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Safety net for elderly won't widen



'Art has power to establish world peace'



S Korea, US fire missiles to warn N Korea



More questions than answers

CMCH staff brave all odds to help victims

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

With limited capacity, doctors and medical staffers at Chattogram Medical College Hospital are doing their best to treat the victims of BM Container Depot fire.

Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of National Burn and Plastic Surgery, visited the hospital yesterday and requested outsiders not to enter the CMCH burn unit as burn patients could be exposed to infections.

"Doctors and medical staffers of the hospital are capable of fighting the battle ... but the logistics are limited," he told reporters.

A few patients suffered inhalation injuries, but some others are unable to open their eyes, Samanta Lal said, adding that some patients will be released

> The doctor said he came SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Water being sprayed on shipping containers at BM Container Depot in Sitakunda, Chattogram, around 11:00am yesterday. Firefighters were still working to douse the blaze that started Saturday night. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Companies to be allowed to import rice

Says food minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private companies would be allowed to import rice to keep the price of the staple stable amid the soaring rice price in the market in the peak boro season.

The prime minister will take the final call on this, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder told journalists following a meeting yesterday of the food planning and monitoring committee, where the preliminary decision was taken.

"We will ensure farmers and other concerned are not

affected by the decision." Rice import will begin as soon as possible and the window for import would be short to save farmers from losses in the coming season.

There is no shortage in rice production but hoarders and unethical businessmen are creating an artificial scarcity, according to Majumder.

The drives against illegal hoarding of rice will

'Already the consumers are getting the benefit of drives. The market will become stable through import,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Taka sees steepest fall in 16 years Experts suggest withdrawing interest

rate cap on lending

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The local currency saw a big dip in its value over the last two days after Bangladesh Bank floated exchange rates of the taka against the US dollar

The taka fell by Tk 2.05 to Tk 91.95 per dollar, reflecting the shortage of the greenback in the country's foreign exchange market.

According to BB data, the local currency depreciated by Tk 1.60 against the dollar on Sunday, the biggest fall in a day since 2006. It again lost value by another Tk 0.45 yesterday, the 10th depreciation this year.

The central bank yesterday injected \$130 million into the market to help banks settle their import bills. But the supply could hardly ease the dollar crunch.

The BB has so far injected \$6.33 billion into market this fiscal year. Experts say the central bank should immediately withdraw the interest rate cap on lending as it would help slow down the pace of depreciation

The BB imposed an interest rate cap of 9 percent on lending in April 2020. All banks have been following the ceiling to disburse loans since

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said the decision to float the exchange rates was a good move, but it's not enough to restore stability in the foreign exchange market.

If the interest rate cap is withdrawn, interest rate on all loans will SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Johnson survives

Wins confidence vote among **Tory MPs**



REUTERS, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson survived a confidence vote vesterday but a rebellion by 148 of his 359 Conservative Party lawmakers dealt a serious blow to his authority.

A majority of the Conservatives' lawmakers at least 180 - would have had to vote against

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

THE

MISSING 3

FARIDUZZAMAN

RABIUL

Ctg depot fire yet to be mopped up

Four new containers with chemicals found; death count revised down to 41

STAR REPORT

Firefighters were progressing with caution at the BM Depot in Chattogram yesterday after four containers were found to be filled with hydrogen peroxide, the chemical that could have caused the series of explosions since the fire broke out on Saturday night.

Fire was still burning in some containers and four fire engines were working as of 10:00pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, the authorities have revised the death toll from the fire to 41 from 49.

Lt Col Ariful Islam, commander of Brigade-18 of Bangladesh Army's 24 Infantry Division which is helping with the search and rescue, during a press conference at noon said they found four containers of hydrogen peroxide inside the depot.

"If we can remove the chemical-laden containers, we will be able to finish the operation quickly," he said.

In addition to the Fire Service and Civil Defence, more than 500 members of the Bangladesh Army, Navy, police and Rab continued efforts to deal with the disaster.

Members of the fire service and army said they were facing trouble dousing the fire as they were not certain about the exact location of chemical products inside the

"Identity of 22 deceased were confirmed and the bodies were handed over to families ... 19 were still unidentified as of 2:30pm."

At least 40 containers at the depot exploded at different times after the fire broke out.

According to officials of Chattogram Customs House, hydrogen peroxide was in at least 33 of those containers. The chemical-laden containers belonged to Al Razi Chemical Complex Limited, a company owned by BM Container Depot.

Shahadat Hossain, upazila nirbahi officer of Sitakunda, told The Daily Star that a special fire service team from Dhaka was working with seven other firefighting units.

Visiting the spot that resembled a war zone vesterday morning, The Daily Star found many exploded containers, burnt clothes, food products, charred lorries and trucks and plastic products lying scattered across the

Inside the depot, a 650-metre-long shed had also collapsed.

Flames could be seen inside at least 10 containers at different parts of the depot until yesterday afternoon. The air was thick with strong fumes and black smoke

from burnt clothes and containers. The depot is located on a 23-acre site around half a

kilometre from the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. Sitakunda Circle Additional Superintendent of Police Ashraful Karim said firefighters were facing problems in putting out the fire as no water was left in the six ponds near the depot. The fire service was trying to bring water from ponds farther away, he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

A murder they washed their hands of

Teen dies after going under the knife in hospital shut down by authorities

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN and AZIBOR RAHMAN

It can be called a collective act of murder at an unlicensed hospital in Magura. But nobody has taken responsibility. A 13-year-old girl died on Sunday, hours after she

underwent a surgery to have her appendix removed at Al-Hera Clinic and Hospital in Shalikha upazila. The victim, Nirjala Khatun, a sixth-grader of a

madrasa, was the daughter of Nazmul Hossain of Pukuria village in the upazila. This happened just eight days after the district health authorities shut down the healthcare facility

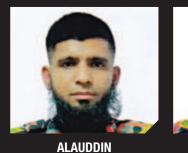
directorate's ongoing countrywide crackdown on illegal private healthcare organisations. Its owner, Bachchu Mia, went into hiding. Police arrested his wife Karimon Nesa from the hospital.

for not having authorisation as part of the health

Health officials later said Karimon, who had introduced herself to police as a staffer of the clinic, is a nurse at Magura Sadar Hospital.

"If anyone runs the hospital ignoring our ban, what can we do?" said Magura Civil Surgeon Shahidullah Dewan.

THE FALLEN 9



MONIRUZZAMAN

RANA



NIPON

SALAUDDIN





RAMJANUL





SHAFIUL

Their sense of duty prevailed over all else

STAR REPORT

For many young people facing unemployment, becoming a firefighter is a dream.

Despite the backbreaking labour and the risks associated, the stability of the job and benefits like monthly rations make it a lucrative deal for those from the lower income brackets. Add to that, heroism is a part of

To bring some solvency to his family is precisely why 22-year-old Rana Miah, from Manikganj, became a firefighter with Sitakunda fire station in November 2020. His family boards with his maternal uncle.

"His father runs a small shop that is not enough to live on. Rana used to earn 16,000 per month and would send most of the sum back home," said his uncle Yusuf

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Four of a family killed in landslide

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Four people of a family, including a five-year-old, were killed in a landslide in Satjami village of Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Juber Ahmed, 35, his wife Sumi Begum, 30, their five-yearold son Safi Ahmed, and Sumi's sister Shamim Ara Begum, 48.

Five other members of the 10-member family were also injured. Their home was situated at the foot of a hillock that was illegally cut earlier.

After getting primary treatment at a local hospital, Juber's father. one of the injured, said, "It was raining heavily the night before. We were all asleep, when I suddenly hear a loud sound around 6:30am. I woke up to find myself on the ground and realised that our entire house had been crushed."

He said his younger son Juber, a shopkeeper at Bateswar Bazar, was the only breadwinner of the family.

Golam Dastagir, officer in-charge of Jaintiapur Police Station, said, "We recovered the bodies with the help of fire service officials and locals. As the family did not want autopsies, we handed the bodies over for burial."

Al-Bashirul Islam, Jaintiapur's upazila nirbahi officer, said, "To help the family bear primary expenses, a compensation of Tk 20,000 was provided for each deceased and Tk 5,000 to the injured.

"The money was handed to the the family in presence of the additional district magistrate and officials of the District Relief and Rehabilitation Office."

He added that his office is now working with all union chairmen and members to try and relocate people living in areas vulnerable to landslides.



A home, destroyed by a landslide early yesterday, at the foot of a hillock in Satjami village of Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila. The incident left four of a family dead. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Street fighting rages in Severodonetsk

Ukrainian troops suffer setbacks after retaking parts of flashpoint eastern city

AGENCIES

Ukrainian and Russian troops fought street-by-street to win control of the industrial city of Severodonetsk yesterday in the pivotal battle of the Kremlin's eastern Ukraine offensive.

The Ukrainian defenders had over the weekend regained control over about half the city just as the Russians appeared on the verge of victory.

But their position had again become more perilous yesterday morning, Luhansk governor Serhiy Gaidai told state television.

"Our defenders managed to undertake a counter-attack for a certain time, they liberated almost half of the city. But now the situation has worsened a little for us again," Gaidai said.

"We're holding out but there are more of them and they are stronger," President Volodymyr Zelensky told journalists in Kyiv, adding that Severodonetsk and neighbouring Lysychansk were both "dead

Both sides say they have inflicted huge

casualties in Severodonetsk. The city has become the main target of

a Russian offensive in Ukraine's Donbas region - made up of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces - as the Kremlin's invasion of the country grinds on in a war of attrition that has seen whole cities laid waste by Russian artillery bombardments.

Russia says it is on a mission to "liberate" the Donbas after Ukraine pushed its troops back from the capital Kyiv and Ukraine's second biggest city Kharkiv in the war's

"We're holding out but there are more of them and they are stronger," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

In a boost for Kyiv, Britain said yesterday it would supply Ukraine with multiple launch rocket systems that can strike targets up to 80 km away. The systems would give the Ukrainians the more precise, long-range firepower needed to reach Russian artillery units, a key component of Moscow's battle-plans.

The British move was coordinated with the United States, which last week pledged to supply Kyiv with advanced rocket

On Sunday, President Vladimir Putin said Russia would strike new targets if the West supplied longer-range missiles to

Britain's Ministry of Defence said yesterday that while heavy fighting continued in Severodonetsk, Russian forces were also pushing towards Sloviansk, which lies about 85 km (53 miles) to the west.

In Lysychansk, divided from Severodonetsk by a river, Russian forces fired on a bakery and several administrative and residential buildings, Governor Gaidai said yesterday. One civilian had been wounded, he said.

Some 60 km to the south, on the front line near Bakhmut, Ukrainian soldiers said the situation was difficult but they had no choice but to push back the Russians.

Inside Russia, the governor of the Kursk region said the village of Tvotkino near the border with Ukraine had come under fire from the Ukrainian side that targeted a bridge and some businesses vesterday

SC chamber judge denies Haji Salim bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday denied bail to ruling Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim in a corruption case in which the High Court upheld his conviction and 10 years' jail sentence.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim refused his bail plea as his court had no jurisdiction to grant bail to such a convict, Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

The apex court judge, however, sent the bail petition to its full bench and also set August 1 for its hearing.

The chamber judge passed the order after hearing arguments from the lawyers concerned. This order means that Haji Salim will have to

be in jail until further order of this court, lawyer Khurshid said, adding that Haji Salim is now in the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

On May 23, Haji Salim submitted the leave to appeal petition to the Appellate Division through his lawyer challenging the HC verdict. In the

petition, the lawmaker also sought bail in the case. On February 10, the HC released the full text of

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JU student jailed for 7yrs in ICT case

He made derogatory remarks on Bangabandhu, PM

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced a Jahangirnagar University student to seven years' imprisonment in a case under the ICT Act for making derogatory remarks on Facebook about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka delivered the verdict in presence of the lone accused, Shamsul Alam Babu, at the courtroom, Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant of the tribunal, told this

Shamsul, a student of Government and Politics Department at JU, was also fined Tk 1,000 in default of which he will have to spend one more month in jail.

Following the verdict, Shamsul was sent to jail. According to the case documents, Shamsul on August 5, 2015, made derogatory comments about Bangabandhu and the PM on a Facebook post of another JU student Morshedur Rahman, sparking outrage among students of the

The following day, Yaqub Ali Mia, chief security officer at the JU, filed a case with Ashulia Police Station against Shamsul under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

Their sense of duty prevailed

For this sum of money, and from an unwavering sense of duty, this young man faced the roaring inferno at the BM container depot on Saturday night, without even knowing what lay inside the containers.

A viral live video of what was possibly Rana's last moments showed a team of firefighters tackling a towering inferno with hose pipes. Just then, a container exploded with a shattering noise. And the screen went black.

One of Rana's legs was blown off.

"We heard about the fire in the morning and learnt that some firefighters were missing. We contacted the fire station, who told us that Rana could not be traced ... The owners [of the depot] will get away with their crimes, but we will be the ones left suffering," Yusuf

Meanwhile, every word spoken by Alauddin's wife Taslima Sultana was riddled with despair.

"His beautiful face has disappeared completely... [He is] unrecognisable. I fell in love with that face in

The couple had married seven years ago and have a five-year-old son.

"I don't know where I will live now -- with my in-laws in Noakhali? My parents' house? I want to live with my husband, wherever he is," she wailed.

She first heard Alauddin might be missing when she got a call from her cousin around 2:00am after he

saw the news of the fire. "Kumira fire station, where he was stationed,

We searched Chattagram Medical College Hospital, the general hospital, went to the spot, and then back to CMCH. We finally found arrived."

Chakma, a Nipon firefighter transferred to Sitakunda from Rangamati Fire Station, was burnt beyond recognition. His body could not even be identified initially without DNA matching.

wife Shumona "My father-in-law said. told me in the morning that there was a fire in Sitakunda and asked me to call him [Nipon]. I kept trying but the call would not go through." Nipon had died hours earlier in an explosion alongside his brothers in arms.

Mithu Dewan, also from Rangamati, was stationed in Kumira and had rejoined work after a leave the very day the explosion took place. He too lost his life in the devastating fire.

Mithu and Nipon both were given guards of honour by their comrades yesterday.

The parents of Md Fariduzzaman are currently experiencing the most agonising wait of their lives as their son remains quarter: UN traceless even two days after he went to fight the blaze.

Farid was the elder son of van-puller Saiful Islam International tourist and Fulmati Begum, of Rangpur's Mithapukur

He joined the force in Sitakunda station two years

His uncle Tota Mia said the family was still

told us he was missing. depending on the meagre income of Farid's father.

Farid's father, Saiful Islam, said, "I was preparing to quit my job [van pulling] because my son kept saying him there when the bodies he is now working and can support us. Oh God, please return him to us!"

As soon as Saiful said this, his agony made him lose consciousness.

Farid had dreams of spending Eid-ul-Azha with his family and sacrificing their own animal -- an economic luxury for many.

The other deceased firefighters bodies were found are Shakil Tarafdar, Amran Hossain Majumder, and Moniruzzaman of Kumira fire station, and Ramjanul Islam and Salauddin Kader Chowdhury of Sitakunda

Amran Hossain, Mithu Dewan and Nipon Chakma were team leaders.

fire station.

Along Shafiul Fariduzzaman, Islam of Kumira and Robiul Islam of Sitakunda remain missing.

Global tourist arrivals tripled in first

AFP, Madrid

arrivals tripled in the first quarter compared with the same period in 2021, with Europe leading the rebound as Covid restrictions were eased, the UN's tourism agency said vesterday

Ctg depot fire yet to be mopped up

Another challenge was getting the water to the fire, which in many cases was burning inside stacked containers.

Fire Service and Civil Defence Directorate Director Assistant Md (training) Monir Hossain told journalists in the morning that the operation was taking time as containers on fire were gradually being pulled out from the piles with forklifts, moved to a side, and opened up before the fire inside them could be extinguished.

Spraying water on stacked-up containers the whole day was useless, he

Four units were engaged in spraying water on containers unaffected to ensure that the fire does not spread, Hossain were still unidentified as

informed.

REVISED DEATH TOLL evening, Sunday Chattogram Civil Surgeon Ilias Chowdhury confirmed the death toll was 49. However, after half an hour, Chattogram Deputy Commissioner Mominur Rahman in a press briefing

However, office's information booth around 3:30pm yesterday confirmed that 41 people died from the fire. Afruzul Haque Tutul,

told the media that the

number was 45.

Chattogram district's additional superintendent of police, told The Daily Star, "We have received 41 bodies so far. "Identity of 22 deceased

were confirmed and the bodies were handed over to families completing all legal procedures, while 19

of 2:30pm [yesterday]," the the water does not go into police official said.

district The administration, police, and other government agencies have no accurate list of how many people were missing. Shahnewaz

superintendent of police at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), told this newspaper, "We have collected DNA samples from 32 people.

'We will cross-match the DNA samples after profiling those and hand over the unidentified bodies later," he said

CONTAMINATED WATER Water used to douse the fire is getting mixed with chemicals at the depot and then making its way into the adjacent open area near Kashem Jute Mill.

Members of Bangladesh Army were seen blocking drains and canals so that

the Bay of Bengal.

Robin, Mohammed member of Sonaichhari Parishad, Union Daily Star, trouble breathing had yesterday [Sunday]. But we can breathe normally now as the air quality is improving."

The pungent odour in the air is gone. The situation in our area is slowly returning to normal," said Nur Mohammad, a local.

Professor Ahsan Habib the chemistry from department of University of Dhaka said if the hydrogen peroxide is exposed to open water and its concentration is high, it will have an impact on aquatic life.

(Dwaipayan Mohammad Suman and Sifayet Ullah contributed

JS body gets

FROM PAGE 12

the parliament secretariat, the standing committee has not yet sat for a meeting.

iournalist Various organisations and owners' associations, Transparency International Bangladesh have seriously opposed various sections of the proposed law.

The Editors' Council (Sampadak Parishad) has said the space for independent media will shrink further if the proposed bill is passed by parliament.

In a statement on April 19, the Editors' Council said "The newspaper industry is going through trying times, still reeling from the effects of the pandemic. Many daily newspapers at home and abroad have either started curtailing their print editions, or stopped their print circulation altogether."

Upon analysis of the proposed law, the council observed that 37 of its 54 provisions are not journalist-friendly.

It said the proposed law would bring the media industry and mass media employees under further control of the bureaucracy in the name of protection.

Under the proposed law, the wages and benefits of iournalists, employees. press workers and artists of broadcast, online, and print media outlets would be fixed. Once the new law is

passed, jobs of media employees will no longer be regulated under the labour

If any individual or organisation violates its provisions, they will be fined or face imprisonment.

Companies to be allowed to import rice

market monitoring and drives," Majumder added. Also at the meeting, a

decision was taken to allow sales of packaged rice, according to Food Secretary Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum. Earlier on June 1,

Majumder had said that the government would not allow large business groups to sell packaged rice, which comes at a higher price than those sold loosely in the market. "We had taken that

decision for the sake of

general consumers but in

the meeting, the others

embargo on packaged rice. Those who can afford the packaged rice will buy it," Khanum said, while directing the conglomerates not to hoard rice beyond the approved limit.

In the last cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed authorities concerned to take action against companies involved in unauthorised rice trading and hoarding. Meanwhile.

Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection (DNCRP) will be conducting drives at the mills and warehouses suggested not to issue an of millers and big business

groups from next week to Everyone says they are check illegal rice hoarding. Millers and companies have been asked to provide information about their rice

stock. "After conducting drives at the retail and wholesale market, we are now turning our focus on millers and conglomerates," AHM Shafiquzzaman, the

director-general of DNCRP. The decision came at a meeting held by the DNCRP at its office with stockists, millers, companies and supermarket owners to keep rice supply and its price stable.

"We have seen a blame game at the meeting.

right and not involved in malpractice.' The DNCRP has noticed

a huge price gap between supermarkets and suppliers. Why is there such a big

gap in the price? We will hold a meeting with both parties soon to discuss the matter," Shafiquzzaman said.

The prices of coarse and fine rice increased 5.38 percent and 3.17 percent respectively in just seven days, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Currently, the price of course rice is Tk 48-50 a kilogram.

'Digging deep for healthcare expenses'

People bear 68pc cost out of pocket, speakers tell pre-budget roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People bear 68 percent of the country's healthcare expenses out of their pocket, while the government bears only 23 percent, said speakers at a pre-budget roundtable

Special aid, NGO spending and contributions by other institutions make up the rest of the expenditure.

Stressing the need to keep seven to eight percent of the total budget for the health sector in the upcoming national budget, they said 45 percent of the total healthcare allocation should be kept for primary

They also emphasised on proper use of the allocation, as only 51 percent of the health budget's development allocation was spent in the 2019-2020 fiscal; 84 percent of the management allocation was used.

The round̄table was jointly organised by Bangladesh Health Watch, Brac James P Grant School of Public Health, Brac University, and Unnayan Shamannay. It was held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

"As citizens bear two-thirds of the healthcare expenditure, increasing the budget is important to reduce out-of-pocket spending," said Prof Atiur Rahman, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, who presented the keynote paper in the programme virtually.

As citizens bear two-thirds of the healthcare expenditure, increasing the budget is important to reduce out-of-pocket spending.

Prof Atiur Rahman, Former BB governor

Atiur, also chairperson of Unnayan Shamannay, said 67 percent of out-of-pocket expenditure is spent to purchase medicine and other perishable medical products, and 33 percent goes to other healthcarerelated expenditure.

Barrister Rumeen Farhana, a BNP lawmaker from the reserved seat, claimed that a person's out-of-pocket expenditure was 60 percent in 2012, which has reached 72 to 74 percent.

According to a policy paper of the government dating back to 2012, the government's plan is to bring personal expenditure on healthcare down to 32 percent by 2032. But it is increasing continuously, she said.

Rumeen said according to the WHO, 49 percent of people do not get quality healthcare services in the country. Besides, in the last 10 months of the current fiscal (2021-2022), only 41 percent of the allocated health budget has been spent so far.

Dr Syed Abdul Hamid of Dhaka University (DU) said the main obstacle to efficient expenditure is procurement-related complexities.

Stressing the need to bring back the centralised system for expenditure, he said the government is failing

to spend efficiently after decentralisation. Dr Habibe Millat, lawmaker from Sirajganj-2, said the health budget definitely needs to be increased, but its

proper expenditure in every sector is also essential.



Speakers at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.







People from all walks of life took a moment to remember the brave men on duty, lost forever in the flames of the Sitakunda BM Container Depot explosion, by lighting candles at the steps of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organised the event.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



healthcare service for rural people Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government will extend online specialised healthcare services to upazilas so that rural people get treatment from home.

The premier said this while inaugurating the golden jubilee celebration and the 14th convocation of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) in the capital's Mohakhali. Hasina joined the event virtually from her official residence Gono

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BRTA to get 96 new staffers against demand for 2,284

Regulatory body struggling to carry out field-level work for manpower crisis

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is going to get 96 new staffers, but this is unlikely to solve its perennial workforce crisis, especially in regards to field-level work.

Against the demand for 2,284 posts, the road transport and bridges ministry recently created only 90 posts for the regulatory body. They will also get six executive magistrates.

Of the posts, only 16 are for vehicle inspectors and eight for assistant directors, two crucial posts for field-level offices.

Issuing fitness clearance for vehicles is one of the major duties of a vehicle inspector. Currently, only 123 inspectors are struggling to ensure fitness for tens of thousands of vehicles.

Unfit vehicles are one of the main reasons behind road crashes, which saw a sharp rise in the last few years and became a serious concern. At least 641 people were killed in 528 road accidents last month, Road Safety Foundation said yesterday.

However, once the new posts are filled up, BRTA will have a dedicated workforce in every district, a director in every divisional headquarters, and an additional circle in Dhaka.

Currently, BRTA performs its functions through 57 district and five metro offices -- three in Dhaka and two in Chattogram.

Now, there will be a dedicated workforce in Narail, Lalmonirhat, Jhalakathi, Barguna, Panchagarh, Meherpur and Shariatpur. Currently, officials from other circles provide services in these

POOR WORKFORCE HINDERING SERVICES Established in 1987, BRTA deals with a myriad of tasks -- registering vehicles, issuing and renewing driving licences and several more.

But the transport regulator has been facing a severe shortage of staffers and requisite technology >> Ministry recently created 90 posts for BRTA

>> Of the posts, 16 for vehicle inspectors, 8 for assistant directors

>> BRTA to also get 6 exec magistrates

>> 123 vehicle inspectors struggling to carry out work

Once new posts are filled, BRTA to have dedicated workforce in every district, a director in every divisional headquarters, an additional circle in Dhaka

to issue driving licences and vehicle-fitness clearances -- two vital factors for road safety.

BRTA has 823 employees against the sanctioned posts of 702, according to its 2020-21 annual report. It has been asking the ministry for more people since 2016.

In its annual performance agreements, signed with the Road Transport and Highway Division, BRTA said lack of workforce has been its main problem for the last few years.

In January 2013, BRTA made its biggest recruitment in recent times -- 149 people, including 50 vehicle inspectors.

The country then had around 18.5 lakh registered vehicles. Nine years later, the number has shot up to around 52.46 lakh. But BRTA recruited an insignificant number of staffers during his time. In the last fiscal, vehicle inspectors checked the fitness of 6.75 lakh vehicles.

The inspectors are always under pressure, and the quality of inspections gets compromised often due to this. Moreover, the shortage of inspectors causes service seekers to wait a long time for fitness

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Increase allocation for education' **CAMPE** submits memo to finance minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The upcoming budget should increase allocation in the education sector to make up for the losses during the Covid-19 pandemic, demanded Campaign For Popular Education (CAMPE), an education advocacy and campaign network,

CAMPE, in a memorandum submitted to Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, demanded at least 20 percent of the budget for the education sector, blended learning approach for all institutions and uninterrupted internet services, said CAMPE deputy director KM Enamul

It also demanded introduction of special stipend for female students who were victims of

DEMANDS

20pc of budget for edu sector

Blended learning approach

Uninterrupted internet service

Stipend for female students

Separate commission to appoint teachers

child marriage during the pandemic so that they can continue their education.

The rights group proposed setting up a separate commission to appoint teachers.

CAMPE also made recommendations for a separate pay scale so that dynamic and talented young individuals are encouraged to take teaching as a profession.

The budget allocation for the education sector made up 11.91 percent of the total outlay in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The share of the education in the GDP stood at 2.08 percent in the previous fiscal year.

The minister is scheduled to place the budget

for the 2022-23 fiscal on Thursday.

Constable dies as bus hits bike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police personnel died after a bus hit his motorcycle in Dhaka's Bangla Motor area under Hatiriheel Police Station yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Korban Ali Hossain (35), a constable working as computer operator at Police Telecom

Bhaban in Rajarbagh area. The bus of "Welcome Paribahan" hit Korban's motorcycle as he was heading to office from his Savar residence, said Suman Hossain, a subinspector of Hatirjheel police. The constable died on the spot, the SI said.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee.

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



Commuters had to wait for hours on the roads yesterday due to gridlocks all throughout the city. The ongoing demonstrations of RMG workers in Mirpur and start of the work week may have exacerbated the usual traffic situation. This photo was taken from Mirpur Road in Science Lab area yesterday.

FLOUR BALLS FOR MEDICINES!

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They target medicines that are widely sold in the market, like Naproxen-Plus, Pantonex, Seclo, Monas and Finix. And they make the fake versions using flour and semolina.

Their next step is to lure pharmacy owners, which becomes easier as they halve the prices for them.

And just like that, their fake medicines have successfully penetrated the market. This is how several organised syndicates are allegedly making and

selling fake medicines. The Detective Branch's Lalbagh division has made over 50 arrests in connection to the syndicates. Fourteen cases have been filed so far against the arrestees, Razib Al Masud, DB deputy

commissioner, told this correspondent

Interestingly, they have permission from the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA). However, the permission is for manufacturing Unani

Fake medicines saw a rise in the markets after Unani medicines were out in tablet formats, claimed Razib.

Contacted, Ayub Hossain, director of DGDA, told The Daily Star yesterday that law enforcers are suspecting that those who have taken permission for Unani medicine are making the fake ones.

"We have a strong monitoring system and we take legal action whenever we find any anomalies," said Ayub, also the spokesperson of DGDA. "We coordinate with law enforcers against such illegal activities as well and share information," added Ayub, also the DGDA spokesperson. **BIGGEST HAUL TO DATE**

During a special drive on Sunday, DB busted a fake medicine factory in Cumilla and recovered 22 lakh fake medicines from the factory and its warehouse in Savar, making it the biggest drive in

recent times. The arrestees are Morshed Alam Shaon (35), owner of Himalaya Laboratories; Kabir Hossain (44) from Savar's

warehouse; Al Amin Chanchal (35),

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

'Repatriation crucial' Says Chinese ambassador on Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China attaches great importance to the repatriation of Rohingyas, who took shelter in Bangladesh after fleeing the violence in 2017.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming made the remark during a discussion with Bangladesh officials at Bhashan Char, according to a statement posted on the Chinese embassy's website.

During the discussion, Ambassador Jiming said it is important for the community to work together for starting repatriation of the Myanmar nationals soon. He also appreciated Bangladesh for providing shelter and assistance for refugees.

Jiming visited the project from June 2 to 4 and inspected the resettlement camps of the Rohingyas. Chinese Embassy Political Counsellor Wang Zhihong accompanied him during the visit.



University Grants Commission of Bangladesh আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ Website: www.ugc.gov.bd

শারক নং- ইউজিসি/প্রশাঃ/৩৩১(২১)/২০১৮/১৭৭৯

Procuring Entity

Procurement Method

Eligibility of Tenderers

Price of Tender Document

Selling & Dropping of

Last date & time for Tender

Date and time for Tender

Tender Documents

Tender Document

Special Instructions

GD-1168

Earnest Money

Tender Name

তারিশঃ ২২ জোষ্ঠ ১৪২৯

UTTARA BANK LIMITED

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT(MEZZANINE FLOOR)

HEAD OFFICE, 47, SHAHID BIR UTTAM ASFAKUS SAMAD

SARAK (FORMER-90, MOTIJHEEL C/A), DHAKA-1000

Bir Uttam Asfakus Samad Sarak, Dhaka-1000.

Should have valid ABC License for electrical works.

On or before 15.06.2022 during office hours

Uttara Bank Limited, Engineering Department, Head Office, 47, Shahid

Construction and other related works of proposed UBL "Teknaf

Construction works on the proposed new premises of UBL "Navarun

Sub- Branch" (under control of our Jashore Branch) at Sharsha,

Minimum 05(five) years of work experience in the allied construction

works Should have completed minimum 03(three) nos. of similar nature of

works in the last 5 (Five) years but total worth of each work should not be

Should have valid Trade License, up to date Income Tax Certificate and

Non-refundable Tk.1,000/-(One thousand) only in cash for each of the

Uttara Bank Limited, Engineering Department, Mezzanine Floor, Head

favoring Uttara Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka-1000 for each tender.

Firm having requisite qualifications should apply on their Letter Head Pad

to The General Manager, Engineering Department, UBL, Head Office,

Uttara Bank Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any or all

quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to

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General Manager

Office, 47, Shahid Bir Uttam Asfakus Samad Sarak, Dhaka-1000. 5% of total quoted amount only in the form of Bank draft/Pay order

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less than Tk.15 (Fifteen) lacs.

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On 16.06.2022 at 3.00 PM

Dhaka during Office hours.

accept the lowest quotation.

tender schedule.

Jashore.

ভ্ৰম সংশোধনী

গত ০৬/০৬/২০২২ইং তারিখে দি ডেইলী ষ্টার পত্রিকার ৯নং পৃষ্ঠায় প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির ৬৪ লাইনে 'উন্নয়ন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের' ছলে "উদয়ন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়" পড়তে হবে। এই মনবধানতাজনিত ক্রটি মার্জনীয়।

Mohiuddin Molla passes away

CITY DESK

Mohammad Mohiuddin Molla, a retired government official, passed away



He died at the house of his son Mohammad Al-Masum Molla, deputy chief reporter of The Daily Star, in the capital's Shankar area. Mohiuddin was suffering from post stroke complications for several years. He left behind his wife and three sons.

He was buried at his ancestral village Kamaria of Gazipur following three namaz-e-janazas at Dhanmoni, Gazipur and his ancestral village.

The Daily Star and **Dhaka Reporters Unity** expressed deep sorrow at Mohiuddin's death.

No PECE exams this year as well

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Primary and Mass Education Ministry has taken decision that there will be no Primary Education Completion Examinations (PECE) this year.

The exams will not take place this year as they were not part of the new curriculum, said Mahbubur Rahman, the ministry's public relations officer, yesterday.

The ministry recently took the decision of scrapping exams for class-V students, he added.

The new curriculum proposed no public exams before class 10. The new curriculum, which is set to be implemented in phases from January 2023, will be fully implemented by

Besides, Education Minister Dipu Moni on Sunday said there will be no Junior School Certificate and equivalent Junior Dakhil Certificate exams for students of class VIII this

PECE, JSC and JDC exams did not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

FLOUR BALLS

Md Amin Chanchal (35), the packages, managed to manufacturer never meets who was involved with the packaging process; Nazim Uddin (42), caretaker of the godown; and operators and workers Md Touhid (28), Ainul Islam (32), Md Sagar (19), Md Abir (21), Md Rubel (23), and Md Parvez (32).

Regarding the drive, AKM Hafiz Akter, DB's additional commissioner, said the arrestees were making fake medicines of nine local and one foreign pharmaceutical companies. They also packaged the fake medicines with foil paper, leaving no doubts about their authenticity.

Police recovered consignment from courier service, leading them to the warehouse. None of

distributor in Cumilla; And sender or receiver end of other in each step. The show any valid document the distributor to keep their and eventually admitted that they were fakes, Once the order was placed, according to DB officials. NO TWO PEOPLE KNEW

THE OTHER said the Investigators syndicate used to maintain a cut-out system (with one team remaining in the dark about the manufacturer) to authentic

the fake medicines. DB official Razib said the arrestees from the drive cheaper rate and sell them on Sunday used to store to customers at market the fake medicines in the warehouse in Savar.

penetrate the market with

They would then target unregistered pharmacies in remote areas.

"From the warehouse only two individuals could matter, he added.

the arrestees, on either the be familiar with each identity hidden," he added. the manufacturer and the warehouse controller would send the medicines to given addresses through courier service.

They would offer Tk 5-8 for medicines that companies would sell to pharmacies at Tk 10-15. Pharmacies would buy these medicines at a prices, yielding them a higher profit. "Right now, it's quite difficult to say how many people were involved with the operation," said Razib. However, they are to the distribution end, currently investigating the

BRTA to get 96 new

NEW STAFFERS

In November 2018, BRTA sought 3,820 staffers, including 425 vehicle inspectors, but the road ministry did not agree with the proposal.

Following several meetings, BRTA revised the number and in October 2019 sought 2,282 staffers.

public But, the administration ministry in December 2020 approved only 315 posts, and the finance ministry approved only 96, including six for executive magistrates, they said.

The road ministry issued a circular, creating 90 posts on May 12, they added.

Besides, BRTA sought 33 other posts through two other proposals at different times, but only 21 were approved. Overall, BRTA sought a total of 2,315 posts but got 117, including 21 for vehicle inspectors.

To properly manage the increasing number of vehicles, BRTA needs around 1,000 inspectors, a BRTA official said.

But the authorities approved only 20 such posts, which will not improve the situation that much, he said, wishing anonymity.

BRTA Contacted, Chairperson Nur Mohammad Mazumder said they would fill up the new posts by promoting staffers or bringing them under deputation, and the process will start soon.

He admitted that the inadequate number of vehicle inspectors is putting pressure on them, which ultimately compromises service quality. "We will place a fresh proposal for the workforce."

Digging deep

FROM PAGE 3 Emphasising the need to establish specialised hospitals for women's health issues, Maleka Banu, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said there are many specialised hospitals in the country, but none to

address these problems. Shamim

Date: 06/06/2022

Gaibandha-1, said health cadres should be separated from the existing system, and they should take decisions when appointing workforce.

Prof Rumana Haque of DU moderated the programme. Morsheda Chowdhury, director of Brac's Health, Nutrition and Patwary, lawmaker from Dr AM Zakir Hussain, working group member of Bangladesh Health Watch; Dr Zahirul Islam, health advisor of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; and DU Prof Syed Abdul Hamid addressed the programme among others.

It's our son

FROM PAGE 5

Uddin said Al Amin's parents are absolutely miserable after seeing him in the video.

"They are unable to go to Chattogram owing to their financial condition," he said.

However, UP Chair Muddat Ali assured that he will support Al Amin's parents and make sure they can go to Chattogram and see him.

Online FROM PAGE 3

She said her government has installed web cameras at every upazila hospital. "We'll improve the existing facilities further."

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Malegue spoke at the function chaired by BCPS president Prof Quazi Deen Mohammad.

During the function, BCPS conferred the golden jubilee memento and honorary fellowship to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. On her behalf, the health minister received the memento and fellowship certificate from the BPCS president.

Former president of BCPS Prof AHM Towhidul Chowdhury Anwar delivered the welcome speech, while its senior vice president Prof Abul Bashar Mohammed Khurshid Alam presented a vote of thanks.

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A Multinational Company is looking for a suitable space for Retail Store at Banani - Gulshan Area.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions. We have a formal agreement with one of the UN specialized agencies to provide outsourcing services under a third-party contract for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Coordination Centre (MOHFW CC), Cox's Bazar, and Dhaka.

We are now seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following vacancies. For a detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.

DUTY STATION: COX'S BAZAR

Title: 1. Field Coordinator-Operations for MOHFW CC, Cox's Bazar https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un101.html

Title: 2. Public Health Specialist for MOHFW CC, Cox's Bazar

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un102.htm Title: 3. Public Health Officer, Civil Surgeon Office,

Cox's Bazar https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un103.htm

Title: 4. Data Manager for MOHFW CC, Cox's Bazar https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un104.htm

Title: 5. Monitoring and Reporting Officer for MOHFW CC, Cox's Bazar

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un105.htm

Title: 6. Administrative Assistant for MOHFW CC. Cox's Bazar

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un106.htm

Title: 7. Administrative Assistant for Civil Surgeon Office, Cox's Bazar

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un107.htm

Title: 8. Administrative Assistant-Deputy Director, Family Planning Office, Cox's Bazar https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un108.htm

Contract Duration: 9 Months (Possibility of extension)

Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone. Last Date of Application: 13 June, 2022

DUTY STATION: DHAKA

Title: 9. Coordinator for Director-General of Health Services (DGHS) Office, Mohakhali, Dhaka

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un109.html

Title: 10. Coordinator-Director General of Family Planning (DGFP) Office, Dhaka https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un110.html

Title: 11. Coordinator- MoHFW CC, PMMU, Dhaka

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un111.htm Title: 12. Administrative Assistant-DGHS Office, Dhaka

https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un112.htm

Title: 13. Administrative Assistant-DGFP Office, Dhaka https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un113.htm

Contract Duration: 9 Months (Possibility of extenstion) Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone. Last Date of Application: 13 June, 2022



Re Tender (e-Tender) Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Chief Commercial Manager (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram for the procurement of the following works:

ı	Tollowing				
	Tender ID	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
	704358	Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the Railway Station of Sohagi, Atharo Bari, Nandail, Kishorgonj, Gochihata, Manikkhali, Sorarchor, Bajitpur, Kuliarchor & Kalikaprashad.	20-06-2022 at 11.30	20-06-2022 at 12.00	20-06-2022 at 12.00
	704814	Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the Railway Station of Melando Bazar, Durmut, Islampur Bazar, Kendua Bazar, Sarishabari, Tarakandi, Advocate Motiur Rahman & Bhuyianpur.	20.06.2022 at 13.30	20.06.2022 at 14.00	20.06.2022 at 14.00
	704819	Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the Railway Stations of Shumbhuganj, Gauripur, Shyamganj, Purbadhala, Zhariya Zanjail & Ishwarganj.	20-06-2022 at 14.30	20-06-2022 at 15.00	20-06-2022 at 15.00
	704822	Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the Railway Stations of Netrokona, Netrokona Court, Thakurkona, Barhatta & Mohongonj.	20-06-2022 at 15.40	20-06-2022 at 16.00	20-06-2022 at 16.00
	704808	Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the Railway Stations of Janalihat, Gomdundi, Bengura, Dhalghat, Khan Mohona, Patiya, Chokrosala, Kancon Nagar, Khanhat & Dohazari.	20-06-2022 at 12.00	20-06-2022 at 12.30	20-06-2022 at 12.30
	704811	Comprehensive Cleaning/ Sanitization work in the railway Stations of SRB, CGO, New Mooring & CGPY.	20-06-2022 at 12.00	20-06-2022 at 13.00	20-06-2022 at 13.00
1	7 \ I hie ic	an online tender, where only e-Tender will be a	ccontod in the a	-(-P Portal	

1) This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal.

3) For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

2) To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

Signed Mohammed Nazmul Islam S(22)(160)

Chief Commercial Manager (East)

Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

'Withdraw case against Afroza Sarkar'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, an organisation for the country's women journalists, yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of all the cases, including the one filed under Digital Security Act against journalist Afroza

The members of the Nari Sangbadik Kendra formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in this regard. Rangpur-based journalist Afroza was attacked and

harassed in September last year, along with some other journalists in a clash on the issue of Rangpur Reporters' Club's election.

'Later the attackers filed the cases against the victims," said Nasimun Ara Haque, president of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra.

Some journalists who failed in the election, along with some outsiders, filed the cases, she added.

Nasimun said a case against Afroza was filed under DSA as she gave an interview to a YouTube-based channel about the attack.

Rain-fed Surma overflows again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Just 10 days after flowing below the danger level, the waters of Surma engorged to the danger level again yesterday morning. The river flowed above the danger level for 13 days till May 26, drowning most upazilas in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts.

A summary report by the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre mentioned that the water level of all the major rivers of the northeast region, including Surma, Kushiyara, Someshwari and Sari Gowain, will continue to rise in the next 48 hours.

Asif Ahmed, executive engineer of BWDB in Sylhet, said, "We were expecting the river to cross the danger level a few days later, but it crossed due to heavy rainfall. But the situation is not expected to be similar to the flash flood we experienced recently."

REGENT HOSPITAL INCIDENT Former DG of DGHS claims innocence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

GD-1167

GD-1171

The prosecution yesterday claimed that Abul Kalam Azad, former director general of Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS), and four of his officials made an agreement with Mohammad Shahed, Regent Group's chairperson, for conducting Covid-19 tests.

The four others are former DGHS director (hospitals and clinics) Dr Aminul Hasan, deputy director (hospital-1) Dr Md Younus Ali, assistant director (hospital-1) Dr Md Shafiur Rahman and research officer Dr Md Didarul

The defence for others, including Shahed, submitted separate petitions for discharging them. Judge Al Asad Md Asifuzzaman fixed June 12 for passing an order on whether to frame charges against them.



A forensic team of CID collects DNA samples in front of CMCH emergency ward to identify the many victims who perished in the blast at Sitakunda BM Depot. This initiative was taken as most of the victims' bodies couldn't be recognised by family members due to how badly burnt they were. The photo was taken yesterday.

'It's our son in the video'

MINTU DESHWARA

Following the devastating blast in the Sitakunda BM Depot, 22-year-old depot worker Al Amin went missing. His parents, living in Habiganj's Bagerkhal village under Putizuri union, made repeated attempts to reach him over the phone, but failed.

They were keeping an eye on social media for a minute-tominute update of the situation. Then they came across a video of Al Amin being carried on a

stretcher with burn injuries and identified him.

However, they couldn't verify which hospital he was being taken to. They are also financially restrained to make a trip to Chattogram and look for their

Al Amin's family is now passing days in extreme anxiety and helplessness.

Al Amin is the second of five brothers. He joined the depot as a worker recently, along with his friends Fahim and Rajib

However, on the dreadful night of the explosion, only Al Amin was on duty among the three. The other two went home after finishing their shift.

"On Sunday night, a local youth saw the video where Al Amin could be seen with burn injuries. He showed us the video. It was indeed our son, with all the burn marks" said a devastated Sujena Begum, Al Amin's mother.

Putizuri Union Member Jasim SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Concerted effort need of the hour

UN, ILO on Sitakunda blast

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The devastating fire at the BM Container Depot is a reminder of the need to work together towards effective industrial and enterprise safety frameworks and their enforcement, said the UN Resident Coordinator's office in Bangladesh in a statement yesterday.

"The UN in Bangladesh calls upon all parties involved to apply renewed vigour in addressing the safety deficits in workplaces across the country and we extend our assistance to continue to build a safer Bangladesh for all," read the

The fire and the subsequent blast in the private depot in Sitakunda killed at least 41 and injured over 200 people.

The UN Resident Coordinator's office and the International Labour Organization (ILO), another UN body, expressed deep shock at the tragic event and loss of lives.

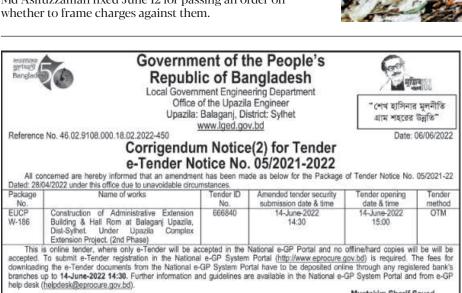
ILO said this incident illustrates the urgent need to ensure proper handling and storage of chemicals, proper training for storage facility staff at awareness and operational levels, and effective crowd control during emergencies.

ILO, in its statement, laid out some suggestions for tackling these crises, that include "adequate compensation and income support to the injured and disabled workers and families of workers who lost lives in work-related accidents.'

"Proper monitoring of industries by the government to ensure that industrial and accidental risks are properly understood, addressed and prevented is essential to improving safe working conditions in Bangladesh," said ILO in the statement.



In the early hours, Bangal puts on his boots and sets out to Rajbandh dumping station -- where he collects plastic materials until his basket gets filled. He then sells the lot at different scrap shops in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila, earning Tk 200-250 per day. This photo was taken yesterday.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department (EED) Sector-1, Upasahar, Rajshahi Website: www.eed.rajshahi.gov.bd



Upazila Engineer LGED, Balaganj District: Sylhet

E-mail: ue.balagani@lged.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 28/e-GP/EED/Raj/9 Govt. School/2021-22 Date: 06.06.2022

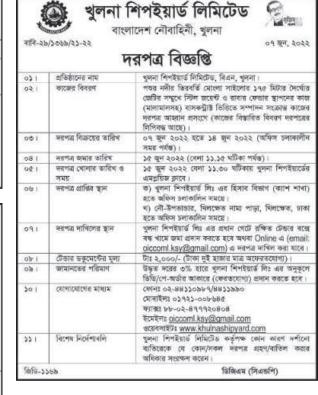
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works

Tender ID	Lot/package location (name of institution)	Procurement method	Document last selling date & time	Document closing/opening date & time
707932	Construction of 10-Storied Academic Building with 10-Storied Foundation in/c Sanitary, Water Supply and Electrification Works at Choto Bongram Mouza Government High School, Choto Bongram, Rajshahi. (3rd Time Re-Tendered)	OTM (NCT)	22-Jun-2022 13:00	21-June-2022 16:00

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to the following date & time. The provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPR-2008 including latest all amendment" and STD will be followed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

> Shaikh Nasim Reza **Executive Engineer**

Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department, Rajshahi E-mail: ee_raj@eedmoe.gov.bd





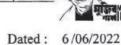




Memo No: 30.31.0000.186.07.004.21 .402

Office of the Director, CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

www.caab.gov.bd



invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). Package information is available in tender notice under e-GP system portal.

Corrigendum for e-GP Tender Notice

This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www. eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Detailed of the Goods listed below:

No.	Name of Goods	Package No.	e-GP Tender ID	Existing Date and Time	Amended Date and Time
01.	Supply, installation, commissioning of 14 Nos Dual View Cabin	30.31.0000.121.07. 028.21.10, dt. 26/01/2022	688537	Last Selling Date and Time 08-Jun-2022 at 10.00 Hrs	Last Selling Date and Time 15-Jun-2022 at 10.00 Hrs
	Baggage Scanning (CBS) Machine with LEDS Facilities for Different Airports.			Closing Date and Time 08-Jun-2022 at 12.30 Hrs	Closing Date and Time 15-Jun-2022 at 12.30 Hrs

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

নং-৩০.৩১.০০০০.০৫১.০৫.০০১.২২ / ২৭৯ তারিখঃ ০৬ / ০৬ /২০২২ খ্রি ঃ



GD-1165

ZAHANGIR ALOM

ARTS & ENTERTAINME

'Art has the power to establish world peace'

Nadia Samdani on being honoured with 'MBE' title

Nadia says that the next Dhaka Art **Summit will** be based on 'Flood', zooming in on different aspects of climatic change in the meaningful conversations by the scholars and the artistic presentations performances by the creative minds.

Renowned British-Bangladeshi art patron Nadia Samdani has been bestowed with the title of the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), in Oueen cultural dialogues between Bangladesh and the rest Elizabeth II's 2022 Birthday Honours List. This is the third highest-ranking Order of the British Empire, which Nadia has received for her prolific services to global art philanthropy and promotion of arts in Bangladesh, South Asia and the United Kingdom. Other famous holders of the title are Adele, Steven Gerrard, Ed Sheeran, Harry Kane and Rob Brydon. In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, Nadia Samdani shares her joy and journey of the Dhaka Art Summit (DAS), organised by Samdani produce quality works relaying core Art Foundation. She also elaborates the theme of the upcoming DAS in 2023, scheduled to set sail in February next. "I am elated to receive such a huge honour, within just a decade of launching of Dhaka Art Summit in Bangladesh. I would like to credit the dynamic members of SAF, the dedicated support of our Golden Harvest team, and of course, the inspiration and sacrifice of my family," says Nadia Samdani. "I am exhilarated that this honour comes as part of the grand celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's 70th year of accession to reign, and her length of service and commitment is something I hope to emulate in my continuing work," she Nadia Samdani, along with her husband Rajeeb Samdani, is the cofounders of the Samdani Art Foundation She is the President of SAF and Director

which should be for everybody," asserts Nadia. "Over the years, DAS has been turned into a school of scholarly gatherings attracting huge levels of public engagement. It is the finest fiesta of modern and contemporary arts, fostering new cross-

> Nadia says that the next Dhaka Art Summit will be based on 'Flood', zooming in on different aspects of climatic change in the meaningful conversations by the scholars and the artistic presentations and performances by the creative minds. "Apart from a number of global curators, several Bangladeshi curators will join hands to help artists

> > messages to safeguard our planet," she says. She adds that the construction of the 'Residency Space' with 'Art Centre' at the Samdani Sculpture Park will be completed by the end of the year in Sylhet.

"Art has the power to establish world peace. We should support arts and artists whatever and however we can," says Nadia. "Art and music evoke global language relaying eternal peace in our minds. I would like to excel in

my works which I love most, and serve humanity. Whatever you do for your country and the world at large will remain

Nadia Samdani is a member of Tate's South Asia Acquisitions Committee, Tate's International Council, Alserkal Avenue's

Programming Committee and the Delfina Foundation's International Council, and is one of the founding members of The Harvard University Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute's Arts Advisory Council. In 2017, with her husband Rajeeb Samdani, she was the first South Asian arts patron to receive the prestigious Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award.

The writer is a visual artist and a

Mehazabien drives ambulances to save lives

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actress Mehazabien Chowdhury will be seen playing the role of a brave ambulance driver in AnoNno Emon's Eid special fiction.

The actress announced the news for this upcoming project on her Facebook

"Sometimes I wonder whether I would have the privilege of having so many different experiences in my life if I

had chosen a different profession? After stepping on the accelerator of the ambulance, I have discovered a new me, one that was unknown to me. I really hope the audience would love this innovative story and my new character in this fiction," wrote the actress.

The shooting for the fiction started on June 4 and concluded on June 6. The Eid special also stars Sudip Biswas Deep, Ziaul Hasan Kislu, and Reshma in pivotal roles.

'Shaan' to release in 80 halls in USA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Siam Ahmed and Puja Chery starrer film "Shaan" is set to release across 80 halls in North America. Mohammad Oliullah Sajeev, president of The Dream Scarecrow, a Canada-based company

> that is the world distributor of Bangladeshi cinema also confirmed that the film will make it to the silver screen on June 24.

The announcement was made at the event "Dinner with Siam-Puja", a promotional event. The promotional contest urged fans to promote "Shaan" using their social media. Four winners, alongside 20 other participants and the team of "Shaan" attended the dinner.

Producer M Wahidur Rahman and Shoikot Salahuddin, the CEO of Swapna Scarecrow Bangladesh, signed

a contract on behalf of the film's production company "Filmman". The producer also said that while they are starting with 80 theatres, their aim is to release the film in 100 cinema halls abroad.

NEWS

Govt scraps Odhikar's Untimely death

February 7, 2022, the Bureau wrote to Odhikar asking for the names and addresses of the victims along with relevant case details of the incidents correlating with the figures listed under "Total Extrajudicial Killing (2009-"Enforced and Disappearance (2009 -

"Odhikar refused to provide the information saying a legal case was still

The tenure of its registration expired on March 25, 2015.

Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, Odhikar's lawyer, said, "The organisation applied for a renewal of their licence in 2014. This application had been left pending for years. Finally in 2019 the organisation filed a writ petition challenging the

government's inaction."

The case is still ongoing. letter Bureau's that organisation has created various issues by spreading propaganda against the publishing and misleading information on its own website about extrajudicial killings, including alleged disappearances murders, which has seriously tarnished the image of the country to the world. For all these reasons, the overall performance of the organisation has not been satisfactory to the NGOAB."

Bhuiyan questioned, 'There is a case going on, how could the Bureau cancel the registration?"

He added that a supplementary affidavit submitted to the court by the government said Odhikar was committing "seditious acts".

Deputy Attorney General Aurobinda Kumar Roy, representing the government in the case, said the High Court has no embargo on cancelling

inaction of the government. They have turned inaction into action."

of DAS. The Samdanis are

brings together curators,

best known for DAS, which

artists, scholars and arts professionals

from around the world. Their works

"We believe in the power of art,

have resulted them being included

in major international public

institutions and collections.

The further said a special intelligence agency has informed the Bureau about the financial inconsistencies and negative activities while implementing three projects, namely Education of the Convention against and Awareness, Empowering Women as Community Human Rights Defenders, Human Rights Research and Advocacy.

In addition to the allegations of "ruining the country's image", the NGO Affairs listed some other reasons as well.

These include failures to pay Tk 10,482 in VAT, to submit an invoice copy for the deposit of Tk 2,921 in VAT arrears, to pay the increased fees stipulated by the new law, to submit the Bureau's approval letter for foreign travel, and to explain why expenses above Tk 10,000 were not paid through bank cheques.

"No reply/explanation was given to the objections raised on eight audit reports of the projects," said the letter.

"There is no scope to consider the application for renewal of the registration submitted by Odhikar," it concluded.

SC chamber FROM PAGE 2

a verdict directing Haji Salim to surrender to the trial court within 30 days in connection with the graft case.

Haji Salim, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison in the case filed in volunteer organisations 2008, surrendered before of Chattogram and the shortage of medicine and the trial court on May 22 district administration are food. We are given foods and sought bail.

Denying him bail, the court sent him to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

of a dream" on Facebook.

The accident happened after the driver of a Safe Line Paribahan bus lost control and hit a staff bus of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission on Dhaka-Aricha highway on

Sunday morning. The Safe Line Paribahan bus did not have route permit, and its fitness certificate and tax token expired in 2014 and 2015 respectively, said Sajjad-Ur-Rahman, inspector of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's (BRTA) Savar

office, yesterday. A case has been filed the scene after the accident

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

identify the driver and the owner of the bus, said Golam Mostafa, inspector of Savar Highway Police Station.

Contacted, Safe Line Paribahan's Gabtoli counter manager Jahangir Alam said they had suspended business ties with the bus a few days ago as they were incurring losses.

He said the bus used to ply Dhaka-Benapole route under the banner of Safe Line Paribahan. But it did not have a fitness certificate. That is why, Safe Line Paribahan cut all against the driver, who fled business relationships with the bus on May 26.

CMCH staff

FROM PAGE 1

to Chattogram following the prime minister's special directive. "Three patients are in critical conditions and they should be moved to Dhaka for special treatment."

to the According information booth of the Chattogrm district administration, 99 victims of the fire were receiving treatment at the CMCH and other government hospitals until 3:30pm vesterday. Among them, 14 were in the Combined Military Hospital and two in Chattogram General Hospital.

Sources said the health authorities, divisional health director's office the Chattogram civil surgeon's office are coordinating the treatment patients. Different providing support to the victims.

Visiting different wards at the CMCH yesterday,

many patients were in pain and suffering from trauma. Nurses were requesting outsiders not to enter the wards.

Due to space constraint at the burn unit, patients were moved to a part of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology ward.

Injured Aminul Islam. a transport worker of BM Container Depot, said doctors were responding immediately if they needed any help. Anwar Hossain, another

burn patient, said they were asked to go to designated areas if they needed any medicine. "So far, we are not facing any problems in treatment or supply of medicine." Undergoing treatment

at the causalities ward, injured truck driver Md Belal said, "There is no and some medicines some volunteer organisations."

CMCH Director Brig

this newspaper found that Gen Shamim Ahsan said their doctors and nurses were trying their level best to provide the best

the banner of another

transport group on Dhaka-

Kushtia route, he claimed.

The bus was registered

Contacted, Exim Bank's

transport division head,

Kazi Nesar Uddin, said the

bank does not have any

bus. The bus owner might

have bought the bus taking

a loan from the bank.

in the name of Exim Bank,

said Sajjad-Ur-Rahman, the

BRTA inspector.

treatment. A doctor on duty at the CMCH said many victims had swollen eyelids and were unable to open their eyes. They might need long-term treatment.

At least 20 dead in new DR Congo massacre

AFP, Bunia

At least 20 people have been killed in a new massacre in DR Congo's eastern province of Ituri, a respected monitor said yesterday, adding that the notorious ADF militia were suspected.

The attack took place overnight in the village of Bwanasura in Irumu territory, the Kivu Security Tracker (KST) said on Twitter.

Newspaper industry in crisis FROM PAGE 12 registrations. FROM PAGE 12 and is yet to be identified. Over the last few days, FROM PAGE 12 for newspapers. The letter states that on "The case concerns the "It is just an untimely death" Police are working to the bus was running under Board of Revenue] and Moreover, the import newsprint, ink and the

they appeared to have understood the matter. But, nothing was implemented," he added.

However, The Daily Star found the name Safe Line Though the newspaper Paribahan on the bus. industry is a service-based Jahangir said a transport industry, it did not get businessman named Igbal any special facility like owns the bus. Iqbal could a stimulus package to withstand the pandemic not be contacted by phone despite repeated attempts. fallout, said

> Alo, in his keynote speech. Moreover, the sector has to pay 30 percent corporate tax like any other non-listed company.

the globalisation and digital media, the print newspaper industry is becoming weak, and the pandemic has

compounded its woes. The corporate tax for such weak industries should not exceed 10 percent while some profitmaking industries pay only 10-15 percent corporate

"Earlier, the production deficit was met with the income of advertisement -this has become impossible now."

In the VAT and Supplementary Duty Act 2012, newsprint is listed as a VAT-free item. And yet, the industry had to pay a 15 percent VAT on the import of newsprint as the customs procedure code enlisted it in their list, Rahman said.

duty on newsprint is 5 percent. Along with the duty, 15 percent VAT and 5 percent advance income tax (AIT) make the landing cost of newsprint to be about 127 percent.

"Actually, the rising transportation cost makes it more than 130 percent," Matiur he said, while demanding Rahman, editor of Prothom the withdrawal of the import duty.

According to the income tax act, newspapers pay 4 percent tax at source on advertising revenue and 5 percent AIT.

"This comes to 9 percent tax. But the majority of the newspapers do not earn 9 percent in profit," Rahman added.

There are 26 laws related to the freedom of speech in the country and some of them need to be repealed, said Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists.

"None of those laws was enacted to expand journalism and protect Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

The main ingredient for journalism is freedom of speech and the laws curtail

"Those who smuggle, adulterate products, do unsocial work in the NOAB demanded a name of businesses, how maximum 5 percent VAT against them? If you have moderated the event.

press, you will only be able to publish a PR [Public Relations] journal," Anam said.

Journalists should be united in finding a solution, said Md. Nizamul Huq, chairman of Bangladesh Press Council.

Along with all the demands, the mainstream journalists should speak about the 'vague journalists' who are trying to earn money from other sources using a registered newspaper, he added.

"It is alarming that the youths are engaging more with social media than the mainstream media including newspapers," said Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries.

Tasmima the editor of Ittefaq; Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh; Mostofa Azad Chowdhury Babu, senior vice-president of the Federation of journalists," said Mahfuz Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Asif Nazrul and Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, professors at the University of Dhaka; Omar Faruque the freedom of journalists. and M Abdullah, presidents of the two factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, also spoke.

Dewan Hanif Mahmud, VAT-free facility or a many laws do we have the editor of Bonik Barta,

Transparent

FROM PAGE 12 experience for those on board.

Passengers will be able to view shipwrecks, reef and marine life, as well as a diver show devised to raise awareness around environmental during the 30-minute dives.

Measuring 15.4 metres response to the increasing DeepView 24 is described as "virtually silent, entirely non-polluting and producing no carbon or effluent emissions."

operator, in 2017 as a launch later that year.

(50.5 feet) long, the Triton interest in "adventure experience-based holidays.

The Triton DeepView 24, also known as the Vinpearl It was commissioned Nha Trang, was initially by Vinpearl, Vietnam's delivered in April 2020 largest domestic hotel and had been due to

INTERNATIONAL

INSULTING REMARKS India rushes to quell outrage

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's government yesterday sought to calm anger at home and abroad after two officials of the ruling BJP party made remarks about the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), with 38 people arrested for rioting in a northern city and a protest planned later in Mumbai.

The arrests in the city of Kanpur were part of an effort to quell sporadic religious tension that arose after two officials from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist



Bharativa Janata Party made remarks that have generated widespread anger among Muslims in India and overseas.

Some of India's top officials were engaged in managing the diplomatic fallout as nations including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran demanded an apology from the government for allowing the derogatory remarks, an Indian foreign ministry official said. Over the weekend, Indian diplomats stationed in the Gulf were summoned by officials in those countries to protest against the comments by BJP officials.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in a statement, said: "These insults come in the context of the increasing intensity in hatred of and insults to Islam in India and the systematic harassment of Muslims."

India's foreign ministry said in a statement the offensive tweets and comments did not, in any way, reflect the views of the government.

01 Ministry/Division

05 Invitation for

03 Procuring Entity Name

07 Procurement Method

Project Name

Document

16

Tender

PB-01

Package No.

Inviting Tender

15 Eligibility of Tender

04 Procuring Entity District

Invitation Ref. No. & Date

08 Budget and Source of Funds

13 | Selling Tender Document

Tender Last Selling Date

Tender Closing Date & Time

Tender Opening Date & Time

Receiving & Opening Tender

02 Agency



Israeli soldiers argue with Palestinian demonstrators during a protest against Israeli settlements in Jordan Valley in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREA TESTS

S Korea, US launch 8 ballistic missiles

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea and the United States said they fired eight surface-to-surface missiles off South Korea's east coast early yesterday, responding to a barrage of short-range ballistic missiles launched by North Korea on Sunday.

The action is a demonstration of "the capability and readiness to carry out

precision strikes" against the source of North Korea's missile launches or the command and support centres, South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited the South Korean military as South Korean President

Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office last month, has vowed to take a tougher line against the North

and agreed with US President Joe Biden at a May summit in Seoul to upgrade joint military drills and their combined deterrence posture.

North Korea has conducted a flurry of missile launches this year and Yoon said its missile and nuclear weapons programmes have reached a level at which they pose a threat to regional and world peace.

Khulna University

Khulna-9208, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tender

Supply of Books for Kazi Nazrul Islam Central Library

Tender No. KU/LI/37/1994/V-5(1) Date - 29.05.2022

Agrani Bank Ltd, Khulna University Branch, Khulna-9208

Office of the Registrar, Khulna University, Khulna-9208

Certificate VAT Registration Certificate, etc.

g) All others as mentioned in the Tender Document.

Pirated and photocopy of books are not acceptable.

2000/-

Price of Tender

Document(Tk.)

(Two Thousand)

All books must be original printed copy.

Librarian (InCharge), Khulna University, Khulna- 9208

a. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason

b. Tender security to be given in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee in favour of "Registrar,

c. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the Tender can't be received and opened in the scheduled date and time, the same will be received and opened on the next working day respectively at the same time at above mentioned office.

experience in the supply of Books.

is Tk. 40.00 lac (Forty Lac).

Up to banking hour

2.30 pm

3.00 pm

This Invitation for Tender is open to all qualified tenderers as mentioned below:

The Satisfactory completion of the supply of Books of minimum

(Thirty five Lac) under two(2) contracts in the last Five(5) years.

The Tenderers must have updated Trade License, Tax Clearance

Tk.25.00 Lac (Twenty five Lac) under one (1) contract/ Tk.35.00 Lac

The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility

Tender

security

Amount(Tk.)

50,000/-(Fifty

Thousand)

Fax:+88-02-477734138 Email: kulib@ku.ac.bd

a) The Tenderers shall have a minimum of five (5) years of overall

Ministry of Education

GOB, ADP

26/06/2022

27/06/2022

27/06/2022

Identification of

Supply of Books for Kazi

Nazrul Islam Central

Md. Sarwar Jahan

Mob. 01974-067563

Package(s)

Library

d. Tender is invited as per PPA 2006 & PPR 2008(Amended till date).

Khulna University, Khulna-9208

Khulna University, Khulna-9208

Open Tendering Method(OTM)

Further Development of Khulna University

The South "will continue to build fundamental and practical security capabilities and deter the North's nuclear and missile threats," Yoon said at an event for South Korea's Memorial Day.

The militaries of South Korea and the United States fired eight surface-to-surface missiles over about 10 minutes starting at 4:45 am in response to the eight missiles fired by the North on Sunday, Yonhap reported.

An official from South Korea's Defence Ministry confirmed eight Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) had been fired.

US Indo-Pacific Command said the exercise included one US Army missile and seven from South Korea. "The ROK-US Alliance

remains committed to peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the Indo-Pacific," it said in a statement, using the initials of South Korea's official name.

North Korea's short-range ballistic missiles, fired toward the sea off its east coast on Sunday, were probably its largest single test and came a day after South Korea and the United States ended joint military drills.

Johnson

removed.

The result Johnson backing of 59 percent of his lawmakers, lower than the support given to his predecessor Theresa May in a confidence vote she faced in 2018.

The move led to lawmakers from different

"You have presided over a culture of casual lawbreaking at 10 Downing Street in relation to Covid," Jesse Norman, a former junior minister, said before the vote.

John

Dozens of Conservative lawmakers have voiced concern that Johnson, 57, could be losing his authority to govern Britain, which is facing the risk of recession, rising fuel and food prices and strike-inflicted travel chaos in the

But his cabinet of leading response

Climate action must not be delayed by global crises

Negotiators from almost 200 countries yesterday met in Germany for climate talks tasked with reigniting momentum on tackling global warming, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine overshadows the threat from rising emissions.

The conference will set the stage for a fresh round of major United Nations talks later this year in Egypt.

It will also be a chance to test the resolve of nations facing a catalogue of crises, including escalating climate impacts, geopolitical tensions, bloodshed in Ukraine and the threat of a devastating global food crisis.

hold firm, outgoing UN climate change chief Patricia Espinosa told delegates it was "not acceptable to say that we are in challenging times".

"We must understand that climate change is moving exponentially. We can no longer afford to make just incremental progress," she said at the opening of the June 6 to 16 meeting.

"We must move these negotiations along more quickly. The world expects it." Governments have already accepted that climate change is a grave threat to humanity, and have advocated immediate action to cut fossil fuel emissions and prepare for the accelerating impacts of warming.

Taka sees steepest fall in 16 years

FROM PAGE 1

increase to some extent, and this will eventually make the taka dearer, he

The interest rate on post import financing, which now stands at 9 percent, will increase substantially, meaning traders will feel discouraged to import goods, said Ahsan, also a former official of the International Monetary Fund.

The local currency is likely to see a big depreciation if the interest rate cap is not lifted, he

Withdrawal of the cap will give the taka a respite from the ongoing pressure, Ahsan noted.

Hossain, Monzur director of research Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, also made similar observations.

He said depreciation of the local currency might have an adverse impact on inflation as it would push up import costs.

If the interest rate cap is withdrawn, the credit flow will decrease and money circulation will ebb away due to higher costs of credits, Monzur observed.

Inflation shot up to 6.29 percent in April -the highest in 18 months amid persistent high prices of food and nonfood items, shows data of Bangladesh Bureau of

LOCAL MARKET **SCENARIO**

The Daily Star yesterday talked to officials of seven banks to know about the

market. They said banks are still reluctant to sell dollars through the interbank platform as the majority of them are still facing a

supply and demand of

shortage of the greenback. Yesterday, the banks officially set the selling rate of bills for collection, the rate at which lenders sell greenback to importers, between Tk 92 and 92.50

per dollar.

greenback to importers for as much as Tk 95.50 per dollar, ignoring their official rates. Such a violation is punishable, according to the BB rules.

Md Abdus Salam Azad, managing director of Janata Bank, said his bank offered importers Tk 92 per dollar yesterday.

"Now, we are running low on dollars to settle import bills ... No private bank has agreed to sell greenback to us through the interbank platform. "Moreover, I have been

informed that some banks are selling greenback to importers for Tk 94-95 per dollar," he said.

Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, said it will take two to three months to bring 31 last year.

back stability to the forex market. GENESIS OF THE CRISIS

The country's import payments have shot up since the end of last year the greenback in the local because of the rise in prices of commodities in the

global market. The pent-up demand after the height of the Covid pandemic initially played a pivotal role in pushing up commodity prices. The pandemic disrupted the global supply chain, deepening the crisis.

The latest Russia-Ukraine war worsened the situation further. Against the backdrop,

But many of them sold import payments of the country escalated in recent months, creating an immense pressure on the taka against the dollar. Between July and April

this fiscal year, imports went up by 41 percent to \$68.66 billion, while exports grew 35 percent to \$41.10 billion. This resulted in a record trade deficit the gap between exports and imports -- of \$27.56 billion, up 53 percent yearon-year.

Moreover, remittance inflow fell 15.95 percent year-on-year to \$19.19 billion in the first 11 months of this fiscal year.

All these led to the decline in the foreign exchange reserves to \$42.11 billion on June 1 against \$46.15 billion on December

Statistics.

means FROM PAGE 1 secured the Nirjala was hospitalised

"When we reached the

Having scored a sweeping election victory in 2019, the prime minister has been under mounting pressure after he and staff held alcohol-fuelled parties in his Downing Street office and residence when Britain was under strict Covid-19 lockdowns.

Such is the anger that the party triggered a challenge. forcing an anonymous vote of confidence in a leader who had once seemed unassailable.

wings of the party revealing that they had turned against their leader. One former ally accused the prime minister of insulting both the electorate and the party by staying in power.

Johnson's corruption chief Penrose also quit.

capital London.

ministers rallied around him and highlighted what they said were the successes of the government: a quick rollout of Covid-19 vaccinations and Britain's to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

left the hospital 10 minutes not avoid responsibility.

with stomach ache on Saturday night, her uncle Monirul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

hospital around 10:00am the next day, we were informed that her surgery was completed. But they forced us to take her to Jashore Sadar Hospital as her condition was worsening," he said.

The girl was declared dead around 1:30pm on Sunday as soon as she was taken to Jashore Sadar Hospital, Monirul added. Surgeon Soniya Sarmin,

operation, blamed the hospital owner for not informing her that it was sealed off on May 29.

She claimed that she had successfully removed the infected appendix and

was the physician told this paper.

According to Soniya, the hospital authorities assigned one Haji Masud as the anesthesiologist of Nirjala.

Masud Contacted, said he is not an anesthesiologist, but he works as a helping hand in nearby upazila.

"I don't know Dr Soniya performed the Sarmin and I have no idea about the surgery," he added. other

On the district health hand, the officials said

"The surgeon is the chief of the team. So, anesthesiologist whose she should have followed responsibility was to up on the condition of bring the patient back the patient after the to consciousness. I had operation in collaboration nothing to do with it," the with the anesthesiologist," Civil said Shahidullah.

> Asked about affiliations with any other healthcare organisations, declined Soniya comment.

Meanwhile. a threemember committee has been formed to investigate an operation theatre in a the incident within three working days.

Bisharul Islam, officerin-charge of Shalikha Police Station, said the victim's father filed a case against six people, including three unidentified.

He said they arrested surgeon,anesthesiologist one accused, and the and hospital owner could others would be held soon.



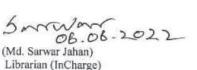
পিকেএসএফ–এর নাম ও লোগো ট্রেডমার্ককরণ এবং তা ব্যবহারে সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউভেশন (পিকেএসএফ)-এর পরিচালনা পর্যদের অনুমোদন মোতাবেক (১) সাদা ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ডের মাঝে গাঢ় সবুজ রংসহ সুষম ষড়ভুজ (ঘরের আদলে) মাপের মনোগ্রামসহ পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ) বাংলায়; (২) মনোগ্রামসহ "Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)" ইংরেজিতে; (৩) "পিকেএসএফ" বাংলায়; (৪) "PKSF" ইংরেজীতে; এবং (৫) সাদা ব্যাক্থাউন্ডের মাঝে গাঢ় সবুজ রংসহ সুষম ষড়ভুজ (ঘরের আদলে) মাপের পিকেএসএফ-এর মনোগ্রাম-এর নিবন্ধন শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন পেটেন্ট, ডিজাইন ও ট্রেডমার্কস অধিদপ্তর হতে ইতোমধ্যে সম্পন্ন হয়েছে এবং উক্ত ট্রেডমার্কস অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃপক্ষ পিকেএসএফ-এর নামে বিগত ০৯/০৫/২০২২ তারিখে ৫টি সার্টিফিকেট ইস্যু করে।

ইস্যুকৃত সার্টিফিকেট অনুযায়ী, বর্তমানে পিকেএসএফ বর্ণিত ৫টি বিষয়ের একক মালিক।

সেক্ষেত্রে, পিকেএসএফ-এর পক্ষ হতে এই মর্মে সতর্ক করা যাচ্ছে যে, এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর প্রতারক কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান পিকেএসএফ-এর নাম ও মনোগ্রাম/লোগো ব্যবহার করলে বা পিকেএসএফ-এর নাম ও লোগো ব্যবহার করে ভুয়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করলে, তাদের বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ) কর্তৃপক্ষ



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The Haily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

A flicker of hope as nation mourns blast victims

People coming in droves to help set inspiring examples

VEN as it continues to churn out stories of → heartbreaks, lost love and missed chances, the BM of the worst tragedies in recent history. So far, at least 49 people have lost their lives, and more than 450 have been injured. As we mourn these unfortunate deaths and pray for the grieving families, we feel equally angered by the irresponsibility and recklessness that has caused such

Many things had to go wrong for a tragedy of this scale to occur. We're told that safety measures mandatory for storing chemicals in a depot were not followed. There were no caution signs, for example, so fire-fighters trying to douse the flames did not realise that they were standing right next to dangerous containers that would end up exploding and claiming the lives of nine fire-fighters - the highest from a single event in our country's history. There were many such irregularities at the site that only made

But perhaps, all things considered and as we try to look ahead, this tragedy does have a silver lining, which comes from the bravery and selfless services of not only the first responders, but of ordinary people as well. Nurses and doctors from all over Chattogram reportedly flocked to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) to provide their services, even in the middle of the night. Many of them showed up of their own volition, because they felt they had to come to the rescue of the victims. They helped, and continue to do so, in handling their treatment and other responsibilities.

Then there were the students and random people who showed up to donate blood to the victims, and help distribute medicine and food to victims and their families. They were motivated by humanitarian reasons, which shows the true character of this nation in the face of tragedies. The number of student and non-student groups that participated – and still are – in the effort to heal the deep wounds inflicted by this catastrophe is truly inspiring. It provides the one thing that this country needs going forward: hope.

So while we call on the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and hold those responsible accountable, and make sure that meaningful measures are taken so that such a calamity never befalls this nation again, we salute the first responders – firefighters, army personnel and policemen – medical professionals, and ordinary citizens who have all made us proud even when the whole country has been in mourning. It is these gestures, big and small, of humanity, that shows the way even in the darkest of moments.

Gas price hike totally unacceptable

Govt must leave breathing space for struggling citizens

MID the galloping prices of all essential commodities, the hike of gas prices by 22.8 percent has come as a cruel below-the-belt blow to citizens, especially those belonging to the middle and lower-middle classes. It means that the already shrinking purse of fixedincome groups will get further depleted to pay extra bucks for gas now. Concerned citizens and business leaders have rightly observed that the government could increase its subsidy in the energy sector instead of taking this suicidal

The fear of gas price escalation has been haunting the people since the start of the Ukraine war, and it has finally come true. However, one good news is that the price for compressed natural gas (CNG) hasn't been increased, therefore, CNG-run industries and automobiles will have no excuse to charge extra money like in the past.

The hike is likely to hit some industries particularly hard, for example, fertiliser factories will have to pay Tk 16 per cubic meter of gas instead of Tk 4.45. This big jump in price will create the scope for increasing the price of fertilisers. This will also result in the rise of prices of crops and other agricultural products, and no doubt ordinary consumers and, by extension, people will have to bear the brunt in the end. Similarly, when we see that the tariff for power plants has been increased by 12.8 percent, for large-scale industries by 11.96 percent, for medium-scale industries by 10.09 percent, for tea estates by 11.5 percent, and commercial users like hotels and restaurants by 15.83 percent, we can very well guess that these sectors will ultimately make the consumers pay indirectly for what they will pay to the government.

This is, quite frankly, an anti-people decision and has all the elements for upsetting their family budget at a time when inflation is showing no sign of abating. The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission's justification—that the government has taken the decision not to give subsidies for any product at the production level, rather it would be extended at the consumers' end-means that the government binned all the recommendations for alternatives offered by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh. Those recommendations included cutting the huge cost of "capacity charge" that the government pays for surplus electricity, as well as reducing dependency on privatelyowned quick rental plants and single-cycle power plants which would have saved a lot of money.

Thus, we find the decision to increase the gas price arbitrary, unmerited and unacceptable. We urge the government to revise it in light of the prevailing reality.

Is the BNP still relevant?



Mohammad Al-Masum Molla is deputy chief reporter at The

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

TTH another general election due next year, nobody really knows whether Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the main political opposition in the country, will participate in it. The BNP seems adamant about not taking part in any election, as has mostly been the case over the last 13 years that the Awami League-led government has been in power. The BNP's claim is simple: There can never be a free and fair election under the current partisan government.

In all fairness, the claim is quite straightforward for one of the two major political parties in a country where nonpartisan interim governments holding elections has been a norm in the past. The BNP wants the current government to hand over election-time ruling duties to a "neutral" administration, which the ruling party refuses to do, out of fear of a repeat of 1/11. As a result, the two political parties' opposing stance on a neutral poll-time government has now probably become the longest standing political stalemate in the history of Bangladesh.

No matter how adamant the BNP seems now, the party did contend in the last general election under the current government four years ago, after a lot of drama. For the most part, they kept on pushing the same agenda: no elections under the incumbent partisan government. But, in what is largely dubbed as a last-minute decision, they went to the polls in 2018 and, quite understandably, the outcome was disastrous: the BNP ended up winning just six seats in an election that was marred by allegations of widespread vote-rigging and engineering. This time around, though, the party seems to have learnt from its mistakes and does not seem likely to make any hasty decision again. Interestingly, the last time the BNP went to an election under a caretaker government, almost 14 years ago, the outcomes were almost equally disastrous: they managed to bag just about a quarter of the 300 seats in parliament.

So, after having experienced both boycotting (2014) and contending (2018) in elections under the current partisan government, and coming out with a bitter taste in the mouth on both occasions. one wonders: Can the BNP really afford another election boycott? Can the party survive in the long run if it continues to

boycott elections?

There aren't any straightforward answers to these questions. Everything the BNP tried in the last 14 years has mostly backfired. They lodged violent street protests on multiple occasions, which resulted in the loss of lives and properties and only brought harsh lashing at home and abroad, but could

However, one big plus for the BNP is that the party has remained more or less united despite all the hardships that they have had to endure since leaving power 17 years ago. In fact, the party is currently going through the roughest patch in its history: Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been in jail for several years; second-incommand Tarique Rahman has been in



VISUAL: **TEENI AND TUNI**

After having experienced both boycotting and contending in elections under the current partisan government, and coming out with a bitter taste in the mouth on both occasions, one wonders: Can the BNP really afford another election not stop the Awami League from holding elections.

One stream of thought within the party – endorsed mostly by veteran leaders who have been there since the birth of the party – is to find a place of compromise and join the polls. Their past experience says the current government is extremely unlikely to amend the constitution to reinstate the caretaker government system. So, the best option for the BNP would be to have peaceful political negotiations to find a middle ground, and a way to come out of the longest "power hiatus" in the history of the party by joining the polls.

The second group is relatively younger and is led by Khaleda Zia's exiled son Tarique Rahman. The adamancy of "not joining the polls unless there is a nonpartisan caretaker government" is what they endorse. They believe that the party leaders and activists have already paid a high price by being in the opposition and on the run for a long time. So, they have nothing to lose. Many of them have many more years left in their political careers, and hence are ready to invest more time, unlike the other, veteran group, who are mostly nearing the end of their careers and want to finish on a high note.

exile for even longer; there are at least 200,000 political cases against BNP leaders and activists, just to name a few of the predicaments. Everyone thought the party was going to collapse after Khaleda Zia was jailed. But that did not happen none of the senior leaders left the party.

Another big plus is that, no matter how tough things have been, the BNP is still one of the two most popular political parties in Bangladesh. Even in the remotest corners of the country, devoid of any civic facilities, there is a local committee of the BNP, just like there is one for the Awami League. Despite not being in power for so many years, that has not changed.

Although it seems like a mammoth task in the face of hundreds of thousands of cases hanging over the heads of its leaders and grassroots workers, the BNP needs to somehow find a way to reclaim the strength to channel its grassroots popularity and support into building a national political movement. Because whether they decide to join the polls for a decent result or take to the streets to prevent the government from holding the elections, they will require their grassroots to rise up to the occasion once again.

Inflation is not going away anytime soon

boycott?



THE world has entered another era

of high inflation, and no country

can escape from the heat wave

of rising prices. The ghost of the 1970s

- termed the Great Inflation - seems

to be looming on the horizon. The US,

with more than eight percent inflation

(never seen in 40 years), is on the lead

when the inflation spiral was mainly

shock too, but the post-pandemic

for inflation, as was the case in the 1970s

driven by fuel shock. This time, Russia's

inflation, which most countries are going

invasion of Ukraine kicked off the fuel

through, is not fully related to energy

shortage. There are other factors which

stoked inflation in the first place before

President Putin attacked Ukraine. And

phenomenon after a big recession. The

economy enters the phase of recovery.

Output goes up. Higher growth leads

bargaining. Wages go up and cause wage

push inflation. This is demand-driven

inflation, which economists describe as

the Phillips curve effect. This is not too

bad, because people have jobs, pay is

higher, and consumers can afford this

inflation. The current inflation is partly

business cycle. This would have happened

attributable to the rising phase of the

to all countries anyway after the Covid-

led recession, no matter whether other

Second, the Covid-led recession is

unique in that it triggered supply chain

disruptions, which we never saw in the

wake of any other recessions. Covid is

factors had surfaced or not.

to lower unemployment - which in

turn gives workers higher power of

First, inflation is a common

at least two more years.

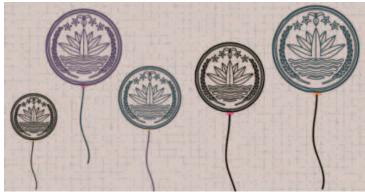
those factors will keep inflation high for

Dr Birupaksha Paul is a professor of economics at the State University of New York in Cortland, US, and former chief economist of Bangladesh Bank

BIRUPAKSHA PAUL

worse than war. It paused global mobility quite forcibly, but demand remained suppressed. When stricter lockdowns were lifted, the pent-up demand simply exploded. It rushed to hit the market with horrendous desperation, but did not get the products in place. Aggregate demand exceeded aggregate supply, catapulting prices to newer highs

total demand. every week. This was a golden chance



There are other factors which stoked inflation in the first place before President Putin attacked Ukraine. And those factors will keep inflation high for at least two more

for ballooning up sellers' profits by exploiting the excess demand, and they hit the bull's eye. Since ships transport more than 80 percent of the world's trade volume, and ships take much longer time than flights or trains, the pent-up demand moved fast like a rabbit leaving the turtle-paced supply far behind. And this will continue for more than a year. The typical theory of supply chain management failed because of the very different nature of the recession induced by Covid, never seen before.

Third, the Russia-Ukraine war has disrupted not only fuel and gas, but also hurt grain production and exports, sending global commodity and oil prices to higher levels. Only this reason is the same as what caused hyperinflation in the 1970s. This is more so for European countries – most of which are substantially dependant on Russian oil and commodities. While some European countries are 90 percent dependent on Russian oil and gas, the US dependence is as low as 10 percent. Hence, Putin's

aggression on Ukraine wouldn't have had much impact on US inflation. Taking a lesson from the 1970s when Middle Eastern countries stopped supplying oil to the US, the American regimes kept on building strategic reserves of oil, which can be as high as 25 percent of their

Fourth, as the World Economic Outlook (April 2022) claims, inflation is projected at 5.7 percent in advanced economies and 8.7 percent in emerging market and developing economies in 2022. At the end of 2023, inflation is expected to weaken, but it will still be moderately high in developing nations because of the gradual weakening of their local currencies against the US dollar. This is the channel of imported inflation. And that is more so for Bangladesh, whose effort to keep the value of taka artificially high has nosedived and will fail repeatedly at times ahead, making import prices higher in a gradual fashion. The US Federal Reserve's steps to raise policy rates will further strengthen the US dollar.

Finally, inflation is also driven up by fear or panic – a notion dubbed as expectations-augmented inflation. The media with the right information on prices at different markets and the credible steps by the government can dampen this segment to a great extent. All these factors are present in Bangladesh to trigger inflation and also to keep it stubbornly high until the end of 2023. In addition, Bangladesh's special institutional factors syndication, hoarding, illicit stocks, and corruption – will exacerbate the situation if the government does not rise against the evils of the market.

Prices, once raised, don't tend to fall that smoothly – a notion that economist John Maynard Keynes termed "downward rigidity" or "stickiness of prices." And that is the case for Bangladesh, suggesting the country's inflation will sustain longer even after the compelling factors weaken or disappear.

VISUAL: **TEENI AND TUNI**

years.

A story for all the wrong reasons



Kamal Ahmed is an independent journalist and writes from London, UK. His twitter handle is @ahmedka1 KAMAL AHMED

N May 31, our diplomat-in-chief, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, sent a message to diplomatic correspondents in Dhaka suggesting what questions they should ask the US ambassador. By the time his message was transmitted to journalists, the US ambassador's press event, DCAB Talk, was over, and the minister's note ended up as a story itself. It couldn't be ascertained whether the message was a government advisory or a tutorial note as there was no official explanation about it following the publication of the story.

It was a story for all the wrong reasons. Contents of his note suggest that he was unhappy – perhaps angry, too – at the US ambassador's public comments on the state of democracy, human rights, press freedom and sanctions on Rab. He wrote, "Please, you (the newsmen) ask the US envoy why they cannot stop such extrajudicial killings in their own country. Secondly, about 100,000 US citizens go missing every year. Even children are deprived of reuniting with their Hispanic parents. Ask the US about their problems, not about Bangladesh." In his message, Mr Momen added, "It is not the responsibility of the US to rule our country and its development. If the US wants freedom of press, why have they censored the Russian television channel RT? If they want accountability, why are the US security forces or police not punished or held accountable for killing more than 1,000 citizens, mostly Black and Hispanic, every year?"

Questions suggested by Mr Momen also included, "... if their electoral process is fair, why don't young Americans

believe in their election system and why is there a low turnout among young Americans? Why is there a 25 percent voter turnout in each election? Is it a participatory electoral process?"

These questions, based on half truths or questionable facts, coming from none other than a person who has spent more than one-third of his

turnout in the US presidential election was 49 percent posted in 1996. In the last presidential election, the turnout was 62

Questions suggested by Mr Momen were nothing new, rather a repetition of unverified claims made by some politicians in their public speeches. But political speeches are quite different



career in the US, are quite shocking. The foreign minister made his stay in the US a special point when he met Secretary of State Anthony J Blinken on April 4, saying, "I always have some indebtedness to you, because when I was homeless, jobless, and stateless, it is the US that provided me a home and a job, and I am thankful for that." Do we have to believe that he is incapable of differentiating between missing persons and enforced disappearances? The voting statistics he has cited is also far from the truth as the official records show that the lowest

VISUAL: STAR

from the statements made by people steering diplomacy for their country. One may wonder whether he has minutely followed recent statements and comments by US diplomats, including Ambassador Peter Haas, as they now frequently admit the challenges they are facing at home in relation to press freedom and elections. Ambassador Haas, on May 24, told editors and senior journalists in Dhaka that the US was not perfect when it came to having a free press. Quoting from the most recent Reporters Without Borders World

Press Freedom Index, he said the US had ranked 42nd out of 180 countries, which, according to him, was far from the top. He added, "Frankly, the United States needs to do better." There were admissions, too, about the difficulties the US is facing regarding elections, especially the allegations of fraud made by former President Donald Trump and his followers in the Republican Party.

The biggest problem with these statements, aimed at deflecting the focus of alleged violations of human rights and democratic principles by pointing out failures of others, is that it is a futile exercise and, to some extent, counterproductive. When Ambassador Haas or any other Western diplomat emphasises on a credible election according to international standards, wouldn't it be wiser to respond with expressing commitment to follow such standards? Trying to find justification of a discredited election through pointing out flaws in other countries' elections exposes desperation to deflect the issue.

The same is true when attempts were made to counter issues of human rights abuses, press freedom and accountability by raising questions about intentions and making wild allegations of conspiracies to destabilise the government. It also contradicts assertions by other functionaries of the government that it has been reviewing disputed legislations like the Digital Security Act (DSA) to ensure that it does not become a tool to harass journalists.

The news about the foreign minister's suggested questions to reporters was especially troublesome as he has already earned some notoriety for his diplomatic language. His characterisation of Indo-Bangla relationship or comments about seeking help from India to bring an end to the US sanctions on Rab and importing oil from Russia can be cited here as examples. One may wonder whether these words are advancing our cause and brightening our image abroad, or harming it instead.

Who is afraid of EVMs and why?



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

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

ANGLADESH'S Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Habibul Awal, in a recent interview with The Daily Star, said there was no scope for showing muscle power during voting if the electronic voting machines (EVMs) are used during polls. His remarks have more than anything reignited the debate over the reliability of EVMs in reflecting people's mandate. However, the main opposition party, the BNP, remains as sceptical about EVMs as ever.

It is pertinent to turn to India, Bangladesh's closest neighbour and the world's largest democracy, to find out how the Indian Election Commission manages EVMs during state assembly and parliamentary elections, and sustains the sanctity of the adult franchise.

It was in 1982-83 that the Indian Election Commission first used EVMs on an experimental basis in 50 polling stations of Parur assembly constituency in the southern state of Kerala. The Supreme Court had, however, suspended their use in 1984, on the grounds that their usage could not be allowed till the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was amended. It took another four years to amend the law, enabling the use of EVMs with effect from March 15, 1989. Since the year 2000, EVMs have been used in all elections across India - four Lok Sabha

and 122 state legislative assembly polls. But it hasn't been a smooth journey all the way for EVMs in India, as opposition from various quarters persists till today, with some parties continuing to harbour doubts about the possibility of tampering with the machines and how they are transported from booths to strongrooms of the Election Commission, and then to counting centres. In 2018, the apex court rejected a petition seeking to restore ballot papers. Despite that, political parties that have lost the electoral battles have gone public from time to time, airing their suspicion of EVMs and preference for

paper ballots. Politicians have accused parties of tampering with the machines, hacking them or stealing them to influence poll results. But none of them have been proven. Those complaining about EVMs are caught in self-contradiction. For instance, in 2017, after the Aam Aadmi Party's defeat in Punjab assembly elections, the party had demanded a

probe into the alleged malfunctioning of EVMs, and claimed EVMs can be hacked in 90 seconds. AAP legislator Saurabh Bhardwaj even sought to demonstrate in a public session how EVMs can be tampered with. The Election Commission invited all parties to prove their claims, but no political party took up the gauntlet. Five years down the line, the AAP won the Punjab assembly polls earlier this year and assumed power in the state for the first time, and it did not complain about EVMs.

In early 2017, Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party was decimated in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, prompting her to allege that the BJP had tampered with the EVMs. Mayawati was supported by her rivals, the Samajwadi Party and Congress, but the Election Commission rejected the charges.

A series of setbacks in both national and state-level polls prompted India's main opposition party, the Congress, to discuss the use of EVMs and its possible tampering at its brainstorming session in Udaipur city in May this year. Senior party leader Prithviraj Chavan wanted the party to pass a resolution saying India would return to paper ballots if the Congress returned to power. There were many leaders at the meeting who opposed the

use of EVMs. The Congress needs to be reminded of two important things: i) That the party won several elections, including the two consecutive general elections in 2004 and 2009, with votes cast using EVMs; and ii) Chavan's suggestion that Congress make a promise to switch to paper ballots if the party is voted back to power can happen only through the existing system of general elections using EVMs.

Even at the height of the BJP's supremacy in electoral battles in most parts of India in 2018, Congress won assembly elections in the heartland states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, defeating the saffron party in votes cast through EVMs. So, is it fair for certain parties to blame the EVMs?

Some parties have often complained about instances of EVMs being found in private vehicles of politicians, but they have been nothing more than stray cases, and certainly not at a scale to vitiate the polling in its entirety. The Indian Election Commission has put in place elaborate measures regarding the safety of EVMs during transportation and against loss or theft. Measures include tracking software, installing GPS devices in vehicles carrying EVMs, and mandatory video recording of the entire process.

The parties also wanted the Election Committee to introduce Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) attached to EVMs for further transparency and verifiability in the poll process. The poll body has done that too.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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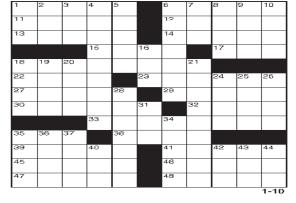
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Date: 05.06.2022

e-GP Notice No: 05/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following Goods/ Works:

SI No.	Tender ID	Name of Works/Goods	Tender boots and last selling	Tender closing & opening
01	705316	Construction of additional class room Chak Bizli GPS under PEDP4, Upazila- Akkelpur, Dist- Joypurhat.	21-June-2022 16:45	21-June- 2022 17:30
02	705315	Construction of additional class room Marma GPS under PEDP4, Upazila- Akkelpur, Dist- Joypurhat.	21-June-2022 16:45	21-June- 2022 17:30

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 (https://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 bank branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

> Upazila Engineer LGED, Akkelpur, Joypurhat E-mail: ue.akkelpur@lged.gov.bd

GD-1164



Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)

14TH CONVOCATION

Tuesday, 07 June 2022







বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এভ সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস) এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তন উপলক্ষ্যে আমি সনদপ্রাপ্ত চিকিৎসক, ফেলো ও মেদারসহ কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষকে জানাই আন্তরিক বভ্যেছা ও

দেশের স্বাস্থ্য খাতের উন্নয়নে মেধাবী, দক্ষ ও পেশাদার চিকিৎসক তৈরির লক্ষ্যে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগে ১৯৭২ সালের ৬ই জুন বিসিপিএস প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়েছিল। একটি সৃস্থ, সবল ও উন্নত জাতি গঠনে বঙ্গবন্ধুর স্বপ্ন পুরণের পথ ধরে সরকার দেশের সার্বিক স্বাস্থ্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় ব্যাপক উন্নয়ন কর্মকান্ড বাস্তবাহন করছে। জনগণকে উন্নত চিকিৎসা প্রদান এবং স্বাস্থ্য খাতে দক্ষ জনবল তৈরির লক্ষ্যে সরকার বিষয়ভিত্তিক ইনস্টিটিউট, হাসপাতাল মেডিক্যাল কলেজ ও মেডিক্যাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রতিষ্ঠা করেছে। বিসিপিএস দেশের চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানে উচ্চতর শিক্ষা ও গবেষণার পথিকৃৎ হিসেবে চিকিৎসা ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন ও দক্ষ জনবল তৈরিতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখছে। এই কলেজের ফেলোরাই দেশে চিকিৎসা শাস্ত্রের বিভিন্ন শাখা ও উপ-শাখার বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসার সূচনা এবং প্রসারে অগ্রণী ভূমিকা পালন করছেন।

অনেক চড়াই-উতরাই পেরিয়ে দেশের স্বাস্থ্যথাত এখন শব্দ ভিত্তির উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। তবে এখনও বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে আরও বেশি সংখ্যক বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসকের প্রয়োজনীয়তা রয়েছে। আমি আশা করি, বিসিপিএস এক্ষেত্রে তাদের কার্যক্রম আরো জোরদার করবে। বিসিপিএস এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তনের মাধ্যমে সনদপ্রাপ্ত নবীন বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসকগণ কর্মক্ষেত্রে একটি নতুন ধাপে উন্নীত হলেন। আমি আশা করি, তাঁরা তাঁদের অর্জিত জ্ঞান ও দক্ষতা বিচক্ষণতার সাথে ব্যবহার করে দেশের জনগণের সুচিকিৎসা নিশ্চিত করতে নিজেদের আত্মনিয়োগ করবেন।

আমি বিসিপিএস এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের সাফল্য কামনা করি।

খোদা হাফেজ, বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

মোঃ আবদুল হামিদ







বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এভ সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর ১৪তম

সদস্যগণকে (এমসিপিএস) স্বাগত জানাচ্ছি। সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালী জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগে বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এভ সার্জনস্ ১৯৭২ সালের ৬ জুন গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের মহামান্য রাষ্ট্রপতির এক অধ্যাদেশ বলে একটি সংবিধিবদ্ধ প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে এ কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠা লাভ করে। জন্মলগ্ন থেকেই চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানে আন্তর্জাতিক মান সম্পন্ন বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসক তৈরিতে এ

সমাবর্তন উপলক্ষ্যে আমি কলেজের সকল কেলো (এফসিপিএস) এবং

কলেজের অবদান অনস্বীকার্য। বিসিপিএস-এর মূল লক্ষ্য হলো এদেশে শ্লাতকোত্তর চিকিৎসা শিক্ষায় বিশেষজ্ঞ জনশক্তি তৈরি ও বিশ্বের সাথে তাল মিলিয়ে চলার সাথে সাথে আন্তর্জাতিক পর্যায়ে নেতৃত্ব দেয়ার যোগ্যতা অর্জন করা। এ কলেজ ডিগ্রী প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে কোর্স কারিকুলাম, প্রশিক্ষণ মনিটরিং, গবেষণা এবং সর্বাধুনিক পরীক্ষা পদ্ধতি আন্তর্জাতিক মান বজায় রেখে পরিচালিত হয় বিধায় বিসিপিএস বিশ্বের সমগোত্রীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত

কলেজের নতুন ফেলো (এফসিপিএস) ও সদস্যগণ (এমসিপিএস), যাঁরা আজ সনদ গ্রহণ করবেন তাঁদের আমি আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জানাই। আপনাদের প্রতি আমার উদান্ত আহ্বান, আপনারা এ কলেজের প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে চিকিৎসা পেশার প্রতি সর্বদা আস্থাশীল ও অবিচল থেকে অর্জিত জ্ঞান ও অভিজ্ঞতা কাজে লাগিয়ে দেশের শহর, গ্রাম ও প্রত্যন্ত অঞ্চলে বসবাসরত সকল নাগরিক তথা দারিদ্র-ক্রিষ্ট বৃহত্তর জনগোষ্ঠীর সেবায় নিঃস্বার্থভাবে নিজেকে আত্মনিয়োগ করবেন

আমি কলেজের ১৪তম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠারে সার্বিক সফলতা কামনা করছি।

क्य वांच्ला, क्य वक्षवक्ष বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

Kalnit Malegan









বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তন উপলক্ষ্যে আমি কলেজের সকল ফেলো (এফসিপিএস) এবং মেমারগণকে (এমসিপিএস) স্বাগত জানাচ্ছি।

১৯৭২ সনের ৬ই জুন তারিখে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এ কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠার মাধ্যমে দেশের সকল জনগণের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক মানের বিশেষজ্ঞ স্বাস্থ্য সেবা নিশ্চিতকরণের উদ্যোগ নেন। প্রতিষ্ঠালগ্ন থেকে এ কলেজ দেশের স্লাতকোত্তর চিকিৎসা শিক্ষায় এফসিপিএস ও এমসিপিএস ডিগ্রি প্রদানের মাধ্যমে বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসক তৈরিতে অনবদ্য অবদান রেখে যাছে।

যাঁরা অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রম করে বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসক হিসেবে এফসিপিএস ও এমসিপিএস ডিগ্রি সন্দ গ্রহণ করতে যাচ্ছেন, তাঁদেরকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জানাই। আপনারা লন্ধ জ্ঞান হারা দেশের সকল নাগরিকের স্বাস্থ্যসেবা নিশ্চিত করতে ব্রতী হবেন এ প্রত্যাশা করি।

আমি কলেজের ১৪তম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করি।





বিসিপিএস ক্যাম্পাস, মহাখালী, ঢাকা

Health is an internationally recognized human right. It is the wealth of a nation and health-care is a basic right of all citizens. The importance of the medical community in ensuring the people's right to proper health-care is immense & that is why a standard medical education plays a pivotal role in building up doctors and shaping up the overall health-care system. The greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, recognized in the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in clause 15 (ka) that ensuring the basic components of living is the state's primary duty and in clause 18 (1) that it is one of the primary responsibilities of the state to improve the nutrition quality of the general populous and to improve the general state of public health. It was through the hands of Bangabondhu that the revolutionary change of the improvement of the health-care sector and medical sciences had begun. He undertook many critical and multifaceted steps such as: Including health-care as a main component of the basic rights in the constitution, making health-care a priority in the first 5-year plan, establishing rural health-care centers, giving doctors the status of first-class officers, forming the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council etc. To ensure that health-care reaches all strata of the general populous, he expanded health-care services to districts, erstwhile Thanas and to union level as well.

BCPS - PIONEER OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Over the past three decades, the combined participation of the State, Doctors, Researchers and the General People have seen a major development of our health-care system. Along with infrastructural development, technological advancement, and expansion of the service sector, improvement in medical excellence has been one of the sectors that has most progressed. In Bangladesh, this post graduate education in the health-care system first started through the BCPS.

In 1947, after the division of the Indian subcontinent, the then East Pakistan was largely neglected and deprived in all sectors when compared to its Western compatriot. Sometime in 1965, during the regime of Pakistan, a small branch of Pakistan College of Physicians and Surgeons was opened in Dhaka. Although, there was such an office on pen and paper, in reality, its activities were very limited and conventional. After a long torturous history, Bangladesh gained liberation under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1971 through a 9-month long war where the blood of 30 lakh martyrs were shed and at the expense of the dignity of 2 lakh of our mothers and sisters. In this newly liberated country, just like other service providing sectors, the health-care sector also faced a scarcity in infrastructure and skilled labor. This nation was hit with an acute vacuum of expert physicians in the health-care sector. Even amidst the difficult task of rebuilding the infrastructure and economy of a war-torn nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman ensured opportunities for higher studies in medical science by taking a very apt and timely initiative by establishing the BCPS, the fruits of which the nation is still enjoying. **Establishment of BCPS:**

The independence war of 1971 left behind a nation both shattered and wounded as well as an impoverished population on the brink of an outright health-care crisis. Lack of specialist doctors meant a health-care system that was inadequate and unable to provide quality service to the mass population, most of whom were malnourished & was indeed table to provide quality service to the mass population, most of whom were maintoinsied a extremely poor. In order to meet the demand of specialist doctors as well as developing the health sector overall, our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, by the power of a Presidential Ordinance, established the Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons (BCPS) on 6th June, 1972; a ground-breaking and momentous decision that highlights the great wisdom and farsightedness Bangabandhu possessed. The establishment of BCPS paved the way for aspiring doctors to pursue their dreams of becoming a specialist physician in this country in a timely and affordable manner.

The journey of this College started in 1972 with 53 Fellows, most of them having acquired their MRCP/FRCS/FCPS from UK and Pakistan. Today, around 7756 doctors have received their FCPS and 3345 have received their MCPS from this College. In 1972, the college started its journey with a fellowship program in four subjects. Due to the emergence of complex diseases and the addition of new dimensions in modern medicine, new subjects were introduced. At present, the college offers fellowship in 59 subjects and membership in 16 subjects.

In January 2018, the 'Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons Act/Law 2018' was formally passed in National Parliament and in January 28th 2018, it was published in the form of a gazette, a momentous decision that stands to enhance the image of BCPS even further.

Degree and Certificate:

The college, as a part of higher studies and training, provides fellowships and memberships. Memberships are always provided through examinations. But fellowships are provided through in two ways: 1) Throw an examination system and 2) Honorary fellowships. Previously, a few exceptional individuals have been given fellowships without any examinations because of their activities of human welfare. This was halted after the implementation of the BCPS law of 2018. Till now, 103 doctors have been provided the fellowships without exams and 275 doctors have been provided honorary fellowships.

Constitution and Management of BCPS:

According to the by-laws of the BCPS, its activities are governed by a member council. Out of which, 16 members are elected for every 4 years through elections held by the election commission. The remaining 4 members are appointed by the government. The council members elect one president, one senior vice-president, one vice president, one treasurer and two general members to form the executive committee

The college started its journey at that time in a small scale in a room in IPGMR. Later, the office of the college was in a rented apartment in Dhanmondi. The college started official activities from January 1982 in a 3-acre space land in Mohakhali in the capital. Currently, the activities of the college are held in two separate buildings inside the campus. As the administrative, academic, examination related and research activities of the college has increased, in a bid to bring in infrastructural improvement the government of Bangladesh with the kind support of the honorable Prime Minister and the continued efforts from the health minister, the "BCPS modernization and expansion" centric 215 crore take project" was approved by the government. As part of this project, a 1500 seating capacity auditorium, a 12 storied multipurpose building with 3 basements will be built, renovation of the existing rooms of the college premises is planned, renovation of the RTM department along with structural repair and buying new furniture, improving the structure of the OSPE, IOE and clinical examination will be completed.

ACTIVITIES OF BCPS: Medical Education:

BCPS is such an educational institute that it does not require any significant expense from the government's end to train up medical professionals. The BCPS, with the help of renowned physicians/medical professionals, conducts courses on the different subjects with regards to preparation for the FCPS Part I & II. As a mandatory part of the fellowship program, it conducts non-stop classes for the candidates in different fields such as: Research Methodology, Information and Communication Technology, Basic Surgical Skills, Essential Obstetrics care and Neonatal Care. Structured academic courses are organized for the students for a period of 1 year in the government medical colleges which fall under the scope of the fellowship program of the college.

Training systems in the BCPS are comparable to those which are held across many developed nations as well, namely: the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, Pakistan, Hong Kong, and Australia etc. Keeping in line with similar global Specialized hospitals and medical institutes and 64 district Sadar hospitals.

These trainings are under strict observation by the BCPS in order to ensure that the highest quality is being upheld. BCPS also reviews the quality of trainings in different medical colleges and hospitals. To maintain the quality of facilitators, the BCPS regularly holds workshops and seminars for them. Currently, in the recognized institutes, training case basis discussions are held with the trainees every 6 months, clinical evaluations done by using the Mini-CEX system, presentations regarding the progress of each training, submitting progress reports every 6 months are conducted with extreme importance. As a result of which, the quality of the trainings is gradually improving.

Conducting a research or completing a thesis is mandatory for all trainees aspiring to be Fellows of the College. Every student must go through a structured module course on research methodology where they learn how to conduct research, how to write a thesis and protocol which is conducted under the supervision of the RTM department. There is no better alternative than to increase focus on research activities in order to take the stature of the BCPS to newer heights on the national and international scale. After the establishment of the college, to preserve and uphold the research completed by fellows and members in national and international forums, the college has been publishing journals. Currently, the college publishes 4 journals every year. All relevant information regarding the

Continuing Professional Development:

To inform the fellows and members of the different activities and new additions, Continuing Professional Development programs are held in the various Medical Colleges and Hospitals of the country. To create awareness amongst doctors regarding the developments of advanced technology and new discoveries in medical sciences, the College holds these CPD programs all throughout the year.

Since being established, the college has remained steadfast in maintaining the quality of its examinations. The examinations held by this college is not only the best in medical education in the country but also the most regular, unbiased and of international standard. This college is determined to use its healthcare education, testing system and research to create standardized expert doctors. Even in case of the evaluation of the examinees, the college follows other similar organizations and does a fair, transparent, and objective evaluation process. To ensure that the international quality and recognition of the examination is preserved and recognized, it is customary to invite examiners from around the world from countries like Ireland, US, UK, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal besides local examiners as well.

The college's exams are held regularly in January and July of every year and the results are published same day within one hour of the practical exams being completed. This is the only institution till date in Bangladesh where this rule is yet to be broken. This difficult task has been possible only because of the active participation and tireless efforts of the fellow of this institute

Higher Education: BCPS ensures that the post-graduate trainees are appropriately trained in their respective fields so that they can be a competent specialist. Furthermore, the Skill Development Lab of BCPS allows doctors to get hands on training about topics such as: Basic & Advanced Surgical Skills, Basic Laparoscopic Skills, Basic Microsurgical Skills, Temporal Bone Dissection, Emergency Obstertric Care & Neonatal Care, Essential Gynaecological Skills Course, Advanced Cardiac Life Support & Advanced Trauma Life Support. Previously, a postgraduate had to spend a lot his own hard earned money to go abroad for such trainings. Now it is possible in BCPS' very own Skill Lab. Even then, BCPS takes initiatives to send it's Fellows abroad in various countries in prestigious training programs. All of this ensures development of doctors equipped to meet the demands of our great country and its people

Since its commencement, BCPS has been proactive in providing quality medical services and specialist medical services to the people of this country. About 85% of the specialists who have graduated from this college are making significant contribution in teaching and providing specialist medical services to the people of the country in the district hospitals and upazila health complexes of various government hospitals as well as in private medical colleges and hospitals. Fellows and members of the college are also working abroad with great reputation beyond the borders of the country. BCPS is working successfully to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by using its acquired technology and knowledge to ensure specialized medical care and healthy living to the people of the country.

International recognition: Certificate Degrees awarded by the College are recognized for professional registration, higher education, training and employment in many countries of the world. The college has established its affiliation with the American College of Surgeons, American Heart Association, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine of UK, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UK, King Fahad Medical city Saudi Arabia, Ethicon Institute of surgical Education, India ,All India Institute of Medical science etc

Continuing the Tradition of BCPS:

The contribution of College at the national level:

BCPS, the first traditional institution of postgraduate medical education in the country, is about to enter its 50th year. Dedicated to the advancement of postgraduate medical education in the overall welfare of the country and the nation, the college stands today with its glorious unique heritage as it has a long way to go before it commits itself to conducting research activities in every fields of science. Today's BCPS is the result of the responsible leadership and relentless work of many eminent physicians of Bangladesh. Due to the infinite glory of Almighty and the deep wisdom and hard work of the Fellows and Councilors of the College, the College has been able to build a unique tradition of education and services with great philosophy.

It is the tradition of this college to conduct the examinations on the date fixed before hand for maintaining standard of education and examinations and to publish the results as soon as the examinations are over. Today, there is no remote area of the country where college fellows and members are not engaged in humanitarian service. They are

also playing an important role in providing medical services in different countries of the world. It is hoped that in the near future this tradition will be further expanded and enriched BCPS is a unique organization that is magnificent in its own tradition with a rare instance.





वह देशाई ३८२३

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এভ সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত। এ উপলক্ষো আমি কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষ, ফেলো, মেঘার ও সনদপ্রাপ্ত বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসকসহ সংখ্রিষ্ট সকলকে আন্তরিক ওভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জানাই।

সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান স্বাধীনতার পরপরই দেশের চিকিৎসা বাবস্থার উন্নয়নে হাসপাতাল প্রতিষ্ঠাসহ বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেন। যুদ্ধবিধ্বস্ত দেশের জনগণের স্বাস্থ্য এবং চিকিৎসা সেবার সার্বিক উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে উচ্চতর ডিগ্রিধারী বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসক ও চিকিৎসা শিক্ষার শূন্যতা পুরণ করতে জাতির পিতা যুক্তরাজ্যের রয়েল কলেজগুলোর আদলে ১৯৭২ সালের ৬ জুন বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস এন্ড সার্জনস্ প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন। এর ফলে দেশে স্বস্ক বরচে ও সময়ে আন্তর্জাতিক মানের উচ্চতর ডিগ্রিখারী বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসক তৈরির পথ উন্মোচিত হয়। বঙ্গবদ্ধ শেখ মুজিবের হাতেই বাংলাদেশের স্বাস্থ্যখাতের উন্নয়ন ও চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানের গবেষণায় বৈপ্লবিক পরিবর্তন ७क रहा। जिनि माञ्चारक महिर्यालात मृत विधिकारतत वहन दिरमर महस्याजन, अधम পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনায় স্বাস্থ্যকে গুরুত্বদান, গ্রামীণ স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্র প্রতিষ্ঠা, চিকিৎসকদের চাকুরির প্রথম শ্রেণির মর্যাদা প্রদান, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় পুষ্টি পরিষদ গঠনসহ বহুমুখী পদক্ষেপ এহণ করেন। জাতির পিতা চিকিৎসা সেবাকে সর্বস্তরের জনগণের নিকট পৌছে দেয়ার জন্য জেলা, থানা এবং ইউনিয়ন পর্যায়ে স্বাস্থ্যসেবা সম্প্রসারণের যুগান্তকারী উদ্যোগ নেন।

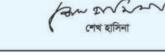
আওয়ামী লীগ সরকার জাতির পিতার পদান্ত অনুসরন করে জনগণের দোরগোড়ায় স্বাস্থ্য সেবা পৌছে দিতে গত ১৩ বছরে স্বাস্থ্য খাতে ব্যাপক উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়ন করছে। গণমুখী স্বাস্থ্য নীতি প্রণয়ন করে যুগোপযোগী স্বাস্থ্যসেবা নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে নতুন নতুন হাসপাতাল, নার্সিং ইনস্টিটিউট প্রতিষ্ঠাসহ নানা পদক্ষেপ নেওয়া হয়েছে, যার ফলে বাংলাদেশের স্বাস্থ্য খাতে উল্লেখযোগ্য অগ্রগতি সাধিত হয়েছে। সারাদেশে হাসপাতালগুলোর শয্যা বৃদ্ধিসহ চিকিৎসক, নার্স, সাপোর্টিং স্টাফের সংখ্যা বহুলাংশে বৃদ্ধি করা হয়েছে। মেডিকেল শিক্ষার প্রসারে নতুন নতুন মেডিকেল কলেজ ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান গড়ে তোলা হয়েছে। আমাদের সরকার 'বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এও সার্জনস্ আইন-২০১৮' প্রথয়ন করেছে। গ্রাম পর্যায়ে জনগণের দোরগোড়ায় স্বাস্থ্যসেবা পৌছে দিতে সারাদেশে প্রায় ১৮ হাজার ৫শত কমিউনিটি ক্লিনিক ও ইউনিয়ন স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্র স্থাপন করা হয়েছে। কমিউনিটি ক্লিনিক ও ইউনিয়ন স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্রের মাধ্যমে প্রান্তিক জনগোষ্ঠীকে ফ্রি স্বাস্থ্য, পরিবার কল্যাণ ও পুষ্টি সেবা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। জেলা ও উপজেলা পর্যায়ের হাসপাতাল থেকে মোবাইল ফোন ও অনলাইন প্রাটফর্মের মাধ্যমে চিকিৎসা সেবা চালু করা হয়েছে। গ্রামীণ দরিদ্র ও প্রান্তিক মানুষের প্রাথমিক চিকিৎসা সেবা ও সর্বস্তরের জনগণের জন্য বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদান স্বাস্থ্য থাতে তথ্য প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে শিও ও মাতৃ মৃত্যু ব্লাস, মাঠ পর্যায়ে মা ও শিও স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষায় পরিবার পরিকল্পনা সেবা প্রদান, এসচিজির লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জন এবং সকল স্তরের জনগণের স্বাস্থ্যসেবা নিশ্চিতকরণে আমরা অভূতপূর্ব সাফল্য অর্জন করেছি। করোনা ভাইরাসের সংক্রমণ সনাক্ত এবং এর চিকিৎসা ব্যবস্থাপনা ও টিকা কার্যক্রম বাস্তবায়নে সময়োপযোগী পদক্ষেপের কারণেই সারাবিশ্বে বাংলাদেশের ভাবমূর্তি উজ্জ্বল হয়েছে।

আমি আশা করি, দেশের সকল সরকারী ও বেসরকারি মেডিকেল প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে নিরলস চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা ও সেবা দান এবং গবেষণা কার্যক্রমের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর ফেলো, মেম্বার ও সনদপ্রাপ্ত বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসকগণ দেশের স্বাস্থ্য বাবস্থার সার্বিক উন্নয়নকল্পে এবং জাতির পিতার স্বপ্লের ক্ষ্ধা-দারিদ্রযুক্ত সোনার বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলতে আরও অবদান রাখবেন।

আমি বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এভ সার্জনস্-এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তনের সার্বিক সাঞ্চল্য কামনা করি।

करा वाश्ला, करा वनवकू

বাংলাদেশ চিবজীবী হোক।











বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এভ সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তন উপলক্ষ্যে আমি কলেজের সকল ফেলো (এফসিপিএস) এবং মেমারগণকে

সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালী, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান স্বাস্থ্য সেবাকে রাষ্ট্রের অন্যতম মৌলিক চাহিদা হিসেবে সংবিধানে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করেন। তিনি দেশে মানসমত চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা ও বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসকের চাহিদা মেটানোর জন্য ১৯৭২ সালের ৬ জুন গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের মহামান্য রাষ্ট্রপতির এক অধ্যাদেশ বলে সংবিধিবন্ধ প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এন্ড সার্জনস প্রতিষ্ঠা করেছিলেন। এ কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠালগ্ন থেকে অদ্যাবধি স্বাস্থ্য খাতে প্রশিক্ষিত ও দক্ষ মানব সম্পদ তৈরিতে বিশেষ করে বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসকের অভাব প্রণে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে চলেছে।

কলেজের নতুন ফেলো (এফসিপিএস) ও মেধারণণ (এমসিপিএস), যাঁরা আজ সনদ গ্রহণ করবেন তাঁদের আমি আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জানাই। আপনারা দেশের প্রত্যন্ত অঞ্চলে আপামর জনগণের ঘারপ্রান্তে স্বাস্থ্য সেবা পৌছে দেওয়ায় ব্রত হবেন। আমার দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস বিশেষজ্ঞ চিকিৎসক হিসেবে আপনারা বিসিপিএস-এর উচ্চমান সমূনত রাখতে সদা সচেষ্ট থাকবেন।

আমি কলেজের ১৪তম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করি।









স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তন (Convocation) অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাচেছ জেনে আমি অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত।

জনগণের স্বাস্থ্য সেবা এবং চিকিৎসা শিক্ষায় বিসিপিএস-এর ফেলো (FCPS) ও সদস্যবৃন্দ (MCPS) গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছেন। বিশেষজ্ঞ পর্যায়ে জনশক্তি তৈরি করে সারাদেশে উন্নত স্বাস্থ্য সেবার সুযোগ সৃষ্টির মাধ্যমে এই কলেজ রোগীদের বিদেশে যাওয়া নিরুৎসাহিত করে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা সাপ্রয়ে অবদান রাখছে। আমি আশা করি, এই কলেজের ফেলো ও সদস্যবৃদ্দ তাঁদের সুনাম অক্ষুন্ন রেখে দেশে চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানের উচ্চতর শিক্ষা প্রসারে তাঁদের অবদান অব্যাহত

চিকিৎসা শাস্ত্রে স্নাতকোন্তর ডিগ্রি প্রাপ্ত চিকিৎসকবৃন্দের জন্য আজ একটি স্মরণীয় দিন। এর মধ্য দিয়ে জনগণেরও উন্নত চিকিৎসা পাওয়ার সুযোগ প্রসারিত হলো বলে আমি মনে করি। আমি প্রত্যাশা করি, রোগাক্রান্ত মানুষের রোগ মুক্তির ঐকান্তিক প্রচেষ্টার পাশাপাশি তাঁরা বিবেকবান মানুষ হিসেবে সমাজকে স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবেশ সম্পর্কে সচেতন করার দায়িতৃও নিষ্ঠার সাথে পালন করবেন।

পরিশেষে আমি বিসিপিএস এর ১৪তম সমাবর্তনের সার্বিক সাহুল্য কামনা করি।



What to

SONY SIX Sri Lanka vs Australia 1st T20 Live from 07:30 pm

UEFA Nations League Germany vs England Live from 12:45 am (Wednesday) TEN 2 UEFA Nations League Italy vs Hungary Live from 12:45 am (Wednesday)

Flick wants better against England

AFP, Berlin

Germany's coach Hansi Flick said on Monday that his team would need to improve against England's 'extraordinary players' in a Nations League clash in Munich on Tuesday.

Flick praised the English Premier League at his prematch press conference saying "the quality is very

high".

"They have six or seven clubs of almost equal level," said Flick, a former Bayern Munich coach.

Flick said German players who move to the Premier League "take a step up".

Flick's squad contains four players who played for English clubs last season, including three under German coach Thomas Tuchel at Chelsea.

Flick singled out Kai Havertz "who grew up under the influence of Thomas Tuchel." Midfielder Ilkay



Gundogan, who scored twice on the final day of the Premier League season to seal the title for Manchester City, praised England's strength in depth.

"They could form three national teams," he said.

Flick said he was disappointed with a 1-1 draw with Italy in Bologna on Saturday, on the same evening that England lost their goup opener 1-0 in Hungary.

"They have extraordinary players and their game is very physical. (Harry) Kane is a world-class striker, he has a huge quality," Flick said.

"It will be a big game for us and it will be important to implement our plan well," said Flick, still undefeated after ten games as Germany coach.

Gundogan, who has been at City since 2016, insisted the historic rivalry between England and Germany was "no longer an issue."

"The respect is there, and in the end it is about sport," he said.



Shoriful enjoying THE BIG SHIFT

Pace bowler Shoriful Islam, still recovering from a fractured hand, is set to travel to the West Indies to take part in the limited-overs formats for the Tigers. The 21-year-old has established himself as a vital component for the Tigers across the formats since making his international debut last year and will be hoping to impress further in the coming days. The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin caught up with the young seamer, speaking to him about his bowling alongside a few other topics during an exclusive interview. The excerpts are below:

The Daily Star (DS): How is your hand? Shoriful Islam (SI): It's much better now. I feel a lot better. Hopefully the plaster will be removed by May 9 and then let's see what happens. I will start rehabilitation and will be a part of the Bangladesh Tigers camp. Since this is my non-bowling arm, I think there won't be much of issue with bowling once I return to training.

DS: As a fast bowler, how do you adjust as a cross format cricketer who plays all the three formats?

SI: It requires a lot of hard work and determination. I try to give my best during the training sessions. I think it's also about mentality. When you think about your game constantly, it helps you adjust to different situations and conditions. It is not easy at all but this is why I started playing cricket, to represent my country and represent it in all the three formats.

DS: What are the differences from when you made your international debut from the Under-19 level compared to now?

SI: Nowadays I don't require much time to adjust compared to my early days in international cricket. Since making the

shift from the U-19 level to international cricket, there was a matter of adjustment. There were no experienced bowlers during my U-19 days because we were all the same age but now I am getting a lot of support and guidance from seniors like Taskin (Taskin) and Fizz (Mustafizur Rahman). They constantly share their experience in the dressing room and it actually helps me a lot.

DS: Did you get a chance to talk to Mustafizur Rahman recently?

SI: Yes, I had a chat with Mustafizur bhai yesterday (Sunday). I always want to know how he adapts during pressure situations. He shares his knowledge and his recent experience in the IPL. The last two days, I worked with Taskin bhai. I am a huge fan of his work ethic and dedication. He puts in a lot of effort in the gym and off the field, which is why he is getting success.

DS: How are things going with pacebowling coach Allan Donald?
SI: The best thing about Donald is the way he provides confidence to players, which boosts morale. Since he was a legend of the game, I try to learn the most from

him. He is working with my wrist work

but we didn't get enough time to practice because we were busy with matches. I am looking forward to working with him in the coming days.

DS: You will be touring West Indies for the first time and will feature in the white-ball formats. What are your plans for the tour?

SI: I have never been to the West Indies but I heard pacers gets a lot of assistance in those conditions. Recently, I witnessed spinners also get some purchase from the pitch so I think it will be a sporting wicket. If we can bowl in the right areas, we can do better as a pace-bowling unit.

DS: What are your strengths as a fast howler?

SI: I think my main strength is bowling in a specific area consistently and maintaining a tight line and length. You have to be cunning and anticipate what is going in the batter's mind. At times, you need to adapt as the conditions and pitch may not suit you. So, it's important to know your strengths and work accordingly. I normally follow Mustafizur bhai and Taskin bhai and previously I used to follow Mitchell Starc during my childhood days.

More questions than answers in Shakib's appointment

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Usually, when a new Test captain is appointed, the first focus is on the direction he wants to take the team. But Bangladesh's newly instated captain is yet to speak about his plans for the team or the brand of cricket he wants to see it play.

In fact, Shakib Al Hasan left the country on Sunday night without giving any soundbite to the media after being handed the captaincy on Thursday.

His first assignment is the tour of the Windies this month. However, he will join the squad in the Caribbean on June 10, two days after the squad's first practice session on June 8.

On the very day Shakib was announced as captain, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan had to comment on the fact that the captain would be available for upcoming Tests, because Shakib had missed quite a few series in the recent past.

On the other hand, the BCB president could not comment on how long the 35-year-old Shakib's captaincy would continue.

There also seems to be no set target for the board or captain to aim towards.

Without Shakib having said anything so far and the board president saying nothing of note, the prevailing culture of unaccountability becomes even more obvious.

There has also been

the BCB about whether he has submitted any plan for the team's direction. The BCB president had even remarked on the

no announcement from

The BCB president had even remarked on the day of Shakib's appointment that it was hard to have an impact in Test cricket with the Test squad they currently have.

"Right now, the things we need in order to do well in Tests are difficult to accomplish with this squad. As long as they play, that effect [lacking Test mentality] will not go away ... I think two years from now, you will see lots of changes [in squad and performances]."

The above statement only points to short term solutions and makes Shakib's appointment appear like a stopgap one. Having appointed Shakib for a third time, are BCB looking for something new or the same reality that held sway during Shakib's last stint? If it is the same old, the resurgence of the pace unit under Mominul Haque will have come to a disastrous end.

During his last stint, Shakib, keen on a heavy focus on playing spinners at home, had said pacers would be used in New Zealand and there was nothing to worry about. That ignored the reality that for pacers to do well abroad, they need matches at home and on pitches that offer them the bare minimum.

Will it be different this time? Will the focus again be just on winning at home despite Bangladesh's greatest Test achievement of winning in New Zealand having been delivered by pacers?

At the moment, there are no answers.

'Five-star' Messi overtakes Puskas

Neymar closes in on Pele's record

AGENCIES

Argentina striker Lionel Messi scored five goals in a 5-0 friendly win over Estonia on Sunday, a result which helped him overtake Hungary's great Ferenc Puskas among the all-time international top scorers.

The former Barcelona player got to shine once more on Spanish soil in a match played at the El Sadar stadium in the northern city of Pamplona, 430 kilometres from what for 21 years he called home.

The Argentina captain caught up and left behind the former Hungary and -- on four occasions -- Spain forward, who scored 84 goals in 89

Messi is now three goals behind former Malaysia forward Mokhtar Dahari, in third. Iran's Ali Daei (109) is second, while Portugal's Cristiano

Ronaldo remains first with 117 goals. The Paris St Germain forward also became the first player to have netted five times in both a single European Cup or Champions League clash and in an international match on a senior level.

He previously found the back of the net five times 10 years ago, when Barcelona hammered Bayer Leverkusen 7-1 in the Champions League last 16 second leg at the Camp Nou. Lionel Scaloni's side are unbeaten in

33 matches, the last loss a 2-0 defeat to Brazil in the semi-finals of the 2019 Copa America.

Meanwhile, Neymar scored a 77th-

minute penalty as Brazil broke down a stubborn Japan 1-0 in Tokyo on Monday to keep their momentum building ahead of the World Cup in Qatar. The South American heavyweights

arrived in Tokyo fresh off a 5-1 thrashing of South Korea in Seoul last week, but Japan proved a tougher nut to crack in front of a full house at the Olympic stadium.

Neymar's goal took him to 74 for his country, just three short of the legendary Pele's all-time record of goals for Brazil.



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RMG workers' protest for pay hike continues

Govt hints at forming wage board, issue ration cards for them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the garment workers continued their protests yesterday demanding pay increases, the government hinted at forming a minimum wage board to fix a new pay structure for them as soon as possible.

Former shipping minister Shajahan Khan gave the hint at a press conference in the capital's Srama Bhaban. Shajahan, also a former workers' union leader, said the government would provide ration cards to workers soon to enable them to buy some basic commodities at lower prices as their prices have soared.

Before holding the press conference, Shajahan held a tripartite meeting of government high-ups, garment workers' union leaders, and factory owners to discuss the demonstrations by RMG workers and the way forward.

Shajahan, a ruling Awami Leaguelawmaker, was tasked with holding the emergency meeting and press

Earlier, the

of garment

raised to

workers was

Tk 8,000 in

December in

monthly wage

minimum

conference regarding the protests as State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian, secretary to the ministry and other senior officials of the ministry were now travelling abroad.

The lawmaker, however, did not give details of when and how the wage board would be formed and how the ration cards would be distributed.

He said he would inform Monnujan about the government's plan on ration cards and the new wage board upon her return from a meeting of the International Labour Organisation, now being held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Earlier, the minimum monthly wage of garment workers was raised to Tk 8,000 in December 2018.

The minimum wage was fixed at Tk 5,300 in 2013, up from Tk 3,000 in 2010. The figure was Tk 1,662.50 in 2006, Tk 940 in 1994 and Tk 627 in 1985.

Shajahan blamed the BNP and Jamaat for the workers' demonstrations alleging that the two parties were instigating the workers to take to the streets to dampen the joyous moment of the inauguration of the Padma Bridge, scheduled for June 25.

AGITATION CONTINUES

Garment workers staged protests in the capital's Mirpur and Uttara areas yesterday, demanding pay hikes as prices of daily essentials have shot up.

The demonstrations, which began on Thursday, entered fourth day yesterday after a day's break on

Witnesses said hundreds of workers took to the streets at Mirpur-10 intersection, Mirpur-13, Mirpur-14 and Kachukhet areas around 8:30am. Protesters blocked traffic at Mirpur-13.

ASM Mahtab Uddin, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Mirpur division), said police tried to drive the workers away, but they hurled brick chunks at

Law enforcers then used batons, fired sound grenades and teargas shells to disperse the workers, Mahtab told

The protesters retreated to alleys while police took positions on the main streets. The demonstrators left the alleys around 11:00am, said witnesses.

In Uttara, several hundred garment workers staged protests blocking part of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Azampur area around 10:00am. Protesters hurled brick chunks at several buses. Police later fired teargas shells to disperse the workers around 11:00am.

Kamal Hossain, an RMG worker in Mirpur, said they were demonstrating peacefully, but police attacked them without any provocation.

Protesters also alleged that many of their fellow RMG workers were detained by police in the last few days.



Cops rough up a garment worker after picking him up during a protest in the capital's Mirpur yesterday morning. The workers had been demonstrating for four days straight, demanding an increase in wages in the wake of price hikes of essentials.

Govt scraps Odhikar's registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled the registration of non-governmental organisation Odhikar, amidst an ongoing legal battle in this regard.

One of the reasons given for the cancellation was publishing misleading information about various extrajudicial killings, alleged disappearances and murders. These, the government says, severely tarnished Bangladesh's global image.

The comments were made in a letter issued on June 5 and signed by Zinat Ara, the director of registration and audit at the NGO Affairs Bureau. This newspaper has a copy of the letter.

Odhikar is one of the few organisations that have routinely logged cases of enforced disappearances and published quarterly and annual reports detailing the incidents. They also support and mobilise the families of enforced disappearance

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Newspaper industry in crisis

Say speakers at a roundtable



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's newspaper industry is going through a crisis because of laws that restrict freedom of speech and the precarious state of the economy, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

In the last one and a half years, the price of newsprint, which is the paper used to print newspapers, spiralled from \$570 per tonne to \$1,050.

Together with the devaluation of the exchange rate and the

numerous taxes, the industry is in a bind, they said in a roundtable styled "Upcoming Budget: Problems and Crisis of Newspaper Industries" organised by the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB).

The main income of the newspaper comes from the advertisements, which have decreased since the pandemic, said AK Azad, president of NOAB.

On top of that, the newspapers have a Tk 100 crore

advertisement bill pending from the government.

The production cost of a Tk 10-newspaper is Tk 23, and of the Tk 10, the newspaper hawkers take Tk 4 and the publishers get Tk 6, according to Azad, also the publisher of Bangla daily Samakal.

The newspaper industry is different from the rest and its problems are longstanding, Azad

"We explained the VAT and tax issues to the NBR [National

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6 **MASS MEDIA BILL**

A firefighter extinguishes a fire at a warehouse following recent shelling during Ukraine-Russia conflict in Donetsk, Ukraine yesterday.

JS body gets 60 more days to scrutinise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on information and broadcasting ministry was yesterday given 60 more days to scrutinise the much-debated Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill 2022.

Hasanul Huq Inu, chairman of the committee, sought the time in parliament, which unanimously approved it.

On March 28, Information and **Broadcasting Minister** Hasan Mahmud placed the bill and it was sent to the parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny.

> According to sources at SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Untimely death of a dream

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

She lost her mother at six. Life was hard but she never gave up. In time, she finished her graduation with outstanding

The girl, Puja Sarkar, finally became a scientist at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. Around two years ago, she started her new

journey after tying the knot with Tanmoy Majumder, a doctor. They were expecting a baby soon.

"But everything has been taken away in a father Amal Sarker.

Puja is one of the three young scientists of BAEC who died in a tragic accident in Savar on Sunday. The driver of

the bus they were in also died. "As my daughter was deprived of the love and

care of her mother, she struggled hard to reach this stage of her career. We are speechless," he told The Daily Star last evening.

Puja's uncle Subrata Nandy, who lives in Canada, wrote a heart-wrenching piece titled

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Transparent sub launches in Vietnam

CNN ONLINE

A groundbreaking submersible has welcomed passengers on its first ever public dives in a hugely significant move for submarine

> tourism. The Triton DeepView 24, built by Florida-based luxury submersible company Triton Submarines, finally launched at the Vinpearl complex in Hon Tre Island, Vietnam, last month, two years after it was delivered.

The 24-seat vessel, which can reach depths of up to 100

metres (328 feet), features a transparent acrylic hull, providing an incomparable underwater

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6