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## GONO COMMISSION PAPER ACC to review allegations

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Gono Commission has recently been facing a backlash from religion-based organisations over submission of a “white paper” that named 116 religious leaders and Islamic speakers for their “involvement in laundering money, funding militancy and spreading communal hatred”.

The Anti Corruption Commission has said it will review the allegations brought by the platform, People’s Inquiry Commission on Fundamentalist and Communal Violence, widely known as Gono Commission.

The ACC said it will launch a probe if it finds any substance to the allegations.

Headed by Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, the platform on May 12 submitted the report to the ACC in a ceremony attended by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

The 30-member commission was formed in February last year with members of the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous and Minorities and the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee.

It prepared the 2,200-page white paper titled “2,000 Days of Fundamentalist and Communal Violence in Bangladesh” based on the research on militancy and communal attacks carried out in the country from July 2016 (the Holey Artisan Bakery incident) to December 2021. The Nirmul Committee has made the white paper public.

The report named 116 Islamic leaders and orators allegedly involved in laundering money, funding

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Ukrainian service members fire a shell from a M777 Howitzer near a frontline, as Russia’s attack on Ukraine continues, in Donetsk Region on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## ‘Russia partially controls Severodonetsk’

Another Russian general killed in Donetsk

AGENCIES

Russia yesterday reported its forces had taken full control of residential neighbourhoods in Ukraine’s flashpoint city of Severodonetsk, after Kyiv said its troops were fighting on in the eastern hub despite being outnumbered.

“The residential areas of the city of Severodonetsk have been fully liberated,” Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told a defence ministry meeting.

The Russian army was still seeking to establish control over the city’s “industrial zone and the nearest settlements”, he added, amid conflicting reports of who is in control of what.

Moscow has been pushing for control of the strategic industrial

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## Japan hopes polls will be better than last

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki yesterday expressed hopes that the government would do everything necessary to ensure next year’s national election is free, fair, and better than the last one held in 2018.

The enactment of the bill on appointing election commissioners is a positive move, the ambassador said while addressing the Diplomatic Correspondents Association Bangladesh (DCAB) Talk at the Jatiya Press Club.

Naoki said Japan had raised concerns over the violence during the 2018 election and the way it was conducted, and that he has been urging government officials to hold better elections and will continue to do so.


He also said the media should be given space so that journalists can play their role in ensuring that citizens have opportunities to freely cast their votes, and that each vote is counted.

The diplomat said Japan is also interested in selling defence equipment to Bangladesh, and a Japanese private company visited Dhaka this year to gauge the level of interest in buying defence equipment, particularly radars for the Air Force.

Bangladesh is diversifying its defence purchases while Japan has relaxed its regulations on sales of defence equipment. Japan is already

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**PADMA BRIDGE inauguration**

**17 DAYS TO GO**



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A sign displaying raised prices of items at a tea stall near Khulna city’s Circuit House. The continuing hike in prices of daily essentials has also had an impact on tea stalls, which are considered among the cheapest options for customers seeking hot beverages or snacks. The photo was taken yesterday.

## Monkeypox ‘alarm false’ Says expert after passenger screened out at HSIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Turkish man, sent to a hospital from Dhaka airport because he has rashes on his body, has no monkeypox symptoms, said a top official of the health directorate.

“The rashes are due to a long-term skin disease,” Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (administration) of the health directorate, told The Daily Star, adding that he examined the man.

However, the authorities at Infectious Diseases Hospital said they will not discharge the man until the laboratory test confirms whether he has the disease.

“We primarily concluded that the patient is not infected with monkeypox virus. But we have sent his sample to the IEDCR for an RT-PCR test,” said Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of the hospital.

The 32-year-old man was sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Mohakhali after doctors at Dhaka airport noticed the rashes during screening.

He arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal

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## Researchers break data transfer rate record

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

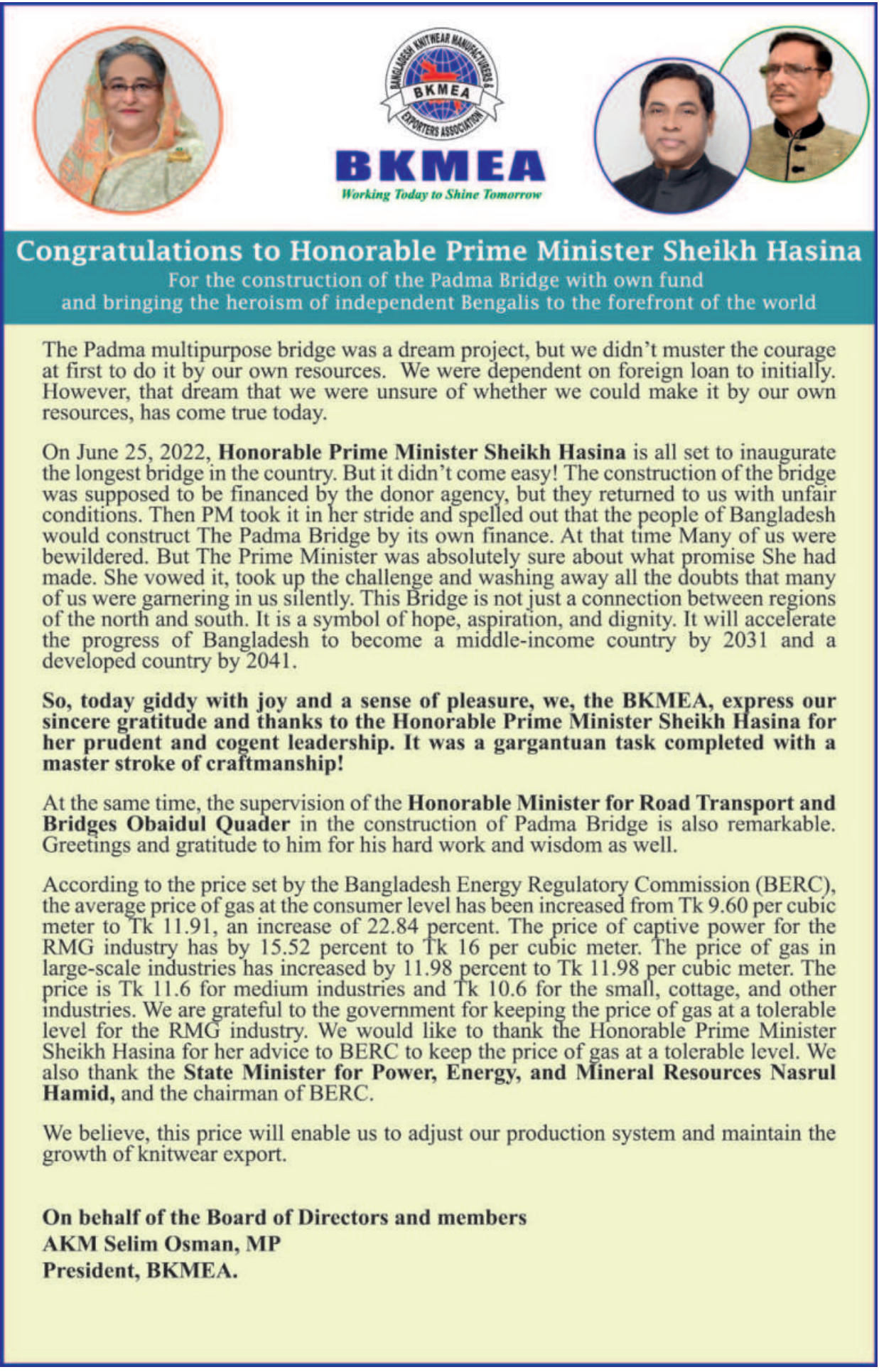
Researchers in Japan have achieved a world record for data transmission using standard hardware, achieving speeds 100,000 times faster than 5G internet speeds.

The Network Research Institute at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) demonstrated the first ever data transmission of 1.02 petabit (PB) per second, equivalent to just over 125,000 Gigabytes (GB) per second, using optic fibres compatible with conventional cable infrastructure.

NICT constructed the transmission system using fibres with standard 0.125mm cladding diameter, which it described as “a major step towards the realisation of ultra-high-throughput optical links... compatible with existing cabling technologies for near-term adoption.”

The system allowed 1.02 PB per second to be transmitted

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**BKMEA**

Working Today to Shine Tomorrow

**Congratulations to Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**

For the construction of the Padma Bridge with own fund and bringing the heroism of independent Bengalis to the forefront of the world

The Padma multipurpose bridge was a dream project, but we didn’t muster the courage at first to do it by our own resources. We were dependent on foreign loan to initially. However, that dream that we were unsure of whether we could make it by our own resources, has come true today.

On June 25, 2022, **Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** is all set to inaugurate the longest bridge in the country. But it didn’t come easy! The construction of the bridge was supposed to be financed by the donor agency, but they returned to us with unfair conditions. Then PM took it in her stride and spelled out that the people of Bangladesh would construct The Padma Bridge by its own finance. At that time Many of us were bewildered. But The Prime Minister was absolutely sure about what promise She had made. She vowed it, took up the challenge and washing away all the doubts that many of us were garnering in us silently. This Bridge is not just a connection between regions of the north and south. It is a symbol of hope, aspiration, and dignity. It will accelerate the progress of Bangladesh to become a middle-income country by 2031 and a developed country by 2041.

So, today giddy with joy and a sense of pleasure, we, the **BKMEA**, express our sincere gratitude and thanks to the **Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** for her prudent and cogent leadership. It was a gargantuan task completed with a master stroke of craftsmanship!

At the same time, the supervision of the **Honorable Minister for Road Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader** in the construction of Padma Bridge is also remarkable. Greetings and gratitude to him for his hard work and wisdom as well.

According to the price set by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), the average price of gas at the consumer level has been increased from Tk 9.60 per cubic meter to Tk 11.91, an increase of 22.84 percent. The price of captive power for the RMG industry has by 15.52 percent to Tk 16 per cubic meter. The price of gas in large-scale industries has increased by 11.98 percent to Tk 11.98 per cubic meter. The price is Tk 11.6 for medium industries and Tk 10.6 for the small, cottage, and other industries. We are grateful to the government for keeping the price of gas at a tolerable level for the RMG industry. We would like to thank the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her advice to BERC to keep the price of gas at a tolerable level. We also thank the **State Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid**, and the chairman of BERC.

We believe, this price will enable us to adjust our production system and maintain the growth of knitwear export.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors and members**

**AKM Selim Osman, MP**

**President, BKMEA.**