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- ➔ Flood situation may deteriorate in Sylhet div
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- ➔ Healthcare services halted as hospitals submerged
- ➔ Rail and air communications snapped
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- ➔ Banking services halted



An aerial shot of parts of Mallikpur in Sunamganj. Flood water has inundated most of the area and parts of the Sunamganj-Sylhet highway, from top left to the bottom left of this photo. The photo was taken around 3:00pm yesterday with a drone. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAJIB KHAN

## Floods hit 5 dists in North, 15 more at risk

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

With vast areas in five northern districts already inundated over the past two days, 15 more districts are feared to soon be hit by the floods caused by heavy downpour and onrush of water from the upstream.

The districts that may witness flood are Jamalpur, Bogura, Sherpur, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Tangail, Manikganj, Pabna, Rajshahi, Kushtia, Faridpur, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Munshiganj, and

SEEPAGE2COL1

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH SYLHET Air, rail gone, road too may go soon

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

If the flood worsens, Sylhet could become unreachable via roads within a day or two. Air communication had already been snapped and train services were stopped yesterday.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday suspended operations of all trains to and

from Sylhet Railway Station as most of the lines there went under flood water.

Officials said some trains are now travelling up to Moglabazar and Maijgaon stations, while the rest are running up to Kulaura station in Moulvibazar. Maijgaon station is two stations before Sylhet station.

Road communications between Sunamganj and the rest of the country are already cut off and Sylhet may be in a similar situation as most of the major roads, including national highways

in the two districts, have already been inundated.

"There is a concern that Dhaka-Sylhet road communications may be snapped within a day or two if the water level continues to rise," said Fazle Rabbe, additional chief engineer (Sylhet zone) of Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

About 80-90 percent of around 350km road under the RHD in Sunamganj has already gone under water.

Meanwhile, rail communication with Mohanganj upazila in Netrakona with the rest of the country was also severed yesterday after a part of a railway bridge got swept away.

Heavy rain and onrush of water from upstream in India's northeast have

SEEPAGE2COL1

## Millions marooned

Flood worsens fast in Sylhet division

STAR REPORT

The flood in the Sylhet division has deteriorated dramatically in the past 24 hours, with the situation heading towards the most devastating in recent memory.

As much as 72 percent of the division is now submerged on the back of Wednesday's torrential rainfall in the north-eastern districts and flash floods in upstream India's Meghalaya and Assam, where record-breaking rainfall was recorded.

Some 64 upazilas of 10 districts have been hit by the flood, said Md Enamur Rahman, the state minister for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

Communications have snapped, power supply have been cut off, and medical services suffered disruptions in most areas. People are struggling to get food, drinking water and shelter, report our correspondents.

"We are surviving on dry food for the last two days. If we don't get food relief, we will die soon," said Jahanara Begum, a resident of Sunamganj's Dhamapasha upazila. Her family has taken shelter at a primary school building near her home.

Sunamganj has been the hardest hit by the flood.

Since Thursday, the district has remained inaccessible from other parts of the country. It has been without electricity for the last two days, which led to the collapse of the mobile network in the region and left mobile phones without charge.

As a result, the people stranded there are unable to contact anyone to rescue them.

About 40 lakh people are estimated to be marooned, according to Muhammad Mosharraf Hossain, the divisional commissioner.

And the situation is expected to get worse, as per yesterday's bulletin from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

There is a possibility of medium to heavy rainfall in some places of the northern and north-eastern regions of the country along with adjoining states of Assam, Meghalaya and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal of India in the next 72 hours, it said.

Subsequently, the flood situation in the Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona districts may further deteriorate in the next 24 hours.

"As a result, the Brahmaputra-Jamuna, the Ganges-Padma, the Surma, the Kushiara, the Teesta, the Dharla, the

SEEPAGE2COL7

**There is a possibility of medium to heavy rainfall in some places of the northern and north-eastern regions of the country along with adjoining states of Assam, Meghalaya and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal of India in the next 72 hours.**



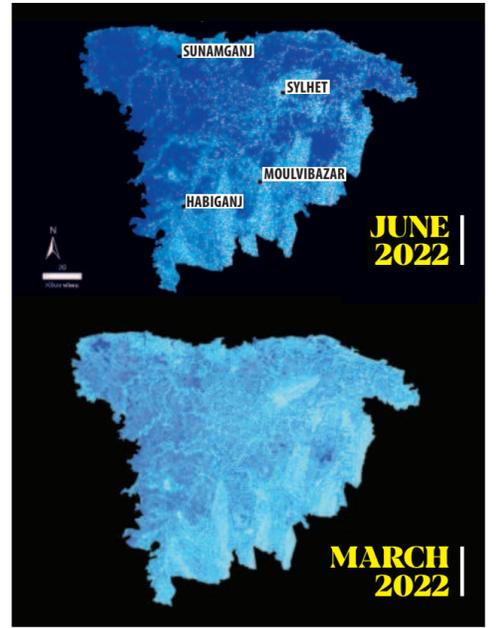
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A woman with two children wade through water as they look for shelter amidst heavy rains that caused widespread flooding in Sylhet yesterday. Water, *top left*, gushing into Bangladesh at Akhaura from India. Sylhet's MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, *bottom left*, inundated. Satellite images, *right*, taken in March and June show the water extent of Sylhet division.

IMAGES: MASHUK HRIDYOY/SHEIKH NASIR/REUTERS/COURTESY OF PALASH BASAK

## Declare flood-hit areas as disaster zones

BNP demands, says govt busy with Padma Bridge inauguration instead

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday demanded the government immediately declares the flood-hit areas of the northeastern region as 'disaster zones' and provide all the affected people with adequate relief materials.

Speaking at a council of BNP's three wards at Bhatra under the Dhaka North City unit, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, the party secretary-general, also bemoaned that the government is occupied with the inauguration of the Padma bridge when thousands of flood victims are suffering.

"Floods are raging the country. The vast areas starting from Sylhet-Sunamganj to northern Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram were submerged by floodwaters," he said.

Referring to media reports, Fakhrul said the water levels of major rivers, including the Padma, Meghna and Jamuna, are increasing flooding in many areas as the Indian authorities opened all the gates of the Farakka Barrage.

The BNP leader went on to lament that the government could not sign an agreement with India on the sharing of water of the common rivers for over a decade.

The government has long been talking about

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## No quick relief in sight for Sylhet

Record rainfall in Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura dampens hope; 34 killed in two days

AGENCIES

The flood situation in the Sylhet region may not get better at least for the next couple of days as more water is heading toward the country from upstream due to record rainfall in India's Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura states.

According to a press release by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), heavy spells of rainfall are likely to continue over the northeast states and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim for the next three days. They are expected to reduce after that. Thunderstorms and isolated heavy showers are likely to continue over north, central, and east India for the next two-three days, the press release added.

Thirty-four people have died in floods and landslides in Assam and Meghalaya in the last two days, officials said yesterday.

At least 16 people have been killed since Thursday in India's remote Meghalaya, the

state's Chief Minister Conrad Sangma wrote on Twitter, after landslides and surging rivers that submerged roads.

Next door in Assam, more than 2.6 million people have been affected by floods after five

**Cherrapunji had 972.0 mm rainfall on Friday. With this, the town broke the previous third-highest rainfall of 930.0mm recorded on June 15, 1995, according to met officials.**

days of incessant downpours, according to the state's disaster response agency.

Eighteen people had died in flood waters or landslides around the state since Thursday, the agency reported, with nearly 7,500 people rescued yesterday by mid-afternoon.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters he

had instructed district officials to provide "all necessary help and relief" to those caught in the flooding.

The water levels in the Brahmaputra and Gauranga rivers in the state were flowing above the danger level in many areas, officials said.

Tripura's capital Agartala also reported a massive flash flood. The city received 145 mm of rainfall in just six hours. Government sources said this was the third-highest rainfall in Agartala in the last 60 years. All educational institutions have been closed due to the flash flood.

Meghalaya's Mawsynram and Cherrapunji received record rainfall since 1940, officials said.

Cherrapunji had 972.0 mm rainfall on Friday. With this, the town broke the previous third-highest rainfall of 930.0mm recorded on June 15, 1995, according to met officials. It also missed the second-highest recorded rainfall for June by

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## Navy, air force, coast guard join rescue efforts

STAR REPORT

Navy, air force and coast guard personnel yesterday joined the rescue and relief efforts for the flood victims in Sylhet and its adjacent areas.

On Friday, Bangladesh Army started rescue operations in different upazilas of Sylhet, Md Mojibur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, told the media.

Ten army platoons and six medical teams have been carrying out rescue operations in Sylhet and Sunamganj.

A team of 35 divers of Bangladesh Navy has joined the rescue operations. Besides, 60 more are on their way to the flood-hit areas of Sylhet, said Ahsanul Alam, assistant commissioner of Sylhet.

A navy team is working in Jalalabad and another in Companiganj.

At least two vessels of Bangladesh Coast Guard were expected to reach the flood-affected areas by yesterday.

One will conduct rescue operations in Sylhet and the other in Sunamganj, according to sources.

Two Air Force helicopters are also on their way to join the efforts.

Army personnel are currently conducting rescue operations in Sylhet Sadar, Companiganj and Gowainghat upazilas.

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh are also assisting the evacuation efforts in border areas.

Bangladesh Water Development Board's Sylhet office said the Surma was flowing above the danger level at Kanaighat and Sylhet points at 6:00am yesterday.

## Air, rail gone, road to may go soon

FROM PAGE 1  
inundated large swathes of Sylhet division in the last few days, leaving lakhs of people stranded.

The authorities on Friday suspended flight operations at Sylhet Osmani International Airport for three days after floodwater reached the runway.

**COMMUNICATIONS ALMOST COLLAPSED**

Flash floods have hit hard the Sylhet division, badly affecting road communications in Sylhet and Sunamganj. People are forced to use boats and trowlers to travel from one place to another.

"Most of the roads have already gone under water with parts of many roads swept away by floodwaters,"

RHD official Fazle Rabbe told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said 10 major roads in Sylhet and six in Sunamganj have been submerged. In some areas, water was flowing four to five feet above the road surface.

"We are continuously monitoring the flood situation and taking measures to prevent sweeping away of roads."

RHD headquarters sources in Dhaka said they received information that around 143km roads in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Sherpur went under water.

"This is not the complete information. We hope to get more information tomorrow [today]," an official said wishing not to

be named.

The sources said part of a national highway from Sylhet to Bholaganj was submerged, disrupting road communications.

Regional highways and district roads, including Sylhet-Sunamganj, Jamalaganj-Sunamganj, Gobindaganj-Chatak-Goainghat, Sari-Goainghat, and Companyganj-Chatak road, are now under water, they added.

Ashrafur Islam Pramanik, executive engineer of RHD's Sunamganj division, said parts of Jamalaganj-Sunamganj road and a part of the road connecting a bridge on the Surma river in Chhatak upazila were swept away.

"We have some 350km

roads and around 80-90 percent of those have already been inundated," Ashrafur told this newspaper.

He said it is not possible for them to assess the damages right now.

**RAIL COMMUNICATION**  
Operations of trains to and from Sylhet Railway Station were suspended around noon yesterday as the main platform went under water, said a BR engineer.

He said two other platforms at the station were inundated earlier.

A total of 13 trains, including six intercity trains, travel to Sylhet daily from different destinations, including Dhaka and Chattogram.

In Netrakona, the soil

under the railway bridge 23 between Mohanganj and Atitpur railway stations was swept away sometime Friday night due to strong currents of floodwater.

This caused rail communications between Mohanganj station in Netrakona and the rest of the country being cut off, Mymensingh Railway Station Manager Jahangir Alam said.

Intercity train Haor Express was stranded at Mohanganj station yesterday morning as it could not depart for Dhaka. Another local train was also stuck there, he added.

Our correspondents in Moulvibazar and Mymensingh contributed to this report.

## Suspected jihadists kill 10 people in northeast Nigeria

AFP, Kano

Gunmen suspected to be linked to the Islamic State yesterday killed 10 people in the latest spate of violence in northeast Nigeria's Borno state, militia sources told AFP.

The 10 victims, nine men and a woman, were scavenging for metal scrap from vehicles burnt in military operations in Goni Kurmi village, near the town of Bama, when they were attacked, two militia sources told AFP.

"The 10 people were all shot," militia leader Babakura Kolo said. "The victims were in the village to scavenge for metal scraps when they ran into the terrorists who shot them dead," said Kolo.

The bodies of the victims were recovered by the civilian force and brought to Bama, according to Ibrahim Liman, another militiaman who gave the same toll.

The Nigerian army, deployed in the region, has not yet commented on the attack.

Jihadists have recently been attacking civilians collecting metal scrap, accusing them of spying on them for the military.

ISWAP, which split from mainstream Boko Haram jihadist group in 2016, has become the dominant threat in northeast Nigeria.

## Millions marooned

FROM PAGE 1  
Dudkumar and all other major rivers may continue rising in the next 48 hours."

Rivers were flowing above the danger level at 17 of its measuring points across the country until yesterday morning, the bulletin added.

Meanwhile, electricity supply to Sylhet district was cut off yesterday after sub-stations became submerged in flood water.

Sylhet's worst affected areas are Gowainghat, Companiganj, Kanaighat, Jaintiapur, Sylhet Sadar, Zakiganj, Bishwanath, Golapganj, Beanibazar and parts of Sylhet city area.

Chhatak, Dowerabazar, Sunamganj Sadar, Derai, Madhyannagar, Bishwambarpur, Dharmapasha, Tahirpur, Jamalaganj and all of Sunamganj town are the worst affected in Sunamganj district.

Amid the situation, the fare for boats, the only option for rescue so far, has shot through the roof. What used to be Tk 100 is now Tk 10,000, said locals.

Maroof Ahmed was willing to pay up to Tk 40,000 to a boatman to take his pregnant wife from their inundated village to Sylhet city. But the boatman declined.

And all the train movement in and out of Sylhet Railway Station was suspended yesterday due to flood. Around noon water entered the station's main platform.

In Moulvibazar, at least 40 villages of Kulaura

and Barlekha upazila are inundated. Besides, many portions of the district headquarters have gone underwater.

Bangladesh Army, Navy, firefighters, civil administration, law enforcers and local council representatives are running rescue operations.

Nine million flood-hit people have so far been evacuated in Sunamganj and Sylhet, the state minister said while briefing reporters at the ministry's conference room yesterday.

The ministry has allocated 400 tonnes of rice, 41,000 packets of dry food and Tk 2.25 crore in cash as relief for the flood-hit people, said a press statement.

"Relief materials are being sent to flood centres. We will serve cooked food and where not possible, dry foods will be provided," Hossain said.

Bangladesh Army yesterday launched toll-free numbers to help the flood-affected people in Sunamganj and Sylhet. People can call those numbers without any cost, said the release.

The flood has also affected the adjoining districts of Sherpur and Brahmanbaria, report our correspondent quoting local administration.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education has asked the authorities of all schools and colleges in the flood-affected areas to get their establishments ready for affected people.

## Floods hit 5 dists in North, 15 more at risk

FROM PAGE 1  
Centre (FFWC), told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The flood situation is unusual in a few areas [including Sylhet division]. But it is the regular monsoon floods in other parts of the country. It is unlikely it will take a turn for the worse in those places."

Due to heavy rains in Bangladesh and upstream in India's northeast, the water levels of all major rivers have increased.

Yesterday, the FFWC recorded a rise in water levels of 95 out of the 109 rivers under its observation, reports BBC Bangla.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecast that light to moderate rain/thunder showers is likely to occur at most places in all eight divisions of the country, with moderately

heavy to very heavy rainfall in certain areas for 24-hours since 8:00am yesterday.

**LALMONIRHAT, KURIGRAM AND SIRAJGANJ**  
More than one lakh people have been left without drinking water and cooked food in 14 upazilas across Lalmonirhat and Kurigram due to floods.

Many flood victims, along with their cattle, poultry and furniture, have taken shelter on roads, dams and educational institutions, reports our correspondent from Lalmonirhat.

But the majority of the flood-hit people were still in their partially submerged homes.

"With 2-3 feet high flood water, we have been living on a bamboo structure

inside the house. We have not been able to cook any food for the past four days," said 28-year-old Champa Begum at Dharla Shoal Falimari village of Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila.

According to Water Development Board officials, the Teesta was below the danger level at 6:00am yesterday.

But the Brahmaputra and the Dharla River were flowing 22cm above the danger level at Chilmari and the bridge point in Kurigram respectively.

"The water levels of both rivers will continue rising for another two-three days," Abdullah Al Mamun, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Kurigram, told the Daily Star yesterday.

In Sirajganj, around one lakh people in five upazilas

across the Jamuna have been stranded in the flood, reports our correspondent from Pabna.

Due to the Jamuna swelling, water levels of other rivers, including Boral, Karotoa, Ichamati, and Fuljore, have also risen.

"Low-lying and char areas of Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Shahzadpur and Chowhali upazilas, located outside the embankment, have been flooded while the vast areas of the district are well protected by flood-protection embankments," Md Nasir said.

Sirajganj's district administration has kept 127 flood shelters ready for victims.

(Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Pabna contributed to this report.)

## 'Get rid of syndication'

Urge recruiting agencies for sending workers to Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alliance of recruiting agencies yesterday urged both Bangladesh and Malaysia to ensure participation of all valid Bangladeshi recruiting agencies in sending workers to the Southeast Asian country.

Organising a press conference at a city hotel, members of "Baira Anti-Syndicate Grand Alliance" called on both governments to ensure dignified migration of workers under a "zero cost" policy.

Bangladesh and Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labour cooperation in December last year, which essentially lifts a previous moratorium on hiring Bangladeshi workers.

However, recruitment of workers has not been started yet. More than 1,400 recruiting agencies are currently enlisted at the expatriates' welfare ministry.

At the press conference, the alliance members voiced concern over the reported number of 25 agencies to be given with the opportunity to send workers to Malaysia.

They said this will deprive most agencies in the present context. They also condemned Malaysian Human Resources Minister M Saravanan's "confusing" remarks published in media over selecting recruiting agencies from Bangladesh.

Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, a former secretary general of Baira, said they were expecting that the market will be opened for all valid agencies after a Joint Working Group meeting between the two countries held in Dhaka on June 2.

He said in his visit to Bangladesh during the JWG meeting, Saravanan told the media that selection of recruiting agencies will be as per the decision of his country's cabinet. However, after returning to Malaysia, he reportedly said it was not an issue to be discussed in the cabinet, Shameem said.

Abul Bashar, a former president of Baira, alleged that Malaysian market has not opened yet due to "influence" of the "syndicate" of 25 recruiting agencies.

Fakhrul Islam, former finance secretary of Baira, Noor Ali, another former president of Baira, and M Tipu Sultan, president of Recruiting Agencies Oikya Parishad, among others, spoke at the event.



**Malaysian market has not opened yet due to "influence" of the "syndicate" of 25 recruiting agencies. The government should look into the matter.**

Abul Bashar  
Former President of Baira



A rickshaw-puller carrying passengers gets caught in the sudden rain in front of TSC at Dhaka University yesterday. With the city seeing downpours over the last few days, residents have faced much trouble during their travels.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## PADMA BRIDGE 14-party brings out 'victory' procession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling 14-party alliance brought out a "victory" procession in the capital yesterday, hailing the completion of Padma Bridge project and felicitating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for building it with domestic funds.

Criticising BNP, the alliance coordinator and Awami League adviser Amir Hossain Amu, said those who oppose the country's development as well as Padma Bridge are the "national black sheep".

Addressing a rally prior to the procession at Bangabandhu Avenue, he said after the Liberation War victory, there will be another victory celebration on June 25, when Padma Bridge will be inaugurated.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proved that the Bangalee nation can do whatever they want, as she

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## EC can't even dare to hold fair polls

Says Akbar Ali Khan at 8th council of Shujan

**Citizens are still the "clients" of political leaders. Citizenship has not developed here. All we get is mainly by the grace of political leaders, not as a result of our rights.**

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR  
Shujan Secretary



**We are constantly falling behind in all indicators of democracy... If the major element -- good governance -- is undermined, then how will democracy exist?**

ATM SHAMSUL HUDA  
Former Chief Election Commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to the challenges facing democracy in Bangladesh, the Election Commission (EC) cannot hold fair elections nor can it even dare to do so, said former adviser to a caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan yesterday.

He made the remark at the eighth national council of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform, held at an auditorium of Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

Shujan placed a 21-point "national charter" and urged people as well as all political parties to unite to ensure that the upcoming national election is fair and neutral.

Akbar talked about four challenges facing democracy in Bangladesh.

He said while many countries are adopting a "proportional majority" as a tool to form the government, Bangladesh is still depending on the majority of

votes.

"If there were a bicameral parliament instead of a single chamber system, the opposition's voice would be amplified," he mentioned.

Bicameral literally means "two-Chamber". A bicameral parliament is one that contains two separate assemblies.

"Moreover, in this country, only one person holds all the power, and the prime minister holds the party leader's post as well. As a result, the prime minister has to focus on the party's interests, and people become deprived of their rights," he added.

Akbar said in neighbouring India, elections are held for two to three months. Deputy commissioners keep the ballot boxes during the whole period. "Is there a single DC in Bangladesh who could keep ballot boxes for one night? They have lost their reputation, and no political parties trusts them."

The daylong conference was inaugurated by prominent

economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud. According to him, the prerequisite for governance is to ensure accountability at all levels of the government's structure.

"Prioritising economic development and then democracy is not the way to go," he said.

Retired judge Abdul Matin said the civil society must do what even the media cannot.

"As an organisation, Shujan should continue monitoring the government's activities and find loopholes inside it, or what it is doing wrong," he said.

Former Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said at a time when all protesting organisations are whimpering, Shujan is the only one that has kept its voice loud.

"We are constantly falling behind in all indicators of democracy... If the major element of democracy -- good governance -- is undermined, then how will democracy exist?" he asked.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Increase price of tobacco products

Demand Progga, ATMA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-tobacco campaigners yesterday demanded that the government increase retail price for premium-tier cigarettes to Tk 150 per 10 sticks while passing the 2022-2023 national budget in the parliament to further discourage smoking.

They made the comment at a post-budget press conference jointly organised by Knowledge for Progress (Progga) and Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA) at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

They proposed for setting Tk 97.5 as supplementary duty for 10-stick premium-tier cigarettes, said a press release. They also proposed setting Tk 50 in retail price for 10 sticks of low-tier cigarettes and specific supplementary duty at Tk 32.5 in the finalised budget.

In the proposed budget, the retail price for 10-stick premium-tier cigarettes have been set at Tk 142, an increase of 5.18 percent from the previous price, said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

PRAYER  
TIMING  
JUNE 19



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



In the course of constructing a drain, DSCC dug up a large section of this footpath at Bailey Road intersection, leaving little to no room for pedestrians to tread on, for almost two weeks now. With the continued downpour in the city, there is much concern for the safety of pedestrians who use this walkway. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## NU postpones exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National University yesterday postponed the ongoing Bachelor of Education (B ed) Honours examination until further notice due to the worsening flood situation.

The NU authorities in a statement said they are postponing the first year (2nd semester) and second year (4th semester) examinations of 2020.

The revised schedule will be communicated to all concerned later. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education on the same day asked the authorities of all schools and colleges in the flood-affected areas to get their establishments ready for sheltering people.

The government on Friday postponed this year's SSC and equivalent exams.

## Bangladesh-India JCC talks today

STAR REPORT

The Joint Consultative Commission (JCC), talks between Bangladesh and India, is set to be held today. Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen reached New Delhi yesterday on an official visit to take part in the event.

Tomorrow, Momen will meet Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, before returning to Dhaka.

The JCC meeting, being held after two years, will focus on issues centring connectivity, river-water sharing, investments and security partnership. The last JCC meeting was held virtually in September 2020 due to the pandemic.

A month ago, Momen met Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in India's Guwahati and sought suggestions to import crude oil from Russia by managing sanctions, as Bangladesh is keen to ensure energy security.

The two countries have launched a number of connectivity initiatives, including the revival of rail links, which were suspended after the 1965 India-Pakistan war, and river routes that provide access to Bangladeshi ports for north-eastern Indian states.

Other issues expected to be brought up in the meeting are security matters, development cooperation, and consular and cultural issues.

EC can't

FROM PAGE 3  
Shamsul Huda mentioned about regular corruption that happened at the accountant general's office. Government employees had to pay Tk 30 to Tk 100 to get their pension.

"As technology has improved, those small forms of corruption have also reduced. But the big ones are still present in society," he added.

Shujan vice president Dr Hameeda Hossain presided over the programme, while central coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarkar conducted it.

Shujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar presented the organisational report. He said citizens are still the "clients" of political leaders. "Citizenship has not developed here. All we get is mainly by the grace of political leaders, not as a result of our rights."

He announced the 21-point national charter, saying that forming an interim government and holding a fair election will be the major steps to implement the national charter. "There should not be another 'one day of democracy' anymore."

Activists and leaders of Shujan from all over the country participated in the council.

At the council, M Hafizuddin Khan and Badiul Alam Majumdar were re-elected president and secretary of Shujan.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

This canal beside Cumilla city's Tomsom bridge has been occupied by locals, after influential quarters built different shops and structures on it, evading the eyes of authorities. To connect the shops to the bridge, a wooden walkway has been constructed, under which wastes dumped by the shops have accumulated -- turning the canal into a breeding ground for mosquitoes. This photo was taken recently.

Noted physicist a victim of land

FROM PAGE 5  
Rajshahi Development Authority over breach of construction rules.

RDA took seven months to issue a show-cause notice against Ferdous. By that time, Ferdous had already constructed his building, occupying a part of the land.

RDA gave a final notice to Ferdous in May 2008, five years after the initial incident, to remove the illegal structure.

But Ferdous challenged the decision in a Rajshahi court. At the same time, he accused Debika of occupying land of the waqf estate.

The court dismissed the case, terming it a "false case" filed to harass the professor's family.

When Ferdous appealed in 2014, a district court fined him Tk 25,000.

In 2017, Ferdous took the case to the High Court. In January 2020, the HC upheld judgements of the lower courts and validated the RDA decision.

It also asked Ferdous to seek pardon from Debika and promise to not harass the professor.

In October 2020, Ferdous removed the illegal construction but is still occupying the area, as he installed metal grilles around the place.

Arun has filed complaints with RDA again, but he is yet to get any response.

"I've gone to many people to find a solution, but nothing is helping,"

Arun said. While visiting the scene, Ferdous took this correspondent to the disputed land by unlocking the metal entrance.

He said he would remove the planted trees there to make Arun happy.

"The court asked me to keep the professor happy," he said.

Asked about his case, Ferdous said RDA officials advised him to lodge the case to get round the removal order.

Contacted, Abdullah Al Tariq, executive engineer of RDA, refused to comment, saying that he could not talk about the issue as he was busy.

He told this correspondent to call next month.

BURIMARI LAND PORT  
Travellers suffer for lack of banking facility

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Burimari Land Port in Lalmonirhat lacks banking facility, causing suffering to people especially those who are travelling to neighbouring countries.

Travellers have to go to a bank at Burimari Bazar, 2km off the land port, to pay travel tax.

Kartik Chandra Karmakar, who recently went there from the capital's Tantibazar to go to India, said when he was asked to pay travel tax, he found that there was no bank at the land port.

Later, the 65-year-old had to go to Burimari Bazar with the help of a local.

Faruk Hossain, an importer, said, "We have been urging the land port authorities to open up a bank so for a long time, but

to no avail."

Sub-inspector Anwar Hossain, in-charge of immigration police at the land port, said 600-700 passport holders travel to India through the border every day.

Samir Kanti Mazumder, a customs inspector, also stressed the need for banking facility at the port as it is the only one without one.

Asked, Ruhul Amin, assistant director of Land Port Authorities at Burimari, said a room in a two-storey office building was allotted for a bank following a letter sent by Janata Bank in 2019. But the bank authorities are yet to open it.

Md Maniruzzaman, manager at Burimari Bazar Branch, Janata Bank, said the opening is getting delayed due to some complications. But it will open soon.

Increase price

FROM PAGE 3  
ABM Zubair, executive director of Progga.

Further increase in cigarette prices and other tobacco products will also help government receive more revenue, Zubair told this newspaper over the phone.

Similarly, retail price and supplementary duty for medium-tier cigarettes (10-stick) should be Tk 75 and Tk 48.75, and for higher-tier Tk 120 and Tk 78, they said.

They further suggested for increase of price and

supplementary duty for other tobacco products.

Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, convener of National Anti-Tobacco Platform, said if the government implements the proposals, it will facilitate in building a tobacco-free country.

As the proposed budget has kept supplementary duty unchanged and did not introduce specific tax system, opportunity for tobacco companies to exponentially expand their profit remains open, he added.

14-party

FROM PAGE 3  
built the bridge with own resources by overcoming all domestic and international conspiracies.

Alliance partners Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Party General Secretary Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Shirin Akter, Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua and others addressed the rally. The procession ended in front of Jatiya Press Club.

**ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বারিধারা ডিপ্লোম্যাটিক জোন এ  
১৯১৫ বর্গফুটের ১টি ল্যান্ডারিয়াস  
বেডি ফ্র্যাট টি ১টি পার্কিং সহ জরুরী  
বিক্রয় হইবে। সরাসরি মালিক  
যোগাযোগ: ০১৯১৬-৭৬০৬০৩

Government of The People Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
PW Division, Munshiganj  
Phone (02) 7612177 Fax (02) 7612728  
e-mail: ee\_musi@pwd.gov.bd



Memo No. 25.36.5900.460.27.001.20.841

Date: 15/06/2022

e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal system portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for procurement of the following work described below.

I. No.	Name of Work	Tender ID No	Tender proposal Opening date and time
1.	Construction of "Logistics and fleet Maintenance facilities for Bangladesh coast Guard" in Gazaria Upazilla at Munshiganj District. (Sub-Head:- Remaining work of officers Mess 10 storied Building in/c Civil Sanitary & water Supply) the year 2021-2022.	710276	Date: 20-07-2022 Time 12:00 PM

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

*(Signature)*  
15.06.2022  
(Md. Kasiruzzaman)  
Executive Engineer  
Munshiganj PW Division  
Munshiganj

GD- 1262

**Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute**  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar  
Dhaka-1207

Ref. No. (W)/e-GP/BSHI/2021-2022/12  
Date: 18/06/2022

**e-Tender Notice**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of the following works:

S.L	Description of works	Tender ID	Publication date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
01	Construction of 4-storied Pre-Fabricated Steel Building of Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.	708760	19/06/2022 10:00	19/07/2022 16:00	20/07/2022 12:00

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Prof. (Dr.) Md. Jahangir Alam  
Director  
Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute

GD-1260

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Dhaka BRT Company Limited  
House No. 04, Road No. 21, Sector-04  
Uttara, Dhaka-1230

Memo No. 35.RHD.0000.BRT(MD).14.003.2013-550  
Date: 13th June, 2022

**Subject: Invitation for Submission of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) for Procurement of Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Intelligent Transport System (ITS) for BRT Operation and Traffic Management under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (GDSUTP).**

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh ("the borrower") is going to receive financing from the French Development Agency (AFD) toward the cost of Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (GDSUTP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under procurement of ITS named above. The description of the GDSUTP project of Dhaka BRT System features is available at the following address: [www.dhakabrt.com](http://www.dhakabrt.com).

Intelligent Transport System (ITS) consists of Automated Fare Collection System, Passenger Information System, Automated Vehicle Location System, Operational Control Centre, Fleet Management System, Traffic Signals and Traffic Management Centre, Transit Security & Surveillance System, Optical Fiber Network etc. The duration of the ITS Contractor assignment shall be about 12 months.

Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL) wishes to engage Contractor, having proven track records of carrying out similar assignments.

Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL) now invites interested firms to submit their Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI), for the above Project. This Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) will be followed by an International Competitive Bidding. It is not a prequalification procedure and no participants will be excluded from the International Competitive Procedure at this stage.

The Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) shall comprise of a brief presentation of the participant's previous experiences and financial situation, along with corporate profile (background of the firm, quality assurance system, organization of the firm, company structure, group companies and in-house facilities and overseas operation), Annual Turnover, Company Registration Certificates, Brochures and any other relevant materials may also be shared as part of the Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI). If any participant intends to associate with other firm, it should state in brief in their Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) the composition and intended form of the association. Such association is not binding at this stage and participants will be free to change association form and composition at the International Competitive Bidding stage.

The Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) shall be written in English and shall not exceed 40 pages.

The copy of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) must be submitted no later than 16:00pm (Dhaka local time) July 19, 2022 by email, by courier or by hand to the following address: **Managing Director, Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited, House No. 04, Road No. 21, Sector No. 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh, Email: [md.dbrtcl@gmail.com](mailto:md.dbrtcl@gmail.com) and Telephone: +88 02 48959101.**

Interested participants may obtain further information via email or at the above address during office hours 09.00 - 17.00 hours from Sunday to Thursday.

Following the Preliminary Expression of Interest, participants may be invited by the Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL) for further public or bilateral consultations.

SD/-  
Safiqul Islam  
Managing Director  
Dhaka BRT Company Limited

GD-1264

**Rangamati Government College**  
Sadar, Rangamati Hill District  
[www.rangamaticollege.gov.bd](http://www.rangamaticollege.gov.bd)

No: RGC/RGCEDP/2022/297  
Date: 18/06/2022

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Goods	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	709919	Supply of Power Generator and Related Services	07/07/2022; 1:00 pm	07/07/2022; 2:00 pm
2.	706962	Supply of Books for Central Library and Departmental Library	07/07/2022; 1:00 pm	07/07/2022; 2:00 pm

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches upto 06/07/2022, 4.00PM.

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)).

*(Signature)*  
Principal  
Rangamati Government College  
Phone: 02333372063  
e-Mail: [rgcchbd@yahoo.com](mailto:rgcchbd@yahoo.com)

GD- 1261

**TANKER INSPECTION**  
**Two Indian crew members die after falling sick**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Two Indian crew members of a foreign oil tanker anchored at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port died after falling sick while inspecting an empty cargo tank of the vessel.

The victims – Jishnu Raj (29) and Akhil Sekhar (26) from Kerala – were technicians at the Danish-flagged vessel MT Nord Magic, police said.

Patenga Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kabir Hossain said the two became unconscious after they started inspection around 4:00pm on Friday.

The ship's local agent Mohammadi Trading Company with the help of Coast Guard took them to the city's Max Hospital where Jishnu was declared dead around 7:00pm.

Sekhar died at the ICU around 4:00am yesterday, the OC said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Carrying a child, a man wades through knee-deep water in an alley in Chattogram's Bahaddarhat area yesterday. Inset, a mother returns from Chattogram Maa-o-Shishu Hospital in Agrabad, unable to seek services for her child as rainwater invaded its premises. Due to yesterday's rain, many low-lying areas were submerged in the port city, escalating public sufferings. PHOTO: COLLECTED

**Downpour drowns port city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

For residents of Chattogram city, the start of monsoon means the start of sufferings. This time is no different, as torrential rain submerged many parts of the city yesterday.

Chattogram Met Office recorded 29 mm of rain in the last 24 hours, till noon yesterday, and 40.8 mm in 24 hours, till 3:00pm on Friday.

Rainfall is expected to continue for the next 24 hours, said Meghnath Tangchangya, met officer of Chattogram Met Office.

Low-lying areas including Haliashahar, Shulakbahar, Chandgaon, DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road, Bakalia, Chawkbazar, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Sholoshahar Gate 2, Badurtala, Kapasgola, Agrabad, Port Connecting Road, and Prabartak intersection went under knee-to-waist-deep water.

Motorised vehicles stopped plying, while only a few three-wheelers were seen on the roads. Many commuters failed to manage vehicles to reach their destination.

Around 10:30am yesterday, Rasu Dhar, a resident of Rahattarpool, was waiting for a vehicle to go to Chattogram Medical College Hospital to attend to her sick mother.

"I've been waiting here for around half an hour but still haven't found a vehicle," she told The Daily Star. After a little while, she was seen wading through the murky water overflowing from the roadside drain. Besides that, Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital was also submerged in knee-deep flood waters, causing much peril to residents needing their service.

Rickshaw-puller Md Rafique was seen hauling his three-wheeler through knee-deep water on foot at Muradpur.

"The screws of one of my wheels have broken after the rickshaw hit a hard object in the water... Now, I'll get no income for the rest of the day."

**MAYOR'S RESIDENCE SUFFERS SAME FATE**  
The residence of Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury and the adjacent road at Bahaddarhat have also fallen victim to waterlogging.

"We suffered due to waterlogging last year and expected that the issue would be addressed after Rezaul was elected mayor," said a local, preferring anonymity. "But the situation remains the same."

Asked about the matter, Rezaul said, "What will I do? CDA [Chattogram Development Authority] has been implementing a mega project to address waterlogging. For this purpose, they were digging canals and making retaining walls."

"And to do this, they made temporary dams in the canals and filled up a major part of the waterbodies too," he said. "I asked them to remove the dams before the rainy season and open up the canals, so water can recede," he explained. "They removed some dams but did not get rid of the earth they filled the canals with."

CDA chief engineer Hasan Bin Shams could not be reached for comments.

**Fire guts 30 houses in Gazipur**

UNB, *Gazipur*

Thirty houses of two colonies were gutted in a fire in Chandra area of Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur district yesterday.

Saiful Islam, in-charge of Kaliakoir Fire Service, said the fire originated from an electric short circuit and gutted the houses in the morning.

On information, two firefighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after around an hour.

No casualties were reported, he said. The official also said the extent of damage could not be assessed immediately.

**DIGITAL SECURITY ACT**  
**Sued by AL leader, ex-BCL man sent to jail**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A former Chhatra League (BCL) leader of Joypurhat was sent to jail on Friday, after a case was filed under Digital Security Act (DSA), accusing him of making defamatory comments on social media against several leaders of AL.

Khaza Al-Amin Sohag (35) – son of Khaza Samsul Alam, vice president of Joypurhat district AL – was a deputy social-welfare affairs secretary of district BCL.

Dewan Iqbal Hossain, panel mayor of Joypurhat municipality and president of poura AL, sued him under DSA on Thursday.

Iqbal told local journalists that Sohag had been writing insulting and defamatory comments against top leaders of local AL, including Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan, local lawmaker of Joypurhat and whip of Jatiya Sangsad. The image of the AL leaders have been tainted due to his comments, he said.

Recently, he also wrote against the panel mayor, which harmed his personal and political image.

Later, Iqbal filed a DSA case with Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in Joypurhat. The court took the issue into cognizance and ordered police to take necessary action. Police arrested Sohag from the municipality's Purba Bazar area around 8:30pm on Friday.

Later, Sohag was sent to jail after police produced him before a court that night, said ASM Alamgir Zahan, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.

While browsing Sohag's Facebook page, this correspondent saw a write-up about Swapan. Sohag's family members could not be reached for comments.

**Youth found dead**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pubna*

A youth was found dead near the Boral bridge station area in Bhangura municipality early yesterday.

Identity of the victim could not be confirmed yet.

Harun Mazumder, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj GRP Station, said locals informed police after finding the body near the station. Police sent the body to Sirajganj general hospital morgue for autopsy. The victim might have been crushed under the train wheel, the OC said.

**Kalandi canal on deathbed**



PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

The century-old Kalandi canal in Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila is now on the verge of extinction due to encroachment and pollution over the last three decades.

The five-kilometre-long canal originated from a hill in India's Tripura and joined the Titas River in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila through Akhaura municipal town. The canal used to be around 35 feet wide three or four decades ago. But it has narrowed down to 10 feet.

Visiting the area recently, this correspondent found several hundred houses and shops, set up encroaching the canal's bank.

The canal had shrunk down so much due to concrete structures that it seemed like it never even existed there.

Local environmentalists

alleged that a group of influential people, with the help of some corrupt government officials, prepared some land documents and claimed ownership of the canal lands in the '90s. Since then they've been indiscriminately encroaching the canal banks claiming to be owners.

The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, however, prohibits any kind of filling or changing the landscape of any waterbody, said green activists.

"Around three or four decades ago, we saw large boats plying this canal. But now, it's all dried up," said Rubel Ahmed, convener of Akhaura Prakriti O Poribesh Club.

Locals said grabbers erected a bamboo fence around some parts of the bank and gradually started building structures.

Akhaura's immediate-past

UNO Romana Akhter said the upazila administration made a list of 33 grabbers and issued notice to them around four months ago.

"Within three days of serving the notice, the grabbers filed a petition challenging the charge, as they said they were owners of the land. In response, the court issued a stay order."

"That is why we could not step forward to evict the land grabber," said Romana on May 18. She claimed that some former UNOs took initiatives to recover the canal's land but they also faced a similar situation.

Romana has recently been transferred to Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila.

Contacted, Aonggyajai Marma, the current UNO, said, "I just joined my post last week. I will look into the issue and take necessary steps."

**Noted physicist a victim of land grabbing**  
**RDA took 5 years to take action against illegal construction**

ANWAR ALL, *Rajshahi*

Due to the negligence of local authorities, a man got the opportunity to occupy a strip of land of his neighbour – renowned physicist Prof Arun Kumar Basak.

Yahia Ferdous, the mutawalli of a waqf estate right beside Arun's land, has done this in Rajshahi city's Sagarpara area.

As Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) took no significant action, Ferdous continued to harass the 82-year-old educationist for years.

In May, Ferdous lost a legal battle and was compelled to remove a structure he built on the occupied land. But he still did not let go of the land, as he cordoned it off with metal grilles, Arun said.

"I couldn't look after my properties, as I was busy with work and studies. My neighbour [Ferdous] exploited this situation. Now, I feel unsafe in my own house," Arun, professor emeritus of



**I've gone to many people to find a solution, but nothing is helping.**

ARUN KUMAR BASAK

physics at Rajshahi University, told The Daily Star.

The land underneath Arun's house belonged to his wife Debika Basak. After her death last year, he inherited it.

In 2003, while constructing a two-storey building on his own land, Ferdous occupied a 2-foot-wide strip of Debika's land by breaking its boundary wall.

Debika then filed a complaint with

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



**IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR...** Setting off from home in the early hours, this family visits the local canal to catch different small fish using traditional methods. In 2-3 hours of work, they collect around half a kilo of tengra and baila fish, which they cook for lunch. This photo was taken from Khulna's Terokhada upazila recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

**Teen drowns in M'singh**

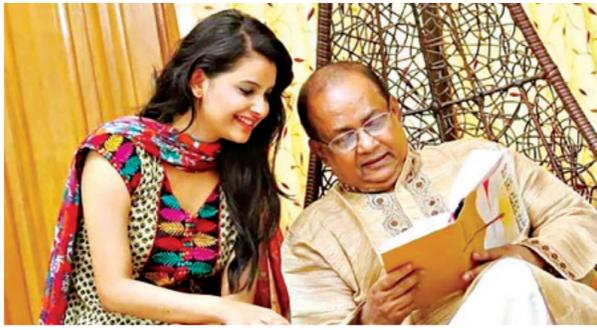
UNB, *Mymensingh*

A Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee drowned while swimming in Khiru river in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila yesterday noon.

The victim is Abu Nayeem (16), son of Faruq Mia of Jahangirpur in Gazipur. He was supposed to sit for SSC exams this year from Jhalpaja Govt High School in Bhaluka, said OC Kamal Hossain of Bhaluka Police Station.

Quoting locals, OC Kamal said Nayeem along with his friends started swimming in the river in Jhalpaja area around 11:30am.

His friends could not find him when they came out of the water after an hour. Locals conducted searches in the river and recovered the body around 1:30pm.



Sabnam Faria and her father Dr Mir Abdullah



Diggi and her father Subrata



Mim with her father Birendranath Saha

# An ode to the selfless pillars of life

## Stars reminisce on Father's Day

**To a daughter, a father is her first love, superhero, at times a teacher, and even a best friend. Celebrating Father's Day, popular actresses shared their stories of their father's endless support for them.**

SHARMIN JOYA & SHAH ALAM SHAZU

**He is my support system: Bidya Sinha Mim**  
My father never underestimated my work. He supported me completely when I shared with him that I wanted to build a career in the showbiz industry. *Baba* always encouraged me and my sister to participate in cultural programmes during our school life. I cannot thank him enough for being the best father a daughter could ever have. During my shoots, my mother would accompany me, and *Baba* would take care of all the household work at home. He would also prepare food for us, so that we would not have to eat unhealthy food outside.

**I have never felt that he left me: Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed**  
Since my childhood, I was a backbencher and always more into creative work such as crafting and painting, whereas my brothers were always toppers in their class. However, my father never pressurised me to be like my brothers. While he was not initially on board when I showed an interest in studying at Charukala, he never stopped me from joining either. He also stood up for me, when other relatives judged me for my choice of education and my career path. My father taught me how to survive with honesty. I am



Nawshaba with her father Lt. Col (retd) Quazi Salimuddin Md Shahriar

living with all the lessons he taught me in life. I have never felt that he left me.

**Baba was a magician to me: Sabnam Faria**  
My father always told me that I should first complete my education, and then focus on making a career. However, I started working in the media, when I was an undergraduate student. I was working on photoshoots, TVCs and tele-fictions. When he watched

my second tele-fiction, "Dui Ongsher Shesh Ekta", directed by Taneem Rahman Angshu, he told my mother that I should continue acting, otherwise I would be wasting my talent. He loved reading books, and using his knowledge, he always helped me to choose my character roles as well. When I signed on for "Debi", he inspired me to take on that character and made me realise that supporting roles can be just as important.

Unfortunately, he passed away six months before the film was released. I miss him every day. He always tried to shelter me, and his absence made me realise that life is so hard. He was like a magician to me.

**My father is my friend, my mother and also my support system: Prarthana Fardin Diggi**

I began working at an early age, and without my father's support and encouragement, it would not have been possible. I lost my mother at an early age, since then he never let me feel her absence. *Baba* always told me that good work keeps a person alive for years, and I try my best to follow his philosophy in my own life. I am a lucky daughter to have a father who is also my friend.

## 'Dui agontuk bonam korobi ful' at Shilpakala

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Acclaimed actor Ashish Khondker, who is also an outstanding stage director, will have his play showcased at the Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka over two days.

Under the direction of Ashish Khondker, four shows of the play "Dui agontuk bonam korobi ful" is being organised. On Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19, the production of the play will be staged at Studio Theatre Hall.

On both days, the first show will take place at 7 PM, with the second show taking place at 8 PM.



## Rohit Shetty confirms Ajay Devgn starrer 'Singham 3'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Filmmaker Rohit Shetty has confirmed that he is set to direct the third instalment of the Singham franchise, titled "Singham 3", which will be starring Ajay Devgn. Shooting will start in April of next year.

The "Golmaal" director teased the fans that "Singham 3" will be massive. Rohit is planning to start working on "Singham 3" after releasing his latest film "Cirkus", which stars Ranveer Singh, sometime later this year.

While Ajay Devgn appeared in Rohit Shetty's "Simba" and "Sooryavanshi", fans were waiting in anticipation to see their favourite cop back on their screens.

"Singham Returns", the second movie, was released in 2014. The movie starred Kareena Kapoor and Anupam Kher in pivotal roles.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## Weaving baskets to stay afloat

Weavers spending busy hours as mango season gears up

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Rural basket makers in Chapainawabganj are spending busy hours as the baskets are now in high demand for packaging mangoes of the district, one of the largest producers of quality mangoes in the country.

The mango-based trade has changed the rural economy of the district, said the business people.

Although bamboo-made baskets are eco-friendly, some mango traders use plastic crates, they said.

Nazrul Islam, 65, of Ghorapakhia village in Sadar upazila, has been involved with the craft since he was 15.

He also said that the business was not good enough in last two years due to Covid-19 pandemic. The sale declined drastically during the pandemic time.

Imran Ali, 52, of the same village said that he was spending busy days making the baskets locally known as jhuri or tukri.

He added that he is able to make two or three big sized baskets and sell them at Tk 300 each. He will remain fully engaged in the craft for over three months and will earn Tk 45,000 during this period.

However, many people have left the work since plastic crates have replaced traditional baskets, he said.

The basket makers said that they have been involved with the profession for many generations and there are 150 families engaged in making the baskets. They expressed hope that they will turnaround this season.

Anarul Islam of neighbouring Bohrom village said that he makes small sized baskets and sell those at

Tk 80 each. He earns over Tk 10,000 a month.

Shafiqul Islam, a wholesaler from Ghorapakhia village, said that he buys the baskets from the local makers and supplies to different areas in the North in mango season.

He said that he will earn over Tk 2 lakh selling baskets this season.

Robiul Islam, a member of Ranihati Union Parishad, said that Ghorapakhia village is now known as a village of basket makers.

Munjer Alam, secretary of Chapainawabganj Agri Association, said it has created job opportunities for many people.

Muhammad Nazrul Islam, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension, said this year 3 lakh 25 thousand tonnes of mangoes will be produced this season. Last year, over 2.60 lakh tonnes of mangoes were produced.



Weavers of bamboo-made baskets are spending busy time as the craft is in high demand for packaging mangoes in Chapainawabganj, a district known for highest amount of the fruit production. The photo was taken from Ghorapakhia village in Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

## Positivity rate Declare flood-hit areas

FROM PAGE 12

waves of Covid-19. The last one was during January-March this year as the Omicron variant spread across the country.

Experts said the fourth wave of Covid-19 has started in the country.

Under the circumstances, health officials have urged people to take Covid-19 vaccines and wear masks.

FROM PAGE 2 concluding the Teesta water-sharing agreement, but it has not been done yet.

"When they [India] suddenly open the gates of Farakka barrage, it is not possible to tackle the rush of water. Sylhet, Sunamganj and the other regions are now facing this problem. This is proof

of the knee-jerk foreign policy of this government and its negligence towards people."

The dams, bridges and roads – constructed in different haor and other regions in an unplanned way to prevent floods – were damaged due to corruption.

"The floodwater is destroying crops, houses, cattle and other valuables

of people. We demand that these areas are declared as disaster zones immediately and relief is provided to the people of these areas without any delay."

The country can witness floods as an adverse impact of climate change. But it is the responsibility of the government to prevent that flood and mitigate the damages, Fakhruddin added.

## Most powerful pulsar No quick relief

FROM PAGE 12

telescope surveys as recently as 1998. It wasn't until 2018 that the pulsar's bursts showed up in the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) Sky Survey (VLASS), and it's shown up every time astronomers have looked since.

There's two reasons for the recent emergence of the pulsar, according to research presented Wednesday at the 240th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Pasadena, California. The first is the pulsar's age.

"Based on its characteristics, this is a

very young pulsar," Caltech professor of astronomy Gregg Hallinan said in a statement, "possibly as young as only 14 years, but no older than 60 to 80 years."

The other reason is that until recently, the pulsar was hidden from view by the remains of the giant star that exploded before forming the pulsar. The star stuff violently thrown outward by the supernova explosion was blocking the radio bursts until the material – the majority of the mass of the former star – had traveled outward and thinned enough to allow the signal to pass through.

FROM PAGE 2 a whisker. The second highest record stands at 973.8 mm recorded on June 5, 1956. However, the highest rainfall recorded for the month of June stands at an unbelievable 1563.3 mm recorded on June 16, 1995.

On Wednesday, Cherrapunji recorded 811.6 mm of rainfall.

In Assam, some 3,000 villages are flooded, and 43,000 hectares of cropland are underwater. Several embankments, culverts and roads have been damaged.

A boat carrying flood-

affected people sunk in Assam's Hojai district, leaving three children missing while 21 others have been rescued, officials said yesterday.

In neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh, water from river Subansiri has submerged a dam that was under construction for a hydroelectric power project, news agency PTI reported.

The Assam government has also arranged special flights between Guwahati and Silchar for people displaced due to the floods and landslides.

## EC to sit

FROM PAGE 12

Socialist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bangladesh NAP), Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Sangiskritik Muktijote.

Meanwhile, a senior BNP leader yesterday said they would not join the discussion on EVM.

The incumbent EC is doing nothing but carrying out the "instructions" of government, he said.

Contacted, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said they were yet to get the letter from EC.

"We will take a decision only after receiving the letter."

## Mother dies saving twins

FROM PAGE 12

Meanwhile, two siblings – Mohammad Liton, 23, and Mohammad Emon, 14 – were killed in another landslide in the city's Bijoynagar area, said Farooq Hossain Sikder, assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defense in Chattogram.

Nur Jahan Begum, mother of the Liton and Emon, said, "Why would we live here at risk if we had enough money?"

Of the siblings, Liton was a readymade garment worker who got married one and a half years ago.

His wife Sharmin Akhtar

is seven months pregnant. "My baby will never see his father," wailing Sharmin said.

In Chattogram, the district administration identified 30 landslide-prone hills, in which around 10,000 people live.

Every monsoon, the authority makes efforts to relocate the people to safer places, but the initiative goes in vain largely due to the poor and unhygienic conditions of the shelters.

Around 170 people died in massive landslides in June 2017 in Chattogram, Rangamati and Bandarban districts, disconnecting

regional communication for days.

A high-powered committee, formed after 127 people died in a landslide in the port city's Motijarna in 2007, put forward 30 recommendations, including permanent rehabilitation of the people exposed to landslides, afforestation on hills so they can ward off landslides, stopping hill cutting, and building fences around the hills to protect them from grabbers.

It has been 15 years since the recommendations were forwarded, and none of those has been executed yet.



Fire erupts following an Israeli airstrike south of Gaza City, yesterday. Israeli air strikes hit Hamas military sites in the Gaza Strip in response to rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave run by the Islamist movement, the Israeli army said. It is not clear if the air strikes and rocket fires caused any casualties.

PHOTO: AFP

## Attack on Kabul Sikh temple kills 2 7 hurt; India expresses concern

REUTERS, Kabul

An attack on a Sikh temple in the Afghan capital of Kabul killed at least two people and injured seven on Saturday, following a blast in a car loaded with explosives, officials said, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Some attacks in recent months have been claimed by the Islamic State militant group.

Grey smoke billowed over the area in images aired by domestic broadcaster Tolo. A Taliban interior spokesman said attackers had laden a car with explosives but it had detonated before reaching its target.

Taliban authorities were securing the site, he added. "There were around 30 people inside the temple," said a temple official, Gornam Singh. "We don't know how many of them are alive or how many dead."

India's foreign ministry expressed concern over reports of the attack. "We are closely monitoring the situation and waiting for further details," foreign ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said in a statement.

A spokesman for Kabul's commander said one Sikh worshipper had been killed in the attack and one Taliban fighter killed during the clearing operation.

Sikhs are a tiny religious minority in largely Muslim Afghanistan, comprising about 300 families before the country fell to the Taliban.

## NEW MILITARY RECRUITMENT PLAN IN INDIA

# Govt tweaks scheme as protests intensify

REUTERS, Bhubaneswar/Lucknow

Protesters in India's eastern state of Bihar damaged public property and ransacked offices in a railway station yesterday, expressing outrage at a new military recruitment plan and demanding the government reverse course.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has introduced a scheme called Agnipath or "path of fire" designed to bring more people into the military on four-year contracts to lower the average age of India's 1.38 million-strong armed forces.

Analysts said the new scheme would help cut burgeoning pension costs, but opponents believe it would limit

opportunities for permanent jobs in the defence forces, with implications for salaries, pensions and other benefits.

Thousands of young men attacked train coaches, burned tyres and clashed with officials at a railway station in Bihar, one of India's poorest states.

Authorities cancelled 369 trains nationwide, many of them running through areas witnessing unrest.

Sanjay Singh, a senior police official overseeing law and order in the state, said at least 12 protesters were arrested and at least four policemen injured in clashes.

In Uttar Pradesh, police arrested at least 250 people under

what are called preventative arrests. Some demonstrators accused the police of using excessive force. One person was killed in protests this week.

In a bid to contain the outrage, the federal government yesterday announced concessions for those who will serve under the scheme.

The federal home ministry announced it would reserve 10 percent of vacancies in the paramilitary forces and Assam Rifles, a unit in the Indian army, for those who have passed out of the army after the four-year period mandated in the scheme.

The defence ministry stated it would reserve 10 percent of its vacancies for those who have completed the scheme.

The scheme calls for retaining 25 pc of the recruited soldiers after four years of service, with the rest getting priority for other jobs, such as with the state police.



## Pakistan one step away from exiting grey list: Khar

DAWN/ANN

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar yesterday said that Pakistan is now "one step away" from exiting the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "grey list", and the planned on-site visit is a procedural requirement. She was briefing the media a day after the watchdog acknowledged that Pakistan had completed the action plan items and had secured an on-site visit to verify the implementation and sustainability of the country's money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures before removing it from its increased monitoring list. She shared that Pakistan had submitted three progress reports to the FATF regarding an action plan given last year which was related to money laundering. "I am pleased to announce that Pakistan has completed the entire seven-point action plan a year ahead of the given timelines."

## Europe braces for blistering June weekend heat

AFP, Paris

France, Spain and other western European nations yesterday braced for a sweltering June weekend that is set to break records and sparked concern about forest fires and the effects of climate change. Temperatures already nudged over 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in parts of France on Friday. In Spain, forest fires burned nearly 9,000 hectares of land in the northwest Sierra de la Culebra region on Friday, forcing some 200 people from their homes. Temperatures were above 35 Celsius on Friday in most parts of the country. The UK recorded its hottest day of the year on Friday with temperatures reaching over 30 Celsius in the early afternoon, meteorologists said.

## EXTRADITION TO US

# Assange's family counting on Europe

AFP, New York

Julian Assange's father and brother said Friday they were counting on European lawmakers to stop Britain from extraditing the WikiLeaks founder to the United States. Assange is wanted to face trial for violating the US Espionage Act by publishing military and diplomatic files in 2010 and could face up to 175 years in jail if found guilty, although the exact sentence is difficult to estimate. On Friday the British government approved his extradition to the United States, to the dismay of his supporters and free press campaigners. He has 14 days to appeal.

**DHAKA LINE**  
TRANSIT COMPANY LIMITED

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Dhaka BRT Company Limited  
House No. 04, Road No. 21, Sector-04  
Uttara, Dhaka-1230  
Phone: +88 02 48959101, Email: [md.dbrtc@gmail.com](mailto:md.dbrtc@gmail.com)

Memo No. 35.RHD.0000.BRT(MD).14.003.2013-552

Date: 13th June, 2022

**Subject: Invitation for Submission of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) for Procurement of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Intelligent Transport System (ITS) under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (GDSUTP).**

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh ("the borrower") is going to receive financing from the French Development Agency (AFD) toward the cost of Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (GDSUTP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the procurement of O & M of ITS named above. The description of the GDSUTP project of Dhaka BRT System features is available at the following address: [www.dhakabrt.com](http://www.dhakabrt.com).

Intelligent Transport System (ITS) consists of Automated Fare Collection System, Passenger Information System, Automated Vehicle Location System, Operational Control Centre, Fleet Management System, Traffic Signals and Traffic Management Centre, Transit Security & Surveillance System, Optical Fiber Network etc. The duration of the O & M of ITS Contractor assignment shall be about 60 months.

Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL) wishes to engage Contractor, having proven track records of carrying out similar assignments.

Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL) now invites interested firms to submit their Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI), for the above Project. This Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) will be followed by an International Competitive Bidding. It is not a prequalification procedure and no participants will be excluded from the International Competitive Procedure at this stage.

The Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) shall comprise of a brief presentation of the participant's previous experiences and financial situation, along with corporate profile (background of the firm, quality assurance system, organization of the firm, company structure, group companies and in-house facilities and overseas operation). Annual Turnover, Company Registration Certificates, Brochures and any other relevant materials may also be shared as part of the Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI). If any participant intends to associate with other firm, it should state in brief in their Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) the composition and intended form of the association. Such association is not binding at this stage and participants will be free to change association form and composition at the International Competitive Bidding stage.

The Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) shall be written in English and shall not exceed 40 pages.

The copy of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) must be submitted no later than 16.00pm (Dhaka local time) **July 19, 2022** by email, by courier or by hand to the following address: **Managing Director, Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited, House No. 04, Road No. 21, Sector No. 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh, Email: [md.dbrtc@gmail.com](mailto:md.dbrtc@gmail.com), Telephone No. +88 02 48959101.**

Interested Contractors may obtain further information via email or at the above address during office hours 09.00 - 17.00 hours from Sunday to Thursday.

Following the Preliminary Expression of Interest, participants may be invited by the Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL) for further public or bilateral consultations.

SD/-  
**Safiqul Islam**  
Managing Director  
Dhaka BRT Company Limited

GD-1263

## 'Politically motivated' UK slams Europe court's ruling on Rwanda plan

AFP, London

Britain's interior minister Priti Patel suggested in an interview published yesterday that a European court's intervention to stop a deportation flight to Rwanda was politically motivated.

"You've got to look at the motivation," she told the Daily Telegraph, after the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) stepped in on Tuesday, just as the flight was due to leave for Kigali.

"The opaque way this court has operated is absolutely scandalous. That needs to be questioned."

The UK government, which promised to tighten borders after Brexit, is under pressure to deal with record numbers of migrants crossing the Channel in small boats from northern France.

It is hoping to reduce pressures including accommodation costs estimated at \$6.1 million a day by sending some asylum seekers on a one-way ticket for resettlement in Rwanda.

Some 130 asylum seekers were scheduled to be on Tuesday's flight but the numbers were whittled down to zero after a series of legal challenges on human rights grounds.



This handout photo taken yesterday and released by the Indian Press Information Bureau shows India's PM Narendra Modi washing the feet of his mother Hiraba Modi on the occasion of her 100th birthday in Gandhinagar, India.

PHOTO: AFP

## ইউএস-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজ

পঞ্চপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিভুক্ত এবং বিএমএডভিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত।

**২০২১-২০২২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে এমবিবিএস কোর্সে (৮ম ব্যাচ) ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ইউএস-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজে ১ম বর্ষ এমবিবিএস কোর্সে ২০২১-২০২২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় ১০০ নম্বরের মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ৪০ বা তদধিক নম্বরের ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের ভর্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

কেন ইউএস-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজে অধ্যয়ন করবেন?

- দেশের স্বনামধন্য শিক্ষক মন্ডলী দ্বারা পরিচালিত
- খুবই ভাল পেশাগত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল
- আন্তর্জাতিক ও মনোরম পরিবেশ

- সহশিক্ষার মাধ্যমে মন ও মননের চর্চা
- সর্বোপরি মানবিক চিকিৎসক গড়ার প্রত্যয়

আবেদনপত্র বিতরণ শুরু : ২১/০৬/২০২২

আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ : ০৩/০৭/২০২২

অধ্যাপক ব্রিগে: জেনা: (অবঃ) ডাঃ মোঃ আজিজুল ইসলাম  
অধ্যক্ষ, ইউএস-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজ  
কর্ণগোপ, রূপসী, রূপগঞ্জ, নারায়নগঞ্জ

মোবাইল: ০১৭৮৭ ৬৯৪২৭৬, ০১৭০৮ ৮১৩২৭৭, ০১৭০৮ ৮১৩২৭৮  
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## Another wake-up call amid raging floods

### Urgent humanitarian aid needed in flood-hit northeast

WE'RE deeply worried about the deteriorating flood situation in the north-eastern region of Bangladesh which comes hard on the heels of a flash flood that hit the region weeks ago. This time, the crisis is unfolding on a larger scale. Most of Sylhet and Sunamganj districts have reportedly gone under water. New areas are being inundated at a pace that has surprised many, with as many as 17 districts now feared to be in danger. The flood was triggered on Wednesday by heavy rains and water flowing from upstream India's Meghalaya and Assam, where record-breaking rainfall was recorded.

In Sylhet and Sunamganj, where the situation is particularly dire, more than 40 lakh people are said to have been marooned. Power connection has been cut off after all sub-stations in the districts were submerged by water. As time passes, the cry for rescue and relief is getting louder. Many flood-hit areas remain unreachable due to the high tide of water, despite efforts from Bangladesh Army and Navy which are helping with the rescue operations. The scenes of struggle and devastation emerging from these areas are disturbing, to say the least.

Experts say that a number of reasons combined to make the situation worse, including the absence of a flood protection embankment in Sunamganj, earth-filling in haor and other water bodies, deforestation in the hills, as well as mining in the upstream Indian areas. Many structures built occupying the water bodies – which traditionally served as reservoirs holding the excess water from floods – are disrupting the flow of water and preventing it from receding. This should be another wake-up call for us as flooding increasingly becomes the most common climate-related risk to Bangladesh. The question is, what measures are being taken to reduce the risk of such floods?

Right now, the priority is to rescue the stranded people and deliver relief and medicine in the most-affected areas. We're told that the situation may not improve immediately as heavy rains are expected to continue. This is bad news. The local administration should brace for a harder time and assess its preparedness. All schools and colleges on higher ground should be urgently prepared to accommodate the rising number of people requiring shelters, with sufficient provisions for food and medical aid. Power connection should be restored as soon as possible. Care should also be taken so that there is no food crisis in the districts. All state agencies in the affected areas should be geared toward the purpose of helping with the flood situation. Equally importantly, the authorities should look at the bigger picture and start devising ways to reduce, as much as possible, the risk of such floods in the future.

## Shouldn't student bodies be led by students?

### Creating new political leadership will be a distant dream otherwise

WE are concerned at the undemocratic way that student organisations affiliated with various political parties are being run. More often than not, the central committees of these organisations are led by those whose studentship has long expired. According to a report in this daily, the top positions of these bodies are hardly held by regular students. At present, both president and general secretary positions at the central committees of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) are occupied by non-students. Reportedly, student wings of various left-leaning political parties are also being run in the same way. Even the Dhaka University (DU) units of these organisations are led by those whose studentship has expired. The only exception seems to be the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front in DU, where the two top posts are held by regular students.

This situation is worrying because non-students holding these positions can hardly be true representatives of ordinary students. They can neither understand the gravity of the problems facing students, nor are particularly interested in solving those. What we have seen in most cases is that these student bodies work to implement the agenda of their parent organisations. Often they are engaged in various horrendous activities on campus, including seat trade. More importantly, the culture of keeping non-students at the top positions is creating a void in our political leadership since it needs a continuous process of electing new leadership in the student organisations to create new leaders in national politics.

We also do not understand why the leaders of these student bodies have to be selected by their parent organisations. Shouldn't the student members of the organisations elect their own leaders? This trend reflects a lack of democratic culture within the student bodies.

Although this has been a fact for the majority of our student organisations for years now, the issue has come to the limelight again after a recent incident where the BCL activists barred JCD activists from entering the DU campus alleging that they were not students. Some of the student leaders have told us that their organisations are run according to their parties' constitutions. If that is so, shouldn't their parent political parties bring a change to their constitutions in this regard? It's only reasonable to expect that student organisations would be led by students. If that can be ensured, we can expect to see the beginning of a positive change in the political environment of our higher educational institutions.

# Dire lessons from the Cumilla City Corporation election



Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar is the secretary of SHUJAN: Citizens for Good Governance.

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR

THE just completed Cumilla City Corporation election was a "test case" for the newly formed Awal Commission. The EC deployed a large number of magistrates and law enforcement personnel and installed CCTV cameras to ensure free, fair and peaceful election in Cumilla. Consequently, the election was violence free, although not free from chaos, confusion and drama.

The experience of the Cumilla City Corporation election raises two serious questions relating to: (a) the capability and competence of the EC; and (b) the appropriateness of using EVMs in future elections.

During the campaign period, the EC issued a directive under section 22 of the "Code of Conduct" asking the sitting MP, AKM Bahauddin Bahar, who was residing within the city corporation, to leave the area. Mr Bahar failed to comply, and as far as we know, such defiance never happened before. In response, the CEC said that the EC could not do anything about it, although section 31 and 32 of the Code of Conduct clearly specify penalties for such violation, including the imposition of fines, jail sentence and even cancellation of the candidature of the candidate supported by the MP. One of the commissioners went further to say that the EC could not "dishonour" an "honourable" person – though the commission previously cancelled the candidatures of a Paurashava and several UP chairmen, who are small fries, and even postponed elections for such violations.

Clearly, the EC failed to enforce the electoral law, as a result of which one MP got away by defying the Code of Conduct. More worryingly, the CEC and the other commissioners appear to have helplessly surrendered their authority and even failed to "faithfully discharge the duties of" the "office according to law". Can the citizens remain unalarmed when the members of an independent constitutional body fail to obey their oath of office?

The Awal Commission will have to conduct the 12th Parliamentary election in 18 months, which could potentially cause the transfer of power. In that election, many of the 300 MPs, several thousand other candidates, thousands of members of the bureaucracy and law enforcement – many of whom have partisan bent – and political party activists will desperately try to influence the results. If the Awal Commission could not compel one MP to abide by the law, how will it be able to do so during the national election, when there will be lot more pressure from many

powerful quarters? In addition, in the national election, the EC will not have so many magistrates and law enforcement personnel to deploy, and those deployed may also not act neutrally.

Regarding the use of EVM, the Cumilla City Corporation election once more established that the biometrics-based EVM currently in use suppresses voting. It may

be recalled that in the 11th parliamentary election, the turnout rate was 80.80 percent in 294 constituencies, where paper ballots were used, whereas the turnout rate was 51.54 percent in six constituencies that used EVMs, representing a 30 percent difference. This is a dramatic evidence of voter suppression.

Even in the Cumilla City Corporation election, the voter turnout declined because of the use of the biometrics-based EVMs. In 2012, when nonbiometrics-based EVMs were used, the turnout rate was 75 percent. In 2017, when paper ballots were used, the turnout rate was 63.92 percent. By contrast, the turnout rate in the recent election was 58.74 percent, a 16 percent decline from 2012 and about 5 percent less than 2017. Many Cumilla voters were reported to have been unhappy about the slowness of the voting and some even left without voting. How can one justify using machines in voting when they prevent voters from exercising their right of franchise?

Another serious concern about the use of EVM arises from its technical limitations. The pandemonium and drama staged during the declaration of the results and the controversy about the final results of the mayoral election were due to these technical limitations, which make the EVM susceptible to digital manipulation. The EVM does not have the "voter verifiable paper audit trail" (VVPAT), because of which results declared by the election officials are final, and they cannot be audited or verified through recounting. In other words, the dependability of the EVM depends largely on the so-called "men behind the machine" as the election officials are given the authority to override the EVM. According to a BBC report, in

Chattoogram City Corporation election, the results were declared twice, indicating digital manipulation.

Let us now focus on the drama created by the disruption of the declaration of the results. When the results of 101 centres were declared, Monirul Haque had 48,492 votes compared to 47,863 votes for Arfanul Haque – a difference of 629 votes. At that point, the Returning Officer stopped the declaration of the results of the mayoral contest because he did not have, by his own admission, the results of the remaining centres (*Prothom Alo*, June 16, 2022). Surprisingly, the results of those four centres came in about four hours after closing of the polling, although they should have been available to the Presiding Officers with the mere pressing of a few buttons.

What is even more surprising is that the results of those four remaining centres caused a dramatic turnaround of 972 votes, causing Arfanul Haque to win by 343 votes, whereas he was losing by 629 votes based on the results of 101 centres. It must be a miraculous coincidence that Arfanul Haque had such a vote bank in the four centres whose results were reported last, allowing him to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Monirul Haque raised the allegation that he was defeated through manipulation. But because of the technical limitation of not having VVPAT in the EVM used, his allegation could not be proved or disproved either way. It may be noted that under the direction of the Indian Supreme Court, the EC there had to add VVPAT to their EVMs. Many countries, including technologically advanced ones, have been abandoning the use of EVMs because of the complications they create.



The Cumilla City Corporation election was the first election overseen by the new Election Commission.

PHOTO: SHAHIDUL HASAN ROMAN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Can the citizens remain unalarmed when the members of an independent constitutional body fail to obey their oath of office?

# Can Bangladesh-Myanmar military ties stabilise the region?

Parvej Siddique Bhuiyan is a security and strategic affairs analyst.

PARVEJ SIDDIQUE BHUIYAN

A power shift in Myanmar and the subsequent polarisation among major powers triggered a new geopolitical flashpoint in Bangladesh's strategic backyard, which the latter cannot afford to ignore. It seems that the US and other western countries are taking a heavy-handed approach while other big powers, such as Russia, China, India, and Japan, have started explicitly (or covertly) normalising their relations with the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military).

Myanmar always gets priority in Bangladesh's economic and security strategy. Although democratic Bangladesh has a moral dilemma in supporting the military government, it has yet to formally condemn the military coup or demand Aung San Su Kyi's release. It underscores Dhaka's careful support for the junta's "one-Myanmar government policy." So, in foreign policy circles, the immediate discussion is whether Dhaka's stance is a "well-thought-out approach or simply a premature polarisation."

In-depth analysis suggests that Bangladesh's stance has stemmed from some very specific strategic considerations. First, Bangladesh is well aware that sanctions and condemnation, a typical western practice, are counterproductive in Myanmar as long as China and Russia continue to extend their diplomatic and military shields. Second, the previous NLD government failed to facilitate Dhaka's long expected connectivity, border security, or Rohingya crisis issues. Third, Dhaka seeks to develop cosy relations with Myanmar's army based on non-

confrontational and non-interference approach. So, it doesn't want to enrage the Tatmadaw by taking part in a smear campaign that would not even address the country's core security concerns.

Given the rapidly changing geo-political dynamics, it is not a surprise to predict that major powers like China, India, Russia, and Japan will remain on Myanmar's military side, underlining their own strategic narratives. It will undoubtedly give the military a chance to consolidate its grip on the country as well as its diplomatic status and military position. With a recent resumption in diplomatic exchanges, China is warming up its historical "Pauk-Phaw" (sibling) ties with Myanmar. It has begun to normalise relations with the State Administration Council, mainly to secure its strategic infrastructure projects that would give Beijing a vital gateway to the Indian Ocean. Despite the fact that Russia, one of Myanmar's largest arms suppliers, has no pressing geopolitical imperatives in Myanmar, it has been trying to diversify its cooperation with the country to increase its investment portfolio. Besides, the China-Russia alliance is expected to play a more active role in the centre of the Indo-Pacific to offset expanding western dominance. Although India and Japan, two QUAD allies, feel uncomfortable doing business with a military regime, they will avoid the West-centric coercive measures and instead follow a "twin-track diplomacy" to engage with military administrations as well as pro-democracy forces. Apparently, the key strategic reason for this stance is to avoid alienating Myanmar and pushing it further towards China.

Finding an early and sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis is a "top priority" issue for Bangladesh right now. But policy analysts acknowledge

that this protracted issue has become more complicated and would require a "consultative and constructive approach" between the two governments, along with international stakeholders. Thus, Bangladesh would have to deal with the Myanmar military even if it is governed by people's representatives because the 2008 Constitution places the military in a central position in the government with complete authority over the ministries of defence, home, and border affairs. Another main strategic objective of Bangladesh is to materialise its look-east policy by connecting itself with China and the ASEAN countries via Myanmar. Bangladesh has also been eyeing joining the ASEAN bloc and the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway initiative. Therefore, Bangladesh ought to convince Myanmar's central government to draw up plans for access to each other's markets as well as regional markets to face the post-LDC challenges.

Despite past strained ties, Bangladesh's military chiefs have traditionally paid goodwill visits to Myanmar, seeking to develop a more meaningful relationship from a security standpoint. What is important to note is that Bangladesh was among only eight countries that sent their defence attaché to attend the Myanmar Armed Forces Day parade in Naypyidaw in March 2021, a month after the coup, prompting Min Aung Hlaing to consider Dhaka as one of its allies. In a nutshell, Bangladesh is trying to reorient its Myanmar policy in light of the regional power setting and the army's new rule in Naypyidaw. Pursuing a multi-dimensional approach of engagement with the Myanmar government and convincing them to address security concerns could be a viable strategic option for Bangladesh right now.

Bangladesh would have to deal with the Myanmar military even if it is governed by people's representatives because the 2008 Constitution places the military in a central position in the government with complete authority over the ministries of defence, home, and border affairs.

# Good words and bad math in the new budget



BIRUPAKSHA PAUL

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THE budget for FY2022-23 is filled with rhetoric. But its credibility is poor because of its contradictions between the priorities and the actual allocations for education, agriculture, health, and the vulnerable population. It doesn't lend credence to the basic understanding of how macro variables such as growth, unemployment, and inflation interact with each other. No wonder the budget is confused between the demand and supply sides. It's unclear what type of inflation the country is facing now and what are the right medicines for that. The math in the budget is also problematic.

Only 64 percent of the Tk 678,064 crore budget is financed by fiscal revenue, suggesting that there has been a gradual erosion of the country's fiscal capacity. Revenue was able to finance 74 percent of the budget some 10 years ago, and 71 percent some five years ago. The downward trend clearly indicates that the government has been gradually losing its proportional fiscal competence, although the capacity was supposed to be rising as the nation moved forward. A separate ministry for revenue mobilisation is crucially needed, and the sooner the prime minister brings about such a reform, the better.

The development stories don't match with the proportionate deterioration in the government's fiscal capacity - which is already one of the lowest in the world. The rosy stories presented in the budget speech ruthlessly contradict the share of education for GDP. It has fallen from a meagre 2.08 percent to 1.83 percent - the lowest in the region. Allocations in social safety net programmes and the healthcare

sector didn't see any remarkable increase either, which were necessary after the pandemic-led crisis and job losses.

Unlike the previous budgets, the new one has come up with six priorities - many of which belong to the ministry of planning and the central bank. The budget mysteriously remains silent about what the government should do to bring about a drastic change in revenue collection - which should have made the list of top priorities. Pakistan's FY2022-23 budget, for example, has put revenue mobilisation as its top priority since its fiscal capacity is dwindling. Pakistan's budget is only 12.5 percent of GDP, while Bangladesh's is 15 percent. The British budget, being 42 percent of its GDP, has also outlined how its tax plan will make a surplus budget in three years. Gradually rising the tax-GDP ratio is a standard fiscal mandate, which is quite lacklustre in our case.

Containing inflation is primarily the central bank's mandate, and the fiscal authority can do very little about it. All it can do is support the poor with direct delivery of food items and other essentials. Duties on necessary imports should be lowered and the tax-free income mark should be raised to at least Tk 5 lakh. Given the nature of the inflation which is mainly cost-pushed from the supply side, the budget authority can't handle it. This resembles the Great Inflation of the 1970s when all governments failed until their respective central banks undertook tough monetary contraction, such as the Volcker disinflation in the US.

The fourth priority vows to boost investment - which is contradictory to the number-one priority of depressing inflation. Boosting investment is the central bank's job - a task done by increasing private credit growth - which, in turn, is inflationary. The fifth priority of job creation requires more investment through monetary easing - which the central bank can do by lowering the reserve ratio and slashing the policy rate or the repo rate further down. But that would mean more inflation again.

The finance minister has praised the



VISUAL: TEEN AND TUNI

The assumption of 5.6 percent inflation is largely a mockery for the poor who are already facing inflation above 15 percent.

central bank for raising its repo rate from 4.75 to 5 percent - an insignificant move. Further increases are required given the global situation. The US central bank has been raising its policy rate every six weeks. Its rate hikes of 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75 percent in recent months - never seen in a quarter century - send similar messages to others to raise their respective policy rates. Most countries followed suit. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is always behind the curve, as we have seen many times. Its exchange rate mismanagement is the reason why the dollar crisis erupted. But the BB should raise the repo rate as well as the reserve ratio if it is seriously looking to curb inflation. These actions, however, will contradict the finance minister's priorities of boosting investment and increasing job creation, suggesting that the budget housed good words with bad math and faulty macro underpinnings.

The budget gives a nominal GDP growth of 11.9 percent. If 7.5 percent real GDP growth is extracted from this number, it gives an inflation rate of [(1.119/1.075) - 1] = 4.1 percent, while the budget gives an inflation estimate of 5.6 percent. Which one is right? First, the assumption of 5.6 percent inflation is largely a mockery for the poor who are already facing inflation above 15 percent.

Finally, the finance ministry's main strategy would be to increase the supply while reducing the growth in demand (page 42). Consumption, investment, and government spending are the three major components of aggregate demand. How can the government achieve 7.5 percent growth by reducing these driving forces of GDP? A new theory beyond Keynes is needed to address the concept that the ministry of finance has recently manufactured in the budget statement.

# Unusual power lust in modern West



CHINTITO SINCE 1995

NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed is an architect and a professor, a Commonwealth scholar and a fellow, Woodbadge scout leader, Baden Powell fellow, and a Major Donor Rotarian.

AFTER quenching their lurid lust for power and property, funded by slavery and wholesale loot for centuries, leaving behind a trail of torture, murder and injustice, Western colonialists began to spread the word of the holy books, only after acquiring political stability, economic security, military supremacy, gold, glamour and glitter: "All humans are equal", the transformed rich nations declared, but with vicious insinuation that "some are more equal than others". And, they meant it, as exemplified by their depiction of the plight of Palestine versus Ukraine.

They landed on our shores at will to look for good fortune, which they found to their joy and our dismay. They would clinch it by force, if resisted. And, today they are inhumanely plane-loading asylum seekers to cash-for-service Rwanda in another continent to keep themselves free of the "dirt".

Since George Floyd's brutal death in 2020, #BlackLivesMatter of 2013 has been emboldened. Every English premier league football match since starts with the knee-bend, and is punctuated Live with the message that there is "No room for racism, anywhere". The hard fact remains that racism is alive and kicking on the shores of modern colonialists.

They are paranoid about being colonised in today's context of globalisation. Exporting refugees as commodities against their will to a developing country has been criticised by the Bishop of Birmingham. Prince Charles slammed the move by his own government as "appalling". But, what else could Boris do to change the topic from the increasingly hot beer-gate affair?

Leaders of some imperial countries became self-appointed guardian angels of world democracy to dictate by wile and warfare. They hunted down locally popular, formidable leaders, dubbing them as anti-people, and warmongers with WMD, but only when they had not danced to their partisan policy, that is, handed over their soil and oil, natural gas and artefacts, and the right to a military base. These were a modern form of colonialism in the name of establishing their chosen world order, conceived to maintain them, the age-old rulers at the helm of global economy.

The rest of the world took time to

remove the wool from over their eyes, delayed albeit by disgraceful beneficiary lackeys in respective countries. Repulsion to unfairness and instinctive yearning for freedom gave rise to people's revolution, for a while dubbed as rebellions; #SuryaSen. Countries had to be liberated by the supreme sacrifice of martyrs, steered by nationalist heroes.

Sticking to power was at one time assumed to be the proprietary prerogative of despots in developing countries. The table has turned for the worse in at least two developed countries, the USA, and the UK. No more can they lecture the rest of the world about securing democracy.

It was incomprehensible before 2020 for a US president not to accept the results of an election held under his call. Nationwide, Donald Trump lost by about seven million popular votes, which does not count towards presidency, but can severely dent the ego of a narcissistic politician. In the decisive electoral college ballot, Trump lost 232-306. Yet, in order to remain in the White House, he accused the nation of vote fraud, and continues with his lies despite extensive recounts proving there was nothing illegal. Worse, a good percentage of Americans seem to believe him. His daughter and White House and business confidante Ivanka turned against him last week and accepted Biden's victory, the testimony exposing deep family strain. But, like a warlord (no reference to the 6 January insurrection), unrepentant Trump wants to get back to the WH through the backdoor.

East of the North Atlantic Ocean, the UK prime minister is defiant not to come down from his pedestal, despite being fined by police for breaching his own set of rules that he pronounced on television on a daily basis during high Covid. Half-a-decade ago it would have been unbelievable that a UK prime minister could survive a no-confidence vote in parliament after thousands of street protesters, people in responsible positions, and MPs in the House called him a "liar" over his defence of attending several social parties at a time when he had ordered the country to observe the strictest of lockdown protocols. Many could not attend the funeral of their loved ones.

Boris Johnson has so lowered the British morality bar that henceforth it would require crosschecking before anyone could trust a government minister. That is exactly what the Commons Privileges Committee is investigating, whether Boris misled parliament over "partygate" allegations. This after separate reports by Metropolitan Police and civil servant Sue Gray left cracks and crevices, doubts and disbeliefs. Breaking the law by a legislator is a serious felony in any country, but to

deny that a gathering of noisy people, singing joyous songs and vomiting cake and beer is not a "party" is a sign of mental turpitude.

These two western leaders have given the so-called lesser developed countries reasons to question the state of governance in Trump- and Boris-land. They can indeed ponder on sending

election observers to the USA and ethics supervisors to Britain. Globally, there is a shift in political integrity. The yearning to stick to power for life was once considered the sole legitimacy of tyrants in poorer economies, but the mischief has been adopted by egotistical leaders in, let's call them G-2 until more countries of the type join them.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাল্যশিক্ষা পুঁজি  
অধিদপ্তরে কার্যালয়  
১৪ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন  
উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার

তারিখ: ১৪/০৬/২০২২

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)**

২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার সেক্টরে ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারে (জুলাই/২০২২ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২২ পর্যন্ত) উন্নয়নমূলক টেন্ডার (সেবি) সরকারের টেন্ডার নিয়ন্ত্রণের নিমিত্ত The Public Procurement Act-2006 & The Public Procurement Rules-2006 এর অধীনে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী নিম্নলিখিত বিধিমালা/সেবারগোষ্ঠীর নিমিত্ত হতে নিম্নলিখিতকর্তৃক পক্ষে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে:

০১	মহাপুরাণ/বিভাগ	সরকারি মহাপুরাণ/পুলিশ বিভাগ।
০২	সম্পত্তি	বাল্যশিক্ষা পুঁজি।
০৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনা/প্রোগ্রাম	অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার), ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার।
০৪	কি কার্যের দরপত্র আহ্বান	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার সেক্টরে ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারে (জুলাই/২০২২ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২২ পর্যন্ত) উন্নয়নমূলক টেন্ডার (সেবি) সরকারের টেন্ডার নিয়ন্ত্রণের নিমিত্ত।
০৫	দরপত্রের মূল্য	এপিএল(১৪)আশা ৮৪/৮৪৫৯।
০৬	অধিবেশন	তারিখ: ১৪/০৬/২০২২

কার্যের বিবরণ:

০৭	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)।
০৮	ব্যাংক ও অর্থনৈতিক পত্র	স্বাধীন পত্র।

অন্যান্য:

০৯	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি পরিচালনা প্রোগ্রামের অধিবেশন	১৪/০৬/২০২২ টেন্ডার আহ্বানের মাধ্যমে।
১০	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৭/২০২২ টেন্ডার আহ্বান ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।
১১	দরপত্র জমা রাখারের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৭/২০২২ টেন্ডার আহ্বান ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৭/২০২২ টেন্ডার আহ্বান ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ	০৬/০৭/২০২২ টেন্ডার আহ্বান ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।

অধিবেশন নাম ও ঠিকানা:

০১	ডিজিটাল এপিএল, বাল্যশিক্ষা পুঁজি, উদিয়া, কক্স, ০২।	পুলিশ সুপার, কক্সবাজার এবং ০৩।	অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার) ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার।
০২	অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার), ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার।	অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার), ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার।	অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার), ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার।

১৪ টি-টোকার সবার স্থান, অধিবেশন, সময়: অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার), ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার। ০৬/০৭/২০২২ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।

দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য:

১৫	দরপত্রের মেয়াদ	(১) হালদহাস টেন্ডার নিয়ন্ত্রণ, (২) হালদহাস আয়ের সনদ, (৩) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (৪) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (৫) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (৬) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (৭) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (৮) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (৯) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (১০) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (১১) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ, (১২) অর্থি-প্রকল্প সনদ।
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দরপত্র বিবরণ:

ক্র. নং	কার্যের বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অনুমানমূল্য)	দরপত্র নিয়ন্ত্রণ জামানত	কার্যের নথিপত্র
০১	২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরে ১৪ এপিএল, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার সেক্টরে ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারে (জুলাই/২০২২ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২২ পর্যন্ত) উন্নয়নমূলক টেন্ডার (সেবি) সরকারের কার্য।	১৫,০০০ কোটি	৮৫০.০০	৫০,০০০/-	জুলাই/২০২২ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২২ পর্যন্ত

দরপত্র সম্পাদনা/প্রোগ্রামের বিবরণ:

১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক/কার্যের নাম	জনাব মোঃ নঈমুল হক, পিপিএল।
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক/কার্যের নাম	অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার)।
১৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক/কার্যের ঠিকানা	১৪ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার।
১৯	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক/কার্যের মেয়াদ	মেমোরি: ০১৫২০-১৫৫০০০, ফায়াল: ০২-৫১০০০৮৮৩ & E-mail: cotd@cpd.gov.bd

সিপিএল পর্যালোচনা:

২০ ক) বিধি নিয়ন্ত্রণের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হলে না।  
খ) কোন কারণ দর্শাতে ব্যতিক্রম কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।  
গ) দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত হলে কোন আইটোনের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমের বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।  
ঘ) The Public Procurement Act-2006 & Rules-2006 এর অধীনে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী নিম্নলিখিত বিধিমালা/সেবারগোষ্ঠীর নিমিত্ত হতে নিম্নলিখিতকর্তৃক পক্ষে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।  
ঙ) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি সরকারি ভূটি মেয়াদে কাজ করা হয় তাহলে পরবর্তী অধিবেশনে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র বন্ধ করা হবে।

মোঃ নঈমুল হক, পিপিএল  
ফোন: ৩০৩১১৫১৪  
অধিদপ্তর (পুলিশ সুপার)  
১৪ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন  
উদিয়া, কক্সবাজার

১৪/০৬/২২

# Urinary tract infection: Facts you must know

**Urinary tract infection (UTI) is a common type of infection that can affect any part of the urinary tract, including the urethra, bladder and kidneys. Though it can occur to anyone at any age, it is more common among women.**

DR TRISITA SAHA BISWAS

Urinary tract infection (UTI) is a common type of infection that can affect any part of the urinary tract, including the urethra, bladder and kidneys. Though it can occur to anyone at any age, it is more common among women. It is estimated that at least 40 to 60% of women will suffer from UTIs at some point in their lives. Women are more prone to recurrent UTIs as well.

UTI is caused by microorganisms that enter through the urethra (opening through which the urine pass outside the body) into the urinary tract and cause infection. It is most common among females as their urethra is shorter, allowing bacteria to reach and infect the bladder more easily. Also, in females, the urethra is closer to the anus, where many microorganisms reside.

Some conditions increase the risk of UTI, like pregnancy, kidney stones, enlarged prostate, weak immune system (diabetes or people taking chemotherapy), people having urinary catheters, etc. Besides, people who don't maintain genital hygiene or don't drink sufficient amounts of fluids are also at risk of getting infected. Recurrent UTIs might be due to any underlying health conditions, such as diabetes or any defect in the urinary system.

UTI symptoms may include a burning sensation or pain during urinating, fever, increased frequency of urination, pain in the abdomen or pelvic area, urgency, urine leakage, discolouration or blood in urine,



and so on. In addition, older, frail people or people with a urinary catheter may present agitation or confusion, wetting the bed more than usual and chills and rigour. Unfortunately, many people overlook these symptoms and remain untreated for long. As a result, it turns into serious complications, for instance, recurrent infections, permanent kidney damage, urethral stricture (narrowing) and sepsis (widespread infection throughout the body, a potentially life-threatening condition).

Anyone with these symptoms should visit a physician for early diagnosis and treatment. But one should also follow some steps to prevent it from occurring in the first place. The first and foremost duty is to practise good genital hygiene. Women should wipe front to back after toileting, change pads frequently during menstruation, avoid using feminine products in or around the genital area, such as deodorant sprays or powder

and keep the genital area clean and dry.

Moreover, one should pass urine immediately after intercourse and avoid having sugary foods or drinks, as it may assist bacteria in growing. Also, one should not hold urine for a long time as it may favour any circulating microorganism in the bladder to establish an infection. Maintaining hydration is crucial; at least six to eight glasses of water per day will help to flush down the extra bacteria from the urinary tract. Tight, synthetic underwear should be avoided to keep the genital area dry.

UTIs respond very well to treatment. However, prevention is far more effective. Therefore, a conscious person should follow the guidelines to prevent urinary tract infection in the first place.

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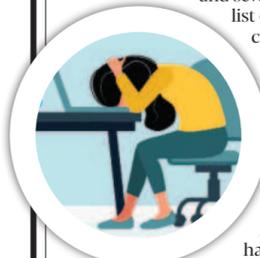
## Deal with your frustration

DR SAYEDUL ASHRAF

Frustration is commonly seen in modern times, especially in youngsters and students. Self-harm and suicide, therefore, are on the rise. Here are a few ways to escape:

**Having a direction in life:** Having no direction is the root cause of frustration. Every day is a struggle when we do not know what success means and where we want to end up. We should know the 'why' of our lives. This will help us manage our activities. We will be confident and motivated.

**Proper planning:** Following directions, proper planning is needed. A 20-year plan should be divided into five years, one year, three months, and seven days. We must make a list of tasks to start, stop, and continue to reach our goals. If we cannot plan, we should seek help from a trusted expert.



**Practice gratitude:** Without gratitude, we will never be happy. Some do not have money, while others do not have health or family. Everyone has flaws and failures. Human beings are not defined by their circumstances but by their decisions to move on and be happy. Gratitude helps us tremendously.

Recognising feelings of frustration is the first step to overcoming them. If you continue to have issues with frustration and anger, speak with a professional or consider joining a support group.

E-mail: kushal@lifefspringweb.com



## Constrictive bronchiolitis — A possible adverse effect of vaping

Lung biopsies showed this pathology in four e-cigarette users. Electronic cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury (EVALI) is a well described acute condition, but we know little about its long-term repercussions.

In this paper, researchers describe four patients (aged 25-65) with 3- to 8-year e-cigarette histories who presented with lung symptoms consistent with gradually progressive pulmonary disease (e.g., dyspnoea, cough, pleuritic chest pain). At presentation, all patients were former smokers who vaped daily. On high-resolution computed tomography, all patients revealed modest bronchial wall thickening and other nonspecific abnormalities.

The lung biopsy results were interesting and crucial. Patients developed constrictive bronchiolitis with subepithelial fibrosis. No patient had a history of other inhalation exposures or conditions known to produce this pathology; constrictive bronchiolitis is not caused by cigarette smoking. Three patients who stopped vaping experienced improvement over several years.

These data represent long-term e-cigarette use. Chronic consequences will become obvious in the coming years.

## Tips for better sleep when you have insomnia

STAR HEALTH DESK

Sleep gives us day-to-day energy. So, a good night's sleep is best. Tips for a good night's sleep are:

**Power down:** A cell phone, tablet, or digital clock on your nightstand may disrupt sleep. Turn off blue-light sources an hour before bed.

**Nix naps:** Boost afternoon energy with a walk, ice water, or a phone call with a friend.

**Block your clock:** Put your alarm clock in a drawer, under your bed, or turn it away from view.

**Try a leg pillow for back pain:** Mild lower back pain can disrupt deep, restful sleep. Put a pillow between your legs to align your hips and relieve back strain.

**Put your neck in 'neutral':** Pillows cause stiff necks and tired mornings. It should be the right size, not too fat and not too flat, to support your neck and back. Before bed, maintain good posture.

**Seal your mattress:** Mattresses, box springs, and pillows can be sealed. Plastic, dust-proof covers prevent bed bugs from entering your mattress.

**Set Your body clock:** After waking up, spend 5 to 30 minutes in bright light. Light motivates the body.

**Look for hidden caffeine:** Most people enjoy morning coffee. Avoid caffeine after noon. Small amounts of chocolate can affect sleep. Labels. Some pain relievers and diet pills contain caffeine.

**Work out wisely:** Exercising improves sleep. Before

bed, try yoga or tai chi.

**Eat right at night:** Avoid eating late. They overload digestion. Before bed, finish eating.

**Rethink your drink:** Beware of alcohol at bedtime. After its initial effects wear off, you will wake up more often. Warm milk and chamomile tea are best in this regard.

**Watch what time you sip:** Do not drink in the last 2 hours before bed to avoid bathroom breaks. Keep a nightlight in the bathroom to minimise bright light.

**Lower the lights:** Dim the lights to make your brain produce melatonin, the sleep hormone. If you read in bed, use a 15-watt bulb.

**Hush noise:** Try earplugs to avoid noises.

**Turn down tobacco:** Nicotine is a stimulant, just like caffeine and make insomnia worse. Ask your doctor for help.

**Free your mind:** Set aside work, touchy discussions, and complicated decisions 2 to 3 hours before bed. Before bed, read a calming book, meditate, or take a warm bath.

**Avoid sleeping pills:** Some sleep medications are habit-forming and have side effects. Pills should be a short-term solution while you make lifestyle changes.

**Know when to see your doctor:** If your insomnia lasts a month or more, tell them. They can check if a health condition or medicine you take is causing the problem.

We sleep one-third of our lives. Good sleep helps our brain, body, and immune system.



## Beat the heat

DR RAMISHA MALIHA

Summer brings dehydration, sunburn, and skin concerns. So, during this season, drink plenty of water. Here are some ways to stay cool and hydrated.

**Drink plenty of water:** We all know water is necessary, yet we forget to drink enough of it. Always drink three to four litres of water a day. Do not wait to drink water until your throat is parched; sip frequently. If you are exercising strenuously, chew gum so the saliva hydrates and take water breaks often.

**Electrolytes are important:** If you exercise, stroll, or work hard, you need electrolytes. Food and beverages have electrolytes. For example, bananas and coconut water have electrolytes and potassium. Glucose and ORS (Oral Rehydration Formula) solutions are also good sources of electrolytes.

**Eat fruits and vegetables:** Fruits and vegetables are hydrating and include electrolytes. Watermelons, berries, leafy green vegetables, cucumbers, etc., are all alternatives. Carry a few fruits when you are out.

**Wear breathable fabric:** Tight and dark clothes irritate and do not let your sweat evaporate during summer. Hence, it is advisable to wear fabrics that are breathable, loose-fitted, and easy to wear, like cotton clothes. This summer, do not summer heat strike you down with heatstroke and dehydration. Instead, follow these tips to battle the heat and prevent dehydration at home.

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## SPORT

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Sri Lanka vs Australia  
3rd ODI  
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India vs South Africa  
5th T20I  
Live from 07:30 pm

## Recurve archers leaving for France

SPORTS REPORTER

A 10-member Bangladesh archery team will leave for France today to take part in the Archery World Cup – Stage 3.

The Bangladesh team will participate in five events in the meet, which will be held from June 21 to 26. The five events are: men's recurve individual, men's recurve team, women's recurve individual, women's recurve team and mixed recurve team.

The Bangladesh contingent will feature seven archers and four officials. The archers are: Ruman Sana, Hakim Ahmed Rubel, Abdur Rahman Alif, Sagor Islam, Diya Siddique, Nasrin Akter and Fahmida Sultana Nishi.

Head coach Martin Frederick will travel with the team alongside team manager Rashiduzzaman Serniabat and Rubaiyat Ahmed, representative of sponsors City Group.

## India, South Africa eye series victory

AGENCIES

After making an emphatic comeback in the series, India will take on South Africa in the fifth and final T20I match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru today.

India won the fourth T20I by 82 runs to take the series to the decider.

Both teams are chasing history heading into the fifth T20I. India have never lost a bilateral T20I series at home since 2019, while the South Africans have never lost a series in India since 2011 across formats.

The series hasn't been one of India's best but somehow, just like top teams do, the 'Men In Blue' have found their way out to win matches under pressure.

If Temba Bavuma is unable to recover, South Africa will miss a leader more than the batter. And suddenly in the last two games, the batting has looked iffy on tracks that have variable bounce, which has made this Indian attack look way more lethal.



## LATEST SCORE

## Bangladesh 2nd innings

210 FOR SIX AT TEA

(Tamim 22, Joy 42, Shanto 17, Liton 17, Shakib 53 not out, Sohan 43 not out).

Bangladesh lead by 48 runs.

Bangladesh batter Najmul Hossain Shanto cut a sorry figure again as the left-hander became the first casualty on the third morning of the first Test against the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## SHAKIB, SOHAN bring some respectability

SPORTS REPORTER

What is going wrong with Bangladesh's top-order batters? There is no simple answer to this question.

Following one debacle after another in Test cricket, the Bangladesh team management and players recently echoed the same sentiment: 'mentality' was the main culprit behind the failures.

But one could also question exactly how good Bangladesh's batters are in terms of proper preparation and sound technique after yet another purposeless top-order batting display in the second innings of the first Test against the West Indies in Antigua yesterday.

The dismissals of the top-order batters offered no clues as to whether they had any idea about the pace bowling they were going to face in West Indies.

Captain Shakib Al Hasan and wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan staged a fightback after Bangladesh were reduced to 115 for six at lunch during the third day's play and the two batters finally built the handsome partnership that their team had desperately needed.

Bangladesh started the second session trailing the West Indies' total by 47 runs and the pair's efforts enabled the visitors to avoid an innings defeat and take a slender lead.

Shakib completed his second fifty of the match and was batting with an attacking approach while Sohan was providing good support, dismissing the notion that the match would finish inside three days.

Bangladesh were staring at the prospect



of defeat inside three days after closing the second day on Friday at 50 for two in their second innings, needing 112 more runs to make the West Indies bat again. West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said that the first hour of Day Three would be crucial.

Left-handed batter Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mahmudul Hasan Joy looked to turn the tide in the first hour of the third day but Shanto was the first to depart, falling to a Kyle Mayers delivery

which came in and kicked a bit off the surface, taking an outside edge to the slip cordon. Shanto's departure reduced the visitors to 64 for three.

Joy was joined in the middle by former captain Mominul Haque, who was looking for some runs after opting to leave his captaincy. But he did not last long. Having survived an in-swinging delivery from Mayers, which went for four streaky runs, the left-hander eventually succumbed to another in-swinging delivery from Mayers soon.

The 29-year-old has scored a grand total of 28 runs in his last nine innings and his average, close to 60 not long ago, is now hovering around 37.

It looked as if Liton Das would provide some resistance in company of a patient Joy. However, after stroking a few gorgeous boundaries, Liton chased one way outside off stump against Kemar Roach, causing his downfall for just 17.

Bangladesh were 100 for four at that stage, precariously close to an innings defeat.

Joy's long vigil, featuring 42 runs off 153 deliveries, came to an end when he poked at a Roach delivery away from his body, with wicketkeeper Joshua da Silva taking a diving catch.

All those dismissals exemplified the poor technique of the Bangladeshi batters against quality deliveries.

Shakib and Sohan were in the middle when lunch was taken and they continued to frustrate the West Indies bowlers to bring some sort of respectability to what has been a generally ordinary effort by the tourists with the bat so far in this match.

## Salma's Mohammedan claim seventh title

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan regained the Dhaka Premier Division Women's Cricket League title yesterday, ending an imperious campaign unbeaten. The last round of matches – featuring Mohammedan versus Indira Road and Rupali Bank vs Khelaghar SKS – was washed out at the BKSP yesterday, meaning both Mohammedan and Rupali finished with 18 points.

However, Mohammedan clinched a seventh league title under the captaincy of experienced campaigner Salma Khatun due to a superior run-rate. The league returned after almost a three-year gap brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and Salma expressed satisfaction over the standards of the league this season.

"Mohammedan earlier won six league titles under my captaincy and now, after a three-season gap, we regained the title. From personal experience, I must say the overall standards have been improving. We missed a few matches due to rain but we enjoyed the league very much. It would have been much better if there were no rain interruptions," Salma told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The number of teams increased this season



and what impressed me most was that number of newcomers that showed potential this season. A regular league would ultimately benefit our national team. This league also provides financial support to many players. I believe the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will make it more competitive in future," she added.

## Groundhog day at Canadian GP

AFP, Montreal

Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz had to take evasive action at the Canadian Grand Prix on Friday when a groundhog ran out onto the circuit.

Sainz was travelling at high speed during opening practice for Sunday's race when the animal appeared between turns two and three.

"Whether you want to call it a marmot, a groundhog or a beaver, a cute little brown furry animal was very lucky not to be squashed by a Ferrari during F1," said the Sky Sports F1 Twitter feed.

Esteban Ocon had slowed down to avoid a collision but Sainz, just behind the Frenchman, only spotted the groundhog at the last second. It came close to the Ferrari's right wheel before Sainz managed to avoid a messy encounter. Alex Albon in a Williams also had to swerve to avoid the groundhog.

Appearances by groundhogs at the Gilles Villeneuve Circuit on Montreal's Isle Notre Dame, where they are indigenous and protected, have become common on race weekends.



## 'This camp is about taking yourself TO THE NEXT LEVEL'

MAZHAR UDDIN

With the intent to prepare cricketers for the next step, the Bangladesh Tigers have been specifically polishing the skills of cricketers that are in contention for a place in the national side. The likes of Soumya Sarkar, Nayeem Hasan, Nazmul Islam Apu and a batch of promising cricketers – none of whom can be part of the Under-19 or High Performance (Under-23) set-ups – have been engaged in an intense training camp in recent times.

Members of the Bangladesh Tigers unit may also be selected for the Bangladesh A team's tour to the West Indies in August this year for one four-day game and three one-dayers.

For players such as Soumya, who has been out of the national set-up for nearly a year, it presents an opportunity to



showcase their ability.

"The main idea is to work specifically on the skills of batters. Since I am working in the batting department, I can only talk about that. But there are other coaches guiding other departments," Mizanur Rahman Babul, the batting coach of the Bangladesh Tigers, said.

"These guys have been playing

matches for the past seven months.

When you play continuously, there are less chances to work specifically on areas that need work. Like working on the shoulder going towards the mid-wicket or mid-off region. We designed this programme to work on and improve these aspects. Then we have the Bangladesh A team's tour to West Indies

in August." Another highly-rated local coach, Sohel Islam, is working as the spin-bowling coach. He also shared his methods.

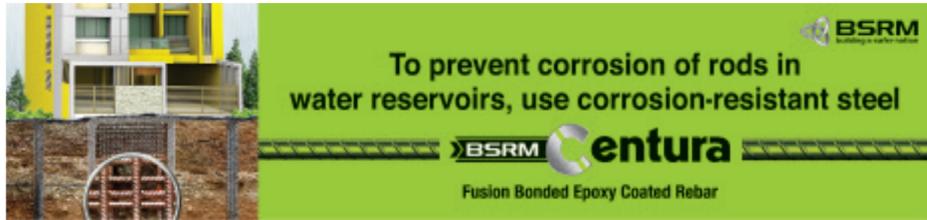
"This camp is about trying to take yourself to the next level. We even made them fill out a form describing what areas they feel the need to work on. For spinners, it is very important to be able to spin the ball and get turn. We are trying to work on how we can turn the ball using the body.

We have Nayeem Hasan, Aminul Islam Biplob and others in the camp and we tried to improve on that aspect," said Sohel.

According to the mentor of Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Tajjul Islam, it is important to work with a goal instead of focusing on conventional methods of training.

"It is easy to work with a few cones and bowl at them but, if you want to improve, it is important to get the best of the resources available to you by enhancing the skill level. We will also play a four-day game against the High-Performance team and will see improvement," he added.





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After four people died in two landslides yesterday, volunteers of Chattogram district administration ask people to evacuate houses that are built near the hill slopes in the port city. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Mother dies saving twins from landslides

Her sister also killed; two others die in separate mudslide in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mother sacrificed her life to save her six-month-old twin daughters from a landslide in Barishal Ghona area of Chattogram city on Friday night.

Shahinur Akter shielded her daughters with her body as the landslide fell. Both the babies remained unhurt, but she died as the landslide crushed her, said witnesses.

Her husband Jainal Abedin was out when the land slid over their house on the slope of Jhiler Pahar in the area.

Shahinur's sister Mahinur Akter, 24, was also killed in the accident while their parents Fazlul Haque, 70, and Ranu Begum, 60, were injured critically.

Jainul's six-month-old twin daughters Tanna and Tinni were saved in the accident.

The family have been living in the house for the last 10 years. No accident ever happened there before, said Jainul.

"We thought nothing will happen. I never thought I would have such a consequence for ignoring their call," he said.

U Ching, team leader of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Chattogram, said they rescued six people, including the twins, from there.

Of them, doctors of Chattogram Medical College Hospital declared Shahinur and Mahinur dead, he added. SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## 'Fierce battles' rage in Donbas

Zelensky visits war-torn southern city, hails EU backing for Ukraine's membership bid

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday visited the war-damaged southern city of Mykolaiv for the first time since the Russian invasion as "fierce battles" raged again in the eastern Donbas region.

Making a rare trip outside Kyiv, Zelensky surveyed a badly-damaged high-rise building and met officials in Mykolaiv, which has been holding the defence of the Black Sea coast against Moscow's troops.

Russian forces have directed their firepower on the east and south of Ukraine in recent weeks since failing in their bid to take the capital Kyiv after the February 24 invasion.

Zelensky has appealed for western support and weapons, and he hailed an announcement from Brussels on Friday that it backed Ukraine's EU membership drive as a "historic achievement."

"Ukrainian institutions maintain resilience even in conditions of war. Ukrainian democratic habits have not lost their power even now," Zelensky said in a video address overnight.

A video released by Zelensky's office showed the Mykolaiv governor talking to the president to see a tall building with a gaping hole, before the president met officials in what appeared to be a basement.

Mykolaiv is a key target for Russia as it lies on the way to the strategic Black Sea port of Odessa. It is around 100 kilometres northwest of Kherson, which fell to Russia in the first weeks of the war.

The worst of the fighting continues to be in the eastern Donbas region, with battles raging in villages outside the city of Severodonetsk, which Russia has been trying to seize for weeks.

"Now the most fierce battles are near Severodonetsk. They

(Russia) do not control the city entirely," the governor of the eastern Lugansk region, Sergiy Gaiday, said on Telegram.

Gaiday said there was "more destruction" at the besieged Azot chemical plant in Severodonetsk, where he said 568 people were sheltering, including 38 children.

He also said Lysychansk — a Ukrainian-controlled city across a river from battered Severodonetsk — is being "heavily shelled".

Lysychansk residents were preparing to be evacuated. "We're abandoning everything and going. No one can survive such a strike," said history teacher Alla Bor, waiting with her son-in-law Volodymyr and 14-year-old grandson.

Meanwhile, five civilians were killed and 12 injured in a Ukrainian bombardment of the eastern separatist city of Donetsk, local authorities said yesterday.

## EVM USE EC to sit with parties today

BNP's joining iffy

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is all set to begin talks with political parties from today to gain their trust over Electronic Voting Machines.

The commission would hold views-exchange programmes on the EVMs with all 39 registered political parties in three phases.

Representatives of 13 political parties, including the opposition in the parliament Jatiya Party, are invited to sit with the EC today, SM Asaduzzaman, joint secretary to the EC, told The Daily Star.

The commission also had sent an invitation to sit with the opposition BNP and 12 other political parties on June 19.

It sent an invitation to sit with the ruling Awami League and another 12 political parties on June 28.

With the next parliamentary elections just one and a half years away, fresh debates over the EVMs have taken the centre stage in the political arena.

The debate over EVMs surfaced after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the ruling Awami League chief, at an AL Central Working Committee meeting on May 7, said the EVMs would be used in all 300 parliamentary constituencies during the next general polls, according to insiders.

Since then, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal on subsequent occasions said the EC was yet to make a final decision regarding the use of EVMs in the next general election.

**Several civil society members and eminent citizens, in recent talks organised by the EC, also advised against EVMs unless there is a national consensus.**

The BNP has long been opposing the use of EVMs, saying the devices would allow the ruling party to "steal votes".

Several civil society members and eminent citizens, in recent talks organised by the EC, also advised against EVMs unless there is a national consensus.

Amid this situation, information technology experts, while taking part in a views exchange programme on May 25, said EVM manipulation was almost impossible.

EC officials said the EC invited Jatiya Party, Jatiya Party (JP), Krishak Sramik Janata League, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), Zaker Party, Bangladesh Muslim League, Gono Forum, Gano Front, Bangladesh Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front and Bangladesh Congress on today's event.

For June 19's discussion, EC invited Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, Bangladesh People's Party, Jamiote Ulamaye Islam Bangladesh, Islamic Front Bangladesh, Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Islami Oikyojote, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Islami Front, Khelafat Majlish and Bangladesh Muslim League.

For June 28's views exchange the commission invited Bangladesh Awami League, Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal (ML), Communist Party of Bangladesh, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Ganatantry Party, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Biklapadhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jasod), SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Most powerful pulsar discovered shed its mask



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The most powerful pulsar ever discovered may have just shed its mask and announced its presence on the scene.

Pulsars are spinning neutron stars, the dense remnants of formerly giant stars that have gone supernova, and their enormous magnetic fields power regular radio bursts that are among the brightest signals in the sky.

But the pulsar VT 1137-0337 didn't show up on radio SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Electricians setting up wires for the metro rail line at Farmgate of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. This part of the project is scheduled to be inaugurated in December next year. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Positivity rate still above five

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of Covid-19 cases declined yesterday as the health directorate reported 304 cases.

The previous day, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 433 cases, the highest in 16 weeks.

Against a total of 5,122 tests, the positivity rate was 5.94 percent. It was 6.27 percent on the previous day.

With the latest count, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases rose to 19,55,731.

Meanwhile, no Covid-19 patient died yesterday.

On March 8, 2020, the first three cases of Covid-19 were reported in the country.

So far, Covid-19 has claimed 29,131 lives in the country.

Since the beginning, the country witnessed three SEE PAGE 6 COL 4