



Taka falls against dollar again



SL president's powers to be clipped



Basketball crying for a home

Relief not reaching those who need it most

Sylhet admin data shows government efforts inadequate

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN, DWOHA CHOWDHURY, MINTU DESHWARA

Shamim Ahmed, a young resident of Eklimnagar village in Sunamganj's Chhatak upazila, has been stranded with no relief since the flood hit his home six days ago.

"I have now come to the Bangladesh Army's Coordination Centre here to request them to help the people of my village."

He was later escorted back by army officials with some relief materials.

Like Eklimnagar, thousands of villages in the flood-affected areas in the north-eastern region are left on their own in these moments of crisis.

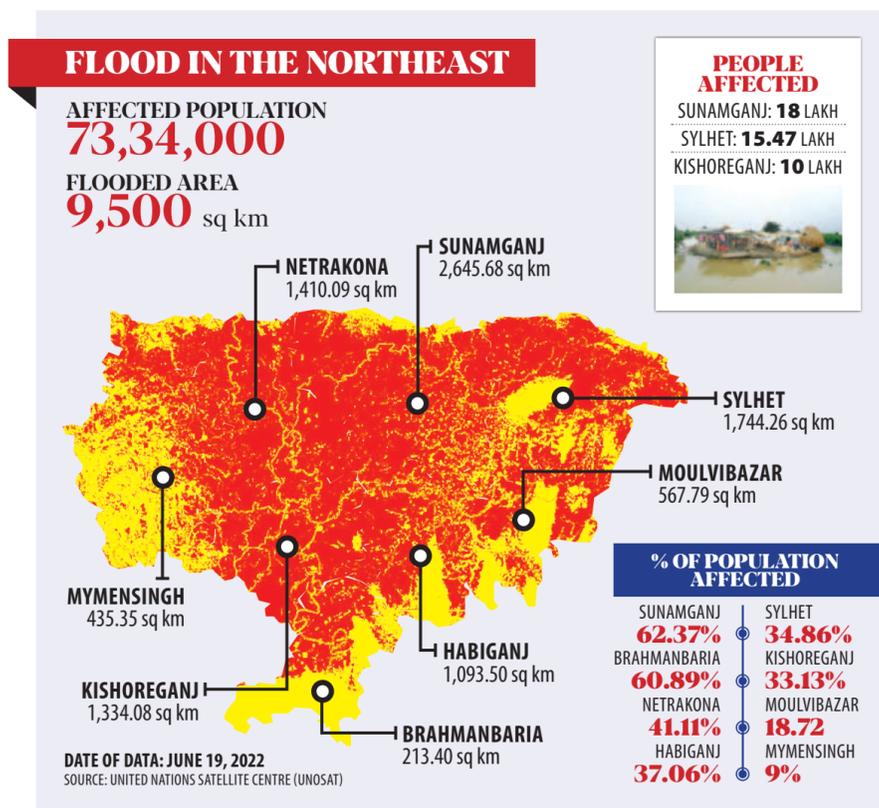
District administrations in Sylhet division admitted they were struggling to reach the remote villages and shelter centres, but claimed they had sufficient relief at hand.

Local administrations' data on relief allocation shows the government's efforts are yet to be adequate.

The desperation for relief among the victims is such that a man died after being injured in a jostle while trying to collect relief materials dropped from an Air Force helicopter yesterday.

According to the administrations, all 13 upazilas in Sylhet, all 12 in Sunamganj, seven in Moulvibazar and six in Habiganj have been fighting the floods.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Don't panic, govt stands by you

PM tells flood-hit people after visiting 3 districts



BSS, Sylhet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inspected the flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrakona and their adjacent areas.

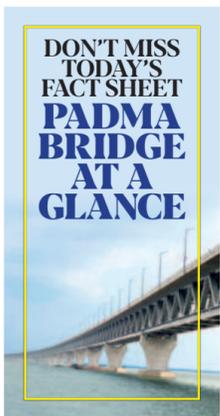
She witnessed the flood situation as the helicopter carrying her hovered low over the affected areas.

Later, the PM landed at the Sylhet Osmani International Airport. She joined a views-exchange meeting with the divisional and district administration officials and local Awami League leaders at the Sylhet Circuit House.

Addressing the meeting, Hasina said the AL always stands by the people during any disaster.

"Be it in government or opposition, Awami League along with its leaders and activists always stands by the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Sufferings mount in northern districts

Flood worsens; relief scarce

S DILIP ROY and MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Thousands of flood victims in the northern districts continue to fight for survival with little access to relief materials, and the situation is unlikely to improve today.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), in its 6:00pm forecast yesterday warned that the situation may remain steady in Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Kurigram, and

Gaibandha for the ensuing 24 hours, while in Bogura it could actually deteriorate.

Over 2.5 lakh people have been affected by the recent flood in the two northern districts of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

The situation is worsening as the region's three major rivers — the Brahmaputra, Teesta and Dhara — were flowing above the danger level.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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A boy walks on a flood-damaged railway line in Sunamganj yesterday. Top right, people wade past a truck almost tipping over on a flooded road in the district. Bottom right, army personnel on speedboats taking relief materials to flood victims in Chhatak upazila. PHOTO: AFP/SHEIKH NASIR

HC blasts Boalmari UNO, official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rebuked Faridpur's Boalmari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Rezaul Karim for ill-treating two process servers of the district judge's court and threatening them for an altercation with his official over handing over of a summons.

"You have conducted in such an arbitrary manner (with the process servers) that it will remain as a spotted chapter for a civilised state. You have scandalized and damaged your own career. You could not handle a small issue. How can you serve the people? ... If we write a line about your act in the order, your career will be ruined," the HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil told UNO Rezaul during the hearing on a suo moto contempt of court rule against him.

Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy told The Daily Star that Faridpur district judge court's process servers Kamal Hossain and Mehedi Hasan went to the UNO office on April 27. They requested official Ukil Miah to receive a summons of the district judge's court but the official refused.

The official told Kamal and Mehedi that they could not do anything to him if he refused to accept the summons.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

KALININGRAD RAIL BLOCKADE Russia warns Lithuania of 'serious' consequences

Presses offensive in Ukraine's strategic Donbas region

AGENCIES

Moscow yesterday warned Lithuania of "serious" consequences over its restriction of rail traffic to Russia's Kaliningrad enclave, as Kremlin forces made gains in Ukraine's strategic Donbas region.

Kremlin troops were causing "catastrophic destruction" in Lysychansk, an industrial city at the forefront of clashes in the eastern Donbas, the region's governor said. Ukraine confirmed Russia had taken frontline village Toshkivka.

Governor Sergiy Gaiday said "every town and village" in Ukrainian hands in Lugansk region was "under almost non-stop fire".

Since being repelled from Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine following its invasion in February, Moscow is focusing its offensive on the strategic Donbas region.

In the eastern town of Sloviansk, which could become a flash point as Russian troops advance from the

north, local people were preparing to withstand attack and the authorities said the community would defend itself.

"We believe they'll beat the Russian scum," resident Valentina, 63, said of local Ukrainian forces.

Russia's war of words with EU member Lithuania escalated yesterday, vowing "serious" consequences over Vilnius' restrictions on rail traffic to the enclave of Kaliningrad.

Lithuania has shut the route for basic goods including construction materials, metals and coal, which it says it is required to do under EU sanctions that took effect on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Moscow summoned the EU's ambassador to Russia. Its foreign ministry said Lithuania's actions "violate the relevant legal and political obligations of the European Union".

On the ground, the police chief of the Kyiv region said victims of the Russian attempt to seize the capital city continued to be found. So far,

the bodies of 1,333 civilians have been discovered and 300 people still missing.

US Attorney General Merrick Garland was visiting Ukraine to discuss prosecution of individuals involved in war crimes, a Justice Department official said.

EU ministers, meanwhile, backed granting Ukraine "candidate status" to join the bloc, ahead of a summit expected to formally greenlight the move later this week, France's Europe minister Clement Beaune said.

On the maritime front, Russia's navy is blockading ports, which Ukraine says is preventing millions of tonnes of grain from being shipped to world markets, contributing to soaring food prices.

In addition to Toshkivka, Ukraine said it had lost control of the eastern village of Metyolkine which has been a focus of fighting for weeks and is now largely under Russian control, reports AFP.

Symbol of what Bangladesh can do Japanese ambassador on Padma Bridge

UNB, Dhaka

Appreciating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "far-sightedness and political astuteness", Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki has said the completion of Padma Bridge demonstrates what Bangladesh can do for its economic development and stability.

"Padma Bridge has been built on its own initiative and with its own funding. This is the bridge of national dream and pride. This bridge will truly fulfill the growth potential of Bangladesh," he told a small group of journalists at his residence yesterday.

The envoy said 2022 will be remembered by the world with so many examples of quality infrastructure, including Padma Bridge inauguration on June 25, and partial inauguration of metro rail later this year.

He said Japan will continue to cooperate with Bangladesh for its development and will stand by this country in its development journey until the day it fulfills Vision 2041 and realises the vision of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build Sonar Bangla.

Naoki said their focus remains on a number of mega projects in Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar in line with the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative for the construction of an industrial corridor.

Naoki on Monday congratulated Hasina in person.

Relief not reaching those who need it most

FROM PAGE 1
Around 45 lakh people, in all flood-hit areas combined, have been affected. At least 4.04 lakh of them have taken refuge in 1,474 shelters.

A total of 2.95 crore taka, 1,952 tonnes of rice and around 30,000 packets of dry foods were allocated for such a vast number of victims.

Data shows that, upon distribution, each victim will receive only 0.44 kg rice and 6.55 taka.

If the relief is for only those in the shelters, each person will get 4.88 kg rice and 73.75 taka. The 30,000 packets of dry food can only be distributed to the same number of people.

However, Md Mosharraf Hossain, divisional commissioner of Sylhet, said relief stocks are not insufficient but it requires

collective effort by the government, different organisations and individuals to ensure the flood victims get them.

"More relief will be allotted when needed. We are now working on distributing what we already have."

He also added that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during her visit to Sylhet, sanctioned another Tk 1.2 crore from the PM's funds for the victims in Sylhet and Sunamganj.

However, while the administration is relying on private efforts, the cry of those affected is getting louder.

Abdullah Al Mamun, a banker in Sunamganj's Shantiganj upazila, said, "Many people are in dire need of relief but the supply is too little compared to the demand. An all-out

relief attempt should be initiated."

Bina Banu, of Sunamganj Sadar upazila's Iqbalnagar village, said, "Many of us have taken shelter in a building owned by an expatriate. We survived the first couple of days with the food we brought with us. But since then, we have been starving."

Besides, the demand for fresh water is also shooting up, as there have been no substantial efforts from the administration to provide drinking water.

An elderly woman in Mahmudnagar of Sunamganj Sadar told our correspondent they have been drinking rainwater and floodwater since taking shelter on the Sylhet-Sunamganj highway.

While the government is not being able to reach the people in the remote areas,

volunteers from different organisations have been working round the clock to reach those stranded.

Pritam Das, a relief volunteer, said, "We distributed relief to 600 people in three villages in Ailgaon union in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila. In the six days after the flood hit, this is the first time they received relief."

Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Sylhet's Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, said, "We have a ministry to manage disasters. However, it is frustrating to see that they have no plan of action for dire situations such as this."

"The relief work must be extended to all the flood-affected people, and every responsible citizen should be involved in the relief work."

Gaibandha point.

The district administration has allotted 80 tonnes of rice and Tk 6 lakh cash among flood victims.

In Bogura, around 80,000 people have been affected. The Jamuna was flowing 62cm above danger level at Mathurapara point in Sariakandi upazila yesterday noon.

"We have been marooned for the last six days. We cannot cook food. We are in severe crisis of pure water and food," said Rafikul Mollah, a resident of Kuripara char under the upazila.

The district administration has allocated 45 tonnes of rice and Tk 10 lakh cash for victims.

Don't panic, govt stands by you

FROM PAGE 1
people and work for them. During cyclone, flooding or any other disaster, we always stay by the people and we will continue to do so."

The meeting was organised to review recent flood situation in Sylhet division and rehabilitation of the affected people.

Hasina, also the AL president, said her party during any disaster reaches the affected people faster than others. "Awami League will continue its work for the people."

She expressed her gratitude towards the local administration, the army and leaders and activists of the AL and its associated bodies who worked on rescuing flood victims and distribution of relief putting their lives at risk.

Hasina reiterated her assurance that all flood-hit people would be rehabilitated. "Don't panic and don't worry about the

flood. All of you [affected people] will be rehabilitated."

She said she has directed all the authorities concerned, particularly the field level administration, to take prompt measures to ease sufferings of the flood victims.

Mentioning her experiences of the 1998 deluge, the PM said steps should be taken to arrange dry food for the affected people.

She also advised the affected people to somehow harvest rainwater.

Hasina asked the authorities concerned to distribute an adequate number of water purifying tablets, required medicines and saline among the flood-hit people.

The PM stressed the need for constructing elevated roads instead of building ones filling land in haor areas like Sylhet, Sunamganj and Kishoreganj for smooth transportation of the people

and goods during such disasters and ensuring their durability.

Hasina asked the authorities concerned to make sure that water cannot enter silos and food can be transported easily from the stores during floods.

She instructed the administration to launch a cleaning campaign in the flood affected areas to protect people from infectious diseases like diarrhoea and fever after the water starts receding.

The PM said the middle part of the country might experience flooding in the Bangla month of Shraban while the southern part in Bhadra.

"The entire Sylhet region has experienced flooding three times in a row. This flood is not the last one. So, we should always remain prepared to face floods."

The PM handed over assistance to deputy commissioners of Sylhet

and Sunamganj from her Relief and Welfare Fund. She later gave away relief items to some affected people.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin and Deputy Minister for Water Resources AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem accompanied the PM during her visit to the flood-affected areas.

At the meeting, the deputy commissioner of Sunamganj handed over a framed picture of baby boy "Plabon" to the PM.

The baby was born on June 18 in the shelter of the Sunamganj DC office and the premier herself named him.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister offered ziarat at the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hazrat Shah Paran (RA) in Sylhet.

Sufferings mount in northern districts

FROM PAGE 1
said officials of Water Development Board (WDB).

Water receded slightly in some areas, but many fresh areas became inundated yesterday.

Amina Begum's family of seven has been marooned for the last nine days as floodwater surrounds their house.

"We haven't been able to cook since then. For a week, we lived on dry food that we had stocked, but that ran out two days ago," said Amina, a resident of Char Bhagabatipur area in Kurigram Sadar upazila.

"We are now in a state of near starvation. We have not gotten any relief materials either from the government or any private organisation," she told one

of these correspondents yesterday noon at the local union council office, where she had gone in the hope of getting relief materials.

Amina, around 60 years old, had to return home empty-handed.

Her husband Jamir Uddin, 67, is ill and unable to work. The family mainly depend on their two sons, who are day labourers, but they cannot work as the entire region is flooded.

"My daughter-in-law has now become pregnant again. But we cannot provide her food ... even my two grandchildren are starving," she said.

Jabed Ali, 62, a resident of Purbo Daikhawar char of Kurigram's Ulipur upazila said their entire village had suddenly been inundated on

Sunday night.

"Some houses, fences and furniture were washed away. We managed to survive by taking shelter in a nearby school building. We have been staying there since then. But we have not gotten any relief," he said.

Two other northern districts - Gaibandha and Bogura - are also facing deterioration of flood situation.

In Gaibandha, around 57,000 people have been affected, according to the office of District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO).

The Brahmaputra river was flowing 13cm above danger level at Fulchari point yesterday afternoon, while Ghaghot was flowing 42cm above danger level at

EC initiative suffers setback

FROM PAGE 12
questing experts present at the meeting.

"We invited them - some joined and some did not. It is their own matter."

The election commissioner said he had a meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam in late May and personally requested the BNP leaders to take part in the views-exchange meeting on EVMs.

In the first phase of the meeting on June 19, three political parties - Gono Forum, Krishak Sramik Janata League and Bangladesh Jatiya Party - out of 13 invited refrained

from taking part.

Meanwhile, eight political parties - Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, National People's Party (NPP), Jamiate Ulamaye Islam Bangladesh, Islamic Front Bangladesh, Islami Oikya Jote, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Islami Front and Khelafat Majlish - attended yesterday's meeting.

At the event, representatives of different political parties recommended introduction of paper slips in the EVM system so that voters can understand which symbol they voted for.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, NPP technology adviser, proposed e-voting and said EVMs should be sent to polling centres directly from Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory.

Bangladesh Islamic Front Organising Secretary Jahangir Alam said EVMs at least ensure that voting would take place on election day. "It is a matter of question whether all will serve the purpose of the government or the people ..."

He added that it should be ensured that no musclemen could poke their noses into elections. Chief Election

Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal said they would remain 100 percent honest.

"Ballot rigging and booth capturing took place but you [political parties] could not stop it," he told the parties there.

"There are some dilemmas among political parties over EVMs. We will try to clear that. We are listening to you [political parties] and giving importance to that. We are yet to make any final decision on using of EVMs [in polls]."

The EC would sit with 13 more political parties, including ruling Awami League, on June 28.

Season's first dengue death recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first death from dengue this year was reported yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
 The deceased is Ayul Khan (12), who was undergoing treatment at Central Hospital, an official of DGHS said.
 In total, 27 patients were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, DGHS said.
 With the new cases, the total number of dengue patients rose to 808, pointing towards an alarming rise of dengue cases this year.
 Among the patients, 110 are still undergoing treatment. Of them, four are from outside Dhaka. A total of 532 patients so far have been released from hospitals.
 Dhaka is at risk of a major dengue outbreak this year compared to the last couple of years, found DGHS in a pre-monsoon survey.



Even though Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) just recently evicted illegal structures from this bank at Buriganga Adi Channel area, influential quarters have yet again started fixing the broken-down establishments to occupy the place. This photo was taken recently from Dhaka's Kamrangirchar.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Still left behind Speakers urge govt to recognise, include indigenous people of the plains in census, safety net

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bashonti Murmu, a 34-year-old Santal woman, lives in Tanore upazila of Natore district. A couple of years ago, she went to a local money lender to pay for the education of her three children.
 She wanted to borrow Tk 7,000 from him. The money lender asked her to sign a deed saying she will have to repay Tk 9,000 within six months or work as a labourer in the lender's paddy field for a year and pay Tk 3,500. If she works for another year, she will not have to repay the loan.
 Bashonti had to agree to these exploitative terms. She had no other alternative.
 Bashonti is not alone. Thousands of indigenous people of the plains, who are mostly farmers, have to work as bonded labourers and live in extreme poverty.
 According to the 2011 census, there are approximately 1.6 million plainland ethnic minorities in Bangladesh. According to a Brac study, 80 percent of them live below the poverty line and 24.6 percent of them live below the extreme poverty line.
 Traidcraft Exchange and The Daily Star organised a conference at The Daily Star Centre yesterday to share findings from Traidcraft's "Project Muktee", co-funded by European Union, to address and prevent such forced labour in agriculture.
 Shaded Ferdous, country director of Traidcraft Exchange, said, "We have released 4,118 indigenous people from bonded labour in Rajshahi division from January 2019 to June 2022."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-17
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Delayed projects hampering operations'

BR, ministry on challenges and remedies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to most of the 3,093-kilometre rail line, including the important corridors, being single line, Bangladesh Railway (BR) cannot increase trains, maintain punctuality and cut travel time.
 Moreover, most bridges under the rail network are old, forcing the authorities to restrict speed and load limits. Meanwhile, only 124 stations (35 percent) out of the total 359 have a modern signalling system.
 However, BR does not have enough modern workshops and factories to maintain the engines and carriages, often causing a delay in supplying necessary engines and coaches on time.
 BR is currently running with 24,459 staffers against the 47,537 posts. Due to the lack of human resources, 123 stations remain shut down.
 As a result, the railway has only 5 percent of the modal share in transporting passengers and goods.
 To make matters worse, most projects attempting to improve BR's infrastructure and rolling stocks got delayed.
 BR officials and the railways ministry shared the grim picture at a seminar organised by the ministry in the capital's Cirdap auditorium yesterday.
THE CHALLENGES
 Quamrul Ahsan, BR additional director general (infrastructure), during his keynote presentation, said BR transported 92.7 million passengers by operating 366 passenger trains. It also carried

5.44 million tonnes of goods operating 50 freight trains.
 BR earned Tk 15,901 million as revenue and spent Tk 30,506 million annually.
 Talking about BR's challenges, he said most of the 3,093km network is single line. According to sources, BR has only around 350 km double line. Quamrul also said most of the lines in the west zone are broad

life, said the BR official.
 While talking about the challenges, he mentioned several reasons, including delay in project approval, land acquisition, appointing consultants, lack of coordination among relevant agencies, and delay in getting approval from foreign lenders.
THE REMEDIES
 Addressing the seminar,

CHALLENGESS	REMEDIES
➤ Most lines being single-tracked	➤ Introducing more double-tracked line
➤ Lack of modern signalling	➤ Using information technology in signalling
➤ Lack of modern workshops, human resources	➤ Ensuring timely project implementation
➤ Different gauges in different zones	➤ Converting MG lines into BG

gauge (BR), while most lines in the east zone are metre gauge (MG).
 Different gauges in different zones are causing difficulties in operation and maintenance and full of use of rolling stock cannot be ensured for it. BR has taken a plan to convert all MG lines into BG ones to solve the problem, he added.
 Out of the total 263, 249 locomotives are currently operating. BR owns 1,671 coaches and 3,221 wagons. However, around 67 percent of locomotives and 47 percent of coaches have crossed economic

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said they are gradually progressing.
 "We will make railway time-befitting, passenger-friendly and modern using information technology," he said, asking the authorities concerned to implement the ongoing projects as soon as possible.
 Zunaïd Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT Division, said they will provide technological support to the railways to improve their service.
 He asked BR to formulate a master plan emphasising

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

HC rejects ACC's prayer against Inqilab journalist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting a prayer of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for taking action against a journalist of Daily Inqilab over publishing of a report on corruption, the High Court yesterday observed that the commission can approach Bangladesh Press Council if it has any allegation about the report.
 The Press Council will take necessary steps under Press Council Act, 1974, the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo said in a suo motu (voluntary) rule.
 On March 8, 2021, the bench issued a suo motu rule, inquiring about a report published by Inqilab on March 3 that year, under the headline "20 Kotite Prokoushohi Ashrafuler Daaymuktii! Durniti Domone 'Dudok Style'".
 The report was about the corruption allegation against former Public Works Department engineer Ashrafur Alam and his wife Sabiha Alam, and ACC exempting them from the allegation.
 It mentioned that Tk 20 crore was spent to get rid of the allegations.
 The HC yesterday disposed of the March 8 rule and ordered the anti-graft watchdog to conduct further inquiry into the corruption allegation, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.
 Lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan represented Anti-Corruption Commission, while Mohammad Shishir Manir represented Sayeed.

NAGAR PARIBAHAN 200 buses on 3 new routes from Sept 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bus Route Rationalisation Committee (BRCC) has decided to introduce 200 more buses on three new routes in Dhaka from September 1.
 Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh made the announcement after holding the committee's 23rd meeting at Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday.
 Three new routes are Ghatarchar (Keraniganj) to Bhulta (Narayanganj) via Farmgate; Ghatarchar to Meghna Ghat (Kanchpur) via Bosila (Mohammadpur) and Science Lab; and Ghatarchar to Narayanganj via Karail.
 On December 26 last year, with a fleet of 50 buses including 30 double-deckers of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), the new Nagar Paribahan Bus service started plying the capital's streets.
 However, Nagar Paribahan was struggling to provide better service due to lack of buses.
 DSCC mayor on March 22 announced the running of 225 new buses on three new routes in Dhaka without giving any deadline.
 DNCC mayor Md Atiqul Islam said no bus will be allowed on the route from Ghatarchar to Kanchpur except Dhaka Nagar Paribahan.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Villagers selling solar power to nat'l grid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Solar-energy users of a village now can sell their excess electricity to the national grid.
 This was made possible through a mechanism called PCC (Point of Common Coupling), which integrates the grid extension with the solar-home system.
 The initiative was launched at Saddam Bazar of Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila.
 Twenty shopkeepers of the village have been brought under the PCC network, so that they can sell their unused renewable energy to the national grid through a mobile application.
 SOLshare and Shakti Foundation jointly launched the initiative.
 Earlier in 2016, SOLshare made it possible to share unused solar energy with neighbours, which got the United Nations climate change award.
 According to the initiators, the grid line of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board is connected to one side of the PCC, while the local microgrid from solar systems is connected to the other side.

The project was inaugurated yesterday by advisor to the prime minister for power, energy and mineral resources affairs Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury at an event at SOLshare's office at the capital's Bhatara area.

Twenty shopkeepers of the village have been brought under the PCC network, so that they can sell their unused renewable energy to the national grid through a mobile application.

The villagers of Saddam Bazar virtually joined the event.
 Sebastian Groh, co-founder and managing director of SOLshare, said solar-energy users are able to sell electricity to the national grid to earn additional income while paving the path to sustainability.
 The project was funded by the UK government. Joining the event as special

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



After a long hard day's work, a garbage collector takes a break and enjoys a drink to rejuvenate herself. Workers like her start off their day early, as they have to cover many areas and collect the wastes -- performing a crucial role in keeping the city clean. This photo was taken from Mirpur yesterday.

DSCC preparing 30-year master plan for Dhaka LGRD minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation is preparing a 30-year "Integrated City Master Plan for Dhaka (2020-2050)" for a clean and smart Dhaka city, LGRD Minister Tazul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.
 He was replying to a query from ruling Awami League MP M Abdul Latif.
 The minister said Mohakhali Bus Terminal will be reconstructed via "The Dhaka Public Transport Improvement Project."
 He also said the corridor road of BRT Line-3 will be improved.
 Projects will be taken to enhance the Buriganga old channel's beauty and create an aesthetic environment, he added.

A well-oiled syndicate

FROM PAGE 5
to know that the oil was unloaded from a mother vessel at the outer anchorage. The mother vessel was waiting to deliver the consignment for a renewed oil company in Chattogram."

Superintendent of Chattogram River Police Md Mominul Islam said, "We are investigating the case... They unloaded the oil in the deep sea in collaboration with the big vessel's staff and later smuggled it."

A sample of the seized oil was sent to Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for tests. The results revealed that it was unrefined soybean and palm oil, said Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadarghat River Police.

Harun was not arrested as he got bail in the case, he said.

Earlier, officials of Coast Guard East Zone found the same vessel, Tanisha Enterprise, with 13,000 litres of unrefined palm oil in the estuary of Karnaphuli on August 23, 2021. The officials handed the matter over to customs. But for some unknown reason, no legal action was taken at that time.

WHO IS HARUN?
In Ward-39, EPZ area, Harun has decorated himself as a rising leader of the local Jubo League. He is active in participating

in all kinds of political programmes in his area, hanging banners and posters and gathering local political supporters.

Though Harun is now a political leader, he has been involved in oil smuggling in the EPZ-Patenga area for a long time, becoming a headache for authorities concerned, according to police and other sources.

According to police, Harun has stood accused in at least four cases filed with EPZ and Patenga police stations.

Harun's elder brother Humayun Kabir (45) was also arrested on February 24 and was accused in the relevant case.

EPZ Police Station sources said among two cases of EPZ, Harun was implicated in the charge sheet of one, while his name was dropped from the other, which was filed for a clash.

According to local sources, Harun's brother-in-law Elias is the syndicate's manager, while one Saiful Islam takes care of the vessels. One Jasim reportedly deals with all law enforcement agencies.

Jasim is known as the informant of a government agency, but The Daily Star could not verify this information independently.

HOW THE SMUGGLING TAKES PLACE
The seized vessel, Tanisha Enterprise, was being

operated by Harun and Saiful. They had managed a licence for the vessel from Directorate General of Shipping by showing it as a sand barge.

The vessel was given approval for operation on December 12 last year, according to documents.

Investigators said in the guise of supplying different items to kitchen markets, Harun runs the vessel in the deep sea and allegedly commits the crime.

A few staffers, including those of the mother vessels, which carry thousands of tonnes of oil abroad, are involved with the smuggling.

When the lighter vessel is anchored, a green signal is sent to the mother vessel, and the oil is picked up.

Later, the oil is filled in plastic drums and sent to the open market for sale.

Contacted, Harun said, "We are moving food and other items from big ships stationed at the outer anchorage through the vessel [Tanisha]. We had carried sludge oil on that day from a ship, but police arrested my workers, and the case is being investigated."

Asked if he had permission to carry oil in a sand barge, Harun said, "It's my mistake. I'm sorry. We will not do it again. I'm not an oil smuggler, but my opponents spread false information. I don't know any Jasim."

AL leader

FROM PAGE 5
Two people on a motorbike shot him in front of Satani Shaheed Srimity Degree College around 12:00pm, said police.

Fazlur, also principal of the college, was rushed to Sathkira Medical College Hospital, said Golam Morshed, governing body's president of the college.

Fazlur has a longstanding feud with his opponents over politics and the institution.

Bullet pierced through his right thigh and he is now out of risk, said Suzir Ghosh, a surgery doctor at the hospital.

Rain

FROM PAGE 5
been implementing a mega project to address the city's waterlogging. For this, they filled up canals in many areas and made temporary dams."

"I asked them frequently to remove these dams and earth from the canals before the start of the rainy season so that rain water can recede smoothly."

CDA removed some dams from the canals but they didn't remove the earth, he said.

CDA chief engineer Hasan Bin Shams couldn't be contacted for comments.

Meanwhile, Bishwajit Dey, a Chattogram Met Office official, said though the rain may occur in the next 24 hours in Chattogram, it would not be torrential.

Villagers

FROM PAGE 3
guest, acting British high commissioner Javed Patel assured to continue supporting the initiative.

Contacted, Mohammad Alauddin, former chairman of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority, told The Daily Star, "We have over 6 million solar systems at houses, with a capacity of 789 MW. We need to use those connections. SOLshare and Shakti Foundation made it technically possible to share the remaining electricity."

"It's time to study more on how it can be made economically feasible, affordable, and how it can scale up," he added.

Children want more education, health allocation: Unicef

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine out of 10 Bangladeshi children said it is very important for the government to spend more on education, health and other areas that directly impact children, according to a new survey of Unicef.

Around 14,000 children and 37,000 young people – aged 18-24 – participated in the survey, which asked them for their opinions about the national budget.

"From my position, I will

continue to champion their rights and convey their voices to national leaders for a better Bangladesh," said Md Shamsul Haque Tuku, chairman of the parliamentary caucus on child rights.

"Every aspect of children's lives has been affected by the pandemic and the findings from this survey show that they are aware and concerned. It is critical that national leaders listen to them," said Sheldon Yett,

Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

Learning loss caused by 18 months of pandemic school closures was identified as a priority in the survey, according to a press release.

Over 85 percent of children said it is very important for Bangladesh to spend more on education to help children recover from learning loss. Quality healthcare at affordable prices also emerged as a pressing concern.

Still left behind

FROM PAGE 3
Aloti Munda, an indigenous community leader from Nachole upazila of Chapai Nawabganj, said, "Many indigenous people cannot get the government's allowances because they have not been issued the national ID card yet. Many of us are not even included in the census. We are denied government services and told that we are not the citizens of this country."

Biplob Coda, a community leader of the Coda community in Natore, said, "Government officials often omit our surname from national IDs and government records. For instance, one of my relatives is named Ajin Coda but in his national ID his name is mentioned as Ajin."

"The registrar omitted Coda from the records as our family title seemed uncivilised to him. Now,

my uncle Ajin cannot get government allowances for underprivileged ethnic groups of the plains as the government officials want proof of his indigenous identity," shared Biplob.

The speakers appealed to include all the indigenous communities of the plains into the social safety net of the government and bring an end to the existing socio-economic discrimination.

Sheikh Shahed Rahman, chief of party, Save the Children, said, "The government is currently developing the national social security strategy 2022. We must take steps so that the government includes all the plainland indigenous communities in this strategy."

Robiul Alam, executive director of Agriculture Sustainable and Socio-economic Development Organisation (ASSEDO), in

Rajshahi said, "Indigenous people of the plains are being deprived of their land rights for generations. Since many of them are illiterate, their lands are grabbed by manipulating property deeds. They cannot seek justice due to lack of education and recognition from the state."

AKM Mamunur Rashid, programme specialist, UNDP, said, "We need to reform our education system to educate our students about the culture of ethnic minorities. We need to recognise the fact that preserving cultural diversity is just as important as preserving biodiversity for our existence."



Social Islami Bank Limited
Head Office City Center, 90/1, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

SENDING OF ANNUAL REPORT-2021

This is for information of all concerned that the Annual Report 2021 including Notice of 27th AGM, Directors' Report, Going Concern Report, Corporate Governance Report and Internal Control System Report of Social Islami Bank Limited along with Audited Consolidated and Solo Financial Statements as at 31st December 2021 has already been sent through e-mail address of the Shareholders as available in their Beneficiary Owner (BO) Accounts maintained with the Depository (CDBL). The said Report and Proxy Forms are available at the Bank's website link [https://www.siblb.com/SHAREHOLDERS RELATED/ Annual Report](https://www.siblb.com/SHAREHOLDERS%20RELATED/Annual%20Report). Please note that incase of non- receipt of Annual Report-2021 through mail, the Shareholders/Members may contact with the Share Department at City Center, Mezzanine-2, 90/1 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 for the printed copy with prior written request.

Date: June 21, 2022

(Md. Nazmul Ahsan, FCS)
Company Secretary (CC)



ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা
www.dscc.gov.bd

স্মারক নম্বর: ৪৬.২০১৭.০১১.০৩.০২.০২৮.১.২০১৭-০২২

কারণ দর্শানোর নোটিশ

যেহেতু, আপনি জনাব আফসানা আক্তার, গবেষণা কর্মকর্তা, বস্ত্র উন্নয়ন বিভাগ এ কর্মরত থাকারস্থায় Tsukuba University, জাপান-এ Master in Agro-bioresources Science and Technology শীর্ষক কোর্সে অধ্যয়নের জন্য আপনাকে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের স্মারক নম্বর-৪৬.০৭০.০৬৪.০০.০০.০৮৫.২০১১-১৬৫১, তারিখঃ ০৬.০৮.২০১২ মূলে ২২.০৮.২০১২ হতে ২১.০৮.২০১৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ০২ (দুই) বৎসরের ছুটি মঞ্জুর করা হয়। মঞ্জুরকৃত ছুটি শেষে কাজে যোগদান করার শর্ত ছিল। শর্ত মোতাবেক ছুটি শেষে কাজে যোগদান না করে একই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে পূর্বের কোর্সের ধারাবাহিকতায় Doctoral Program in Appropriate Technology and Sciences for Sustainable Development শীর্ষক কোর্সে অধ্যয়নের ছুটির মেয়াদ পূর্বের ধারাবাহিকতায় ২২.০৮.২০১৪ তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ৩ (তিন) বৎসর বর্ধিতকরণের জন্য বিদেশ হতে আপনার ১৭.০৮.২০১৪ তারিখে স্বাক্ষরিত স্বব্যাখ্যাত আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করেন। আপনার স্বব্যাখ্যাত আবেদনপত্র স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগে অগ্রায়ন করা হয়। স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের স্মারক নম্বর-৪৬.০৭০.০৮৩.০০০০.১৪১.২০১১-২৮, তারিখঃ ১৪.০১.২০১৫ মূলে আপনার প্রার্থীত্ব ছুটির মেয়াদ শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ২২.০৮.২০১৪ হতে ২১.০৮.২০১৭ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ০৩ (তিন) বৎসর বর্ধিত করা হয়। অর্থাৎ আপনাকে দুই খাপে মোট ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসর ছুটি মঞ্জুর করা হয়।

২। যেহেতু, আপনাকে দুই খাপে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে মঞ্জুরকৃত মোট ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের ছুটির মেয়াদ ২১.০৮.২০১৭ তারিখে শেষ হয়। সে হিসেবে ২২.০৮.২০১৭ তারিখে কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করার আইনগত বাধ্যবাধকতা ছিল। কিন্তু আপনি উক্ত তারিখে কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করেননি। জাপানে পিএইচডি কোর্সকালীন সময়ে আপনার ভূমিষ্ঠকৃত নবজাতক শিশুর চিকিৎসাজনিত কারণে পেছিয়ে ৩০.০৮.২০১৮ তারিখে অর্থাৎ অনুমোদিত ছুটির ১ (এক) বৎসর ৯ (নয়) দিন পরে স্বব্যাখ্যাত আবেদনপত্র মারফত কর্মস্থলে যোগদানপত্র দাখিল করেন। যোগদানপত্র দাখিল করার পর হতে অদ্যাবধি অনুপস্থিত রয়েছেন এবং আপনার কর্মস্থলের সাথে আর কোনো যোগাযোগ রাখেননি। আপনার অনুমোদিত ছুটির বাইরে ১ (এক) বৎসর ৯ (নয়) দিন বিদেশে অবস্থানের ক্রমশঃ অনুমোদনের জন্য আপনার স্বব্যাখ্যাত আবেদন স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগে অগ্রায়ন করা হয় এবং বাংলাদেশ সার্ভিস রুলস, পার্ট-১ এর বিধি ৩৪ অনুসরণের নির্দেশনা পাওয়া যায়।

৩। যেহেতু, বাংলাদেশ সার্ভিস রুলস, পার্ট-১ এর বিধি ৩৪-এ উল্লেখ রয়েছে, "যতদূর বিশেষ অবস্থা বিবেচনাপূর্বক সরকার অন্যান্য কোনো সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ না করলে, বাংলাদেশে বৈদেশিক চাকরিতে কর্মরত থাকার ক্ষেত্রে ব্যতীত, অন্যত্র, ছুটিসহ অথবা ছুটি ব্যতীত একধিক্রমে পাঁচ বৎসর কর্ম হতে অনুপস্থিত থাকার পর একজন সরকারি কর্মচারীর চাকরির অবসান হবে।" সার্ভিস রুলস, পার্ট-১ এর বিধি ৩৪ এর বিশ্লেষণ-১-এ উল্লেখ রয়েছে, "কোনো কর্মচারী একাধিক্রমে পাঁচ বৎসর কর্ম হতে অনুপস্থিত থাকার পর সে চাকরি হারাতে। এই পাঁচ বৎসর সময়ের মধ্যে অনুমোদিত ছুটি থাকলেও সে চাকরি হারাতে। প্রথম অনুপস্থিতির তারিখ হতে পাঁচ বৎসর অতিবাহিত হওয়ার পরের দিন চাকরির অবসান হবে";

৪। যেহেতু, বাংলাদেশ সার্ভিস রুলস পার্ট-১ এর বিধি ৩৪ এর বিধানমতে ২২.০৮.২০১৭ তারিখে আপনার চাকরির অবসান হওয়া সমীচীন;

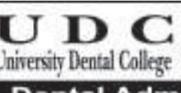
৫। সেহেতু, এক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ সার্ভিস রুলস পার্ট-১ এর বিধি ৩৪ এর বিধানমতে ২২.০৮.২০১৭ তারিখ হতে আপনার চাকরির অবসান কেন কার্যকর করা হবে না- তার কারণ অত্র নোটিশ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ হতে ১০ (দশ) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট লিখিতভাবে দাখিল করার জন্য আপনাকে নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হলো।

৬। স্বাধ্যাখ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে জনস্বার্থে এ আদেশ জারি করা হলো।

আপনার যত্নসহ
সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৩৫০৭
ইমেইলঃ secretarydscc@gmail.com

জনাব আফসানা আক্তার
গবেষণা কর্মকর্তা
সমাজকল্যাণ, সাংস্কৃতিক ও বস্ত্র উন্নয়ন বিভাগ
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।

বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানাঃ
জনাব আফসানা আক্তার
বাড়ী-৩, রোড-৩, ব্লক-সি, সেকশন-১, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২১৬
ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/২১০/২০২১-২০২২
তারিখঃ ১২৮৫



UDC
University Dental College
Dental Admission 2021-2022
27th Batch BDS Course

অবেদনপত্র বিক্রয় শুরু ২ ২৩-০৮-২০২২ খ্রি হতে	স্বাঃ/স্বাঃী ভর্তি প্রক্রিয়া শুরু ২ ২৪-০৭-২০২২ খ্রি হতে
অবেদনপত্র অফলাইনে শেষ তারিখ ২ ০৩-০৭-২০২২ খ্রি পর্যন্ত	স্বাঃ/স্বাঃী ভর্তি প্রক্রিয়া শেষ ২ ২৪-০৭-২০২২ খ্রি
এক অবেদনের কেউই অতিরিক্ত পড়ার অধিকার (Merit A-Z) প্রাপ্য ০৪-০৭-২০২২ খ্রি	স্বাঃ শুরু ০২-০৮-২০২২ খ্রি

প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯.৩০ টা থেকে দুপুর ২.৩০ টা হতে অবেদনপত্র বিক্রয় ও স্বাঃ দেয়া হবে।

Dr. Md. Wahiduzzaman
Chairman

Prof. Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain
Principal

125/A, Siddeshwari Outer Circular Road, Century Arcade Moghbazar, Dhaka
Ph : 9184147776, 91707079830, 91707079899, 91841477773, 02-98316074
Email : udch_1295@yahoo.com, www.udcbd.com



Tender Notice

ActionAid Bangladesh invites sealed quotations from qualified Contractor / vendor/supplier for renovation of it's One Stop Crisis Cell (OCC) at Upazila Health Complex, Teknaf. The details are as follows:-

Name of Item	Quantity
OCC Renovation work	1 Job

The Tender Schedule will be available at ActionAid Cox's Bazar Office (House No-752, Ward-11, Jhawiola, Masjid Road, Cox's Bazar-4700) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm during office hour of 22-29 June, 2022 or web site: <https://actionaidbd.org/post/tender/tender-renovation-work-one-stop-crisis-cell>
Quotation needs to be submitted in sealed envelope on or before 29th June 2022 by 1:00 PM at above locations.

The authority of ActionAid Bangladesh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.



Trust Bank
A Bank for Financial Inclusion

Head Office, Shadhinata Tower, Bir Srestha Shaheed Jahangir Gate
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206.

TENDER NOTICE

1. TBL intends to procure the work for **Supply and Construction of fit-out items for CDA Avenue Branch (being relocated) and Retail & SME Center, Chattogram** through open tender. Sealed financial bids are invited by TBL from suitably reputed and qualified firms/companies.

2. Tender Schedule with details will be available on TBL website <https://www.tblbd.com/tender>

Note: TBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders, in part or full.

Purchase & Procurement Division



বাংলাদেশ প্রায়োগিক ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইনস্টিটিউট

নং-২৭,০৪,০০০০ ১০১ ১১ ০৪০ ২২, ৮১৫

তারিখ: ০৫ আষাঢ়, ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ
১৯ জুন, ২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিদ্যুৎ সেক্টরে দক্ষ জনশক্তি সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ কর্তৃক ২০১৭ সালে বাংলাদেশ পাওয়ার ম্যানেজমেন্ট ইনস্টিটিউট (বিপিএমআই) গঠিত হয়। বর্তমানে উক্ত ইনস্টিটিউটের চুক্তিভিত্তিক সেক্টর নিয়োগের জন্য উপযুক্ত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকের নিকট থেকে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

(ক) **সার্ভিসপ্রার্থী**

- সেক্টর বিপিএমআই এর প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা হবেন এবং আর্থিক ও প্রশাসনিক কাজ পরিচালনা করবেন। সেক্টর বিপিএমআই এর গভর্নিং বডি তথা নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট সর্বাধিক কাজের জন্য দায়বদ্ধ থাকবেন;
- ইনস্টিটিউটের প্রশিক্ষণ পরিচালনা প্রধান এবং বাস্তবায়ন;
- বোর্ড সভার ও বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার আয়োজন করা এবং বিপিএমআই এর গভর্নিং বডির সদস্য সচিব হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন;
- বোর্ড সভার ও বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়ন;
- ইনস্টিটিউটের স্থায়ী ভবন নির্মাণের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ;
- বিদ্যুৎ সেক্টরের উন্নয়নে প্রয়োজনীয় কর্মশালা/সেমিনার/গবেষণা আয়োজনের উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ;
- ইনস্টিটিউটের মেমোরেডাম অব এসোসিয়েশন এবং আর্টিকেল অব এসোসিয়েশন অনুমারী অন্যান্য দায়িত্ব সম্পাদন।

(খ) **শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা:**

- প্রার্থীশিল্পে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণির স্নাতক বা যে কোন বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী। সমস্ত ক্ষেত্রে উচ্চতর বা বিশেষ ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থী আধিকার পাবে;
- প্রথম শ্রেণির পদ বা পদ প্রাপ্ত হতে সমস্ত পদ থেকে তুলে ন্যূনতম ২৫ বছরের কৃতিত্বপূর্ণ চাকরীর অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। বিশেষতঃ সমস্ত ক্ষেত্রে প্রশিক্ষণ ও পাওয়ার সেক্টরে কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীকে আধিকার দেয়া হবে;
- শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন তৃতীয় বিভাগ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(গ) **বেতন কাঠামো:**

- মূল বেতন টাকা ১,৮৫,০০০/-, মূল বেতনের ৫০% বাড়ি ভাড়া ও কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রদত্ত আনুমানিক সুবিধা।

(ঘ) **সাধারণ শর্তাবলি:**

- প্রার্থী প্রার্থীশিল্পকে শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, সমস্ত সর্বস্বত্ব অধিকার ও প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য তথ্য সম্পর্কিত বায়োডেটাসহ আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ২ (দুই) কপি সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট আকারের বহিন চবি।
- সর্বস্বত্ব শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র এবং জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।
- সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বাধীনতা সত্ত্বে বা কোম্পানিতে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তাদের স্বাক্ষর কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- আবেদনের শেষ তারিখে ন্যূনতম ৫৫ বছর হতে সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ বছরের প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে সোর্সে বয়স নিম্নলি করতে পারে।
- আবেদনপত্র আগামী ০৭/০৭/২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ), বি.পি.এম.আই., প্রট্ট-২, সড়ক-৪, পূর্ণাঙ্গ নতুন শহর, রূপায়ণ, নারায়ণপুর এর নিকট সরাসরি বা জাকযোগ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ এবং বাতিল করার অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।

১৯/০৬/২০২২
(এম রাহমান আশ্বতর)
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)
বিপিএমআই

Rain stopped, sufferings did not

Low-lying areas in port city waterlogged for 3 days

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Even though the torrential rain took a break in the port city, the sufferings of residents did not. Many low-lying areas in the city are still under knee-deep water.

Water is yet to recede in many areas, including, Halihsahar, Agrabad, Chandgaon, Bakalia Bara Miah Masjid lane and Rahattar Pool Ujir Ali Shah by lane till yesterday afternoon.

Residents in these areas have been confined in their homes for three consecutive days.

Mahmuda Khatun, a resident at Ujir Ali Shah by-lane in Rahattarpool area, said, "All the valuables in the house have been damaged in water and all my family members have been taking refuge in our neighbour's house."

"The ground floor water tank has been submerged, so we don't have any drinking water in the house," said Abdul Mabud, another resident of the same area.

"We're confined by water for three days... there's water everywhere but not a drop for us to drink," said Sheuly Dey, another resident in the area.

"I don't understand why the water hasn't receded yet," said Kutub Uddin (60), a resident at Bakalia Bara Miah Masjid area, adding, "We've faced waterlogging before, but never a situation as grave as this."

"Who do we ask these questions? No authorities concerned have visited the area to see our sufferings in three days," he said.

Contacted, CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said, "The Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Children from surrounding schools in Bakulia area of port city set for home by walking through the submerged road with great difficulty, as no vehicles could be seen in sight. Even though the rain has stopped, residents of low-lying areas are faced with much trouble since most of these areas have been waterlogged for the last three days.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Barbed wire fences to be set up in Ctg hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Barbed wire fences will be installed in the hills of Chattogram, aiming to stop illegal settlements, said Md Ashraf Uddin, divisional commissioner of Chattogram and convener of the hill management committee, yesterday.

He said this at the 24th meeting of the committee held at the conference room of the Divisional Commissioner.

The government has already provided houses to many landless people under the Ashrayan Project. The people living in the hills of port city will also be rehabilitated under the project, he added.

Sujan Chowdhury, estate officer of railway (eastern zone), said at least 3,000 families were living illegally in their four hills.

In Chattogram, the hill management committee identified 28 landslide-prone hills, where around 10,000 people live.

AL leader hacked to death in Rajbari

Another shot in Satkhira

STAR REPORT

A local Awami League leader was hacked to death in Pabna Rajbari border area yesterday.

The deceased -- Md Akkas Ali (70) from Dharai village in Bera upazila, Pabna -- was the secretary of ward-6 AL unit under Dhalarchar union.

Akkas was supervising a road construction project at Rakhgasi village, a border point of Pabna's Bera and Rajbari's Golando, said Md Rawshan Alom, officer-in-charge of Aminpur Police Station in Pabna.

When he went to the project site in the morning, a group of criminals attacked him, said the OC.

"On information, we rushed in and cordoned off the spot," he said.

"As the spot falls in Rajbari, we informed the district police. They will take the body. A case will be filed with Rajbari Police Station," said the police officer.

"The reason behind the murder is not clear. Criminals might have killed him over previous enmity," the OC added.

Meanwhile, miscreants shot Fazlur Rahman (59), vice president of Satkhira Sadar upazila unit of AL, yesterday noon.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

A well-oiled syndicate

Oil being smuggled from ships through Karnaphuli by influential locals



This is the vessel that has reportedly been used to smuggle huge amounts of unrefined edible oil from large ships stationed at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port. Authorities have caught this vessel with thousands of litres of oil not once, but twice.

PHOTO: STAR

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

A strong, well-organised syndicate has been reportedly smuggling unrefined edible oil from mother vessels stationed at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port.

The syndicate has not only smuggled edible oil but also peddled different kinds of fuel using unique techniques, and managing local police and other agencies.

Although such illegal activities have been continuing for a long time, the smuggling issue came to light after river police of Chattogram zone seized a lighter vessel carrying 11,000 litres of unrefined edible oil on February 24.

The oil was being smuggled through Karnaphuli River. Police also arrested 12 in this connection.

According to investigators, Harunur

Rashid (42) of the port city's EPZ area is the mastermind behind the syndicate. With the help of his lighter vessel, syndicate members have smuggled oil to different points of Karnaphuli to sell in the open market.

This correspondent has investigated how the syndicate smuggles oil from the sea to land and found Harun's involvement. It also came to light how Harun has made himself a leader of the ruling party's Jubo League in port city's ward-39, EPZ area.

Despite Harun being accused in the smuggling case filed with Patenga Police Station on February 24, he was not arrested. The accused is roaming freely in his area and even attends political programmes.

According to the case statement of

river police, during a regular patrol in the Karnaphuli on the night of February 24, a team spotted the vessel "Tanisha Enterprise" at Ghat-13 in Uttar Laldiya Char area and seized it when smugglers were trying to load unrefined vegetable oil into two oil tanker.

During the drive, 12 persons were held as they failed to show any valid documents. After searching the vessel, police found 11,000 litres of oil inside the ship's basement.

According to police, the value of the seized oil is about Tk 8.80 lakh. The oil was scheduled to be smuggled from Patenga to another spot using the tankers.

Wishing anonymity, an official of river police told The Daily Star, "During primary interrogation of the arrestees, we came

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

EMBEZZLING TK 32.67CR ACC files case against Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ACC yesterday filed a case against One Spinning Mills' managing director Giasuddin Al Mamun, a friend of BNP senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, and 20 others for misappropriating about Tk 32.67 crore of state-run Sonali Bank in 2004 and 2005.

According to the case statement, One Spinning Mills opened an LC worth Tk 40.23 crore with Sonali Bank for importing capital machinery from Germany on November 8, 2004.

Sonali Bank paid Tk 32.67 crore to the foreign bank. Meanwhile, the company released the goods from the port without repaying its loan to Sonali Bank.

On April 24, 2019, a Dhaka court sentenced Mamun to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in connection with a case filed by ACC over siphoning 4,18,852 British pounds to the UK.

Mamun -- who stands accused in 13 other cases -- has already been convicted and sentenced to 30 years in jail in four cases, three of which were for corruption.

'Stand with flood victims' Calls LFB on second founding anniversary

CITY DESK

Leaders Forum BD (LFB) Trust, a Dhaka-based registered platform of corporate and business leaders and managers, has made a clarion call for corporate fraternities to wake up to stand for endangered humanity in times of any national emergency.

On the forum's second founding anniversary, corporate leaders from 23 sectors said Sunamgang and Sylhet are the worst affected by ongoing floods in recent history.

They urged everyone to chip in for the water-locked people in the flooded areas in the country's north and north-eastern regions.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Joypurhat
e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 609 Date: 21-06-2022
This is to notify that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender/proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
1.	712166	Upgradation & Renovation of Joypurhat District Hospital from 100 to 250 bed at Joypurhat District (Sub-head: Supply & Installation Sub-station Equipment, X-former, HT switch gear, PFI, HT cable, LT cable, Drop out fuse, Generator & Solar panel).	13-Jul-2022 17:00	14-Jul-2022 11:00
2.	713267	Upgradation & Renovation of Joypurhat District Hospital from 100 to 250 bed at Joypurhat (Sub-head: Fire Protection System and Lightning Arrester in work).	13-Jul-2022 17:00	14-Jul-2022 11:00

i) 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.
ii) e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required to submit the tender.
iii) Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Dr. Farjana Akhter
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Joypurhat
ee_jprht@pwd.gov.bd
Tel: 02589915665

GD-1284

Hilsa in a pond! Locals catch 8 hilsas from Barguna pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Eight medium-sized hilsa fish were found in a pond at Chhota Mokamia village in Barguna's Betagi upazila. The incident has caused a stir in the area as hilsas are usually found in the rivers.

The pond where the hilsas were caught is owned by former UP member Rizia Begum.

Md Shahin, resident of the adjacent house, said each hilsa weighs around 400-500 grammes. Locals, even amidst the utter astonishment, said if it is possible to cultivate hilsa in the pond, commercial cultivation can be started.

Betagi Upazila Fisheries Officer Abdul Gaffar said their research is currently ongoing over the matter.

"Research is being conducted on commercial hilsa cultivation in ponds. If the research is successful, hilsa can be cultivated in closed water bodies," said Md Lokman Hossain, a researcher in the Department of Fisheries at Patuakhali Science and Technology University.



Sonali Bank Limited
Establishment and Engineering Division
Engineering Department
Head Office, Dhaka
Phone: +880241051440
Email: dqmeed@sonalibank.com.bd

e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Additional Chief Engineer, Establishment & Engineering Division, Sonali Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Last selling/downloading date and time	Tender closing/opening date & time
1.	710304	Repair Works of Sonali Bank Limited, Barishal Corporate Branch Building, Police Barrack, Boundary Wall & Ancillary works (Civil & Electrical) at Barishal.	23 June, 2022 03:00pm	17 July, 2022 12:00pm	17 July, 2022 03:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

GD-1283 Additional Chief Engineer

A 70-YEAR MUSICAL LEGACY VISITS DHAKA

Meet the Harvard Krokodiloes

Ever since their inception, they have been striving to bring the music of the Great American Songbook, as well as more traditional aires, to audiences across the globe.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Last week, a group of 12 young students serenaded North South University with their otherworldly acapella chops, introducing an auditorium full of students to their unique style.

The Harvard Krokodiloes, popularly known as the Kroks, is Harvard University's oldest acapella singing group. They were in Dhaka last week, and as a part of their two-day itinerary. They not only performed in NSU, but did a television shoot, got familiarised with local music at Shurer Dhara, and conducted a small workshop at Bengal Shilpalaya.

Founded in 1946, the Kroks trace back to 1770 in Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club, one of the oldest collegiate social organisations in the United States. Inspired by the stuffed crocodiles on the wall of the Pudding's Upstairs Bar, the founding singers borrowed the Greek word for crocodile, and the Krokodiloes were born.

Ever since their inception, they have been striving to bring the music of the Great American Songbook, as well as more traditional aires, to audiences across the globe. Their fine musicianship, youthful energy, unique blend of snappy choreography and witty humour make them instant crowd-pleasers. Their specialisation lies within their voices as they do not use any instrument and portray this to be the rawest expression of their emotions.

Touring has always been a defining characteristic of the Harvard Krokodiloes. Each summer, the band participates in an annual world tour, as they continue to bring the classic songs of America's Golden Age of



PHOTO: NAYEM SHAAN

music to audiences around the globe. This year, they are spending 82 days exploring 20 countries and 24 cities across the globe.

"These tours help us spread awareness about acapella music, and exchange cultures. This is indeed a wonderful experience for this close-knit community of music lovers," shared Jonathan D'Souza, the band's tour manager. He is currently pursuing his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science and Engineering. The other members of the troupe include Will Granger, Kieran Anderson, Jongtae

Jeon, Jeffrey Ding, Eton Shon, Joey Griffith, Ian Hayes, Hari Narayanan, Gregor Kossmann, Cyril Leahy, and Rick Zhou.

At NSU, the Kroks came across a beatboxing group Beatmosphere, who according to them, replicated the sounds of Dhaka. This provided them with a raw local experience and they look forward to trying something similar with their music. "NSU presented us with one of the biggest audiences in a long time. It was striking how many people loved this new music form and came up to the stage for pictures, autographs and merchandise," asserts Jonathan.

In order to promote cultural infusion, the Kroks add new songs to their list every year, and these are produced entirely by the group members. "Our members bring out new music by adding a touch of modernity while staying true to our roots," he added.

The Kroks say that they have been amazed by the generosity, selflessness and care they have received during this tour. They have found Dhaka's art scene to be diverse, drawing special attention to the rickshaw painting and wall art practices. "Dhaka has a very authentic art-culture scene, and the people here are not afraid to express it," concludes Jonathan.

Beyonce drops new single 'Break My Soul'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Grammy award winning singer, Beyonce just dropped her new single "Break my soul". This is the singer's first single to be released from her upcoming solo studio album, "Renaissance: Act 1."



Beyonce announced the news via her Instagram account with the caption "6. Break my soul."

This upcoming album will be the artists first solo album release since her 2016 superhit album, "Lemonade". In the meanwhile, she has worked on several other projects such as soundtracks for movies and collaboration with other artists.

"Renaissance: Act 1" is slated to be released on July 29 and is available to be pre-saved on TIDAL, Jay-Z's music streaming platform.

Sachin Tendulkar praises Shabaash Mithu trailer

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Sachin Tendulkar heaped praise on "Shabaash Mithu" for its recently released trailer. He also added that the story of Mithali Raj has inspired millions and that he is looking forward to watching the movie.

The trailer for Srijit Mukherji directorial "Shabaash Mithu", a sports drama starring Taapsee Pannu in the lead role, was released yesterday. So far, the trailer has garnered an amazing response from fans. The movie will be a biopic of Mithali Raj.

Mithali Raj is one of the greatest woman cricketers and the former captain of the Indian women's cricket team, she broke multiple records in her 23-year career. She only recently retired announced her retirement from cricket.



PHOTO: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK



COUNTRYWIDE

Allowance too scanty to survive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Sukhobala Sen, 90, has been receiving old age allowance of Tk 500 for eight years but she can hardly afford to buy her prescribed medications for a week with the meagre amount of money.

She has to depend on her day labourer son Bhabani Chandra Sen, 55, of Rasulpur village of Baura union in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district.

"If the allowance were Tk 3,000 per month, I could survive the whole month easily," She said adding that her son has to struggle to run his family as the prices of essentials have soared many times.

"I don't want to be a burden to my son," Sukhobala also said.

Physically inability widow allowance beneficiary Kandri Bala (58) is spending her days in despair and anxiety. She is not getting food support properly.

She gets widow allowance Tk 500 every month. With this money she can't go well for a week. She could have somehow survived if she had received an allowance of Tk 3000 every month.

Kandri Bala gets Tk 500 widow allowance every month, but with that money she can't go well for a week.

Physically challenged Kandri Balar, 58, a beneficiary of widow's allowance, has been passing days in despair. She gets a monthly allowance of Tk 500. However, she cannot manage the expenses of a week with the money. She also echoed Sukhobala urging that the government raise the allowance to Tk 3,000.

Khodeja Bewa, 68, an old age

allowance beneficiary of Sardob village in Kurigram Sadar upazila, told The Daily Star that the amount she gets is too little to survive.

"I cannot run a month with the money but have nothing to do," she said.

According to the Department of Social Services that 1,48,919 people in five upazilas of Lalmonirhat and 2,24,970 people in nine upazilas of Kurigram are getting government allowance.

Most of the beneficiaries are elderly people. Government pays old age allowance Tk 500, widow allowance Tk 500, disability allowance Tk 750, disabled student allowance Tk 750-1300, special allowance of transgender people Tk 600, special education allowance of Dalit and disadvantaged people Tk 500, education allowance for transgender and dalits and disadvantaged people Tk 700-1200 every month.



Sukhobala Sen, a nonagenarian, of Rasulpur village in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila has to depend on her day labourer son for survival as the allowance she is entitled is too meagre.

PHOTO: STAR

HC blasts

FROM PAGE 2

After being informed by the official of the matter, UNO Rezaul kept Kamal and Mehedi waiting and took their IDs.

He also threatened them with punishment via a mobile court.

The district judge of Faridpur wrote about the incident to the chief justice and the law minister.

The HC bench on June 7 issued a contempt of court rule against the UNO and the official and summoned them.

The UNO and the official apologised yesterday.

The HC bench exempted them from personal appearance before this court and fixed June 26 for passing an order.

During the proceedings, the HC bench told UNO Rezaul that his conduct was exposed and people think that a clash has taken place between the judiciary and the executive.

874 new Covid

FROM PAGE 12

A total of 7,927 samples were tested across the country during this period.

At least 84 patients have recovered from Covid-19 within this time.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 1,905,983 and the recovery rate at 97.34 percent, added the release.

Remand for Halder

FROM PAGE 12

Directorate in its plea for extension of judicial custody.

The 14-day tenure of the previous judicial custody of Halder and five of his associates expired yesterday.

The six were arrested on May 14 after the ED, which handles money laundering and foreign exchange cases in India, conducted raids on 11 premises in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal following a tip-off by Bangladesh's Financial Intelligence Unit.

Halder was living in India under a disguised identity of an Indian citizen of Shibshankar Halder.

The searches revealed he along with his associates fraudulently obtained various government identities like ration cards from the authorities in

West Bengal, Indian voter ID cards, PAN and Aadhar cards.

The Bangladeshi nationals have also managed to float companies in India with fraudulently obtained identities and even purchased properties in West Bengal, which constitute an offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, the ED said.

Halder has been accused of siphoning about Tk 10,000 crore from Bangladesh. Besides the Bangladeshi and Indian passports, he also has a Grenadian passport.

The others arrested along with Halder are his brother Pranesh, Swapan Maitra, Uttam Maitra, Imam Hossain and Amana Sultana.

Death toll now 22

FROM PAGE 12

Hospital in Sylhet.

In Netrokona, a 32-year-old woman named Julekha Begum drowned as a boat sank in floodwater at Jurail village in Kendua upazila of Netrokona district on Tuesday.

Julekha, her 7-year-old daughter Tanjina, sister-

in-law Nazmunahar and two others were going to Jurail Haor by a small boat yesterday morning.

Tanjina fell into the water from the boat. Julekha managed to save her but she drowned in the floodwater, said Mir Mahbubur Rahman, inspector of Kendua police station.

12-yr-old found dead

FROM PAGE 12

the hospital, the victim's cousin Nahid Hossain said Shihab was a meritorious student and was admitted to the school as a residential student four months ago.

On Monday, his teachers called the family and said Shihab was sick.

When the family went to the school, they were told to go to the hospital instead, he said.

Shihab's grandfather

Ismail Hossain said that when family members would call the hostel to speak to Shihab, they were never allowed.

Asked how such a young child could die by suicide, like the school authorities are saying, Mohammad Shahid, a teacher, said, "It could happen as times have changed."

Sarwar Hosain, additional superintendent of police (Sadar Circle) in Tangail, said

that a case was being filed in this regard. "The reason behind the death could be known only after the autopsy."

Many guardians of the students have urged the authorities to conduct a proper investigation into Shihab's death. They also reported instances of mental and physical torture.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the claims.

PM opens two

FROM PAGE 12

"We want peace in our country. If a peaceful situation prevails, we'll be able to make economic development," she said.

Among projects inaugurated today are 12 newly constructed district-level police hospitals, six women barracks for Bangladesh Police, the online GD (general diary) activities to reach the services to the doorstep of the people, and the distribution of 120 houses constructed in the second phase for homeless families.

As part of the government's initiative to construct separate barracks for female police members in 64 districts, the six barracks have been constructed.

Tourist boats

FROM PAGE 12

said Suman, speaking from Chhatak upazila. He was headed to a madrasa for women, which has been turned into a shelter, to distribute dry food.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra's hospital in Shantiganj of Sunamganj is also housing 2,000 people whose homes have been flooded. GSK has pledged to distribute 100 tonnes of dry food and provide free medical services until the waters recede.

Meanwhile, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has initially allocated Tk 1.98 crore to distribute emergency food items, water purification tablets and oral rehydration solution packets among the flood victims, said the organisation in a press release.

The relief is being distributed by 11 partner NGOs who are also using their own funds to carry out various aid initiatives.

Sri Lanka cabinet moves to clip president's powers

AGENCIES The Sri Lankan cabinet has approved constitutional reforms that will limit the powers of the president in a move aimed at appeasing the protesters calling for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit over the country's worst economic crisis in decades.

The decision to amend the constitution to clip the president's wide-ranging powers was taken in a cabinet meeting on Monday, Dinouk Colombage, media adviser for Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, told Al Jazeera yesterday.

A draft of the so-called 21st amendment to the Sri Lankan constitution gives some powers back to the parliament and restores independence to commissions in key decision making.

"The 21 amendment was tabled and passed in cabinet today," tourism minister Harin Fernando said in a tweet, adding that the proposal will now be sent to the country's parliament where it needs the votes of two-thirds of its members.



A rail employee checks a flooded railroad track after heavy rains in Shangrao, in China's central Jiangxi province, yesterday. The heaviest rainfall in decades has triggered floods and landslides in southern China, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people, state media reported.

PHOTO: AFP

UK hit by rail strike

AFP, London

Rush-hour commuters in the UK faced chaos yesterday as railway workers launched the network's biggest strike in more than three decades, forcing people to trek to work on foot, by bike, bus - or simply not bother at all. The RMT rail union argues the strikes are necessary as wages have failed to keep pace with UK inflation, which has hit a 40-year high and is on course to keep rising. Passengers were warned not to travel all week, with two more days of strike action scheduled for Thursday and Saturday wrecking havoc to schedules.

Macron rejects PM's resignation

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron was holding talks yesterday with the opposition on ending the deadlock sparked by his failure to secure a majority in parliamentary elections, after rejecting an offer by the prime minister, Elisabeth Borne, to resign. Macron was to host far-right leader Marine Le Pen and other political party chiefs for rare talks at the Elysee as he seeks solutions to an unprecedented situation that risks plunging his second term into crisis two months after it began. The options available to Macron range from seeking to form a new coalition alliance, passing legislation based on ad hoc agreements, or even calling new elections.

Russian Nobel laureate sells medal for \$103.5m to benefit Ukraine kids

AFP, New York

Dmitry Muratov, the Russian editor-in-chief of the independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, on Monday auctioned off his Nobel Peace Prize gold medal for a whopping \$103.5 million to benefit children displaced by the war in Ukraine. The medal was sold to an as yet unidentified phone bidder at the sale in New York. The sale was a spirited one, with lots of applause and bidders egging one another on to increase the total. Muratov won the prize in 2021.

PACT TO PROTECT NATURE Crunch talks kick off in Nairobi

AFP, Nairobi

Negotiators from almost 200 countries will begin crunch biodiversity talks in Nairobi yesterday, working towards a much-delayed global pact to protect nature from the damage wrought by human activities.

As the meeting kicked off, the UN confirmed that the thrice-delayed COP15 biodiversity summit - originally set for Kunming, China in 2020 - will now take place from December 5 to 17 this year in Montreal, Canada.

Country representatives in Nairobi are tasked with hammering out details of a draft text outlining a global framework to "live in harmony with nature" by 2050, with key targets to be met by 2030.

Proposals include a global commitment to set aside at least 30 percent of both land and oceans as protected zones by the end of the decade, as well as efforts to cut plastic and agricultural pollution.



A yoga seeker performs on the occasion of the International Yoga Day, standing on the archeo-astronomical site, the megalithic observatory "Kokino", in the Republic of Macedonia, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel faces fresh polls

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Monday his governing coalition will dissolve parliament next week, a shock announcement that will give power to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid in days and force new elections.

Bennett and Lapid forged an ideologically disparate alliance one year ago, counting eight parties broadly united on the desire to end the tenure of former premier Benjamin Netanyahu.

After a series of defections that put the coalition on the brink of collapse, Bennett said he would support a bill to dissolve parliament next week, triggering a fifth election in less than four years.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported new elections would be held on October 25.

Official document from Bangladesh regarding land acquisition and compensation. Title: গাড়ী ভাড়ার পুন: দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Includes a table with 26 items detailing procurement rules, dates, and procedures.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh e-Tender Notice No. 11/2021-22 (OTM). Details construction work for an administrative extension building and hall room in Daudkandi, Cumilla. Includes a table with tender details and contact information for Md. Afsar Hossain Khondoker.

Rise in losses caused by natural disasters alarming

Govt must strengthen social protection schemes to help those most vulnerable

IT'S alarming to know the devastating effects of natural disasters, particularly floods, that caused damage worth of Tk 1,79,198.8 crore in the country from 2015 to 2020, as revealed recently by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. The BBS report says that loss and damage that households faced increased tenfold during this time, compared to the period of 2009-2014. Of the total loss incurred by the households, flooding alone accounted for 56.4 percent. They were also affected by cyclones and hailstorms.

While people in the lowest income group lose 97.17 percent of their earnings during the period of a disaster, it's only 9.33 percent for the highest income group, the report adds. We, in fact, do not need much research to know that it is the lowest-income people who are the worst-affected during any kind of natural disaster, including flood, because they're the ones involved in agriculture and other income-generating activities related to nature. In Sylhet and Sunamganj, for example, where millions of people have been affected by the ongoing flood, many have lost all their belongings and are living under the open sky with no food. Needless to say, many were involved in farming before. They cultivated paddy in the hope of a bumper production but are now barely trying to survive. When the flood water recedes – it might still take some time for that to happen – it is the farmers and such low-income people who will have to struggle more to get back on their feet again.

While the affected people now need government relief and all kinds of assistance to pass through this difficult time, we have seen how the government has failed to provide them that. Since flood in Bangladesh is a regular phenomenon, there can be no justification for the lack of preparation of the government agencies concerned. We expected a well-planned relief operation from them, but instead were met with frustration. This begs the question: will the government be able to give the affected people necessary support, including for rehabilitation and income opportunities, after the flood water recedes?

The government must have special allocations for the flood victims this year under its social protection schemes, while its regular programmes must also continue to support the poor and vulnerable groups affected by past disasters. At the same time, steps must be taken to stop the activities that are harmful to nature – including unplanned development, earth-filling in water bodies, and destruction of hills. Any development, big or small, in the coastal areas should be planned in line with the government's climate change policy, otherwise it will lead to more disasters like floods and cause higher economic losses, affecting the low-income people even more.

A pro-people pension scheme on the way

Govt must ensure good governance and accountability from the very beginning

WE are pleased that the government has made good progress with the universal pension scheme it plans to introduce this year. According to a report by *The Daily Star*, the cabinet on June 20 gave its final approval to the draft of the Universal Pension Management Act, 2022, which is now awaiting a nod from the Legislative Division. Reportedly, people between the ages of 18 and 50 can participate in the pension scheme, including expatriate Bangladeshis. Those participating will have to provide a premium for at least 10 years to get pension from the age of 60 until their death. The amount of premium will be determined by a rule under the proposed law. The law further proposes the establishment of a five-member national pension authority headed by a chairman, and also a 15-member governing body with the finance minister at its helm.

The main target of the scheme is to bring the growing elderly population of the country under a sustainable social safety net programme, which we are badly missing. As the percentage of elderly people is set to increase from 11 percent in 2017 to 20 percent in 2031, it is high time for the government to set up and introduce such a scheme. However, as is the case with nearly every government scheme in Bangladesh, the effectiveness of the scheme is not guaranteed – without checking corruption and mismanagement.

Introducing the scheme may already prove to be a challenge for the government due to its increased expenditure and low revenue collection. The issue of accountability and good governance, no doubt, will again be at the forefront. As such, designing the institutional and legal framework to check any scope for irregularities now, and in the future, will be key. Proper management of this fund will be crucial. Therefore, the government must ensure the maintenance of proper checks and balances, and nurture the technical ability of those who will be handling such a vital task.

While we congratulate the government for planning to introduce this pro-people scheme, ultimately, the people will only benefit from it if the government can ensure full accountability and transparency in its application. We hope the government remains conscious of its poor record when it comes to the implementation phase of such schemes, and works doubly hard to ensure this scheme can avoid those traditional pitfalls.

EC's Big Nothing

From a crowning moment to a humbling experience



OF MAGIC & MADNESS

Badiuzzaman Bay is an assistant editor at *The Daily Star*.

BADIUZZAMAN BAY

NOW that the Cumilla City Corporation (CCC) election is over and everything there was to see and hear has been seen and heard, we need to address the elephant in the room. No, it's not the dramatic turnabout that saw the ruling Awami League's candidate win by a razor-thin margin of 343 votes. Or his rival's rejection of the result and subsequent explanations offered by election officials. Or the chaos into which the meeting of rivals descended over the announcement of the result. Or the slow voting caused by EVMs. These problems notwithstanding, the election served up some good moments too, notable among them the absence of violence.

But election memories are notoriously fickle. Recency bias can get the better of us all, and all these moments from one election may soon be forgotten as more are held and eventually shoehorned into mere statistics. The only memory that will likely last, at least in the public mind, is the impression we're left with ahead of the final test in December 2023. Will we feel scared? Will we feel concerned? Or will we feel confident going into the general election?

It is in this context that we have to address the elephant in the room. No, it is not the CCC election but the Election Commission itself, or more specifically, its shocking retreat in the face of opposition from a ruling lawmaker who defied its order to leave the city for violating the electoral code of conduct. His subsequent tutorial on how the EC should conduct its business only solidified any sense of helplessness the EC may have had, which it seemed to project in two phases: First by expressing its inability to *make* him leave, and then, on Monday, by further softening its tone through a U-turn on earlier claims of breach of code.

This remarkable turn of events is significant on several levels. First, when the directive was issued, many thought it would be the EC's crowning moment, staking its claim to the full range of its power as accorded by the constitution. In any turf war, you don't establish your superiority by scaring the odd *mastan* off but by making a statement move against the biggest/baddest of them. Over the years, election in Bangladesh has morphed into a kind of turf war – between the EC and the Big Power – and the last two commissions, frankly, lost their fight as well as dignity because they didn't have the courage to stand tall in front of it.

The EC directive thus signalled a

mindset we didn't know existed anymore. The picture that emerged from it was of a team willing to take the fight to Big Power, challenge it and force it into submission. Fond parallels were drawn with an incident during the first election in Cumilla in 2012, when a minister was forced to leave the city after the then EC threatened to postpone the election if

real power. When this image of a peaceful election is put side by side with the image of its surrender, what we have is cause at once for short-term relief and long-term horror.

Relief, because of the experience of an election without violence, if not without hassles. Horror, because of its dire implications for the future of the Election



PHOTO: REASHED SUMON

This remarkable turn of events is significant on several levels. First, when the directive was issued, many thought it would be the EC's crowning moment, staking its claim to the full range of its power as accorded by the constitution.

he didn't comply within an hour. If that commission could do it, we told ourselves, this one can too. After all, as experts say, sections 31 and 32 of the code of conduct empowers it to mete out penalties for any violations, including the imposition of fines, jail sentence and even cancellation of the candidature of any candidate. Yes, it can even postpone an election too.

In the end, however, the EC's big moment turned into a big bag of nothing. The whole exercise became a humbling experience for it as it was forced to retract its allegations. The EC even appeared to be apologetic for the inconvenience caused to the lawmaker. You don't see this level of effort or concession when the pride of an opposition leader is hurt. This, in the coming days, will be used as an example of defeat in the EC's first real negotiation with power, and a reference point for any such defeat from here on. The memory of how powerless it made citizens feel will stay with us.

Unfortunately for the EC, this is the kind of events that set narratives, or rather, override them. If the EC wanted to establish a narrative that it can deliver a "peaceful, fair and transparent" election – to quote the CEC – it has been overshadowed by the more powerful image of its surrender when faced with

Commission and the electoral system in general.

When this commission was installed in late February, there was no doubt in anyone's mind about what would be expected of it: to restore public confidence after two highly controversial general elections that had put Bangladesh under critical scrutiny. The EC, thus, has a very clear role to play: Undo the damage. Damage done to the electoral system. Damage to the voters' trust. Damage to how other stakeholders, including the administration and political parties, approach elections. And damage to the idea of EC itself.

No one said it would be an easy task. But having clarity of purpose can be a source of comfort. And we were led to believe that it can be a source of strength too. All the newly appointed commissioners including the CEC spoke in unison as they vowed to bring opposition parties back to the campaign trail and citizens back to the booths, with their trust restored. Perhaps the EC should remember those vows now. It should understand that undertaking real change requires courage. It requires doing away with the old, bureaucratic ways of doing things. It requires breaking the status quo.

Why are we still rewarding money launderers?



A CLOSER LOOK

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem_tayeb

TASNEEM TAYEB

FINANCE Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has placed a controversial suggestion in his budgetary proposal: money launderers – read financial criminals – will be allowed to legalise their laundered money without having to face any questions, if they pay a meagre 7-15 percent tax. The move is apparently aimed at creating scope to roll back the laundered money into the mainstream economy.

While the proposal has been criticised as unconstitutional and discriminatory towards honest taxpayers, at this point, we need to ask ourselves, why are we failing to stop capital flight to begin with?

To understand the country's money laundering ecosystem and find answers to the above question, we need look no further than the much-publicised case of PK Halder. The Department of Financial Institutions and Markets (DFIM) of Bangladesh Bank had flagged PK Halder's fake companies as "risky borrowers" way back in 2016. Despite this, Halder and Co. were allowed to carry on with their crimes, till those could no longer be kept under the wraps.

This particular case has raised questions about the competence and intentions of the financial institutions (FIs), intelligence agencies, and the regulators. Why was the DFIM flag not taken seriously in 2016? Why did the FIs keep lending Halder money, despite his companies being termed risky borrowers?

Why did the law enforcers not catch him in the act? Is there a problem with the existing laws, or does the problem lie with their application?

In an attempt to unearth the answers to these questions, I caught up with Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). The problem, he said, wasn't with the law, but with the lack of political will, as well as the technical capacity to implement them.

"The 2012 Anti-money Laundering Act (AMLA)... is a very strong law. To complement, there are robust and well-designed international procedures including mutual legal assistance facility against money laundering. It is the lack of enforcement of such national and international legal provisions that is making the nation vulnerable to the ever-increasing menace of money laundering... Apart from illicitly transferring money abroad through creation of paper-based, shady companies, a significant chunk – more than 70 percent – of money is laundered through trade misinvoicing, every year. The culpability of sections of the concerned authorities is also a possibility that cannot be overlooked," he explained.

A similar opinion was shared by former World Bank lead economist Dr Zahid Hussain: "It all boils down to governance. Financial scams cannot take place without cooperation between the criminals and the enablers, and there is almost always an inside enabler. In the past, the nation has been shocked by the massive scale scam of Hallmark Group and Bismillah Group, and in both the cases it was highly experienced state-owned banks – Sonali and Janata – which had been the lenders. One might be pardoned for asking, how could such experienced banks fall for the lies and

fraudulence of these unscrupulous and dishonest businesses? The micro-prudential regulations that are in place are sound, so are the policies. The regulator and the financial institutions need to ensure compliance not selectively, but even-handedly."

One also wonders if nonentities like P K Halder or Tanvir Mahmud or Khaza Soleiman Anwar Chowdhury – who have aggressively looted financial institutions – operate only with the help of a few inside officials, or are there "influential" people behind them, holding the strings. Each time such a case gets exposed, it is usually only the small fries who get caught, who may face punishment. At best, political opponents are implicated. But are small players really capable of pulling off such stunts without political patronage? Would FI officials risk their jobs and reputations only for money, or under some form of external pressure?

These missing pieces of the puzzle need to be put together to understand the full picture. Bangladesh's struggle with capital flight is not new. Over the decades, this disease has spread across different layers of our financial sector, making it weak from within. And little has been done to cure it. Time and again, the authorities have not only been reluctant to bring financial criminals to justice, but have gone out of their way to protect them. The proposal of the finance minister to legalise laundered money without launderers even having to answer for them is only a continuation of that long tradition.

We cannot afford to give these criminals such impunity. The finance minister should rethink this esoteric and controversial proposal, and retract it. After all, we do have a legacy of going back on our words. For once, let it be for a good reason.

Time and again, the authorities have not only been reluctant to bring financial criminals to justice, but have gone out of their way to protect them. The proposal of the finance minister to legalise laundered money without launderers even having to answer for them is only a continuation of that long tradition.

Our embankments are contributing to floods, not stopping them

Dr S Nazrul Islam, founder of Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) and Vice President of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), speaks with Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about the causes behind the devastating floods in Sylhet and Sunamganj, and what the government must do to avoid such disasters in the future.

What was supposed to be a seasonal flash flood – which is a seasonal phenomenon in the haor area – turned out to be a severely catastrophic flood. What factors, do you think, contributed to this year's devastating floods in Sylhet and Sunamganj?

There are three types of factors: Global, regional, and domestic. The global factor is climate change, which is causing the rainfall to increase and become erratic. The regional factor has several dimensions. One is the changes in land use, such as denouement of forest cover, spread of mining operations, etc., that have taken place in Meghalaya and other states that lie on the northern border of the Sylhet division. As a result of these changes, rainwater from India quickly passes to Bangladesh, containing more sediments, which have been increasingly filling up riverbeds in this division. The second is the intervening structures in the transboundary rivers that India has constructed. There are 16 rivers in this area that are recognised and listed as transboundary by the Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission (JIRC). In addition, there are about 30 smaller rivulets and streams that are also transboundary. India has constructed intervening structures on most of these watercourses unilaterally and also manages them more or less unilaterally. It uses them to hold water when needed, but whenever there is a heavy downpour it opens up the vents of the barrages, causing a heavy and quick onrush of sediment-laden water to Bangladesh. The main domestic factor is Bangladesh's faulty approach to rivers that has been in practice for about seven decades now. This is the Cordon approach, under which flood plains are cordoned off from rivers through the construction of embankments. In addition to embankments, widespread construction of roads, highways, settlements, and other structures have proceeded without necessary awareness about the necessity of keeping enough space for the storage and passage of flood water. This has been particularly damaging for the Sylhet Basin, which is a depression with very low elevation and is further sinking because of tectonic movements. What we are seeing now in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona, and Kishoreganj area is a combined effect of these three types of factors.

Do we have any scientific forewarning systems that can alert people and the concerned government agencies about the possibility of such severe flooding?

There are some forewarning systems

concerning the major rivers, such as the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. However, such systems are lacking for the numerous transboundary rivers, rivulets, and streams that flow from Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura states of India into Bangladesh. There is also less time for forewarning and preparation because of the special feature of the terrain, whereby rivers descend suddenly from the Meghalaya hills to the Sylhet depression.

Many have been blaming the unplanned development works in the haor area to be one of the major factors behind the floods. What's your take on this?

Yes, as I said, these unplanned development works in the haor area have become a major cause for the floods, because, first of all, they have reduced the space for water to spread out, and second, they have constricted the passageway for water to flow down



Dr S Nazrul Islam

quickly to the south. In addition to the numerous structures that have been built in the haor area, there are the bridges across the Kalni and Meghna Rivers in the Bhairab Bazar area which are too narrow to let the water pass through quickly. Water from the entirety of Sylhet and the eastern part of the Mymensingh division and also from the Bhairab Bazar area ultimately passes through the Kalni-Meghna channel. Constrictions on this channel in the form of these narrow bridges have now created a bottleneck for the passage of water, aggravating flooding in the area.

The ecology of the haor area in Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Kishoreganj is quite different from the rest of the country. Do we also need a different flood and river management system for these areas?

Yes, the haor area, geologically known as the Sylhet Depression or Sylhet



PHOTO: STAR

An immediate task for the government is to get ready for helping the affected people with rehabilitation and recovery.

Basin, is a special area of Bangladesh with a different ecology. The average elevation of this area is only about five metres above sea level. This elevation is also decreasing over time, because the Indian Plate is pushing and slipping under the Eurasian Plate, a process that originally led to the creation of the Himalayan Mountains more than 50 million years ago. As a result, the Sylhet Basin is pushed down relative to the Meghalaya Massif along the Dauky Fault Line. The Cordon approach is therefore particularly inappropriate for the Sylhet Basin. We have been pointing to this aspect of the situation for many years now. We have been arguing for the minimisation of structures in the haor area and for constructing roads and highways in this area only in the form of causeways, that is, as elevated roads built on pillars. This would meet both the need for transportation and the need for passageways for water to flow away. Similarly, we have been arguing for special care in keeping the rivers of the area free of obstructions and ensuring their adequate cross-sectioning. Also, special care is needed in the maintenance of the submersible embankments that have been constructed in this area for protection against flash and early floods. Unfortunately, the authorities did not heed our recommendations and warnings. They went ahead with the construction of many new roads and highways. In some cases, some submersible sections were added and bridges and culverts were allowed, but obviously these were not adequate. These and other constricting structures need to

be removed and all roads and highways in the haor area need to be rebuilt as causeways.

Right now, where should the government focus to contain the flood situation?

There are several immediate tasks for the government. The first is to provide relief and other help that the affected people need for survival. The second is to do whatever can be done to let the water pass away quickly. It has been reported that, in many cases, cuts in roads and highways are being made to allow for this. There should not be any hesitation in doing so. The third immediate task is to get ready for helping the affected people with rehabilitation and recovery. Another task for the government is to realise that the Cordon approach is not appropriate for Bangladesh. What the country needs is the Open approach, which is the only way in which Bangladesh can survive in the face of climate change. Under this approach, floodplains and tidal plains would be kept open to rivers and as unobstructed as possible so that flood level remains low and water can recede quickly. In my recent book, *Water Development in Bangladesh: Past Present & Future*, I have offered a comprehensive argument explaining why a switch from the Cordon to the Open approach is necessary and has become urgent for Bangladesh. I hope the current floods in Sylhet will act as a rude awakening and persuade the government to see the merit of this argument and adopt the Open approach as the overarching principle for water development efforts in the country.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	29 Manor settings	2 Top pitcher	21 Audacity
1 Heathens	31 Cain raiser	3 Salon stuff	22 Putting site
7 Guitar boosters	32 Polish	4 Wide awake	24 Supply the food for
11 Spotted cat	33 Unspoiled spot	5 Staff symbol	25 Some person
12 Aim	34 Dressy	6 Dance move	30 Battery ends
13 Strike out	37 Bill stamp	7 Tennis star	33 "The King"
14 Pretentious	39 Overrun	8 Completely ashamed	35 Atomizer's output
15 Meal	43 Olympics	9 Contrived	36 Tolstoy heroine
17 Schism	44 Rooftop shooter	10 Devious	37 For every
20 Putting to work	45 Cincinnati team	16 Mom's sisters	38 Gibbon or gorilla
23 Spanish gold	46 Wine expert	17 Derby prize	40 Fitting
24 Evergreen tree		18 Limerick	41 Ruby of movies
26 Army address		19 Made stronger	42 Bungle
27 Small worker	DOWN		
28 Hot blood	1 Okra unit		

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FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

L	A	P	E	L		C	L	A	S	P
A	R	O	S	E		H	A	L	L	E
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টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা) SREDA
বিন্যাস বিভাগ

জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপনে সহজ শর্তে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন

জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ের মাধ্যমে নিজে লাভবান হোন এবং সমৃদ্ধ দেশ গঠনে গর্বিত অংশীদার হোন

সাশ্রয়ে জ্বালানি, সমৃদ্ধ আগামী

"জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সংরক্ষণ বৃদ্ধি কার্যক্রমে অর্থায়ন প্রকল্প"

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Barisal PWD Division, Barisal
Tel: 0431-64801, Fax: 0431-2173232
E-mail: ee_bari@pwd.gov.bd

Memo-4885/3 Dated: 16/06/2022

Invitation for e-Tender

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
1	710424	Bar/PWD/BPSC-01	Construction of 3-storied Barisal Regional Office Building of BPSC Secretariat with 6-storied Foundation including Multipurpose Hall and Ancillary Works under the Project of Establishment of 7 Regional offices of the BPSC Secretariat including its Strengthening (1st revised)	18-07-2022 12:30

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

Md. Kamrul Hassan
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Barisal

GD-1281



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Ctg getting new master plan after 27 years

SIFAYET ULLAH

Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has started working on a new master plan after 27 years, to build a planned port city.

The "Preparation of Chattogram Metropolitan Master Plan (2020-2041)" is scheduled to be implemented by June 2024, at a cost of Tk 33 crore.

Under this, the structure plan, action plan for three designated areas, stormwater drainage and flood control plan, long-term development strategy for communication and transportation system, and environment management plan will be formulated for 22 years.

Md Abu Isa Ansari, town planner of CDA and project director of the master plan, said, "We have already started our project work. The plan will be formulated taking into account the quality of life of city dwellers, citizens' safety, heritage, culture,

“ We have already started our project work. The plan will be formulated taking into account the quality of life of city dwellers, citizens' safety, heritage, culture, economy and public health.

MD ABU ISA ANSARI, town planner of CDA and project director of the master plan

economy and public health.”

In 1995, CDA formulated the last master plan for Chattogram for 20 years. This master plan had four parts such as structural, urbanisation, transport and drainage system.

It expired in 2015. Town planners have welcomed the initiative to formulate a new plan.

They said it is very important for the city's development activities and the plan addresses all of them.

Shahinul Islam Khan, former chief town planner of CDA, said, "The master plan is an official document, which will mention where the roads will be constructed and where the work will be done."

It will be made for people so their opinion should be taken while planning it. Otherwise, it's not possible to create an effective plan, he added.

Zahirul Alam Dobha, chairman of CDA, said the subtle errors in the previous plan and detailed area plan (DAP) would be corrected in the new one.

He said the latest technology will be used in this master plan. A geological survey will be done under the plan in which the quality of soil will be known. This plan will also ensure the rational use of land.

This will be the third master plan since the establishment of CDA. The first one was drawn up in 1961. The second one for 20 years was formulated in 1995. In addition, DAP was made in 2006.

Living in a death trap

15 years, 210 deaths in landslides

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

On August 18, 2008, 11 people, including five members of the same family, died in a landslide at Matijharna of the city's Lalakhan Bazar.

The death count does not stop here. In 2011, 17 died in Tiger pass. On June 26-27, 2012, 24 people died in Matijharna, Aambagan, Akbar Shah, Kaibaldham Bishsho Bank Colony, Jalalabaad and Harbatali areas.

In 2013, the port city saw two deaths in landslides, while in 2015, the number was



eight. Seven and four people died respectively in 2017 and 2018.

Last Friday, four people died in Akbar Shah and Foy's Lake areas, followed by the death of a 12-year-old in Sholoshohor Choshma Hill area on Monday.

In the last 15 years, the port city saw 210 deaths in total due to landslides. A heavy, continuous downpour during the monsoon brings death with it every year.

Those living on the foot of the hills are the most vulnerable to the risks. Yet, the



construction of illegal establishments by cutting hills has not stopped.

After the 2007 incident, a well-functioning Hill Management Committee was formed by the government, which in turn formed multiple investigating committees. The investigating committees submitted their probe reports as well. Since then, these committees have been holding coordination meetings every year, where disconnecting water, electricity and gas supply lines was discussed to discourage illegal establishments.

On behalf of these committees, eviction drives are conducted against such settlements every monsoon. However, the death train has not stopped.

"Heavy downpours and subsequent landslides are considered a natural process. However, multiple recommendations were made by the committees to put an end to the deaths, none of which have been implemented," said environmental activist Shareef Chauhan.

After the 2007 incident, an investigating committee, convened by MAN Siddique, then

additional divisional commissioner, submitted an 18-page report. In the report, the committee identified 28 reasons behind the occurrence and made a 36-point recommendation but to no avail.

Two more committees were formed in 2008 and 2013, under Dr Md Shahidul Islam, then professor of geography and environment at Chittagong University and Prof Mozammel Haque, then Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology.

Both the committees made detailed recommendations, none of which were implemented or taken into consideration.

"Those bearing the brunt of it are mostly from the lower-income class. The lands on the foot of the hill are grabbed by rich influential people, who make illegal establishments there and rent those to the poverty-afflicted. As a result, these are the people who are dying every year," added Shareef.

Contacted, Hill Management Committee President and Divisional Commissioner of Chattogram Ashrafuddin told this correspondent, "We are trying our best. But the people we evict from the risk-prone areas start living there again a few days after the drives. Hence, the deaths have become unstoppable."

A road has recently been constructed by the city corporation authorities in Akbar Shah area despite the risks of landslides. When asked, CCC Panel Mayor Gias Uddin, while visiting the accident spot in the area, told this correspondent, "People have been living here for a long time. If the establishments were illegal, an eviction from the concerned authorities would do. The road has been built taking the conveniences of the people living here into consideration."

On June 11, 2007, 132 people died in a landslide that occurred due to a heavy downpour in Chattogram. The deaths occurred in Baghghona, Kusumbagh residential area, Sekandarpara and Chittagong University areas of the port city.

Cattle farming sees boom

SIFAYET ULLAH

Chattogram's livestock production has nearly doubled over the last 5 years — thanks to the rising popularity of cattle farming.

According to livestock services department data, in the 2021-2022 fiscal, livestock (cow, buffalo, goat and sheep) production rose to 7.91 lakh from 3.56 lakh in 2016-17.

With Eid-ul-Azha around the corner, 7.91 lakh animals are kept ready in Chattogram. This time the total target has been set at 8.21 lakh.

For the last five to six years, dependence on sacrificing local animals has increased, moving away from Indian cattle import. Farmers are getting a good price for cattle and many are getting involved in the business.

According to the district livestock office data, this year, the total animal production stands at 5,35,803 cows, 66,237 buffaloes, 1,81,362 goats, and sheep. Besides, the number of livestock farms in Chattogram has increased.

Since 2019, the number of livestock farms has also doubled.

Delwar Hossain, livestock officer in Chattogram, said, "The government has decided to stop importing cattle from India and Myanmar. As a result,

marginal farmers and ranchers have benefited."

During a recent visit to Garduara union in Hathazari upazila of Chattogram, this correspondent found that a considerable number of farmers have turned to cattle rearing on their own initiative.

However, farmers are worried about getting a good price for animals if the number of buyers is low due to the current financial crisis. Besides, the price of animal feed has climbed rapidly in recent months, making farming costlier for farmers, they said.

Farmers worry that if the demand is less than the supply, the price will go down.

Nurul Amin, a farmer in Anwara upazila of Chattogram, said the cow feed price has doubled in just one

year. "With the people's purchasing power decreasing day by day, we're worried about getting the right price."

Nazim Haider, president of Chattogram Farmers' Association, said, "Targeting Eid-ul-Azha, smugglers are bringing in cattle from India and Myanmar. This too is affecting local cattle prices."

"We will write to the government to take action against cattle smugglers and reduce cattle feed prices soon," he added.

With the people's purchasing power decreasing day by day, we're worried about getting the right price.

Nurul Amin, Farmer in Anwara upazila of Chattogram

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

Pushing through the front door, visitors' eyes would be greeted by a range of unfamiliar trees. A mangrove garden has been set up at the front — with saplings collected from the Sundarbans. But the main attraction of the place is the bees — showcased in a way that visitors can see firsthand where they're collecting honey from.

This scene is set in front of Syed Mohammad Moinul Anwar's "Alwan Honey Museum and Research Center" at Joyphar Abasi on Sarson Road in Chattogram. The institution has been established on Moinul's own initiative in a room of his house.

Visiting the location recently, this correspondent saw hundreds of honey jars of different sizes, colours, and varieties neatly arranged. Different species of bees have been



stored in small bottles for research purposes.

Moinul has been researching honey for the last 17 years. According to him, there are 70 types of honey in his collection depending on the crop, season, and bee species. For medicinal and research purposes, the museum also has rare honey from stingless bees and 20-year-old Khalisha flowers.

"I have visited almost every district to learn about the different colours and ways to identify adulterated and pure honey," he said.

Apart from honey, he said he has collected the five common species of bees prevalent in Bangladesh from his travels and stored them in formalin for further research. Flowers that produce honey have also been dried and stored.

Recently, Chittagong University's botany department has signed an agreement with the centre for their students' research. Discussions are underway with the authorities of Sher-

e-Bangla Agricultural University as well, he added.

Elaborating on the start of this fascination with honey, Moinul said, "When my father was sick during 2004-2005, I couldn't find a single source where they were selling unadulterated honey." Thus, he began his journey of collecting honey out of necessity, he added.

Moinul said in addition to his laboratory, he has assisted in setting up 11 laboratories in Dhaka and the Sundarbans. He also arranges free training sessions.

He further said, "At present, I am doing research on bee pollen, royal jelly and bee venom."

Although bee pollen has medicinal properties, it remains to be seen whether these can be collected and marketed. Attempts are being made to collect bee venom in the laboratory, he added.



Djokovic top seed for Wimbledon

REUTERS, London

Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic will head into next week's tournament as the men's top seed with Russian world number one Daniil Medvedev banned from taking part while Germany's second-ranked Alexander Zverev is out injured.

Djokovic, who was unable to defend his 2021 Australian Open title and the 2,000 ranking points he earned due to his non-vaccinated status against COVID-19, recently lost his world number one spot to Medvedev.

The Serbian, who has won the last three editions of the grasscourt major, will slip further down the rankings after Wimbledon as he will lose another 2,000 points with the ATP and WTA stripping the tournament of points.

Poland's world number one Iga Swiatek will be the women's top seed.



A Bangladesh player, being pulled back by his Nepalese counterpart, passes the ball to a teammate during their first match of the three-match friendship series at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday. Bangladesh blanked the visitors 20-0 in this seven-a-side match, which was the first-ever international rugby match held on Bangladesh soil.

PHOTO: STAR

Brazilian duo powers Kings

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a disappointing AFC Cup campaign, defending champions Bashundhara Kings perfectly resumed their Bangladesh Premier League season as they handed a 2-0 defeat to 10-man Rahmatganj MFS at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Matiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj yesterday.

Before the resumption of the league after a five-week break, Kings' Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon was a bit anxious of the state of Rajshahi pitch amid the rainy conditions. However, there was no rain yesterday and Kings' Brazilian forward duo – Robson Da Silva and Miguel Figueira – struck one goal apiece under dazzling light. The game also saw the referee give Rahmatganj goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman a marching order for intercepting a Nuha Marong lob from outside the box in the 33rd minute.

Rahmatganj, who suffered a 3-2 defeat in the first leg, could hold their mighty opponents Kings after being a player down. And King did not waste time to grab the opportunity with both hands as they struck two goals within two minutes after the incident.

Substitute goalkeeper Rakibul Hasan Tushar first watched Brazilian Miguel find the near post from a free-kick outside the box and two minutes later, Robson struck his league's 12th goal to make it 2-0. The inspirational Kings forward drove home from inside the box with a low right-footer after right-back Rimon Hossain whipped a low cross.

Kings could not widen the margin in the second half but the result meant they had

extended their winning streak to five. With 41 points from 16 matches, Kings sit pretty at the top and nine points ahead of nearest rivals



Abahani, who will face

their archrivals Mohammedan SC in Cumilla today.

At Bashundhara Kings Arena, struggling Sheikh Russel KC pulled off a surprising 3-1 win over Sheikh Jamal DC, who under the supervision of Joseph Afusi suffered their second defeat in five matches.

With the second defeat in 16 matches, Sheikh Jamal are 11 points behind leaders Kings while big-spending Sheikh Russel notched up their fourth win to raise their point tally to 19 from 16 matches.

Sheikh Russel took the lead in the 20th minute when out-of-favour national player Hemanta Vincent Biswas drove a low shot home from close range after Nigerian forward Ismahele Akinade released a low cross from the left wing. And three minutes before half time, Jonov Otobek levelled the margin with a curler.

Sheikh Russel were quick to respond as they restored the lead one minute into the first half stoppage time when Charles Didier slotted a left-footer home, availing an assist from Hemnata from the left flank. Former champions Sheikh Russel sealed off the match three minutes from time when substitute forward Mannaf Rabbi ran down the left flank and cut inside around the box to deliver a brilliant shot into the far post's top corner.

Top-order debacle proving Siddons' biggest challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's batters had shown the approach needed in Tests in alien conditions during their win in Mount Maunganui in January this year and executed a plan as a unit against the Kiwis, who boast arguably the best pace attack in the world in their home conditions.

But that famous win, instead of becoming the catalyst for how Bangladesh would approach Test cricket, became an anomaly. Subsequent Tests have seen batters fail to find the same mindset and approach.

Before the New Zealand Tests at the start of the year, team director Khaled Mahmud was able to drill into the players the most important basic of leaving deliveries in those foreign conditions and it culminated in the Tigers' first win in any format against the hosts in their own den.

But the most recent batting debacle in Windies, which comes after similar collective failures from the batters against South Africa away and Sri Lanka at home, led Test skipper Shakib Al Hasan to admit that



the team did not have many technically sound batsmen. But there also seems to be a collective failure to adjust to different challenges.

Former national captain Naimur Rahman Durjoy lamented the lack of that attribute. "If you bowl in a conventional process in Tests like you do in T20s or ODIs, it will not bring results. A delivery which behaves a certain way at home will not behave the same on the wickets in the West Indies or South Africa. You need a different approach and strategy for those conditions. You have to create your luck with more focus," he told reporters yesterday.

Whereas a team director had ingrained certain tactical and mental mottos in New Zealand, the majority of batters have not shown the requisite approach on subsequent tours, even with Jamie Siddons in the team management after returning as batting consultant following his stint as the Tigers' head coach from 2007 till 2011.

Former captain Akram Khan felt there were real dangers of becoming mentally unsettled if batters did not respond collectively. "In shorter formats, you can recover in two-three overs. But in Tests, you have to

pull up collectively as a unit. If we let them dominate, our performances will keep being bad," he said yesterday. "The players will have to be mentally at ease and not take pressure."

When asked about change in approach compared to the Mount Maunganui Test after the top-order's collapse in South Africa, batting consultant Siddons had said that players were advised to play their own game. "Everyone is encouraged to play their own game. If they see a ball that's there to be hit, they are encouraged to play aggressively," he had said.

It is not clear from Bangladesh's approach what their natural game might be. More to the point, several batters have shown obvious weaknesses to certain deliveries. Najmul Hossain Shanto has been troubled by incoming deliveries. The use of wobble seam has left batters wondering how to rectify their approach.

"There is a mental readiness needed. You can't always rely on the seam position out of a fast bowler's hand as the only cue on how to play a delivery. If in doubt, the instinct is to cover the line of stumps and go from there. They [batters] need to back their own beliefs since bowlers don't even know how the ball may behave [when bowling with a wobbling seam]," Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, a mentor to many national team stars, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In this situation, it remains to be seen whether the team management, especially the batting consultant, can get batters back to their roots and solve their issues against swing or wobble seam deliveries and prepare for further challenges.

Mane lands in Munich

AFP, Berlin

Sadio Mane arrived in Germany on a private jet on Tuesday in order to undergo a medical with the Liverpool forward reportedly on the verge of signing for Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich.

Broadcaster Sky showed footage of the 30-year-old touching down at Munich airport before being taken to a hospital in the city centre for a medical exam.

According to media reports, Mane's transfer will cost Bayern around 41 million euros (£35 million, \$43 million).

The Senegal forward is expected to sign a three-year contract and is set to hold his first Bayern press conference Wednesday.

Mane would be a replacement for wantaway Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski, who has been linked to a Barcelona transfer, and winger Serge Gnabry, who is stalling over a contract extension.

Basketball crying for a home

ATIQUE ANAM

Basketball is one of the most popular sports in the world. Some of the biggest names and highest earners in the sporting world are basketball players. It is an Olympic sport, represented in two disciplines for both men and women.

Yet, in Bangladesh the sport is widely neglected, despite having a big fanbase that follows international basketball, especially the NBA, and the fact that the game is played by a measurable size of urban-school and college goers as well as by Dhaka-based clubs and teams from the defence forces.

Although not affluent or very active, the Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) still runs several domestic events, including the premier league, annually. It also hosts international tournaments every few years and during these tournaments the Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Gymnasium, the home of Bangladesh basketball, takes on a party atmosphere.

But all that could turn into a thing of the past as the establishment, situated next to the Abahani club, is being razed to make space for a multi-sport complex, to be named the Sheikh Kamal Sports



Complex.

Not only as a venue for tournaments, the two-storied building was a year-long home for budding basketball players and basketball enthusiasts from schools and colleges across the capital.

Now the place is a bare concrete structure, bereft of the court and equipment, counting the days before it is razed to the ground. All that remains for basketball officials and players are memories forged over almost three decades.

Sudeshna Biswas, who played for the Bangladesh women's basketball team from 2011-2018, still could not digest the fact that the place was gone forever.

"The memories will never be replaced, but now when I pass by Abahani, I won't be able to look back and point out the gym and tell others what that place is and what it meant to me. So, it feels very hollow. I think it's the same for most people," the 26-year-old told The Daily Star.

The irony is that Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after whom the complex is being named, was a leading basketball player in the country in the pre-and-post liberation era.

It is not that the sports complex sprung out of nowhere overnight. In fact, it was in the offing for years.



Yet the BBF, the National Sports Council – which gave the BBF the authority to run their activities at the Dhanmondi facility – and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the guardian of sports federations of the country, did little to find a new home for the popular sport.

"We have been hearing since 2018, when they began to revamp the field, that Abahani would take back the gym and that it would be under them and not the federation. But we were all hoping for a miracle or at the very least that it would take a lot longer. But in four years, the gym is gone," Sudeshna exclaimed.

Ranajit Das, a member of the federation's executive committee,

welcomed the initiative to build a complex named after Sheikh Kamal but could not accept that they were being made homeless.

"We are all happy and welcome the building of a sports complex named after Sheikh Kamal. But we have become helpless. We desperately need a new place to conduct our daily activities and organise tournaments. Now I am doing my office work from home," Das told The Daily Star recently.

On June 15, the BBF was sent a written notice to move their belongings to the Mirpur indoor stadium, which is supposed to be their new home, and jostle for space and time with a few other federations.

Parimal Singha, the recently-appointed secretary of the NSC, told The Daily Star that the BBF would have to come to negotiations with other federations to run their training and official activities at the indoor stadium for the time being.

While he did not give any assurances about a permanent home for the sport, BBF officials were hopeful that the NSC and sports ministry would empathise with their plight and look for a permanent solution sooner rather than later.

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FLOOD IN SYLHET, NETRAKONA

Death toll now 22

Man dies after being injured while collecting relief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The ongoing flood in the northwest has so far claimed at least 22 lives in Sylhet and Netrakona, with the death toll expected to go up as information from remote areas is coming to the authorities belatedly.

"Due to the power cut-off and mobile network issues, we were not getting any news of fatalities before. Now, the information is reaching us, so the death toll might be higher," said Himangshu Lal Roy, director of Sylhet Divisional Health Office.

The deaths are due to drowning, landslides, electrocution and snake bites.

So far, the authorities were informed of 20 deaths and heard the news of two more dead bodies found in Jaintiapur, Roy said.

Of the 20 deaths related to the flood situation, 12 are from Sylhet, five from Sunamganj and three from Moulvibazar.

Yesterday, the dead bodies of Nazmum Nesa and her son Abdur Rahman were recovered by Police from Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila. They went missing after being washed away by the strong current on floodwater on Friday.

Over in Sylhet, Biplob Mia, a resident of Ujan Tahirpur village, who was injured on Monday while trying to collect relief dropped from an Air Force helicopter died yesterday at Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Politicians of the ruling Awami League illegally pasting PVC-made banners and placards across the streets in the capital's Shyamoli ahead of the party's council at a ward. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

874 new Covid cases, positivity rate over 11pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of coronavirus cases is going up with the rising trend of the infection rate.

A total of 7,487 cases were recorded in the last three months till yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Of those, 3,669 cases were recorded in the last seven days only.

At least 874 new Covid-19 cases were recorded in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, read a DGHS press release.

One person died from Covid-19 during the period, raising the total death toll to 29,133.

The Covid-19 death rate is 1.49 percent now.

The current positivity rate is 11.03 percent while the total positivity rate stands at 13.75 percent.

Meanwhile, with the new infections, the total number of cases rose to 1,958,074, added the release.

EARNING TRUST OVER EVM EC initiative suffers setback BNP, 4 other parties opt out

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission's initiative to earn political parties' trust over Electronic Voting Machines sustained a blow as five parties, including the BNP, skipped its views-exchange meeting yesterday.

The EC invited 13 political parties to join the second round of the meeting at its office in the capital.

Apart from the BNP, four other political parties that did not attend the event are: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab), Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Muslim League.

JSD is a component of the Jatiya Oikya Front that also includes the BNP. Kalyan Party is also a part of BNP-led 20-party combine.

Contacted, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said there was no question of joining the views-exchange meeting. "It is an illegal Election Commission and they are doing nothing but carrying out the instructions of the government."

JSD leaders said they did not participate in the meeting because attending such events would be "meaningless and unnecessary."

In a statement, the party said people believe that the EVM is a reliable machine for "digital manipulation" to keep the government in power.

"It would not be appropriate to use EVMs in the elections of Bangladesh, and people will not accept this decision," it added.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Ahsan Habib Khan told The Daily Star that they invited all political parties so that they can clear their confusion, if any, by

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Tourist boats now turned into vessels for relief

e-Tourism Association of Bangladesh stands beside the flood victims with its 50 boats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The houseboats that set sail on the wetlands every monsoon for dreamy holidays in the country's haors are now housing people, whose homes have been flooded, and delivering aid to those marooned.

Throughout the year Anirban Boat plies the rivers of Khulna. When Sunamganj was flooded in May, the boat set sail from the south, taking five days to travel cross-country and reach the inundated north.

"We started our rescue operations last Wednesday and for the first three days we were rescuing people from flooded homes and taking them to shelters," said Joydeb Kumar Bhadra, an additional deputy inspector general of police.

In normal times, the boat's business funds a library which

was founded by Bhadra in Khulna's Paikgachha.

Currently the boat is being used for free by those attached with relief work.

An organisation called e-Tourism Association of Bangladesh has a fleet of around 50 boats.

The day the floods hit was a full moon night and the boats were all tucked away in remote corners of the haors carrying tourists.

As floods inundated far-flung homes, these boats became the first responders rescuing the locals.

"Our boats were already at the furthest points, so naturally it was easier for us to carry out rescue operations. Our boats have housed as many as 2,500 people," said Imranul Alam, a coordinator of the association. "Each boat is housing between 70 to 100 people." Alam

was speaking on his way to Sunamganj on a boat.

"I was in the Sundarbans with a tour boat when disaster struck. So, we set sail for the haors, picking up relief materials on the way. We have already spent four nights on the water. We are currently in Bhairab," said Alam.

All the boats are housing and feeding people on a voluntary basis, strictly depending on donations. Each of the tourism agencies that are a part of e-Tourism Association of Bangladesh run travel groups on Facebook to promote travelling and arrange tours. These groups are now being mobilised for donations.

"We have raised around Tk 20 lakh from members, and a further Tk 20 lakh from external sources," said Imranul.

Popular social media influencer Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman announced on his Facebook page that he has raised Tk 97 lakh in just 48 hours. "This was the figure in the morning, and I am sure that the donated amount has crossed Tk 1 crore

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7



PADMA BRIDGE PM opens two police stations

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed police to grow as the last resort of the people who seek protection for their lives and dignity.

"In our country, the police will also have to acquire public confidence so the people think the force as their last resort in protecting their lives and dignity. The people can get their shelter," she said.

She made the comments while joining a function of Bangladesh Police through a videoconference from the Gono Bhaban.

During the function, the premier opened five projects of Bangladesh Police, including two newly constructed police stations — Padma Setu Uttar Thana and Padma Setu Dakkhin Thana — on the two sides of the much-desired Padma Bridge.

Hasina also asked police to stay vigilant against different social diseases and crimes to maintain a peaceful environment in the country.

Noting that the police drive against militancy and terrorism has been a success, she said the drives should continue.

She said police were playing a significant role to check drug abuse, cybercrimes, money laundering, spreading rumours, human trafficking and other offences, which are very harmful to the people and the country.

Referring to recent communal incidents, the PM said police played an excellent role in thwarting a bid to destroy communal harmony, intercepted the perpetrators promptly and showed their excellent efficiency.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Remand for Halder extended by 14 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A special court in Kolkata yesterday extended the judicial custody of Prashanta Kumar Halder by 14 more days in connection with a case of money laundering in India.

More time is required for questioning Halder and confronting him with evidence to get to the bottom of the wide network of properties amassed in India after sneaking in from Bangladesh in 2019, said India's Enforcement



SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



People remove debris of a building destroyed by a missile strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in the town of Liuboty, in Kharkiv region, on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

12-yr-old found dead in school hostel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A 12-year-old boy was found dead at a hostel in Suparibagan area of Tangail town on Monday evening.

The dead, Shihab Hossain, son of expat Ilias Hossain of Sakhipur upazila, was a student of Sristy School.

His family alleged he was murdered and blamed the school authorities for it.

They, however, claimed Shihab was found hanging from the shower of the hostel's seventh floor washroom.

The authorities rushed him to Tangail General Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Speaking to reporters at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

'World's biggest' freshwater fish captured

AFP, Phnom Penh



A fisherman on the Mekong river in Cambodia has hooked the biggest freshwater fish ever recorded, scientists said — a 300-kilogram stingray.

The giant freshwater stingray, which measured four metres (13 feet) from snout to tail, was caught last week and released back into the wild after being fitted with a tag to track its behaviour.

The monstrous bottom-dweller beat the previous record for biggest recorded freshwater fish, held by a 293-kilo (646-pound) Mekong giant catfish caught in Thailand in 2005, the US-funded Wonders of the Mekong research project said.