



**P6** Farooki joins 2022 Sydney Film Festival jury



**P7** Big tobacco 'poisoning our planet': WHO



**P11** Booters face Indonesia in Bandung today



**B1** New stock investment tool ETF in three months

## Govt would amend DSA, if necessary

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government would, if necessary, bring changes to the Digital Security Act to ensure the best practice as the law was misused to some extent.

"I had a meeting with the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva through the UN resident coordinator in December 2019 to know how to ensure the best practice of the Digital Security Act in our country. After that, a committee was formed comprising representatives from the ministries of law, foreign affairs, home affairs, and information and communication technology to work with the UNHRC on this issue.

"The committee held a meeting with the UNHRC and will hold another one

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The construction of the third terminal of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital is going on in full swing. A passenger terminal building, roads, an airport apron, a parking lot, a cargo complex, and other structures are being built under the Tk 21,399 crore project. The terminal is likely to be opened by October next year. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Rice pricier even in peak Boro season

Traders allege millers not supplying enough; drives against hoarding begin

PINAKI ROY and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The prices of rice rose by Tk 8-10 per kg over the last two weeks even though it is the harvesting season and there is ample supply of paddy.

At different kitchen markets, the price of coarse rice rose to Tk 52-54 a kg while the fine varieties sold for Tk 65 to Tk 80 yesterday.

According to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), the prices of coarse and fine rice increased by 5.38 percent and 3.17 percent over the last seven days.

Traders said the rice mill owners were not supplying enough rice to the market and the prices might rise further if they do not improve supplies.

Asked, Benjir Alam, director general at the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), said there was no shortage of rice in the market because farmers cultivated Boro on 49.63 lakh hectares, which is 90,000 hectares more than they cultivated last year.

Floods had damaged paddy on only about 18,500 hectares this season, he said.

"Besides, the production was good."

The expectation was to harvest 2.11 crore tonnes of paddy this Boro season, the DG said, adding that almost 94 percent of the target has been met already.

Besides, farmers in different parts of the country would continue to bring paddy from the fields until the end of this month.

He blamed the traders and millers for creating an artificial shortage in the market.

However, several rice mill owners in different districts said the paddy they bought from farmers were not properly ripe and not dry enough to produce rice instantly.

Meanwhile, the government raids across the country to control the prices have largely failed to make an impact on the first day.

Yesterday afternoon, officials conducted a drive at the wholesale rice market in Babubazar, Old Dhaka, but found most of the shops closed.

Eight teams of officials of the food ministry and food directorate will conduct drives in the capital today.

The drives were launched a day after the cabinet directed officials to take action against the companies involved in unauthorised rice businesses and hoarding.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said on Sunday that some large companies without any legal authorisation were hoarding rice.

At a kitchen market in the capital yesterday, Siddikur Rahman, a resident of the capital's Nakhhalpara, said, "I used to buy miniket rice at Tk 62 a kg. After the prices of other essentials went up, I switched to BIRI 29 which was Tk 52. Now BIRI 29 is Tk 57 a kg.

"I am trying really hard to reduce my expenditures, but I'm failing," he said.

**Several rice mill owners in different districts said the paddy they bought from farmers were not properly ripe and not dry enough to produce rice instantly.**

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## US DOLLAR CRUNCH

# Many banks fail to follow BB exchange rates

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Amid a US dollar crunch in the domestic market, many banks failed to comply with the exchange rates set by Bangladesh Bank a couple of days ago.

Though the BB injected \$123 million into the market yesterday, most of the banks were unable to settle import bills at Tk 89.15 per dollar fixed by it on Sunday, say officials of several banks.

The central bank has so far supplied a record \$5.95 billion to the foreign exchange market this fiscal year to cool it off.

The Daily Star yesterday contacted seven banks to know whether they followed the BB-set exchange rates. Of them, five said they had no choice but to sell each dollar to importers for Tk 91-94.

The BB on Sunday also asked banks to offer exporters a maximum of Tk 88.15 for each dollar while purchasing export bills and Tk 89.20 for foreign exchange houses that channel remittances to Bangladesh from abroad.

The central bank fixed the interbank rate -- the benchmark exchange rate of the taka against the dollar -- at Tk 89.

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## RAIL TRANSIT FOR INDIA THRU' BANGLADESH

# Railways of 2 countries to work on one route

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After a proposal from Indian Railways (IR), Dhaka and New Delhi have agreed to work out the details of the possibility of India using rail transit through Bangladesh.

Under the plan, Indian trains will run between Sealdah and Haldibari of West Bengal through Bangladesh. In that case, trains will enter Bangladesh through Gede-Darshana (Chuadanga) border and exit through Chilahati (Nilphamari)-Haldibari border to reach Siliguri.

At the moment, India has road transit facilities through Bangladesh. If approved by the two governments, the proposed route will be the first rail transit facility between the two nations after more than half a century.

Before India-Pakistan partition in 1947, there were eight railway

interchanges between the two countries. Only five of them -- Benapole-Petropole, Darshana-Gede, Rohanpur-Singabadh, Biral-Radhikarpur, and Chilahati-Haldibari -- are now operational.



The IR placed the proposal at a meeting with Bangladesh Railway (BR) in April.

Meeting documents seen by The Daily Star show the infrastructure of the route from Gede-Darshana-Ishwardi-Abdullpur-Parbatipur-Chilahati-Haldibari is "fully ready" for the

opening of the route.

The IR delegation also sought to increase the number of trains from India through various points for freight transit from one carrier to another.

At the meeting, BR officials sought a new overnight train service from Dhaka to Kolkata via Darshana. Dhaka will place a formal proposal in this regard soon, the document reads.

Apart from the freight trains, two passenger trains are being operated between India and Bangladesh for several years.

Currently, the Maitree Express between Dhaka and Kolkata uses the Gede-Darshana interchange. Bandhan Express operates between Khulna and Kolkata.

Rail communication between the two countries via Chilahati-Haldibari route resumed in December 2020, after a 55-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## US has concerns over human rights, press freedom

Says Ambassador Haas about Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Washington wants Dhaka to ensure accountability and reforms in Rab for lifting the sanctions imposed on the elite force on December 10 last year over potential human rights violations.

It also wants to see a free, fair and transparent general election in Bangladesh, slated for next year, said US Ambassador Peter Haas.

He said the Election Commission, free media, and the civil society have important role in this regard.

The US envoy was addressing the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) Talk at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"The United States has decided to put human rights, the issues of freedom of the press at the centre of our foreign policy and we make no excuses about that," he said.

Haas said sanctions on Rapid Action Battalion and seven of its current and former officials were the result of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Underprivileged children don't get fair chances in life. They are left with poor playing options. This picture taken recently in the capital's Bangla Motor area shows two children, away from their home, playing on the sidewalk with a fallen branch of a tree. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Mominul wants to quit Test captaincy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a lot of criticism over his individual performance and that of



the team in recent times, Mominul Haque yesterday revealed his desire to not continue as the Test captain of Bangladesh after a meeting with the Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan yesterday.

Since being appointed as the captain in October 2020, Mominul led Bangladesh in 17 Tests and managed to win just three times, losing on twelve occasions and drawing

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## Errant polls officials will face music

Says Election Commissioner Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Action will be taken against election officials found guilty of neglecting their duties, said Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday.

Alamgir's comments came when journalists prodded him on the sit-in programme of at least 35 candidates for chairman and member candidates of two unions of Hatiya in Noakhali.

The candidates staged the sit-in in front of the Election Commission building in Agargaon with poison bottles and wearing shrouds.

At the time, the candidates said that they could not hold electioneering due to the intimidation of the husband of a local MP.

"I came to know about the issue from you [reporters] and will talk with reporters," Alamgir said.

If there is an allegation against any candidate that he or she obstructed another candidate and the allegation is proved, the former's candidature will be cancelled.

The EC would take actions like cancellation of voting if any voters were obstructed from casting their vote.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday asked the Chattogram deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police to identify the actual reason why a Union Parishad election candidate is spreading propaganda about the electronic voting machine.

## Fishermen, visitors banned in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Fishermen and visitors have been banned from entering the Sundarbans for three months, starting today, for the smooth breeding of fish inside the forest's rivers and canals.

This restriction will be in force until August 31.

The forest department has made the decision as per a resources management plan.

To enforce the ban, the department has stopped issuing all kinds of passes for entering the Sundarbans. At the same time, security has been beefed up in the forest.

Belayet Hossain, divisional forest officer of the Sundarbans east forest department, said fishing in all rivers and canals in the forest used to be suspended for two months from July 1.

This year, in coordination with the fisheries department, the restriction has been extended by a month.



An elderly woman walks away from a burning house garage after shelling in the city of Lysychansk at the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas on Monday, on the 96th day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

## Russians seize 'half' of Severodonetsk

Zelensky says situation in Donbas remains 'extremely difficult'; EU oil embargo agreed upon

AGENCIES

Russian forces have seized control of half of eastern Ukraine's key city of Severodonetsk, a senior official said yesterday, hours after EU leaders struck a watered-down deal to ban more than two-thirds of Moscow's oil imports.

In central Ukraine, two Russian soldiers were sentenced to more than 11 years in jail each after a court found them guilty of firing artillery at civilian areas soon after Moscow's February 24 invasion.

Severodonetsk is one of several industrial hubs that lie on Russia's path to capturing the Donbas's Lugansk region, where Moscow has shifted the bulk of its firepower since failing to capture Kyiv in the war's early stages.

"Unfortunately, the front line divides the city in half. But the city is still defending itself, the city is still Ukrainian, our soldiers are defending it," said Oleksandr Stryuk, head of Severodonetsk's military and civil administration.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelensky said the situation remained "extremely difficult" in the Donbas region.

But as Russian troops edged closer to the Severodonetsk city centre, EU leaders at a summit in Brussels were tightening the economic screws on Moscow.

A compromise oil embargo deal reached late Monday, meant to punish Russia for its invasion, cuts "a huge source of financing for its war machine," European Council chief Charles Michel tweeted.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said the ban "will effectively cut around 90 percent of oil imports from Russia to the EU by the end of the year".

The situation on the eastern front line in Donbas has become increasingly desperate, with Ukrainian towns facing near constant shelling by Russian forces.

A French journalist, Frederic Leclerc-Imhoff, was killed while covering civilian evacuations in the area on Monday.

An overnight rocket attack killed at least three people in the

city of Slovyansk, Donetsk regional governor said. In the southern region of Kherson, the country's military leadership said Ukrainian forces have pushed back.

But while Ukraine is pushing for solidarity from its allies, European leaders meeting in Brussels for a second day played down the chances of a rapid embargo on Russian gas to follow the partial ban on oil imports, reports AFP.

Gazprom, meanwhile, turned off the tap to the Netherlands, halting gas shipments after Dutch energy firm GasTerra ignored a demand that gas supplied from April 1 be paid for in rubles.

During a visit to Bahrain yesterday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said it was up to the West and Kyiv to resolve a growing global food crisis provoked by the conflict in Ukraine.

"They need to seriously consider what is more important for them: to do PR on the issue of food security or to take concrete steps to solve this problem," he added.

## Ex-OC transferred after tapes of alleged bribe deals leak

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A police officer, who was closed in March over allegations of bribery, was recently transferred to Barishal range.

Mohammad Touhiduzzaman, then officer-in-charge of Sundarganj Police Station Gaibandha, was closed after several audio clips allegedly of him asking for bribes went viral on social media.

According to allegations, he was heard telling two individuals that their family member, arrested in a murder case, could be released in exchange for money.

On March 15, Touhiduzzaman was closed and attached to Gaibandha Police Lines. A committee was formed to probe the matter.

Contacted, Touhidul Islam, superintendent of police in Gaibandha, said, "Touhiduzzaman was transferred to Barishal range 4-5 days ago by the police headquarters... We submitted an investigation report on the allegations [of bribery] and the investigation is still going on. If we find him guilty, we will take departmental action against him."

Contacted over the phone, Touhiduzzaman said, "I am not guilty and did not take bribes. I will join Barishal range soon. Currently, my mother is very sick and I am visiting her in my village."

## 2 'organ sellers' land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police in Kalai, Joypurhat, arrested two men on charges of brokering deals between those needing a kidney transplant and those willing to donate a kidney.

Gaffar Sarkar, 45, and Nur Aftab, 42, both residents of Kalai, were arrested on Monday by a team of police from Dhaka, said Masum Hossain Bhuiyan, superintendent of police in the district.

A court sent them to jail yesterday afternoon. Masum said the suspects used to promise the poor donors of hefty sums, but gave them less than half of the sum promised at the outset.

## Local AL leader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A local Awami League was hacked to death by unknown assailants in Lohagara, Narail, on Monday morning.

Nizam Sheikh, 55, was hacked near a tea stall in Kotakol union.

He died before he was taken to a hospital, said Upazila Health and Family Welfare Officer Kajal Mallick, adding that there were injuries all over his body.

Abu Hena Milon, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station, said police were looking for the suspects.

## Rice-Price

FROM PAGE 1

BLAME-SHIFTING

In Dinajpur's NA Market, one of the largest markets of rice in the country, our correspondent yesterday found that each 50kg sack of Miniket rice was sold for Tk 3,200-3,300, BIRRI-28 for Tk 2,750-2,800, Paizam for Tk 2,600, Swarna for Tk 2,300 and Basmati for Tk 3,800.

Traders said the price of each 50kg sack increased by Tk 400-500 in two weeks.

"The prices are changing almost every day," said Golam Rabbani, a shopkeeper at the market. He blamed the rice mill owners for this.

On the other hand, Azizul Iqbal Chowdhury, joint secretary of Dinajpur Mill Operators' Association, claimed that the mill owners were buying paddy at higher prices.

In Kushtia, rice prices shot up by Tk 4 a kg on

Saturday.

Umar Faruk, managing director of Fresh Agro Mill, echoed Azizul and blamed paddy prices.

But farmers disagree. Jakaria Hossain, a paddy grower in Kushtia's Khajanagar, said paddy prices had not risen.

In Rajshahi, rice traders blamed the supply dearth. Rain, hailstorms, and pest attacks significantly reduced paddy yield, they said.

Nirod Baran Saha, president of the Paddy and Rice Stockists and Wholesalers' Association in Naogaon, said rice yield was 1.12 tonne less than expected per hectare in Rajshahi division.

"The price of rice will hopefully go down this week as millers will be able to produce and supply rice," he said.

Our correspondents from Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Kushtia contributed to this report.

## Mominul

FROM PAGE 1

twice. The 30-year old was in hot water over his poor run of form recently, scoring 162 runs at an average of 16.20 in six matches.

"I was unable to contribute as captain in the last few series and I think I wasn't able to motivate my team. I think it's better to give the responsibility to someone new. I have said what I wanted; the rest will depend on the board's decision. At the moment it would be better for me to take a break and focus on

my batting. Probably they will decide in the board meeting soon," Mominul told the media after the meeting with the BCB president.

The Test captain said his decision was not influenced by any pressure from any quarters or any emotions within himself.

Although Mominul expressed his desire to not continue the Test captaincy, the decision eventually rests with the board high-ups, who are take a decision on the issue on Thursday.

## Railways of 2 countries to work on one route

FROM PAGE 1

No bank yesterday showed any interest in buying or selling the dollar through the interbank platform as they considered the interbank rate to be still lower than the actual market demand, managing directors of four banks told this correspondent.

The BB has so far depreciated the interbank exchange rate of the taka against the dollar seven times this fiscal year.

The latest large depreciation of the interbank rate came on Sunday when the BB devalued the taka by 1.25 percent to Tk 89 per dollar. The rate was at Tk 85.80 per dollar on December 30 and Tk 84.80 on May 29 last year.

Mashrur Arefin, managing director of The City Bank, said the BB yesterday supplied greenbacks to banks at Tk

89 per dollar to help them settle import bills. "We have settled smaller import bills of below \$1 lakh with the central bank's support."

But most of the banks settled large import bills at Tk 92-94 per dollar as they had to add risk management premium to the prescribed interbank exchange rate of Tk 89.15, he mentioned.

"Banks are running short of dollars... We settled the bills by adding risk management premium..." he said.

Risk management premium is a charge that a client pays to a bank, which has to take the risk of depreciation of the local currency against the US dollar.

Every bank bought foreign remittances from local money exchange houses at Tk 89.20 a dollar. But two large foreign

The Indian team held a high-level meeting with BR delegations led by Quamrul Ahsan, additional director general (infrastructure), at the Rail Bhaban in Dhaka on April 21.

"It was discussed that transit of IR trains through Bangladesh could be win-win for BR, IR and people and trade of the two countries," reads the meeting document.

"Both sides agreed to work out the finer details and obtain necessary approvals of relevant authorities. This is expected to help reduce congestion for IR and provide apportioned earnings to

BR," reads the document.

"Yes. They [Indian Railways] have placed a proposal. However, no final decision was taken in this regard. This is a major issue and is needed to be discussed at policy level," a participant of the meeting told The Daily Star.

Quamrul Ahsan declined to comment on the proposal.

BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder did not respond to The Daily Star's request for comments.

The Indian proposal came at a time when an Indian newspaper reported that its central government

is mulling a second rail route that would connect its north-eastern state of Meghalaya with the rest of the country via Bangladesh.

Recently, the Katihar division of Northeast Frontier Railway sent a proposal to the Railway Board, seeking approval of the project, The Telegraph Online reported on May 5, citing IR sources.

The proposal says the rail route will enter Bangladesh from Hilli and move through places like Ghoraghat, Palashbari and Gaibandha in northern stretches of Bangladesh, and connect Mahendraganj of Tura, reads the news.

OTHER ISSUES

The Indian side also raised the issue of increasing the number of trains from India at various interchange points by at least 10 to 15 trains per point per month.

BR side said some increase is being planned in the near future at some specific points.

The IR side expressed interest in some projects including conversion of Kaunia-Lalmonirhat section into broad gauge from meter gauge.

The BR expressed interest in restoring the Burimari-Chengrabandhalink and building the Panchagarh-Banglabandha-Rangapani (India) link.

## Many banks fail to follow BB exchange rates

exchange houses - Western Union and MoneyGram International - sold the US dollar to banks between Tk 93.62 and Tk 95 per dollar, which was unfair, he said.

"This will ultimately render the BB directives ineffective. If we buy remittance at Tk 93-95 per dollar, how will we comply with the BB rules?" he asked.

He said no dollar transaction was made through the interbank platform yesterday as the banks had earlier bought the greenback for Tk 94-95 per dollar.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said he was informed that some banks had sold the dollar to importers at Tk 92-94.

He further said some exchange houses had already reduced the rates in line with the BB directives, but some others were yet to

follow those.

If all exchange houses follow the BB-fixed rates, the market will become stable. The BB should continue its supports by injecting US dollars into the market on a regular basis, he said.

"The central bank should issue a circular like it had done in the past so that all banks follow the rules related to exchange rates," he said.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said the BB should observe the market trend for a week. If the exchange rates do not work properly, it should reconsider the rates.

The central bank should lift the 9 percent cap on all types of loans, except for credit cards, to restore stability in the foreign exchange market. Interest rate on post-

import financing, which is now 9 percent, will go up sharply if the central bank withdraws the cap, said Mansur, also a former official of the International Monetary Fund.

Higher interest rate on post-import financing will help contain the soaring import payments, he observed.

Post-import financing is a short-term loan that the importer takes from a bank to make import payments.

A BB high official, involved in managing the foreign exchange reserves, said it will take time to bring stability to the forex market.

"We are now cautiously monitoring the market. The central bank will take measures in the light of the market situation," said the official seeking anonymity. Bangladesh's foreign exchange market has been facing an acute shortage

of the dollar over the last couple of months as prices of commodities have gone up in the global market, pushing up the country's import payments to a large extent.

The Covid pandemic initially disrupted the global supply chain, which worsened further after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Bangladesh's import payments stood at \$61.52 billion between July and March, up 44 percent year-on-year, while exports grew 33 percent to \$36.61 billion.

The large import payments created a record trade deficit of \$24.90 billion in the first nine months of the current fiscal year ending in June.

The reserves stood at \$42.29 billion on May 25 this year in contrast to \$46.15 billion on December 31 last year.



## A RISING CONCERN

263 dengue patients hospitalised in May, sharp increase in early monsoon

HELEMUL ALAM

A total of 263 dengue patients were hospitalised in May out of 352 dengue cases this year. The numbers have seen a sharp rise with the frequent downpours in the last month.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least 14 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Warning the city corporations of a major outbreak of dengue this year, experts suggested that the corporations take extensive measures to control the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes.

"Though the city corporations last year claimed that they could control the outbreak, the reality is that they failed to do so," said GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist at Bangladesh National University.

Saifur said many of the eggs laid by these mosquitoes remained unhatched, which can help spread dengue assisted by the early monsoon.

"We suggested conducting rigorous drives by identifying the more Aedes-

prone clusters. However, our suggestion was ignored."

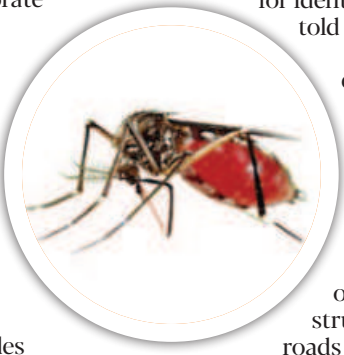
"The authorities will have to monitor the clusters and continue drives for at least two months in the 150-metre radius of each area as the eggs survive for at least a year. But Dhaka lacks the mechanism for identifying the clusters," Saifur told this correspondent.

According to entomologist Kabirul Bashar, residents have to ensure that there are no breeding sources at their homes or yards, and the city corporations have to ensure that there is no stagnant water in open spaces, government structures and housings, roads and under-construction projects.

Dr Md Ekramul Haque, deputy programme manager of malaria and ATD control programme at DGHS, said they have trained 1,500 doctors across the country this year.

They have also instructed the authorities of six dengue dedicated hospitals in Dhaka to remain prepared. "We have enough dengue virus kits and bringing more by June," he added.

Dhaka North City Corporation



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana and other family members, yesterday offered prayers at the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara of Gopalganj. PHOTO: PJO

## Will wage simultaneous movement

Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said it reached an agreement with Ganasanghati Andolan to wage a "simultaneous" movement to bring down the Awami League government and establish a neutral one for polls.

"We have agreed to establish a people's government by ousting the current fascist regime, which has destroyed all our achievements, through a mass upsurge involving all the country's people and political parties," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He said this after holding a two-hour dialogue with the party around 12:15pm at Ganasanghati Andolan's Hatirpool central office.

Ganasanghati Andolan's chief coordinator Zonayed Saki said the current constitutional structure needs to be changed, as the current regime established "autocracy" based on it.

As part of BNP's ongoing dialogues with political parties, a party delegation, led by Fakhrul, joined the talk.

PRAYER TIMING		JUNE 1	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-45 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## DHAKA-MAWA-BHANGA EXPRESSWAY

# Tk 717cr for toll collection, maintenance

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government has to spend Tk 717 crore to collect tolls as well as operate and maintain Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway for the next five years.

Korea Expressway Corporation (KEC) will carry out the job, in association with two other companies -- one from Bangladesh and another from Korea.

The authorities have already negotiated with KEC; the work will be carried out at a cost of Tk 717 crore. A proposal regarding this was placed before the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase.

"We hope that the proposal will be approved soon," Sabuj Uddin Khan, additional chief engineer (Dhaka zone) of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We are expecting to sign the contract [with KEC] within seven to 10 days. However, KEC has already started background work," he said.

The development came at a time when RHD is set to start collecting tolls from vehicles for using the country's first expressway from July 1, five days after Padma Bridge, which links two parts of the expressway, is scheduled to be opened.

In August last year, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a proposal to give KEC the responsibility to collect tolls from the expressway and other

works.

The decision to hire KEC for the expressway's work came after Bangladesh Bridge Authority signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korean company for collecting tolls as well as operating and maintaining Padma Bridge in September 2019.

The company was chosen for being well integrated with

Apart from collecting tolls and maintaining the 55-km expressway, KEC will install and operate Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for it, said Sabuj Uddin.

Under ITS, modern information and communication technologies are used to facilitate transport infrastructure and vehicles to improve traffic management and safety, reduce traffic jams



all works of the expressway and Padma Bridge and absence of other such companies in Bangladesh, said RHD sources.

When RHD started negotiating with KEC, the company submitted the names of two sub-contractors for the work: S Traffic Co Ltd of Korea and Tele Tell Communications of Bangladesh, according to sources.

Later, RHD and the firm agreed to do the work for Tk 717 crore.

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## COVAX Bangladesh top recipient of vaccines from Unicef

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unicef delivered over 190 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines to Bangladesh through Covax in one year.

To date, Bangladesh remains the top recipient of Covid vaccines under Covax, the global initiative co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization, with Unicef as a key delivery partner.

Covax accounts for more than 62 percent of Covid vaccine doses received by Bangladesh, according to a press release.

Covid-19 vaccination started in Bangladesh in February 2021. Unicef delivered the first Covax shipment of vaccines to Bangladesh on June 1 last year at a time when only 4 percent of the population were fully vaccinated.

"With the committed strong leadership of the prime minister, Bangladesh has shown incredible resilience to face the pandemic. With continuous supply of vaccines and hard work of dedicated health workers, we have been able to vaccinate the targeted population without wasting doses," said Prof Dr Meerjady Sabrina Flora,

and road maintenance costs, engineers said.

In April last year, The finance ministry approved Tk 10 as the expressway's base toll -- proposed by the Road Transport and Highways Division -- for an interim period until the opening of Padma Bridge.

The fee per kilometre for a medium-sized truck (two-axle) is considered the base toll, and the toll for other vehicles

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## Bangladesh-India bus service likely to resume June 10

### Mitali Express starts operation today



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bus service between Bangladesh and India is likely to resume on June 10, after remaining suspended for over two years due to the pandemic.

Although no formal order regarding the resumption has been issued, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and its operator Shyamoli NR Travels, were verbally informed about the development, sources said.

The development came days after railway service between the two neighbouring countries resumed on Sunday.

Both bus and train services were suspended in March 2020, when the deadly coronavirus hit Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Mitali Express, the third passenger train to be operated between the two countries, will start running from today.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, who is now in India, and Indian Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will jointly flag off the new train virtually from Rail Bhavan in New Delhi at 9:25am, railway sources said.

**BUS SERVICE**  
Before suspension of services, buses were operated on five cross-border routes: Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka, Dhaka-Agartala-Dhaka, Dhaka-Sylhet-Shillong-Guwahati-Dhaka,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Of public schools and its woes

TAZREEN JAHAN BARI

UN SDG 4 promises equitable, inclusive, and quality education for all by 2030. With 2030 less than eight years away, and as the new fiscal year is set to begin, it's important to ask -- will the state of public schools remain unchanged?

More often than not, these schools are ill-equipped to begin with.

Jhuma Akhter, a seventh grader at Kurni Jalal Uddin High School in Tangail's Mirzapur, said, "We don't have any labs or computer facilities in our school, nor do we get tiffin from the institution like some others."

Then there is the quality of teaching as well.

"Although some of my teachers are good, most hardly explain anything in classes. We have no choice but to get private tutors or go to coaching centres," said Zohaer Bin Zoha, an eighth-grader at Rajshahi Collegiate School.

Admittedly, a lack of accountability is creating "irresponsible" teachers. But can

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Visitors at a photo exhibition titled "Bangabandhu and Ruposhi Bangla" at the National Gallery No-3 of Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh Photojournalists Association and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy jointly organised the event. PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 'If you want your child back, tell me where my wife is'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Rashedul Islam's wife eloped with a man, he was desperate to get her back.

He thought his wife's friend Mira Akter might know of her whereabouts.

He repeatedly asked Mira for leads but she said she knew nothing.

Rashed, a mason in Ashulia area, then abducted Mira's one-and-a-half-year-old daughter Akhi from near her house in Ashulia's Tenguri area on March 31.

On Monday, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued the child from Gazipur's Kaliakair upazila, nearly three months after her abduction.

A team of Rab-4 also arrested Rashed from Rangpur and his associate Ruksana (35) from Kaliakair, Mozammel Haque, commanding officer of Rab-4, told a press briefing yesterday.

Rashed had been hiding the child at Ruksana's house over the last two months, he said.

Rashed's wife Nur Jahan and Mira worked in the same garment factory in Ashulia, he further said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



**প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়**  
"খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অবকাঠামো ও একাডেমিক কার্যক্রম সম্প্রসারণ" প্রকল্প  
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
খুলনা-৯২০৩, বাংলাদেশ

**Office of The Project Director**  
"Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology"  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh

Administrative Building (3rd Floor), Tel: (PABX) +88041-769468-75 Ext. 8248; Fax: +88041-774403; Email: pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd  
Memo No. KUET/EIAA/2022/05/815 Date: 31/05/2022

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online tender notice publication date	Online tender closing date
01	703439	KUET/EIAA/2021-22/DG-2189/CRS-BME	Supply of Computer and Related Services for BME Lab.	31-May-2022	12-Jun-2022
02	703452	KUET/EIAA/2021-22/DG-2190/CRS-CSE	Supply of Computer and Related Services for CSE Lab.	31-May-2022	12-Jun-2022
03	703363	KUET/EIAA/2021-22/DG-2188/CRS-URP	Supply of Computer and Related Services for URP Lab.	31-May-2022	12-Jun-2022
04	703462	KUET/EIAA/2021-22/DW-11/2021-22/IRP2	Construction of Internal RCC Road, Phase-2	01-Jun-2022	13-Jun-2022

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

The fees for last selling/downloading three-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Dr. Md. Julfikar Hossain**  
Project Director  
Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
Khulna-9203

GD-1121

**EAST WEST UNIVERSITY**  
Progoti Foundation for Education and Development  
Permanent Sanad Holder

**TENDER INVITATION**

Tender is invited from the bonafide / intending suppliers / firms for the following items/works:

- Procurement of different types Printer cartridge for various Departments/ Offices of EWU for the period from July to December 2022
- Procurement of Server Computer with Monitor and Online UPS (2KVA) for the Department of EEE (VLSI Lab)
- Making of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Data Center and Network Infrastructure for ICS Section
- Procurement of CCTV Camera and related accessories for Academic Building #3 (AB#3) and 10 (ten) storied Academic Building of EWU
- Painting and Damp proofing work at Block-A of EWU

The schedule of the items with terms and conditions (hard copy) can be obtained from the Finance & Accounts Department (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) of the University up to **19.06.2022** during office hours (up to **03:00 p.m.**) on working days. The schedule of item no.a,b & c will also be available in the e-tender process (<http://etender.ewubd.edu>). The price of the tender schedule (non-refundable) is **Tk.500/-** (excluding online service charge for e-tender process).

The interested bidders are requested to submit the tender schedule by **20.06.2022 within 12:00 p.m.** Hard copy of the tender must be dropped in the tender box kept at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Office of the Treasurer (Room No-316) of the University. Tender(s) submitted within the deadline will be opened on the same day (**20.06.2022**) at **12:30 p.m.** at the Conference Room (4<sup>th</sup> floor) of East West University in presence of the bidders (if any) by ensuring health safety.

The bidders must mention the "name of the items" at the top of envelop. Otherwise the bid document will be treated as cancelled.

East West University authority reserves the right to accept any tender in full or part of it or reject all tenders without mentioning any reason thereof.

**Chief of HR & Logistics**

**ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড**  
Eastern Refinery Limited  
(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)  
North Patenga, Chittagong 4204, Bangladesh  
Ref: 28.25.0000.028.07.007.22/ERL Date: 01.06.2022

**Invitation of Re-Tender (International) for Replacement of MCC Panel of TB6204 at ERL Tank Farm**

Sl. No.	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)
3	Purchaser name executing agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL)
4	Invitation for	Goods and related services
5	Invitation Ref No.	28.25.0000.028.07.007.22/ERL

**KEY INFORMATION**

6	Procurement method	One stage two envelope (Technical and Financial) -ICT
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

7	Budget and source of funds	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

8	Tender Package No.	ER/E&G/MCCPANEL/TB6204/21-22
9	Tender package name	Replacement of MCC Panel of TB6204 at ERL Tank Farm
10	Tender publication date	01/06/2022
11	Tender last selling date	03/07/2022
12	Tender closing date and time	04/07/2022 BST 1500 hrs
13	Tender opening date and time	04/07/2022 BST 1515 hrs
14	Name & address of the office(s)	Address - Selling tender document (principal) Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong 4204, Bangladesh - Selling tender document (others) ERL Dhaka Liaison Office, 2nd Floor, YMCA Bhaban, 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh - Receiving tender document Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh - Opening tender document Board Room, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

15	Eligibility of tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet (Section-2).
16	Brief description of goods or works	Replacement of MCC Panel of TB6204 at ERL Tank Farm
17	Brief description of related services	Supply, Replacement, Testing and Commissioning of MCC Panel of TB6204 at ERL Tank Farm
18	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 3000.00 (three thousand) or US dollar 35 (thirty-five)
19	Lot	Identification of lot Location Tender security (amount in Taka) Completion time
20	Single	ER/E&G/MCC PANEL/TB6204/21-22 Eastern Refinery Ltd. Tk 5,00,000 (five lac) 34 weeks

**PURCHASER DETAILS**

19	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Tazul Islam.
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (E & I).
21	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong 4204, Bangladesh.
22	Contact details of official inviting	02333301261-7, +8801554631326 tazul3069@gmail.com Ext-340
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders at any time or stage without assigning any reason whatever and no claim will be entertained in this regard.	

GD-1110

## Bangladesh-India

**FROM PAGE 3**  
Agartala-Dhaka-Kolkata-Agartala, and Dhaka-Khulna-Kolkata-Dhaka.

Discussion over resumption of bus service came to the fore after both countries decided to resume train service.

Suvenker Ghosh Rakesh, managing director of Shyamoli NR Travels, said although they did not get any written directives, they were instructed to get ready for resuming services on June 10.

"And we are ready to resume services," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Sources said authorities in Tripura have already issued directives to resume Dhaka-Agartala-Dhaka service on the day.

**MITALI EXPRESS**  
Mitali Express, inaugurated by the prime ministers of both countries on March 26 last year, will use Chilhati-Haldibari rail link.

Its operation, however, did not start due to the pandemic.

The fully air-conditioned direct train with 10 coaches will be operated twice from Dhaka and twice from the NJP (New Jalpaiguri) every week, the officials mentioned.

After flagging off, the train will depart from NJP at 11:45am and arrive in Dhaka at 10:30pm the same day, sources said.

Customs formalities will be completed at Dhaka's Cantonment Station and the NJP Station.

## Of public schools

**FROM PAGE 3**  
we expect quality from grossly underpaid teachers?"

"Government school teachers do not get paid enough. Often, they engage in other economic activities or another job," said Md Abdul Karim, headteacher of Tangail's Bindubasini Govt Boys' High School.

Meer Hannanur Rahman, assistant headteacher of Ishwardi's Govt Sara Marwari Model School and College, said in his teaching career of 26 years, he has received no increment after the eighth-year raise. "With a basic salary of Tk 25,000, housing allowance of Tk 1,000 and Tk 500

medical allowance -- how are we expected to live? Sometimes, I buy daily necessities on loan, unable to pay if the salary arrives a little later than usual."

"It's a tragedy."

Read more on this week's issue of SHOUT, out tomorrow with The Daily Star.

## Bangladesh

**FROM PAGE 3**  
additional directorate general (planning and development), DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"Bangladesh's ability to absorb and roll out the Covid-19 vaccines is a testament to what can be achieved when there

is political commitment and an equitable supply of vaccines," said Unicef Representative to Bangladesh Sheldon Yett.

"The success in getting millions of vaccines quickly and safely into arms in every corner of the country has been nothing short of remarkable," Yett said.

## Tk 717cr for toll

**FROM PAGE 3**  
would be fixed as per the Toll Policy 2014.

For example, bus toll per kilometre would be 90 percent of the base toll, while for cars, it is 25 percent and five percent for bikes.

However, even before implementing the previously fixed toll rate, the government is planning to increase it -- a move that will push up transportation costs.

RHD has proposed four base tolls -- Tk 18.40, Tk 25, Tk 33.71 and Tk 34.70 -- 84 to 250 percent higher than the rate fixed earlier.

However, fixing the new toll may take some more time, sources said.

"If the new toll rate is not fixed before July 1, we will start collecting tolls following the interim toll rate," said Sabuj Uddin on Monday.

Replying to another question, he said the main infrastructure required for toll collection is ready.

However, KEC will introduce an automated system for collecting tolls, but that would require three more months, he mentioned. "Till then, we will collect the toll manually."

## A rising concern

**FROM PAGE 3**  
conducted a drive to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes from May 17 to May 26.

DNCC Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Md Zobaidur Rahman recently said they have been releasing guppy fish for the last two months in canals, drains and other water bodies alongside

the regular cleaning and monitoring and have already covered 90 percent of the locations.

Meanwhile, DSCC has conducted a three day special drive in seven wards from May 10.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh also announced to carry out mobile courts drives in all 10 zones from June 15.

## If you want your

**FROM PAGE 3**  
"A week after abducting Akhi, Rashed called Mira and her husband and told them that their child was with him. She would be returned if they divulged his wife's whereabouts," Mozammel said.

At one stage, Rashed demanded a ransom of Tk

30,000 from the child's parents, who eventually paid him Tk 20,000 through mobile financial service.

But then Rashed switched his phone off and did not return the child.

He then went into hiding in Rangpur, keeping the child with Ruksana.

**বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান**  
বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
গোপালপাড়া

স্মারক নং- বঙ্গবন্ধুবিজ্ঞান/সিআই/২০২২/৩৬-২৩/৭৯৪ তারিখঃ ৩১/০৫/২০২২

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালপাড়া-এর রেজিস্ট্রার পদে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

আবেদন ফর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা এবং নিয়োগের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী আর বিজ্ঞানবিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট [www.bsmrstu.edu.bd](http://www.bsmrstu.edu.bd)-থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ৩০/০৬/২০২২ বিকাল ০৫.০০টায়।

জিডি-১১১৪ রেজিস্ট্রার (আবহাতি)

**ফার্মাসিউটিকেলস্ কোম্পানীর জন্য**  
ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (MD) আবশ্যিক

১২০ + প্রোডাক্ট উৎপাদনকারী একটি পরিচিত ফার্মাসিউটিকেলস্ কোম্পানীর জন্য একজন অভিজ্ঞ ও দক্ষ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক আবশ্যিক। প্রার্থীর মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রিসহ ১০ বৎসরের ফার্মাসিউটিকেলস্ অভিজ্ঞতা কাম।

কোম্পানি পরিচালনা ড্রাগস্, ফায়ার, আইআরসি, ইআরসি, মাদক দ্রব্য, পরিবেশ ও অন্যান্য সম্ভ্রান্ত লাইসেন্স নবায়নের সম্যক জ্ঞান থাকতে হবে এবং গুরুত্বপূর্ণ প্রশাসনের সাথে প্রত্যক্ষ যোগাযোগ অভিজ্ঞতা কাম। কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষতাসহ ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ এবং বাংলায় চিঠি লেখার দক্ষতা থাকতে হবে।

আগ্রহী যোগ্য প্রার্থীগণকে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় ২ কপি ছবি, পূর্ণাঙ্গ বায়ো-ডাটা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদসহ এবং ৩ জন রেফারেন্স এর নাম ঠিকানাসহ আবেদন আগামী ১৫ জুন, ২০২২ (১ আষাঢ়, ১৪২৯) তারিখের মধ্যে পাঠাতে অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

বক্স নং: D-01  
ঠিকানা: দি ডেইলি স্টার, ৬৪-৬৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এ্যাভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২৫৫

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazilla Engineer  
Upazila: Balaganj, District: Sylhet  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Reference No. 46.02.9108.000.18.02.2022-433 Date: 30/05/2022

**Corrigendum Notice for Tender e-Tender Notice No. 05/2021-2022**

All concerned are hereby informed that an amendment has been made as below for the Package of Tender Notice No. 05/2021-22 Dated 28/04/2022 under this office due to unavoidable circumstances

Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID No.	Amended tender security submission date & time	Tender opening date & time	Tender method
EUCPW-186	Construction of Administrative Extension Building & Hall Room at Balaganj Upazila, Dist-Sylhet. Under Upazila Complex Extension Project. (2nd Phase)	666840	07-June-2022 14:30	07-June-2022 15:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading three-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to **07-June-2022 14:30**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Mustakim Sherif Sayed**  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED, Balaganj  
District: Sylhet  
E-mail: [ue.balaganj@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.balaganj@lged.gov.bd)

GD-1122

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazilla Engineer  
Boalmari, Faridpur  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.2918.889.14.001.22-362 Date: 31.05.2022

**e-Tender Notice No. 09/2021-2022**

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work
698911	e-TenderPEDP4/FAR/BOA/2021-2022/W2-04447	Construction of Additional Class Room Sotashi Govt. under PEDP4.
698914	e-TenderPEDP4/FAR/BOA/2021-2022/W2-04415	Construction of Additional Class Room Joynagar under PED4.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Rashed Iqbal**  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED, Boalmari, Faridpur  
E-mail: [ue.boalmari@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.boalmari@lged.gov.bd)

GD-1120

**মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
Mercantile Bank Limited  
Head Office: 61 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

## Notice regarding Information Memorandum (IM) of Mercantile Bank Perpetual Bond

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has given consent vide their letter no. BSEC/CI/DS-145/2021/823 dated May 24, 2022 to Mercantile Bank Limited for raising Additional Tier-I capital through issuance of Coupon Bearing Conditional Convertible Perpetual Bond namely Mercantile Bank Perpetual Bond of BDT 500.00 (five hundred) crore.

To comply with Clause 3 (Part-C) (Public Offer) of this consent letter, the approved information Memorandum of Mercantile Bank Perpetual Bond has been uploaded in the website of the bank: <https://www.mblbd.com>

Dated: Dhaka June 01, 2022

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়  
(দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ)  
ঠাকুরগাঁও সদর, ঠাকুরগাঁও  
[www.unothakurgaonsadar@mopa.gov.bd](mailto:www.unothakurgaonsadar@mopa.gov.bd)  
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২১-২০২২

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	মুক্তিবিভাগ মন্ত্রণালয়
০২	স্বাক্ষরকারীর নাম	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, অসম্ভল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবেদন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প
০৩	সম্মানসূচক সম্ভার নাম	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, ঠাকুরগাঁও সদর, ঠাকুরগাঁও।
০৪	সম্মানসূচক সম্ভার কোড	---
০৫	সম্মানসূচক সম্ভার জেলা	ঠাকুরগাঁও
০৬	বে কাক্ষের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হলে	অসম্ভল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবেদন নির্মাণ
০৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানের পুরো	মুক্তিবিভাগ/বি.সি.সি.আ.সি.এ/০১/২০২১-০৫৭
০৮	তারিখ	২২/০২/২০২২খ্রিঃ
০৯	ক্রম সূচক পদ্ধতি	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM)
১০	বাক্যে ও অর্থবোধক উল্লেখ	লিখিত
১১	উদ্দেশ্য	প্রয়োজ্য নহে
১২	কর্মসূচির কোড	প্রয়োজ্য নহে
১৩	কর্মসূচির কোডের নাম	প্রয়োজ্য নহে
১৪	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের সংখ্যা	১৮টি (প্রতি প্যাকেজ ৫টি খণ্ড)
১৫	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজের নাম	অসম্ভল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবেদন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প
১৬	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	৩১/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ
১৭	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১২/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা
১৮	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ, বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা
১৯	দরপত্র লেখার তারিখ ও সময়	১৩/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ, বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা
২০	সিটিউন বিক্রি ও গ্রহণের স্থান	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় (দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ), ঠাকুরগাঁও সদর, ঠাকুরগাঁও
২১	দরপত্রকারের যোগ্যতা	যে কোন সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত ও হাদনাযাদ নবায়নকৃত টিকানা/ঠিকানা/প্রতিষ্ঠান
২২	কার্যের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	ঠাকুরগাঁও সদর উপজেলায় বিভিন্ন ইউনিয়নের ৯০টি অসম্ভল বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবেদন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প
২৩	লট নং	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ
২৪	১-১৮ (আবেদন সংখ্যা ৯০টি)	উপজেলা বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের জন্য আবেদন নির্মাণ প্রকল্প (পৌরসংসদ)
২৫	দরপত্রের সিটিউনের মূল্য	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা
২৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	১। ৫% এর অধিক নিম্নের অর্থ ৫% এর অধিক উর্ধ্বের সরাসরি বাস্তব বণে পণ্য হবে। ২। বায়ার টাঙ্ক, উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের অনুমোদন পে কোন অর্থসিদ্ধ ব্যক্তিকে হতে ব্যাঙ্ক ড্রাফট/চেক-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্র সিটিউনের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। ৩। সফলিত উপজেলায় দরপত্র মুদ্রায় কন্ট্রোল স্থাপনক্রমে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।
২৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও পদ	উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার, ঠাকুরগাঁও সদর, ঠাকুরগাঁও
২৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা ও ফোন নং	ঠাকুরগাঁও সদর, ঠাকুরগাঁও ও মোবাইল নং- ০১৭০৪৪৪০১০০
২৯	সম্মানসূচক সম্ভার কোন কার্য দর্শনে বাতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিরেকের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
৩০	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি আর অফিসের নিম্ন ওয়েবসাইট	<a href="http://www.thakurgaonsadar.thakurgaon.gov.bd">www.thakurgaonsadar.thakurgaon.gov.bd</a> হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে

আপু কাক্ষের মোঃ সামসুজ্জামান  
উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার  
ঠাকুরগাঁও সদর, ঠাকুরগাঁও  
ফোন নং-০৫২১-৫২৫০০

জিডি-১১০৬







## Spending the best days of my life

Siam Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAHU

Siam Ahmed has been ruling over theatres since his film "Shaan" and "Paap Punyo" released recently.

The actor received the Meril-Prothom Alo award on Friday Best Film (Popular Choice) category for his film "Mridha Bonam Mridha". The actor and his wife, Shamma Rushaly Abante, were also blessed with a baby boy in April.

We caught up with Siam over a phone call to know more about his experience from his recent successes, his first-time memories of becoming a father and upcoming projects.

**You recently received the Meril-Prothom Alo Award for Best Actor (Film). What was your initial reaction?**

I believe that every nominated actor was deserving of this award. I respect their dedication, and am inspired by their efforts. Now that I was chosen for this award, I would like to thank the jury and my fans.

"Mridha Bonam Mridha" has excellent storyline, and I am glad that I was chosen to be a part of it. The award will push me to try harder.

**Your films, "Shaan" and "Paap Punyo", are doing well in theatres now.**

I have received praise from my viewers for both productions, and I hope that people make a habit of visiting cinema halls.

Gias Uddin Selim has invested a lot of care in "Paap Punyo". Each artiste also tried their best to present their role in the most natural form.

I am always grateful to my fans – they have the power to keep this industry alive. They have been with me since I began the journey of "Shaan", and have not left my side till date.

I was able to present myself in a new role through "Shaan". The film is also a bit different from productions we come usually across on the silver screen. I don't like to repeat characters, and will keep looking forward to diversity.

**You were blessed with a baby boy recently. What does fatherhood feel like?**

After a tiring day at shoot, his face takes away all my complaints. I am spending the best days of my life, because of him – there is no feeling quite like it.

I am grateful to the Almighty for blessing me with him.



## Tanjin Tisha plays identical twins in 'Chinky Pinky'



For the first time in her career, Tanjin Tisha is playing identical twins on television. The popular actress will portray the titular characters in the tele-fiction, "Chinky Pinky", directed by Ruhel Hasan.

Although the two sisters look identical, they have completely different mannerisms and fashion sense from one another.

Filming of the project began on Monday in Dhaka.

## Farooki joins 2022 Sydney Film Festival jury

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Sydney Film Festival (SFF) has announced the 2022 official competition jury, who will award the Sydney Film Prize to one of the 12 titles in the official competition, alongside the first slate of stars and filmmaker guests to attend the festival, which runs from June 8 to 19.

Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki has joined the jury of SFF this year.

His film, "No Land's Man", has been selected for the festival as well.



## NEWS

### Govt would amend DSA

FROM PAGE 1  
soon. After receiving its recommendations, the government will take necessary measures in this regard. Besides, the European Union has wanted to provide us with technical assistance to this effect," he said.

The minister was responding to queries from reporters at a "Meet the Press", organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF) at its office at the secretariat.

Anisul said the government had taken some measures to prevent misuse of the DSA.

"I have spoken to the home minister in this regard. He issued a directive to make sure that if anybody files a case under

the Digital Security Act, it is sent to a cell, established under the Information and Communication Technology Act-2006 comprising a high official and a legal analyst, for examination.

"If the cell finds it to be a prima facie case [that has enough elementary evidence], it will be sent to the court concerned for trial. If there is no necessary [or sufficient] information or data, it would not be accepted," the minister said.

He said the number of cases and arrests under the DSA has already come down.

Replying to a question, Anisul said there are some non-bailable offences

under the DSA, but that doesn't mean that a court cannot grant bail to an accused. Granting bail is at the discretion of the court after hearing arguments from both sides, he said.

He said the DSA has been formulated to tackle cybercrime and not to curtail freedom of press and freedom of expression.

The minister requested journalist leaders to submit a report to his office explaining their objections to the proposed Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Act so that the government can bring changes to the proposed law and the journalists can benefit from it.

Anisul said cybercrimes, including distortion

of history and making derogatory comments about Hazrat Muhammad (SM) and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on social media, are being committed, and therefore, the government wants the media to be run in a disciplined manner.

He said the government will formulate the Personal Data Protection Act and OTT platform regulations after soliciting opinions from the stakeholders, including journalists, so that the independence of press and freedom of expression are not curtailed.

BSRF President Tapan Biswas and General Secretary Masudul Hoque also spoke at the event.

### 22 univs go

FROM PAGE 12  
Sylhet; Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur; Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Tangail; Noakhali Science and Technology University; Jashore University of Science and Technology; Pabna University of Science and Technology; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj; Rangamati Science and Technology University; Bangamata Sheikh Fojilatunnesa Mujib Science and Technology University, Jamalpur; and Patuakhali Science and Technology University.

### Covid booster

FROM PAGE 12  
Contacted, a DGHS official, seeking anonymity, said, "It would be difficult to bring people to the vaccine centres [for booster doses] as the number of Covid-19 cases is now very low."

He also said the health officials already discussed the issue earlier at a meeting.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque is expected to announce the detailed plan for the special campaign soon, said officials.

### Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12  
The main challenge for the power sector would be providing uninterrupted power at an affordable cost, Hamid said.

But it is unlikely that would happen in another 5-6 years as it entails huge outlays.

"If we go for ensuring uninterrupted power supply, the entire power distribution and transmission lines will have to go underground. Those are very costly projects," he said, adding that it would cost Tk 16,000 crore to take the system underground in Purbachal alone.

### US has concerns

FROM PAGE 1  
President Joe Biden's strong policy on human rights.

Following repeated requests from Bangladesh for lifting the sanctions, Haas recently said they want "concrete steps" by the government.

"It is not really the question of providing a list of things that must be accomplished. It is about those two principles [accountability and reforms in Rab] that need to be held in order for those who have been sanctioned to request relief from the US," the diplomat said yesterday.

Haas said the US gives utmost importance to holding free, fair and transparent election in Bangladesh in line with the international standards. He said freedom of press, lack of violence and the Election Commission's capacity of overseeing are some of the important factors for holding a fair election.

"This is a job of the Bangladesh government, people, media and the civil society to create conditions for a free and fair election," he said, adding it is important to remain vigilant as people are already talking about elections.

The envoy said he has raised concerns with the Bangladesh authorities publicly and privately when it comes to democracy and human rights, especially extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, press freedom, especially the Digital Security Act, and several draft laws and regulations that could inhibit press freedom.

The US also has concerns about insufficient labour rights and poor working conditions that cost Bangladesh access to the US Generalised System of

Preferences (GSP) in 2013, while Bangladesh is also missing out on investment capital from the US International Development Finance Corporation.

"As Bangladesh is going to become a middle-income country, it is important for Bangladesh to protect labour rights, freedom of association and forming unions," Haas said.

He said he has discussed with the foreign ministry for creating a catalogue on the outstanding issues between the two countries so that they can work more effectively to address those.

Recently, the US has announced formation of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) with 12 countries. Haas said the IPEF is designed to take into account what the 21st century economic landscape would look like.

The various aspects of IPEF are: making supply chain resilient, digital trade and emerging technologies, clean energy and decarbonisation and preventing corruption, which are quite important for Bangladesh. As its membership expands, the diplomat expressed optimism that Bangladesh will consider joining it.

Asked if Bangladesh was at any risk of falling into a debt trap like Sri Lanka did, Haas said Bangladesh has a strong macro-economic management and a substantial foreign currency reserve. It is also careful about borrowing from international financiers.

The amount of foreign debt to China is relatively small, but it is bigger to the ADB, the World Bank and Japan, the diplomat said, adding that the situation in Bangladesh will not be like that of Sri Lanka, though it has other

challenges including high inflation amid supply chain disruptions following the war in Ukraine.

Enquired if the US would recognise the genocide committed in Bangladesh in 1971 when the country supported then West Pakistan, Haas said Bangladesh witnessed terrible atrocities and that there was considerable amount of death. However, the question of determining genocide under the related US law is a very difficult legal question, he added.

The envoy said Bangladesh faces some daunting challenges, including tackling the Rohingya crisis and climate change.

He said since 1972, the US provided \$8 billion to Bangladesh as assistance and it continues to invest around \$200 million each year in development programmes.

"I believe that in the last 50 years, Bangladesh has had no better friend than the United States. And that it will have no better friend over the next 50 years."

### China sends 30 warplanes into Taiwan air defence zone

AFP, Taipei

China has made the second largest incursion into Taiwan's air defence zone this year with Taipei reporting 30 jets entering the area, including more than 20 fighters.

Taiwan's defence ministry said late Monday it had scrambled its own aircraft and deployed air defence missile systems to monitor the latest Chinese activity.

### Israel signs first Arab free trade deal

FROM PAGE 12  
"Dubai is fast becoming a hub for Israeli companies that look to South Asia, the Middle East and the Far East as markets for their goods and services."

Nearly 1,000 Israeli companies will be working in and through the UAE by year's end, he said.

The UAE was the first

Gulf country to normalise ties with Israel and only the third Arab nation to do so after Egypt and Jordan.

Talks for a free trade agreement began in November and concluded after four rounds of negotiations.

The latest was held in March in Egypt between Israeli Prime Minister

Naftali Bennett and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, UAE's long-time de facto ruler who became president this month after the death of his half-brother Sheikh Khalifa.

Israel had in March hosted a meeting of the top diplomats from the United States, UAE, Bahrain and Morocco.

Sudan in 2020 also agreed to normalise ties with Israel, but the strife-torn northeast African country has yet to finalise a deal.

Israel has already struck free trade agreements with other countries and blocs, including the United States, European Union, Canada and Mexico.

### Australia names junior 'minister for the republic'

AFP, Sydney

Australia's centre-left Prime Minister Anthony Albanese named his cabinet yesterday including an "assistant minister for the republic", despite the country being a constitutional monarchy.

### Egypt unearths trove

FROM PAGE 12  
objects dated to the Late Period, about 500 BC, the ministry said.

They were accompanied by a musical instrument known as a sistrum and a collection of bronze vessels used in rituals for the worship of the goddess Isis.

The painted wooden coffins were found intact in burial shafts and contained mummies, amulets and wooden boxes. Wooden statues of Nephthys and

Isis from an earlier period were also found, both with gilded faces.

One coffin contained a well-preserved papyrus written in hieroglyphs, perhaps verses of the Book of the Dead, and was sent to the laboratory of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo for study, said Mostafa Waziri, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

A collection of cosmetics was found, including

kohl containers, as well as bracelets and earrings.

The coffins will be transferred for display at the Grand Egyptian Museum under construction near the Great Pyramids of Giza and due to open later this year.

Saqqara, to the south of the Giza pyramids, has provided a steady stream of archaeological discoveries in recent years. The mission has been excavating in the area since 2018.



'It's poisoning our planet'

WHO report details tobacco industry's devastating environmental impact

AFP, Geneva The tobacco industry is a far greater threat than many realise as it is one of the world's biggest polluters, from leaving mountains of waste to driving global warming, the WHO said yesterday.

In its report released on World No Tobacco Day, the UN agency called for the tobacco industry to be held to account and foot the bill for the cleanup.

The report, "Tobacco: poisoning our planet", looks at the impacts of the whole cycle, from the growth of plants to the manufacturing of tobacco products, to consumption and waste.

While tobacco's health impacts have been well documented for decades - with smoking still causing more than eight million deaths worldwide every year - the report focuses on its broader environmental consequences.

The findings are "quite devastating," Ruediger Krech, WHO director of health promotion, told AFP, charging that the industry is "one of the biggest polluters that we know of."

"Tobacco is not only poisoning people, it's poisoning our planet," he added.

The industry is responsible for the loss of some 600 million trees each year - or five percent of global deforestation - while tobacco growing and production uses 200,000 hectares of land and 22 billion tonnes of water annually, the report found. It also emits around 84 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, it said.

In addition, "tobacco products are the most littered item on the planet, containing over 7,000 toxic chemicals, which leech into our environment when discarded," Krech said.

He pointed out that each one of the estimated 4.5 trillion cigarette butts that end up in the oceans, rivers, sidewalks and beaches every year can pollute 100 litres of water.

At the same time the processing and transportation of tobacco account for a significant share of global greenhouse gas emissions - with the equivalent of one-fifth of the global airline industry's carbon footprint.

In addition, products like cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes also contribute significantly to the global build-up of plastic pollution, WHO warned.

Stressing that there is no evidence filters provide any proven health benefits over smoking non-filtered cigarettes, the UN urged policy makers worldwide to consider banning them.



Relatives of victims of the crashed Tara Air passenger plane cry as they wait for the bodies of their loved ones at a morgue in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. Nepali rescuers have retrieved all 22 bodies from the plane that crashed in the Himalayas, authorities said yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

RUSSIA'S DONBAS OFFENSIVE

What's next for Ukraine?

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The recent Russian advances in the Donbas lead to an inevitable question: whether the indiscriminate tactics the Kremlin deployed there will be a template for future offensives.

With reports of large numbers of troops, artillery and rocket launchers mustering across the border near the Russian city of Kursk - in an area that borders Ukraine's Sumy province - it is an urgent issue.

While other parts of the 300-mile frontline in Ukraine's east lack some of the same vulnerabilities that existed around Severodonetsk - which sat in the midst of a Ukrainian salient that Russia exploited - in any future offensive the Kremlin is likely to offer Kyiv the same hard choices, attempting to stretch its ability to respond.

Perhaps the first and most pressing issue - if and when Russian forces fully take Severodonetsk - is whether they then attempt to cross the Siverskiy Donets River.

Whether or not Russian forces attempt to cross the Siverskiy Donets River - a natural barrier - at Severodonetsk or elsewhere within Ukraine, Russian forces appear to be preparing for a fresh push farther

north amid evidence that they are regrouping near the Ukrainian town of Izium to renew their stalled efforts against Slovyansk, rebuilding a railway bridge near Kupiansk to facilitate the movement of troops and equipment to the area.

What is more difficult to assess is the level of attrition inflicted on both sides, and what impact that will have on further offensives and Ukraine's ability to defend and counterattack.

While the UK's Ministry of Defence has made much of Russian losses throughout the war, Russian gains in the Donbas appear to tell a different story, for now at least. Increasing anecdotal evidence suggests that Ukraine has suffered heavy casualties during recent fighting in the east, largely from shrapnel, and there are reports of equipment and supply issues.

What may well be true is that despite evidence of fresh Russian preparations, the difficulty of the fighting and heavy losses may limit Russia's ambitions beyond controlling the Donbas, the south and its key coastline.

But only time will tell if Moscow is looking beyond Donbas. But most analysts say despite a shift in momentum, the war will be a long one.



Everyone has sacrificed a lot. This day has been hard-won, and we need to cherish and protect it, and welcome back the Shanghai we are familiar with and missed.

Shanghai govt spokeswoman Yin Xin after lifting of Covid restrictions

One killed, 9 hurt in Yangon blast

AFP, Yangon

A bomb blast killed one person and injured nine others in a busy district of central Yangon yesterday, a Myanmar police source told AFP.

The blast occurred around 3:20 pm local time (0850 GMT) near a bus stop, the police source said, requesting anonymity. "One man died in hospital and nine others are injured."

A bomb squad team was working to determine if the blast came from a grenade or mine, the police source said.

Pictures published by local media showed several bodies lying on the ground in the bustling Downtown district and what appeared to be blood on the pavement. Security forces later found an unexploded grenade near the site of the blast, the police source said.

No group has claimed responsibility.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, with fighting flaring in ethnic rebel border areas and the economy in chaos.

Self-declared civilian "people's defence forces" have also sprung up to fight the junta and dissidents have targeted officials or organisations perceived to be working with the military.

Across the country, there are almost daily killings of low-level junta officials or alleged informers, with details murky and reprisals from the military often following quickly.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Noakhali... e-Tender Notice... An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-GP Portal...

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয় সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা ব্লক-জি, রোড-৩, বাড়ি-৬৮, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট... উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Chattogram... Invitation for e-Tender(OTM) Tender Notice No. EE/EED/Ctg/e-Tender/2021-2022/52



# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Death by development?

### Authorities must answer for gross safety oversight at Metro Rail construction site

IT is baffling that even a government project is not exempt from the perilous nature of construction practices in Bangladesh. A pedestrian was killed and five others injured in Dhaka's Pallabi area on Monday morning after bricks fell on them from the Metro Rail construction site. The deceased, Mahbubur Rahman Talukder, a 49-year-old worker at a jewellery shop in Mirpur-10, died on the spot.

How could this even happen? How is it that a government megaproject, costing thousands of crores of taka, does not have enough safety measures in place so as not to cause the death of a passer-by? Are there no safety officers overlooking such large-scale projects? And—as of the time of writing this editorial—why hasn't there been an official apology or any word of compensation from the authorities? Who will answer for Mahbubur's untimely death?

Deaths caused by construction work are not rare in Bangladesh. In 2021 alone, at least 154 workers died in the construction sector, according to a survey by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS). The actual figure, one has to assume, is much higher. Particularly in Dhaka, where there is at least one construction project going on in almost every block, there is a serious need for safe construction practices. But for Mahbubur's death to be caused by a megaproject like the Metro Rail is truly concerning. The Metro Rail construction spans across many areas, most of them extremely busy and populous ones. People often have to walk under the under-construction project, whether while crossing the road or due to there not being a proper footpath in the area. As if the sky-high number of road crashes wasn't enough, are citizens now supposed to constantly look left, right, front, back, and up when they are walking on the streets? Is death truly at every corner of a city under development?

We hope this death caused by the construction of Metro Rail will be an exception—but one death is still too many. What does it say about our vision of development when a person can die any day as they are walking by an under-construction site, with the authorities responsible often getting away with workers' and citizens' injuries and deaths without so much as a slap on the wrist? Mahbubur's family, including his 10-year-old daughter, deserve an apology and compensation from the government, and we urge that this takes place as soon as possible. Most importantly, the government must investigate the incident urgently and ensure the safety of all involved at and around public and private construction sites. Such avoidable deaths and injuries cannot be excusable.

## No point of Wasa water being safe at source

### If it is contaminated when we drink it

WE may recall that a great deal has been reported in the media in the recent past on the conspicuous presence of hazardous germs and bacteria in Dhaka Wasa water. The frequency of reporting increased as hundreds of diarrhoea patients began to visit the city's hospitals including the icddr, b on a daily basis only a couple of months ago. Breaches in Dhaka Wasa's supply system was considered to be the main reason behind the outbreak. Consequently, pressure from all quarters mounted on Wasa to take immediate steps to improve the quality of its water before supplying it to the citizens.

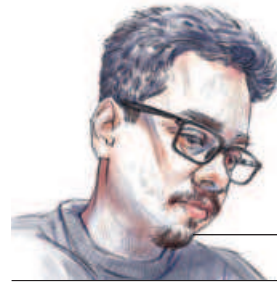
However, a recent research done jointly by Dhaka Wasa and icddr, b on the water supplied by Wasa has found it to be safe at the source. That is certainly welcome news. However, the two organisations did not conduct any test on tap water or water collected from the pipes within the Wasa distribution network. Why? We are at a loss to understand what the point is of water being safe at source if the water that consumers are getting from their taps are contaminated? Isn't it Wasa's responsibility to ensure safe water to all those drinking it or using it for various purposes, and to answer for their consistent failure to do so?

By now, there have been widespread reports of cross-contamination of Wasa water by sewage in many areas of the capital due to leaks and breaches in the supply lines, or while replacing old, derelict pipes with new ones. We have noted with alarm how Dhaka Wasa has consistently denied their part in the recent cholera outbreak, and we can't help but think that the latest report will simply enable them to continue their policy of denial. Instead of making misleading claims, Wasa needs to tell us what it has done since the cholera outbreak in March to address the derelict and alarming conditions of its supply lines.

The study shows that sludge and untreated sewage running through the drains contain and transmit coronavirus. If sewage lines are contaminating the water supply, where is the guarantee that the virus—and other untreated bacteria—are not making their way to our glass of water?

Interestingly, WaterAid and the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) revealed in a separate seminar that about 41 percent of the people across Bangladesh don't have access to safe water. It is of urgent importance that we address the disconnect between what our policymakers claim and what we citizens experience. Unfortunately, we are yet to see any political goodwill to identify, much less address, the mismanagement, inefficiencies and corruption plaguing the sector.

# Be careful with 'over-optimism' for megaprojects



THE OVERTON WINDOW

Eresh Omar Jamal is assistant editor at The Daily Star. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

ERESH OMAR JAMAL

GEOSTRATEGIC factors such as its location between South Asia and Southeast Asia, sustained economic growth, relative political stability, availability of cheap labour, and a large consumer market have made Bangladesh an attractive investment centre for many regional and international players. Capitalising on this, the Bangladesh government has been eyeing a number of megaprojects to shift its economy into the next gear. Three of these projects are being funded by China. Japan is providing funding for the Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit (metro rail) and Matarbari deep seaport projects and contributing to the Jamuna Railway Bridge and Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Terminal 3 projects, while Russia and India are financing a project each.

In April, the prime minister said 2022 and 2023 would be very important years for Bangladesh in terms of infrastructure development. The Padma Bridge, which is expected to contribute 1.2 percent to the GDP, she said, is set to be inaugurated in less than a month. The Dhaka metro rail will be opened on the 14km Uttara-Agargaon route by the end of the year, bringing "revolutionary change" to Dhaka's transport system. The Karnaphuli River Tunnel in Chattogram, the country's first underwater tunnel, is expected to be opened this October. And the first unit of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (1,200MW), the largest development project in the country's history, is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2023.

While all this is good news, the recent financial debacle in Sri Lanka should provide us with some food for thought.

Experts have provided a range of reasons such as cronyism, dictatorial power, family politics, lack of economic diversification, and excessive foreign borrowing for what is happening in Sri Lanka. But another factor that has recently been discussed is the issue of endemic over-optimism. Due to the terrific post-war performance of the Sri Lankan economy, "policy complacency and irrational exuberance led to investments in popular big-ticket projects," which ignored the underlying macroeconomic vulnerabilities. Clear warning signs such as "falling exports, mounting debts and rising inequality were ignored much like a 'grey rhino' running at you at a high speed," according to Dr Niaz Asadullah, professor of economics at Malaya University and Monash University Malaysia, and also policy adviser on food and agriculture to the Malaysian government.

Does Bangladesh face similar risks? Perhaps not, if it can overcome the various challenges to its ambition, such as maintaining economic diplomacy between

the major infrastructure financiers, avoiding debt traps, ensuring project transparency and construction timelines, and spreading economic development evenly across the country.

One important but oft-ignored thing is that design and implementation mistakes delay the revenue-generation phase of megaprojects. For example, the 55km Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway is the

Repayment of the loans we have taken for these projects also become more problematic. According to eminent economist Debapriya Bhattacharya, Bangladesh's debt situation may become somewhat tricky in 2024-2025 if the government fails to increase its revenue base now, as the repayment schedule for many of the costly loans would begin then. Bangladesh's foreign loan composition



▲ The government needs to develop the capacity to implement all its megaprojects on time and within their original budgetary requirements.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

most expensive highway in the country and the world, where more than Tk 200 crore has been spent per kilometre. But with the toll plaza not yet ready, the expressway is still not able to generate the expected revenue. Perhaps because of this lost revenue, even before implementing the toll rates previously fixed for the expressway, the government is already planning to increase the toll rates—a move that will push up transport costs.

If we look at the RNPP project, it was originally supposed to start generating 1,200MW of electricity in 2021 and 2,400MW by 2022. However, even though the first reactor has been installed, no electricity transmission line has been designed or built yet, and so, even if the reactor is ready, it will not be able to move into production, and the government will have to pay capacity charges against the idle plant. The same thing happened with the Rampal power plant.

These are some examples of how public expenditure is not paying off the promised economic utilities. Because development projects in Bangladesh have a tendency to go through multiple phases of revision, resulting in cost escalation and delays, when juxtaposed against the initial projection of expected outcomes, the majority of them fail to achieve their targets. In the end, the burden falls on the end consumers, who are deprived of the timely delivery of services, while the cost of the services to be delivered by the project rises.

has already started to change, with concessional loans from multilateral lenders being replaced with costlier bilateral loans—with higher interest rates and shorter grace periods—because of the country's graduation from the low-income bracket. Therefore, it is essential for the government not to be wasteful with these foreign loans, and to find some way to increase the tax-GDP ratio, which has proven to be a Herculean task so far.

Another factor that should not be overlooked is that because the fast-track megaprojects grab a large chunk of the budgetary allocation set aside for the Annual Development Programme (ADP)—for example, in FY2021-22, 10 such projects grabbed nearly one-third of the Tk 225,324 crore ADP—the Planning Commission cannot provide adequate funds for many other small, medium and big projects, per their own admission. The opportunity cost that arises from this is by no means insignificant, and it adds up over time.

The bottom line is that Bangladesh is not guaranteed to benefit greatly from the megaprojects that are currently in the pipeline. In fact, if we continue along our current trajectory, they even have the potential to do more harm than good. That's why the government should avoid falling into the trap of being overly-optimistic about them. Instead, it should work towards developing the capacity to implement all these projects on time and within their original budgetary requirements.

## Democracy crushed under BCL's boots?



Wasim Bin Habib is deputy planning editor at The Daily Star.

WASIM BIN HABIB

BANGLADESH Chhatra League (BCL) has hogged headlines once again. Last week, the student wing of the ruling party, armed with sticks, iron rods and machetes, launched an attack on some leaders and activists of their arch-rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, near the Central Shaheed Minar when the latter tried to enter the Dhaka University campus for a scheduled programme. The attack resulted in chases and counter-chases that continued sporadically for several hours, turning the campus into a battlefield. Video footage and photographs showed how the BCL members beat up their opponents mercilessly, leaving about 30 JCD activists—including some female members—injured.

What earned the JCD such a thrashing? They wanted to hold a press briefing to clarify the remarks made by one of their leaders about the prime minister. During a rally near the Raju Sculpture on May 22, JCD General Secretary Saif Mahmud criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her remarks on BNP chief Khaleda Zia over the Padma Bridge issue. Saif's remarks reportedly made the BCL furious, and he was supposed to clarify his comments that day. But before he could make his point, the JCD members were beaten up and driven out of the campus. Two days later, when they tried to bring out a procession in protest of the attack, BCL men again swooped on them near the High Court

area. A battle ensued soon, with the BCL activists chasing some of their rival members into the High Court compound. The incident, which left 50 people injured, set off a chain reaction, with members of the ruling party attacking members of the JCD and its parent organisation in some places across the country.

BCL leaders, while justifying the attack, said "progressive students" had united with them to protest against "criminal activities." BCL DU unit General Secretary Saddam Hussain said it was done to "protect the general students of the university and preserve DU's academic environment." He warned that students would not return home until the "criminal forces" were rooted out. Now the question is, has the BCL been given the responsibility to protect the academic environment of Dhaka University? Then what is the role of the university administration? In fact, the DU administration's role was all but dubious. Firstly, it failed to create an atmosphere conducive to peaceful coexistence of all student bodies affiliated with the political parties. Secondly, it did not take any visible measures to prevent the violent clashes last week. All the DU authorities did was file a case with Shahbagh Police Station against unnamed people, though photos and videos of BCL activists wielding weapons went viral on social media and were run by newspapers. Eventually, it was the JCD members who were accused in the cases filed by the BCL; police detained some of them, too.

JCD has been out of the DU campus since 2010, a year after the Awami League came to power. They were ousted from all the residential halls and could not enter the campus, let alone hold any political programmes. However, towards the end of 2018, JCD members were allowed on the campus because of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) polls, held in March 2019 after a 28-year hiatus.

Since then, JCD leaders and activists have been seen holding brisk processions and meetings on the campus, although the university remained shut for a large period of the last two years because of Covid-19 shutdown.

Now, the BCL has driven them out again and kept their guards up so that JCD members can't enter the campus. Isn't this move tantamount to curtailing JCD's rights to assembly and protest? Peaceful assembly is a fundamental right and a key pillar for civic space. Article 37 of our constitution states, "Every citizen shall have the right to assemble and to participate in public meetings and processions peacefully and without arms..."

But the way JCD's programmes at DU were thwarted goes against the democratic norms. It was as if the JCD's efforts to enter the campus was a crime, but not the BCL's attacks on them. The right to peaceful assembly in a democracy cannot be hindered just because the protesters hold views contrary to that of those in power. The beauty of democracy is that it's all about accommodating differences in political opinion. Unfortunately, that's what is lacking in the BCL, which has been in supreme control over the public universities in the country for more than 12 years. Their actions over the years demonstrate that they hardly care about the words given by the high-ups in their mother organisation—that processions and rallies of the opposition would not be disrupted.

After the Ducusu polls, which was mired by allegations of irregularities, many had hoped that a positive change would come in student politics in Bangladesh. But the BCL members' repressive attitude towards the others indicates that nothing much has changed, and they are not only constricting the space for the opposition, but also earning the student organisation—which played a glorious role in the history of the nation—a bad name.

▲ The beauty of democracy is that it's all about accommodating differences in political opinion. Unfortunately, that's what is lacking in the BCL.



53RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF TOFAZZAL HOSSAIN MANIK MIA

# The testimony of Manik Mia



SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher.

**A**FTER the death of journalist Tofazzal Hossain, popularly known as Manik Mia, politician, journalist and litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmad wrote in a commemorative article titled "Jati Je Manik Harailo," "It didn't take us long to understand (what a gem we had lost); the countrymen understood it much later." Unfortunately, now it seems the countrymen have forgotten Manik Mia as well as the valuable lessons he left for this amnesiac nation.

This article is an exercise of thinking Manik Mia's thoughts—especially those on the dangers of autocracy, disenfranchisement of common people, and overdependence on bureaucracy—that hold relevance for today's Bangladesh more than ever.

Manik Mia's commitment to journalism and passion for freedom and democracy is reflected amply in his numerous columns published under the pseudonym *Mosafir* (traveller) in the *Daily Ittefaq*. But I want to discuss his less appreciated, semi-autobiographical work *Pakistani Rajnitir Beesh Bochhor* (Twenty Years of Pakistan Politics).

In the preface of the book, Manik Mia wrote, "As a journalist, I am well aware of the political trend of the country. As a concerned citizen, I have some responsibilities to my country and nation... I am well aware of my limitations. Still, I believe analysis of both the positives and negatives and the faults of past politics might help us to resolve our current crisis and identify the future course of action." We should read Manik Mia's thoughts in the same spirit.

A brief background of the book might be relevant here. Manik Mia was arrested on June 16, 1966. He had just recovered from a heart attack. The government shut down his newspaper, the *Daily Ittefaq*, and seized *The New Nation* Press. During his imprisonment, he planned to write on

Pakistan's political history with an analysis of the autocratic trend of the country's politics. Due to poor health and mental stress, he couldn't start it then, but he was determined to finish the task. After he was released from Dhaka Police Hospital on March 2, 1967, he started working on it. Within two months—from August 28 to October 27, 1967—he prepared a draft



VISUAL: STAR

through dictation. But he couldn't see the final manuscript. Manik Mia passed away on June 1, 1969. As per Manik Mia's wish, his close associate and the executive editor of *Ittefaq*, Sirajuddin Hossain, took charge of editing the manuscript.

Unfortunately, we also lost Sirajuddin during the Liberation War. He was arrested by the Pakistan Army from his residence at Chamelibagh and never returned home. After Bangladesh became independent, it took 10 more years to publish the book since, according to the editor of the book, "the book contains some uncomfortable truth about certain politicians and political parties who don't have the magnanimity to tolerate the truth." Finally, the book was published in May 1981. It was edited by Manik Mia's close friend Abdul Hafiz.

Throughout the book, one topic was visited frequently: the danger of unrestrained power. Referring to the successive autocratic rules in the first 20 years of Pakistan, Manik Mia warned that

"naked and unbridled power creates such egoism in the human mind that it destroys common sense, morality, and even fear of God. When all state power is concentrated in the hands of a single person, there is never a shortage of flatterers in the hope of gaining his favour. They gather around the powerful person and, instead of informing him about the real situation of

person, are either politically orphan or enemy of the people."

Manik Mia also warned of overdependence on bureaucracy. He mentioned, as an example, the first finance minister of Pakistan, Ghulam Muhammad, a bureaucrat recruited to the finance ministry by the first prime minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan. Although the newborn Pakistan was entangled in multiple crises—such as the lack of industrial development, two million refugees in excess of evacuees from Pakistan, disruption of the banking and insurance structure, and disproportionately heavy burden of defence expenditure—Ghulam Muhammad used to present surplus budget just to impress the countrymen and foreign audiences. The consequence of such overdependence on bureaucrats, Manik Mia testified, was that they gradually captured the state power and destroyed the democratic polity of Pakistan as well as the chance of building a pro-people socioeconomic policy structure.

Ghulam Muhammad became the third governor-general of Pakistan. His footsteps were followed by other civil and military bureaucrats like Chaudhry Muhammad Ali, Iskander Mirza, Ayub Khan, and Yahya Khan.

"The joy of independence made us oblivious to the fact that bureaucrats, however efficient they may be, have very little knowledge and experience about the problems of common people," opined Manik Mia. He emphasised that in an independent state, only the people's representatives have the right to prepare economic and social plans, and the bureaucrats' duty is to implement those.

The book *Pakistani Rajnitir Beesh Bochhor* contains many such gems of insight. I must say, the best legacy Manik Mia left for us is the testimony of his time. He lived the foundational years of Pakistan, the legacy of which Bangladesh, although now an independent country, can hardly ignore. If we take account of the last 50 years of Bangladesh's history, we can't deny the fact that there have been many repetitions of the same mistakes pointed out by Manik Mia. If we fail to learn from these mistakes, we will continue to live in the proverbial farce that Karl Marx warned of, and that is worse than tragedy.

**Manik Mia emphasised that in an independent state, only the people's representatives have the right to prepare economic and social plans, and the bureaucrats' duty is to implement those.**

the country, the grievances of the people of the country, and the right attitude and thoughts needed to address those grievances, they keep him in the dark by repeating 'everything is fine' (Pg 23).

He identified that autocrats are guided by a common philosophy: "Après moi, le déluge" (this nihilistic expression of indifference to whatever happens after one is gone is attributed to King Louis XV of France). Manik Mia lamented that, although the autocrats are ousted at some point, the general people have to bear the consequences of autocratic rule for a long time.

Manik Mia also severely criticised the culture of hero worship in politics. Referring to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said, "There is no doubt about the political wisdom, leadership quality, and character strengths of Jinnah *saheb*, but those who ignore the contribution of common people to the independence movement and overemphasise the leadership of a single

Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd. (DTIEWTPCL)  
(A Public Limited Company)  
Tannery Industrial Estate, Dhaka (TIED)  
Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka

Invitation for Tenders (National)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries
2	Agency	Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd. (DTIEWTPCL)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Supply of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals
7	Invitation Ref No & Date	DTIEWTPCL/Chem/101/2021-22/ Date:

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB through Tannery Industrial Estate, Dhaka (4 <sup>th</sup> revision) project
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10	Tender Package No.	(i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22 (ii) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-04/22
11	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals
12	Tender Publication Date	01/06/2022
13	Tender Last Selling Date	14/06/2022
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	15/06/2022 at 12.10 PM
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	15/06/2022 at 03.00 PM
16	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	Office of the Chairman, BSCIC & Chairman, DTIEWTPCL, 398, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
	- Receiving Tender Document	i) Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka ii) Office of the Chairman, BSCIC & Chairman, DTIEWTPCL, 398, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
	- Opening Tender Document	Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

17	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	i) Tender security in the form of Bank draft/ pay order ii) Trade license updated for 2021-2022 fiscal year iii) TIN & Tax paid certificate for 2020-2021 year iv) VAT registration certificate with 13 digit BIN v) Bank solvency certificate and Bank statement for last six months. vi) Minimum amount of liquid capital shall be Tk. 100.00 lac for package (i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22 and Tk. 95.00 lac for package (ii) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-04/22 vii) Manufacturers authorization certificate for each chemicals
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viii) One successfully completion certificate at least to the tune of Tk. 90.00 lac for package (i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22 and Tk. 85.00 lac for package (ii) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-04/22 from any Govt./ Semi Govt./ Autonomous body/ Limited company (Public/Private) in last 2 years for supply of similar goods

ix) Registration/ enlistment to any Govt./ Semi-govt. organization/ Autonomous body/ Association as chemicals supplier/producer.

x) Other details as per tender schedule

18	Brief Description of Goods	a) Supply of Caustic soda for package (i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22 b) Supply of Ferrous sulphate, PAM (Anionic & Cationic), Potash Alum, Tri Sodium Phosphate (TSP) and Poly Aluminum Chloride (PAC) for package (ii) DTIEWTPCL/ Chem-04/22 as per specifications in the tender document
19	Brief Description of Related Services	All services related to Supply of chemicals upto CETP warehouse at TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka including transportation, loading, unloading, testing etc.

20	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 2000/- (two thousand) only in cash (non-refundable) for each package with application on letter head pad
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Package & Lot No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in week/ month
(i)DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22	Procurement of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals (Caustic Soda)	Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka	Tk. 4,15,000/- for package (i) DTIEWTPCL/Chem-03/22	50% of total chemicals should be supplied within 2 weeks and rest part within 6 weeks from the date of issuance of purchase order at CETP warehouse, TIED, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka
(ii)DTIEWTPCL/Chem-04/22	Procurement of Tannery effluent treatment chemicals (Ferrous sulphate, PAM, Potash Alum, TSP, PAC)	- Do -	Tk. 4,08,000/- for package (ii) DTIEWTPCL/ Chem-04/22 in the form of Bank draft/ pay order in favour of DTIEWTPCL	- Do -

22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mustak Ahmed
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Managing Director
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Managing Director, DTIEWTPCL, TIED, Horindhora, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Cell : 01718-275990 e-mail : dtiewtpcl@gmail.com

N.B.:

- (a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or whole of any or all tenders without explanation or annul the tender proceedings.
- (b) The purchase quantity may vary from the schedule. The quantity will be fixed during contract signing.
- (c) Bidder must enclose original schedule which is duly filled in unit rate, total price both in figures and words. Any overwriting, correction and scratch or ineligibility will be rejected.
- (d) A bidder may drop both packages if the bidder has aggregated capability to be responsive as a whole.
- (e) If the date of selling, receiving and opening of tender is hindered under any unavoidable circumstances the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

30.5.2022  
Mustak Ahmed  
Managing Director  
DTIEWTPCL



Hoping to get a good catch, a fisherman throws in his net in the Karnaphuli river, while a storm brews in the distance. Even though fish population has seen a significant decline in the river over the last few years due to pollution, the persistent fishers still keep at their task, seeing if fate has something good in store for them. This photo was taken in the south bank of the river recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



## Of pride and glory

### The story of “Frigate Deutschland”, the first-ever ship made in Chattogram

**Did you know the first-ever ship made in Chattogram was built in 1818? In recent years, Chattogram has gained quite a reputation for its shipyards, where old ships from across the globe are brought for dismantling and turning into smaller sized ships.**

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

According to historian and researcher Shamsul Haque, Chattogram’s shipbuilding business developed on the banks of Karnaphuli, where merchants from across the world used to come to purchase ships and later sail them across the sea, loaded with their goods.

But it all started in 1818, with “Frigate Deutschland” – the first-ever ship made in Chattogram’s Sadarghat area, which sailed across seas for nearly 40 years afterwards.

Its name went into oblivion until it came up in a book titled “Bandar Shohor Chattogram” by historian Abdul Haque Chowdhury.

However, Frigate Deutschland was not the name that it was given after its inception. The three-mast ship was initially named Alfred by its maker James MacRae, who built the ship in his yard on the banks of Karnaphuli, after being commissioned by Freaser Living and Co.

The story of Alfred becoming Frigate Deutschland is not an ordinary one. It is also a story of a merchant ship’s transition into a battle fleet. According to “Uponibesh Chattogram” written by Haroon Rashid, Freaser handed over the ship to J Flint of London in 1828, who operated the vessel in different seas for 17 years.

In 1845, when Alfred was plying the waters of South America, it attracted the attention of JC Godeffroz & Sons, a German company, that had around 150 ships and vessels all over the world at that time.

JC Godeffroz & Sons bought the vessel and changed its name to Cesar Godeffroz.

In about three years, Germany and Denmark found themselves faced with the Schleswig-Holstein War over conquering two border-adjacent towns. The German side was left in a perilous situation when it came to face Denmark’s navy, which was stronger



PHOTO COURTESY

than theirs. To deal with this crisis, the German government sought assistance from its citizens. German businessmen responded. JC Godeffroz & Sons was one such company to play its part by handing over Alfred to the German forces.

According to Haroon Rashid’s book, following the handover, Alfred was renovated and turned into a battle fleet. It was then renamed “Frigate Deutschland”. Thirty-two cannons were installed on the ship.

But the transition was not a smooth one. The vessel lost its previous capacity. Several technical issues came to light when it sailed against Denmark. The German forces later started to use it as a training vessel.

In 1852, when the war was over, Deutschland was once again handed over to a new owner. This time, it was bought by Roessing & Mummz and turned into a coal cargo ship to ply on the England-China sea route. Deutschland plied the seas carrying

coal till 1858.

In 1858, the vessel was relocated to the German Maritime Museum.

“I knew nothing about the ship other than its name while writing my book. I started looking for more information and tried to contact relevant individuals and organisations in Germany as well,” said writer Haroon Rashid.

“I got to know about its relocation to the museum through the German Tourism Board. The museum had the remains of the ship stored for about a hundred years. Now it has a small replica of the ship on display,” he added.

Deutschland went on to sail for 40 years, which was very rare in that era as most ships were not very well-equipped to deal with the natural calamities on the seas. And that’s how Frigate Deutschland created history.

## Connecting farmers with consumers

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) researchers have developed a distribution model of pure cow-milk that would benefit both consumers and dairy farmers.

The pilot project started with limited scope in the port city on April 3, said sources in CVASU, adding that a consumer has to install the app “Smart Goala” and then place the order through it.

Initially, consumers from Khulshi, Nasirabad, GEC and Sholashahar areas in the city can avail of the service, said sources.

“The research was initiated in 2018 aiming to improve farmer-customer network and ensuring a mutually beneficial outcome – consumers get pure raw milk and farmers get a good price, said Prof Dr Goutam Buddha Das, vice-chancellor of CVASU.

Contacted, the principal investigator of the study and assistant professor at Agribusiness and Marketing Department of CVASU, Mokaddes Ahmed Dipu said, “We’ve conducted the study on the peri-urban smallholder dairy farmers initially. Then we developed a distribution model which connects the farmers directly with the urban consumers.”

“For this purpose, we initiated a platform called ‘Smart Goala’, ensuring the distribution of the freshest milk from smallholder farmers to customers,” he said.

Asked, how will they ensure the purity of



the milk, Mokaddes said they test the milk on a regular basis in the CVASU’s laboratory.

Mokaddes said that a litre of cow-milk costs Tk 90.

Asked about why the price is set higher than the market value, he said, “We aim to ensure the purity of the milk and make sure that farmers get a fair price, which incentivises them to maintain hygiene properly.”

“We also train farmers on maintaining hygiene and taking care of the cattle properly,” he said.

## Taking care of THE STRAYS

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

Even though pets are taken care of with much affection, the same can’t be said about animals on the street. These strays often suffer from different illnesses, but there’s no one to tend to them.

To change this scenario, a group of youths in Chattogram have mobilised themselves to take care of the street animals. Under the banner “Petman Chittagong”, they provide medical services, like vaccination, to strays in different parts of the city.

This correspondent talked to Petman Chittagong’s Md Faizul Islam, while the group was on a vaccination drive in the port city’s Khulshi area recently.

He said a few friends and some seniors formed the organisation in January this year. Businessman Sohail Ahmed and social worker Hasina Mumtaz joined them as patrons to make this initiative successful.

In the last five months, they have vaccinated more than 200 animals.



He claimed that this kind of work falls under the jurisdiction of the authorities, but no authority has performed this duty for a long time. So, they took up the initiative to make the people of the society and the city corporation aware of the need to vaccinate these animals.

Of the five members of this organisation, three are students. Faizul completed his diploma in computer science, Umme Hani Trisha is a student of bio-pharma, and Umme Samiyun Boshri completed her honours in computer science.

Trisha said, “After vaccination, I’ve noticed the relief in the faces of people in those areas. This is where our satisfaction lies.”

Sohail said, “It’s our duty to take care of these animals. The people of the society will be safe if the city corporation comes forward to provide vaccine to these strays.”

## First endoscopic brain-tumour surgery performed in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY

For the first time in Chattogram, a patient’s brain tumour has been removed using endoscopic procedure, a minimally invasive method. Dr Ismail Hossain, consultant neurosurgeon at Dhaka National Institute of Neurosciences Hospital, along with his team performed the surgery at Parkview Hospital on May 26.

The patient Khair Ahmed (55) had been suffering from headache and blurred vision for some days. MRI examination of the brain had found that he was suffering from pituitary macro-adenoma, a type of tumour.

This type of tumour is usually removed after performing a craniotomy, in which a piece of the skull is removed, or through the nose using an endoscopic machine.

Although endoscopic pituitary tumour surgery is an old practice throughout the world, no public or



private hospital in Chattogram had done this before.

The operation team was led by Dr Ismail. Dr Farhad Ahmed, Dr Moinuddin Zahid, Dr Touhidur Reza,

Dr Reza, Dr Khurshid Anwar and Dr Asif were part of the team.

Dr Nurul Azim and Dr Wadud, assistant professors at the anaesthesia department of Chattogram Medical

College Hospital, performed duties as anaesthesiologists.

Asked about the operation, Dr Ismail said, “The operation was successfully completed. From now on, the people of greater Chattogram will no longer have to travel to Dhaka and abroad for state-of-the-art neurosurgery operations.”

Asked about benefits of endoscopic surgery, he said patients recover earlier, and so, hospital stays are shorter. “As the facility was not available in Chattogram earlier, many patients had to go to Dhaka or abroad,” he said. “Now, patients will be able to save time and money.”

Dr ATM Rezaul Karim, managing director of Parkview Hospital, said, “The medical system is getting better and more modern day by day. I thank Dr Ismail and his team for completing the complex and modern operation. This has opened doors to a groundbreaking medical system in Chattogram.”



**What to WATCH**

**STAR SPORTS 2**  
Asia Cup Hockey  
5th Place  
Pakistan vs Bangladesh  
Live from 12:30 pm  
Final

Korea vs Malaysia  
Live from 05:30 pm  
**TEN 2 & SONY SIX**  
French Open Quarter-finals  
Live from 03:00 pm

onwards  
**TEN 2**  
UEFA Cup of Champions  
Italy vs Argentina  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Thursday)



**“I like the fact that Shakib is a straightforward guy. I know what he wants. The only thing that I don't know is when he will call and say, 'I won't play'. The only problem with Shakib is that he says at the last moment that he won't be a part of a tour or a series. But if he is to become the next Test captain, he cannot do any such thing. There is no other problem with Shakib.”**

**Nazmul Hassan Papon**  
BCB president

## Italy aim to break 35-year jinx in Finalissima

AGENCIES, London

Italy are aiming to beat Argentina for the first time since 1987 when the two sides meet in the Finalissima – a clash between the winners of Euro 2020 and the Copa America – tonight.

The two sides met at every World Cup from 1974 to 1990 with Argentina never registering a victory but progressing further than Italy on four of those five occasions – and the Azzurri have not beaten the South Americans since.

Italy's last victory over Argentina was in a friendly on June 10, 1987, when they won 3-1 in Zurich. There have been five meetings since, with Argentina winning the last three outright and the ones before ending in a draw. It was most recent “draw” in that list which remains one of the most painful results in Italian football history.

In the semifinal of the 1990 World Cup, hosts Italy were pitted against the holders. The match went to penalties and, whereas Argentina were flawless, Roberto Donadoni and Aldo Serena missed their efforts to leave Italy in mourning.

Ahead of the game, Argentine superstar Lionel Messi told TyC Sports: “It's crazy that they won the Euros and are not at the World Cup. That Italy are again not at a World Cup, with what that means and Italy's relationship with the World Cup is a shame.”

But Messi is expecting a good game. He added: “It's good test for us. They are the champions of Europe and would have been World Cup favourites had they been there.”

## The question is who's next?

SPORTS REPORTER

In a normal cricket culture, this would not be an issue. Especially when a Test captain wants to resign, it is the captain who asks for the decision to be either made public or makes the announcement himself, preferably in a press conference in an official setting.

What usually never happens is that a squad is named with a designated Test captain before an important series and then a saga begins about whether he will remain in the hot seat. However, such unprecedented events have become a regularity in Bangladesh cricket as Test skipper Mominul Haque said yesterday that he had decided to step down from captaincy to focus on his batting.

Mominul Haque was thrust into the hot seat after Shakib Al Hasan, the then Test captain, was banned by the ICC for breaching ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

His Test captaincy stint began with three innings defeat and there have been five overall during his 17 games in charge. The win over New Zealand at Mount Maunganui earlier this year remains not only the high point of his Test captaincy, but Bangladesh cricket's too. Bar that, there have been just two other wins, both coming against Zimbabwe.

But the ratio of success to failure does not speak to the challenge Mominul had to face. Mominul had to deal with key absences of regular stars such as Shakib and Tamim Iqbal while trying to perform as a captain throughout his tenure.

Pandemonium was created after several officials from the board remarked about the problems encircling

Mominul the batsman and the problem it created in terms of him being able to lead the side. BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday told The Daily Star that the board had no plans to take away Mominul's captaincy.

But at the end of a pivotal meeting in the evening with the BCB president,

“The decision [about who will be the new captain] will be taken during a board meeting on June 2. I have informed them of my decision. He [Hassan] told me to continue but I don't want that anymore.”

The BCB president had said that he intended to talk to Mominul about how

key, but that should be a separate issue altogether from the team's point of view, especially since he is the Test captain.

Questions remain about the instability that will hound the Test team only days ahead of their departure for a tour of the West Indies.

BCB president Papon told The Daily Star following the meeting that Mominul intended to leave the role as soon as possible.

“As he was not scoring runs, he said it was hard to lead the side. He told me it would be awkward for him if the board doesn't take a decision soon,” the BCB president told this newspaper yesterday.

The talk of a potential successor is already in the air. Will Shakib now take over? “We can decide day after tomorrow on the replacement. We have to also talk to the player first before we hand him the captaincy.”

Asked if he was being preferred, he remarked: “We have to know what he's planning. You can make him captain of any of the formats but he has not always been available. As captain, he will have to play and he won't be able to pick and choose. We wanted to linger on the decision [regarding captaincy] until after the West Indies series but hearing Mominul, it appears he wants to step down now. I told him [Mominul] that we have to see how things are and we will let you know. We will sit down and take a decision day after tomorrow on whether Mominul will be staying on in his role and for how long but he will be going to West Indies as a player.”



Mominul informed the media that he had decided to step down.

“When you are playing well, you can still motivate the team even if it doesn't bring a result. I feel that I am not being able to play well and the team is not getting results. It's a hard situation to captain the side in. I feel it's better not to do it [captaincy] right now. I feel that if I can focus on my batting, it would be better,” Mominul remarked to the media following the meeting.

the batter can find his form with the bat. However, the situation leaves a bad taste in the mouth. One BCB higher-up remarked to this newspaper that the environment “has not been healthy”.

Mominul's batting average in his 17 games in charge was 31.44, compared to the Test average of 41.47 he maintained without captaincy. He accumulated just 24 runs in his last eight innings, which appeared to be the crux of the decision. His contributions as a Test batter are

## Hockey team take on Pakistan today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh hockey team are looking forward to completing their Asia Cup campaign with an improved performance when they take on Pakistan in the 5th-6th place-deciding match in Jakarta, Indonesia today.

The match begins at 12:30pm Bangladesh time.

Bangladesh, who recently improved their world ranking from 29 to 27, have already achieved their initial target of finishing sixth among eight participating nations after beating handily a 4-2 defeat to hosts Indonesia in the previous match.

Bangladesh have never beaten Pakistan, who failed to qualify for the Super 4s and are fighting for the fifth place. Pakistan beat Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurthy's charges 6-2 in Asian Champions Trophy in 2021 and 7-0 in Asia Cup in 2017, both held in Dhaka.

Asked if it was possible to finish fifth, Krishnamurthy told the Daily Star: “Not easy, but anything is possible. Pakistan are wounded tigers. They will come at us from the start. We need to be very cautious. The boys need to follow the plan. If we follow emotion, we will lose big.”

The Malaysian coach is apparently happy to have achieved the target even though they had to fight hard against Indonesia.

“As a realistic target, we wanted to beat Oman because they beat us in the Asian Games Qualifiers. We were also upset the way we gave away goals against Malaysia,” Krishnamurthy said.

## Indonesia test for Jamal and Co

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team will try to find the right combination for the upcoming Asian Cup Qualifiers when they square off against Indonesia in a FIFA friendly match in Bandung today.

The match begins at the Si Jalak Harupat Stadium at 7:30pm Bangladesh time.

Ahead of the match against the 159th-ranked Indonesia as part of preparation for



the Asian Cup Qualifiers starting on June 8 in Malaysia, coach Javier Cabrera has been in deep trouble to pick the right combination due to injuries and suspension issues which forced to players like Tapu Barman, Tariq Kazi, Saad Uddin, Matin Mia, Suman Reza and Nabib Newaj Jibon out of the squad.

In absence of injured defenders, the biggest challenge for the coach would be to choose a suitable four-man backline. His options at centre-back positions are Tutul Hossain Badsha, Bishwanath Ghosh and Riyadul Hasan Rafi while Yeasin Arafat and Rahmat Mia are

likely to play as full-backs.

He has options available in midfield and wings but then again, the options for striking position are very thin with uncapped Sazzad Hossain and inexperienced Maraz Hossain two of the likely options.

Bangladesh will perhaps adopt a counter-attacking approach with a solid defensive organisation, a style they want to implement in Malaysia too.

“Obviously, we will take to the field to win the match but our main target is to prepare ourselves for the way we want to play in upcoming Asian Cup Qualifiers,” right-winger Mohammad Ibrahim told The Daily Star over phone.

“Though the Bashundhara Kings players got only two sessions to train, it is not a problem for us to implement the gameplan because we have already played two matches under Cabrera, so we know what our coach wants from us,” said the Bashundhara Kings midfielder.

Captain Jamal Bhuyan, at the pre-match press conference yesterday, conceded that it will be a tough challenge for the side. “All the players who are part of the team know it is going to be a tough match. Indonesia are a strong team and of course tomorrow they desire to win but we will defend ourselves and I think we can compete against them and deliver a good performance,” Jamal said.

Bangladesh, who are 29 places behind of Indonesia in FIFA rankings, are going to face them for the first time since their 1-0 defeat in Merdeka Cup in 2007. Overall, Bangladesh have won only once against the East Asian nation – in 1985 – losing four times and drawing the other occasion.



**Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during a training session ahead of their UEFA Nations League encounter against Spain on Thursday. Real Madrid's victory in the Champions League final on Saturday did not quite bring the curtain down on the football season in Europe, with the action continuing into June as Nations League starts today with Poland taking on Wales. PHOTO: TWITTER**





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## 22 univs go for integrated admission tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two public universities, including two new ones, have decided to hold integrated admission tests for 2021-22 academic session.

Students of science will sit for admission tests on July 30, humanities on August 13 and business on August 20.

Prof Sadequul Arefin, vice-chancellor of University of Barishal, confirmed it to The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

The decision of integrated admission tests came at a meeting of the university authorities on Monday night, he said.

Besides, the students will be allowed to migrate to their desired universities, he added.

At the meeting, the authorities also decided to increase the admission fees from Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,500.

Asked, Prof Sadequul said the decision was made as the price of paper and other materials increased.

The universities that agreed to hold integrated admission tests are Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University, Kishoreganj; Chandpur Science and Technology University; Jagannath University; Islamic University, Kushtia; Khulna University; Comilla University; Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University; Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur; University of Barisal; Rabindra University, Shahzadpur; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University; Sheikh Hasina University, Netrakona; Shahjalal University of Science and Technology,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Solid leather waste being burned at a dump yard inside BSCIC Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar yesterday. Such acts cause air pollution and harm public health. A parliamentary body recently recommended shutting down the estate over environmental rules violations.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Bangladesh can't buy Russian crude oil

State minister for power says refinery configured for only Middle Eastern oil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would not be buying crude oil from Western-sanctioned Russia as its refinery is configured to process only oil from the Arab countries, said Nasrul Hamid, the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources.

That was why Bangladesh had to regretfully decline, he told reporters at the capital's Bidyut Bhaban at an event to mark the golden jubilee of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh and BPDB jointly organised the event.

Russian crude oil is heavier than the Arabian crude oil and the country's lone

state-run refinery -- Eastern Refinery -- is designed to process fuel from the Middle East, according to an energy ministry official.

The country is buying oil as usual under long-term government-to-government

**"Although the price of oil in the international market is fluctuating, there is no shortage of oil reserves at our end."**

agreements with Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Hamid said.

"Although the price of oil in the international market is fluctuating, there

is no shortage of oil reserves at our end."

The electricity tariff may be hiked to a reasonable level, he said.

"You should not expect to get electricity at the same rate as 13 years ago. In that times, people's income has increased."

Hamid also touched upon the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry's advice to shut down the quick rental power plants as those were raising the production cost of electricity.

"If fabric merchants get a say on which power plants we should get electricity from, it is not right. You should not advise us on what to do and what not to do."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Covid booster dose campaign starts on June 4



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A week-long special campaign for administering Covid-19 booster jabs will start countrywide on June 4, said the Directorate General of Health Services.

In a circular released yesterday, the DGHS said any second dose vaccine recipient, aged 18 and above, can get a booster jab with an interval of at least four months.

The campaign will begin at 9:00am each day and the vaccines will be administered following WHO guidelines, read the DGHS circular.

A total of 11.76 crore people received their second jabs as of yesterday. Around 1.5 crore of them have already received their booster shots, as per the DGHS data.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Egypt unearths trove of ancient mummies

REUTERS, Cairo



Archaeologists working near Cairo have uncovered hundreds of ancient Egyptian coffins and bronze statues of deities.

The discovery at a cemetery in Saqqara contained statues of the gods Anubis, Amun, Min, Osiris, Isis, Nefertum, Bastet and Hathor along with a headless statue of the architect

Imhotep, who built the Saqqara pyramid, Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said on Monday.

The 250 coffins, 150 bronze statues and other

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Hundreds of farmers at Purangram village in Manikganj's Ghior upazila are being affected after a company illegally erected structures on an irrigation canal beside Manikganj-Tangail road. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

## Israel signs first Arab free trade deal with UAE

AFP, Dubai

Israel signed a free trade deal with the United Arab Emirates yesterday, its first with an Arab country, building on their US-brokered normalisation of diplomatic relations in 2020.

Israel's ambassador to the oil-rich UAE, Amir Hayek, tweeted "mabruk" -- congratulations in Arabic -- with a photo of Emirati and Israeli officials holding documents at a signing ceremony in Dubai.

The Emirati envoy to Israel, Mohamed Al Khaja, hailed as an

"unprecedented achievement" the deal that, according to the Israeli side, scraps customs duties on 96 percent of all products traded.

"Businesses in both countries will benefit from faster access to markets and lower tariffs as our nations work together to increase trade, create jobs, promote new skills and deepen cooperation," Khaja tweeted.

The 2020 deal was part of the US-brokered Abraham Accords that also saw Israel establish diplomatic ties with Bahrain and Morocco.

Two-way trade between Israel

and the UAE last year totalled some \$900 million dollars, according to Israeli figures.

UAE-Israel Business Council president Dorian Barak predicted that trade would soon multiply between the regional powerhouse economies.

"UAE-Israel trade will exceed \$2 billion in 2022, rising to around \$5 billion in five years, bolstered by collaboration in renewables, consumer goods, tourism and the life sciences sectors," he said in a statement.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
কর কমিশনার এর কার্যালয়  
কর অঞ্চল-৩ ঢাকা

আয়েশা মঞ্জিল, কাকরাইল, ৩৫ পাইওনিয়ার রোড, ঢাকা  
<http://taxeszone3dhaka.gov.bd/>

**২০২১-২২ অর্থ বছরের (২০২২-২৩ করবর্ষের) জন্য আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৬৪ ধারা অনুযায়ী অগ্রিম আয়করের ৪র্থ কিস্তি**

- যে সকল সম্মানিত করদাতা/করদাতা কোম্পানির সর্বশেষ নিরূপিত আয় ৬ (ছয়) লক্ষ টাকার বেশী তাঁদের ক্ষেত্রে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ অনুযায়ী অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধের বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।
- ২০২২-২০২৩ করবর্ষের জন্য ৪ (চার) কিস্তিতে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়করের **৪র্থ কিস্তি পরিশোধের শেষ তারিখ ১৫ জুন ২০২২ খ্রিঃ।**
- সম্মানিত করদাতা/করদাতা কোম্পানি কর্তৃক সংশ্লিষ্ট সার্কেলে **Deputy Commissioner of Taxes** এর অনুকূলে চালান/পে-অর্ডার/ক্রস চেকের মাধ্যমে অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করা যাবে।
- নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ করা না হলে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ ১৯৮৪ এর ৬৯ ধারা অনুযায়ী খেলাপী করদাতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবেন। একইসাথে অগ্রিম আয়করের সমপরিমাণ অংক জরিমানা এবং ৭৩ ধারা অনুসারে সরল সুদ আরোপ করার বিধান রয়েছে।
- সম্মানিত করদাতা/করদাতা কোম্পানিকে নির্ধারিত তারিখে অথবা তার পূর্বে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ করে জরিমানা এবং সরল সুদ পরিহারের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

কর অঞ্চল-৩, ঢাকার অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন আয়কর জমার কোড

- ১-১১৪১-০০১০-০১০১ (কোম্পানির ক্ষেত্রে)
- ১-১১৪১-০০১০-০১১১ (কোম্পানি ব্যতীত)

জাতীয় রাজস্ব আয়করের কর্মসূচীতে আপনার সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য ধন্যবাদ।

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মোঃ নাজমুল করিম  
কর কমিশনার  
কর অঞ্চল- ৩, ঢাকা