



**B3** Govt to review edible oil prices



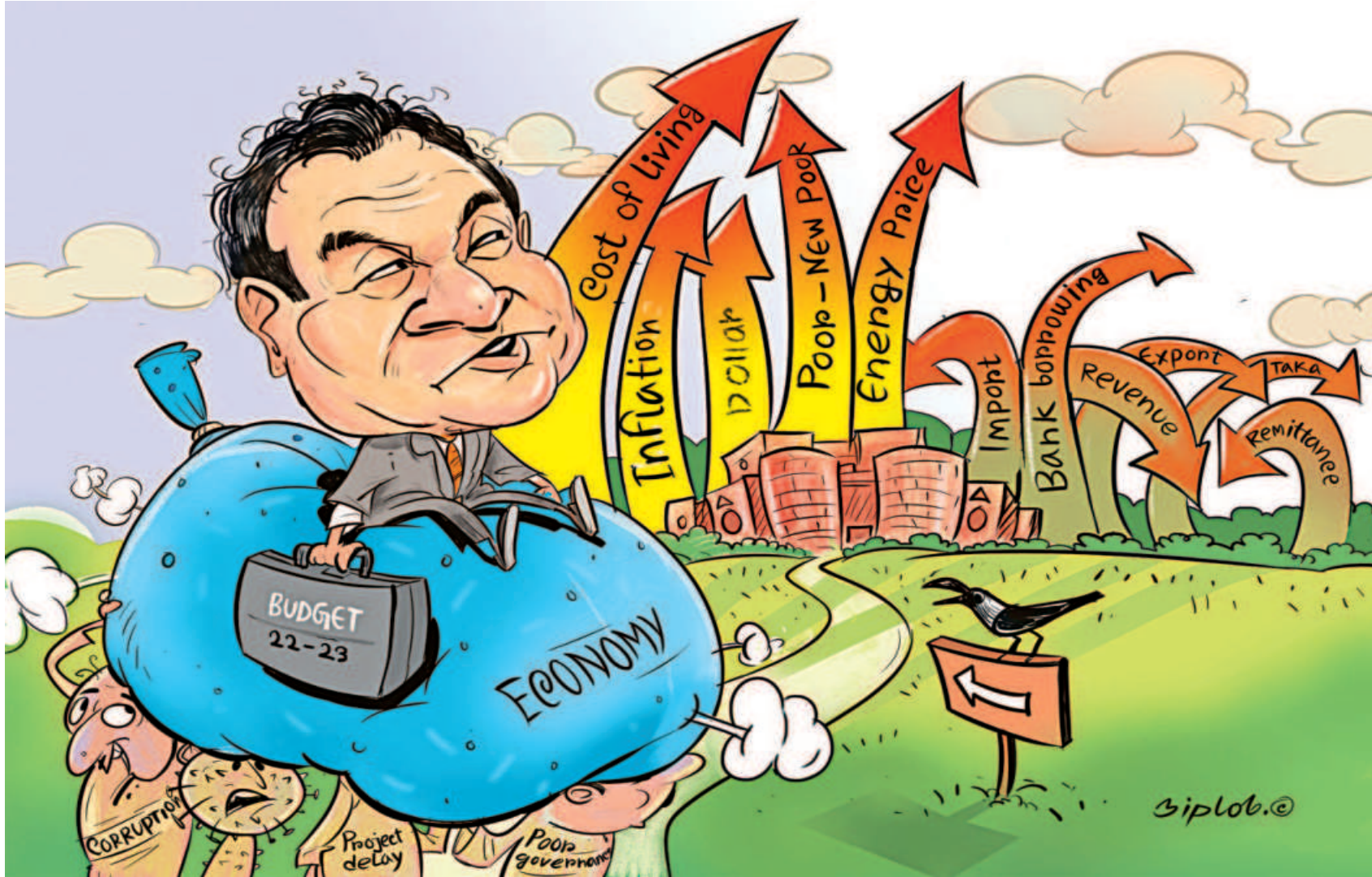
**P3** Dhaka air 2nd most polluted in the world



**P7** Vulnerable nations demand funding for climate losses



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## Bet on poor, future

With rising cost of living and looming LDC graduation, FY 2022-23 budget needs to be pro-people

ZINA TASREEN

What is the purpose of the national budget? In essence, it is to allocate scarce resources.

Deal with it wisely and not only would it bear fruit in the immediate future but also ensure more resources to spend for the future and more wealth to enjoy for all.

More than halfway into his tenure as the finance minister, AHM Mustafa Kamal has flattered to deceive in his handling of the budget.

But today, as he unveils his fourth budget in the backdrop of a cost of living crisis and looming LDC graduation, he has the floor to demonstrate that he has acquired a firm reading on the economy and knows precisely what to serve – for now and for the future.

So, what should be on the menu?

For starters, there has to be a life raft for the millions of people struggling to keep their heads above water.

As many as 2.1 million have plunged into poverty for the runaway inflation since September last year, according to a survey by the Power and Participation Research Centre and the Brac Institute of Governance and Development on urban slums and rural areas.

Those people were just seeing their livelihoods bounce back with the reopening of the economy after roughing it for the best part of the past two years.

Would it be moral to let those people continue to live in extreme austerity and hunger?

The middle-class is not doing any better given the gas price increase and the impending hike in electricity and water tariffs.

Already, savings in the economy is at a five-year low as per the preliminary GDP data for this fiscal year, indicating people have been cashing in on their rainy day funds to get by.

This is truly an exceptional emergency and the budget for fiscal 2022-23 – which, coincidentally, closes a few months before the next national election – must have measures to address it even though those would come off as short-term political fixes.

For the poorest, there needs to be allocation in the budget to provide them with cash support of more than Tk 2,500.

In April, inflation hit an 18-month high of 6.29 percent, and given the raging Russia-Ukraine war and the weakening taka, the price level is unlikely to come down to a tolerable level anytime soon.

But the government is not entirely powerless in managing the pain. For a brief period, the duties and taxes on the essentials, most of which are imported, can be withdrawn to hold back their prices.

In that way, the government would be extending universal support and snuffing out any fumes of stagflation, which is a scenario in which prices keep soaring while economic growth slumps. But going forward, there needs to be an effective, long-term policy to protect the poorest from shocks.

If anything, the pandemic and global inflation have underscored the need to strengthen the underlying system so that fewer people are on the verge of a crisis the whole time.

At the same time, the 74-year finance minister must not lose sight of Bangladesh's graduation from the least-developed country bracket in 2026, for which groundworks are still in the rudimentary stage.

The preparations must take off in full swing from the incoming fiscal year, and it begins by investing in human resources.

The learning loss brought on by the 73-week school closure in Bangladesh, which was among the longest in the world, stands to take 4.9 percent off GDP by 2030, according to a recent study by the Asian Development Bank.



## PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS Noose tightens on low-income groups

SUKANTA HALDER

The cost of living has gone up but the incomes of most consumers have not. It is not just the prices of edible oil and rice that are hurting, it's almost everything they need in the kitchen every day.

In Dhaka, lentils, potatoes, flour, onions, garlic, ginger and other necessities have become dearer this week compared to the last, The Daily Star found while visiting several kitchen markets yesterday.

Even the gas used for cooking is more expensive now. The people of lower- and lower-middle income groups are having to tighten their belts further.

Data from the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh shows how steeply the prices have gone up.

The prices of Miniket and Nazirshail varieties of rice were being sold between Tk 75 and Tk 80 a kg, up by at least Tk 5 from last week, retailers said. Coarse rice is now Tk 58 a kg, up Tk 8.

Sajib Mia, a trader at Mirpur-1 Kitchen Market, said potatoes were Tk 30 a kg, up by about Tk 5 from a week ago.

Red medium lentils were Tk 140 per kg, up Tk 15, while the smaller ones were Tk 135 per kg, up Tk 5.

Traders said brown flour, also known as atta, was Tk 48 a kg, at least Tk 6 higher than a week ago. The

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## We can now achieve even bigger feats

PM tells JS on motion thanking her for Padma bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the success in constructing the Padma Bridge has instilled self-confidence in the people that the country can implement even larger projects in future.

Participating in the general discussion on a motion placed in parliament to greet and thank her for the construction of the 6.15-km bridge, she said, "One single decision for the construction of Padma Bridge with our own fund brightened the country's image... The whole world has started to show respect towards Bangladesh."

The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote following a discussion that went on for over six hours.

Thirty-eight MPs from the treasury and opposition bench took part in the discussion.

Chief Whip Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury brought the motion in the House under Section 147 of the Rules of Procedure.

During the nearly 30-minute speech, the premier said, "The people of our country have gained knowledge on technology. In future we'll be able to do more improved [bigger] tasks," she added.

Lambasting the role of Dr Muhammad Yunus in cancellation of the World Bank's funding for the Padma Bridge project, the PM asked how an individual can harm the country just for his lust for the post of a managing director of a bank. She also alleged that an editor (of a newspaper) was also involved closely in the matter.

"Dr Yunus and that editor emailed the World Bank time and again so that the funding is stopped... Hillary Clinton was

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## NEWSPAPER WEBSITES They're not permitted to publish video

Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In their declaration, the newspapers were not given permission to hold talk-shows and show videos on their websites, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud said yesterday.

Streaming news through IPTVs also goes against the government's policy, he added.

"We will take action against them very soon," said the minister after meeting the leaders of the Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) at the Secretariat, according to a press release.

In the meeting, the association demanded enforcement of law to stop such activities by the IPTVs and daily newspapers' websites.

About the decision of imposing a special tax on the production and broadcast of adverts with foreign artists, Hasan said, "We've made the decision to save both the industry and the artists. It will be implemented from July. We've given a letter in this regard."

At the meeting, ATCO's Senior Vice President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and the directors discussed clean feed and quick initiation of TRP.

Asked about the case filed against Fazle Elahi, a journalist in Rangamati, under the Digital Security Act, SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



Both sides of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital's Karwan Bazar area are gridlocked. Dhaka North Awami League held a protest procession from Tejgaon to Dhanmondi from yesterday noon, resulting in terrible traffic congestion for much of the day. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Commuters suffer for procession in rush hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League's procession during rush hour yesterday led to traffic gridlock in the capital and caused hardship for city dwellers amid the scorching heat.

Party leaders and activists from different wards of the capital converged at the Satra intersection – where the procession was scheduled to start – in pick-ups and motorcycles around noon. Soon, vehicles moving towards the busy intersection got stuck.

The procession was organised by Dhaka City North Awami League, in protest of remarks allegedly made by Jatiyatabadi Swechhasebak Dal – BNP's volunteer wing – during a rally last month.

The procession started from the intersection, went through Hotel Sonargaon intersection and Panthapath and ended SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



## USING PADMA BRIDGE

# Bus fares rise on 13 routes in southwest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities have increased the bus fares on 13 routes of south-western districts, which will come into force on June 26, a day after the inauguration of the Padma Bridge.

As per a circular issued by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), the fares will be raised by Tk10 to Tk11 after adjusting the toll of the newly constructed bridge.

The BRTA uploaded a chart of the new bus fares on its website yesterday.

On May 17, the government fixed the toll rate for using Padma Bridge, which is around 1.5 times higher than the average toll paid on ferries plying the Padma.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the long, cherished bridge on June 25 and it will be opened to traffic the following day, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

The bus fares on these routes are likely to go up again when the government

will start collecting toll for using the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway. The Roads and Highways Department said it is likely to start collecting toll for the expressway from July 1. However, no order has been issued yet in this regard.

The new rates will be applicable for only those buses which will start from Saydabad of Dhaka, not for those starting from other inter-district terminals in the capital.

Buses which would use other terminals have to take fresh route permits, BRTA officials said.

As per the circular, the fare on Dhaka-Bhanga-Madaripur-Barishal route would be Tk412, Tk504 on Dhaka-Rajoir-Gopalganj, Tk649 on Dhaka-Gopalganj-Khulna, Tk218 on Dhaka-Janjira-Shariatpur, Tk534 on Dhaka-Barishal-Pirojpur, Tk628 on Dhaka-Gopalganj-Bagerhat-Pirojpur, Tk501 on Dhaka-Barishal-Patuakhali, Tk327 on Dhaka-Bhanga-Madaripur, Tk633 on Dhaka-Gopalganj-Khulna-Shatkira, Tk288 on Dhaka-Bhanga-Faridpur, Tk653 on Dhaka-Madaripur-Barishal-Bhola-Char Fashion, Tk219 on Dhaka-Buriganga second bridge-Shariatpur, and Tk694 on Dhaka-Madaripur-Barishal-Patuakhali-Kuakata.

**The bus fares on these routes are likely to go up again when the government will start collecting toll for using the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway.**



A view of a shopping mall damaged by a Russian missile strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Kharkiv, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## HAZARDOUS GOODS

# Fire scare grips Ctg port

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, CTG

Panic spread among officials at the Chattogram Port when smoke began billowing from an acid-loaded container on Tuesday, around three days after the BM container depot fire and explosion.

The container had been lying on the port's yard 7 for around 12 years.

After a two-hour effort, the port's firefighters were able to bring the situation under control.

At least 257 such containers of hazardous chemicals and other inflammable materials have been lying idle in yard for years, leaving the country's premier seaport at the risk of deadly explosions.

On Saturday, at least 45 people were killed in a devastating fire and explosion at the BM shipping container depot in Chattogram's Sitakunda.

After the BM depot explosion, the port authority wrote to Chattogram Customs on Sunday saying the same incident may occur at the port unless hazardous materials are immediately removed.

The 257 imported containers contain hazardous cargo, including hydrogen peroxide, sulfuric acid, sulfate, thinner, sodium sulfate, methanol, ethyl hexanol, potassium chloride, calcium carbide, nitric acid, calcium oxide and other flammable goods, the letter read.

Port officials said those containers have been lying at designated sheds and yards for five to 15 years.

Customs officials and importers cited a number of reasons for the delay in moving those containers.

The reasons include a fall in prices of the goods in the local market, failure to submit original documents in support of the shipment, failure to get clearance permit reports, and

**At least 257 containers of hazardous chemicals and other inflammable materials have been lying idle in yard for years.**

importers' refusal to pay fines for anomalies.

However, following the letter, Customs authorities on Monday auctioned off 30.5 tonnes of hydrogen peroxide imported four years ago.

The customs sold it at only Tk 5.20 lakh, far below the reserved price (a minimum price a seller would accept from a buyer) of around Tk 25 lakh, for its quick removal from the port area.

Ali Reza Haider, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Customs House, told The Daily Star that they have taken the issue very seriously. "Checking and sorting through

the list [of hazardous materials] by the port has allowed us to know the present condition of the goods. Inventory of most of the containers has already been done, following which the goods will either be auctioned off or destroyed as soon as possible according to the relevant law."

He, however, said they were not able to sell some goods despite putting them up for auction several times due to low price offers.

After visiting the ill-fated BM depot on Monday, Shipping Minister Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury told top customs officials to auction off or destroy all kinds of dangerous goods inside the port to prevent another such tragic incident.

After the Beirut port explosion in Lebanon in 2020, the Chattogram port and customs authorities have actively begun looking into the handling of such cargoes.

They have formed a six-member committee to list the hazardous products.

The committee found various types of chemicals and hazardous materials, which were imported between 1992 and 2019, and are currently kept in around 55 pallets, 13 drums, and around 900 packages.

In the last two years, customs officials said they have auctioned at least 24 containers containing various

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## 11 CASES AGAINST KHALEDA

# Hearing on charge-framing in September

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set September 20 for the hearing on the charge framing of 11 cases, including one filed over sedition, against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the hearing and fixed the new date, said Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

The adjournment came following separate petitions submitted on different excuses.

Among the 11 cases, 10 were filed in the first three months of 2015 over arson attacks, while the rest was filed with a Dhaka court on charges of making seditious comments on freedom fighters and martyrs of the Liberation War.

## Imam hacked to death in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police yesterday recovered the body of an imam, who was hacked to death in Joypurhat's Kalai upazila.

Police recovered a body of an Imam, who was hacked to death in Kalai Upazila of Joypurhat on Wednesday morning, said police.

Police said the dead was identified as Md Mohsin Ali, son of Mohammad Ali in the upazila's Belgharia village. He was also an Arabic tutor.

SM Moin Uddin, OC of Kalai Police Station, said the Mohsin left his home on Tuesday to take private classes but did not return home. The next day, farmers found his stabbed body in a nearby paddy field.

Police sent the body to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for autopsy. "We have begun investigation and a case is being filed in this regard," the OC said.

## JP leader stabbed by rival's follower

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Abul Kashem, a former MP and Jatiya Party presidium member was stabbed by his party rivals in Tangail yesterday.

He is currently undergoing treatment at a local private clinic.

Speaking to reporters, he said the party's general secretary Mujibul Haque Chunnun, some others and he were going to join an extended meeting of the district committee at Tangail Press Club auditorium.

Followers of Kashem's rival Mozammel Haque, joint convener of the district committee, stopped him on the first floor of the club. During a scuffle, one of them stabbed him from behind.

Asked, Mozammel Haque denied the accusation against his men.

Contacted, Mir Moshraf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tangail Sadar Police Station, said, "Necessary legal measures will be taken after investigation."

## Noose tightens on low-income groups

FROM PAGE 1  
branded ones were Tk 57, up Tk 5.

Taleb Sheikh, a security guard for a house in the capital's Tejguri Bazar, has a family of four. He said that with the prices of essentials going up, it has become difficult for him to run his family.

"Earlier, if we spent Tk 100 a day, we could eat. Now even Tk 200 seems not enough. We just eat rice, eggs, vegetables and lentils every day.

"We don't want to eat meat," my son and daughter say to console me... but the fact is I don't have the money to buy fish or meat. I may have to send my children

back to the village home," said a dejected Taleb.

What he did not know is that sending them to the village may not help.

The food inflation in rural areas was 6.71 percent and in urban areas 5.49 percent in March, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. It put the overall food inflation at 6.34 percent in March, which was 5.60 percent in January.

According to a recent multisectoral research report jointly prepared by the Power and Participation Research Centre and the Brac Institute of Governance and Development, more than three crore people

became poor again during the pandemic.

It said this number decreased as Bangladesh began recovering from the pandemic fallout, but the recent price hike of essentials has made 21 lakh people poor again.

People like Taleb could be in for tougher times ahead. For them, there is no light at the end of the tunnel yet.

Retailers and wholesalers fear the prices of imported items could increase further due to supply disruptions caused by the Ukraine war.

Shahjahan Talukdar, wholesaler and owner of the Mukta Rice Agency of Karwan Bazar, one of the

largest kitchen markets in the capital, said, "I have been in the rice trade for years. I have never seen the prices of rice rise during the peak season. It always dropped."

SM Nazer Hossain, vice-president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said there was inflationary pressure in the country and its effects hit all sectors.

He said the soaring prices of essentials have put consumers under a lot of pressure as the costs have gone up for almost everything.

Market monitoring needs to be strengthened. If not, some traders will increase the prices to make a quick buck, he said.

## Bet on poor, future

FROM PAGE 1  
Only in Mongolia, Nepal and the Kyrgyz Republic in Asia were the impacts of school closures more severe.

In the upcoming fiscal year, it is essential that the government prioritises spending on education, which has historically been meagre.

Children who have dropped out of school during the pandemic must be brought back to classrooms through financial support and incentives.

For those still in school, effective learning programmes should be devised to offer appropriate support such as tutoring or special classes to bridge the learning gap, the ADB report said.

And for the youth already out of school, they must be given additional skills training.

Ample funding must be provided to equip the youth with digital skills and awareness, which can become a key driver for productivity and economic growth, according to the Manila-based multilateral lender.

And raising labour productivity is of the essence seeing that the duty benefits that Bangladesh currently enjoys would be evaporating not long after graduation.

Bangladesh's exports simply need to be competitive and varied vis-a-vis peers if the current trend is to continue once the safety guard of duty benefits come off.

Another side-effect of graduation is the loss of the option of concessionary

loans from multilateral and bilateral lenders.

That means the government would have to rely more and more on local revenue mobilisation to fund its expenses to support its growth aspiration of becoming an advanced economy by 2041. At south of 10 percent, Bangladesh's tax to GDP ratio is one of the lowest in the world, restricting the government's fiscal space for the present and for the future.

This must be remedied with urgency.

The tax administration must be automated and the tax policy needs to be streamlined and conducive to plug the longstanding ailments of leakages, corruption and evasion.

And the budget must have explicit references toward this direction. Otherwise, a rude awakening awaits the government.

The characteristic of a middle-income country is more and more people are employed in industries and services and fewer and fewer people in agriculture. To prepare for the transition, farm mechanisation needs to take off in earnest in Bangladesh, and the budget must incentivise that well.

When Kamal, a chartered accountant, took charge as the finance minister for five years in 2019, he contended that he would be going great guns as "this was his subject".

So, for him, anything less than smooth graduation would mean he failed to score a distinction in his greatest exam. And his bid for that starts now.

## Commuters

FROM PAGE 1  
at Dhanmondi-32 around 5:00pm, causing gridlock in the areas.

People who were stuck on roads were posting on the "Traffic Alert" Facebook group, urging members to avoid certain areas. The roads over which the procession moved were shown in dark red on Google Maps, signifying that there was major congestion in those areas.

There were a number of private hospitals in those areas. Patients and their relatives also suffered due to the congestion.

"Avoid Karwan Bazar, Panthapath and Dhanmondi 32. I have been stuck for 50 minutes in front of Square Hospitals," said Mashrufa Jahan, who came to visit her relatives at the hospital.

Sanwar Hossain, a passenger stuck in the traffic jam, said, "Usually traffic jams occur in the morning due to the movement of office-goers and school or college students. However, the traffic pressure is comparatively less at noon. But today [yesterday], there is much more pressure around noon."

Kamrul Islam, a car driver, said he was stuck for four hours on his way to Mohakhali from the airport. Private job holder Rakin Ahmed said he is a regular commuter in the city.

"But today [yesterday], I faced the worst traffic jam of my life..." he said.

Maruf Ahmed said he came from Bashundhara Residential Area to Dhanmondi 27 on an Uber car. It cost him Tk 908.

Mohua Islam, another private employee, said she started for her office

in Karwan Bazar from Segunbagicha in the afternoon. But she had to cancel the trip later on due to the heavy traffic.

Visiting Karwan Bazar and Panthapath, it was seen that when the ruling party men marched through the roads, vehicular movement was paralysed.

On January 31, 2019, Road Transport And Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, also the AL general secretary, said none would be allowed to hold rallies obstructing roads on weekdays, and that political parties could hold demonstrations or rallies only on public holidays.

President of Dhaka City North AL Sheikh Bazlur Rahman regretted the sufferings caused due to the traffic congestion.

At the procession, Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak, a member of the presidium of the AL, issued a stern warning to the BNP-Jamaat, saying no one would be spared if they threatened Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Bangabandhu's Bangladesh.

The AL alleged that BNP made a slogan about the assassination of 1975.

At a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Ray yesterday said, "Recently, Abdul Qadir Bhuiyan Jewel, general secretary of Swachhasebak Dal, said at a programme, 'Let the weapon of November 7 [National Revolution and Solidarity Day in 1975] roar once again... But the people of the ruling party want to say that their leader Sheikh Hasina has been threatened with death by this slogan. I will tell those in power that BNP does not believe in killing anyone.'"



## Dhaka air 2nd most polluted in the world

UNB, Dhaka

Air pollution still remains one of the top-most challenges for Bangladesh. Dhaka has been ranked as the second most polluted city in the world.

Dhaka's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 190 at 9:00am yesterday.

India's capital Delhi and Kuwait's capital Kuwait City occupied the first and third spots, with AQI scores of 257 and 158. An AQI between 101 and 200 is considered "unhealthy".

An AQI between 201 and 300 is said to be "poor", while a reading of 301 to 400 is considered "hazardous". AQI, an index for reporting daily air quality, is used by government agencies to inform people how clean or polluted air of a certain city is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for them.



PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

Due to the ruling party's rallies all across the capital yesterday, commuters were stuck in gridlock at different points of the city. The traffic situation frustrated both commuters and transport workers, like this rickshaw-puller and his passenger. These two were left exhausted, stuck in the traffic for a long time amid the scorching heat. The photo was taken from Bangla Motor.

## 'It's now more relevant than ever' Speakers call for extending UN women, peace and security resolution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An extension of the deadline to implement the National Action Plan on the United Nations' women, peace and security resolution is urgent due to the hindrance caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

As the pandemic has discovered many new ways women can be vulnerable, the action plan is now more relevant than ever, they added.

**The implementation of policies related to women has always been delayed. This particular plan is more important now, as derogatory comments and behaviour against women are on the rise.**

ROKEYA KABIR  
Executive Director of BNPS

They were speaking at a webinar organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), supported by UN Women, with The Daily Star as the media partner.

In November 2019, the government adopted the National Action Plan, led by the ministry of foreign affairs with 11 relevant ministries, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and BNPS as stakeholders.

Presiding over the discussion, Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS, said, "The implementation of policies related to women has always been delayed. This particular plan is more important now, as derogatory

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## DBC news producer found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a producer of private TV channel DBC News from Hatirjheel lake in Dhaka yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Abdul Bari (27), hailing from Sirajganj.

On information from some homeless children, police recovered the body around 7:00am from Hatirjheel lake near Police Plaza.

The body bore stab marks in the chest and throat, said Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station.

"Police are investigating the matter, analysing CCTV footage of nearby areas," the OC said.

He said they recovered a blood stained knife, the victim's wallet and mobile from the spot.

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
JUNE 9

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Process on to collect \$1.5b as budgetary support

Says PM; funds to be used for emergencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government started a process to collect an additional \$1,000 million as budgetary support to tackle future emergencies and the economic crisis stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war.

Besides, another process was going on to collect \$500 million as budgetary support to deal with the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, she told parliament.

The leader of the House revealed this in a tabled answer to a question from ruling Awami League lawmaker Md Mozaffar Hossain from Jamalpur-5 during her question-answer session.

This budgetary support of \$1,000 million will be spent on stimulus packages for industries, factories, businesses, small and medium enterprise entrepreneurs as well as social safety net, the PM said.

She, however, didn't mention from where the money will be collected.

The PM said the government was making relentless efforts for well-planned socio-economic development of the people, generating employment and implementing the Sustainable



### BUDGETARY SUPPORT

\$1,000m to tackle future emergencies, economic crisis stemming from Russia-Ukraine war

\$500m to deal with economic crisis caused by pandemic

Development Goals (SDGs).

Replying to another question from AL MP Kazim Uddin Ahmed, the premier described various measures taken by her government to develop the country's aviation sector and the national flag carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

In response to a query by AL MP Shahiduzzaman Sarker, Hasina said 35,52,340 homeless people have so far been rehabilitated. She said all landless

and homeless families will be rehabilitated in phases through construction of homes.

"They are being rehabilitated even by procuring land in areas where proper khas land is not found." Hasina said her government is committed to abolish the words "no place to stay", forever.

Responding to a question from AL lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah, she said production of food grains was 3.36 crore tonnes in 2009. This has now gone up to 4.53 crore tonnes.

Currently, Bangladesh ranks third in the world in terms of rice and vegetable production, seventh in mango and potato production, fourth in tea production and first among 11 hilsa producing countries, the PM told the House.

Replying to another query by Momtaz Begum of the ruling party, Hasina said 43 districts are now under the coverage of the railway network. Once the ongoing railway projects are implemented, 19 more districts will come under its coverage.

"The remaining four will also come under the railway network after completion of the 30-year master plan," she added.

## 'People need to know they exist'

Speakers tell launch event of 'Indigenous in the Edge', urge for documentation to preserve indigenous culture



Speakers at the book launching event yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is an urgent need to document the lives and cultural practices of some of the smallest indigenous communities on the verge of disappearing.

Speakers said this at a book launch event, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The book, "Indigenous in the Edge", brought out by MJF,

documents the lives and cultural practices of 17 indigenous communities.

The communities are Malo, Koch, Hajong, Hodi, Kora, Santal, Munda, Mahato, Mahali, Banai, Barman, Dalu, Garo, Khasi, Oraon, Patro, and Ganju.

Even among the indigenous communities, the attention received by the groups living in the plain lands is disproportionately less. Many small communities are getting

homogenised with larger indigenous groups, and thus their culture is getting erased, said speakers.

According to official estimates, there are around 50 indigenous groups in Bangladesh.

"Many of the general population do not even know the names of some of these indigenous groups. People need to know that groups like Ganju and Banai exist," said Sanjeeb

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## Impose 'fat tax' on junk food

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should impose a "fat tax" on high-calorie food and beverage, as one in every three people in the country has been suffering from fatty liver disease due to consumption of such unhealthy foods, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Urging the government to take immediate steps, they warned that about 10 million of those suffering from fatty liver disease are at risk of developing cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Fatty liver disease is a common condition caused by having too much fat in the liver. It is associated with an increased risk of serious health problems, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease, according to experts.

Besides, nutritional labels on menus of fast-

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## Put an end to lead pollution

Government urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Policymakers, development partners and other stakeholders yesterday urged authorities to join hands to put an end to lead pollution, to protect every child's potential to flourish.

They made the call at a seminar titled "Together We Can End Lead Pollution, Protect Every Child's Potential" organised by Pure Earth Bangladesh -- with support from the Department of Environment (DoE), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and Unicef -- at the auditorium of DoE in the capital.

The seminar came up with some grim data on how lead is wreaking havoc on people's health.

Thirty-six million Bangladeshi children are lead poisoned, and millions are at risk. Lead annually causes 38,000 deaths in Bangladesh. The country loses \$15.9 billion in GDP due to productivity loss, which is a result of reduced IQ

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## OLD BURIGANGA CHANNEL Dredging work starts this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said they will start the re-excavation work of the Old Buriganga channel by this month.

The DSCC mayor said this while talking to journalists during a visit to the sluice gate in Comanighat.

"The process to complete the tender of the excavation project is in its final stage and we are hoping that we will be able to inaugurate the work by this month," he said.

"We will recover the channel properly by freeing it from all kinds of encroachments after the demarcation of its boundary," he said.

Responding to a query, the DSCC mayor said they have recovered around 6 acres of land from encroachers.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND OUR SUCCESS

S. M. KAMALUDDIN  
CHAIRMAN, CONCORD GROUP

CONCORD wins  
The National Environment Award

for their outstanding contribution to the country's environment by introducing environmentally friendly construction materials & technology

16594







# MITU MURDER IO must follow law to record children's statement: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During a hearing centring the murder of Mahmuda Khanam Mitu, the High Court yesterday stated that the investigation officer (IO) can record statements of the two children of Mitu and Babul Akhter, former superintendent of police, by strictly following relevant rules of the Children Act.

The investigation officer (IO), an officer of the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), will record their statements in presence of their grandfather (Babul's father), district social service officer, and a female police officer, said the High Court.

The High Court bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Shahed Nuruddin passed the order yesterday.

The bench passed the order following a revision petition filed by Babul's father Abdul Wadud Miah and brother Habibur Rahman Labu, challenging a Chattogram court order.

Ever since Babul was arrested in the murder case, filed by Mitu's father Mosharraf Hossain on May 12 last year, Babul's children have been staying with their grandfather in Magura.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

This grandfather-grandson duo was seen taking a dip in the waters of Bhairav river in Khulna amid the swelter yesterday. The quick swim brought much joy to the toddler, who was seen enjoying the company of the grandfather as much as the cool water. This photo was taken from Ghat-5 area.

# Five shoe factories gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire gutted five shoe factories and a shop in port city's Mazinghat area early yesterday.

The fire originated from a shoe factory on the first floor of a multi-storey building around 5:45am. It spread to adjacent factories and a grocery shop, said Anisur Rahman, deputy director of fire service in Chattogram.

Firefighters doused the blaze around 8:00am with the help of locals. No causality was reported.

As per factory workers, the fire originated from an electric spark. But fire service officials said they were yet to ascertain the reason.

# 2 die in Joypurhat road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two persons were killed as a speeding pickup hit a battery-run easy-bike in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat on Tuesday night.

The accident occurred on Molangari-Dupchachia road at Shibpur Bazar around 11:30pm, said police.

Sahadul Islam (28) from Khetlal, and Shyamal Boiragi (32) from Bogura died on the spot.

Md Mokhles, sub-inspector of Khetlal Police Station, said the victims were going to Shibpur Bazar in Khetlal on the easy-bike.

# Five jailed for killing trader in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday sentenced five people to different jail terms in a case filed for murdering a trader in Basail upazila.

Judge Md Masud Parvez of First Additional District and Session Judge's Court passed the order.

The convicts are Rezaul Islam Reza, Alo Begum, Rezvee Miah, Alamgir Hossain and Lal Miah. Rezaul was jailed until death and the rest were given life-term imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, following a dispute, the convicts killed their relative Moniruzzaman, a trader, on September 12, 2010.

**Office of the Birampur Pourashava**  
District: Dinajpur  
Website: www.birampurpourashava.gov.bd

Memo No. BIRAMPURPOURASHAVA/DINAJ/2022/049

**e-Tender Notice: 02/2021-2022**

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

Sl. No.	Tender/Proposal ID No.	Package No.	Reference No. & date	Tender method	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
01	707785	BIRPOURADP/21-22P-2	Birampur/Engg-2022-41	NCT, LTM	26-Jun-2022 17:00	27-Jun-2022 14:30
02	707834	BIRPOURADP/21-22P-3	Birampur/Engg-2022-45	NCT, LTM	26-Jun-2022 17:00	27-Jun-2022 14:30
03	707785	BIRPOURADP/21-22P-4	Birampur/Engg-2022-42	NCT, LTM	26-Jun-2022 17:00	27-Jun-2022 14:30
04	708054	BIRPOURADP/21-22P-5	Birampur/Engg-2022-43	NCT, LTM	26-Jun-2022 17:00	27-Jun-2022 14:30
05	708199	BIRPOURADP/21-22P-6	Birampur/Engg-2022-46	NCT, LTM	26-Jun-2022 17:00	27-Jun-2022 14:30
06	708139	BIRPOURADP/21-22P-7	Birampur/Engg-2022-44	NCT, LTM	26-Jun-2022 17:00	27-Jun-2022 14:30
07	708273	BIRPOURADP/21-22P-8	Birampur/Engg-2022-47	NCT, LTM	26-Jun-2022 17:00	27-Jun-2022 14:30

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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Faizul Islam  
Executive Engineer  
Birampur Pourashava, Dinajpur  
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GD-1185

# Put an end to lead pollution

FROM PAGE 3  
because of lead exposure, a seminar presentation showed.

Illegal, used lead acid battery recycling factories are one of the major sources of lead pollution. Pure Earth's Toxic Site Identification Program has identified more than 300 toxic sites, while the World Bank estimates more than 1,100 toxic sites where the batteries are recycled in Bangladesh.

Dr Mahfuzar Rahman, country director of Pure Earth Bangladesh, emphasised the need for a formal recycling process for lead-acid batteries.

"Urgent intervention is needed in the used lead-acid battery sector to

formalise the charging and recycling system. We can overcome this situation if we all co-operate," he added.

Dr Md Sohrab Ali, director of DoE's Dhaka Laboratory, said, "There is a lack of awareness among workers and owners in the informal battery-recycling sector. This sector is also not organised."

DoE needs a proper guideline to deal with the environmental and health crisis due to lead pollution, said Sohrab, who chaired the seminar.

Special guest Dr Chandrasegar Solomon, health manager at Unicef Bangladesh, said, "Lead is an unseen enemy. It pollutes soil, air, and water.

The contamination spreads through the food chain. Children are the worst sufferers."

Dr Mahbubur Rahman, project coordinator of icddr,b, said, "There is no safe limit of lead in a human's body."

The speakers also emphasised ensuring proper waste management, especially for industrial and e-waste. The seminar also had a question-answer session, and video and slide presentations from different partner organisations.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD EM Wood Workshop Division, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka  
Phone & Fax: 88-02-55028813  
Website: www.pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.2680.534.14.170.22-1806

Date: 07/06/2022

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	LTM/OTM	Last selling date	Opening date
01	708564	OTM	23/06/2022	23/06/2022
02	708512	OTM	23/06/2022	23/06/2022
03	708402	OTM	22/06/2022	22/06/2022
04	707986	OTM	22/06/2022	22/06/2022
05	707877	OTM	22/06/2022	22/06/2022
06	707880	OTM	22/06/2022	22/06/2022
07	707654	OTM	23/06/2022	23/06/2022
08	706849	OTM	23/06/2022	23/06/2022
09	707957	OTM	21/06/2022	21/06/2022
10	706878	OTM	23/06/2022	23/06/2022
11	706864	OTM	23/06/2022	23/06/2022
12	706799	OTM	20/06/2022	20/06/2022
13	706734	OTM	20/06/2022	20/06/2022
14	704139	OTM	22/06/2022	22/06/2022
15	704182	OTM	22/06/2022	22/06/2022
16	706313	OTM	19/06/2022	19/06/2022

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

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ee\_wood@pwd.gov.bd

GD-1193

# Dredging work

FROM PAGE 3  
"The width of the canal — which was 100 feet — came down to only eight feet due to the encroachment. We have recovered those. We even demolished a 10-storey building constructed on the encroached canal," said Taposh. Taposh also said DSCC will bring back the previous looks of the

old Buriganga channel by creating an aesthetically pleasing atmosphere.

About the sluice gates in Beribhad area, the mayor said they have started their work to keep the sluice gates on the flood protection embankment operational before getting the official jurisdiction.

**বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর**  
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০  
অন্তর্জাল তথ্যার্থে: www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের রাজস্বখাতে স্থায়ীপদে হিসাব রক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা ১টি, উর্ধ্বতন ফটোগ্রাফার ১টি, প্রকাশনা অফিসার ১টি, সহকারী প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা ১টি, সহকারী পরিকল্পনা উন্নয়ন অফিসার ১টি, রেক্রুট ম্যানুফেকচারার ১টি, প্রদর্শক প্রভাষক ২টি, রেজিস্ট্রেশন সহকারী ১টি, সহকারী লাইব্রেরিয়ান কাম-ক্যাটালগার ১টি, অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক ১টি, হিসাব সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক ১টি, ইলেকট্রিশিয়ান ১টি, পাম্প মিনি/অপারেটর ১টি, প্রাধার ১টি, লিফট অপারেটর ১টি, মেইন অভিটরিয়াম এ্যাটেনডেন্ট ১টি, চিলড্রেন অভিটরিয়াম এ্যাটেনডেন্ট ১টি, অফিস সহায়ক ১৪টি, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী ৪৩টি, মালি ৪টি, পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী ৪টি, আহসান মঞ্জিল জাদুঘরের কীপার (অস্থায়ী) ১টি, হিসাবরক্ষক (অস্থায়ী) ১টি, অভ্যর্থনাকারী (অস্থায়ী) ১টি, অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (অস্থায়ী) ১টি, অফিস সহায়ক ১টি, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী ৫টি, মালি ২টি, জিয়া স্মৃতি জাদুঘরের লাইব্রেরি এ্যাটেনডেন্ট ১টি, অফিস সহায়ক ১টি, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী ২টি, পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী ২টি, শিল্পচার্য জয়নুল আবেদিন সংগ্রহশালার নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী ১টি, পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী ১টি, গুসমানী জাদুঘরের অফিস সহায়ক/প্রহরী ৩টিসহ মোট ১০৫টি শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীগণকে বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের ওয়েবসাইট [www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd](http://www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd) এবং টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর ওয়েবসাইট <http://bnm.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd> এ সরাসরি প্রবেশ করে বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে। যে কোনো ব্যাখ্যার জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত কোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে: ০২২২০৩৬৪৯৯/০২২২৩৩৬৫৯৯।

সচিব (মুখ্যসচিব)  
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর

GD-1191

**মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
সন্তোষ, টাঙ্গাইল-১৯০২  
পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সূত্রঃ মাভাবিপ্রবি/রেজি./সংস্থাপন শাখা-০১/এ-২৮/০২২২/১১৯৩ তারিখঃ ২৫ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৯  
০৮ জুন ২০২২

মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত পদগুলি পূরণের জন্য যোগাযোগসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম, বেতনস্কেল (জা.বে.স্কেল-২০১৫) ও বয়স	অফিস/অনুষদ/বিভাগ	পদ সংখ্যা
০১	পরিচালক (হিসাব) ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- (৩য় গ্রেড)	হিসাব অফিস	০১টি
০২	উপ-পরিচালক (অডিট) ৪৩০০০-৬৯৮৫০/- (৫ম গ্রেড)	হিসাব অফিস (অডিট সেল)	০১টি
০৩	সহকারী পরিচালক (পউও) ২৯০০০-৬৩৪১০/- (৭ম গ্রেড)	পরিকল্পনা, উন্নয়ন ও ওয়ার্কস অফিস	০১টি
০৪	সহকারী প্রশাসনিক ২৯০০০-৬৩৪১০/- (৭ম গ্রেড)	কেন্দ্রীয় গ্রন্থাগার	০১টি
০৫	রিসার্চ অফিসার ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড) বয়সঃ সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর	রিসার্চ সেন্টার	০১টি
০৬	ক্যাটালগার ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড) বয়সঃ সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর	কেন্দ্রীয় গ্রন্থাগার	০১টি
০৭	সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড) বয়সঃ সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর	পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক অফিস	০১টি
০৮	মেডিকেল টেকনোলজিস্ট (রেডিওগ্রাফার) ১২৫০০-৩০২৩০/- (১১তম গ্রেড) বয়সঃ সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর	মেডিকেল সেন্টার	০১টি
০৯	ট্রান্সপোর্ট মেকানিক ৯৩০০-২৪৯০০/- (১৬তম গ্রেড) ৩০ বছর	রেজিস্ট্রার অফিস	০১টি
১০	ল্যাব এ্যাটেনডেন্ট ৮৮০০-২১৩১০/- (১৮তম গ্রেড) বয়সঃ সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর	কম্পিউটার সয়েল এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	০১টি

উপরোক্ত পদসমূহের যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণ এবং আবেদনপত্রের নির্ধারিত ফর্ম ব্যক্তিগতভাবে অথবা [www.mbstu.ac.bd](http://www.mbstu.ac.bd) ওয়েবসাইট থেকে অথবা ১০/- (দশ) টাকার অব্যবহৃত ডাকটিকিটসহ নিজ ঠিকানাসম্বলিত খাম পাঠিয়ে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রার অফিস হতে অফিস চলকালীন সময়ে ২৯/০৬/২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

"ভাইস-চ্যান্সেলর, মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, সন্তোষ, টাঙ্গাইল-১৯০২"-এর অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখার উপর আবেদনপত্রের কি বাবদ সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর যে কোনো শাখা থেকে অফিস/বিভাগে পৃথকভাবে প্রত্যেক পদের জন্য আলাদাভাবে ক্রমিক ০১ হতে ০৭ নং পর্যন্ত ৮০০/- (আটশত) এবং ক্রমিক ০৮ হতে ১০নং পর্যন্ত ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারসহ (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রার্থীর সাম্প্রতিক তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ০৩ (তিন) কপি ছবি, সার্টিফিকেট/ট্রান্সক্রিপ্ট, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি এবং চারিত্রিক সনদ সংযুক্তপূর্বক নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রার অফিস থেকে আবেদন ফরম আণামী ২৯/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ (অফিস চলকালীন সময়) পর্যন্ত সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং উক্ত তারিখের মধ্যে প্রত্যেক পদের জন্য ০৮ (আট) সেট দরখাস্ত পৌঁছাতে হবে। যে কোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে এবং এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। ইতিপূর্বে যারা আবেদন করেছেন তাদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে একটি শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।

অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া যেতে পারে।

আবেদনপত্রের সংশ্লিষ্ট কলামে টেলিফোন নম্বর/মোবাইল নম্বর অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

সচিব (মুখ্যসচিব)  
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর

ড. মোহাম্মদ হোসেন  
রেজিস্ট্রার  
মাভাবিপ্রবি

জিডি-১১৯৪



# 'Not willing to compromise humanity for commercial gain'

## Mejbaur Rahman Sumon on 'Hawa'

**We all seek commercial success at the end of the day, but we were not willing to compromise our humane side to fund our commercial gains. Thus, we decided to wait a while longer to release the trailer when our audience would be ready to enjoy it.**

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon took time off from fiction after spending four intense years working in television. The director went on to try his luck in advertising, and earned much fame in the commercial arena over the following 10 years. The maker finally decided to return to the world of fiction, this time on the silver screen, with his much-awaited multi-starrer production "Hawa".

We caught up with Sumon to learn more about his silver screen debut and other upcoming projects.

**The trailer release of "Hawa" was postponed by a couple of days, following the Sitakunda blast. What caused you to change the decision at the last moment?**  
I was on my way back home after a long tedious day, finalising the trailer and wrapping up any other last-minute changes, when I heard about the deadly incident at Sitakunda. It was indeed very sad and we did not want to put forward the trailer while the people of this country were undergoing this crisis.

We all seek commercial success at the end of the day, but we were not willing to compromise our humane side to fund our commercial gains. Thus, we decided to wait a while longer to release the trailer when our audience would be ready to enjoy it.

**The journey of "Hawa" has been longer than you had expected. How has your run with this production been so far?**

We wrapped up shooting for this film in November, 2019. However, the pandemic soon broke out and the post production was



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

made lengthier than we had expected. When we began shooting for this film, many of the actors we had cast were new, but by the time everything was back to normal, they had already been well-received by our audience.

I want to put forward a production that comes as a treat to cine-lovers. Hence, I am willing to wait if that's what it going to take to reach my goal.

**When are you planning to release the film?**

We have already submitted the film to the censor board and are waiting for the green light from their end. The sooner the film clears the censor board, the faster we will be able to start promotions and present it to the audience in theatres.

**You are also looking forward to "Ei Muhurte", an anthology series which will release on Chorki.**

Yes! Through "Ei Muhurte", me, Piplu R Khan and Abrar Athar look to deliver our personal commentary on contemporary

issues that are already known to our viewers.

One specific incident can stir up varying emotions in different individuals. While one might find an incident irritating or triggering, others might accept its course of actions and add it as a reminder for their conscience.

**How is your music coming along?**

I am very glad that my band Meghdol is doing the promotional song for my film "Hawa". The original song "E Hawa", crafted by Meghdol, will be the only song in the film.

Music is something I can never forget or leave behind.

**What else are you looking forward to?**

I received a government grant for a film. I plan to start the shooting for it soon. The name of the project is not finalised yet, but the working title for now is "Roid" (sunlight), a regional dialect for the standard Bangla word 'Roud'. I look forward to crafting fiction, if the audience keeps expecting that from me.



## 'Mayar Jonjal' wins Best Picture at Rainbow Film Festival in London

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Apuce Karim starrer "Mayar Jonjal" (Debris of Desire) won the Best Picture award at the 23rd Rainbow Film Festival in London. The news was confirmed through the festival's official website.

The festival kicked off on May 29 and was inaugurated by Rushanara Ali, the first Bengali MP from UK. The ceremony came to an end on June 5.

N Rashed Chowdhury's "Chandrabati Kotha" received a special Rainbow Film Society Mention. The festival also screened various Bangladeshi movies alongside Asian films in different categories at this year's event.

## Joaquin Phoenix to return in 'Joker' sequel

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Director Todd Phillips has confirmed that Joaquin Phoenix will be returning as the supervillain in the "Joker" sequel.



Todd shared a picture of the sequel's script on his Instagram account along with the title "Joker: Folie à Deux". The same post consisted of another black and white photo of Joaquin Phoenix reading the script of the film. Phillips and Scott Silver wrote the screenplay for "Joker: Folie à Deux".

Joaquin Phoenix won an Oscar as Best Actor for his powerful performance in "Joker". The 2019 blockbuster film garnered a whopping USD 1 billion worldwide.

# NEWS

## 'A campaign to malign the government'

FROM PAGE 12  
maligning the government and its achievements."

It went on to say that when victims return, it "proves the allegation of so-called enforced disappearance unreliable".

"Upon investigation of the alleged enforced disappearance cases, the findings reveal that people often disappear voluntarily to avoid legal action for cases lodged against them."

"Sometimes they choose to disappear due to family feud or to avoid business liability, and some often willingly disappear with the intention of embarrassing the government," the letter continued.

To illustrate its point, the government presented four cases where convicts sentenced to death had been absconding for years and were later arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion.

It said that Ashraf Hussain of Savar had been absconding after being convicted of murdering his wife 17 years ago, Sayed Ahmed of Chattogram had been absconding for 20 years following conviction, Abdul Kalil of Jamalpur had been absconding for 22 years, while Mohammad Ishak had been on the run for six.

Rab arrested all of these

individuals early this year.

On February 21, 2022, the Working Group had written to the government saying, "Following the announcement of the sanctions imposed by the United States of America on top Rab officials, on December 10, 2021, Bangladeshi authorities have launched a campaign of threats, intimidation, and harassment against relatives of disappeared persons, victims of illegal detention, human rights defenders, and civil society actors."

The Group said it had information from 10 families whose homes were raided by authorities in the middle of the night between December 2021 and February 2022. The families also said they were threatened and forced to either sign blank sheets of paper or pre-written statements indicating that their family member was not forcibly disappeared and they deliberately misled the police.

In December 2021, families of enforced disappearance victims had organised press conferences iterating the above.

The government responded to this in the May 12 letter by stating it was trying to "trace the

missing persons" since many of the cases did not have any record with the police stations concerned.

"However, instead of co-operating with the enquiry process by providing information, some of the relatives and a few civil society organisations brought false, exaggerated, and fabricated information against the process," the letter further said.

"All such instances of raising false allegations and spreading misinformation by the sources and feeding those to the international mechanism strongly denote that the campaign is 'deliberate', 'purposeful' and 'motivated'."

It also addressed the fact that most of the cases of enforced disappearance have no legal record, like filed cases.

"The absence of such record or the victim's family's [in]voluntariness [of] filing a case reporting the disappearance gives [raises] strong indication [questions] as to whether the disappearance was by the alleged victim's choice," said the government.

Media reports and human rights activists have routinely documented how families were unable to lodge police complaints when a victim

is disappeared -- a fact that was also mentioned in a Working Group's report in September last year.

"Police officers would allegedly refuse to register complaints concerning enforced disappearances or only accept them upon the removal of any allegation of law enforcers' involvement," the Group stated.

The government's letter also said, "Odhikar is widely known for its disproportionate bias and prejudice against Bangladesh, in particular the ruling Awami league, which is evident in its various reports," it said.

Odhikar's registration as an NGO was scrapped on June 5, due to "publishing of misleading information about various extrajudicial killings, alleged disappearances and murders", according to a notice by the NGO Affairs Bureau.

The May 12 letter by the Bangladeshi authorities is a rare instance of the Bangladeshi government communicating with the Working Group regarding enforced disappearances, although the Group has constantly dispatched letters asking for information.

The first time the

government responded was after the disappearance of Kalpana Chakma in 1996.

The second and third times were earlier this year on January 10 and February 5, when the government finally gave information about 76 victims of enforced disappearances -- information the Working Group had been asking for for two and half decades.

In response, The Group had said the information provided for 66 of those cases was "insufficient".

## Padma Bridge

FROM PAGE 12  
Hasina is scheduled to open the bridge at 10:00am on June 25.

Addressing the meeting, Quader, also the general secretary of ruling AL, said many were hatching plots ahead of the inauguration, reports BSS.

He said, "We all must stay vigilant so that enemies cannot enter and sabotage the event. I have come before you especially to say this. Everyone must maintain discipline on that day."

About the World Bank's fund withdrawal for the Padma Bridge project, Quader said the bridge was a vindication for insulting the Bangalee nation.

## Fire scare grips Ctg port

FROM PAGE 2  
chemical products and at least 4,876 kgs of chemicals were destroyed in Lafarge Holcim Cement Factory in Sunamganj in December 2020.

The drive, however, lost momentum last December. The Chattogram Port has been storing all chemical and inflammable cargoes in the P-shed as per the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code and The Dangerous Cargo Act 1953.

According to the customs law, the importers have to take delivery of goods within 30 days of those reaching the port, in default of which the

authorities will auction off the goods.

However, most importers do not comply. At times, importers block the auction attempt by filing writ petition in the court and at least 10 auctions could not be completed due to this, according to auction documents.

Last Tuesday, the customs again issued a public notice requesting the importers to clear the goods within 30 days. They also said the goods, otherwise, would be auctioned off.

Customs Commissioner Fakhru Alam said, "The

auction process did not accelerate due to shortage of manpower and equipment, but in the last few months we took several initiatives such as monthly auctions. We also have dedicated customs officials for the inventory of goods that can be auctioned off."

The P-shed has lacked modern management for the storing of hazardous goods for a long time, said Khairul Alam Sujan, director of Bangladesh Shipping Agents' Association, adding that the port should not be treated as a warehouse of unclaimed or abandoned goods.

## Owners not sued by cops

FROM PAGE 12  
investigation officer for the case.

"We did not include the owners in the first information report of the case because they were not present at the spot [when the fire broke out]. These officials were present. They did not let the firefighters know that the containers contained explosive chemicals," said SI Siddique.

All day, police refused to disclose the names of the named accused "for the sake of fair investigation". This paper, however, obtained a copy of the case statement.

The eight named are: Deputy General Manger (admin) Md Nurul Akter, DGM (sales and marketing) Nazmul Akter Khan, Manager Khaledur Rahman, Assistant Admin Officer Md Abbas Ullah, Senior Executive Md Nasir Uddin, Assistant Manager Md Abdul Aziz, in-charges Saiful Islam and Nazrul Islam.

Saiful Islam suffered injuries to his eyes and

burns to his arms, legs and ear, his younger brother Monirul Islam said.

Saiful is currently receiving treatment at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital, Monirul added.

Contacted, Sitakunda Circle Additional Superintendent of Police Ashraf Karim said the names of owners would be included in the list of accused if the police found their involvement after a probe.

According to the case statement, the deaths and casualties were the results of the "deliberate negligence" of the accused in taking proper precautionary measures for storing hazardous chemicals, failing to disseminate information regarding the chemicals, and not equipping the depot with proper firefighting gear and people.

Meanwhile, the fire was completely doused yesterday noon, around 86 hours after it broke out. "After dousing the fire

completely, we inspected the entire depot and could not find any more bodies," said Lt Col Ariful Islam, commander of the 18th Brigade of Bangladesh Army's 24th Infantry Division, yesterday.

There is a lot of rubble in the area. It is not possible right now to say whether anything remains under the debris, he said.

"There were around 4,400 containers in the depot. Initially, we have come to know that 400 containers were destroyed," he said. Meanwhile, Masud Rana, 35, a victim of the Sitakunda fire, died of his injuries at the ICU of Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

The firefighters also recovered the remains of "a person" from the depot around 6:30am yesterday. "The remains have been sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for DNA tests and identification. It appears that the body parts might be of a single person," said police officer Ashraf Karim.

## US wants free, fair nat'l polls

FROM PAGE 12  
the latter's office.

"I will repeat again... the United States doesn't care who wins the election. We just want an election where the people of Bangladesh can choose who their leaders are," Haas told reporters.

The ambassador said he talked to the CEC about the tremendous importance of the Election Commission in ensuring a free and fair

election.

"And in order to have a free and fair election consistent with international standards, it requires participation not only from the election commission but the government and political parties, media and NGOs and, most importantly, the Bangladeshi people."

Asked whether the US would make any recommendations about

holding a credible election, Haas said, "Absolutely not, that's not our role. That is the job of the election commission and the entire Bangladeshi society."

EC Habibul later told reporters that there was not much discussion regarding the election with Haas.

The CEC told him that elections in Bangladesh were not as smooth as they are in the US. "In

Bangladesh, there was turbulence in the past, it still exists..." Habibul said he told the ambassador.

The EC is prepared to hold a more fair and transparent election during which more observers and media people will be allowed. "If possible, we will set up CCTV cameras to bring everything under supervision."

Asked whether there was any discussion on

participatory election as many political parties maintain that they would not take part in the election, Habibul said, "He [Haas] wished that there could be an understanding among the political parties."

The US wants a free, fair and participatory election and the EC will discuss with political parties to seek their opinion and there will be a way out regarding the matter, the CEC said.



## ANTI-MUSLIM REMARKS India tightens security after al-Qaeda threat

REUTERS, Lucknow

India tightened public security yesterday after the circulation of a letter warning of Islamist militant attacks to avenge derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) by an official of the ruling Hindu nationalist party.

Several Indian media groups shared the June 6 letter attributed to al-Qaeda's branch in the Indian subcontinent (AQIS). A federal home ministry official said intelligence agencies were checking the authenticity of the threats issued by AQIS.

"We have also ordered state police to ensure public gatherings or protests are not allowed as they could be targeted by the militant group," a senior home ministry official in New Delhi said.

The BJP spokeswoman has been suspended from the party while another spokesman, Naveen Kumar Jindal, was expelled over comments he made about Islam.



The car that was driven into a group of people killing one person and injuring eight injured is pictured in central Berlin, Germany, yesterday. A police spokeswoman said the driver was detained at the scene after the car ploughed into a shop front in a busy shopping street in Charlottenburg district. It was not clear whether the crash was intentional.

PHOTO: AFP

## It rose in numbers

FROM PAGE 12  
European Union, at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Presenting the keynote, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the CPD, said, "Although the child-centric budget allocation was increased over the last two fiscal years by 13.3 percent, it dropped from 2.78 to 2.63 percent in terms of GDP."

He said in terms of share of the total national budget, the child budget remained at 15 percent.

About learning loss, Mustafizur said quoting several reports, "During the pandemic, only 21 percent students were able to participate in online or TV classes. Around 94 percent of rural students could not attend those."

About demographic dividend, he said the number of dependent people will be on the rise by 2050. "So, we need to invest more in today's children than in adults."

During a panel discussion, Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury said, "Children should not only be brought back to schools, but also be retained."

She also criticised the cultural affairs and food ministries' limited focus on the allocations for child budget.

Veera Mendonca, (officer-in-charge) representative of Unicef Bangladesh, said, "Investing in children especially during their early years brings the greatest return for the country, SI3 return from SI investment, while realising their fundamental rights, and giving them an opportunity to grow to their full potential."

Aroma Dutta, vice chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, said the government needs to have better coordination between the planning, finance, education, and women and children affairs ministries.

She demanded separate ministries for children and women affairs.

Speaking at the event as the chief guest, Planning Minister MA Mannan admitted that child marriage increased during the pandemic.

"We saw a big jump in the number of child marriage during the pandemic. As the pandemic was not expected, we had no option to reduce it. But we can work on bringing them back to school. If they need more than regular stipend, the relevant ministry would try to provide them with it," he said.

Kashfia Feroz, director of girls' rights at Plan International, Bangladesh, termed one percent allocation for child protection "depressing".

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "We always shout for allocating more budget, but we usually don't talk about the implementation or we don't monitor it. We should check how many children benefited from that allocation," she said.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said, "Unless you remind the government from time to time, budget allocation for children would not happen. For that, you can seek help from the media."

He said budgetary allocation for children deserves much more media attention.

## Key accused to be brought back

FROM PAGE 12  
Rahman, to the Western Asian country.

It will cost Bangladesh police about Tk 5.8 lakh in air tickets and other expenses to bring him back home, said the official.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner (DB Motijheel) Rifat Ahmed Shamim said, "Musa is definitely a key suspect in the Tipu murder case."

Another official of DB Motijheel recently said, "We are expecting to make a major progress in the investigation once we interrogate Musa."

Another suspect named Masum Mohammad alias Akash earlier said in his confession that he was the one who shot indiscriminately at Tipu and Musa coordinated the killing.

A detective then said Musa supplied the firearm that was used to kill Tipu.

On March 24, Tipu, 55, former general secretary of Motijheel AL, was returning home in his microbus from his restaurant in Motijheel AGB Colony area. The vehicle was at a traffic light

in Shahjahanpur when attackers arrived at the scene on a motorcycle and opened fire.

Samia Afnan Jamal Prity, 22, a college student who happened to be in a rickshaw next to the vehicle, also got shot. Tipu and Prity were declared dead after being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Law enforcers are yet to recover the firearm and the motorcycle used in the attack. Shamim, the suspect who was riding the motorcycle, has since been on the run.

Musa, who is from Anwara, Chattogram, is an accused in 11 cases, including the ones filed for murders and possession of illegal firearms. He was convicted in one of the cases, a detective said earlier.

But he managed to leave the country for Dubai on March 12 through the Dhaka airport right before the immigration police that has a criminal database.

An investigator said Musa gave Akash and Shamim the firearm and left

the country 12 days before the attack. He maintained communication from abroad.

## They're not

FROM PAGE 1  
Hasan said, "Many journalists have filed cases under the act at different times. I don't know about this particular case. But an individual filed the case and the accused journalist got bail."

"One must face trial for a crime. But no one, including journalists, should be harassed. We will look into the matter."

Hasan said Awami League leader Mujibur Rahman only owns a five percent share of BM Container Depot, where a devastating fire had killed 45 in Sitakunda.

Saying that he is the owner of the whole depot is a major mistake and not appropriate, he said.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Memo No. 25.36.7200.130.17.001.21.3001 Date: 08/06/2022

**e-Tender Notice**

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

Sl. No	Tender ID	Tender opening & closing date
1	708631	19/06/2022

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.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches according to tender notice.

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

Sd/-  
Md. Hasinur Rahman  
Executive Engineer  
Netrakona PWD Division  
Netrakona

GD-1188

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PKSF Bhaban, Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Tel: 880-2-8181169; 880-2-8181658-61; 880-2-8181664-69; Email: [sep.procure@gmail.com](mailto:sep.procure@gmail.com)

Memo No: 53.23.0000.13.03.051.22.3032 Date: 09 June 2022

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: The People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Name of project: Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP)  
Credit No.: IDA-6209

**Assignment Title:** Selection of consulting firm for implementation of marketing and branding strategies for Crafts (Jamdani, imitation jewelry and handicrafts) and Electric Products subsectors under SEP

**Reference No. PKSF/SEP/S-09**

- The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") include but not limited to:
  - identifying the unique characteristics of the product of microenterprises and highlight them to create demand in the market;
  - creating brand image of the product based on environment and other protocols that are followed in the production process and value chain;
  - making people aware about the benefits of the safe or environment friendly products which use safe/environment friendly raw material with no harmful elements and grow sense of smartness in choosing such products;
  - implementing the branding and marketing related activities of the microenterprises and their products.

The assignment will require an estimated total of 71 professional staff-months and also non-key experts' input as per the requirement mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR). The assignment is scheduled to be completed within a period of nine (09) months, and expected to be started in October 2022.

- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained from the PKSF website ([tender.pksf-bd.org](http://tender.pksf-bd.org)).
- The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: General experience, Experience in similar assignments (full fledge 360 degree marketing and brand campaign in the field of launching products or brands or services), Experience in the development partner (The World Bank/ UN Agencies) funded projects, and Financial Capability.

Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

- Up to date relevant Registration papers of the firm(s);
  - JV agreement/letter of intent (if applicable) along with the proposed JV agreement;
  - Firm's brochure including overall staffing and logistics;
  - Audited financial reports for the last three (03) completed financial years (including turnover from consulting services and other activities, profit & loss, current asset & liability and fixed asset & liability);
  - Service experience record of last five (05) years (including name of the assignment, nature, total value of contract, total input in terms of man-month, employer, location of service etc.);
  - All other documents necessary to substantiate satisfaction of the shortlisting criteria listed above and/or included in the TOR;
- However, Key Experts will not be evaluated at the short-listing stage.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
  - Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. In the case of an association, all members of such "association" should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and in such "association" it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including the associates to a maximum of 02 (Two).
  - A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.
  - Further information can be obtained at the address below either by e-mail or in person during office hours: 10:00 to 16:00 hours.
  - Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form (Hard copy along with a soft copy through flash-drive) to the address below (in person, or by courier mail) **28 June 2022 on or before 14:00 hours**.
  - The Procuring Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

AQM Golam Mawla  
Deputy Managing Director, PKSF

**PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON**  
DHAKA  
The Oasis of Luxurious Hospitality and Tranquility

### Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from bona-fide contractors/manufacturers/dealers/distributors/suppliers for supply of the following items. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

Sl. No.	Name of the Items	Schedule Price (Non-refundable)
1	Garbage Collection and Cleaning	Tk.1000
2	Appointment of C&F Agent	Tk.1000
3	Tailoring Work (Re-tender)	Tk.1000
4	Cloth Slipper (Re-tender)	Tk.1000

Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to **June 29, 2022** during office hours. Tender will be received up to **02:30pm on June 30, 2022** and will be opened on the same day at **03:00pm** in presence of bidders, if any.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Ext: 4164

**আইসিটি সেন্টার**  
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
টেক্সট বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আইসিটি সেন্টার, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নেটওয়ার্ক কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য আইসিটি সেন্টারের "Network Management" বাত থেকে ওপেন টেন্ডারিং পদ্ধতিতে (OTM) স্থানীয় মূল্য "নেটওয়ার্ক সুইচ ও অন্যান্য যন্ত্রাংশ" ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে উক্ত কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারীগণের নিকট থেকে সিডিউল মোতাবেক সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। দরপত্র আগামী ০৪-০৭-২০২২ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১.৩০টার মধ্যে কোম্পানি নম্বর, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে রাখা টেক্সট বাত্রে ফেলতে হবে। ডাকযোগে দরপত্র পাঠানো যেতে পারে তবে সেখানে অবশ্যই নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে কোম্পানি নম্বর, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বরাবর পৌঁছাতে হবে। নেটওয়ার্ক সুইচ ও অন্যান্য যন্ত্রাংশের বিস্তারিত বিবরণের সিডিউল ক্রম বারদ ৩,০০০.০০ (তিন হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) পরিচালক, আইসিটি সেন্টার, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর অনুকূলে অগ্রাধিকার, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্পোরেট শাখার "বিবিধ কাজ" ০২০০০২২৩৮৪৪৮ নং হিসাব, নম্বর একাউন্টে জমা দিয়ে স্বাধীনপথে টেক্সট বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হওয়ার পর নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দস্তর হতে সিডিউল সত্বে করা যাবে। প্রত্যেক দরপত্রের সাথে পরিচালক, আইসিটি সেন্টার, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর অনুকূলে টেক্সট বাত্রে ৩% (টেক্সট বাত্রে) শতকরা তিন টাকা) টাকার (ফেরতযোগ্য) আনুষ্ঠানিক পেমেন্ট/ডিডি (যাচাই ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে কালেকশন করা যায়) জমা দিতে হবে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র কোন কারণ না দর্শিয়ে গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখে। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলের সংশ্লিষ্ট অংশে।

বিস্তারিত <http://www.ru.ac.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/network2.pdf> লিংকে দেওয়া আছে।

পরিচালক  
আইসিটি সেন্টার  
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিটি-১১২০

**ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিঃ**  
FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK LTD.

### CREDIT RATING REPORT

First Security Islami Bank Limited has been rated by Emerging Credit Rating Limited (ECRL) on the basis of audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 and other relevant information.

The summary of Rating is presented below:

Status	Credit Rating 2021	Validity
Long Term	A+	May 15, 2022
Short Term	ST-2	to May 14, 2023

Emerging Credit Rating Limited has assigned "A+" (Pronounced as A Plus) in the Long Term and "ST-2" in the Short Term to First Security Islami Bank Limited.

Commercial Banks rated "A+" in the Long Term indicates strong capacity to meet financial commitments but is somewhat more susceptible to adverse developments in the economy, and to business and other external conditions than institutions in higher-rated categories. Some minor weaknesses may exist, but these are moderated by other positive factors. An institution rated "ST-2" in the Short Term indicates strong capacity to meet its financial commitments in a timely manner. However, it is somewhat susceptible to adverse developments in the economy, and in business and other external conditions.

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
BDBL

হেড অফিস  
৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা

হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট

নং- ০৬/২/

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জুন ০৮, ২০২২

০১।	প্রকিউরিং এন্ডাটরির নাম	হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (বিডিবিএল), হেড অফিস, বিডিবিএল ভবন (সেকশন-৯), ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
০২।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	পাবলিক প্রকিউরিং বিধিমালা (পিপিআর)-২০০৮ অনুসরণে Open Tendering Method-এ।
০৩।	তহবিলের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (বিডিবিএল)-এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।
০৪।	কাজের সংশ্লিষ্ট বিবরণ	বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (বিডিবিএল)-এর হেড অফিস ও ঢাকাসহ দেশের বিভিন্ন এলাকায় অবস্থিত অফিসসমূহের জন্য আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে ৬৪(টোফটি) জন সিকিউরিটি গার্ড সংগ্রহের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত ও ব্যাসিসসম্পন্ন জববল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচন।
০৫।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও জমা গ্রহণের ঠিকানা	হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (বিডিবিএল), হেড অফিস, বিডিবিএল ভবন (সেকশন-৯), ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
০৬।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	সর্বশেষ ২২/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৩/০৬/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা, স্থান: হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (বিডিবিএল), হেড অফিস, বিডিবিএল ভবন (সেকশন-৯), ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
০৯।	দরপত্রাভ্যাস বোধ্যতা	ক) রেজিস্ট্রার অব জয়েন্ট স্টক কোম্পানিএক এন্ড ফার্মস-এ নিবন্ধনকৃত; খ) বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানে সিকিউরিটি গার্ড সরবরাহে ন্যূনতম ৩(তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন জনবল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান; গ) এছাড়া, দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী।
১০।	টেকার সিকিউরিটি	বাংলাদেশে অবস্থিত যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক থেকে বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (বিডিবিএল)-এর অনুকূলে পেমেন্ট-এর; ৩,০০,০০০.০০ (তিন লাখ) টাকা
১১।	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	২,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (বিডিবিএল) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

(আইসিটি ম্যানেজার)  
এসিসিটি ম্যানেজার  
হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট  
ফোন: ০২৫৭১৬০৪০৩  
ই-মেইল: [hrm\\_head@bdbl.com.bd](mailto:hrm_head@bdbl.com.bd)

GD-1192



# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Rise of hate speech in India

### Stern official action needed to prevent it

WE'RE concerned by some recent developments in India relating to hate speech and anti-Muslim rhetoric pushed by Hindu nationalist elements. Last week, a now-expelled spokesperson for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made offensive comments about the Prophet Muhammad. The remarks—made during a televised debate and then supported through a now-deleted tweet by another leader—landed the party in trouble by causing huge backlash from Muslim nations. So far, at least 15 countries, including close Indian allies, reportedly lodged official protests and demanded an apology from the government. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also condemned the comments, which it said came “in the context of intensifying hatred and abuse toward Islam in India and systematic practices against Muslims.”

One may recall that some months ago, in a meeting of religious leaders at Haridwar, Uttarakhand, most vicious anti-Muslim sentiments were expressed in the most hateful language. Under any other circumstances, police would have made arrests or taken some legal action for trying to disturb peace and social harmony. But this was brushed aside as the views of “fringe groups”.

This whole situation, from our perspective, is highly disturbing, to say the least. As a neighbour and friend, we expect nothing but peace and stability in India, and hope that everything will be done to ensure that. While the government of Bangladesh has made no official comments about the recent development that caused the diplomatic storm in India, people, however, were disturbed by what they saw as a continuation of anti-Muslim comments and violence that are threatening peace.

It is, therefore, vital that the authorities in India, as in Bangladesh, remain careful about the profound and destabilising effects of communal politics. We have seen how hate speech and intolerance for religious diversity have often been promoted to serve vested interests. In India, Hindu nationalist forces have for decades pursued a particularly divisive agenda. The latest incident should, therefore, bring in greater awareness among Indian policymakers of the need to consciously undo the damage of that toxic tendency. They must stay vigilant so that no hate speech or crime is ever tolerated again. We also feel that sterner action by the government is called for to stop the spread of hate speech against the Muslim community. Only that can guarantee lasting peace in the country and the region.

## Why waste so much money in the name of capacity charge?

### That's not the way to go if we want to make power affordable to all

IT seems that the deal that Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) had signed with India's Adani Power back in 2016 is going to cost Bangladesh dearly—because we will not only have to pay a high price for the electricity produced by them using coal, but will also have to pay a high “capacity charge” to the company, even if we cannot use the electricity produced by them.

As per the agreement with Adani Power, it was supposed to supply 1,496 MW of electricity to Bangladesh for 25 years starting from December 2021. But now that the plant is all set to start its operation from August this year – after a six-month delay due to pandemic-induced disruptions – the BPDB is not ready to buy electricity from them because the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) has not been able to prepare the infrastructure needed to import it. The result is, the BPDB would have to pay a whopping Tk 1,219.1 crore in capacity charge for four months till December, by which time our transmission lines may be partially ready for import.

The question that naturally arises is: Why has the PGCB not been able to get the infrastructure ready within the stipulated time (December 2021)? A more pertinent question is: Why did the BPDB sign the deal with the Indian corporation in the first place, knowing that it would use costly coal to produce electricity? Why didn't they go for importing renewable energy which is not only environment-friendly but also low-cost and sustainable?

Reportedly, Bangladesh will have to pay more than Tk 1 lakh crore to the Adani coal power plant as a capacity charge over the 25 years. With this money, we could have built three Padma bridges, according to a study done by the Bangladesh Working Group on the External Debt and Growthwatch. Moreover, the power from Adani Godda will be 56.2 percent more expensive than other imported power, as the study has found.

At a time when the people of the country are struggling to meet their day-to-day expenses due to rising inflation and inequalities, such wastage of public money in the name of buying power is totally unacceptable. More so when the prime minister herself has urged people to take austerity measures to go through this tough time. While people will definitely do what they can to cope with the situation, the government should also make sure that public money is not wasted on projects that have long-term detrimental effects on our economy. It must ensure that the money is instead used to serve struggling citizens.

# Why election 2023 needs to be different from the last two



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

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

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN

ANALYSES of Bangladesh's last three elections would reveal the dark side of our politics, which to a large extent replicates practices marked by a policy of exclusiveness, keeping the major opposition party out of the fray, and creating a loyal opposition obligated to the ruling party. It is disheartening to see the ruling party, a political party with established credentials, replicate a highly undemocratic innovation of a military ruler of keeping a tamed opposition in parliament. In fact, in its turn, the Awami League has gone a step further and appointed a few of them as cabinet ministers.

The 12th parliamentary election is just round the corner, and Bangladesh has come under international radar in this regard. Our development partners, the UK and US in particular, have expressed their views on the type of elections they would like to see in 2023. The US ambassador did not mince words when he said that his country wanted to see a fair and “internationally” acceptable election in Bangladesh. It has also engaged the attention, and rightly so, of the ruling party.

Firstly, no election would be valid without the participation of the other major political party, the BNP. And here lies the problem. BNP is loath to participate in the next general election under the current government running the administration. And the Awami League would not have it any other way. It would not relinquish power before the expiry of its term. The respective positions expose the irony of the situation in which we see a reversal of the previously held positions of the two parties. Awami League, once a strident votary of a neutral caretaker system, no longer thinks it a good idea, and the BNP, which had initially opposed the idea, thinks that the only way a free and fair election could be ensured is by having a neutral body at the helm of the administration.

I believe both the ideas are fundamentally flawed. The most important point the two parties have missed is that neither the ruling party nor the administration under it runs the election. And it is not the caretaker government, if there is one, which would conduct the elections either. It is the Election Commission (EC) that organises and conducts the election with the support of the administration. So why these rigid positions?

Take the BNP's position, for example. Once bitten, twice shy, the BNP made



FILE PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**An acceptable election depends on the Election Commission's ability to display its grit and resolve, exercise its writ, remain neutral, and be prompt to address complaints and proactive in detecting violations.**

a blunder in 2014 but participated in the elections in 2018, only to burn its fingers. The 2018 election was an aberration that never was. It was an aberration that sapped the Election Commission's credibility and people's interest in politics. Therefore, the BNP is not remiss in thinking that with Awami League in power, a free and fair election is not

electronic voting machine (EVM)? Participatory elections do not necessarily mean a free and fair election. And we know that. Ultimately, it is the CEC and his commissioners who can make all the difference. An acceptable election depends on the Election Commission's ability to display its grit and resolve, exercise its writ, remain neutral,

possible. And none other than the former chief election commissioner (CEC) has very recently admitted that there are challenges in holding the polls under a party government. It would have been a great help had he spelt out what the challenges were that he had faced in his five years in office. It is a sad reflection on our system that while other democracies have elections with the incumbent in charge of the administration without anyone questioning its credibility, we need special dispensation to conduct our parliamentary elections. And this is only because the institutions and agencies in these countries work independently and possess enough spine to resist undue pressure. Thus, the gripe.

But why is the Awami League so unsure of itself as not to accept a neutral dispensation running the administration during the conduct of national elections? It had claimed in 2014, as it does now, that it was riding the crest of popularity with its many achievements. Thus, one may ask: Did it have to resort to the blatant measures and ploys to ensure victory in 2014 and 2018? If one would need a lantern to find BNP leaders during elections, as some Awami League leaders think, then why not relent on your position? The Padma Bridge is a purple patch of the Hasina administration, and should be a vote catcher for the party. So why the uncertainty? Why so many new ordinances to stifle free speech? Why equate the party with the state? Why root for a voting apparatus which has been discarded by most of the leading democracies in the world because of its susceptibility to tampering – the

and be prompt to address complaints and proactive in detecting violations – unlike the former CEC and his team, whose belated reaction to any complaint was its hallmark. The million-dollar question is: Can the new Election Commission absorb the pressure of the ruling party, prevent the government's direct and indirect influence in the election process, and provide a level playing field for everybody? Past experiences in general do not engender confidence in the system.

In the final analysis, there are more compelling reasons for the BNP to participate in the election, and for the Awami League to allow an acceptable, free, fair and participatory election without resorting to the means of the past two. For the BNP, it would not like to be in the political wilderness it has been in the last 10 years. In 2018, everything was done to ensure that the BNP did not get the second highest number of seats and become the major opposition in parliament. Certainly, it deserved to win more than the six seats it did the last time. As for the Awami League, its seriousness in making the next election participatory is demonstrated by the comments of senior party members, including the prime minister. There is a realisation in the ruling party that the kind of elections held in 2014 and 2018 would no longer wash. The next election has to be not only accepted nationally, but internationally too. The question is whether the two can reach an agreement that would include arrangements of holding the Jatiya Sangsad election, making it impervious to the ruling party's influence.

## IPEF has something in it for Bangladesh



Shamsheer M Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, is a former foreign secretary of Bangladesh

SHAMSHER M CHOWDHURY

IT is now clear that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has thrown all post-Cold War calculations on global politics, geopolitics and the global economy, out the window. Along with severe disruptions in supply chains and the consequent cost surge, it has brought perceptions, and realities, of military security threats to the forefront.

As part of the fallout of the Ukraine war, countries like Finland and Sweden that had prided themselves for their historical neutrality from any institutionalised military alliances have signed up for joining Nato. Germany has committed itself to significantly raising its defence budget, with Japan very likely to follow suit. Clearly, its implications are not confined to Europe alone; the footprints are spread from the Global North to the South, from the West to the East.

While it is already evident that the aftershocks from the tectonic events in Europe will continue to reverberate round the world for the foreseeable future, for countries like Bangladesh, the economic fallout will bring forth multiple challenges – in fact, it already has.

Historically, Bangladesh has believed in the principle of safety in numbers, and for the right reasons. It is this that led Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as prime minister, to take Bangladesh to the Commonwealth as early as February 1972, to the non-aligned group of nations a year later, and to the OIC in 1974, the same year that Bangladesh proudly entered the United Nations as a full

member. Promoting multilateralism through regional, subregional and transregional cooperation has been a motto for Bangladesh throughout its existence as a nation-state. It conceived the formation of Saarc in South Asia, and has been a founding member of Bimstec, a coupling of parts of South and Southeast Asia together. And has also been an active member of other such initiatives.

Regional and multiregional economic cooperation mechanisms are always a work in progress; they are a process, not an event. More often than not, outside factors make it necessary for course reset and a readiness to adapt to shifting regional and global factors. The war in Ukraine is one such factor.

Located strategically as it is on the top of the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh is connected to the mighty Indian Ocean and, by extension, the Pacific. Economic cooperation in the vast maritime waters, therefore, is a logical choice for us. The recently announced concept of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) can be one such choice.

As the very name suggests, the proposed IPEF is an economic forum that is expected to stand on four main pillars: economic connectivity, economic resilience, clean economy, and just economy. It is an important step towards trying to evolve a rules-based trading order that is inclusive and open to all the member states in the region.

Understandably, some have highlighted the IPEF as a Quad-plus initiative, simply because its launch was timed with the recent summit of Quad members in Tokyo. IPEF, however, needs to be viewed from a distinct perspective – as being tangentially unique from Quad itself. While initiatives like Quad and even the AUKUS, in recent times, have been looked at more from the perspective

of enhancing security-driven aspects, the IPEF brings in a clear economic dimension that makes it relevant to the Indian and the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal littorals, of which Bangladesh is one.

Unlike the CPTPP or the RCEP, the IPEF is not a free trade agreement (FTA), but it provides a *carte blanche* to the member countries to choose what best suits their needs from the four pillars. So, there is a huge manoeuvring space within its parameters, which finds compatibility with the potential members. While the IPEF is very much a work in progress, it is undoubtedly an incremental step in the move towards a regional economic framework. Hence, it deserves serious consideration by Bangladesh.

Assuming that Bangladesh chooses to enter into consultations with others on the IPEF – and I think it should – the timing of expressing an interest is of critical importance. It is best to signal one's intentions when the proposed forum is at its formative stage. This will enable Bangladesh to play an important role in determining and defining the rules of engagement that will allow us to preserve and promote our national economic interests.

These may include, but need not be limited to, an inclusive framework for ensuring stability of supply chains, non-restrictive market access for its exports, multimodal and seamless connectivity, investments leading to job creation, and providing guarantee for manpower exports under legal frameworks.

If Bangladesh were to decide to sign up for serious consultations on the IPEF, it should do so without avoidable delay. Having established our credentials as a responsible regional player, the time has come for Bangladesh to seek an active role in the blue economy offered by the bay and the two mighty oceans.



# The roads of death

Road crashes have become the norm in Bangladesh, claiming lives on a regular basis



WASIM BIN HABIB

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

**D**REAMS meet devastating ends on the roads and highways of Bangladesh almost every day. Puja Sarkar's death is one of the latest examples. The young scientist was on track to fulfil her dreams, despite all the challenges she had faced in life. With unflinching determination and hard work, she went on to finish her graduation with distinction, and joined Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC). On the personal front, her life seemed to be as close to perfect as she could ever hope for. She had married the love of her life, Tanmoy Majumder, a doctor, and she had been expecting a baby. Three months ago, Puja was reunited with Tanmoy, who had recently been transferred to a Manikganj hospital after being posted in Patuakhali for two years. The couple were finally together and were eagerly awaiting the arrival of their bundle of joy. Her Canadian expatriate uncle, Subrata Nandy, in a heart-wrenching Facebook post, said Puja, expressing her gratitude for facilitating Tanmoy's transfer, told him, "I don't want anything else. I am

per day in May 2022, while this number was 18 in April. Last month, 528 road crashes took place, where at least 641 people were killed and 1,364 were injured. Of the dead, 97 were children and 84 were women, shows the organisation's monthly data compiled on the basis of media reports. The figure, however, could be even higher as many accidents in remote areas do not make their way to newspaper headlines. The World Bank estimates the costs related to road crashes could be as high as 5.1 percent of the GDP.

And every time a fatal accident or a death of a prominent person happens, it stirs commotion among the general masses, prompting the government to take measures. In a knee-jerk reaction, the government takes no time in forming probe committees who make recommendations. Some piecemeal measures are also seen from the authorities concerned in conducting mobile courts. But after a few days, the heat dies down and the issue is forgotten until the next major crash. In the meantime, precious lives are lost. Beyond those who get killed, the stories of road crash survivors are even grimmer as their families reel under acute economic shocks.

But how long will we have to bear with the procession of the dead? Are the authorities concerned giving due importance to road safety issues? A few instances could give an indication

**Such road tragedies have become commonplace in Bangladesh, with hundreds dying and countless becoming disabled, destroying the dreams of many families and often leaving them destitute. Of late, there seems to be a frightening spike in these road crashes. Things have turned so terrifying now that many feel that they must go out on the road with a death threat constantly hanging over their heads. Day in and day out, newspapers and TV channels report road crashes and deaths, along with the horrible pictures of the crashes in various parts of Bangladesh.**

now the happiest person in the world, the first step in fulfilling my dream. Tanmoy will have his FCPS completed, he will be a good doctor. Life is really beautiful, uncle."

But everything was shattered in the blink of an eye on June 5, when a speeding long-haul bus rammed into the BAEC staff bus carrying Puja, viciously cutting this bright young woman's life short. Two of her colleagues were also killed in the accident on the Dhaka-Aricha highway. And obviously, Puja's accident exposed the gaping anomalies in our public transport system. According to media reports, the killer bus's fitness certificate and tax token had expired in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The harrowing picture of the crash shows the recklessness of the bus driver. The driver lost control over the steering and first hit a bus parked by the road before swerving into a cattle-laden truck. The bus then ploughed through the road divider and hit the BAEC bus on the other side of the road.

Such road tragedies have become commonplace in Bangladesh, with hundreds dying and countless more becoming disabled, destroying the dreams of many families and often leaving them destitute. Of late, there seems to be a frightening spike in these road crashes. Things have turned so terrifying now that many feel that they must go out on the road with a death threat constantly hanging over their heads. Day in and day out, newspapers and TV channels report road crashes and deaths, along with the horrible pictures of the crashes in various parts of Bangladesh. According to the Road Safety Foundation, on average, 20 people died in road crashes in Bangladesh

of just how serious they are about this. Following an unprecedented student movement for road safety in the wake of the deaths of two students in 2018, the government was forced to enact the Road Transport Act (RTA). Many considered the new law a silver lining in the darkest cloud of relentless road accidents. But soon it appeared to be an attempt to quell the heat generated by the protest. Within months, the government's slow-go approach to implement the law became evident as it tried to balance the interests of passengers and that of vehicle owners and their workers. Road safety campaigners alleged that several key sections of the act remain "ineffective" following "negotiations" between transport associations and the government since November 2019. Regrettably, four years after enacting the law, the government has failed to formulate rules required to make it effective, preventing the authorities from executing some of its vital sections. Sadly, there is no indication from the relevant government agencies about the progress of framing the rules that have been caught in red tape.

Here's another example of state apathy to the public's concern about road safety. The government has a National Road Safety Council (NRSC), the apex body to take policy decisions over road safety issues, which approves strategic action plans for improving road safety. Formed in 1995, the NRSC has so far approved eight action plans, the last one getting the nod in November 2017, with a deadline of December 2020. The tenure of the existing plan has expired, but no new action plan has been approved as of now. A draft for the National Road



ILLUSTRATION: TEENI AND TUNI

**And every time a fatal accident or a death of a prominent person happens, it stirs commotion among the general masses, prompting the government to take measures.**

Safety Strategic Action Plan 2021-2024 was prepared over a year ago, but it apparently could not be sanctioned, as no NRSC meeting was held over the last one year. In fact, there is a clear lack of accountability everywhere in this sector. We have different bodies to ensure road safety, but apparently, they are not empowered and lack effective coordination to get expected outcomes. These organisations are also not held accountable.

As a result, the roads remain as hazardous as ever. Reckless driving, movement of unfit vehicles, gross violation and poor enforcement of traffic rules, and a lack of awareness among road users are all too common. The bus drivers are least bothered about safety, despite all the horrific accidents. In fact, they enjoy an unbridled freedom to flout basic road safety rules, such as speed limits and overtaking, and picking up and dropping off passengers from anywhere they please, because they want to meet the commercial needs of the owners. Passengers' safety is not a concern. They believe they can get away with killing people, as instances of drivers who are at fault getting punished by law are hardly seen. On the other hand, the law enforcers don't always show the desired urgency to enforce the rules and regulations to penalise

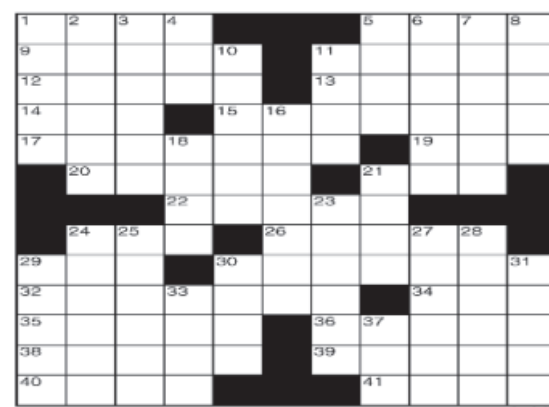
the violators. As citizens, we also don't play the role as desired since we tend to flout the laws, putting our own lives at jeopardy.

The problems beset with our transport sector are all known and well discussed: Reckless and rash driving, dilapidated road conditions, countless unfit and unregistered vehicles, unlicensed and unqualified drivers and so on. Experts have time and again talked about the problems along with solutions; meetings and seminars are often held; and road safety campaigners continue their campaigns round the year to try to make the roads safe. But without effective measures to ensure discipline and compliance with traffic rules, road accidents continue unabated.

So, how many people would have to die before the authorities concerned will wake up and take the right steps to fix the disorderly, unsafe public transport system? When will our policymakers truly realise that road crashes have become a national problem? Unless the government ensures strict enforcement of the law, metes out stringent punishment to offenders and violators, and creates mass awareness, death will continue to stalk us on the roads and shatter the dreams of many more Puja Sarkars. We cannot afford to be so callous.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Some adoptions
- 5 Snaps
- 9 Enjoyed avidly
- 11 Discover
- 12 Ignominy
- 13 Busy
- 14 "My country — of thee"
- 15 Give orders
- 17 Artist's overlay
- 19 Approval
- 20 Takes aback
- 21 River blocker
- 22 Hackneyed
- 24 Chiding
- 25 sound
- 26 Some investments
- 29 Singer Rawls
- 30 Having a will
- 32 Copy
- 34 Painter
- 35 Ernst
- 35 Classical
- 36 Fuming
- 38 Physics bits
- 39 Bengal beast
- 40 Heart
- 41 Nuisance
- DOWN
- 1 Elbows on the table
- 2 Morality topic
- 3 China buy
- 4 Bottomline
- 5 Milk buy
- 6 Scaly pet
- 7 Usual practice
- 8 Haste
- 10 Bookish sort
- 11 Backgammon need
- 16 "You're on!"
- 18 Walrus feature
- 21 Car scar
- 23 Blow one's top
- 24 Popular soup
- 25 Beau
- 27 Impair
- 28 Declares
- 29 Fragrant
- 30 Works
- 31 Bring to bear
- 33 Watch reading
- 37 Tear



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়  
র‍্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৯  
বরায়, উত্তরভাগ, হেতিমগঞ্জ, (শাহপাড়া সেতু টোল প্লাজা সংলগ্ন বাইপাস সড়ক), গোলাপগঞ্জ, সিলেট  
স্মারক নং-৮৬৩৪/মেরামত/এমটি  
তারিখঃ ০৯ জুন ২০২২ইং

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে র‍্যাব-৯, সিলেট এর যানবাহনের বিভিন্ন প্রকার স্পেয়ার্স পার্টস সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী ও ডিলারদের নিকট হতে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রদাতাদের পরিচালক, র‍্যাব-৯, সিলেট এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্র জামানত জমা দিতে হবে। অকৃতকার্য দরপত্রদাতাদের নিরাপত্তা জামানত দরপত্র গ্রহণের পর ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে। র‍্যাব-৯, সিলেট এর কার্যালয় এমটি শাখা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে সিডিউল (সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৭.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্রদাতাগণ দরপত্র জামানতসহ সিলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রত্যেক লটারে জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে দর প্রদান করবেন। সিডিউলের বিবরণ এবং মূল্য নিম্নে দেওয়া হলোঃ

ক্রমিক	লট নম্বর	স্পেয়ার্স পার্টস/দ্রব্যাদির বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)
১।	লট নম্বর-০১ হতে লট নম্বর-২১ পর্যন্ত	যানবাহনের বিভিন্ন প্রকার স্পেয়ার্স পার্টস ক্রয়	প্রতি লট ৩০০/-	প্রতি লটারে জন্য =২,০০০/-
২।	লট নম্বর-২২	বিভিন্ন প্রকার যানবাহনের টায়ার-টিউব ক্রয়	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-
৩।	লট নম্বর-২৩	বিভিন্ন প্রকার যানবাহনের ব্যটারী ক্রয়	৫০০/-	৫০,০০০/-
৪।	লট নম্বর-২৪	ইঞ্জিন ওভারহোলিং এবং লেদ মেশিনের কাজ	৫০০/-	১০,০০০/-

আত্রাই দরপত্রদাতাদের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার সহকারে দরপত্র র‍্যাব-৯, সিলেট এর কর্তব্যরত কর্মকর্তার অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বক্সে আগামী ০৬ জুলাই ২০২২ইং তারিখ রোজ বুধবার বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ফেলতে হবে এবং ঐদিন বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বক্স খোলা হবে। জামানত ব্যতিত দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য করা হবে।  
সংরক্ষিত শর্ত মোতাবেক আগামী ০৫ জুলাই ২০২২ইং তারিখ ১৬.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে। দরপত্র কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ মোমিনুল হক  
উইং কমান্ডার  
পরিচালক  
টেলিফোনঃ ০২-৯৯৬৬৪১৭৯১

জিডি-১১৮৯

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.



BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

# Analysing South Asian history through films

**I could not resist reading Lotte Hoek's argumentative piece, "Cross-Wing Filmmaking: East Pakistani Urdu Films and Their Traces in the Bangladesh Film Archive". Hoek investigates dominant national trends into forgotten archives of film practice. She takes *Son of Pakistan*, better known as *President* (1966), as a sample film—said to be the first children's film of Pakistan, the story is based on Rabeya Khatun's novel *Dusshahoshik Abhijan*.**

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Critical reading of South Asian history has been majorly subjected to individual narratives. Lack of comparative studies have resulted in ignorance for neighbours and a forgotten history of self. Unlike most academic, information-heavy writings that I have come across, *South Asian FilmScope: Transregional Encounters* offers opportunities for analytical reasoning and provokes the mind to wander. While some chapters offer new information, others offer varied perspectives on known history, and suggest innovative ways of challenging hegemonic paradigms.

Editors and co-founders of the South Asian Regional Media Scholars Network (SARMSNet), Elora Halim Chowdhury and Esha Neogi De, have meticulously designed the book. They have distributed the chapters of their debut publication equally among the tri-nations—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, intertwining their history and culture even to the ignorant eye. The selected essays compel the reader to look beyond the contents of the book and trigger an urge to explore, from chapters on "Nations and Regional Margin", to "Transregional Crossing" and "Fractured Geographies, South Connectivities".

I could not resist reading Lotte Hoek's argumentative piece, "Cross-Wing Filmmaking: East Pakistani Urdu Films and Their Traces in the Bangladesh Film Archive". Hoek investigates dominant national trends into forgotten archives of film practice. She takes *Son of Pakistan*, better known as *President* (1966), as a sample film—said to be the first children's film of Pakistan, the story is based on Rabeya Khatun's novel *Dusshahoshik Abhijan*. But taking a stance away from a romantic or nationalistic position, Hoek confronts the people in charge directly. Along with archived materials, she notes body gestures and choices of words of her interviewees, Faridur Reza Sagar and Dr Fazlul Alam. She used statements of the Film Archive Librarian, the Film Investigator, an unnamed person she referred as a friend, and Zakir Hossain Raju in regard to her search for the documentation of Urdu films in Bangladesh Film Archive. She infers the failure of this search as a representative of the actively forgotten history of the Urdu films of East Pakistan.

The 'film investigator' (as Hoek states) working in Bangladesh Film Archive blatantly admits that the archive has not been able to add Bangla language magazines from before 1978 (the year of the establishment of the institution). The mention of the years such as 1971, 1975, and 1978 signify times in history which have been important in forming the identity of Bangladesh. The oral histories and myth, reminiscences and documents, all sum up the structure of the created identity of Bangladesh.

Digging deeper, I could see myself walk through the shelves of the Film Archive as I read the book. While Hoek tries to pin the

language used in the film, the protagonist, played by Faridur Reza Sagar, told Hoek that he couldn't recall anything about the making of the film. I was taken aback because he has mentioned the film in multiple conversations in local media and has written about it. His essay, titled, "Ami President er nayok bolchi", which loosely translates to "I, the hero of President", was published in *Kishorsomogro*, volume 1 and later added to a memoir, *Aragami Swapnik* (2016). The memoir was about the director Fazlul Huq. In it, he recalls travelling to Karachi, Lahore, Pindi, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Swat, besides shooting the film in the East. He also shared anecdotes and details of the storyline but there was no mention of the language of the film. Among other writings in the memoir, veteran actress Nasima Khan reminisced her acquaintance with the director. She worked in the Urdu film *Azan* during 1962 to 1963, which was much later released as *Uttoron*, another film by

of Bangladesh" by Glen Hill and Kabita Chakma.

Unlike Lotte Hoek's nonlinear approach, here the writers walk us through the trail of incidents that form the map of Chittagong Hill Tracts and the history of its people—concepts of freedom, dominance, inclusion and exclusion. While Hoek talks about the act of "othering" between the speakers of Urdu and Bangla, Hill and Chakma present the "othering" of non-Bangla speaking minorities by the dominating Bangla speakers and its projection on screen. The two writings form a diptych; a daunting task that many have failed to compile. They also preserve works of the indigenous diasporic community who are helping to promote their culture to a larger audience.

I was, however, surprised to not find mention of the Hill Film Festival in the chapter. The festival has been running in Bangladesh since 2014. One of the key figures of the festival, Audit Dewan, was



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

the same director. Nasima Khan mentioned *Son of Pakistan* being an Urdu film, the first one for children made in Pakistan. She refers to the director as a "brave one" from East Pakistan who proved that Bengali directors were capable of making all kinds of movies in any language. She also credited him for paving the path for future directors of Bengal. This was the moment I was bewildered by these contrasting narratives and thereafter, I was only left to wonder if it could unveil any lead on Lotte Hoek's search.

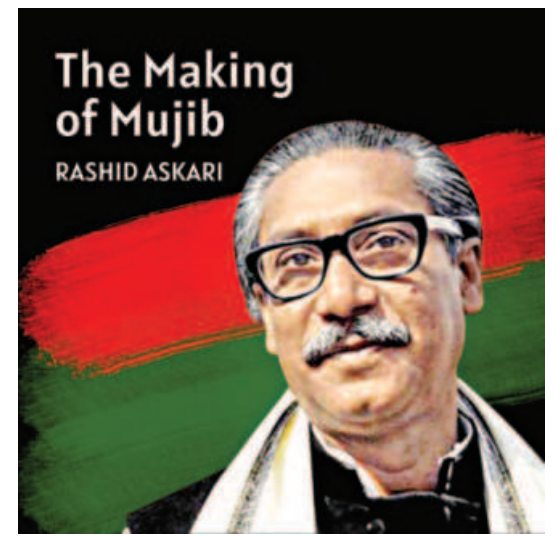
South Asian FilmScope is, therefore, a journey to the centre of the unanswered questions we ask as film students. Some of these questions lead to answers and some push for further research. Either way, this book is helpful beyond the academic realm. Although the book remains unbiased to the territories, my reading interest primarily leaned towards Bangladesh. And so another important chapter to me was "Silencing Films from the Chittagong Hill Tracts: Indigenous Cinema's Challenge to the Imagined Cultural Homogeneity"

mentioned as a director but his initiative of the festival was excluded. I believe festival initiatives are a strong media of communication and it is worthwhile to be included in future editions of the book.

This edition ends with a hopeful reading by Elora Halim Chowdhury, where she looks at friendship and healing in contemporary films about the Bangladesh Liberation War.

She analyses national films inquiring how it may document and engender a conversation about nation, history, identity, healing and reconciliation. Looking through the lens of both female and male directors, she studies three contemporary films, *Shongram 71* (2014), *Itihaash Konna 1*, and *Meherjaan*. She believes that the films chime in to the creation of an alternative archive of 1971 with complex and diverse gender representation and the possibilities of healing and reconciliation through intimate and interpersonal relations.

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COLLAGE: SARAH ANJUM SARAH

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

## An intellectual biography of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

MEHERUN NESA

*The Making of Mujib* (Bangla Academy Dhaka, 2022) by Dr Rashid Askari is an intellectual biography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman aimed mainly at historiographers and socio-political scientists. Yet the linguistic intelligence of the book communicates with non-specialist audiences with equal eloquence.

Although quite a large number of biographies have been written about Mujib, none, says Dr Askari in the preface to his book, "evaluate his life and thought in the light of the political discourse concerning him". His book explores historical-political contexts in which Bangabandhu took solemn vows to stand against the Pakistani usurpers and address the interests and hopes of his people.

The writer attempts to develop the biography through the conceptual analysis of Mujib's motives and beliefs. As an intellectual historian, the writer offers insights into Mujib's life, the relationship between his life and political ideology, and his contribution to addressing the critical geo-political issues of the then-East Pakistan.

The diverse literature on Mujib has created many distinct images of this influential leader, which has led many researchers to attempt to unearth 'the real Mujib'. Rather than joining this quest to over-simplify Mujib's legacy, this biography explores a number of personae that Mujib assumed at different periods of his life. Dr Askari endeavours to unfold the sharp-minded, systematic thinker, and brilliant genius of Mujib's growth as a political giant in connection with his inseparable attachment with the socio-political and economic history of Bangladesh.

Three basic causes—decolonization,

**The writer attempts to develop the biography through the conceptual analysis of Mujib's motives and beliefs. As an intellectual historian, the writer offers insights into Mujib's life, the relationship between his life and political ideology, and his contribution to addressing the critical geo-political issues of the then-East Pakistan.**

democratisation, and racial equality—were upheld by Mujib in his call for civil resistance, largely characterised by non-violence. Mujib used the phenomenon of non-violence against the Pakistani occupation to claim and establish autonomy in the region. His forms of actions included demonstrations, strikes, boycotts, and campaigns to reinstate peace and the constitutional order of the region. Askari reaffirms that in the formation of a political personality, Mujib nurtured his inborn passion and love for humanity.

A blending of enormous political insight and austerity made Mujib a sometimes difficult political figure. His strength was born in his morality and in his mysticism; he had to spend one fourth of his 54 years in jail. He was sent to jail 18 times and faced death twice. His firm conviction for justice and truth became the critical factor in motivating the oppressed people of the land. With his incantatory call to people in the historic speech of March 7, 1971, and his declaration of the Independence of Bangladesh, Mujib's people woke up to fight fire with fire, as Dr Askari records under the sections, "The Mighty Roar", "The Cruellest Crackdown", and "The Final Word".

The biography tells this story in eight chapters. They have small subsections to present facts, ideas, and views in small chunks. The text offers an accessible description of Mujib and his activities, along with analysis and commentaries of historiographers and news reporters on the Liberation War of Bangladesh. The use of intertextual instruments like translations, quotations, and allusions have helped the writer to examine his subject from multiple dimensions.

Dr Rashid Askari has been one of my heroes for his contribution to South Asian English fiction with his short story collection, *Nineteen Seventy-One and Other Stories* (Pathak Shamabesh, 2011). The book kept me up late, and continues to remind me of the transformative effects of a powerful narrative. Here, too, reading his work felt to me as though, as Nikolai Gumilev once put it, "Only serpents shed their skins forever/ So that their souls would age and grow. / We are not serpents, all that clever/ We change not our bodies, but our souls".

Meherun Nesa teaches English at Jagannath University, Bangladesh.

THE SHELF

## Wanderlust reading: Books for your vicarious travelling this summer

STAR BOOKS REPORT

**TOMB OF SAND**  
Geetanjali Shree, trans. Daisy Rockwell  
Penguin India, 2022

An 80-year-old North Indian plunges into despair as her husband passes away. As she comes back to her former self, despite her family's pleas she resolves to travel to Pakistan and face her troubled past of experiencing the Partition of India first hand. Her friendship with a transgender person further confounds her "bohemian" daughter.

Despite the grave themes of this year's International Booker Prize winner—the first Hindi language book to be shortlisted for the £50,000 prize—Geetanjali Shree writes her tale of discrimination and trauma with humour and lightness.

**MEGH PAHARER DESHE**  
Ishtiaq Alam  
Bengal Publications, 2022  
Ishtiaq Alam's collection of essays explores all the best spots to visit in Meghalaya and beyond to discover the 'Seven Sisters' states in Northeast India: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura. Alam's

descriptions are lively and informative, and he divulges the rich history and the cultural richness of the places.

**MALLOBAN**  
Jibanananda Das  
Penguin India, 2022  
Set in North Calcutta in 1929, an "ordinary" lower-middle class man lives with his wife, Utpala, and daughter, Monu, in the neighbourhood of College Street. The

gender, and sexuality in the aftermath of the Swadeshi movement and the Partition of India in 1948. This is the first English translation of the novel.

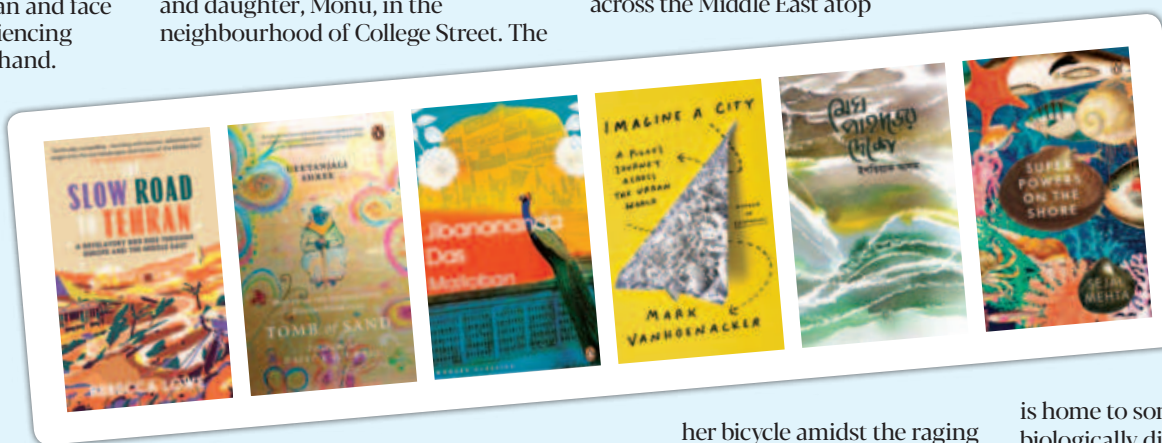
**THE SLOW ROAD TO TEHRAN**  
Rebecca Lowe  
September Publishing, UK, 2022.  
Faced by severe weather and nature conditions, Rebecca Lowe rode off across the Middle East atop

**IMAGINE A CITY: A PILOT'S JOURNEY ACROSS THE URBAN WORLD**  
Mark Vanhoenacker  
Knopf, 2022

Another work of nonfiction in the list, in *Imagine A City*, its author Mark Vanhoenacker "weaves travelogue with memoir" to create "this intimate yet expansive work". He pays tribute to the cities he has traversed and come to fall in love with—places that thousands of people across the world have called home.

**SUPERPOWERS ON THE SHORE**  
Sejal Mehta  
India Viking, 2022  
The Indian coastline

is home to some of the most biologically diverse and wondrous creatures on Earth. "[m]agnificent intertidal species: solar-powered slugs, escape artist octopuses, venomous jellies", and such wander through the depths of the ocean. Sejal Mehta, in her book, outlines the rich diversity that stands toe-to-toe with the rich wildlife of the rainforests and ones that have given birth to countless works of fantasy and fiction.



eponymous protagonist finds himself distraught and arguing with his wife over seemingly insignificant matters like "bathrooms and budgeting" and even "the appearance of a frequent late-night visitor to Utpala's upstairs bedroom". Meanwhile, their daughter faces the consequences of this unrest.

This third novel by Jibanananda Das unpacks the issues of class, caste,

her bicycle amidst the raging Syrian War and when the refugee crisis reached its height in 2015. She had to be rescued, several times, by the locals with nothing at her disposal but "a desire to learn more about this troubled region and its relationship with the West". *The Slow Road to Tehran* is Lowe's first hand account of her journey from Europe to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, the Gulf and finally to Iran.



## SPORT

What to WATCH

**TSPORTS**  
Zimbabwe vs Afghanistan  
3rd ODI  
Live from 01:00 pmT  
**SPORTS & STAR SPORTS 1**  
India vs South Africa

1st T20I  
Live from 07:30 pm  
**TEN 1**  
UEFA Nations League  
Switzerland vs Spain  
Live from 12:45 am

(Friday)  
**TEN 2**  
UEFA Nations League  
Portugal vs Czech Republic  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Friday)



Bangladesh goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico catches the ball confidently – a scene replayed over and over again over the course of the match – in a 2-0 defeat against Bahrain in the opening Asian Cup Qualifying fixture at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PHOTO: AFC

## Aus clinch T20I series against SL

REUTERS, Colombo

Australia made heavy weather of a modest chase before beating Sri Lanka by three wickets in the second Twenty20 International on Wednesday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chasing 125, world champions Australia struggled against Wanindu Hasaranga's (4-33) spin before Matthew Wade's run-a-ball 26 not out secured a tense victory with 13 balls to spare.

Put into bat, Sri Lanka struggled to get going and rode cameos from Charith Asalanka (39) and Kusal Mendis (36) to post a below-par 124-9, barely avoiding being bowled out inside 20 overs.

For Australia, captain Aaron Finch (24) began well but Hasaranga rocked their top and middle order before Wade calmed Australian nerves and secured victory with a four off Gunathilaka.

The teams move to Pallekele for the final Twenty20.

## Cabrera pleased despite defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

A string of fine saves from goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico could not rescue Bangladesh in the Asian Cup Qualifiers as the men in red and green suffered a 2-0 defeat to Bahrain in the Group E opener at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Bahrain took a 2-0 goal lead in the first half with two brilliant strikes from Ali Abdula Haram and Komail Hasan Alaswad but failed to extend the margin after the break against the 188th-ranked Bangladesh, who had lost by the same margin against the same side in their only previous meeting – during the President's Cup in Seoul, South Korea in 1979.

Ahead of the match, the concern for Bangladesh fans was not regarding the result, instead on how big the margin of defeat would be against a side who are 99 places ahead of them in FIFA rankings. But in the end, the satisfying part for Javier Cabrera's side was perhaps keeping the margin of defeat to a respectable level while not letting Bahrain run amok in the second half.

Much of the credit for keeping the scoreline to the respectable level should be attributed to goalkeeper Zico, who

made at least 10 decent saves in two halves following his superb performance against Indonesia last week in the buildup to the qualifiers.

Cabrera picked the same starting eleven that played out a goalless draw against Indonesia in Bandung on June 1, and the booters paid back the faith of the Spanish coach by keeping Bahrain at bay for the first half-an-hour of the match. The defenders played with good discipline while the forwards ventured into the opposition territory during this time, with captain Jamal Bhuiyan narrowly missing the target from a free-kick.

However, Ali Abdulla Haram broke Bangladesh's resistance in the 34th minute with a brilliant glancing header off a Komail Hasan corner after Zico had thwarted five attempts from the opposition players.

Three minutes before the break, Komail drove a powerful grounder to double the lead for Bahrain as the higher ranked side went to the break with a deserved two-goal lead. However, Bangladesh, while not conceding any further, had some sporadic moves in the Bahrain area but failed to cause any damage.

Cabrera termed the performance of his

charges as a competitive one.

"I think we had a very competitive performance, but obviously we're not happy with the result at the end which is a defeat. I am very proud with the performance and effort of the boys," the Spanish coach said at the post-match conference.

Explaining his game plan, the 37-year-old coach said, "We had plans in terms of block and distances between us and creating spaces upfront. However, it has been a good performance in a way."

Even though Bangladesh adopted a counter-attack based approach, they played a lot of miss-passes and lost the ball all too easily too many times in the midfield in the first half. The coach was happy that things improved in the second half.

"We did not give them many chances in the first half and in the second half we had quite some initiatives with the balls. During the break, we spoke that we have to step up which happened in the second half and we were able to change things in second half," said Cabrera.

Bangladesh will play their second match on June 11, who were surprisingly beaten 3-1 by hosts Malaysia in the second match of the group later in the day.

## India legend Mithali Raj calls time on career

REUTERS, New Delhi

India women team captain Mithali Raj quit international cricket on Wednesday after a 23-year career during which she established herself as the country's greatest female batter.

"Like all journey, this one too must come to an end," the 39-year-old said in a statement on social media. "Today is the day I retire from all forms of international cricket."

Raj made her India debut as a 16-year-old in a 1996 one-day against Ireland and scored 68 against South Africa in a Women's World Cup match in Christchurch in March in what proved to be her last international outing.

Her tally of 7805 runs, which include seven hundreds, from 232 matches makes her the leading scorer in women's ODIs.

She also played 12 Test matches scoring 699 runs which include a career best 214 against England at Taunton in 2002.

"... the last 23 years have been the most fulfilling, challenging & enjoyable years of my life," said Raj, who led India to the World Cup finals in 2005 and 2017.

"I feel now is the perfect time to call curtains on my playing career as the team is in the capable hands of some very talented young players and the future of Indian cricket is bright."

Raj has been the face of women's cricket in India and her performance has inspired a biopic which will be released next month.



## Pant-led India take on South Africa today

REUTERS, New Delhi

Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant will lead India in the home Twenty20 series against South Africa after KL Rahul was ruled out with a groin injury on Wednesday.

Top order batter Rahul had been put in charge after India decided to rest several frontline players, including regular captain Rohit Sharma and stalwart Virat Kohli, at the end of the Indian Premier League (IPL) last month.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav will also miss the five-match series after sustaining a hand injury while batting in the nets ahead of Thursday's series opener in New Delhi, the Indian cricket board said in a statement.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, who led Gujarat Titans to a memorable IPL victory in their debut season, will be Pant's deputy.

The home side have not named any replacements for the injured two.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds a FIFA World Cup ball while standing beside the FIFA World Cup trophy at the National Parliament Building yesterday. The trophy arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a 36-hour tour with a FIFA delegation including French legend Christian Karembeu. The trophy was received at the Bangabhaban in the afternoon by President Abdol Hamid before it was taken to the Parliament Building in presence of FIFA and BFF officials. The trophy will be put on display for public at a hotel in the capital today. PHOTO: MOYS

## Lefty batters' stern test in the Caribbean

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The last time Bangladesh played a Test series in West Indies, Kumar Roach hobbled away to a fiver, conceding just eight runs in Antigua, the venue for Bangladesh's upcoming Test against the Windies this time around as well. In 2018, Bangladesh fell to their lowest Test score of 43 during that tour and Roach, Jason Holder and Shannon Gabriel ran riot.

Raw pace, extra bounce and the brand-new duke ball undid the Tigers in that first innings. Tamim Iqbal got one that just moved away slightly and got the edge. Mominul Haque then pushed at a fuller length one and was caught at gully. Skipper Shakib Al Hasan's stay lasted just one delivery as he failed to get his bat out of Roach's line just outside the off-stump. The common denominators in all three dismissals? Roach, right-arm pace from around the wicket, bowling to a left-handed batter.

Bangladesh top order is full of left-handers with Tamim, Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Mominul and Shakib in there. Since 2019, Tamim has gotten out to right-arm pace from around the wicket thrice in 12 innings. Mominul has been done by that line of delivery six times in 20 innings, same as Shanto who took only 12 innings while skipper Shakib had gotten out twice in four innings during the same period.

When a right-arm pacer goes around the wicket to a left-hander, the bowler increases the chances of getting one of three probable ways in which to bag a wicket. Bowled, leg before or the nick through to wicket-keeper or slip cordon are all in play. But before anyone looks at the Bangladesh batting order's lefties with disdain, the overall picture is of right-arm pacers holding sway over left-hand batters in Tests for quite a

while now.

From 2001 till 2014, left-handers had averaged 36.38, compared to 26.91 managed by right-handed batters while batting against right-arm pacers. Since 2015 till present, the average of lefties against right-arm quicks is 27.83. What changed? Right-arm pacers bowling from around the wicket. In the last five years, 40 percent deliveries from right-arm pacers have come from around the wicket compared to 21 per cent in the previous decade.

Coming back to Roach, the pacer has the highest number of wickets in Antigua, bagging 43 in eight matches. Holder, Gabriel

SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM			
BDESH 1st Inn			
Total:	43	Overs:	18.4
R HOSSAIN		6	
Boundary	18th over		
P'ship	0	0	

and Alzarri Joseph make up the top four in a ground where the first Test was held in 2008.

Meanwhile Jayden Seales, who has 13 Tests under his belt, has also looked sharp in recent Tests for the Windies and looking like he might be a regular face in the Windies Test squad.

Forget the others, even medium pacer Kyle Mayers wreaked havoc in Windies in the last Test his side played at home, picking up five wickets against England which sealed the series for the hosts. Given the Windies pace attack's height and guile at bowling



good line, it should be a scary prospect for Bangladesh top order and especially left-handers. All these Windies pacers have one thing in common, they are all right-arm pacers.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, will be missing the services of Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam in the Tests and will be hoping that Mustafizur Rahman, Ebadot Hossain and Khaled Ahmed can leave a mark.

"There is no alternative to winning and we want to win. But performances in Tests have been a concern. Our top order didn't click and concern remains on how we played against Sri Lanka at Dhaka Test," team director Khaled Mahmud told the media yesterday.

"The boys have a lot of ability, Shanto is still new but has two hundreds. Mominul has the highest number of Test centuries among batters in Bangladesh and Tamim has a lot of experience in this format. In top order, apart from [Mahmudul Hasan] Joy, we have experienced players so hopefully if the boys return to form, we are a good side," Mahmud added but going by the trend of right-arm pace against left-arm batters, the task is set to be difficult in Windies Tests.



**To prevent corrosion of rods in water reservoirs, use corrosion-resistant steel**

**BSRM Centura**  
Fusion Bonded Epoxy Coated Rebar

**ROOPPUR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

Proud Construction Partner

**SHAH CEMENT**

CTG DEPOT FIRE

# Owners not sued by cops

8 depot officials made accused in case

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday sued eight officials of the fire-ravaged BM Container Depot for negligence but left out the owners of the depot.

A fire at the depot on Saturday night claimed 45 lives and left over 200 people with injuries.

Of the officials accused, some suffered injuries in the blasts that took place after the fire broke out, depot staffers said.

According to its website, the BM Container Dept Ltd is a Netherlands-Bangladesh joint venture of which Bert Pronk is the chairman and Mostafizur Rahman is the managing director.

Mostafizur is the brother of Mujibur Rahman, a depot director and treasurer of Chattogram South unit Awami League.

Sub-inspector Ashraf Siddique of Sitakunda Model Police Station filed the case against the officials and some unspecified number of unnamed people early yesterday.

Inspector (investigation) Suman Banik was made the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Containers with hazardous chemicals and other inflammable materials have been lying at the Chattogram Port yard for years. Port officials had quite a scare when smoke billowed from an acid-loaded container on Tuesday, around three days after the BM depot blaze. Firefighters were able to bring the situation under control. Story on Page 2.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## US wants free, fair nat'l polls

Ambassador Haas pays courtesy call on CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US wants a general election in which the Bangladeshi people can choose their leaders, US Ambassador in Dhaka Peter Haas said yesterday.

Holding a credible election is the job of the Election Commission and the entire society, he said after meeting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Habibur Awal at



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## BUDGET FOR CHILDREN IN LAST 2YRS

# It rose in numbers, fell compared to GDP

Speakers at CPD-Unicef roundtable suggest setting aside 20pc of public expenditure budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the child-centric budget allocation increased in terms of size over the last two fiscal years, it dropped from 2.78 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 2.63 percent.

The government needs to increase spending on children gradually over the coming years to meet its target of allocating 20 percent of the public expenditure budget for children, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They also suggested that the government should focus on recovering

learning losses by bringing back dropouts to schools, and ensuring their access to essential health services, preventing child marriage and child labour.

The speakers demanded that the government form a separate directorate for children affairs to focus more on their rights.

The roundtable titled "Allocations for Children in Bangladesh's Public Expenditure" was jointly organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Unicef, with support from the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

## Padma Bridge will be open to traffic June 26

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Padma Bridge will be opened to traffic on June 26, a day after its inauguration.

"Remember, vehicles would not be allowed on the Padma Bridge on June 25. Vehicular movement will start from 6:00am on June 26," Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

He added that people might be allowed to walk on the bridge for a certain time on inauguration day. "But it is not certain yet."

Quader was exchanging views on the inauguration with public representatives of the southern region at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Earlier in the meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message directed Awami League leaders and activists to remain alert on that day.

AL Organising Secretary Mirza Azam read out the premier's message.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

# 'A campaign to malign the government'

Bangladesh writes to UN Working Group

ZYMA ISLAM

The government of Bangladesh has written to the United Nations arguing that it is "unlawful to arbitrarily consider any missing [person's] case as enforced disappearance".

It sent the correspondence to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on May 12, addressing the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

"The government noticed that there has been a tendency for quite some time to label all cases of missing [persons] as 'enforced disappearances'," the letter read, adding that the legal system of Bangladesh does not have any terminology called "enforced disappearance" but rather criminalises anyone, including law enforcement officials, participating in "kidnappings" or "abduction".

"This is done [using the term 'enforced disappearances'] with the obvious intention of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## KILLINGS OF AL LEADER, STUDENT

# Key accused to be brought back from Oman today

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A police team is scheduled to reach Dhaka from Oman in the morning today with Sumon Shikder Musa, a key suspect of the murders of a city Awami League leader and a college student in late March.

It was his phone calls that led the royal Oman police to Musa, said a top official of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

The 43-year-old suspect made several calls to some businessmen close to the slain AL leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and asked them for money early last month.

This let the law enforcers in Dhaka know that he made the calls from Oman where he entered from the UAE on May 8, said a top DMP official.

The Bangladesh chapter of Interpol then gave the phone number to its counterpart in Oman and informed it about the matter. "Tracking his number, Oman police arrested him on May 12," said the official, wishing anonymity.

Acknowledging Musa's arrest, the Interpol desk of Oman police (National Central Bureau, Muscat) wrote to NCB, Dhaka to take back Musa, prompting the Police Headquarters to send a three-member team, headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (DB Motijheel) Shahidur

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Musa

**আমরা স্বাধীনতা সবসময় সবারই**  
-মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

**আয়করের প্রবৃদ্ধি**  
দেশ ও দেশের সমৃদ্ধি

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়  
কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা  
২য় ১২ তলা সরকারী অফিস ভবন (৪র্থ তলা)  
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০

**কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের ২০২২-২০২৩ কর বছরের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়করের ৪র্থ কিস্তি প্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবৎসরের (২০২২-২০২৩ কর বৎসরের জন্য প্রযোজ্য) ০৪ (চার) কিস্তিতে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়করের ৪র্থ কিস্তি প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৫ জুন, ২০২২। আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ৬৪ [Advance payment of tax] অনুযায়ী যে সকল করদাতার সর্বশেষ নিরূপিত আয় ০৬ (ছয়) লক্ষ টাকার বেশী তাহাদের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের বিধান প্রযোজ্য হইবে। এই প্রেক্ষিতে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে ৪র্থ কিস্তির অগ্রিম আয়কর ১৫ জুন ২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিশোধের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল। যে সমস্ত করদাতাগণ ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় কিস্তি প্রদান করেননি সেক্ষেত্রে ৪র্থ কিস্তির সাথে ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় কিস্তি একত্রে প্রদান করার অনুরোধ করা হইল। করদাতা বিধি অনুসারে অগ্রিম কর যথাসময়ে প্রদান না করিলে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ৬৯ [Failure to pay installments of advance tax] অনুসারে খেলাপী করদাতা [Assesses in default] হিসাবে গণ্য করিবার এবং ধারা ৭৩ [Interest payable by the assessee of advance tax] অনুসারে সরল সুদ আরোপ করিবার বিধান রহিয়াছে। এছাড়া নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করা না হইলে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ধারা ১২৫ [Failure to pay advance tax] অনুসারে প্রদেয় করের সমপরিমাণ অংক জরিমানা আরোপ করিবার বিধান রহিয়াছে। প্রদেয় অগ্রিম কর, সম্মানিত করদাতা তাঁহার সংশ্লিষ্ট সার্কেলের উপ কর কমিশনার এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ক্রসড-চেক/চালানের মাধ্যমে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার নিম্নবর্ণিত হিসাব কোডে পরিশোধ করিবেনঃ

**কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকার আয়কর জমার হিসাব কোড নিম্নরূপঃ**  
কোম্পানী করদাতার জন্যঃ ১-১১৪১-০০৩০-০১০১  
ব্যক্তি শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্যঃ ১-১১৪১-০০৩০-০১১১

অধিকতর তথ্য ও অনুসন্ধানের জন্য যোগাযোগঃ	
১। অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-১ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৫৫০৭২	৪। যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-৪ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮২৭৩৩
২। অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-২ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৯২৮০	৫। উপ কর কমিশনার (সদর দপ্তর-প্রশাসন) ফোনঃ ০২-৪৮৩২২০৪০
৩। যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-৩ ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৩০৪২	৬। উপ কর কমিশনার (সদর দপ্তর-টেকনিক্যাল) ফোনঃ ০২-৫৮৩১০০৮২

কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা আশা করে যে, সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ নির্ধারিত তারিখে বা তাহার পূর্বে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধপূর্বক নাগরিক দায়িত্ব পালনে সচেষ্ট হইবেন।  
জাতীয় রাজস্ব অহরণে কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা আপনার সহযোগিতা প্রত্যাশা করে।

আবু হান্নান দেলওয়ার হোসেন  
কর কমিশনার  
কর অঞ্চল-৭, ঢাকা

জিডি-১১৮৬

**PADMA BRIDGE inauguration**  
**16 DAYS TO GO**

## কথা বলছে বাংলাদেশ

# প্রধান

প্রথম বিজনেস টেলিভিশন

**আজ**  
আনুষ্ঠানিক সম্প্রচার শুরু