s getting increasingly harder to navigate the chaos, insanity and unending suffering on the streets and markets, in the employment and service sectors, in educational institutions, and in virtual space. The question is: How long will we have to bear with the encumbrances of development before we see a truly transformative future?

# Green finance must be open to SMEs



RMG NOTES

Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

THE garment industry of Bangladesh has made significant strides in sustainability. We now have the highest number of LEED green factories in the world—nearly 160, with another 500 in the pipeline. Furthermore, 40 of the top 100 LEED factories globally originated from Bangladesh. BGMEA, the apex trade body of Bangladesh’s garment industry, has pledged to the UNFCCC’s Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action with a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

There are several green finance avenues, such as the Refinance Scheme for Green Finance, Green Transformation Fund, Technology Development Fund, SREUP, Green Climate Fund, and many other international funds available to support the green revolution in our industry.

But are *all* the companies in our industry able to access green finance?

The answer, at the moment, appears to be no. The evidence for this can be the small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) factories in Bangladesh who are still operating in survival mode, despite an abundance of orders. The orders are often going to larger, LEED-certified factories that can afford to keep expanding, thanks to green finance. The number of SMEs, meanwhile, is diminishing.

**A successful economy needs a mix of large corporations and SMEs. An industry composed almost solely of multi-nationals would stifle creativity and reduce risk-taking and entrepreneurialism.**

In a recent article published in the *Financial Times*, titled “Wall Street’s new mantra: Green is good,” it was made clear that, while banks and financial institutions once saw green finance as a niche issue, now it is mainstream and a major source of profit.

Globally, the inclusion of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) priorities in the corporate space has made sustainability obligatory for all. Bangladesh’s export-oriented garment industry is part of the global value chain, and therefore factories have to embrace sustainability—and it requires investment, which requires access to green funding.

The problem for SMEs is that tapping into green finance is not straightforward at all. There are several reasons for this.

One of the main reasons is that the SMEs often don’t have a healthy enough balance sheet to meet the criteria for green funding. They often fail at the bank’s due diligence stage. The irony is that, in many cases, SMEs are the very businesses that need green funding the most. That’s because their factories are often inefficient, use old, carbon-intensive technologies, and are likely to cause pollution, among other issues.

Another challenge is that most of these funds are only for purchasing machines or tangible assets. Consultancy, training, capacity-building and other intangible investment requirements are generally beyond the purview of green finance, which creates a problem for SMEs.

The other concern is that SMEs may need specialist, tailored green finance support. They may have a lack of collateral or have had previous bad loans. Yet their case for green finance may be a strong one. Will a commercial bank be able to recognise this? Will they have the know-

how and be able to provide more than a tick-box exercise?

A successful economy needs a mix of large corporations and SMEs. An industry composed almost solely of multinationals would stifle creativity and reduce risk-taking and entrepreneurialism. After all, where is the incentive to take risks and try new things when there are few smaller competitors snapping at your heels? The large players need to be kept on their toes to ensure that our garment industry keeps moving forward.

With all this in mind, I propose five possible solutions for policymakers that could make green finance more accessible for SMEs.

First, group funding may be introduced so that small-scale entrepreneurs can come together and make collective applications to banks and financial institutions for green funds. Could the BGMEA or a similar body facilitate that?

Second, a lighter due diligence framework for SMEs may be set with support mechanisms in place to help them with the administrative burden of applying for green finance.

Third, a common gateway of funding could be created, where companies only have to apply for green finance at a single window and banks will create customised syndicates to support their clients.

Fourth, insurance entities (such as Atradius) could be urgently involved to facilitate and balance risks for investors. These exist in most countries and are the route to green finance for SMEs.

Finally, if brands want to collaborate—this is a concrete way and an invitation to do so—we all know that access to CAPEX investment is the key hurdle to overcome to drive impact in our industry.



ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Are we paying for our hospitality?



STRATEGICALLY  
SPEAKING

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN

Brig Gen Shahedul  
Anam Khan, ndc,  
psc (ret'd) is a former  
associate editor of  
The Daily Star.

AS if a million Rohingya refugees are not enough, we have to now face the prospect of Rohingyas sneaking in through the borders from India into Bangladesh. Not in too many places has one seen a country not only accept such a large number of persecuted, internationally displaced people, but also shelter them for years on end. The second tranche of them will have been here five years come August. And their numbers inside the camps are increasing.

The report on the matter, carried in this daily on May 22, reveals two very disturbing facts. One, that we are paying for our hospitality—so much so that the conditions in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar are working as a pull factor for the Rohingyas presently sheltered in India. The Rohingyas in India are suffering on two counts. Firstly, the conditions in the refugee camps locally are compelling them to seek egress out to Bangladesh, and, obviously, the security arrangement in Indian camps are not strict enough, for which the refugees manage to escape from the camps and travel, sometimes as far as from Jammu, to Kolkata, and eventually across the border.

But, equally more seriously, their religious identity as Muslims makes them vulnerable in India. These are not subjective observations, but conclusions drawn from the statements of Rohingyas who have managed to cross into Bangladesh. According to *The Daily Star* report, it is estimated that there are about 500 or so of them in Bangladesh as of now, who chose to shift camps from India to Bangladesh. However, a report dated January 27, 2019 on Scroll. in said that “some 2,000 Rohingyas who had taken refuge in India have reportedly left for Bangladesh.” What we are facing now is reverse migration compelled out of fear stemming from Jammu-based groups’ threat to launch a “catch and kill” movement against the Rohingyas.

The story of Rohingyas escaping from Indian camps and into Bangladesh is not new. At one time, several of them were left in a limbo on the border between Bangladesh and India, with neither country willing to accept them.



The Indian position that they were Rohingyas trying to infiltrate India from Bangladesh does not wash for reasons known to all. And, reportedly, the pushback of Rohingyas has been the official policy of the Indian government.

The 500 or so Rohingyas are the ones who have been identified and arrested. No one knows how many of them are living in Bangladesh—inside the camp or out, clandestinely. Secondly, and equally ominously, there are people on both sides of the border who are thriving on the plight of the Rohingyas in India, actively, as appears from the same report, aided by the Indian border forces.

We wonder, when more than 99 percent of the border has been fenced with triple concertina wire, how come the Rohingyas in India manage to sneak through the almost impregnable fences? How come these Rohingyas, in the vast expanse of the border, find holes in those fences, which are laid out in layers of three, and cross into Bangladesh escaping BSF notice?

As a Bangladeshi, one would not be remiss to ask whether it has been a folly to follow the international conventions and accept the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds. The rest of the world seems to have forgotten the Rohingyas’ and Bangladesh’s plight. Little does the world note the cost we have had to bear. According to one study, presently, Rohingyas constitute more than a third of the

▲  
**Bangladesh has been hosting more than a million Rohingya refugees for nearly five years now, and more continue to cross over to find shelter.**

FILE PHOTO:  
STAR

local population in southeast Cox’s Bazar region. Prime forest lands have been decimated to house the refugees and provide fuel for their cooking. The social cost has been equally damaging. The initial open arm attitude of the locals has transformed into hostility, sometimes open and sometimes veiled. Can the locals be blamed for the change in attitude when they stand to economically suffer in the job market, with glut in the local labour force and

consequent fall in wages, when they see preferential treatment to the refugees while their own conditions are no better, and the solution of the Rohingya crisis seems remote?

It seems our diplomatic efforts have lost steam. The international community has taken us for granted, happy with the status quo as long as we take care of the refugees. Shifting them to better and more spacious locations in Bangladesh, Bhasan Char and elsewhere, may convey the message that Bangladesh has accepted the *fait accompli*, that it shall have to lump the refugees for the foreseeable future. The Rohingya issue is no longer the emotive issue it was four or five years ago.

Unfortunately, money has trumped morality and humane consideration. Our three good friends have demonstrated visibly that their support lies where the money is. But not only them, another very good Middle Eastern friend has invested in Myanmar oil, which prevents it from putting pressure on Myanmar. And the ummah has been most visible through its silence, with honourable exceptions, of course. Is it that Myanmar wields more strategic leverage on India, China and Russia than we do, which was a factor in Myanmar getting away with genocide? Thus, we should formulate our strategy from that datum point. As for those sneaking in from India, Bangladesh would need India’s sincere help in stopping the flow, because that appears to be the result of India’s policy on Rohingyas and how they are being dealt with there.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

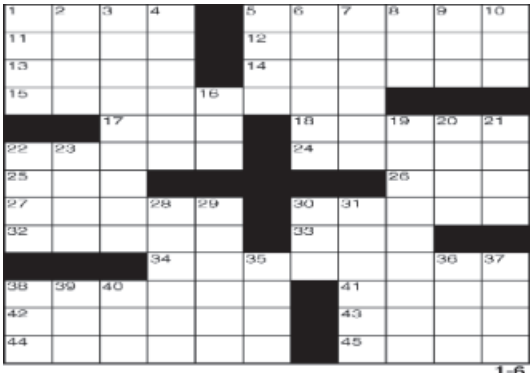
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- 33 Lend a hand  
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DOWN

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2 Canyon sound  
3 Arm-waving creation  
4 End a suit  
5 Make coffee  
6 Pries  
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8 Clamor  
9 Series-ending abbr.

- 10 Take in  
16 Unoriginal  
19 Thrill-seeker  
20 Expand  
21 Peepers  
22 Get news of  
23 Fairy tale monster  
28 Broadcasting  
29 Uncommon  
30 Plunked down  
31 Cockpit occupants  
35 Prepared to drive  
36 Yard tool  
37 Reached base, in a way  
38 Bit of ointment  
39 Greek vowel  
40 Junior, to senior



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তারিখ: ১৫ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৯  
২৯ মে ২০২২

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদার/নির্মাতা প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তকরণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদার/নির্মাতা প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্ত করার নিমিত্ত লটভিত্তিক আগ্রহ প্রস্তাব নির্দেশক্রমে আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ
লট-ক	অফিসের স্টেশনারি ও মনোহারি দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ
লট-খ	১। প্রিন্টারের টোনার ও অন্যান্য কম্পিউটারের আনুষঙ্গিক যন্ত্র ও যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ ২। ফটোকপি মেশিনের টোনার ও অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক যন্ত্র ও যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ
লট-গ	বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জাম
লট-ঘ	কমিশন কর্তৃক দেশের নদ-নদী, হাওর-বাঁওড়, জলাশয়-জলাধার পরিদর্শনকালীন ভিডিও চিত্র ধারণ, সম্পাদনা, ডকুমেন্টারি প্রস্তুত এবং কমিশনের ইউটিউব চ্যানেলে আপলোডকরণ

২। আগামী ১৩/৬/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে আগ্রহী সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদার/নির্মাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আগ্রহপত্র/প্রস্তাব কমিশন কার্যালয়ের প্রশাসন ও অর্থ শাখায় রক্ষিত বাক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে। দাখিলের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নরূপ শর্তাবলি অনুসরণ করতে হবে:

- ক) প্রতিটি আগ্রহ প্রস্তাব লটভিত্তিক আলাদা খামে দাখিল করতে হবে এবং খামের উপর লট নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;
- খ) আগ্রহ প্রস্তাবের সঙ্গে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, TIN সনদ ও জ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি দাখিল করতে হবে;
- গ) চেয়ারম্যান, জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন-এর অনুকূলে ৫,০০০/-টাকার (অফেরতযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার দাখিল করতে হবে।

৩। উক্ত তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাজের মান সন্তোষজনক বিবেচিত হলে তালিকাভুক্তির মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে।

৪। তালিকাভুক্তিকরণের ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে এবং কমিশনে ইতিপূর্বে উক্ত লটসমূহে তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের তালিকাভুক্তি ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরের পর হতে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

মনজুরুল কাদের  
সচিব

দুরালাপনী: ০২-৪১০৫২০৫৫

GD-1095

Government of The People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Office of The Director

Chattogram Medical College Hospital

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Memo No. CMCH/Tender/Non-MSR/Diet/2022-2023/e-GP/6942

Date: 29-05-2022.

e-GP Tender Notice

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

SL. No.	Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/ Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Opening Date & Time
1	704614	Procurement of Dried Goods: Rice, Pulses, Sugar etc for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
2	704613	Procurement of Vegetables for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
3	704612	Procurement of Milk and Dairy Products for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
4	704611	Procurement of Fish and Meat for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
5	704610	Procurement of Chicken Egg for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
6	704574	Procurement of Bread, Biscuits and Fruits ect for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00

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(Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan)

Director

Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Chattogram.

Tel: 031-630179. Email: [cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd)

GD-1094



# The eternal rebel warrior: A hundred years later

**Nazrul's "Bidrohi" is significantly different from Rabindranath's "Prarthona" as well as from Majumdar's "Ami." "Rabindranath's poem is a prayer, Nazrul's a call to arms and action." The difference in tone is similar to the difference between Rabindranath's "Esho, esho, esho he baishakh" and Nazrul's "Proloyulash."**

NAIAZ ZAMAN

One late December night in 1921, Kazi Nazrul Islam wrote what would be his most iconoclastic poem, the poem that would give rise to his soubriquet, "Bidrohi Kabi," the Rebel Poet. Inspired by a complex of emotions, Nazrul's ideas were flowing too fast for his pen to keep pace. This is why, according to Muzzafar Ahmed in *Kazi Nazrul Islam: Smritikatha*, the poet first wrote the poem in pencil so that he did not have to continuously dip his pen in the inkpot. The poem combined his Muslim heritage with his knowledge of Hindu mythology, his anger against repression and discrimination, his love for a young teenage girl, and his experience as a soldier in the British Indian army.

Early next morning, Nazrul read out the poem to Muzzafar Ahmed. His friend did not show the enthusiasm that the poet had expected. However, others realized the importance of the poem, and "Bidrohi" appeared in *Bijli* on 22 Poush 1328 [January 6, 1922].

Nazrul's writings were being printed in Kolkata magazines and he was moving in literary circles, but nothing that he had written before compared with this poem. A new writer had emerged, and someone very different from Gurudev. That a child born in impoverished conditions in Churulia would grow up to write poetry, songs, fiction, political editorials, speeches and become the national poet of Bangladesh should have been impossible. But all these things did happen. As a child, growing up near a mosque, going to school in a maktab, often doing odd jobs in the mosque, his life should have been like that of countless villagers who die unknown and unsung. Or, introduced to the life of itinerant leto groups where he learned about Hindu myths and legends, he could have turned into a vagabond. But something happened to transform his life.

As Professor Rafiqul Islam points



Nazrul in Sitakunda, Chattogram, c. 1929

for example, he draws upon the history of the glorious Muslim past. But at the time that Nazrul was writing, Arabia was as subjugated as India was. There is thus an elegiac note in the poem. However, not just satisfied with bemoaning a lost past, in "Bajichhe Damama" the poet gives a call to battle to restore the lost glory of Islam.

Though Nazrul would go on to write many devotional poems, in "Bidrohi" he celebrated the rebel as a superhero whose head did not bow before any deity. The opening lines of the poem were unlike any written at the time: *Bolo bir/Bolo unnato momo shir/Shir nehari amari, notoshir oi shikhor himadri* [Speak, Hero, say, / My head is held high, / At its sight the Himalayan peak hangs down its head]. The effect of the alliteration, the internal rhymes and the declamatory note of the poem is almost impossible to translate into English verse. Like Walt Whitman – with whom Nazrul has been compared by scholars such as Syed Ali Ahsan – the poet is celebrating himself. In the 139-line poem, 98 of the lines begin with "ami" [I]. The word is also repeated 47 times within the lines of the poem. The words "momo" [my] and "amari" [mine] are also strewn throughout the poem. But while the poet celebrates himself, he is also celebrating the superhero who can defy all forces. In fact, Nazrul begins by addressing a "bir," a warrior, before slipping into "ami."

The poet Mohitlal Majumdar accused Nazrul of plagiarizing from his essay "Ami" [I] which he had read out to Nazrul and Muzaffar Ahmed at the Bangiya Mussalman Sahitya Samity in 1920. While it is possible that Majumdar's essay might have been in the back of Nazrul's mind while he was composing the poem, Majumdar's essay does not have the complex of images and associations of Nazrul's poem. It is even more possible that it was Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Prarthona" from *Naivedya* which inspired Nazrul. The first line of Tagore's poem reads "*Chitto jetha bhayshunno, uchcho jetha shir*," and, in his own English translation, "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high." The poem, whether read in the Bangla original or in Rabindranath's own English translation, is a prayer to the Creator. Nazrul, who had read much of

Rabindranath – and often quoted him in his writings and in *Bandhon Hara* has a character refer to the older poet's Nobel Prize – could not have been unaware of this poem. However, Nazrul's "Bidrohi" is significantly different from Rabindranath's "Prarthona" as well as from Majumdar's "Ami." "Rabindranath's poem is a prayer, Nazrul's a call to arms and action." The difference in tone is similar to the difference between Rabindranath's "Esho, esho, esho he baishakh" and Nazrul's "Proloyulash." Rabindranath prays for the Baishakhi storm to wash away all the accumulated rubbish of the past year, while Nazrul welcomes the violence of destruction which is also the turbulence of creation.

What does the word "bir" in the first line of the poem mean? It is both an adjective and a noun, meaning "brave" and "soldier" respectively. Different translators of the poem have translated the word differently. Kabir Chowdhury uses the adjective "valiant" as a noun; Syed Sajjad Husain, Abdul Hakim, Sajad Kamal and Kaiser Haq all use "hero." Bir, however, has a significant association with warrior. In his translation of "Shat el Arab," Syed Sajjad Husain had translated the word "bir" in the second line of the poem as "fighters." In "Bidrohi," while the soldier poet had become the rebel poet, the soldier is still there. In fact, the poem is unique in the way it blends the soldier and the rebel with the lover.

In line 49 of the poem, the poet juxtaposes love and destruction by referring to the different musical instruments of love and war: "*Momo ek hate banka bansher banshori, aar hate rono turjo*" [In one hand I hold the tender bamboo flute, / The trumpet of war in the other]. Both the flute and the trumpet are musical instruments, but vastly different from each other in sound and symbolism. The trumpet is associated with war, the flute with love. Strangely, the poet describes the flute as "banka." A flute cannot be crooked and still be played upon. This image suggests the "tribhanga" pose of Krishna, the flute player, the lover of Radha.

While the title, "Bidrohi," means "Rebel," and the main theme of the poem is about shattering all forms of oppression and discrimination – secular, political, societal, religious – the poem is also celebratory. It eulogizes man's humanity, his creativity, his ability to withstand pain, as well as his ability to love and to savour the beauty of life and nature. It combines destruction with creation.

I am the rainstorm, the hurricane,  
Smashing all in its path.  
I am the dance-crazy rhythm,  
Dancing to my own beats.  
I am the joy of a life of total freedom.

Nazrul would write both Hindu devotional songs as well as hamds in praise of Allah and naats in praise of the Prophet. He would write about Fateha Doazdahum, about Moharram, about the two Eids, about the different obligations of a Muslim. He would write both kirtan and shyama sangeet. Before 1971, there was an attempt to make Nazrul an Islamic poet. "Hindu" words were changed to "Islamic" ones; words, phrases and stanzas were omitted. But Nazrul wasn't an Islamic poet. Married to Ashalata Sengupta, whom he renamed Pramila, he named his sons a combination of Hindu and Muslim names. And, in his poems on socialism, he talks about a world where all religions coexist peacefully. In "Samyabadi," translated by Sajad Kamal as "I Sing of Equality," Nazrul embraces four major religions. But he also points out that it is not important to be a devout Hindu, Christian, Buddhist or Muslim. True religion lies in the human heart.

In "Bidrohi" Nazrul is an iconoclast. He wants to rise above God's throne, he wants to stamp his footprint on the bosom of God. Early translators omitted lines that seemed sacrilegious. In his translation of "Bidrohi," Kabir Chowdhury, for example, ends on these beautiful lines:

Wearied of struggle, I, the great rebel,  
Shall rest in quiet only when I find  
The sky and the air free of the piteous groans of  
the oppressed.  
Only when the battlefields are cleared of jingling  
bloody sabres  
Shall I, weary of struggles, rest in quiet,  
I, the great rebel.

I am the rebel eternal,  
I raise my head beyond this world,  
High, ever erect and alone.

However, before the last three lines which end Professor Chowdhury's translation of "Bidrohi," there is an omission of four important lines. Syed Sajjad Husain, who also translated this poem, conflates the missing lines with the last three lines in this translation:

I am the implacable foe  
Of cruel blind Destiny  
Which rules the universe,  
The whimsical despotic deity whom I despise,  
I the eternal rebel who never submits.

What were the lines that both the translators omitted/glossed over?

In Sajad Kamal's translation they read:

I'm the Rebel Bhriгу,  
I'll stamp my footprints on the chest of god  
Sleeping away indifferently, whimsically,  
While the creation is suffering.  
I'm the Rebel Bhriгу,  
I'll stamp my footprints –  
I'll tear apart the chest of the whimsical god.

Abdul Hakim too translates the lines but is careful to note that the poet is not referring to



Young Nazrul in front of the Dalmadal Canon in Bishnupur, Bankura, c. 1921.

the Muslim Allah but to Bhagawan. Juxtaposing the rebellious note in the poem and the violent images – "*Ami bhora-tori kori bhora dubi, ami torpedo, ami bhim bhasoman mine*" [I sink the cargo-laden boat; / I am a torpedo, a deadly floating mine] – are images of loveliness, beauty, tenderness. Why, in a poem celebrating rebellion, are there love notes? Ghulam Murshid, in *Bidrohi Ranaklanta*, suggests that at the time of writing this poem, the poet was also a lover. The detailed images of young love seem out of place in the poem unless one understands that the poet had fallen in love with Ashalata Sengupta, a Brahmo girl. By falling in love with a girl outside his religious community, the poet was also rebelling against the dictates of a conventional society which would keep lovers from different communities apart.

Understanding this background helps explain why, along with the description of the forces of destruction, the poet describes the beauty of woman and the passion of young love.

I am the fancy-free maiden's flowing hair, the glow in her eyes,

The fiery passion in the lotus-heart of a sixteen-year-old girl.

A few lines later, the poet describes the ways of love at a time when social conventions did not allow young men and women to mix before marriage:

I am the tremulous excitement of a girl's first stolen kiss;

I am the quick sidelong glance of a secret lover;

I am a young girl's romance, the tinkle of her glass bangles.

However, love and romance are only part of the multitudinous variety of this poem which ends on the same note of rebellion with which it begins, with the poet declaring his defiance of the divine, his rebellion against conventional religion: *Ami chiro bidrohi bir/ Bishwa charaye uthiyachhi eka chiro unnato shir* [I am the eternal rebel hero – / Alone, my head ever high, / Rising far above Earth].

Note: Except where specified, all translations of "Bidrohi" are by Kaiser Haq.

Niaz Zaman, Advisor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University, Bangladesh, is a writer and translator.



Girin Chakraborty rendered the poem Bidrohi into a song. Columbia released the album.



(L) Cover of Agnibeena. The poetry book was published in October, 1922. It contains the famous poem Bidrohi. (R) Plaque in memory of Nazrul Islam at Hooghly Jail.







Thibaut Courtois was Real Madrid's hero in the Champions League final in Paris on Saturday as Liverpool couldn't find a way past the Belgian, who tipped Sadio Mane's first-half shot onto the post and produced an even better save to turn away Mohamed Salah's effort in the 81st minute. Real Madrid became kings of the continent once again, thanks to Vinicius Junior's strike in the 59th minute.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER

- Real Madrid have now won twice as many European Cups as any other club (AC Milan have won seven); they have won all eight finals in which they have played in the UEFA Champions League era.
- Carlo Ancelotti is the first coach to win the European Cup four times; he is also the only one to have taken a team to five finals.

# Courtois ‘redemption’ disrupts hegemony of strikers

ASHEFAQ UL MUSHFIQ

Ahead of the biggest night of European club football, numerous tactical analysis, speculations and predictions were made on how the match between Liverpool and Real Madrid would play out. In football, a game where goals define the result, marksmen like Karim Benzema, Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Vinicius Jr. predictably garnered the most attention on the occasion. And all but certainly, nobody anticipated that a goalkeeper would decide the outcome of the Champions League final at Stade de France on Sunday; and he was none other than Real's Thibaut Courtois.

The Belgian shot-stopper denied Liverpool nine times throughout the match, the highest number of saves made by any keeper in an UCL final since 2003/04. Notably also, Los Blancos' number one pulled off a record number of 59 saves in a



Champions League campaign since the aforementioned period.

The Belgian's resistance began from the 16th minute of the match when Courtois dropped down sharply to his left to deny Salah's close-range effort, which sparked the ignition in him for the rest of the match. Five minutes later, a long-range effort from Mane stretched the six and a half feet keeper to his right to finger-tip the ball away from danger.

As Real got the lead around the



hour mark, Liverpool came firing in all cylinders. However, the Belgian appeared taller than his stature in front of the goal as he frustrated the reds on several occasions.

When Salah drifted in from the right and crafted a curler on the far corner from outside the box in the



64th minute, Liverpool fans probably had their fingers crossed in optimism. However, Courtois's high-flying dive to the right parried the ball away from target. And moments later, Salah's attempt to avenge for the Kyiv 2018 final had to wait another day as the Belgian closed his shot down from a tight angle in the near-post.

The Courtois show continued as he denied the Egyptian forward, yet again, who was free on goal and his shot was elevated away by the Madrid keeper's spectacular reflex in the 83rd minute.

As the final was heading towards its last minutes, Courtois probably had recalled his previous Champions League final, when he was playing against Real and Atletico Madrid was leading by a goal. But a thumping header from Sergio Ramos in the 93rd

minute spoiled his first UCL final.

Conversely, this time playing for Los Blancos, he wouldn't allow history to repeat for himself this time around. His sharpness and ice-cold nerves till the final whistle ensured that the Spanish giants could keep their lead intact and head towards their 14th Champions League title.

"It's incredible, so many years, so much work. Come to the club of my life. I saw many criticising me. Today we have shown who is the King of Europe," Courtois said after the match.

"I needed to win a final for my career, to put some respect on my name."

The initial days Courtois spent at Real after signing from Chelsea were dim, to say the least, as he had a hard time fitting in as his low confidence during the games cost his side to lose games on multiple occasions. He had to talk with psychologists to get his focus back on the game and the result arrived in flying colours as he won two league titles with Real Madrid and when the Los Blancos needed him the most, he rose to the occasion and single-handedly won his first Champions League.

"I saw a lot of tweets saying I will get humbled. But it was the other way around today," the shot-stopper said following his redemption.

## Ancelotti's calm approach pays dividends

AGENCIES

Real Madrid became champions of Europe for a record-extending 14th time after Carlo Ancelotti's side beat Liverpool 1-0 in Paris on Saturday, but rarely have the Spanish champions taken a more chaotic road to glory.

Madrid only made it to the French capital, thanks to stirring fightbacks at the Santiago Bernabeu to see off Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and then Manchester City in the knockout rounds.

However, barring the game being delayed due to spectators' unrest, there was no such drama at the Stade de France on Saturday where, after surviving some early Liverpool dominance and suffering the setback of a disallowed Benzema goal, Real took a grip on the game after halftime and got their goal and then, with help from goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, defended their lead.

Ancelotti's success has been founded on strong and trusting relationships with his players, especially the seniors.

The understated confidence was evident from the moment Real entered the ground in sharp suits and ties, as if they knew they were attending an awards ceremony.



The Italian adopts the same approach on the touchline -- rarely showing emotion, trusting his players to follow his gameplan without the need for arm-waving and shouting. But that restrained demeanour, disguises a too-often underrated tactical astuteness from the Real coach.

Ancelotti's side defended deep, an approach which forced Liverpool to choose between pushing on and risking leaving space for Real's deadly counter-attacks or sitting in space themselves and playing a slower passing game.

Klopp's players adopted the latter approach and that meant they were forced to abandon their signature style of play.

With the ball Real were patient but they, and particularly Modric, frequently looked to play the ball over the back of Liverpool right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold, an approach which created some of their better moments.

After the break, Real stepped up their tempo with the ball, imposing themselves in midfield and Liverpool struggled to move into a higher gear they desperately searched for the late equaliser.

Although Courtois was forced into action on several occasions, there was never a hint of panic in the way Real defended.

It was the performance of a Real team which knows how to win in the biggest games, something which Klopp's side for all their qualities - and despite one Premier League title and one Champions League triumph -- have yet to truly learn.

A 'winning culture' may be one of the most over-used terms in modern football but for Real Madrid and Carlo Ancelotti, there truly is meaning and value in the concept.

# Pandya leads Gujarat Titans to IPL glory

AFP, Ahmedabad

Hardik Pandya starred with bat and ball as Gujarat Titans clinched the IPL title in their debut season with a seven-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals in front of a record crowd of 104,859 in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Pandya returned figures of 3-17 to restrict Rajasthan to 130 for nine in the lop-sided final at the world's biggest cricket stadium and Gujarat's home ground.

The captain then made 34 with the bat before Shubman Gill (45) and David Miller (32) steered the team home in 18.1 overs to bring the house down at the 132,000 capacity stadium.

It was a fairytale finish for a team that entered the world's richest domestic cricket tournament alongside Lucknow Super Giants in the expanded 10-team IPL this year.

Pandya set up victory with his key wickets including Jos Buttler's prized scalp for 39 after Rajasthan, led by Sanju Samson, elected to bat first.

Buttler finished this season as the leading batsman with 863 runs and his wicket raised the roof at a stadium bigger than the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Afghanistan's Rashid Khan returned impressive figures of 1-18 from his four overs of leg spin to keep down the opposition scoring.

Pandya, who sent back his opposite

number Samson for 14, kept up the pressure and got the big-hitting Shimron Hetmyer out for 11 with a caught and bowled.

Fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Yash Dayal, who got opener Yashasvi Jaiswal for 22, worked up good pace to keep Rajasthan on the backfoot from the start.

In reply, Gujarat lost Wriddhiman Saha for five and Matthew Wade for eight before Shubman and Gill and Pandya put the chase back on track.

The pair put on 63 runs for the third wicket to put the pressure back on the bowling side as Pandya smashed Ravichandran Ashwin for a four and six in the 12th over.

Yuzvendra Chahal got Pandya out with his leg spin to overtake Wanindu Hasaranga of Royal Challengers Bangalore as the leading wicket-taker of the tournament and finished with 27 scalps.

But Gill, who was dropped on nought by Chahal, stood firm to put on an unbeaten 47-run stand with left-handed South African batsman David Miller, who made 32 off 19.

Gill's 45 came from 43 balls and ended with a six that secured the victory. The two batsmen hugged and, as the fireworks erupted, the Gujarat players came running on to the pitch to celebrate.

Rajasthan go back dejected after their first final appearance since they won the inaugural edition in 2008 under late Australian hero Shane Warne.



Gujarat Titans opener Shubman Gill embraces hard-hitting batter David Miller after scoring the winning runs against Rajasthan Royals in the final of the IPL at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

PHOTO: BCCI



