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HIKING RICE PRICES Hoarders of every hue in it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hoarding by small traders as well as large business groups has been causing rice prices to soar, giving low-income people a hard time.

From large corporate groups to brick kilns owners to primary school teachers, people are hoarding rice, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder told reporters at his office yesterday.

"We've intelligence reports that the big corporate groups are hoarding excessive amounts of rice violating the rules," Sadhan said.

He told The Daily Star last night that the government had launched a drive across the country to check whether the intelligence report was right.

Rice prices have risen by Tk 8-10 a kg over the last two weeks even though it is the Boro harvest season and there is an ample supply of paddy.

According to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, the prices of coarse and fine rice increased by 5.38 percent and 3.17 percent in just a week.

The food minister yesterday told reporters that six major industrial groups

— Square, Pran, City, Akij, Bashundhara and ACI — were mainly to blame for hoarding and the rise in rice prices.

Spokespersons of the companies denied wrongdoing when contacted by this correspondent.

The six companies were found packing rice for sale at Tk 80-85 per kg after buying it at Tk 60-65 a kg in Naogaon, Dinajpur and Bogura districts, he said.

"We have also found that those who are not rice traders, for example, brick kiln owners and primary school teachers, are also stockpiling rice," he added.

Responding to a question at the secretariat, the food minister said, "We are considering whether to issue a circular restricting the sale of packaged rice."

If the large companies want to sell packaged rice, they may import rice paying 67 percent tax and sell it in packs.

"We're discussing the matter. We have prepared a summary of the circular to send to the prime minister," he said.

If need be, the government will import rice to keep the market stable and punish the syndicate of business owners, Sadhan added.

"We have found an extra 5,000 tonnes of rice worth Tk 40 crore at a go-down of Square Group in Dinajpur," he said.

Contacted, Biplob Kumar Singh Roy, food control officer of Dinajpur, said a case was filed with Dinajpur Police Station against Square Food and Beverage Limited for hoarding rice and paddy.

Mortuza Al Moeen, the UNO of Dinajpur Sadar Upazila, said the company has permission to stock 306 tonnes of rice, but a mobile court found around 5,124 tonnes of aromatic rice at six warehouses of Square.

Imtiaz Firoze, head of marketing of Square Food and Beverage, said they produce, process and market aromatic rice, not the regular ones that people consume on a daily basis.

"Therefore, it has no relation to creating volatility in the market," he said, adding that they have permission

"We have also found that those who are not rice traders, for example, brick kiln owners and primary school teachers, are also stockpiling rice."



Two schoolgirls taking a selfie while donning wreaths of plumeria in front of City College in the capital yesterday. They did not let the drizzle dampen their spirits and instead brightened up their day with the garlands bought from a vendor in the area, who was selling them for Tk 30 a piece.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

More tax hike for the well-off

Excise duty on account balance of more than Tk 1cr to increase

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bank accounts with upwards of Tk 1 crore in balance are set to face a higher excise duty next fiscal year as the government looks to collect more taxes from the relatively well-off to get close to the lofty revenue collection target.

In fiscal 2022-23, banks will deduct Tk 18,000 as excise duty from accounts with a balance between Tk 1 crore and Tk 5 crore in credit or debit at any time of the year, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

At present, the excise duty for such balance is Tk 15,000.

There were 165,951 bank accounts with a balance of Tk 1 crore and Tk 5 crore in debit or credit at the end of last year, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

The excise duty on accounts with a balance of upwards of Tk 5 crore will see a 12.5 percent increase to Tk 45,000 next fiscal year.

There were 54,219 accounts with such balance.

The excise duty will remain unchanged for the other slabs.

At present, there is no excise duty on account balance of up to Tk 2 lakh, in debit or credit, at

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SEEING PADMA BRIDGE

Father fulfils bedridden son's wish

PM shares story with colleagues



TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

Just 22 years old and bedridden for the last six years, Mehedi Hasan Apurba had wished dearly to see Padma Bridge.

Diagnosed with heart ailments and unable to speak since 2018, he used gestures to convey his wish to an attending

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BUILDING PADMA BRIDGE Took up challenge as my purpose was honest: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed satisfaction that the Awami League has been able to fulfil its election pledges to the people.

She was speaking at the Awami League Advisory Council meeting at the Gono Bhavan yesterday.

Hasina, also the AL president, said her party never forgets its election pledges after forming a government.

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PADMA BRIDGE inauguration 23 DAYS TO GO

BUSINESS

REMITTANCE DROPS IN MAY

Remittance flows to Bangladesh declined 13.15 per cent year-on-year in May as higher rates of US dollars in the informal markets are prompting migrant workers to shun formal channels, creating further pressure on the country's foreign exchange market.

The inflow stood at \$1.88 billion last month compared to \$2.17 billion in the same month a year ago, data from Bangladesh Bank showed.

Similarly, remittance transfers fell 15.95 per cent year-on-year to \$19.19 billion in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year.

STORY ON B1



The wreckage of an easy-bike and part of a private car after a speeding truck hit them on the Rajbari-Kushtia highway yesterday morning. The accident left six people dead and three injured.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Almost entire family lost to a road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Six people, including five members of a family, were killed and three others injured in a road accident on the Rajbari-Kushtia highway yesterday morning.

The accident occurred when a truck collided with a battery-run easy-bike and then a private car on the highway near Chandpur area of Rajbari's Kalukhali upazila.

The dead were identified as Masinor Bibi, 60, wife of Motaleb Mondal, and a resident of Pangsha upazila, her daughter Mariam Begum, 40, Mariam's daughter Shela Begum, 25, and Masinor's two grandsons Isak Mondal, 8, and Yusuf Mondal, 5. Two of the three injured were also members of the same family.

The seven family members were passengers of the easy-bike, which was being driven by the other deceased, Nasir Mia, 32, son of Basir Uddin of the same upazila.

Jahangir Hossain, a neighbour of Motaleb Mondal, said, "Islam, 30, another son of Motaleb, was arrested in an arms case eight months ago. Seven members of his family were going to a court to meet him but five of them died on the way."

Sanju Sarker, a passenger of the private car and an eyewitness to the accident, said the easy-bike was in front of his car. "After the truck collided with the bike, it hit our car. My sister, who was with me, was injured in the accident."

Jewel Rana, sub-inspector and officer-in-charge of Pangsha highway police outpost, said, "The accident took

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'ATTACK' BY LOCALS BCL faction blocks main entrance to Ctg university

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Chattogram

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Chittagong University unit yesterday locked the gate of the university and suspended the shuttle train and bus services to the campus, demanding arrest of locals who allegedly assaulted its two activists the night before.

Classes and exams of several departments were postponed as the BCL men put logs on the roads and kept the campus virtually locked for almost 10 hours since 4:00am.

The shuttle train and teachers' bus services did not resume until 5:00pm.

According to BCL sources, Pradeep

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A police official removing logs from the road in front of Chittagong University's main entrance yesterday afternoon. Chhatra League activists had blocked roads leading to the campus, demanding arrest of locals who allegedly beat up two of them on Tuesday night.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Ask US envoy about rights situation in his country Momen tells journos

DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has wondered why Bangladeshi journalists don't ask the US ambassador about the human rights situation and the state of democracy in his country.

In a message sent to journalists yesterday, Momen said, "Would you please ask questions to the US ambassador why they cannot stop such extrajudicial killings in their own country?"

The message comes a day after US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas spoke on the US priorities of human rights, democracy, and media freedom.

Addressing a Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) Talk at the Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday, the envoy said the US wants to

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UNAUTHORISED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

All will be shut down

Says health minister; errant ones to be warned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All unauthorised private hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres will be shut down, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

Besides, private healthcare organisations failing to provide quality services will be warned, he said while addressing a programme held in the capital marking the National Health and Welfare Day 2022.

He made the statement at a time when the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) closed 1,440 illegal healthcare facilities as of yesterday since the ongoing countrywide crackdown began on May 25.

"These initiatives have been taken to bring transparency in the health sector and ensure quality services," Maleque said.

The minister mentioned there were around 11,000 private hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres across the country. "A question has been raised regarding the quality of service delivered by many of them."

Civil surgeons from 64 districts, divisional health directors, upazila health and family planning officers, and officials from the DGHS and the health ministry joined the day-long event.

Presided over by Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the DGHS, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (administration), and Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, additional director general (planning and development), among

"The submission of a large number of applications is evidence of lack of monitoring. Under this circumstance, the question is how much impactful the drive will be."

others, spoke at the event.

Meanwhile, Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said the ongoing drive against the unauthorised healthcare facilities was a good thing, but it was not enough.

The graft watchdog added that to get sustainable benefits, the government should enact a law to control and monitor the private healthcare sector and implement it fast.

"The submission of a large number of applications is evidence of lack of monitoring. Under this circumstance,

the question is how much impactful the drive will be," TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said in a press release issued yesterday.

Since the DGHS announced on May 24 that the illegal healthcare organisations would be shut down, it has been receiving a barrage of new applications for getting licences.

As of yesterday, the DGHS got 592 new applications online, its official told The Daily Star.

Iftekharuzzaman urged the authorities concerned to issue and renew licences of the organisations by maintaining proper procedures.

The TIB boss also proposed forming a high-quality regulatory body to monitor the quality of the private healthcare providers and ensure good governance there.

It also urged the government to ensure that the health directorate officials are able to complete their jobs unbiased and free from political influence.

Stressing the need for conducting such drives on a regular basis, the TIB demanded that all those involved in operating the illegal healthcare facilities be brought to book. Otherwise, the initiative would not be fruitful, added the release.

Almost entire family Hoarders of every hue in it

FROM PAGE 1
place when a speeding Pangsha-bound truck collided head-on with the Rajbari-bound easy-bike and then hit the car. Three people died on the spot and six were injured."

Saraj Mia, station officer of Rajbari Fire Service and Civil Defence, said, "We rushed to the spot on information and found Masinor Bibi, Shela Begum and Nasir Mia dead. We rescued the critically injured and sent them to

Kalukhali Upazila Health Complex. There, on-duty doctors declared three others dead.

"The survivors were then sent to Faridpur Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital for treatment."

Police seized the truck but the driver had fled by then.

"We are preparing to file a case in this regard and looking for the truck driver," said OC Jewel Rana.

FROM PAGE 1
from the commerce ministry to export 3,000 tonnes of aromatic rice.

"We will keep the remaining 2,000 tonnes for the local market," he said.

The minister also said that officials found sacks of rice marked Akij Group at rented rice mills in Mohadevpur, Naogaon.

"Rice should be in sacks mentioning the name of the rented mill, not Akij," he said, citing the rules that were formulated to prevent hoarding.

Contacted, Minhaj Ahmed, chief operating officer at Akij, said the firm will abide by the government directives to keep the market stable, but declined to comment on the specific allegation.

Biswajit Saha, director of corporate and regulatory affairs of City Group, said his company buys paddy from the market and sells rice. "We do not pack the rice bought from the market."

Redhwanur Rahman, head of division and

executive director at Bashundhara Food & Beverage Industries Ltd, said his company does not have rice mills and it does not market rice.

Kamruzzaman Kamal, director of marketing at Pran RFL Group, said, "We do not hoard rice. We buy paddy from farmers gradually and sell rice in the market."

Faria Yasmin, business director at ACI Foods and Commodity Businesses, said, "We are doing ethical business in Bangladesh, following all the rules and

regulations." **CRACKDOWN ON HOARDERS**

Five teams of officials conducted raids at the capital's Hatirpool, Karwan Bazar, Mirpur 1, Babubazar and Mohamadpur yesterday, but could not find hoarders.

In Dinajpur, rice prices dropped by Tk 2 a kg amid the drive.

On Tuesday, two mobile courts fined six traders Tk 63,000 for illegal hoardings in Hakimpur and Birampur upazilas of Dinajpur.

Father fulfils

FROM PAGE 1
nurse, possibly after watching footage on television of the country's longest bridge being built.

Apurba's father Jashim Uddin, a government employee residing in the capital's Jatrabari, decided to fulfil his son's dream – a moving tale that was told in the country's highest spheres.

On March 30, the father hired an ambulance to take his son close to the 6.15-km double-decker bridge, which will open to the public on June 25.

Before they could go near the bridge, however, security personnel stopped them.

But after passionate pleas from the father and seeing the eagerness of the bed-ridden youth, project officials let the ambulance progress to a point beneath the bridge at the Mawa end, close to the shore of the mighty river.

"From that spot, my son could see the bridge so closely. He could not speak, but his face was lit up with smiles," Jashim told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I could not hold back tears seeing the smile on his face," said the father.

The story of the journey to see one of the country's biggest infrastructural achievements found its way to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. During yesterday's Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) meeting, the PM shared the incident with her cabinet colleagues and officials, according to sources present.

"What the prime minister said has reflected the emotional attachment of the countrymen with the Padma Bridge," said a source.

Built with the country's own funds, the long-cherished road-rail bridge will directly connect the capital with the southwestern parts of the country. The Tk 30,193 crore project will have an immense impact on the economy, contributing around 1.2 percent to the annual GDP once the bridge is operational.

An project official, wishing not to be named, told this newspaper that the family's effort to fulfil their son's wishes moved them.

"There's no permission from the authorities to allow any vehicle from outside on the bridge. But we allowed the family in the ambulance to take a tour to a point under the bridge from where they could see the whole structure," the official said.

Before allowing them to go through, they talked to Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, the official said.

Jashim Uddin said his son, younger of two children, was diagnosed with problems in his heart in 2011, and fell seriously ill in 2016. Things took a turn for the worse in 2018 when he stopped speaking.

"We had to arrange treatment at home with a nurse attached. A ventilation system has been installed so that he can breathe," he said. Jashim Apurba used to talk about the bridge while it was under construction.

"Perhaps his interest grew after watching the construction on television or hearing from us," he said. "I told him about the inauguration of the bridge today [yesterday]. I promised that I will take him to a Padma Bridge trip at least once after its inauguration."

DHAKA-ASHULIA EXPRESSWAY

Project cost to rise by Tk 651cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cost for Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway project is going to rise Tk 651.72 crore, as the Chinese government has reduced its financing for the mega project.

The project, taken in 2017, is yet to formally start, and now, the deadline has been extended for four more years, to June 2026.

The government yesterday revised the budget and duration of the project for the first time.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Enec) in its meeting approved the first revision.

The original cost of the project was Tk 16,901.32 crore, and now, it is Tk 17,553.04 crore.

The government approved the project in October 2017 and the deadline for completion of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



With the dividers being broken down, and no one to monitor traffic movement, vehicles were seen taking advantage of the situation, by taking U-turns towards Tongi and Airport Road. As this road at Uttara's Azampur area usually remains busy with large vehicles, this situation is creating gridlocks and poses risks for accidents. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ECONOMIC DIALOGUE IN US

Dhaka to seek reinstatement of trade benefit

PORIMOL PALMA

The US will push for labour reforms and cotton exports to Bangladesh, while Dhaka plans to seek reinstatement of the GSP trade benefit during the High-Level Economic Partnership Dialogue in Washington DC, to be held today.

The dialogue will also discuss issues of the US' newly announced Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, which has been joined by 12 countries. Washington expects Bangladesh to join as well.

For the dialogue, Prime Minister's Adviser for Private Industry and Investment Salman F Rahman is leading the Bangladesh delegation, comprised of officials of ministries of finance, commerce, and foreign affairs, and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority.

"The dialogue will be focusing on trade and economy. And obviously, we will seek reinstatement of GSP. We will also seek investment from the US for enhancing our coastal embankment work and technology for renewable energy," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The US is now the single largest export destination of Bangladeshi products, mainly ready-made garments, worth \$8 billion a year. The country, however, suspended the generalised preferential system (GSP), a trade benefit following the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013.

Since then, Bangladesh has repeatedly requested for the reinstatement of GSP, but to no avail.

At a meeting in early April in Washington, Foreign Minister Abdul Momen told USAID Administrator Samantha Power that Bangladesh was in need of funding for infrastructure development.

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The kids are not alright

Long school closures during pandemic badly impacted adolescents, finds study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Long-term school closures during the pandemic have badly impacted the lives of adolescents in a multitude of ways, beyond disruption in education, finds a recent study.

The government needs to integrate the issue into its Covid-19 recovery plans to mitigate this impact, said speakers yesterday at the dissemination programme of the study titled "Adolescent Girls' Vulnerabilities and Transitions in the Context of Covid-19", conducted by Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) and supported by British High Commission and German embassy in Dhaka.

In his opening remarks, Dr Imran Matin, executive director of BIGD, said, "Through our study and discussion, tackling economic distress, ensuring quality education and setting schools as a socialisation platform, emerged strongly as a policy priority."

The study found that adolescents reportedly had to grapple with reduced educational aspirations, poorer psychosocial well-being, increased restrictions and control over social relations, and pressures to start working for

a living.

Decisions made by parents and adolescents during the pandemic will influence their future life trajectories by determining their educational achievements, reproductive health and livelihood choices, said the study.

A total of 2,758 households were surveyed, and 3,139 adolescents

significantly affect drop-out rates, at least 35 percent of the dropouts mentioned that the pandemic led to an unwillingness to study further. Another 16 percent said they could no longer afford education.

Some 26 percent of adolescents fell victims to different types of violence during the pandemic.

AT A GLANCE

- 35pc of school dropouts pointed to Covid-19 as reason
- 16pc couldn't afford education anymore
- 26pc of adolescents fell victim to violence
- 50pc of parents gave pandemic as reason for daughters' early marriage

in 26 upazilas in Gaibandha, Narail, and Cumilla districts were interviewed for the study, conducted from September to November last year.

According to the research, 35 percent of adolescents studied for three to five hours before the pandemic. The percentage went down to 14 percent during the pandemic.

While Covid-19 did not

Boys were more prone to physical violence, while girls were more prone to sexual violence.

Although the study found little variation in the rate of early marriage before and after the pandemic, nearly 50 percent of the parents said that their decision to marry off their daughters was moderately or highly influenced by the pandemic, as they felt they

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DHAKA-MAWA-BHANGA EXPRESSWAY

No mention of its official name yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway was named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on February 19, 2019, by road transport and bridges ministry.

A gazette was issued by the ministry's road transport and highways division on March 19 of the same year, naming it "Jatir Pita Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mohasarak", a year before opening the country's first-ever expressway.

However, the authorities, including the expressway's custodian Roads and Highways Department (RHD), have not been using the name in official documents of the expressway.

The expressway is more often mentioned as Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway in government documents.

The issue was raised at a monthly coordination

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Tk 837.92cr for import, 33.80cr for drilling

Cabinet committee approves plan for getting LNG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase yesterday approved to import one cargo of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market, with a cost of Tk 837.92 crore, while Tk 33.80 crore was approved for purchasing drilling materials for a local well.

The approval came in a virtual meeting presided by Finance Minister Mustafa Kamal.

Confirming the matter, Md Zillur Rahman Chowdhury, additional secretary of Cabinet Division, told The Daily Star that they got the lowest rate in recent times for buying LNG from the spot market by Gunvor Singapore Pte

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Memorial event for Gaffar Chy held

STAR REPORT

A memorial meeting for veteran writer, columnist and journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury was arranged at the main auditorium of Bishwashahitta Kendro on Tuesday.

Gaffar's son Anupam Chowdhury recalled his late father's memories and expressed gratitude to the people of Bangladesh for their immense love and respect towards him, said a press release.

Gaffar's daughter-in-law Claire Booker, a renowned English poet, recited poetry in the programme and expressed her thoughts.

Mohammad Nurul Huda, director general of Bangla Academy, expressed his deep sorrow and talked about the journalist's courageous efforts to reveal the truth.

Prominent poet Jahidul Huq took part in the discussion by paying homage to the veteran.

Noted reciter Progga Laboni recited Gaffar's poetry in the programme.

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PRAYER
TIMING
JUNE 2



	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

Taste of Life

In the moments that you live for the people that you keep the memories you cherish changes you go through, or a MOTHER'S LOVE that stays true

Celebrate life with the indulging flavors of PRAN foods



Taste of life

Project cost

FROM PAGE 3
The 24-km expressway was set for the end of June this year.

Sources said the project got delayed, as the Chinese authorities took a long time to approve over \$1 billion loan for the project. At a press briefing following the Ecenc meeting, Planning Commission Member Mamun Al Rashid said until 2017, China had a policy of financing cent percent funds of some projects, and at that time, the government approved

the DPP of this project. "As we progressed to the negotiation stage after approval of the DPP, the Chinese government brought some changes in its policy and decided not to finance more than 85 percent of the project costs." For that reason, the Chinese assistance has been reduced by Tk 1,257 crore, while the portion of government funding has been increased by Tk 1,909 crore. Once built, the expressway will connect Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with

Abdullahpur, Ashulia, Baipail and Dhaka Export Processing Zone on Nabinagar Chandra highway.

Memorial

FROM PAGE 3
"The Dhaka Review", a poetry journal edited by poet Aminur Rahman, was launched on the occasion. Aminur, Nurul and Jahidul along with the guest poets of The Dhaka Review -- Reaz Ahmad and Ayesha Sharmeen Chowdhury -- and others also recited poems as a tribute.

9 dengue patients hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) data, with these new cases, the number of dengue patients this year has risen to 361.

Among the dengue patients, 39 are still

undergoing treatment at different hospitals in the capital.

A total of 312 got released after recovery.

DGHS conducted a pre-monsoon survey between March 23 and April 4 this year.

The survey found three DSCC wards to be at "high risk" and 10 at "medium risk" of an outbreak.

Nine wards in DNCC are at "medium risk".

No mention

FROM PAGE 3
meeting of the ministry on May 18.

The meeting was presided by Nazrul Islam, secretary of the division, who directed RHD chief engineer to use the gazetted name instead of Dhaka Mawa-Bhanga Expressway everywhere and in all documents.

An division official told the meeting that the expressway was named after Bangabandhu following approval of the prime minister.

"But Roads and Highways Department and other agencies are not using the name," reads the meeting minutes.

Contacted, RHD Chief Engineer AKM Manir Hossain Pathan refused to make comment.

The PM inaugurated the Tk 11,003 crore expressway on March 2020, making it the most expensive road in the country.

Invading

FROM PAGE 5
information about the gang's absconding members and are conducting drives to arrest them.

"We have so far found that Saddam is the ringleader, but there might be another mastermind behind these robberies. We will be able to find more information after investigating further," he added.

Tk 837.92cr

FROM PAGE 3
Limited.

"Every unit will cost \$24.75," he said.

Besides, the same committee approved a proposal to purchase the materials of a well at Kailashtila gas field under Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.

According to the meeting minutes, Kailashtila is preparing to explore well no-8. It will buy

materials, take engineering support and develop the land under 10 packages. Contacted, Managing Director of Sylhet Gas Fields Md Mijanur Rahman said they took a Tk 150.27 crore project to drill the well in March 2021.

"This is the first purchase approval. We're expecting to get 21 million cubic feet gas per day from well no-8," he said.

The kids are

FROM PAGE 3
were under social pressure to do so.

Speaking as chief guest, Golam Sarwar, secretary of Law and Justice Division at the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, said, "There is a need to focus on recovery, and support human capability and well-being in a holistic sense, when it comes to policymaking."

The government, development partners and civil society can work together to create a more resilient and inclusive system, he said.

"Bringing both girls and boys back to school is going to be a huge task, with girls' access to education, in particular, becoming even more precarious," said Javed Patel, deputy high commissioner of British High Commission in Dhaka.

"This year completes 50 years of German

cooperation in Bangladesh. Studies like these are at the core of development cooperation," said Caren Blume, deputy head of development cooperation at German embassy in Dhaka.

Mentioning that the country's adolescent population is over 32 million, which is 21 percent of the entire population, Dr Angelika Fleddermann, country director of GIZ Bangladesh, said, "Taking timely decisions and making the right choices for girls and boys will determine the future trajectory of their lives and Bangladesh's future."

Police officer

FROM PAGE 5
manager (DRM), told this correspondent that they formed a three-member probe committee in this regard.

"The committee will submit the probe report within five days. We will take action after that," said the DRM.

Contacted, Superintendent of GRP's Pakshey division Md Sahab Uddin said, "We will take action after getting the probe report."





Notice Inviting Applications for CA Examinations

Next CA Examinations will be held from **Saturday, July 16, 2022** at Dhaka, Chattogram and London Centres. Applications for admission to the examinations can be submitted online visiting the url: <https://exam.icab.org.bd> by **Wednesday, June 15, 2022**.

Examination fees of **CL: Tk.1,500 per subject for 100 marks and Tk.1,200 for 50 marks, PL: Tk.3,300 per subject, AL (Integration): Tk.5,500 per subject and AL (Case Study): Tk.12,000** may be paid online by using payment gateway available in examination form submitting page. If any candidate likes to pay offline, s/he may pay it in any branch of **Southeast Bank Ltd. (Account No.-0015 111 0000 6409)**, with the prescribed pay slip downloaded from Website.



Examination fees of Professional Level and Advanced Level for **London Centre** are **£200** and **£250** respectively.

Course Completed (CC) candidates must pay their annual fees, if not paid earlier, before submitting the exam form.

Certificate Level Examinations will be held online on objective type questions including MCQ, scenario-based objectives etc. Professional and Advanced Level Examinations will be held in traditional method.


Shubhashish Bose
 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - ICAB

www.icab.org.bd


গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়

বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএফআরআই)


(বন ও বনজ সম্পদের উন্নয়ন ও সুষ্ঠু ব্যবহার বিষয়ক গবেষণার একমাত্র জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান)

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সুস্থ, সবল চারা ও বৃক্ষ উৎপাদনে সচেষ্ট হউন।



আক্রান্ত চারা



সুস্থ সবল চারা

বিস্তারিত তথ্য, কারিগরি পরামর্শ ও প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন

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বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
ডাকঘর : আমিন জুট মিলস্
বোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম।
Email: director_bfri@ctphat.net

আঞ্চালিক
প্রশিক্ষণ ও প্রযুক্তি হস্তান্তর ইউনিট
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ডাকঘর : আমিন জুট মিলস্
বোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম।
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Email: ttu@bfri.gov.bd

Employment Notice



If you are an experienced Supply Chain and Manufacturing professional with a drive for excellence, then this could be a position for you.

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- Service, Cost, Productivity, Quality, SHE, Innovation etc.
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Please forward your resume before 16th June 2022 to HumanResources.UBL@unilever.com or send your resume to **Recruitment Manager**
Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. ZN Tower, Plot #2, Road #8, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Quality Assurance Manager
Quality Control Lab
Department of Fisheries, Dhaka.

Memo No: 33.02.0000.314.22.125.16-986 Date: 01.06.2022

Invitation for Tender (Goods)

e-Tendering Notice No: 04/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Goods, details are given below.

Sl. #	Tender ID #	Package #	Name of works and location	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
01.	705933. 33.02.0000.314.22.224.22-980	GRF 3	Procurement of Equipments for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	15-June-2022, 15:00	16-June-2022, 14:00	16-June-2022, 14:00
02.	705942. 33.02.0000.314.22.280.22-981	GRF 4	Procurement of Fish Estradiol ELISA kit for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	15-June-2022, 15:00	16-June-2022, 14:00	16-June-2022, 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line/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 up to 15-June-2022, 15:00. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd).


 01.06.2022
 (Md. Manik Mia)
 Quality Assurance Manager
 Quality Control Laboratory
 Department of Fisheries, Dhaka.
 E-mail: qamdaha@fisheries.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board
Strengthening Sugarcrop Cultivation Practices in CHTs Project
Rangamati
www.chtdb.gov.bd

Memo No. 29.31.0000.027.07.010.22-65 Date : 01-06-2022 AD

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders have been published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID & Reference No.	Name of works	Publishing & closing date
ID: 705070 Ref: 29.31.0000.027.07.010.22-65; Dated: 01/06/2022	Supply of Weeder Machine for the project titled "Strengthening Sugarcrop Cultivation Practices in Chittagong Hill Tracts", Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Rangamati	01-Jun-2022 09:00:00 & 16-Jun-2022 15:00:00
ID: 705071 Ref: 29.31.0000.027.07.010.22-65; Dated: 01/06/2022	Supply of Photocopier Machine for the project titled "Strengthening Sugarcrop Cultivation Practices in Chittagong Hill Tracts", Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Rangamati	01-Jun-2022 09:00:00 & 16-Jun-2022 15:00:00
ID: 705073, Ref: 29.31.0000.027.07.010.22-65; Dated: 01/06/2022	Supply of Mini Power Crusher for the project titled "Strengthening Sugarcrop Cultivation Practices in Chittagong Hill Tracts", Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Rangamati.	01-Jun-2022 09:00:00 & 16-Jun-2022 15:00:00
ID: 705025 Ref: 29.31.0000.027.07.010.22-65; Dated: 01/06/2022	Supply of motorcycles for the project titled "Strengthening Sugarcrop Cultivation Practices in Chittagong Hill Tracts", Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Rangamati	01-Jun-2022 09:00:00 & 16-Jun-2022 15:00:00

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

Mohammad Harun Or Roshid
Member-Implementation
&
Project Director
Phone: 02-333372494
E-mail: mi@chtdb.gov.bd

GD-1131



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

“I will never stand outside someone’s door for work, because I know I am good at what I do,” these words said by KK stuck with me. “I knew the day I got a chance, was the day I would make it happen.”

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Hum Rahein Ya Na Rahein Kal Kal, Yaad Aayenge Yeh Pal
Trans: Whether or not we remain, These memories will always pertain
When KK was singing these lines at Kolkata’s Nazrul Mancha on Tuesday, no one could foresee the irony of these words. Later in the night, the beloved singer would be declared deceased at Calcutta Medical Research Institute (CMRI) hospital, after suffering from a suspected heart attack.
Outrage has spread in social media regarding the circumstances of his death – with many claiming that the organisers were not reactive enough when the singer complained about feeling ill. Some accounts also said that the air conditioning at the venue was not working due to the excess crowd, causing KK to sweat profusely.
When referring to the musical wonder that is Krishnakumar Kunnath, some will say that, “he was a singer who sang till his last breath”. As a heartbroken fan, I am sceptical of this highly romanticised take on a death that could have been prevented. Meanwhile, Kolkata Police have filed an unnatural death case over the incident.

For the ones who grew up in the 2000’s, KK was the voice of love. When Sony Music launched in 1999, the artiste was scouted and chosen to be the voice of the programme, giving birth to the “Pal”, a fresh-sounding album composed by Leslie Lewis.
It wasn’t long before Bollywood picked up on his talent, as he got his big break in Ismail Darbar’s timeless “Tadap Tadap” from the movie “Hum Dil De Chukein Sanam”. By then, however, he had already voiced over 3,500 jingles.
His legacy was solidified as the “voice of the youth” in the mid 2000’s, as he gifted us with one hit after the other, including songs like “Tu Hi Meri Shab Hain”, “Aashayen”, “Khuda Jaane”, “Dil Ibadat”, “Kya Mujhe Pyar Hain”, “Aankhon Mein Teri” and “Labon Ko”, among countless hits.
KK’s voice was outstandingly crisp, and his attitude was defiantly humble. As a teenager, I had spent hours not only listening to his music, but watching his interviews online. On

multiple occasions, he had said that he did not think that he was ‘popular’, and that music was there to be heard, not ‘seen’. I had tried to emulate his voice and demeanour, even avoiding enrolling in music school for a long time, telling my insistent father that if KK didn’t need classes, neither did I.
“I will never stand outside someone’s door for work, because I know I am good at what I do,” these words said by KK stuck with me. “I knew the day I got a chance, was the day I would make it happen.”
The artiste stayed true to his words – he did not care about fame, just his music. He did not care about recognition, even after being snubbed countless times to other singers in various award shows, despite being nominated every year in his prime, not a single complaint came out of him.
With his demise, an inspiration for an entire generation is gone – gone too soon, without even saying “Alvida”. So is the voice of love, which we can now only rewind and remark, “gone too soon.”



‘Stranger Things’ smashes Netflix opening record

Netflix original “Stranger Things” is currently airing a critically acclaimed season 4, which according to the platform, is breaking their all-time opening weekend record.
Beating the past record holder, which is season two of “Bridgerton”, the streaming giant says that almost 287 million hours have been spent in watching the sci-fi drama.
While the popularity of the series has fluctuated over the years, “Stranger Things” is now one of the trending projects available for streaming right now.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ferdous-Nipun back on screen

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
The duo of Ferdous and Nipun, popular for their films “Bayanno Theke Ekator”, “Shorgo Theke Norok”, “Obujh Bou” and “Ontordhan”, among others, are coming back yet again to the silver screen with “Sujon Majhi”. The film, which has been directed by Delowar Jahan Jhontu, will shoot till July 15. In the project, Ferdous will play a rural boatman, whereas Nipun will don the role of an educated, urban girl.

NEWS

No progress after MoU

FROM PAGE 12
in September 2018 following allegations of malpractice and high recruitment cost of up to Tk 4 lakh.
In 2016, under government to government (G-2-G) plus mechanism the Malaysian government selected only 10 Bangladeshi agents to recruit workers, although the Bangladesh government had proposed 745 names.
After the latest MoU, recruiting agencies raised allegations that members of the previous “syndicate” have been active to interfere in the process again and create a “market oligopoly”.
The agencies under different banners organised a number of events in Dhaka over the past few months including roundtable discussion, press conference and human chain demanding an open market for all licensed agencies.
They also placed the issue before different government authorities, including the expatriates’ welfare ministry.
Expatriates’ Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad on a number of occasions said his priority is to create opportunity for all valid agencies and protect

workers’ rights.
Ali Haider Chowdhury, former general secretary of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), said there should be better options for migrant workers to migrate at a minimum cost.
Besides, there should be better choices for Malaysian employers to approach the “best” agencies in Bangladesh, he said.
“The market should open immediately. However, a lack of proper planning in this regard is apparent,” he added.
Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, another former secretary general of Baira, said Bangladeshi recruiting agencies are ready to start sending workers to Malaysia anytime.
As per the new MoU, Malaysia will bear Bangladeshi workers’ migration costs incurred in that country, the expatriates’ welfare ministry said in a release following the MoU.
The costs employers will cover include the service charge of the Malaysian recruiting agency, travel to and from Malaysia, and accommodation.

Moreover, employers will pay the immigration, visa, medical test, insurance, Covid-19 test, and quarantine fees in Malaysia.
The presence of Malaysian recruiting agencies will be a new inclusion in the labour-sending process. Previously, recruitments were operated by Bangladeshi agencies.
Its implementation will be regulated by the JWG.
Bangladeshi workers are expected to be hired in various sectors including plantation, agriculture, manufacturing, services, mining, quarrying, and construction.
Labour migration expert Shariful Hasan, now working at Brac, said Bangladesh needs to look at a number of issues, including migration cost, before sending workers abroad.
Migration cost should not exceed the amount of a worker’s wage for three months. However, a Bangladeshi male migrant worker needs about one-and-a-half years to recover his migration cost, he said.
There should also be monitoring to protect migrant workers’ rights such as living and work environment and

working hours to prevent exploitation.
Malaysia is the fourth largest labour market for Bangladesh after Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Since 1978, Bangladesh has sent about 10.57 lakh workers to Malaysia, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).
Before the market suspension in September 2018, Bangladesh sent 1.75 lakh workers there in that year alone, says BMET data.
In the previous three years, 1.7 lakh Bangladeshi workers went there with jobs, it says.
According to the “Cost of Migration Survey-2020” of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the average recruitment cost of a Bangladeshi worker in Malaysia is Tk 4.04 lakh and their average monthly income is Tk 25,600.
At this rate, a worker needs more than 15 months to recover the migration cost.
Until April this year from FY 2017-18, Bangladeshi migrants sent \$6.3 billion in remittance from Malaysia, Bangladesh Bank data show.

Mitali on its maiden run

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladeshi one, which started for Dhaka at 2:45pm.
It reached Dhaka Cantonment Railway Station at 10:55pm, with the 12 passengers, railway sources said. Bangladesh Railway officials and staffers welcomed the passengers with flowers at the station, they said.
BM Shahidul Islam and Md Shahjahan Ali operated the train inside Bangladesh, which was scheduled to reach Dhaka cantonment station at 10:30pm.
It will leave cantonment station at 9:50pm on Thursday and is scheduled to reach New Jalpaiguri

station in India at 7:15am on Friday.
Earlier in the day, Rail Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, who is now in India, and Indian Rail Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw jointly flagged off the train virtually from the Rail Bhavan in New Delhi at 10:10am.
The programme was telecast live online.
The fully air-conditioned direct train with 10 coaches started from New Jalpaiguri around 11:45am.
Speaking at the programme, Rail Minister Sujan asked the authorities concerned to increase the frequency of the train to five days per week, instead

of two, as the route is likely to become popular.
He sought India’s assistance in the development of Bangladesh’s railway infrastructure, particularly in the conversion of the rail tracks into broad gauge.
The Indian rail minister assured Bangladesh of all cooperation in toning up the latter’s rail infrastructure and said, “India will never go back on its word in this endeavour.”
He described the Mitali Express as “yet another milestone” in enhancing the friendship between the two countries.
The Mitali was

inaugurated by the prime ministers of both countries on March 26 last year. But its operations, however, did not start due to the pandemic.
At minister-level talks afterwards, Sujan requested his Indian counterpart to ease the billing of projects, being implemented with Indian Line of Credits, and also requested them to supply 20 locomotives.
Earlier, India supplied 10 locomotives as a grant in early 2020, but it’s not clear whether the minister sought the new locomotives as a grant or on rent.
(Our New Delhi and Niphamari Correspondents contributed the report.)

More tax hike for the well-off

FROM PAGE 1
any time of the year; for balance between Tk 3 lakh and Tk 5 lakh, the excise duty is Tk 150.
For balance between Tk 5 lakh and Tk 10 lakh, the excise duty is Tk 500. Accounts that have more than Tk 10 lakh but less than Tk 1 crore any time during a year face a Tk 3,000 deduction as excise duty by banks.
Bank accounts are the biggest source of excise duty, which saw the second-highest growth in

collection in the first 10 months of the fiscal year, according to data from the National Board of Revenue.
Between July last year and April this year, Tk 2,811.6 crore was collected as excise duty, up 23.6 percent year-on-year.
The NBR is hoping to collect Tk 3,685.7 crore in excise duty this fiscal year.
Given the elevated inflation level and the recuperating economy, the NBR’s options for tax hikes to meet fiscal 2022-23’s collection target of

Tk 370,000 crore – its biggest yet – are down to squeezing the rich.
The government is already planning a hike in duty for luxury items.
And the planned hike in excise duty on high balance accounts is not welcome by bankers.
“The receipts from imports would see a jump because of the spike in value and there has been decent growth this year too. So what was the need for this?” said a chairman of a bank asking not to be

named.
The high-value accounts are mostly savings accounts and given people’s purchasing power has decreased, a hike in excise duty would be a fresh blow.
“I would urge the government not to do this,” he added.
BCL faction
FROM PAGE 2
Chakraborty and Mohammad Rashed, leaders of the BCL faction, were assaulted near Madan Fakir Mazar Gate around 3:30am by several locals over previous enmity.
Pradeep said the men who assaulted them were drug dealers, they attacked him and Rashed.
The attackers also vandalised a motorcycle Pradeep and Rashed were riding, he added.
Soon after the incident, BCL activists blocked roads across the campus demanding arrest of the attackers.
Police arrested local Mohammad Hanif and were looking for others.

HC illegally entertained

FROM PAGE 12
561A and stayed further proceedings of the case,” a four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC led by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique observed in the 16-page verdict released yesterday.
On April 13 this year, the bench of the apex court upheld a High Court verdict that in 2017 had cleared the way for the lower court to resume the trial of the corruption case against Zubaida.

On September 26, 2008, the ACC filed the case with Kafrul Police Station against Tarique and Zubaida, who are in London, and her mother Iqbal Mand Banu for amassing assets illegally and concealing information in their wealth statement.
Following the petition filed by Zubaida, the HC on April 8, 2009, stayed the proceedings of the case against her and issued a rule asking the ACC to explain why the

proceedings against her should not be scrapped.
After holding a hearing on the rule, the HC on April 12, 2017, rejected the petition, lifted the stay order and asked Zubaida to surrender before the court concerned in eight weeks.
In the full text of the verdict, the Appellate Division scrapped the stay order delivered by the HC in 2009.
ACC’s lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the apex court’s

observation indicates that the HC bench had violated the constitution.
The SC observed, “The judiciary should not create a precedent which cannot be applicable to all...
In the premises above, we are of the view that the petitioner was a fugitive in the eye of law when she filed the application...”
Barrister Kayser Kamal, a lawyer for Zubaida, could not say anything about the apex court’s full verdict and its observations.

Ask US envoy about rights

FROM PAGE 2
see a free and fair general election in Bangladesh.
Momen yesterday said nearly 1 lakh US citizens go missing in the USA each year and even children are deprived of reuniting with their Hispanic parents.
“Ask the USA about their issues and not about Bangladesh. The USA is not obligated to govern and help improve this country of ours.”

The minister further questioned why the US obstructed the broadcast of RT TV (a Russian TV channel) if it wanted freedom of press.
“If they want accountability, why there has not been any punishment or accountability of the US security forces/police that have killed over a thousand citizens, mostly black and Hispanic, each year?”

“Why don’t you ask those questions to the US ambassador? If there [read their] election process is fair, then why young Americans don’t have faith in their election process and they hardly vote? Hardly any young Americans vote. Why their vote count is around 25 percent in each election? Does it represent a participatory election process?” the foreign minister said.

Danes vote to join EU's defence policy

AFP, Copenhagen

With the war in Ukraine forcing countries in Europe to rethink their security policy, Denmark yesterday voted in a referendum on whether to join the EU's common defence policy 30 years after opting out.

The vote in the traditionally Eurosceptic Scandinavian country of 5.5 million people comes on the heels of neighbouring Finland's and Sweden's historic applications for Nato membership. The defence opt-out means that the Scandinavian country, a founding member of Nato, does not participate in EU foreign policy where defence is concerned and does not contribute troops to EU military missions.

MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE Gandhis summoned for questioning

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's financial crime-fighting agency wants to question the two most senior members of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, who lead the main opposition Congress party, as it investigates a complaint of money laundering, the party said yesterday.

The summons by the enforcement directorate is linked to a nine-year-old complaint by a lawmaker of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul, the party said.

The lawmaker, Subramanian Swamy, had accused the Gandhis of forming a shell company and illegally gaining control of properties worth \$300 million.

The assets in question had belonged to a firm that published the National Herald newspaper, founded in 1937 by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who was Rahul Gandhi's great grandfather. The case is regarding allegations of cheating, conspiracy, and criminal breach of trust in the acquisition of the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), which ran the National Herald newspaper, by Young Indian Pvt Ltd.



Residents look for belongings in the rubble of their house after a strike destroyed three houses in the city of Slovyansk in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Not competing for influence

Says China over South Pacific; US rejects Beijing's 'opaque' pact offer, reaffirms commitment

AFP, Port Vila

China has insisted it has "no intention to compete" for influence in the South Pacific as foreign minister Wang Yi and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong again jettied around the region yesterday on duelling diplomatic charm offensives.

In a statement distributed by the Chinese embassy in Canberra, Beijing said it "does not seek exclusive rights" in the region and "we have no intention to compete with others".

The claim comes as Wang nears the end of a 10-day visit to Pacific Island nations that has seen China pitch a radically increased role in regional security, much to the concern of the United States and Australia.

"China respects Australia's historical and traditional ties in the region and there is enough space in the vast Pacific Ocean for China,

Australia and all island countries to share peace, development and prosperity," the statement said.

On Tuesday, US State Department spokesman Ned Price reiterated that the United States, like Australia, had made clear its concerns that China had offered a "shadowy" deal with regional consultations.

"We are committed to continue deepening our relationship with our Pacific Island partners and in the Indo-Pacific, including working together to deliver for our people," Price told reporters.

Although Wang failed to secure support for a regional security deal that would have seen Beijing play a much bigger role in sensitive areas including policing and cybersecurity, he has inked a series of country-specific agreements on his trip.

The visit has prompted the newly elected Australian government to embark on a diplomatic blitz to shore up decades-old alliances.

Israel troops kill 'woman attacker'

REUTERS, Hebron

A knife-wielding Palestinian woman, 31, threatened an Israeli soldier in the occupied West Bank and was shot dead yesterday, the army said, an account disputed by Palestinian officials. In a statement, the Israeli army said "an assailant armed with a knife advanced toward an IDF (Israel Defence Force) soldier who was conducting routine security activity" near Al Aroub village. "The soldiers responded with live fire," it said. The Palestinian foreign ministry condemned the killing as a "field execution". "She was en route to her work and there were no incidents there or danger to the criminals," the ministry said in a statement.

UK readies for Queen's silver jubilee party

AFP, London

Putting aside a biting inflationary crisis and doubts over the monarchy's future, Britons yesterday prepared for four days of festivities to mark a record-breaking 70 years on the throne for Queen Elizabeth II. With two public holidays from Thursday and then the weekend, pubs, restaurants and retailers are hoping for a timely sales boost, after a difficult period including the Covid pandemic.

Princess Elizabeth acceded the throne at the age of 25 after her father, King George VI died on 6 February 1952. While the Queen's accession to the throne occurred in February 1952, her Coronation did not take place for a while yet, on 2 June 1953 in Westminster Abbey. So while she acceded the throne at 25, she was crowned at age 27.



কুলাউড়া পৌরসভা
ডাক ও উপজেলা: কুলাউড়া, জেলা- মৌলভীবাজার।

Memo no :Kula/Pou/ADP/ /2021-2022/534 Date :31/05/2022

e-Tender Notice No: egp-01/ADP/KULA/2021-2022 (LTM)

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 National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to 19-06-2022 at 14.00 noon.

Sl No	Tender ID	Name of Works	Tender/proposal Document last selling Date & Time	Tender/proposal Opening Date & Time
01	705240	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-01 a) Improvement of R.C.C. Surface water drain in front of Tousif Residence at ward no.-01 Ch.00+10m b) Development of Sadekpur Road by C.C. From from Sadekpur -Faridpur Road to south direction of Mr. Arkum Ali Residence, ward no.-01, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist :- Moulvibazar, Ch.00+60m		
02	705241	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-02 a) Improvement of Behela Road west direction by C.C. from Behela main Road to Mr. Monaf Residence at ward no.-01, Ch.00+23m b) Improvement of Sunapur Road by R.C.C. From Sunapur main Road to North direction Aziz Residence, at ward no.-01, Ch.00+75m		
03	705243	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-03 Improvement of west side drain in Mr. Rafiqul Islam Renu Residence by top slab on drain at Kulaura gram, ward no.-02, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist:- Moulvibazar, Ch.00+136m		
04	705244	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-04 Maintenance of Badshagonj bazar at Uttar Bazar ward no.-03, Under Kulaura Pourashava Dist.- Moulvibazar.		
05	705245	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-05 Improvement of Uttar bazar Road by cement concrete screed from RHD Road to west direction Mr. Gous Residence at Uttar bazar ward no.-03, under Kulaura Pourashava, Ch.00+155m.		
06	705246	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-06 Maintenance of Magura Road by bituminous surfacing from Jolilbhobon to west direction GugulchiraCuvert at Magura, ward no.-04, UnderKulaura Pourashava, Dist-Moulvibazar, Ch.00+340m.		
07	705247	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-07 Construction of R.C.C. Surface water drain from Bakul Residence to existing R.C.C. Drain in front Babul mia Residence at Uslapara, ward no.-05, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist :- Moulvibazar, Ch.00+75m		
08	705248	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-08 Development of Middle Joypasha Mosque yard by C.C. at Joypasha, ward no.-06, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist :- Moulvibazar.		
09	705250	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-09 a) Improvement of Porinagar by C.C. From Porinagar C.C. Road to North direction Porinagar Brick drain, at ward no.-02, Ch.00+75m. b) Improvement of Joypasha Road by C.C. From Joypasha Town circular Road to Mr. Khurshed Residence, at ward no.-07, Ch.00+40m.	16-Jun-2022 17:00	19-Jun-2022 15:00
10	705252	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-10 a) Improvement of Joypasha Road by B.F.S from existing BC Road North direction Mr. Jolil Residence at ward no.-06, Ch.00+40m. b) Improvement of Joypasha Road by R.C.C. Palisading west side in Rafiq pond at Joypasha, ward no.-06, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist :- Moulvibazar, Ch.00+52m.		
11	705253	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-11 Improvement of Joypasha Road by B.F.S. From Rukon Residence to North direction R.C.C. Road in front of Didar Residence at ward no.-06, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist :- Moulvibazar, Ch.00+220m		
12	705254	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-12 a) Development of Kachurkapon Road by C.C. From Kachurkapon Road to East direction of Mr. HaziBacit Residence, at ward no.-08, Ch.00+90m. b) Improvement of Chatalgah Road west direction by C.C. From from existing C.C. Road to Nair Ali Residence at Chatalgah, ward no.-08, Ch.00+30m.		
13	705255	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-13 Construction of R.C.C. Surface water drain at Bademonsur Mosque Ojukhana to existing R.C.C. Drain at ward no.08, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist:- Moulvibazar, Ch.00+54m.		
14	705256	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-14 a) Development of Thana bazar by C.C. From Nowabgonj Road to Mosque, ward no.-05, Ch.00+40m. b) Improvement of Bademonsur Road by B.F.S. From R.C.C. Road to South direction Pongkimia&Moynamia Residence at ward no.-08, Ch.00+55m.		
15	705257	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-15 Development of Jaganathpur Road by C.C. West direction from Town circular Road to Mr. Sitar, at ward no.-09, Under Kulaura Pourashava, Dist :- Moulvibazar, Ch.00+95m.		
16	705258	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-16 Improvement of Laskorpur, Jaganathpur and Chandpur Road by R.C.C. Palisading in front of Samir Majumder, Mamodibabu, Alai mia, Nazrul and Panjegana Mosque pond at ward no.-09.		
17	705258	ADP/KULA/2021-22/W-17 Construction of R.C.C. Surface water drain from Kuyeti Mosque to ditch land at ward no.-07, Ch.00+100m.		

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

31/05/22
Mayor
Kulaura Pourashava

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা) SREDA
বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

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Memo No : PUST/Engg Office/e-GP/OTM/ICT Cell /2021-22/ 02 Date: 31/05/2022

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Sl No	Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
1	705699	182547	PUST/Engg. Office/e-GP/Electrical/ICT Cell	Supplying -Installation and Commissioning of 10 KVA Three Phase Online UPS With Necessary Equipment in Data Center Room Of ICT Cell at Pabna University of Science and Technology, FY 2021-2022	31-May-2022 20:00	16-Jun-2022 11:00	OTM

This is an online Tender where only e-tender 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 guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

31-05-2022
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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

No ifs or buts, DSA must be amended for everyone's sake

The law is being used to target voices of dissent

NOT long ago, we said in this column that no law should be iniquitous. But the Digital Security Act (DSA) is exactly that. It's clear as daylight now that the risks of this law far outweigh its benefits, if any, and any lingering doubt is but a refusal to accept the truth. The law minister's comment on DSA, unfortunately, fits into that category. As per a report by this daily, while responding to queries about the use and possible amendment of the law on Tuesday, he used the word "if" a total of four times. He said the government would bring changes to the act "if necessary" to ensure best practice, as the law was misused to some extent.

"To some extent" is an understatement, of course. But the phrase "if necessary" takes away from what is otherwise a creditable observation coming from a minister, and weakens the prospect of a much needed reform. Why should there still be any doubt after four long years of a law that has proven to be the single most effective instrument of human rights abuse in the country? What's left to be done but to amend or repeal it? The only scenario in which it has any practical use now is where it is a legal weapon to be wielded at will. For example, between January 2020 and February 2022, some 890 cases were filed under the DSA, and 206 of them were filed by members of the ruling Awami League and its affiliated organisations. More worryingly still, opposition activists and journalists were mostly implicated in them.

This shows that the main purpose of the law has been not to protect victims of cybercrimes but to intimidate social media users, particularly political activists, rights campaigners and journalists. It also shows that amending the law in light of international human rights standards is not just necessary but urgent, regardless of what the authorities say to justify their action or lack thereof. We have to admit, however, that the number of DSA cases and arrests has declined somewhat in recent times. The law minister cited a home ministry directive to make sure that DSA cases are sent to a cell comprising a high official and a legal analyst for examination. True, if done right, this will bring down the numbers, but it is a far cry from the reforms necessary in the law itself or how the police, judiciary and ruling party members treat cases involving voices of dissent.

We, therefore, urge the government to stop dilly-dallying and immediately amend the questionable provisions of the DSA and also ensure that no one is targeted for exercising their freedom of speech.

Revive zila parishads to better serve people

Govt must take steps to turn them into powerful institutions

IT is worrying that the country's zila parishads (district councils) are being reduced to what some observers called "rehabilitation centres" for the elderly leaders of the ruling party, as per a report. These leaders, who are mostly 70-plus (some even 80-plus), reportedly cannot run these important local government institutions properly. In other words, these veteran leaders of the districts were given the posts of administrators as rewards for their past contributions to the party. But when it comes to executing their responsibilities, they can hardly rise to the occasion.

Although a zila parishad is expected to perform 12 different types of mandatory works and 68 optional works, in reality, little activity is seen in the council offices. These institutions have been limping for years for lack of energy. It is, therefore, necessary for the people of the districts to elect the right kind of people so that the zila parishads can function at full steam.

There is no denying that despite having the potential to strengthen the arms of the local government and contribute to local development activities, the district councils are gradually being rendered useless for reasons we do not understand. Unfortunately, the council almost exists as an appendix of the district administration and as an office of the ministry of local government. We strongly believe that its revival, empowerment and proper functioning can be a significant part of the administrative decentralisation process required for establishing good governance.

It can be mentioned that although the district councils received budgetary allocations on a regular basis, subsequent governments since 1975 have not shown any interest to reorganise the councils into properly functioning local government institutions. We believe that if the current government takes initiatives to reorganise these important organs of the state, it will immensely benefit the people in general. Once sufficiently empowered, these bodies would be able to undertake various responsibilities as per their mandates.

It should also be noted that the AL government, in its first term (1971-1975), took a decision to appoint "district governors" in all the districts but with the sad demise of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975, the idea remained immaterialised. Since then, district councils have existed in the background with little visible contribution. However, significant developments began to happen with the enactment of the Zila Parishad Act 2000. But a further empowerment of the zila parishads is essential. It will be the right step towards ensuring good governance, especially from the perspective of making the system more representative, accountable and participatory.

Combatting the Syndicate Syndrome

Re-accessing the Malaysian labour market



ON THE SHORES OF (IN)JUSTICE

Dr CR Abrar is an academic. He is also the head of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and the chair of the Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants.

CR ABRAR

IN all likelihood, May 31, 2022 will mark an important milestone in the history of labour migration governance in Bangladesh. It was on this day that groups belonging to a diverse range of sectors converged in a Dhaka hotel to form a united platform to thwart the move by a powerful quarter to jeopardise the prospect of reopening the Malaysian labour market.

The group—comprising parliamentarians, members of recruitment agencies, representatives of non-governmental organisations, migration experts, and leading members of the media—was concerned that a nexus of a few Bangladeshi recruitment agencies and a powerful segment of the human resources ministry in Malaysia are trying to impose unfair and unethical conditions on the long-awaited reopening of the Malaysian labour market. They felt that if protagonists of such a move succeeded in their efforts, it would lead to massive corruption, spiking the migration cost far beyond the threshold stipulated by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), causing immeasurable harm to the migrants and a loss of remittance for the national exchequer. They recalled that such a monopolistic control of 10 recruitment agencies over the labour recruitment process in 2016-18 had eventually led to the suspension of the flow of migrant workers from Bangladesh to Malaysia by the new government after the fall of Najib Razak government.

The speakers congratulated the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister of Bangladesh for reiterating the GoB's firm stand to allow all bona fide recruitment agencies in the labour recruitment process as per the ILO conventions and the Competition Act. They, however, warned that any departure from such a principled stand by this GCM (Global Compact of Migration) champion state would amount to undermining the GoB's commitment to ethical, fair and safe recruitment at a minimal cost. Some felt that the actions of errant agencies amounted to economic sabotage of the state, and demanded exemplary punishment for those who are engaged in such activities.

The highlight of the event was the candid statement of Nur Ali, a veteran leader in the Bangladeshi recruitment industry and a member of the 2016-18 cartel. Ali narrated the negative features of syndication from his experience. He said despite clear stipulation to provide two months' advance salary and return air ticket to the workers and a service charge to the recruitment agents, such benefits never reached the workers; instead, they were made to pay several times more than the GoB stipulated amount. The hefty amounts were pocketed by those at the helm of the syndicate. He further alleged that a Malaysian *Dato* of Bangladeshi origin, with access to the corridors of power in Putrajaya, and an influential Bangladeshi recruitment agent were

the "passwords" of the recruitment process that resulted in a debacle causing immense hardship and misery to the workers, and the ultimate closure of the market for years. This captain of the industry noted that in no way do a cartel of a dozen or two recruitment agencies have the capacity to meet the demands of tens of thousands of workers that are

Although no firm figure has been slated, industry sources estimate that there is a likelihood of 1.5 to 2 million Bangladeshi workers securing employment in Malaysia over the next five years. Meeting such a high demand by a handful of agencies is a nearly impossible task. This raises the question: On what grounds is such an important



Due priority must be given to the legitimate interest of Bangladeshi migrant workers and other stakeholders in Malaysia.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

needed by the Malaysian manufacturing and services sectors. He reckoned that a syndicate-based system can at best process only a fourth of the total demand of the Malaysian labour market. Ali further shared that because of the corrupt practices inherent in the syndication system, Bangladeshi workers could not be deployed in several industries, such as manufacturing and electronics, as compliance monitoring mechanisms of those industries are strict. There is no reason it will be any different this time.

At the meeting, speakers after speakers wondered why the Malaysian human resources minister insisted on limiting the engagement of Bangladeshi recruitment agents, while provisions have been kept for more than 500 registered recruitment agents of Malaysia to take part in the process, and there is no such stipulation for bringing workers from 13 other source countries to Malaysia. Citing media reports, speakers warned that there was no consensus in Malaysia about this syndicate system. The Mahathir government discontinued the system in 2018 on grounds of high level of corruption, and if the system is adopted by the current Malaysian government, there is no guarantee that it would continue when and if a new government is formed after this year's national elections. This, in turn, may lead to the closure of the market yet again, causing huge financial losses to the unsuspecting aspirant migrants making advance payments to recruitment agencies.

There is little doubt that in the past, under the syndicated system, Bangladeshi workers had to pay many times more than the stipulated amount. In other words, the workers who were fortunate enough to secure employment had to spend several months earning only to pay off the migration costs.

and big labour market left at the mercy of 1.6 percent of the total number of registered recruitment agencies in Bangladesh? There is also the need to assess the actual capacity of the agencies that would be tasked to send workers to Malaysia. It may be noted that only a third of the 1,500 valid licence-holders have the prior experience of sending workers to Malaysia. Sending workers through a syndicated arrangement will, in all likelihood, result in Bangladesh's inability to access the sectors that are part of Malaysia's Responsible Business Alliance, a conglomeration of industries that engages workers free of cost and pays service charges to agencies that facilitate deployment, such as those in electronics, apparel manufacturing, hand gloves production, plantation and security. Can Bangladesh afford to miss accessing these important sectors?

Sending workers through a syndicated arrangement would be in breach of the Competition Act and contrary to relevant international standards that Bangladesh upholds. It would also be in contravention of the order of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that proscribed any move to form oligopoly for the Malaysian labour market.

Thus, the GoB should remain resolute in its commitment to promote free, fair and ethical recruitment, allowing all bona fide recruitment agencies to participate in the recruitment process for the Malaysian labour market. Such a stance would demonstrate the government's resolve in upholding the relevant international standards and national laws. It is time that, as a labour source, Bangladesh sent a signal that the country accords due priority to the legitimate interest of its workers and other stakeholders, and any arrangement that compromises that is unacceptable.

Guns, politicians and corporate lobbyists



Debra Efrogmson is the executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh, and author of 'Beyond Apologies: Defining and Achieving an Economics of Wellbeing.'

DEBRA EFROGMSON

ANOTHER day, another mass shooting in the US. It is hard not to feel disillusioned as people claim that, perhaps this time, politicians will finally abandon their campaign funder, the gun lobby, and pass some basic legislation. After all, 90 percent of the population wants background checks and many want a ban on assault weapons—and yet, the status quo remains. Yes, the deaths of 19 elementary school children and two teachers are shocking, but so is every mass shooting in schools—and elsewhere. The shooting in Uvalde, after all, was the 27th school shooting in the US just this year that ended in injury or death. Mass shootings occur daily. There were 693 mass shootings in 2021 alone.

Murder of 19 children is an unquestionable tragedy. Each of those children was loved by people whose lives will forever be torn apart by the loss. But what of the children who weren't killed that day? Will they sleep at night? Will

they feel safe in their classrooms? How many of them will face years, perhaps a lifetime, of trauma due to what they lived through?

There have been 311,000 children who have survived school shootings since the one in Columbine in 1999. That is 311,000 children who have survived the trauma of being in school when a shooting occurred, when their classmates and friends have been injured or killed.

Even the children who have never had a shooting at their own school are not free from the damage. They are subjected to active shooting drills. They see images on social media and on TV. They hear others discussing it. They go to school knowing that, any day, it could happen to them.

None of this is normal. Other countries have very little gun violence and have never experienced mass shootings in schools. With four percent of the world's population, the US has 40 percent of the world's guns. There are more guns than people in the US.

And what do some politicians (read: Republicans) suggest as solutions? Fewer doors in schools. And more guns. Lots, lots more guns. Because we all know that more guns lead to fewer shootings.

Let's not forget that Republicans are not incapable of passing laws to respond to perceived threats. They have passed all kinds of laws to respond to the imaginary

threats posed by illegal voters, Critical Race Theory, transgender athletes, and those seeking abortions.

So, foetuses deserve protection. But children can be shot without the authorities doing anything to reduce the likelihood of it happening in future?

The anger generated over this most recent mass shooting is gratifying. But how many times will we repeat this scenario? Intensive coverage, including some that refuses to look at causes or deliberately misleads on solutions? Politicians beholden to the gun lobby casting blame on everything but guns. Others angrily pointing their finger at the need for gun control. Then the media cycle shifts and the anger fades away. Nothing else changes. And every single day, people die from bullet wounds.

School shootings are an extreme example of grossly negligent policies due to nefarious corporate influence. They are uniquely horrific in the immediate trauma they cause. But they are hardly unique in terms of corporations paying off politicians to avoid acting in the public interest. The suffering—whether from sugary drinks, tobacco, air pollution, car crashes or the climate crisis—is just as real. And the solution is the same: People need to stand up and demand that policymakers act in their best interest, not that of the corporations.

Even the children who have never had a shooting at their own school are not free from the damage.

Bangladesh needs to be smart about US sanctions



KAS MURSHID

KAS Murshid is an economist and former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

THE US sanctions against individuals and a law enforcement agency in Bangladesh took us by surprise—especially when we found ourselves bracketed with countries like North Korea and Myanmar—sending shock waves throughout the power structure as well as the civil society. It is also clear that these sanctions are not about to be lifted anytime soon; remember the withdrawal of GSP after the Rana Plaza collapse, and the promise of its reinstatement once compliance was met? Despite very good compliance, the GSP agenda was never under serious consideration by the US.

Coming back to the sanctions: Once the shouts of “conspiracy” and the routine blame games have subsided, we will have to come to terms with the rapidly changing geopolitics, of which these sanctions are symptomatic.

It is of little consequence to discuss morality or even democracy in this context, although if those were indeed of central concern, one might have been able to conjure up a modicum of sympathy for the actions imposed. There is no denying that not all is hunky dory with our “State of Denmark.” However, who can deny that “Denmark” has risen, that enemies have been contained, that other challenges remain that might indeed require more muscle? However, it is not enough for “Denmark” to grow and expand; it must advance on other fronts as well, which, let’s simply say (although this is no simple matter), includes the rights of citizens to be better respected. It should matter not whether the US wants this from us—we obviously want it for ourselves, and if we do not, we certainly should.

Apologies for digressing. At the heart of the matter is the growing Western

discomfort with the rise of China compounded by the Ukraine crisis, which further threatens to destabilise the world order. Under the circumstances, the US would like to contain China in the Pacific as well as the Indo-Pacific. Some of you may have noted that the US sent an urgent, high-powered delegation even to the Solomon Islands, a tiny country

The human rights and democracy cards are meant to create pressure, and when deployed by the most powerful country in the world, it is best to give it serious thought. After all, the US is a country with which we have vital trade relations, and where—and this is important—we have a large number of immigrants, many of whom are

and a concern that their dominance maintained over the last 200 years can no longer be taken for granted.

If Bangladesh considers joining the Indo-Pacific treaty, it must ensure that it gets its money’s worth (think markets, technology, investment; also think GSP). There should be no hurry. So far, Bangladesh has managed to balance India and China with reasonable success. It will now have to learn a new game: how to balance China and the US. Let’s wait to see what others do—after all, many countries are likely to face a similar dilemma and will wish to stay away from superpower rivalries. As a developmental state, Bangladesh’s concerns are business, markets, and economics; it has no interest in military pacts or security treaties. I do see Myanmar as a threat, but that is something that we will have to deal with bilaterally. At any rate, it does not look as if either China or the US will help us out with that.

We have been placed in a dilemma that is not of our making. All we can do is continue to utter our constitutionally binding foreign policy mantra of “Friendship to All, Malice to None,” which, unfortunately, will not make anyone happy. In the meantime, we must vigorously avoid joining any security pact, but remain open to treaties structured around developmental goals. Given the second cold war that is clearly in the making, perhaps the need of the hour is for Jawaharlal Nehru to be resurrected to put together a new Non-Aligned Movement?

We should also note that the Biden administration has declared its intention to again assume the role of the champion of human rights and democracy. If these can be combined with geopolitical goals, so much the better! I fear, alas, that we may have to swallow some pride. If we are smart, improving human rights and democracy quickly may allow us to earn enough brownie points to put Bangladesh in a stronger position from which to negotiate our geopolitical space.



with a population of under 700,000, after it signed a treaty with China. This is eloquent testimony to the degree of sensitivity in the West around all things related to China.

The US wants Bangladesh to get on board its China (containment) project. This is a difficult ask: China is just round the block and commands an economy that will soon overtake that of the US. China is also heavily involved in mega construction projects in Bangladesh. In other words, Bangladesh is way more dependent on China than it is on the far-away US as far as investment is concerned.

▲ VISUAL: STAR

The US wants Bangladesh to get on board its China (containment) project. And this is a difficult ask.

drawn from Bangladesh’s upper classes. Bangladesh cannot afford to earn the ire of the US.

While we may cry foul that similar or worse rights violations have occurred elsewhere with nearly zero consequences (e.g. in Israel, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Afghanistan, India, Cambodia, Turkey) or that there are growing rights abuses in the West itself, given the rise of neo-Nazis and white supremacists, and a history of violent racism against black and indigenous populations, our cries will be of little avail. The main issue is China, and perhaps the coming cold war. The main issue is Western insecurity,

A new great game begins. Will Bangladesh be in it?



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for The Daily Star. He writes from New Delhi, India

Hardly noticed but one of the most important parts of Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s speech at a conclave in Guwahati on May 28 was his efforts to weave the sea connectivity through Bangladesh and road link through Myanmar into the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), a US-led initiative agreed on by India, Australia, Japan and 10 other countries, mostly from Southeast Asia.

Detailing the road, rail and riverine transport connectivity between India and its neighbours in both bilateral and subregional templates, Jaishankar brought up a vision of more integrated South and Southeast Asian economies, saying this offered a “complete transformation of the regional economy.” This, he said, would let the region shed its outlier tag and turn it into a hub of economic activities, with shorter supply lines in and out of the area via the expansion of the outlets to global access. Pointing to the confluence of India’s Act East and Neighbourhood First policies, he cited the proposed land connectivity through Myanmar to Thailand and sea connectivity through Bangladesh to Southeast Asia as ways that would link South Asia to Vietnam and the Philippines. This, he argued, would “make a difference to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.” Jaishankar was clearly trying to hard-sell the IPEF just four days after it was decided on. The Bangladesh foreign minister was among the dignitaries present at the event.

The IPEF stands on four pillars: 1) Trade; 2) Secure and resilient supply chains; 3) Green energy infrastructure; and 4) Standards of transparency through fair taxation and anti-corruption. As of now, the IPEF is not a trade agreement, but a platform. There is no talk about tariff cuts, but of common standards defining the four pillars of the IPEF, which accounts for half of the world’s population and a sizable portion of the global GDP. It is too early to conclude if the IPEF is a prelude to Donald Trump’s Trans-Pacific Trade agreement in a different cloak. But the IPEF has taken care to ensure that participants to the initiative would only begin consultations and not launch negotiations to start with. Trump’s successor, Joe Biden, knows any whiff of tariff cuts is not only sensitive to the US internal constituency, but would also

dissuade many countries from joining the IPEF.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan touted the IPEF as a “new model” to promote economic partnership among the Indo-Pacific countries, but admitted the challenges that stand in the way. Barring the one relating to supply chain resilience, all the other three pillars of the IPEF have ingrained in them concerns for all the 13 countries that have agreed so far to be a part of it. For instance, there are bound to be concerns among a majority of the countries over the US insistence on environmental and labour standards on the manufacturing and trade fronts. Secondly, green energy could pose a challenge to the developing countries, if the targets of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission cuts are thrust on them without being assured of generous funds from the developed countries for building renewable energy sources.

The third thorny issue relating to the trade pillar could be the digital economy component of it, particularly the demand by India on the localisation of data storage by India on the localisation of data storage by multinational firms. The pillar of anti-corruption and transparency may also throw up problems for countries that are yet to sign up to global conventions on the subject.

Perhaps the biggest political issue that could crop up for many countries keen to sign on the IPEF is to assess how it provides an alternative to China’s aggressive economic diplomacy worldwide with liberal finances. It must be remembered that many countries—including India, which agreed to join the IPEF process—have very robust trade ties with China. All the Asean member countries are part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, which means a vital supply chain route already exists. So, how does the IPEF project itself as a more viable alternative, unless it comes up with something better both in terms of providing funds and technology?

At the Tokyo summit, QUAD committed USD 50 billion to building up infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region and opposed China’s illegal fishing in the seas of the region and militarisation of disputed territories—a declaration that has resonance not only in India, but also in a number of Southeast Asian countries which have boundary issues with China. The IPEF needs to do a lot more to chip away into China’s economic dominance in the Indo-Pacific. The IPEF countries, and those aspiring to join it, have to weigh the benefits and risks, if any, of joining the arrangement.

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১২/১১, উত্তর চাষাড়া			
নারায়ণগঞ্জ			
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১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
২.	এজেন্সি	:	সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর
৩.	সম্বোধক সত্তার নাম	:	মহাপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৪.	সম্বোধক সত্তার জেলা	:	নারায়ণগঞ্জ।
৫.	যে কার্যের দরপত্র	:	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর, নারায়ণগঞ্জের আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন আবাদিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুযায়িক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।
৬.	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	নং- ৪১.০১.৬৭০০.০০০.১৬.০০১.২২.৩৭৬, তারিখঃ ৩০/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৭.	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	:	৩১/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ
৮.	সম্বোধক পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম.)
৯.	বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস	:	রাজস্ব বাজেট (জি.ও.বি.)
১০.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	:	১টি।
১১.	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম	:	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচালিত মুসলিমদের বায়তুল আমান সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালক), ফতুল্লা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, গোদনাইল, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), রূপগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ও সমন্বিত দুটি প্রতিবেদী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, মুসলিমদের ফতুল্লা, নারায়ণগঞ্জের নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুযায়িক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল (ক.এম.প. খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক পেরিশীল ও অপেরেশনাল), খ.এম.প. শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী ও অন্যান্য, ঘ.এম.প.খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক ও বিবিধ ব্যবহারিক, ঙ.এম.প. বিবিধ মালামাল। সরবরাহ।
১২.	দরপত্রের সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়		দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১৩.	১ম বার	১০/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ সময় বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	১৩/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
১৪.	২য় বার (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)	০৮/০৭/২০২২খ্রিঃ সময় বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	১১/০৭/২০২২খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
	৩য় বার (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)	২৮/০৭/২০২২খ্রিঃ সময় বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	২৯/০৭/২০২২খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
১৫.	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা		
ক.	মূল দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রির		
খ.	দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণ		
গ.	দরপত্র দাখিল খোলা		
১৬.	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা		
১৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য		
	ক্রম	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	সিডিউল মূল্য
	ক	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুযায়িক (পেরিশীল ও অপেরেশনাল)	১০০০/-
	খ	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাদনী	৫০০/-
	ঘ	খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুযায়িক ও বিবিধ ব্যবহারিক	৫০০/-
	ঙ	বিবিধ মালামাল	৫০০/-
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম		
১৯.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী		
২০.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা		
২১.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগ নম্বর		
শর্তাবলী:			
ক)	পি.পি.এ.-২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর.-২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) -এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সন্দেশ পদ্ধতি বহনকারী অনুসরণ করা হবে।		
খ)	গৃহীত দরপত্রের নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দর ১০% পরফরমেস সিডিউরটি মনি প্রাক্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যসিদ্ধ প্রদান করা হবে।		
গ)	ক-এম.প. ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাক্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যসিদ্ধ প্রদান করা হবে।		
ঘ)	কর্তৃপক্ষ করণ দর্শনো বাতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিরের ক্ষমতা সসেধন করেন।		
ঙ)	দরপত্র ক্রয়ের তারিখ হতে দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখের নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।		
চ)	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা: বিজ্ঞপিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।		

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Rehman Sobhan, the incurable optimist

Whether or not the nationalised industries could function efficiently became the litmus test for the efficacy of the socialist development strategy in Bangladesh. Sobhan put his heart and soul into making nationalisation a success.

S. NAZRUL ISLAM

The second volume of Rehman Sobhan's memoirs, *Untranquil Recollections: Political Economy of Nation Building in Post-Liberation Bangladesh* (University Press Limited, 2022) deals primarily with the years of 1972 to 1975, which comprise probably the most complex period of the nation's history. Titanic battles were fought over the policy direction of the country. Over a short period of about three and a half years, the epochal triumph of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman ended in a tragedy. Sobhan's memoir begins with his return to liberated Bangladesh and ends with his going to exile (at the end of December, 1975) after the coup of August 15. The heart of the story lies in the narration of his experience as a member of Bangladesh's Planning Commission (BPC).

As we know from the first volume of his memoirs, *Untranquil Recollections: Years*

election in light of the 6-point and 11-point charters; work out the implications of these charters for the future constitution of Pakistan; and finally conduct the negotiations with the Yahya team in March 1971. Following the crackdown of March 25 and the onset of the Liberation War, they crossed the border to India and made themselves available for the service of the government in exile; most of them went abroad as its envoy to mobilise international support for the independence of Bangladesh. Given this history, one can well imagine the excitement with which Sobhan and his colleagues returned to Bangladesh and how eager they were to help build the new nation.

Regarding this basic task, the four professors differed on two levels. The first was regarding their belief in socialism. In this regard, Mosharraf Hossain, Anisur Rahman and Rehman Sobhan—all had sympathies for socialism. Nurul Islam, however was the skeptic. The second was regarding the capacity of the Awami League government in implementing socialism. In this regard, the most skeptical seemed to be Mosharraf Hossain, who actually led the Planning Department of the government-in-exile, while Islam, Sobhan, and Rahman served as envoys abroad. Hossain, therefore, had the opportunity of seeing from close-quarters Awami League in action during the Liberation and hence was more aware of its limitations. Anisur Rahman had serious doubts and was not eager to join the BPC but allowed the possibility of "educating" the ruling party through their joint efforts. Islam also had misgivings on this account but could not decline Bangabandhu's invitation to help him in the effort. It was only Sobhan who not only shared Bangabandhu's commitment to socialism but also "genuinely believed that the objective conditions dictated that a process of social transformation could be carried through."

The knowledge about these initial differences helps us to understand the various *modus operandi* that the four professors adopted subsequently. For example, Rahman wanted to test the commitment of the political leadership to the goal of socialism. Accordingly, he wrote "visionary papers" and wanted the Cabinet to react to them. He emphasised the need for the leadership to practice austerity (such as riding bicycles to their offices) to set an example to the people of shared sacrifice. Unless this basic commitment issue was sorted out, Rahman was not interested in developing detailed policy papers and plans. Seeing that the political leadership was

not responsive to his broad suggestions, he concluded that socialism was not possible with such a leadership and, accordingly, was the first among the four professors to leave the BPC.

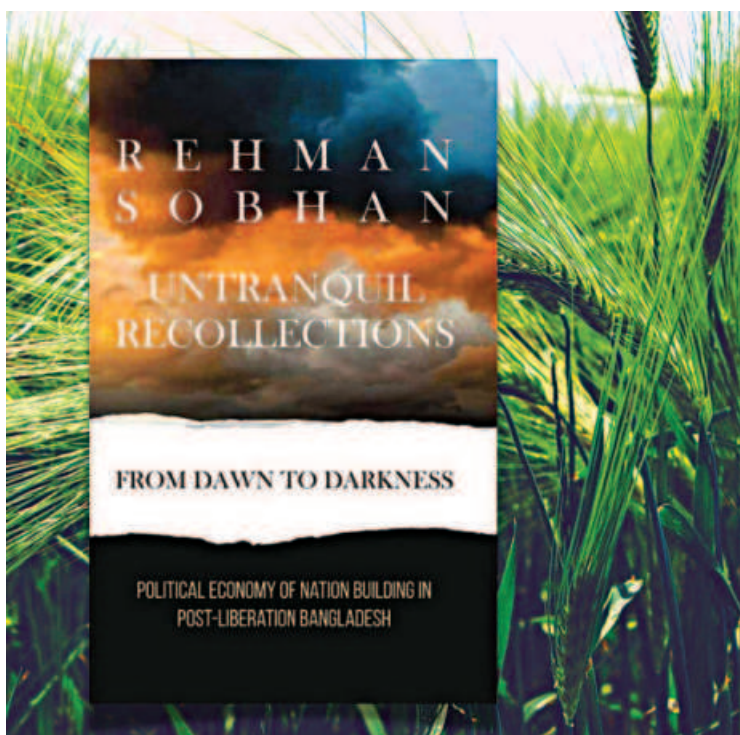
It was Sobhan who was, in his own words, the "incurable optimist," who took "Bangabandhu's statements at their face value" and worked earnestly to develop plans and policies that were necessary to follow up on those statements. He "assumed an activist role," and went "beyond [his] areas of responsibility." This of course led him into conflict with many line ministries whose officials thought that he was overstepping and encroaching into their domains.

Among the divisions that Sobhan was in charge of was industries, and given the nationalisation policy of 1972 (March), it was also the main theatre where the fate of the socialist way of development was being decided.

Whether or not the nationalised industries could function efficiently became the litmus test for the efficacy of the socialist development strategy in Bangladesh. Sobhan put his heart and soul into making nationalisation a success. He shows that the record of the nationalised enterprises was not as dismal as was portrayed by certain sections of the press. As he informs, the output of the nationalised sector as a whole by 1973-74 had gone well beyond the 1969-70 level, and by 1975-76 surpassed the pre-Liberation levels. Thus, he does not agree with the widespread notion that nationalisation failed in Bangladesh—a notion that was reinforced later by the collapse of the centrally planned economies.

It is well-known that Bangabandhu was quite welcoming to prominent intellectuals joining his party and becoming political ministers. Kamal Hossain is a prominent example. As Nurul Islam informs in detail in his *Making of a Nation*, Bangabandhu repeatedly urged him to become a political minister. We know that Islam declined the offer, because, in his words, he did not have the necessary "fire in the belly." Rehman Sobhan definitely did. He could not pursue the course, in part, because it would have required him "to become fluent in Bangla." As he puts it, "my failure to do so remains one of the most unforgivable mistakes in my life, and I have paid a heavy political price for my irresponsibility." Indeed, one wonders what a positive difference it would make for the nation if Rehman Sobhan had emerged as a political leader of Bangladesh.

Dr. S. Nazrul Islam is former Chief of Development Research, United Nations and Visiting Professor, Asian Growth Institute.



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

of *Fulfillment* (2015), Rehman Sobhan was one of the Bengali economists who, with Nurul Islam in the lead, developed and articulated the economic rationale for the struggle of the people of Bangladesh against discrimination within Pakistan and for national self-determination. They helped Bangabandhu and Tajuddin formulate the Awami League manifesto for the 1970



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Labour pains worsened by faulty healthcare

JACKIE KABIR

"My pain was so severe that I ran a fever of 104 degrees, and as I shook and trembled uncontrollably, the doctors finally performed an emergency C-section", reveals Anushay Hossain, author of *The Pain Gap* (Simon and Schuster, 2021), in the introduction of her book. A few lines later, she continues, "I am in America. I will be fine. I know I'm not going to die in childbirth in Washington DC!"

Well, that would have been our thought as well. Who would think that women could die during childbirth in the US in this era?

In *The Pain Gap*, Hossain tells us about her near-death experience while giving birth in America. After 30 hours of labour and three hours of pushing, her epidural had slipped and hence she had no anaesthesia.

While recounting these experiences, she also informs us how the word "hysteria" was first used by Hippocrates, father of medicine, the person in whose name doctors take oath before entering their profession. "The book is about the journey of learning to own my hysteria and rebrand it for the 21st century. It is the story of growing up in Bangladesh, surrounded by a staggering maternal mortality rate," Anushay writes.

The nine chapters flow eloquently, starting from "The First Feminist I Ever Knew". The author talks about her mother, our very own Tasmima Hossain, who shaped her to become what she is today, a women's rights and human rights activist. She is also a feminist writer, political analyst and host of the *Spilling Chai* podcast. We get to know of Wasifa, who was a caregiver and cook for the author, who in the author's mind held a resemblance to Pablo Picasso's 'The Portrait of Françoise'. One has to Google the painting just to see what she looked like. At a tender age Anushay was touched by Wasifa's death at childbirth, which may have shaped her interest in working in this field. In the chapter "A Bangladeshi Girl in Capitol Hill", Hossain mentions that she had learnt a lot there as a lobbyist, such as how the Taliban banned women from workplaces and shrouded them in blue burkhas. She found a way to help the women by joining the Feminist Majority Foundation's 'Afghan Women and Girls' campaign and worked for organisations such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women and the International Violence Against Women Act. One of the most striking pieces of information we get from her book is that the USA, which seems to be a vehement advocate of human rights and equality, in reality does not take women patients very seriously. During her own labour, when she repeatedly said she was in pain, the doctors refused to believe her only to find that her epidural had slipped.

Hossain reminds us how the situation is even worse for women of colour, especially Black women. Studies show that Black patients are 40 percent less likely to receive medication to ease acute pain and Hispanic patients 25 percent likely. She points out that, even though women make up three quarters of healthcare workers, including 85 percent of nurses, and women of child bearing age make up 70 percent of frontline workers, pregnant women were not included in vaccine trials for the Covid-19 pandemic. This is an American perspective, we don't know what it is like in developing countries.

It has become increasingly difficult for women to deal with issues like depression and domestic violence since the pandemic, but the author, we find, has gone through some harsh experiences and seen most harrowing experience of feminist issues that had made her evolve as a new human being.

Dr. Jamila Taylor, the Director at the Century Foundation, is a policy expert and advocate in maternal health space. She has pointed out that Covid-19 has shown us how Black and Hispanic women get sick from Covid and die. The disparity in healthcare outcomes across the board is real, not just something that people working in the health equity space have harped on about for the past four decades. To this Anushay replies, when being questioned about how a book on women's health in America would make any difference for Bangladeshi women, "If human rights and health issues are not improved in America then women in the rest of the world will definitely not stand a chance".

Jackie Kabir is a writer and translator from Bangladesh. The titular story from her first collection of stories, *Silent Noise*, is being taught in BA Courses in colleges under Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tamil Nadu.

FROM PAGES TO PIXELS

LOST LOVE AND ITALIAN SUMMERS

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

On May 25, Netflix shared a teaser for their upcoming feel-good romance, *Love & Gelato*, and as an ardent reader of young-adult romance, I could not keep calm. The film is an adaptation of Jenna Evans Welch's book of the same name, published by Simon & Schuster in 2016, and is set amidst the fairytale backdrop of the Italian summer. Written and directed by Brandon Camp, the film will feature Owen McDonnell, Susanna Skaggs, Tobia De Angelis, and Anjelika Washington in lead roles. It is all set to hit the screens on June 22 this year.

The story revolves around the life and adventures

I have been a fan of this author's Love &... trilogy and am eagerly looking forward to the adaptation. The teaser of the upcoming movie further hypes my interest. The sneak peek reveals several important details, right from navigating the journal to exploring the magic of Italy behind Ren's scooter.



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

of Lina, a college aspirant recovering from the trauma of losing her mother. In an attempt to fulfill her mother's dying wish and find her father, she sets off to spend her summer in Tuscany. Here, she is presented with her mother's journal which takes her through hidden bakeries, pretty landscapes, secret stories, and introduces her to Italy's infamous gelato. The old journal narrates a separate story of its own, connecting the dots between past and present. By revisiting the places explored by her late mother, Lina gets a good glimpse into her life and begins to understand her like never before.

Love & Gelato is a beautiful book that left me with a wide smile and sense of fulfillment. It has everything a young-adult romance needs—lovable characters, protagonists slowly falling in love, and cute expressions of first love. The descriptions are so vivid that it took me on a magical tour of Italy and it seemed that I was vicariously exploring the place through the journal itself.

The book manages to address grief and then transforms it into a warm, wholesome read. I particularly loved the way Welch addresses familial relationships, breaking our perceptions about ideal families. By the end of the book, Lina not only

unearths secrets about her late mother's life but also rediscovers herself as she evolves during the process.

I have been a fan of this author's *Love &... trilogy* and am eagerly looking forward to the adaptation. The teaser of the upcoming movie further hypes my interest. The sneak peek reveals several important details, right from navigating the journal to exploring the magic of Italy behind Ren's scooter.

Maisha Islam Monamee is a student of IBA, DU and a freelance journalist who likes reading, scribbling, and blogging. Follow her, @monameereads, on Instagram.

SPORT

What to
WATCHTEN 2 & SONY SIX
French Open
Semifinals
Live from 04:00pmSONY TEN 1
UEFA Nations League
Spain vs Portugal
Live from 12:45 am (Friday)Fahim sure
Mominul
will return to
form

SPORTS REPORTER

Just one day after his resignation as captain of the Bangladesh Test side, Mominul Haque was seen spending time in the outer nets of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday with his mentor Nazmul Abedeen, working on his batting.

Mominul has been under tremendous pressure over his poor form. The 30-year-old has averaged just 16.20 so far this year, with 162 runs in six matches. According to Fahim, the cricketer looked confident with his approach in the nets and the veteran coach believed that there was a high chance of Mominul returning to form during the upcoming West Indies tour.

"Whenever he plays next, he will play well. I felt that while he was going through the sessions. He looks confident and it seems he is enjoying his batting. It means that he is feeling better but he will be relieved once he starts to score again on the field," Fahim told The Daily Star.

Fahim, who worked with Mushfiqur Rahim ahead of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka not so long ago, said that a fear of failure could be the biggest distraction for batters and it would be important for Mominul to stay focused.

"When you are not feeling good, distractions come into play. You face a lot of distractions brought on by fear of failure and wondering if you are good enough since you have failed. But when you are playing with confidence, it makes you feel whatever you are trying is going well. Then you wait for the next ball. But once you don't have that, the fear of failure comes in.

"When Mushfiqur played the first ball of the Test series, it looked like he was defending with supreme confidence and that confidence happened because of the work he had done before the start of the series in the training sessions. I hope the same thing will happen to Mominul as well," he said.

MOMINUL
TURNS FOCUS
TO BATTING

Just a day after stepping down as Bangladesh's Test captain, Mominul Haque was seen working on his batting with his mentor Nazmul Abedeen Fahim at the outer nets of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. [Inset] Meanwhile, along with batting coach Jamie Siddons was all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who returned to training following a finger injury and is also being considered as one of the options for succeeding Mominul as the national Test captain.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Agenda unclear in
regards to captaincy

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket board's (BCB) 'unofficial agenda' in today's board meeting is set to be its most urgent one as they look for a replacement for former Test skipper Mominul Haque, who stated officially on Tuesday that he no longer wanted to remain Test captain.

Media committee chairman Tanvir Ahmed Titu said during a briefing that the discussion may not come as an agenda when queried on whether the replacement of Mominul as Test skipper was the most important agenda in the board meeting.

One BCB official earlier remarked to the media, even before Mominul's decision came, that the board had backups in case Mominul wanted to step away. Something certainly does not add up as the BCB strolled between the pretty thick lines of not having thought of replacing

Mominul as captain and claiming it was not part of the board meeting's agenda and the other extreme of 'serving a notice' by stating they had backups.

The BCB president Nazmul Hassan had on Wednesday told this

newspaper that Mominul's replacement was to be discussed or at the very least he will have to stay on as captain for a certain period.

"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," he had said.

However, through this medley of various insinuations by the BCB, sources close to the board claim that unless something dramatic happens in the board meeting, Shakib Al Hasan is most likely to take over as captain.

The BCB president had earlier also claimed that Shakib not being available during many of the past Test series, was a major obstacle to choosing him as captain. It could be surmised from many of the BCB officials' remarks that there had been discussions with Shakib but there was the 'unpredictability' factor still at play which relates to Shakib's tendency to pick and choose series. It may very well be that BCB chooses the skipper for the tour of West Indies on an ad hoc basis.

Team director Khaled Mahmud said that the matter of Test captaincy will be discussed keeping various issues in mind. He said it was perhaps too early for the likes of Liton Das or Mehedi Hasan Miraz. He was however of the opinion that Shakib

captaining the team would be a good thing.

"I haven't talked to Shakib about captaincy but we have talked about other issues. Even yesterday we were discussing the West Indies series and match situations. He has a lot of knowledge regarding the game and it's always good to talk with him because of that. He can mix well with everyone and I think if he gets the captaincy, it will be good for the team," Mahmud told reporters yesterday.

However, that unpredictability of when Shakib may or may not be available does not speak to the BCB's plans in terms of the continuity the board wants from a captain. Mahmud said that they wanted a captain instated for at least a two-year time period. What of Shakib's tendency to skip series? Mahmud had a different take compared to media's perception.

"Shakib always wants to play Tests now, I don't know how this thing came about that he doesn't want to play Tests. Whenever I talk to him, Shakib says: 'I enjoy Tests more than other formats and I want to play Tests'. If he wants captaincy, maybe once given a responsibility, it will bring a change in him. I am not saying that Shakib will definitely be the captain. Tamim [Iqbal] is also there since [Mahmudullah] Riyad has left the format. Mushy [Mushfiqur Rahim] is there too but if he wants to accept it is a big factor," he remarked.

Neymar doubtful
for Korea friendly

AFP, Seoul

Brazil superstar Neymar could miss his side's friendly match against South Korea on Thursday after injuring his foot during training on the eve of the game.

Neymar grabbed his right foot and fell to the turf after colliding with a teammate during the session at Seoul World Cup Stadium on Wednesday. He was quickly attended to by a trainer and limped off the field, but did not return.

During a pre-match press conference, team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar's right foot had swollen and it was too early to determine his status for Thursday's match.

"We'll have to keep an eye on his foot until tomorrow morning," the doctor said through an interpreter. "Right now, it's difficult to say with any certainty whether he'll be able to play. We'll have to see tomorrow morning."

Neymar posted an image of his bruised foot on Instagram, showing what appeared to be visible swelling.

Stokes wants
England to feel
'free' against NZ

AFP, London

New England captain Ben Stokes said he wanted everyone in the side to "feel free" under his leadership as James Anderson and Stuart Broad were recalled for the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's starting Thursday.

Stokes has taken over as skipper from Joe Root, with England on a woeful run of one win in 17 Tests.

But the all-rounder told reporters at Lord's on Wednesday: "There's been a lot of talk about a 'reset', which is a word I don't like. "I just see it as a completely blank canvas."

"I just want everyone to feel free under my captaincy. This is our time and we are going to dictate how things go forward. Everyone is starting fresh."

Anderson, 39 and Broad, 35, England's two most successful bowlers of all time, with a combined 1,177 wickets between them, were both controversially left out of the squad for a 1-0 series loss in the West Indies earlier this year.



Poland's Iga Swiatek clenches her fist after winning the quarterfinal match against Jessica Pegula of the USA in the French Open at the Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris on Wednesday. The Polish star cruised to a 6-3, 6-2 win to set up a last-four meeting with Daria Kasatkina.

PHOTO: AFP

Cabrera, Jamal happy with
draw against Indonesia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera and captain Jamal Bhuiyan expressed their satisfaction after holding Indonesia to a goalless draw in a FIFA friendly match in Bandung last night.

The second draw in a row under Cabrera will certainly boost the confidence of the men in red and green as they fly to Kuala Lumpur today for the Asian Cup Qualifiers, also involving hosts Malaysia, Bahrain and Turkmenistan, scheduled to get underway on June 8.

With some key players unavailable due to the injury and suspension, it was a tough job for Cabrera to pick the right combination. The Spanish coach apparently emphasised on his defence in the selection by deploying two defensive midfielders - Jamal Bhuiyan and Atiqur Rahman Fahad - ahead of four-man backline, marshalled by makeshift backline of Bishwanath Ghosh, Tutul Hossain Badsha, Yeasin Arifat at left-back and Rimon Hossain at right-back.

The match was a good platform for experiment for the coach, who gave

debutant Sazzad Hossain a start as No. 9 while using uncapped Papon Singh in midfield towards the end. The coach also gave valuable gametime to young Faisan Ahmed Fahim and Meraj Hossain ahead of the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

While the hosts dominated the match, Bangladesh were relieved to not



have conceded a goal, courtesy of a few good saves from goalkeeper Ansiur Rahman Zico and the failure of the hosts' forwards contributed to the cause.

Speaking after the match, Cabrera said he was happy with the execution of his plan.

"For us the game was mostly about the way we need to play in Malaysia. We knew about their strengths and we knew we had to play with good intensity and defensive organisation if we wanted to stop them. Players have done an outstanding and

fantastic job. For us it was a good result," the Spaniard told the post-match press conference.

Playing in front of a full-house crowd was a motivation for the team, captain Jamal felt.

"Thanks to the Indonesian fans. From a player's perspective, it's wonderful to see full gallery... Sometimes this kind of pressure situation can be motivating for the opponent.

"Overall I think it was a decent game for us. Of course we can improve but I guess somebody has to be happy about this match and it has to be Bangladesh.

"I think the result is a good step and a confidence-booster. For us it is a good preparation. The result doesn't matter because we are here for the preparation and that's the important thing," the Bangladesh captain added.

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Mitali on its maiden run

Took 11 hours to reach Dhaka from New Jalpaiguri

STAR REPORT

Mitali Express, the third passenger train between Bangladesh and India, has started operations yesterday, after railways ministers of the two countries flagged it off virtually.

The train reached Chilahati rail station in Bangladesh's Nilphamari at 2:10pm, with 12 passengers on board, after crossing Chilahati-Haldibari border.

A passenger train used the Chilahati-Haldibari interchange for the first time since 1965. The route was revived in December 2020 for freight trains.

After a 30-minute break at Chilahati, the Indian diesel-run locomotive was replaced with a

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The Mitali Express began its journey from New Jalpaiguri after railways ministers of India and Bangladesh flagged it off virtually yesterday. This is the third passenger train between the two countries.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ZUBAIDA'S PLEA HC illegally entertained it: SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court has declared that a High Court bench had illegally entertained a petition of Zubaida Rahman, wife of BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, as she filed the plea while being a fugitive.

In the full text of a verdict, the SC reasoned that Zubaida had filed the petition without surrendering to the trial court that was dealing with a corruption case.

"... the rule issuing bench of the High Court Division overstepped in its jurisdiction in not considering that the petitioner filed the application under section 561A of the Code of Criminal Procedure without surrendering to the jurisdiction of the appropriate court and thus illegally entertained the application under section

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US 'adding fuel to the fire'

Says Moscow as Biden agrees to provide Kyiv with longer range missiles

AGENCIES

The Kremlin yesterday accused Washington of "adding fuel to the fire" by planning to supply Kyiv with advanced missile systems, as Ukraine looked close to losing the key eastern city of Severodonetsk to Russian forces.

"We believe that the United States is adding fuel to the fire deliberately and on purpose," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Such supplies" do not encourage Kyiv to resume peace talks, Peskov said, adding that Washington wanted to "fight Russia to the last Ukrainian." President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced that US would be supplying Ukraine with advanced missile systems, including the Himars multiple-launch rocket system that can simultaneously launch multiple precision-guided missiles.

"We have moved quickly to send Ukraine a significant amount of weaponry and ammunition so it can fight on the battlefield and be in the strongest possible position at the

negotiating table," Biden wrote in an opinion piece in the New York Times.

Earlier Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said that the planned delivery of these new US weapons to Ukraine increased the risk of drawing the United States into direct conflict with Russia.

"Any arms supplies that continue, are on the rise, increase the risks of such a development," Ryabkov was quoted as saying by state news agency RIA Novosti.

Both Ukraine and Russia already operate multiple-launch rockets systems, but the Himars has superior range and precision.

The Himars system that Washington is providing to Ukraine will have a range of about 80 kilometres (50 miles), reports AFP.

Ryabkov said the US was determined to "wage war (on Moscow) to the last Ukrainian in order to inflict, as they say, a strategic defeat on Russia".

"This is unprecedented, this is dangerous," he said.

World's largest plant discovered off Australian coast

CNN ONLINE

The world's largest living plant has been identified in the shallow waters off the coast of Western Australia, according to scientists.

The sprawling seagrass, a marine flowering plant known as Posidonia australis, stretches for more than 112 miles (180 kilometres) in Shark Bay, a wilderness area protected as a World Heritage site, said Elizabeth Sinclair, a senior research fellow at the School of Biological

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MIGRATION TO MALAYSIA

No progress after MoU

JAMIL MAHMUD

Bangladesh is missing out on a large labour market in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur stopped taking in any fresh Bangladeshi migrants over irregularities by recruiting agencies in 2018.

Four years on, the fourth largest labour market for Bangladesh is yet to start the recruitment, affecting the remittance inflow from the Southeast Asian nation.

After prolonged negotiations, Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December last year to start sending migrants from Bangladesh under a new arrangement. But officials are yet to finalise the details required to start the migration process.

Relevant officials of the two countries are likely to discuss the update today, after several scheduled meetings were postponed on request from the Malaysian authorities, Bangladesh officials said.

The Malaysian Embassy in Dhaka did not respond to our email requesting its comment on the progress made on the MoU.

Following the December MoU, the two sides laid importance on necessary paperwork to sort out various details, including migration cost, medical test, and involvement of recruiting agencies.

In a letter to Malaysian Human Resources Minister M Saravanan on January 18, Bangladesh Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad proposed a meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising officials from both sides to finalise and implement the recruitment process.

"We had agreed to hold a meeting on May 26. However, the Malaysian side requested us to shift the date," he told The Daily Star last week.

Since January, several other agreed upon dates had to be changed at the request of Malaysian officials, he added.

However, he is "hopeful" about a positive outcome from the meeting scheduled for today, saying his priority is to protect workers' rights.

Malaysia currently hosts about 800,000 Bangladeshi workers.

It banned labour recruitment from Bangladesh

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"The market should open immediately. However, a lack of proper planning in this regard is apparent."

Ali Haider Chowdhury, former general secretary of Baira

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জরুরি গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় পণ্যের অবৈধ মজুত ও অস্বাভাবিক মূল্য নির্ধারণ বিষয়ক

ইদানিং লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কিছু কিছু অসাধু ব্যবসায়ী নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় পণ্যের অবৈধ মজুত বা অস্বাভাবিক মূল্য নির্ধারণ করার মাধ্যমে পণ্য সরবরাহ শৃঙ্খলকে (Supply Chain) বিঘ্নিত করছে এবং বাজারে কৃত্রিম সংকট সৃষ্টি করছে। ফলে জনমনে অস্থিতি ও বাজারে অস্থিতিশীলতা তৈরি হচ্ছে।

যড়যন্ত্রমূলক যোগসাজশ (Collusion) বা অন্য কোনো উপায়ে প্রয়োজনীয় পণ্য ও সেবার উৎপাদন ও সরবরাহ সীমিতকরণ, অতিরিক্ত পণ্য মজুত, ক্রয় বা বিক্রয়মূল্য অস্বাভাবিকভাবে নির্ধারণ ইত্যাদি কর্মকান্ড প্রতিযোগিতা আইন, ২০১২ এর ধারা ১৫(২)(ক)(অ) এবং ১৫(২)(খ) অনুযায়ী শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। প্রতিযোগিতা বিরোধী এ সকল কর্মকান্ড থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় প্রতিযোগিতা আইন, ২০১২ অনুযায়ী শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

ব্যবসা-বাণিজ্য প্রতিযোগিতা বিরোধী কর্মকান্ড সম্পর্কে যে কোনো ব্যক্তি/ব্যক্তিবর্গ কমিশনে অভিযোগ করতে পারেন। অভিযোগকারীর পরিচয় গোপন রাখা হবে। কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইট/ইমেইল/ফেসবুক পেজ/ডাকযোগে বা সরাসরি অভিযোগ দাখিল করা যাবে।

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HC stays 3 cases under DSA against Kajol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the trial proceedings against photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol in three cases filed under the much-talked-about Digital Security Act.

The bench of Justice ASM Abdul Mobin and Justice Md Atoar Rahman passed the order after Kajol filed three appeals challenging the trial court orders that framed charges against him in the cases.

The court also set July 28 for the final hearing of the appeals, Deputy Attorney General Sujit Chatterjee told The Daily Star.

He added that the state would move an appeal before the Appellate Division of

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২০২২-২০২৩ কর বৎসরের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়করের ৪র্থ কিস্তি প্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কর অঞ্চল-১১, ঢাকার অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন সম্মানিত করদাতাদের জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৬৪ ধারা মোতাবেক যে সকল করদাতার সর্বশেষ নিরূপিত আয় ৬,০০,০০০/- টাকার বেশী তাঁদের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদান বাধ্যতামূলক। আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৬৫/৬৬ ধারা অনুযায়ী সর্বশেষ নির্ধারিত (সাধারণ অথবা সার্বজনীন স্বনির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে) আয়ের ভিত্তিতে ২০২২-২০২৩ করবর্ষের অগ্রিম আয়করের ৪র্থ কিস্তি ১৫/০৬/২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিশোধের বাধ্যবাধকতা রয়েছে।

যথাসময়ে অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ করদাতাগণ এর ক্ষেত্রে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৭০/৭৩ ধারা অনুযায়ী সরল সুদ এবং ১২৫ ধারা অনুযায়ী জরিমানা আরোপের বিধান রয়েছে। সকল সম্মানিত করদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সরল সুদ ও জরিমানা এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে ২০২২-২০২৩ করবর্ষের ৪র্থ কিস্তির অগ্রিম আয়কর যথাসময়ে পরিশোধ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব আহরণে আপনার সহযোগিতা কামনা করি।

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পরামর্শের জন্য অনুগ্রহপূর্বক যোগাযোগ করুনঃ
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