

Austere times are here

Govt puts on hold frill expenses, less important projects

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

In the end, it was not just lip service. Yesterday, on the first working day of the new fiscal year, the government rolled out a cocktail of austerity measures for its own administration that can conserve about Tk 60,000 crore – for now.

The instructions, which came in three separate notices from the finance ministry, come after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 29 urged everyone to practice austerity from their own positions and buy local.

The sombre stance comes in the face of strained foreign currency reserves, elevated global and domestic inflation, low fiscal space and continued jitters surrounding the Russia-Ukraine war.

No vehicles, aircraft, helicopters, ships, boats or barges can be purchased by the government, semi-government, autonomous and statutory bodies as well as state-owned enterprises and financial institutions or under any development projects until further notice.

Even the old ones cannot be replaced as per the notice yesterday.

In the budget for fiscal 2022-23, Tk 8,080

crore has been allocated for this overhead, down 1.6 percent from the just-concluded fiscal year.

Only for emergency and essential needs that the institutions can spend their allocations for entertainment, travel, training, stationery, electrical equipment and furniture.

Even then, they can spend at most 50 percent of the amount allotted.

About Tk 17,000 crore can be conserved as a result, according to the budget document.

No honorarium can be given for attending meetings of project implementation committee, project steering committee, departmental project evaluation committee and departmental special project evaluation committee.

In the budget for this fiscal year, Tk 619 crore has been allocated for honorarium and special expenses, down 27.3 percent from fiscal 2021-22.

The austerity has been implemented in the annual development programme too.

Projects have been classified into A, B and C categories.

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REASONS FOR AUSTERITY

- » Global inflation veering towards historic highs
- » Uncertainty over the end of Russia-Ukraine war
- » Foreign reserves in a delicate position
- » Remittance slowing down
- » Exports expected to contract
- » Revenue base shrinking

» About **Tk 18,000cr** will be conserved from austerity measures for administration

» Around **Tk 40,000cr** will be conserved from putting projects on hold



Ensure free, fair electoral environment

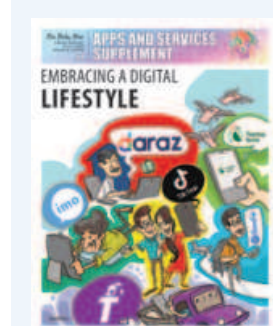
OECD countries tell EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The OECD countries will be happy if next general polls are held in an inclusive, acceptable, and free and fair manner, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an intergovernmental organisation with 38 member-countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

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Embracing a digital lifestyle

China wants to build Dhaka-Ctg expressway

Proposal sent to PMO, road ministry; govt may revive the plan discarded last year

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

China has proposed to build the Dhaka-Chattoogram Expressway under a government-Public Private Partnership (G2G-PPP) framework, bringing the project cancelled last year back into focus.

State-owned China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd (CSCEC) recently sent a proposal to the principal secretary to the prime minister to this effect.

A copy of the letter, sent by Liu Bingquan, authorised representative of CSCEC, was also sent to the personal secretary of the Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, ministry sources said.

The development comes at a time when road transport and bridges ministry is considering reviving the expressway plan, which was cancelled formally in October last year.

On Wednesday, the ministry's road transport and highways division will hold a meeting to take opinions from officials concerned for reviving the expressway plan, ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of the division, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said a Chinese company has sent a proposal to implement expressway project to the principal secretary and they also received a copy.

"However, we did not get any directive from the PMO. So, the particular proposal is not on our discussion list. But we will take opinions of experts [within the ministry and agencies] at the meeting to revive the expressway plan."

Indecision, short-sightedness and piecemeal measures have long been plaguing the government's plan to upgrade the Dhaka-Chattoogram corridor, considered the economic lifeline of the country.

The government took the expressway project in 2013 but the prime minister ordered to drop it in

2019, deciding instead to build a rather expensive high-speed railway between Dhaka and Chattogram, which is now on the backburner.

According to experts and business leaders, as much as 80-90 percent of the country's trade is carried out using the Dhaka-Chattoogram highway, and so the government should first develop the expressway for the sake of economic growth.

Talking to this newspaper earlier this year, Jashim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the average speed of vehicles on major highways

According to experts and business leaders, as much as 80-90 percent of the country's trade is carried out using the Dhaka-Chattoogram highway, and so the government should develop the expressway for the sake of economic growth.

is around 30 kilometres per hour.

Bangladesh's competitiveness in export will rise by six to seven percent if the average speed on the Dhaka-Chattoogram highway reaches 80kmph, which can best be achieved with an expressway, he added.

RHD officials at a recent meeting with the chief executive officer of Public Private Partnership Authority requested to reconsider the expressway plan before taking any project to add more lanes on the existing Dhaka-Chattoogram highway, RHD sources said.

THE FLIPFLOP

The government in 2004 decided to build a limited-access road. Four years later, the ADB financed a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



With floodwaters receding in many areas in Sylhet division, a trail of devastation is becoming visible. These rail lines in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj, which had been under water for days, appear to be warped as the gravel underneath got washed away.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Covid positivity rate rises to 15.53pc

1,902 more infected
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The transmission of coronavirus has increased as the positivity rate yesterday increased to 15.53 percent from 13.22 percent.

Yesterday, the number of new cases also increased as the health directorate reported 1,902 cases.

The previous day, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 1,105 cases.

Two Covid-19 patients died in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Meantime, 307 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illness taking the

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DHAKA AIRPORT Momen blasts officials over sufferings of passengers

**DIPLOMATIC
 CORRESPONDENT**

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday slammed officials at Dhaka airport for the sufferings of the passengers who often have to wait for hours for their baggage upon arrival.

The minister said the complaints he heard frequently from expatriates were found to be true when he arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from Portugal yesterday.

"I arrived around 10:30am and saw long queues of passengers waiting for their luggage. I discovered that a flight from Dubai landed at 8:45am, but luggage was not put on the belt even at 10:45am," Momen told reporters at the foreign ministry later in the day.

Many of the passengers did not find any cart to carry the luggage from the belt to the exit, he said.

The minister then called the manager concerned and asked about the delays in baggage handling and why carts were not found.

"The manager said many flights landed at the same time and then there was an [end of] shift [for employees] in the morning and the employees of the next shift were yet to arrive," Momen said, adding that he got angry at that point.

"Terminate them if they don't come on time and recruit new people," I shouted."

He then called Mahbub Ali, the state minister for civil aviation and tourism ministry, and informed him of the passengers' sufferings.

Momen went to Rwanda to attend the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on June 22. From there, he flew to the UK and then attended an ocean conference in Portugal.



A man takes a bull to the cattle market at the capital's Gabtoli. Farmers and traders are bringing cows and goats from across the country ahead of the Eid.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

GLOBAL EMOTIONS REPORT 2022

Bangladesh 7th saddest nation in the world

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh has ranked seventh among the world's angriest, saddest and most stressed nations, says a new global survey.

The country scored 45 on the index while Afghanistan topped the list with a score of 59, says the recently revealed report titled "2022 Global Emotions Report".

Higher scores on the Negative Experience Index indicate that more of a population is experiencing these emotions, said the report that measures the well-being of nations every year.

A total of 1,000 people took part in the face-to-face survey that was conducted in Bangladesh between February 27 and March 30 this year.

The polling group surveyed 127,000 adults in 122 countries spanning the globe and found that 2021 was more stressful than 2020.

The survey included questions like whether the person felt physical pain, worry, sadness, stress and anger.

Jon Clifton, the global managing

partner of Gallup, which did the survey, said the world is suffering from war, inflation and a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

Any one of those would make the world worse, but the global rise of unhappiness started long before any of those issues made headlines. In fact, unhappiness has been rising for a decade, he said in the report.

The report said about 42 percent of respondents say they are going through a lot more worry, a two percent increase from 2020.

It added that policymakers must understand why so many people are having unprecedented negative emotions, and focus on the drivers of a great life.

Mentioning the reasons for the unhappiness, the report said there are five significant contributors to the rise of global unhappiness: poverty, bad communities, hunger, loneliness and the scarcity of good work.

It added that over three in 10 people surveyed experienced a lot of physical pain (31 percent), more than one in four sadness

(28 percent), and slightly fewer some forms of anger (23 percent).

Afghanistan is the most stressful country with a negative index score of 32, which is the lowest since the Gallup started surveying 16 years ago, while Panama is the least stressful country with a positive index score of 85.

The report said the world was a slightly sadder, more worried and more stressed-out place than it was the year before — even if people were a little less angry.

"Worry rose two points, while stress and sadness increased one point," it said, adding that Latin American countries dominate the list of countries where people report a lot of positive emotions each day.

Panama topped the list with the score of 85 in Positive Emotions Index. With scores in the 80s, Paraguay, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua are not far behind. Several countries outside of Latin America that ranked among the most positive in 2021 are Iceland, the Philippines, Senegal, Denmark and South Africa.

China wants to build

FROM PAGE 1
 feasibility study and concept designs of the four-lane Dhaka-Chattogram highway, according to documents of the multilateral lender.

In 2009, the daily average number of vehicles on the highway was between 20,000 and 25,000. Forty percent of them were trucks. It was expected that the number could reach 66,000 in 2030, according to the documents.

In March 2013, the cabinet committee on economic affairs approved the expressway project under PPP. The government signed a deal with the ADB the following month to carry out a feasibility study and make a detailed design spending Tk 97.87 crore.

Over two years later, the study was placed the before prime minister who gave consent to building the expressway consisting of elevated sections. The estimated construction cost for the 217km expressway was \$2.5 billion at that time, sources said.

Consultants were even appointed for necessary assessments to implement the project under the PPP framework, RHD sources said.

But the prime minister in October 2019 ordered cancellation of the expressway project, giving directives for construction of service lanes on either side of the existing four-lane highway, sources said.

In October last year, the same cabinet committee formally scrapped the plan. Abdus Sabur, then chief engineer of the roads and highways department, told this correspondent that the prime minister was in favour

of building a high-speed rail system between Dhaka-Chattogram.

BR already completed the feasibility study and detailed design for high-speed rail, spending around Tk 110 crores.

As per the study, the 224.64-km rail line, which would bring travel time between the capital and the port city down to just 55 minutes (73 minutes with stops), would cost Tk 93,350.93 crore.

But talking to this correspondent in October last year, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujjan said the government would "go slow" considering the expenses.

Meanwhile, China Railway Group Ltd, another Chinese state-owned company, has proposed carrying out the project under the G2G-PPP framework and Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jiming in April wrote to the railways minister for signing a memorandum of understanding between the company and BR "as soon as possible".

But prominent transport experts questioned the viability of a project with such huge investment. Some said BR lacks the capacity to complete this "highly ambitious" scheme.

CHINESE PROPOSAL FOR EXPRESSWAY

In its letter sent to the principal secretary to the prime minister on May 29, the CSCEC said they "understood" that the Bangladesh government wished to implement the expressway on a G2G-PPP basis.

Under the G2G-PPP arrangement, Bangladesh may request other governments to provide

financial support and select state-owned or private entities to act as investors.

The company will build, maintain and operate the structure for a certain period and get money following the terms mentioned in the agreement.

No project under the G2G-PPP arrangement has yet to be implemented in Bangladesh. Discussions with several countries, including Japan and South Korea, have been going on to implement some projects under this model.

The company said they have completed numerous projects around the globe and were involved in 10 projects in Bangladesh so far totalling around \$1 billion contract value.

"Desires to be a partner in building this expressway, we hereby present ourselves for your kind assessment and consideration," reads the proposal.

Covid positivity

FROM PAGE 1
 overall recovery rate to 96.44 percent.

With this, the total number of confirmed cases rose to 19,78,689 and the total number of fatalities to 29,162.

After the transmission remained under control for around three months, it started rising early last month, indicating the beginning of the fourth wave of Covid-19 in the country.

A positivity rate below five percent for at least two weeks at a stretch indicates the end of the previous wave, according to experts.

A total of 29 Covid-19 patients have died since the current wave started, according to the DGHS data.

Austere times are here

FROM PAGE 1
 The A-category projects will go on as normal, while up to 75 percent of the allocation for the B-category projects can be spent.

All C category projects have been put on hold, but the ministries and divisions can re-route the allocations for the projects to the A-category ones being implemented by them.

While the notice has not articulated what constitutes an A-category project or a C-category project, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials that projects that will increase economic activities have been given the highest priority.

"Those are A-category

projects," said a finance ministry official involved with the proceedings.

Projects that will generate revenue for the government have been marked as B category.

"About Tk 30,000-40,000 crore can be conserved this way," he said, adding that the import component in the government's own-funded projects has been suspended.

Imports made under foreign-funded projects will continue as those will bring in foreign currency for the government, the official added.

"This was the right step and the right time to usher in austerity given the

pressure on the budget," said Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre of Policy Dialogue.

Going forward, the government will have to make tougher calls regarding subsidies for gas, electricity, fertiliser and fuel.

"Would the government go for price adjustments for these now when inflation is rising?"

The government can also cut back on its expenses by way of good governance.

"Now is the time to implement the prime minister's zero-tolerance policy on corruption and wastage."

Rahman is also not on board with a blanket ban

on luxury imports.

"There are people who do not mind paying more for luxury items. Luxury imports bring in revenue for the government but they also drain foreign currency reserves. Both sides must be considered," he said adding that some luxury items can be discouraged.

He is also not on board with putting projects on hold as there would be a big bump in expenditure once those are resumed and that is not desirable.

"The ongoing projects must continue and the government must focus on finishing those. If those are put on hold, their costs will jump later."

Hold talks with the opponents

China urges Myanmar junta

AFP, Beijing

China's foreign minister yesterday called for Myanmar's junta to hold talks with its opponents during his first visit to the country since the 2021 coup that plunged it into turmoil.

Beijing is one of the Myanmar military's few international allies, supplying arms and refusing to label the power grab that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government a coup.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China expects all parties in Myanmar to "adhere to rational consultation" and "strive to achieve political reconciliation".

Wang also told counterpart Wunna Maung Lwin that "China sincerely hopes that Myanmar will be politically and socially stable," according to a statement on the foreign ministry's website.

In Beijing's highest-profile visit to Myanmar since the putsch, Wang is attending a foreign ministers' meeting with representatives from Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam attending.

His comments follow a junta spokesman indicating last week that talks between the military and ousted leader Suu Kyi to resolve the chaos were "not impossible".

Schoolteacher found dead in Rangamati

UNB, Rangamati

Police recovered the throat-slit body of an indigenous female school teacher from her house in Rangamati's Longdu upazila yesterday.

Pensy Chakma, 35, was a teacher at a school run by Unicef, said Ariful Amin, officer-in-charge of Longdu Police Station.

Babu Ajay Mitra Chakma, chairman of Atarakchara Union Parishad, said Pensy used to work as a local community worker and used to live alone.

"On Sunday morning, some children went to get tuition at her house and they found the body. Later, locals called police," said the UP chairman.

Student electrocuted in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

A college student was electrocuted and his paternal uncle injured at Bhati Langarpara Charband in Sherpur's Shribardi upazila yesterday.

Manjurul Islam Manju, 18, was a second-year student of Sherpur Government College.

Police said Manju and his uncle Anwar Hussain were watering their seedbed by a pump around 8:00am.

Manju got electrocuted while repairing electrical wire of the pump, they said, adding that Anwar was also injured as he tried to save Manju.

Biplob Kumar Biswas, officer-in-charge of Shribardi Police Station, said the victim's family requested them not to send the body for autopsy.

"We will take measures after discussing it with high officials."

Engr dies in train crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An engineer of the under construction Bangabandhu Rail Bridge over the Jamuna River died Saturday night after being hit by a Jamalpur-bound train in Biaramaria area in Tangail's Kalihati upazila.

Jaber Khan Jony, 24, of the upazila's Kharshila village, was working as a site engineer of Toma Construction Company, a contractor employed in Bangabandhu Railway Bridge, said his cousin Bin Jayed.

Jayed, also a colleague of the victim, said Jaber was talking on his mobile phone while walking on the rail track in Biaramaria area Saturday afternoon.

At the time, Dhaleswari Express hit him, leaving him critically injured, he said. He died around 9:00pm.

India landslide death toll rises to 37

AFP, Guwahati

The death toll from a massive landslide in India hit 37 yesterday, authorities said, as rescue teams battled teeming rain to search for 25 others still missing three days later.

A wall of mud and rock swamped a camp housing railway construction workers and members of the Territorial Army in remote Manipur state in the northeast after heavy rain early on Thursday.

Ensure free, fair electoral environment

FROM PAGE 1
 The heads and deputy heads of the missions of the 14 OECD countries said this at a meeting yesterday with the CEC and other commissioners at EC office.

"They usually emphasise democratic values ... The people of the country would also be happy if the elections are held in a free and fair manner," the polls chief told reporters after the meeting.

He added that delegates of the OECD countries wanted to know about the laws and the EC's preparation on the upcoming parliamentary elections.

After the meeting, Switzerland Ambassador to Dhaka Nathalie Chuard read out a statement on behalf of the OECD, saying the countries welcome the EC's commitment to a free,

fair and credible national election.

They also welcome the EC's openness to domestic and international observations regarding the polls.

"To uphold and ensure citizens' voting rights, make the country's democracy more robust and effective, ensure an electoral environment that is participatory and free from violence and intimidation, and support the media and civil society to play critical roles ...," Nathalie said.

"As long-standing, committed friends and partners of Bangladesh, our countries stand ready to consider any requests for support from the BEC [Bangladesh Election Commission] to promote democratic and realise citizens' aspirations," she added.

Nathalie then left the venue without further comments.

Asked, the CEC said if the commission needs any kind of assistance, it would inform the OECD following a discussion amongst themselves. There was, however, no such assistance currently needed.

He added the EC will not raise any objections to foreign observers' presence during the polls. "They [the OECD] should also talk to the foreign ministry in this regard."

Awal added, "The OECD countries are aware that some parties are still saying they will not participate in the election. They [OECD] also believe that we will be able to establish a consensus among all parties." EC officials said British

High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Robert Chatterton Dickson, US Ambassador in Dhaka Peter D Haas, Canadian High Commissioner Lilly Nicholls, Denmark Ambassador Winnie Estrup Petersen, European Union Ambassador Charles Whiteley, French Chargé d'Affaires Guillaume Audren de Kerdrel, German Ambassador Achim Tröster, Italian Ambassador Enrico Nunziata, Netherlands Ambassador Anne van Leeuwen, Norwegian Ambassador Espen Rikter Svendsen, Spanish Ambassador Francisco de Asis Benitez Salas, Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Osman Turan and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Japanese embassy Hiroyuki Yamaya joined the meeting.

A rare feat of masonry on verge of destruction

Century-old Neelam Ghar being knocked down by bar association, claiming to run 'renovation' works

HELEMUL ALAM and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Neelam Ghar -- a century-old building in Old Dhaka used by the British and Pakistani rulers to auction off confiscated objects -- has been pushed to the verge of demolition yesterday.

The two-storey building on Court House Street holds immense architectural value, say conservationists.

The Deputy Commissioner's Office of Dhaka, which is the custodian of the 15 decimals of land, leased the building out to the Dhaka Bar Association on February 15 for a year.

According to the lease documents, the lessee shall neither build anything new nor change, modify and repair the existing structure. Selling, handing over, and mortgaging the property is also prohibited.

However, the association started renovation works on the building against the clauses.

Firojur Rahman Montu, general secretary of DBA, claimed that they took permission from the Dhaka district administration to reform the building a month ago.

"The building is being renovated now. It will not be knocked down," Montu told this newspaper.

"At present, there are some 27,760 enlisted lawyers at

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Around 30 to 35 labourers are working to knock down the Neelam Ghar to build a new structure for Dhaka Bar Association. The century-old establishment on the Court Street in Old Dhaka is recognised by conservationists as a rare feat of masonry. The property has been leased out to the association by the deputy commissioner's office. The association is now planning to construct a multi-storey building by demolishing this structure. However, when asked, they claimed that they are only running renovation works on the building. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



PADMA BRIDGE All credit goes to people: PM

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed gratitude to the nation for standing by her in constructing the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, saying that all credit goes to the people of Bangladesh.

The premier said this while speaking at the beginning of the Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat, reports BSS. She chaired the meeting virtually from Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said the construction of Padma Bridge, which opened to traffic on June 25,

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A look into post-pandemic cattle markets in city

HELEMUL ALAM

Rokon Bepary, a farmer from Shibchar, brought 16 bulls to the Dholaikhal cattle market this year, almost half of what he brought last year, due to a huge loss of Tk 3 lakh.

Rokon had to sell 16.5 decimal of his land to recover from the loss.

"I have to leave this business if I face loss again. I do not have any land left to sell," said Rokon who is hoping to make a profit this year provided Indian bulls do not make their way into Dhaka's cattle market.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Not just Rokon, many cattle traders either reduced their production or left the business due to the huge loss last year.

However, the statistics of the Department of Livestock is showing a different picture. According to them, 1 crore 21 lakh 24 thousand sacrificial animals were reared this year against the demand of 97.75 lakh across the country.

About 9,093,242 cattle were sacrificed across the country last year, as per data from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

Last year's loss, high price of cattle feed and cattle in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Highways off limits to bikes during Eid



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Motorcycle movement on highways will remain restricted for a week (from July 7 to July 13) aiming to ensure road safety during the Eid rush.

Bikes registered under a particular district won't be allowed to operate outside those districts. Two-wheelers under ride-sharing services will not operate beyond their permitted territory-- areas under the jurisdiction of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA).

However, bikes will be allowed in case of a "valid and unavoidable situation" by taking permission from the police.

The decisions were taken at a preparatory meeting of the Road Transports and Bridges Ministry ahead of Eid.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader presided over the meeting, said a press release.

What's perplexing however is that the press release didn't clarify what would be considered a "valid and unavoidable" situation. There was also no mention of the process of taking permission from the police.

This move comes at a time when authorities, citing safety concerns, are taking a stricter step against two-wheelers in recent times.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority has banned bikes on Padma Bridge, while the Roads and Highways Department is considering banning bikes on Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway.

Besides, a government probe committee has recently recommended banning bikes on national highways as they found a sharp rise of bike-involved road crashes ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr this year.

For the lack of public services and rise in bus fares, many people were forced to use their two-wheelers to go home ahead of Eid. But, the huge number of bikes caused more accidents, different road safety organisations said.

More than 35 lakh bikes got registered with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) so far. But many unregistered bikes still tread unchecked across the country.

Members of BRTA, Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), police, highway police,

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Hasina to visit Tungipara today via Padma Bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit her ancestral house Tungipara of Gopalganj with her family members this morning by road.

It will be her first visit by crossing the bridge since its inauguration on June 25.

She will return back to the capital in the evening, a member of the PM's press wing told The Daily Star yesterday.

During her stay at Tungipara, Hasina will pay tribute to Bangabandhu by placing wreaths at his grave. Blanket security measures have been taken in and around Tungipara centring the arrival of the premier.

42 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 42 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Among the new cases, 10 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). With the new cases, the total number of dengue patients this year rose to 1,202. Among the patients, 133 are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 1,068 patients have been released from hospitals and one dengue patient has died so far.

EMBEZZLING TK 26.77 LAKH

Evaly's ex-chair, CEO sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Controversial e-commerce platform Evaly's former chairman Shamima Nasrin and her husband ex-chief executive officer Mohammad Rassel were sued yesterday for embezzling of Tk 26.77 lakh from a customer.

Jannatul Ferdous, a resident of Savar's Hemayetpur, filed the case against the couple at Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary's court.

In her complaint, Jannatul said after being attracted with advertisements of Evaly, she ordered goods worth Tk 26,77,500 and paid all the money at Evaly's account. But the company failed to supply the ordered products.

SOHEL CHY MURDER CASE

Court asks for case dockets

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday again asked Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) and a former inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station to produce the case dockets (CD) of film actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case before it on July 20, the next scheduled date.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal 2 of Dhaka passed the order after the prosecution submitted a petition in this regard.

In the petition, the prosecution said Md Farid Uddin, former inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station, did not return the case docket after he received it from the PP office. So, an order is needed asking him for producing the case docket before it the next scheduled date.

PRAYER
TIMING
JULY 4



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17
Jamaat	4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Death toll from flood crosses 100

Says DGHS; 7 more die in Netrakona, Lalmonirhat

UNB, Dhaka

The ongoing flood claimed seven more lives in Netrakona and Lalmonirhat districts in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the total fatalities to 102.

All the deceased died by drowning, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the total deceased, 75 people died by drowning in floodwater, 15 from lightning strikes, two from snake bites, one from diarrhoea, and nine due to other reasons.

The total deaths were recorded from May 17 to July 3, said DGHS.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HOMEWARD BOUND... Sitting on bags and looking towards the road, awaiting the bus that will take them home -- this quintessential scene of going home on Eid is becoming quite common at the city's bus stands lately as Eid approaches. This photo was taken at Kalyanpur yesterday.

'Name-only' newspapers should not be given govt ads

Demands Shampadak Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Name-only and irregular" newspapers should not be given government advertisements and supplements, demanded Bangladesh Shampadak Forum (BSF) yesterday.

The forum, formed two years ago, placed a 10-point demand to Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud in this regard. A 12-member delegation of BSF placed the demand at a meeting with the minister at his secretariat office.

The BSF also demanded that the government take measures to stop "talk

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Death anniv of Fazal-e-Khuda today

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of noted lyricist Fazal-e-Khuda, best known for the legendary song, "Salam Salam Hajar Salam".



On this day last year, he passed away at Suhrawardy Hospital, aged 80. He was previously diagnosed with Covid-19. On the occasion, wreath will be placed at his grave in Rayerbazar, prayers will be offered and food will be distributed among the destitute.

He was renowned for his patriotic, modern, folk, and Islamic songs. Some of his notable songs include "Je Deshete Shapla Shaluk Jhiler Jole Bhashe", "Bhalobashar Mullo Koto,"

A rare feat of masonry on verge

FROM PAGE 3

the bar, while around 57,000 lawyers are waiting to be enlisted. Hence, we need to make more space."

The association laid an engraved foundation stone mentioning Bangabandhu Bhaban at the site on March 7 inaugurated by DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Tapposh.

A human chain of Urban Study Group (USG), which was organised in protest of the demolition, was foiled by a group who tore down their banner, said Ekhlash Uddin Ahmed Khan, a USG volunteer. He also alleged that the bar association members did it.

These correspondents visited the place yesterday at noon and learned that the structure is being demolished.

Fakhrul, a representative of the labourers employed at the site, said around 30 to 35 labourers are working to knock down the

Neelam Ghar to build a new structure for DBA lawyers.

He, however, refused to share more details and asked these correspondents to talk to the association directly for further queries.

The office of Deaf Development Association was located at the Neelam Ghar where Aminul Haque Mintu has been working for five years as a caretaker. "We left the building as it is being demolished for building a new one."

Taimur Islam, USG chief executive, said they met Dhaka Deputy Commissioner yesterday who informed them that they did not approve of the demolition.

He said the Dhaka DC also instructed the assistant commissioner concerned to stop the demolition. However, a huge part of the building has already been demolished.

"We submitted a petition to the ministry concerned

as well as the Dhaka DC office against this move earlier," he said.

Taimur said the demolition is also a violation of a 2017 High Court directive that ordered the authorities to stop changing, modifying and demolishing 2,200 British-era buildings named in the group's list of heritage sites in Old Dhaka, including Neelam Ghar.

"How an organisation like the bar association is doing something like this is incomprehensible," he said.

This structure is an example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, with clear neoclassical influences, he said. The two-storey rectangular building has a courtyard and is finished with lime plaster with motifs and decorative elements crafted by hand lime mortar, a hallmark of the incomparable skills of the masons from Dhaka.

However, DBA general secretary Montu claimed that the building is not one of the 2,200 buildings named in the 2017 HC directive. Arun Krishna Pal, senior assistant commissioner of Dhaka DC office, said, "Our magistrate stopped the demolition work as per law."

Asked about the "renovation", he said, "I do not know anything about the matter. I will let you know on Monday."

Highways off limits to bikes

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association, and leaders of different transport associations were also present at the meeting.

As the meeting decision, operations of goods-laden trucks, and covered vans and lorries will remain suspended for a week starting from July 7.

However, the restriction

show" and "news bulletin" programme by the newspapers as, what they said, such programmes go against the Printing Press and Publications Act.

The forum said the "name-only and irregular" newspapers have to be suspended from the media list and the previous government advertisement system has to be restored through cancelling the

existing decentralisation system.

The demands also include overhauling the determining system of newspaper circulation.

BSF demanded that the government circulate an order so that any unprofessional journalist cannot take charge as editor or acting editor of a newspaper. The minister said an initiative has been taken to create a database

of journalists working in the country.

He also thanked the BSF leaders for agreeing with ATCO, the owners of television channels, on the issue of not broadcasting talk shows and news bulletins by the newspapers and online media.

BSF chief adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and convener Rafiqul Islam Ratan, among others, were present at the meeting.

would not be applied to vehicles carrying essential goods, raw materials, medicine, fuel, garment products, perishable goods, and trucks carrying sacrificial animals, reads the press release.

Legal action would be taken the vehicles which will violate the directives.

Participating in the meeting virtually, Quader

said cattle markets aren't allowed on the highways. He requested transport leaders and workers not to carry sacrificial animals in unfit vehicles.

He asked the officials concerned to take measures so that CNG Filling Station remains open for 24 hours amid the Eid rush.

The minister also requested the leaders of

Salma Khan

FROM PAGE 5

expressed deep condolences over her death. "The country lost a shining star with the death of Salma Khan. On one hand, she was a successful and responsible activist, on the other hand, she was a fighter for realising women's rights... Her death created a huge void in the women's rights movement," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, in a statement issued yesterday.

Salma Khan is the founder Chairperson of NGO Coalition on Beijing

Process (NCBP), a network of 624 NGOs working towards implementation of Beijing Platform for Action. She was elected a member of the CEDAW in 1992 and served three terms in the CEDAW Committee (2003-2006).

She was the first Asian to be elected the chairperson of CEDAW (1997 & 1998).

She obtained her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Economics from DU and a post-graduate degree in Development Economics from the University of Chicago, USA as a Fulbright scholar.

All credit goes

FROM PAGE 3

is a major milestone in changing the destiny of Bangladesh. "I sincerely thank everyone."

The premier said the battle to build Padma Bridge started in 2012 and throughout the construction it faced slander and conspiracy.

"The saddest thing is that we could have started

(construction of the bridge) much earlier and ended earlier (if there were no conspiracy)," she noted.

CABINET CLEARS DRAFT FAMILY COURT ACT

The Cabinet yesterday approved the draft of Family Court Act, 2022 to replace an ordinance of the military regime with some minor changes, reports UNB. Cabinet Secretary

Khandker Anwarul Islam briefed reporters after the meeting.

As per the proposed law, the government can consider not only the court of district judges but also the courts of other judges who are equivalent to the district judges as appellate courts for such cases, he said.

A look into post-pandemic

FROM PAGE 3

local markets during the beginning of the seasons were the main causes of reduced production, said Md Ashraf Alam, a trader from Chuadanga.

Each sack of cattle fodder was being sold for Tk 1,800 to Tk 1,900 whereas last year they were being sold for Tk 1,200, said another trader Md Abdul Khalek.

Md Milon Hossain, a trader from Jhenidah's Balorampur said this

year, the production of sacrificial animals have been less by around 20 percent due to the financial problem in their area -- mainly connected to betel leaf farming, which saw a huge loss due to virus contamination.

"Last year, 14 trucks of animals were brought to Dhaka from Balorampur. The number is 8 this year," said Milon.

This year 19 makeshift cattle markets and a permanent one have been

leased for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, scheduled to be observed on July 10.

Ten of the total markets, including the permanent one at Gabtali, are under Dhaka North City Corporation while the other 10 are under Dhaka South City Corporation.

A good number of sacrificial animals have already been gathered at different cattle markets before the official beginning of the rush.

Reaz Uddin, operator at the Dholaikhal market, said they will start their operation formally from Wednesday and volunteers are busy to ensure smooth vehicular movement on roads.

Khulna Shipyard Limited
Bangladesh Navy, Khulna

Tender Notice

01.	Procuring entity name	Khulna Shipyard Limited.
02.	Intention for	05 Ton Capacity Forklift - 02 Nos.
03.	Invitation/Reference No.	BABE (F)-27/5FL/2022-2023. Dated: 03 July 2022
04.	Procuring method	Open Tender (Two Envelop System).
05.	Budget & source of funds	Own Finance
06.	Tender last selling date	21 August 2022
07.	Tender closing date & time	22 August 2022 Time: 11:15am
08.	Tender opening date & time	22 August 2022, Time: 11:30am
09.	Name & address of the office(s) for selling, receiving and opening of tender documents	(1) Cash Section, Accounts Department, Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna. (2) Naval Store Sub Depot, Khikhat, Nama Para, Khikhat, Dhaka.
a.	Selling tender document	Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Khulna.
b.	Receiving tender document	(1) Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Khulna, (2) Tenderer's & their authorized representatives are allowed to attend.
c.	Opening tender document	
10.	Price of tender document	Tk 1,000.00 (one thousand) (non-refundable).
11.	Contact details of official	Tel: 041-813975/720903, 02-8810990 Ext-3330 E-mail: account@kshl.gov.bd
12.	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

GD-1529 **Manager Commercial**

Tender Notice

Esprit De Corp (Far East) Ltd., Bangladesh Liaison Office is closing down on 30 September 2022 and the management decided to sell off its Cars, Furnitures, equipment and other assets at its current condition. Tenders are hereby invited from genuine vendors/companies/individuals and highest bidders will be awarded accordingly. Interested bidders are requested to communicate with Ms. Lija Baydda, HR & Admin Supervisor of Esprit De Corp (Far East) Ltd., (authorized person) by 10th July 2022.

Esprit De Corp (Far East) Ltd., Bangladesh Liaison Office
Update Tower (Level-3), 1, Shahjalal Avenue,
Sector # 6, Uttara, Dhaka-1230

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

e-Zone
Servicing Change Managers

E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions. E-Zone HRM Limited has a formal agreement with one of the United Nations agency to provide outsourcing services under a third party contract.

E-Zone HRM Limited is now seeking applications for a UN Organization from Bangladesh Nationals for the following vacancies under third party outsourcing contract modality. For detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.

Title: Construction Officer (NO-A)
Duty Station: Cox's Bazar. Contract Duration: 5.5 Months.
Number of Vacancies: 1 (One). Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.

Last Date of Application: **09 July, 2022**

<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un115.html>

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Balaگان, District: Sylhet
www.lged.gov.bd

মেসার্স সফটওয়্যার ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স
এস এম সফটওয়্যার

Reference No. 46.02.5400.000.18.02.2022-518 Date: 3/07/2022

e-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No. 01/2022-2023

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the works as stated below:

Package No.	Name of work	Tender ID No.	Tender submission date & time	Tender opening date & time
e-Tender/PEDP4/SLTBAL/2021-22/01-03/01	Construction of additional classroom Hosham Pur GPS under PEDP4.	710943	02-Aug-2022, 14:00	02-Aug-2022, 15:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 02-Aug-2022 14:00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Muatakin Sharif Sayed
Upazila Engineer
LGED, Balaگان
District Sylhet
E-mail: ua.balagan@lged.gov.bd

GD-1332

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
LGED, Madaripur
www.lged.gov.bd

মেসার্স সফটওয়্যার ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স
এস এম সফটওয়্যার

Memo No: 46.02.5400.000.07.097.22.2306 Date: **03/07/2022**

e-Tender Notice

Tender No. e-Tender Notice : 2021-22/01

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

Location	T-ID /Method	Name of the Work	Tender Closing	Remarks
Rajshahi	708086 (LTM)	e-APP/LGED/MAD/GOBM/22-23/W-01 Periodic maintenance of char kashampur khalifa bari-nayakanda jame masque road from Ch. 00m-1120m[RAJOIR], Madaripur, Road Code-354804064		
Kalkini	688274 (LTM)	IRIDP-3/MDR /DW-43 Improvement of VRB-285, Near the H/O Chunnubaperi to UNR-10, Sobulia Khan House Road via Jamidar Khan House road Ch. 750m-1685m[ID No. 3544054065] [KALKINI]	19-July-2022 Within 12:30 PM	
	688275 (LTM)	IRIDP-3/MDR/DW-44 (a) Improvement of H/O ToyebalDarader-H/O Rashid moulovi via Baharul member house road Ch. 00m-1400m [ID No. 354404065] [KALKINI] (b) Construction of 01 no 4.50mx4.50m culvert at Ch. 575m on the same road		

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system Portal have to be deposited on line through any e-GP registered banks Branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) and also from e-mail: xen.madaripur@lged.gov.bd or call to 0661-62445.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

(Md. Ashraf Ali Khan)
 Executive Engineer
 LGED, Madaripur
 Tel: 0661-62445(Off)
 e-mail: xen.madaripur@lged.gov.bd

GD- 1330

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seeks applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following position:

Research Officer (Molecular Biology), NSU Genome Research Institute (NGRI): 1 (one) position

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview:

Job Description:

- Perform various molecular biology protocols, which include DNA/RNA extraction, PCR-based assays, Next-generation sequencing, and optimize techniques for high-quality output and downstream processing.
- Plan, implement, and coordinate a range of research and administrative tasks, including providing laboratory/research support services, scheduling bookings, administering experiments, data collection, input and analysis, and preparing results in accordance with established research objectives, timeframes, and protocols.
- Provide supervision, training, and guidance to staff where applicable, including overseeing compliance with technical or research standards and protocols.
- Prepare reports and other documentation for research leaders, committees, and funding bodies.
- Ensure compliance with established research methodology, policy, protocols, and regulatory requirements.
- Present findings to colleagues and at conferences.

Essential Requirements:

- An M.Sc. in Biotechnology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, or related field with a CGPA above 3.50.
- Experience in standard molecular biological processes such as DNA/RNA extraction, Illumina, and Nanopore.
- Library preparation, troubleshooting.
- Experience with analysis of next-generation sequence data such as whole-genome sequencing, RNA-Seq, and metagenomics.
- Experience with or a strong interest in bioinformatics programming, including Linux, scripting, and R.
- Should have at least one publication (genomics) or under review in Scopus index, peer-reviewed journal.
- Should have strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to be an effective team player in a collaborative environment.

Age: Ideally 25-30 years.

Remuneration: An attractive salary package with in-house medical services as per NSU policy.

Other Terms and Conditions:

- Willingness to work in holidays and after-hours if necessary.
- Third division/ class/ equivalent GPA of the candidates in any educational level will not be accepted.

NSU reserves the right to not appoint anyone if suitable candidates are not found.

Any prior communication or persuasion linked to the position will be considered as a disqualification. Candidates should apply from his/her own e-mail address with a complete CV, photographs, copies of certificates, by 4th August 2022.

Director (Administration)
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
 Plot# 15, Block# B, Bashundhara, Dhaka - 1229
 Email: nsuhr@northsouth.edu
 Website: www.northsouth.edu

FLOOD IN THE NORTH Crops worth Tk 134cr damaged

S DILIP ROY

With water receding, the grim scenario of damages caused by flood is becoming visible in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat. Around 24,000 farmers have been affected in the two districts. Crops worth Tk 134 crore on 16,383 hectares of land were damaged, according to the department of agriculture.

Shahidar Rahman (62), a flood-affected farmer of Brahmaputra shoal at Kurigram's Roumari, cultivated aus paddy on five bighas of land and vegetables in one bigha land. The flood washed away all his crops, leaving a damage worth Tk 75,000. "I have no way to compensate for this loss."

He said he cultivated the crops by taking out loans. He's now worried about how he'll ever repay it and provide for his family at the same time.

Afzal Hossain (60), a flood-hit farmer of Teesta shoal at Rajpur union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said his three bighas of aus paddy, and four bighas of



Lawkathi river bank has turned into a garbage dumping zone since all of Patuakhali town's waste is dumped there, as no designated dumping zone has been set up by the authorities as of yet.

PHOTO: STAR

20 tonnes garbage dumped at riverside daily!

Authorities themselves contribute to water pollution, health hazard in Patuakhali

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

All the garbage produced across Patuakhali town are dumped on the bank of Lawkathi river, contributing to serious environmental pollution and subsequent health hazard.

For this, the municipal authorities have chosen two sites -- Majhgram area near the BSCIC office, and the eastern side of Patuakhali bridge over Lawkathi.

However, the sites are not designated ones. The municipality authorities said at least 40 to 50 tonnes of waste are daily produced in the town by 1.15 lakh people.

SM Akramul Nahid, medical officer of Patuakhali municipality and head of its garbage section, said, "Half of the waste is left in drains by locals. Municipality trucks collect the rest from different open places -- including roads and bazaars."

A total of 214 cleaners with four garbage trucks are involved in the process. "All the collected waste is dumped at the riverside as we have no dumping ground," he said.

The huge amount of waste materials pollute the river waters and spread putrid

stench, causing trouble to locals.

"Movement through the road beside the spot has become an ordeal," said Abdul Maleq Hawlader (50) from Majhgram.

"We have to face the stench round the clock. Children often suffer from different types of diseases due to the pollution," said Zakir Hossain from the same area.

Nuisance of mosquitoes and flies has already increased in the area, said Khadiza Begum, another local.

Jaasim Uddin, a local fisher, said the garbage falls into the river from the bank and pollute the water. "The amount of fish that we used to catch once are not found in the river now."

Sheikh Kamal Mahadi, assistant director of Department of Environment in Patuakhali, said, "We sent a letter to the Patuakhali municipality mayor on December 12 last year, asking them to arrange a dumping site for safe disposal of the town's garbage."

In this regard, municipality mayor Md Mohiuddin Ahmed said, "We already acquired seven acres of land in Lohalia area, on one side of the river, which is 5 kilometres east of the town, for such a dumping ground."



vegetables, nuts, and maize got damaged by floods. He said he incurred a loss of Tk 1.5 lakh.

Abdur Rashid, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Kurigram, said a list of those affected by the floods had been prepared and sent to the ministry concerned.

"The government hasn't yet declared what steps it will take to rehabilitate the flood-affected farmers. However, distribution of fertilisers and seeds is ongoing."

"If the flood-affected farmers do not get rehabilitation assistance, they won't be able to make up for the loss," he added.

Hamidur Rahman, deputy director of DAE in Lalmonirhat, said most of the farmers affected by the floods were cultivating crops with loans. He too hoped that the government will take necessary steps required to rehabilitate them.

Sonali Bank Limited
Establishment and Engineering Division
Engineering Department
Head Office, Dhaka
Phone: +880241051440
Email: dgmeed@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.	709450	Fenestration Works (Civil & Electrical) of Sonali Bank Limited, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.	04 July, 2022 10:00	02 August, 2022 11:00	02 August, 2022 15:30

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.

Sd/-
Md. Abul Bashar
Additional Chief Engineer

GD-1331

Bangladesh Krishi Bank
Divisional Office
Krishi Bank Bhavan, Zindabazar, Sylhet-3100
Phone: Website: www.krishibank.org.bd

-42/computer/otm/2021-22/3258 Date: 26-06-2022

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

This is to notify all concern that, the following tenders have been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>):

Sl No.	Tender ID	Tender name	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing and opening date and time	Tender method
01	713453 bkb/admin-42/computer/otm/2021-22/3187	Supply of 100 (one hundred) Personal Computers for Different Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sylhet Division	17 July 2022, 11:30	18 July 11:30	OTM
02	714247 bkb/admin-42/computer/otm/2021-22/3188	Supply of 37 (thirty-seven) Inkjet Printer for Different Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sylhet Division	17 July 2022, 11:30	18 July 11:30	OTM
03	714270 bkb/admin-42/computer/otm/2021-22/3189	Supply of 20 (twenty) Scanner for Different Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sylhet Division	17 July 2022, 11:30	18 July 11:30	OTM

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

Md. Nazmul Hussain
General Manager

GD-1328

Woman, daughter killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A woman and his daughter were killed and another was injured in a road accident on Machkandi-Bhatiapara road under Boalmari upazila in Faridpur around 2:00pm yesterday.

The deceased are Suborna Biswas (30) and her seven-year-old daughter Protasha Biswas. Quoting locals, Mohammad Abdul Ohab, officer-in-charge of Boalmari Police Station, said, "The accident took place when Suborna and her daughter were going home from Sahosrail bazar on a rickshaw-van."

On the way, a truck hit the rickshaw-van from behind. The mother and daughter fell on the road and the truck ran them over. Both of them died on the spot. The rickshaw-van puller sustained injuries.

Salma Khan passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), economist and women's rights activist Salma Khan passed away at the age of 80.

She fell ill at her Gulshan residence in Dhaka on Saturday and was taken to United Hospital where doctors declared her dead, said her husband, former minister Habib Ullah Khan.

Her body has been kept in the hospital's cold storage. Family members will decide about her burial after her US expatriate daughter Umama Haque returns to the country.

Rights body Manusher Jomo Foundation (MJF)

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Special train for cattle

Railway to transport sacrificial animals ahead of Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Bangladesh Railway (BR) has taken initiative to carry sacrificial animals to the capital from the northern districts through train service again this year.

Sacrificial animal will be carried from Chapainawabganj to Dhaka. Animals will be loaded from Chapainawabganj station, Kakonhat station, Rajshahi station, Chatmohor station in Pabna, Ullapara station in Sirajganj and Bangabandhu bridge west rail station in Sirajganj while carrying cost of animal will be cheaper, railway sources said.

"We'll load 20 cows in a wagon. The transport cost of each wagon is Tk 11,830 from Chapainawabganj to Dhaka, so the highest transport cost of each animal will be Tk 591," said Md Nasir Uddin, Pakshey divisional commercial officer of railway.

Contacted, Md Shahidul Islam, divisional railway manager, said, "We'll operate the cattle train on July 6 and July 7 ahead of Eid, if we get more response from the cattle traders then service will be increased," he added.

Engineering Division
Khulna University, Khulna
www.ku.ac.bd

Tender No. KU/ENGG/570/2022 Date: 03/07/2022

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2022-23

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

Sl.	Tender ID No.	Name of the works	Tender closing and opening date & time
1.	715574	Construction of Main Gate and Gate House (Phase-1) at Khulna University, Khulna	19-Jul-2022, 3:30pm
2.	715578	Construction of Single Storied Sub-Station Building and Supply & Installation of Sub-Station Equipment (Phase-1) at Khulna University, Khulna	25-Jul-2022, 3:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on e-GP System. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Abdur Razaque
Chief Engineer
Khulna University, Khulna
E-mail: chie@engineer@ku.ac.bd
Tel: 0247-7734157

GD-1326

WASA Chattogram Water Supply & Sewerage Authority
WASA Bhaban, Dampara, Chattogram, Bangladesh
Website: www.ctg-wasa.org.bd Facebook: [facebook.com/ctgwasa](https://www.facebook.com/ctgwasa)

Memo No. 46.06.0000.206.02.335.20.91 Date: 30/06/2022

Corrigendum-1 for Tender Notice

Invitation Reference No. 46.06.0000.206.02.335.20

Sl. No.	Section	As mentioned in original tender notice	To be replaced as corrected
01.	Tender document last selling date	13/07/2022	27/07/2022
02.	Tender closing date & time	14/07/2022 at 11:00am	28/07/2022 at 11:00am
03.	Tender opening date & time	14/07/2022 at 12:00am	28/07/2022 at 12:00am
04.	ITT36.1 of tender data sheet	The deadline for submission of tenders is 10:00am on 30 May 2022.	The deadline for submission of tenders is 11:00am on 28 July 2022.

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

SPR 82
3-7-22

GD-1325

Shafiqul Bashar
System Analyst
Phone: 02333357177
E-mail: sa@ctg-wasa.org.bd
shafiq.russel@gmail.com

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Jamalpur.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.3900.000.07.001.22-1688 Date: 03-07-2022

e-Tender Notice No-01/2022-2023

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

Tender Reference No	Name of work	Tender ID
e-Tender/LGED/Jam/GOBM/22-23/W-01	Supply of Construction Materials for MMT Works in Jamalpur District.	715544

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. Only e-GP registered tenderer under LGED, Mymensingh region are eligible. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to 17:00 PM on 20-Jul-2022. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer
Local Govt. Engineering Department
Jamalpur.
Tel. No: 0981-63698
Email: www.jamalpur@lged.gov.bd

GD-1334

Fans in Valencia are shouting 'Rehana, Rehana'

Badhan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Azmeri Haque Badhan is currently at Valencia, Spain, where she represented Bangladesh and the "Rehana Maryam Noor" team at the Valencia International Film Festival - Cinema Jove. She won "Best Actress" at the prestigious festival, and "Rehana Maryam Noor" won "Best Film" at the recently concluded event.

The Daily Star got in touch with the actress over the phone about her wonderful achievement.

International accolades are not something new for you. How do you feel after winning this time?

As an actor, it is always a



They were constantly telling me that they could not believe that such a production was made in Bangladesh - it filled my heart with joy.



Badhan (M) at the festival.

PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK



privilege to represent my country. I am beyond elated, as there are no other Bangladeshis here. I am spellbound by their hospitality towards us, and the fact that they are talking to us about our production and dialogue is a great feeling as well.

Did you talk to journalists there as well?

Some television channels and magazines took my interview. They praised me for my acting, as well as the entirety of "Rehana Maryam Noor". They were constantly telling me that they could not believe that such a production was made in Bangladesh - it filled my heart with joy.

How did the audience react?

The way that the audience reacted was the icing on the cake. When they saw

me, they screamed 'Rehana, Rehana' to get my attention. They did not know who I was, but still gave me so much love - it made me emotional.

How are you enjoying Valencia?

It is a beautiful city, and I'll take the time to wander around today. I've walked almost two kilometres as of yet. I'll try out the local food, and maybe shop a little.

Has "Rehana Maryam Noor" changed your life entirely?

It has undoubtedly given me a lot. Young girls reach out to me over social media and tell me that not only my screen presence, but my real life struggles inspired me a lot, since I had to work really hard to overcome them. When they tell me that I am one of their heroes, it really makes me emotional.

Any dreams regarding cinema?

Dreams just won't do anymore; you have to look at reality. I have been acting for 16 years - I now need roles according to my age. I just want to keep on acting.

Ustad Rashid Khan to sing in 'Coke Studio Bangla' season two

Eminent Indian classical singer and musician Ustad Rashid Khan is all set to perform in the upcoming second season of the popular musical show Coke Studio Bangla.

According to Ananda Bazar, the Padma Bhushan singer will be performing along with his son, Arman Khan in the popular franchise.

'Karan Johar is the reason behind unhappy marriages'



Last month, Karan Johar announced that "Koffee with Karan" will return on July 7.

In a recently released teaser, which is the third one since last couple of months, Karan Johar gave a sneak peek into the guest list viewers can expect from the show. During the same, we spotted Samantha Ruth Prabhu making an appearance with Akshay Kumar. "You are the reason behind unhappy marriages - you showcase it as K3G, but in reality it is KGF!", she had said.

Lindsay Lohan celebrates birthday with Dubai resident 'husband'



Lindsay Lohan has secretly tied the knot with beau Bader Shammah just hours before her 36th birthday.

The actress announced the news on her Instagram account along with a picture.

"I am the luckiest woman in the world. You found me and knew that I wanted to find happiness and grace, all at the same time. I am stunned

that you are my husband. My life and my everything," the post read.

NEWS

US man, his dog spent 7yrs walking

FROM PAGE 14

Almost nine years after he first came up with the idea, Turcich took the first step of his walk around the world. He set off on April 2, 2015, just before his 26th birthday.

The first stage of the trip saw him walk from New Jersey to Panama. Around four months in, Turcich acquired his walking companion, puppy Savannah, from an animal shelter in Austin, Texas.

Much of first 2 years, they walked across South America and took a voyage to Antarctica.

After arriving in Europe, the pair walked through Ireland and Scotland, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, and Portugal.

He and Savannah then crossed over to North Africa, where they walked through Morocco, Algeria, where he had a police escort, and Tunisia.

From here, they moved through Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece. After Greece, they headed to Turkey, where Turcich became the first private citizen to be permitted to cross the Bosphorus Bridge on foot.

Then they traveled to Georgia and Azerbaijan. The Covid-19 pandemic closed the borders and this ultimately meant they were forced to remain in Azerbaijan for at least six months.

"Then it was just kind

of waiting until we could get into any of Central Asia," says Turcich, who'd originally aimed to travel through Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, before flying to Australia, and then back to the US.

Unfortunately, the strict travel restrictions in place at the time meant Turcich had to abandon plans to visit Australia and Mongolia.

After walking across Kyrgyzstan, he and Savannah flew to Seattle in August 2021, and began making their way home to New Jersey.

During their world walk, the pair walked across six continents and 38 countries together, spending most nights camping.

Guinness World Records sets the requirements for a circumnavigation on foot as traveling 18,000 miles (around 30,000 kilometers) and crossing four continents - a goal surpassed by Turcich. On an average day, he and Savannah walked between 18 to 24 miles (around 29 to 38 kilometers).

When asked if he's itching to get back on the road, Turcich says that it's the furthest thing from his mind. In fact, he has no plans to go anywhere for a long time.

"I want to enjoy life without walking and even traveling," he says. "I'm so over it right now. I just want to be in one place and get into a rhythm."

Lugansk 'liberated'

FROM PAGE 14

39 houses were damaged, including five that were destroyed, Gladkov said on the Telegram messaging app.

Senior Russian lawmaker Andrei Klishas accused Ukraine of shelling Belgorod and called for a stern response.

"The death of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure in Belgorod are a direct act of aggression on the part of Ukraine and require the most severe - including a military - response," Klishas wrote on Telegram.

Moscow has accused Kyiv of numerous attacks on Belgorod and other regions bordering Ukraine since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. Ukraine has not claimed responsibility but has described the incidents as payback and "karma" for Russia's actions.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine and Reuters could not independently verify the

Russian accounts. In the Russian-occupied southern Ukraine city of Melitopol, Ukrainian forces hit a military base with more than 30 strikes yesterday, the city's exiled mayor said in a video address on Telegram.

The base had been "taken out of action", Ivan Fedorov said.

A Moscow-installed official said several private residential houses near the airfield were damaged.

"Shells fell on the territory of the airfield. There were no casualties," Evgeny Balitsky, head of the Russia-installed council in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, wrote on Telegram.

The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said its air force had flown some 15 sorties "in virtually all directions of hostilities".

Reuters could not immediately verify the

accounts. Separately, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko accused Kyiv of "provoking" his country and said his army intercepted missiles fired from his country by Ukrainian forces "around three days ago".

Belarus is a long-term Russian ally that supported the February 24 invasion and has been accused by Kyiv of launching its own attacks on Ukrainian territory.

But Lukashenko denied any involvement in a recent cross-border incident, which would represent an escalation of the conflict. "As I said more than a year ago, we do not intend to fight in Ukraine," he was quoted as saying by state news agency Belta on Saturday.

Thousands of civilians have been killed and cities levelled since Russia invaded in what Ukraine's Western allies say is an unprovoked war of

aggression. Russia denies targeting civilians in what President Putin calls a "special military operation" to demilitarise and "denazify" its neighbour.

Narail OC

FROM PAGE 14

is posted there, he added. The incident of humiliating the college teacher came to light after its video clip went viral on social media.

On June 28, the National Human Rights Commission asked the authorities concerned to take legal steps against the police personnel, who played a silent role during the incident.

Meanwhile, a Narail court yesterday placed four arrestees in connection with the incident on a three-day remand.

Around 10 days after assaulting of the college teacher, police filed a case against 170-180 unidentified people on June 27.

A roof over their heads is all they need now

FROM PAGE 14

His only source of income is begging on the streets.

"Without help from others, I will not be able to keep the roof over my family stable," he told this correspondent.

His elderly mother Gulmala Bibi was seen taking care of his youngest child in a temporary shack they made for themselves.

Like them, thousands of people have become homeless due to the flood that began on June 15.

According to the district administrations in Sylhet division, 63 lakh people are affected so far. Of them, around 60 lakh are from Sylhet and Sunamganj.

In the division, 99,791 houses have been damaged. Of them, most people are poor and ultra-poor, and cannot afford to rebuild their homes now.

At least 1.3 lakh people are now living in 1,168 shelter centres, while thousands of others are living in makeshift shacks built on high grounds.

Kashmir Reza, president of Paribesh O Haor Unnayan Sangstha, said, "The government should bear the repair cost of all damaged houses and should also allot Tk 10,000 for each household that needs rebuilding."

The prime minister allotted Tk 10 crore for 10,000 flood victims whose houses were damaged in Sunamganj and Sylhet.

Officials of the district administrations confirmed that the allocation was sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund on June 1, and 5,000 families of each district will receive the money from today.

They said the funds were for home repair, purchases of household and educational materials, and other needs.

After several weeks, the people in Sylhet and Sunamganj were finally able to spend two days with clear skies till Sunday.

Visiting the upazila on Saturday, this correspondent saw many people drying whatever possession they could salvage - paddies, straws, furniture, books - in the sun.

Abul Hasnat, of the upazila, said, "My house and tea-stall were both flooded. But now that the sun is out after long, I'm being able to dry everything and clean up."

Due to favourable weather, the floodwater had further receded yesterday.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning

Centre (FFWC) and the Water Development Board (WDB), the Surma river was flowing 47cm above the danger level in Sylhet's Kanaighat at 9:00am yesterday, which is 17cm lower than it was on Friday.

The river was also flowing 63cm above the danger level in Sunamganj's Chhatak upazila - 36cm lower than on Thursday.

The water level of the Kushiya area went down 25cm at Amolshid point in Sylhet's Zakiganj and 24cm at Sheola in Sylhet's Beanibazar upazila since Saturday. It has been flowing at 59cm and eight cm above the danger level respectively.

The FFWC forecast also stated that the flood situation in the two districts will stay stable in the 24 hours till this morning.

Mother, son murdered at N'ganj home

FROM PAGE 14

our prayers, my daughter-in-law Jannatul noticed that the gate and door of Razia's house were open.

"We first thought there was an incident of theft. We called Razia and Talha multiple times. But there was no response. After a while, we entered the house and found

Razia's body on the floor. Then we found Talha's body on the bed in another room and called the police."

Saifullah added that Razia did not have any enmity with anyone.

Razia's elder sister Shaheen Sultana said, "We found a gold chain and land documents in the

almirah. But we are not sure whether there was cash in the almirah."

OC Azizul said the killings might have been committed between 10:00pm of Saturday night and 4:00am Sunday.

Police have seized a kitchen knife that appeared to have been used in the

killings. The bodies have been sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.

Inspector Jahirul Islam of Criminal Investigation Department in Narayanganj, said the evidence indicated that the victims were killed by someone who knew them well.

Hong Kong lawmaker tests Covid positive after photo with Xi

AFP, Hong Kong

A Hong Kong lawmaker who posed for a group photo with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the leader's visit to the financial hub this week confirmed yesterday he has since tested positive for coronavirus.

Xi visited Hong Kong under strict security measures to mark the 25th

anniversary of the city's handover from Britain in his first trip outside mainland China since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Steven Ho, a 42-year-old member of Hong Kong's largest pro-Beijing party who sits in the city's rubber stamp legislature, was one of about 100 officials granted close contact with Xi for a photo call on Thursday afternoon.

Ho was standing two rows directly behind Xi, according to the photos released by the government.

The lawmaker tested negative on the first day of Xi's visit on Thursday and returned an uncertain test on Friday, he said.

He did not take part in any events on Friday after the uncertain test result, he said in a statement on social media.

Next 30-40 years to be era of BJP

Says Amit Shah at key party meet

Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted yesterday that the next 30 to 40 years will be the era of his party and India will become a world leader.

While proposing the political resolution at the BJP national executive meeting in Hyderabad, Shah said "dynastic politics, casteism and politics of appeasement" were the "greatest sins" and the reason behind the country's sufferings over the years.

Briefing reporters on his speech, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Shah cited the BJP's win in a series of polls to assert that it underlined people's approval of the party's "politics of development and performance" and called for ending the politics of family rule, casteism and appeasement.

The home minister said the BJP will end family rule in states like Telangana and West Bengal and also come to power in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha among other states which have so far remained out of the party's power march since it formed government at the Centre in 2014.

He then took a swipe at the Congress for allegedly trying to spread anarchy after its leader Rahul Gandhi was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald case. Shah also said Modi digested all the poison thrown at him like Lord Shiva.



People look at flooded streets due to torrential rain in the Camden suburb of Sydney, Australia yesterday. Thousands of Australians were ordered to evacuate their homes in Sydney as torrential rain battered the country's largest city and floodwaters inundated its outskirts.

PHOTO: AFP

Crisis-hit Lanka grinds to a halt

The country has less than a day's worth of fuel left; most shops closed; bus operators run skeleton service

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka has less than a day's worth of fuel left, the energy minister said yesterday, with public transport grinding to a halt as the country's economic crisis deepened.

Petrol and diesel queues snaked through the capital for kilometres, though most pumping stations have been without fuel for days.

Energy minister Kanchana Wijesekera said petrol reserves in the country were about 4,000 tonnes, just below one day's worth of consumption.

"The next petrol shipment is expected between the 22nd and 23rd (of July)," Wijesekera told reporters in Colombo. "We have contacted other suppliers, but we can't confirm any new supplies before the 22nd."

Last week, cash-strapped Sri Lanka



announced a two-week halt to all fuel sales except for essential services to save petrol and diesel for emergencies.

Most shops were closed yesterday, with the situation expected to worsen when banks and offices reopen today.

Desperate people were seen trying to flag down the few vehicles on the road hoping for a ride.

Privately owned buses, which account

for two-thirds of the country's fleet, said they operated a skeleton service yesterday as they were badly affected by the fuel shortage.

"We operated about 1,000 busses across the country out of the 20,000 owned by our members," Private Bus Operators Association chairman Gemunu Wijeratne said.

He said services would be curtailed further today and saw no immediate solution.

Three-wheel taxis -- a popular last-mile transport -- were also off the streets, with most seen in days-long queues to get a ration of six litres of petrol.

A shortage of foreign currency to finance even the most essential imports has led to the country's worst economic crisis, with its 22 million people facing severe hardships daily.

Terrorist caught in Jammu was BJP's IT cell chief

NDTV ONLINE

A wanted Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist captured in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday was an active member of BJP. He was also the party's Minority Morcha social media in-charge in Jammu. Talib Hussain Shah and his accomplice were captured by the villagers in Jammu's Reasi area yesterday morning. Two AK rifles, several grenades and other arms and ammunition was recovered from their possession. They were eventually handed over to the police. The BJP blamed the system of online membership that is allowing people to join the party without any background check. "A new issue has come up with this arrest," said party spokesman RS Pathania. "I'd say this is a new model -- entering the BJP, gaining access, doing recce... there was even a plot to kill the top leadership which was busted by the police," he said. "Across the border, there are those who want to spread terror. Now anyone can become a member of the BJP online. I'd say this is a drawback since there is no system to check the criminal record or antecedents of the people who are taking membership online," he added.

Kashmir journo says barred from flying abroad

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

A Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist from Indian-administered Kashmir says she has been barred from travelling abroad by the Indian authorities who provided no valid reasons for their refusal. Sanna Irshad Mattoo told Al Jazeera she was scheduled to travel to Paris from New Delhi on Saturday for a book launch and photography exhibition as one of the 10 winners of the Serendipity Arles Grant 2020. Mattoo, a resident of Srinagar, won the Pulitzer along with three other members of the Reuters news agency for their photos on the Covid-19 crisis in India. "My flight was scheduled on Saturday afternoon. At the immigration, I was put aside and told to wait for three hours. I kept on asking the officials about the reasons until I missed the flight," the 28-year-old journalist said. Mattoo said she was later told she cannot fly abroad. "But they provided no explanation," she said.

Israel says it will test bullet that killed reporter

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel said yesterday it would test a bullet that killed a Palestinian-American journalist to determine whether one of its soldiers shot her and said a US observer would be present.

The Palestinians, who on Saturday handed over the bullet to a US security coordinator, said they had been assured that Israel would not take part in the ballistics.

Washington has yet to comment. The United States has a holiday weekend to mark July 4.

The death of Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh on May 11 during an Israeli raid in the occupied West Bank, and feuding between the sides as to the circumstances, have overshadowed a visit by US President Joe Biden due this month.

Palestinians say the Israeli military deliberately killed Abu Akleh. Israel denies this, saying she may have been hit by errant army fire or by a bullet from one of the Palestinian gunmen who were clashing with its forces at the scene.

In a separate incident, a 17-year-old Palestinian died in hospital after being shot late on Saturday by Israeli soldiers in clash in the West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

N Korea warns of an 'Asian Nato'

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea criticised the US, South Korea and Japan's recent deal on strengthening military cooperation to be a means to materialise a US plan for a military alliance like Nato in the region. North Korea's foreign ministry spokesperson said as much to a question put by KCNA, the state news agency reported yesterday. "The reality clearly shows that the real purpose of the US spreading the rumour about 'threat from North Korea' is to provide an excuse for attaining military supremacy over the Asia-Pacific region," said the spokesperson. "The prevailing situation more urgently calls for building up the country's defences to actively cope with the rapid aggravation of the security environment," he added. The leaders of the US, S Korea and Japan met on the sidelines of a Nato summit last week and agreed to explore further means to reinforce "extended deterrence" against North Korea.

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Local Press Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Importers/ Suppliers for Supply of following items for khulna Essential latex Plant (KELP) on urgent basis:

S.L. No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	EDCL (KELP) / PUR/LT/2022/254 Date 03/07/2022	Black Ink Cartridge (V-401-D & V-410-D) Qty: 68 Pcs Makeup Fluid Cartridge (V-701-D & V-705-D) Qty: 308Pcs (Details as per tender schedule)	Tk. 1,100.00/set Non-refundable	Closing : 25/07/2022 At 12.00PM Opening : 25/07/2022 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of " Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**General Manager
Procurement
For : Managing Director.**

(5.5 x 4 col.)

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে
সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০
ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ
ফোনঃ +৮৮০৩১২৮৬৩১৬২, ই-মেইলঃ cee@railway.gov.bd

তারিখঃ ৩০/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ

নং-সিই/ই-জিপি/০১/২০২১-২২ঃ

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ককচ National Electronic Government Procurement Portal
(<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) এ নিম্নোল্লিখিত নম্বর আধানে করা হয়েছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার নোম্বার/নং	Tender আইডি নং	কাজের ধরন ও কাজের নাম	নম্বর/পদ্ধতি	নম্বর/তারিখের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১.	xenpne/east/e-tender/21-22/179	715636	Works: On main line in STK-LKM section: Complete re-building of Bridge No. 191 (1x4.0 Meter Span R.C.C box culvert, 25 M.Ton Axle load Modified Broad Gauge Loading Capacity) at km. 86/3-4 in between station FJP-FNI in place of 1x12 feet span R.C.C slab bridge on main line with other allied works as per drawing.	OTM (NCT)	11-Aug-2022 12:00pm
২.	xenpne/east/e-tender/21-22/180	715638	Works: On CD branch line:- Manufacturing, fitting & fixing of Caution Board including repairs to road surface, providing speed breaker & rail fencing for LC Gale No. E/1 at K.M. 7/4-5, E/2 at K.M. 7/9-8/0, E/3 at K.M. 9/2-3, T/5 at K.M. 11/7-8, T/6 at K.M. 12/1-2, T/6-B at K.M. 13/0-13/1, T/7 at K.M. 13/2-3, T/8 at K.M. 18/2-3, T/9 at K.M. 18/5 6, E/9-A at K.M. 20/1-2, T/10 at K.M. 21/9-22/0 E/11 at K.M. 22/1-2, T/14 at K.M. 24/4-5, E/15 at K.M. 27/0-27/11, T/16 at K.M. 28/8-9, T/17 at K.M. 29/4-5, T/17-A at K.M. 30/0-30/1, E/18 at K.M. 30/4-5, E/19 at K.M. 31/5-6, T/19-A at K.M. 32/4-5, T/20 at K.M. 34/7-8, T/21 at K.M. 37/4-5, T/22 at K.M.38/0-38/1 & T/22-A at K.M. 40/4-5 Total=24 Nos. in between SLHR-DHZ section with others allied works.	OTM (NCT)	11-Aug-2022 12:00pm
৩.	xenpne/east/e-tender/21-22/183	715645	At Chittagong CGMY Area: Construction of new flood light tower 02 Nos. and repairing & repainting of existing 02 Nos. flood light tower with other allied works as per approved drawing.	OTM (NCT)	11-Aug-2022 12:00pm
৪.	xenpne/east/e-tender/21-22/182	715644	Works: At SSAFE/BR/Chattogram Compound: Construction of a new shed for storage of bridge materials and other iron materials at bridge concrete yard Chattogram (Size: 72ft. x 32ft) as per approved drawing.	OTM (NCT)	11-Aug-2022 12:00pm
৫.	xenpne/east/e-tender/21-22/181	715642	Works: At PHT (Pahartoli High School): Construction of R.C.C boundary wall of Pahartoli High School at East, West and North side including construction of drain with other related works as per approved drawing.	OTM (NCT)	11-Aug-2022 12:00pm

বিঃদ্রঃ

১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেম নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. নম্বরগে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য নম্বর দলিল ও নম্বর আমানত বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।

আবু রাফি মোহাম্মদ ইমতিয়াজ হোসাইন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (পি এ ডি) (পূর্ব)
পক্ষে-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব)
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

S(22)(203)
তারিখঃ-১৩/০৬/২০২২

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Project to reduce corruption drowns in corruption!

Country needs a National Household Database that works

WE'RE appalled to learn that after being eight years in the making, and having spent Tk 727 crore of public money, the upcoming National Household Database is set to be a big failure, as per a report by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED). The amount of money that has been spent on the project is enormous. And the amount of additional money that will likely be wasted as a result of it being a failure is even higher. For example, this year's safety net allocation of Tk 113,576 crore is supposed to be disbursed by using this database, which, according to the IMED, is "unusable".

Nothing about this makes any sense. This project required no large infrastructure development and no land acquisition, yet it is already delayed by five years. As a result, there have been four revisions which considerably raised its cost – by 112.75 percent, to be exact. For all that trouble, what we will finally have will not even be able to correctly identify the poor and bring them under the government's social safety net programmes. In other words, it is a complete waste.

Reportedly, 545 data entry operators were hired in 2016 but not given defined responsibilities. Several consultants were also appointed, but they failed to perform properly leading to a number of inconsistencies in the database. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) also did not appoint an experienced officer, and many of its IT consultants and senior programmers who were involved with the project didn't do any noticeable work either, which further contributed to this nightmare.

All of these issues should have been noticed beforehand. Apparently, there should have been at least 35 project implementation committee (PIC) meetings but only nine were held, leading to poor oversight and numerous delays in taking important decisions and also in the implementation process. This sums up the lack of concern and professionalism shown at stage of the project, which raises the question: Why did this happen? Why was such reckless mismanagement allowed in a database project long expected to save the government heaps of cash by reducing corruption in government aid programmes?

It seems like this project, and all the talk about how it will "revolutionise" the government's social safety net programmes, were nothing but hot air. That is not to deny that if done right, it can be a vital requirement in the service of the people. Therefore, we urge the government to figure out how to get it back on track – without burning heaps more of public funds – and a good starting point for that will be to hold those responsible for this disaster to account.

Workers, not martyrs

Latest survey on Bangladesh's labour rights is concerning

WE'RE alarmed to see the latest iteration of the Global Rights Index by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in which Bangladesh – for the sixth year in row – has been ranked among the world's 10 worst countries for workers. The report evaluated the labour rights records of 148 countries, and Bangladesh seems to have found a home in the comity of worst rights violators. While not an achievement to be proud of, this does give us an opportunity to assess what went wrong and why so.

In its evaluation, the ITUC highlights areas in which workers' rights continue to be "severely curtailed". It specifically mentions the garment sector, which employs over 4 million workers. Despite being the engine that runs this billion-dollar industry, their rights to strike and to establish or join trade unions are frequently violated. Often, attempts at forming unions are ruthlessly suppressed, and protests over unpaid wages met with extreme brutality, with police sometimes firing live rounds to disperse agitating workers. In 2021 alone, at least six workers were shot and killed by police during strikes.

As well as physical violence, threats to workers' rights also include mass dismissals, criminal prosecutions and heavy-handed bureaucracy, including an extremely burdensome registration process imposed on establishment of unions apparently to frustrate such efforts. A lack of opportunity to be unionised means a lack of opportunity for them to bargain for better wages and working conditions. The condition of workers in the export processing zones (EPZs) is particularly bad, as they are prohibited from organising any protest there.

Understanding the plight of garment workers is key because all the problems facing the labour force in general can be seen here in microcosm. An important component of labour rights is safety: safety from occupational hazards, and from harassment at workplaces. Another component is the guarantee of decent wages. Yet another component is job security. Workers in almost all sectors – including construction, shipbreaking, etc. – seem to suffer on these fronts, with the administration and legal instruments seemingly favouring the interests of employers over that of workers. With as many as 182 businessmen elected in the last general election – or over 61 percent of all MPs – the power balance between employers and workers is heavily skewed towards the former. This manifests in increasing discrimination, abuse and rights violations.

This is unacceptable. Labour rights are but human rights, and we cannot continue to ignore them for the sake of development. We urge the authorities to address this situation and create an environment in which no one takes advantage of the precarity of poor workers.

How effective will the new monetary policy be?



MACRO MIRROR
Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

THE Bangladesh Bank (BB) has revealed its Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) for the period of July-December 2022 at a challenging time. The global economy is experiencing an inflationary pressure that has not been felt in the recent past. Countries are struggling to overcome the shocks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. In this context, BB has announced its MPS with its usual three objectives: inflation control, employment generation, and growth of gross domestic product (GDP).

To achieve them, the MPS puts forward a list of areas where the central bank wants to intervene through policy actions. But the stated measures are not enough. While following a tight monetary policy to rein in inflation and reduce exchange rate pressure, BB also aims to support the economic recovery process through ensuring funds to the productive sectors and employment-generating activities. The monetary policy will also promote import-substituting economic activities. To reduce exchange rate depreciation pressure, protect the foreign exchange reserves and control inflation, the policy will discourage imports of luxury goods, and many foreign goods.

The projections of major economic and monetary indicators are ambitious and overlook the realities to a great extent. The MPS projects the inflation rate to be 5.6 percent in FY2022-23. This is optimistic in the context of the current global economic trend and the outlook for 2023. International organisations such as the World Bank have forecasted that several countries might face recession and stagflation in the coming days – as was experienced in the 1970s. If Bangladesh's inflation is mostly imported, then how does one expect it to come down so fast within a year while the global economy continues to struggle? According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in 2022, the emerging and developing countries will face an inflation rate of 8.7 percent. The situation will improve in 2023, but these countries will still suffer a 6.5 percent inflation. It may be noted that in May 2022, inflation in Bangladesh increased to 7.42 percent.

Additionally, as per the MPS, low inflation will be coupled with high economic growth in the country. Hence, the GDP growth is projected to be 7.5 percent – which has also been mentioned in

the proposed national budget for FY2022-23. The optimism has been expressed in view of factors such as the economic boost due to the recently inaugurated Padma Bridge. The bridge will surely enhance economic activities and investment leading to higher growth, but one year is too short a time to observe such a jump.

The MPS has adopted "a cautious policy stance with a tightening bias to contain

Households may feel encouraged to save and spend less due to attractive interest rates. On the other hand, since loans also become expensive due to higher interest payments, there will be further reduction in consumption. This is expected to reduce money supply in the market. In case of open market operations, central banks sell securities to other banks, which puts upward pressure on interest rates and



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

inflation and exchange rate pressures while supporting the economic recovery process." However, some of the projections are not consistent with this objective. It projected credit growth to the private sector at 14.1 percent for FY2022-23, which is higher than the estimated 13.1 percent for FY2021-22. Of course, originally it was set at 14.8 percent for FY2021-22. Therefore, the projected growth of credit to the private sector is not lower than the estimated actual growth in the previous year. The growth of the public sector credit is set at 36.3 percent in FY2022-23, which is higher than 27.9 percent in FY2021-22. The broad money growth is projected to rise to 12.1 percent in FY2022-23 from 9.1 percent in FY2021-22 as per the MPS.

In view of supply constraints, commodity prices have risen beyond consumers' affordability. The ongoing inflation is happening in a situation when economies are also experiencing low growth due to the pandemic. People have less money at their disposal. Therefore, policymaking for controlling this inflation is much harder than the inflation due to a booming economy. However, many central banks around the world are currently pursuing a contractionary monetary policy to curtail the money supply, by using tools such as interest rates, and buying and selling of government securities, which is termed as open market operations.

To put it simply, a higher interest rate is adopted to reduce individual consumption.

With such interventions of the central bank, the monetary policy tools become dysfunctional. Banks don't find it attractive to lend money.

Tackling climate change: NbS can enhance LLA



Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah is an independent consultant working on environment, climate change, and research systems. His Twitter handle is @hmirfanullah

HASEEB MD IRFANULLAH

TWO concepts related to climate change – Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) – have gained significant momentum over the last couple of years. Both allow us to define potential ways to combat the climate crisis. But at the same time, these are causing some confusion and misunderstanding among the stakeholders working on climate action, which need to be demystified.

Let's start with the NbS. To fight climate change, we must bring the global carbon emission down to net zero. To do that, in addition to inventing and using technologies to shift from using fossil fuels to renewables, we can also rely on nature and ecosystems. We can remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, for example, by planting diverse mangrove saplings on the new chars along our coastline. Similarly, we can re-green degraded ecosystems, like the denuded hills of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), to capture carbon. We can also reduce the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by improving the ecologically-critical area around the Sundarbans or by sustainably managing Hakaluki Haor, for instance. Protecting nature can also help us survive the long-term impacts of climate change. If we conserve the hills' tree cover, it will ensure water supply even if there are more rainless days in the coming decades. And nobody knows better than Bangladesh how the Sundarbans and the coastal green belt have been protecting our lives and assets from cyclones.

All these ecosystem-based actions are

examples of NbS. By protecting, restoring, managing and creating ecosystems, not only humans are getting benefitted, but biodiversity is improving too. But, as we can see, NbS is nothing new. It is rather something we have been practising for ages, such as floating agriculture at the central coast of Bangladesh. It is only a new framing to bring all nature-based activities under one umbrella. This new approach can help us to integrate nature into different actions to tackle diverse societal challenges, particularly climate change.

LLA, on the other hand, takes place when at the lowest administrative level, local governments, communities, organisations and other local level stakeholders identify, prioritise, plan, implement, monitor, evaluate, and learn from adaptation actions against climate change. Such interventions are supported by national governments, donors, civil society organisations and private sector agencies by closely working with the local entities. Bangladesh has long been part of the conceptualisation, evolution and consolidation of these people-centred approaches. Building on the lessons learnt from over the past couple of decades, LLA essentially looks at adaptation from a whole-of-society perspective and mainstreams principles of governance in all possible senses.

Both the LLA and NbS underscore the importance of knowledge and understanding of the context, challenges, opportunities, and solutions. They value and ensure people's participation in every step of an action following the principles on diversity, inclusion, equity, access, transparency, accountability, and empowerment.

Both the LLA and NbS have strongly been appreciated and adopted by global agencies. Large money lenders of big infrastructure projects, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), have embraced NbS. USAID's new Climate Strategy (2022-2030) has made NbS and locally-led development two of its five core principles to spend USD 150 billion in the current decade. Recently, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has launched a 120-million-pound programme called Bangladesh Climate and Environment Programme. Its first thematic area envisages improved climate resilience of the people of Bangladesh through scaling up LLA and NbS by protecting and restoring nature. Also in Bangladesh,

the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan and the Bangladesh National Adaptation Plan (NAP) are two recent draft policy instruments which have explicitly adopted LLA and NbS as core approaches.

Despite their humble, familiar origins, both LLA and NbS face a number of questions from the development practitioners, who sometimes struggle to understand and adopt new concepts and approaches every few years. Another challenge is communicating these new concepts to the stakeholders – from the local communities to the policymakers. It is also argued whether developing countries should adopt these concepts apparently coming from the West. These concerns may seem real, but are not justified. All these people-focused concepts and approaches may seem different, but in fact all are focusing on human well-being through sustainable development.

Both the LLA and NbS underscore the importance of knowledge and understanding of the context, challenges, uncertainties, opportunities, and solutions. They value and ensure people's participation in every step of an action following the principles on diversity, inclusion, equity, access, transparency, accountability, and empowerment. Both focus on responsible and flexible funding and programming, and promote learning by doing and adapting to ever-changing scenarios. They focus on sustainability, scaling up and scaling out of actions, which would build peoples' resilience and ensure their overall well-being.

As we continue planning, funding and implementing actions to build community resilience, we must invest time and efforts to understand novel approaches and tools. We shouldn't shy away from these concepts even if they seem overwhelming; rather, we should play our role in translating theories into practice and feeding our experience to the policymaking process. While doing so, we shouldn't adopt new concepts as they are, but should contextualise them matching our needs.

Democracy on life support



MANZOOR AHMED

Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at Brac University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), and vice chair of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE).

FIFTY years ago, in June 1972, the Watergate scandal broke out. Former CIA personnel had broken into the Democratic Party National Committee Office in the middle of the night at the Watergate Hotel in Washington. A Senate investigation ensued, and President Richard J Nixon resigned two years later on August 8, 1974 from US presidency. Nixon had to resign not for the break-in itself, but for his attempt to deny and hide the existence of taped records of White House discussion about planning the crime. The Republican Party's leaders in Congress then agreed that the president had to go, because getting away with a palpable "obstruction of justice" at the behest of the president would be a fatal blow to the institutions of democracy.

In June 2022, the US Congress is holding hearings to ferret out the facts about the insurrection on January 6, 2020 when a rowdy crowd invaded the US Capitol building, shouting death to Vice-President Mike Pence and Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The demonstrators were trying to prevent Congress from the required certifying of the presidential election results, in which Joe Biden had defeated Donald Trump by a difference of seven million popular votes. The violent demonstration that resulted in at least seven deaths is alleged to have been planned and encouraged from the White House.

In the Watergate case, an incumbent president, who had been re-elected for a second term, was obliged to take responsibility and pay the price of resigning in disgrace for what was regarded as gross malfeasance. Fifty years later, a former president is accused of conspiring a far more serious offence: overturning the presidential election results and supporting a violent assault on the Capitol building, the seat of the US Congress. But this time, the political establishment is so divided by party line



An explosion caused by a police munition is seen while supporters of President Donald Trump gather at the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC on January 6, 2021.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

coup engineered by Trump may not be enough to defeat Trump supporters in the midterm election in November.

Two-thirds of US residents (64 percent) think that democracy is in crisis and at risk of failing, according to a National Public Radio (NPR) and the global market research company IPSOS survey in January 2022. Only seven percent of young Americans thought the US was a "healthy" democracy, according to the Harvard Institute of Politics youth polling in December 2021.

Political observers believe that the midterm election remains a toss-up, and will be decided by the voters' views on the Biden administration's handling of the economy and the danger of a stagflation that looms large after the pandemic and the Ukraine war. Donald Trump is even seen by many as a viable candidate for presidency in 2024, unless he is indicted and sent to jail. The attorney general of the Biden administration, Merrick Garland, who has to make the decision about pursuing indictment, is concerned about the political repercussions of such a move rather than the merit of the case. He is watching what the Congressional hearing brings out, and how the public reacts to the hearing. This does not augur well for democracy in the US. What does this tell us about the fate of democracy in the world?

A group of American scholars have written about a clear and consistent pattern they see, which they call the Authoritarian Playbook (Protect Democracy, June 2022). Aspiring autocrats follow this playbook with minor variations to achieve their goal. The playbook lists seven basic tactics that the authoritarian leaders employ in pursuit of their aim. These are:

- 1. They attempt to politicise independent institutions, such as undermining the independence of the election process.
2. They spread disinformation - controlling media platforms to spread disinformation and undermine confidence in democratic institutions.
3. They aggrandise executive power at the expense of checks and balances - influencing legislature and judiciary not to restrain the executive branch from exercising power in corrupt ways.
4. They quash criticism and dissent - the authoritarian leaders and autocratic-minded state functionaries use the power of government to limit dissent.
5. They specifically target vulnerable and marginalised communities - rallying populist support by attacking vulnerable communities and defining them as outsiders.

The next parliamentary election in Bangladesh in 18 months would come at the end of the third consecutive term of the Awami League-led government. It has been a period of economic growth and mega infrastructure projects, but also a period of democratic erosion marked by two rounds of seriously flawed national elections in 2014 and 2018, and growing economic inequality.

that the large majority of Republican Congress and Senate members oppose even the investigation, which they consider a political witch hunt.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump's support base among the public holds, and he wields great influence in nominating Republican candidates for the midterm election in November 2022 for the Congress and state-level offices. Political pundits believe that there are very low public expectations about morality and trustworthiness of politicians. Even the facts about the threat of a veritable

society vision that inspired its charter as an independent country?

The next parliamentary election in Bangladesh in 18 months would come at the end of the third consecutive term of the Awami League-led government. It has been a period of economic growth and mega infrastructure projects, but also a period of democratic erosion marked by two rounds of seriously flawed national elections in 2014 and 2018, and growing economic inequality, further aggravated by the Covid pandemic.

Reversing the authoritarian trends and mindset that have sunk roots in the political culture cannot happen overnight. But a beginning in this direction can be the legacy that Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu, can leave for the next generation. Keeping the 12th parliamentary elections in mind, four actions can be taken: a) Ensuring that candidates are nominated because of their honesty, competence, popularity and record of public service, rather than the money and muscle power they can muster; b) Pledging to shun the use of mastans, muscle power, intimidation and violence by the ruling party and its candidates, and reining in the affiliated bodies such as the Chhatra League, Jubo League and Sramik League, observing strictly the rules for public representation; c) Pledging total support for the Election Commission to conduct a free and fair election, placing the government machinery at the hand of the commission for this purpose, and encouraging it to exercise its authority fully, including postponement of polling as needed; and d) Pledging to forego stoking factional, communal, sectarian, and religious divisions for political gains and reclaim the liberation ideals of justice, inclusion and human dignity for all - thus aspiring to be a model of liberal democracy in the region.

Convincing the citizens of the sincerity of these intentions will be the surest way to seize victory for the ruling party at the polls, and at the same time of injecting vital life-blood into the democratic process. Only words will not convince the public. Actions will have to follow in the form of creating a level playing field for all political parties - not pushing for repressive laws, and not using government power to punish dissent and protests.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
আঞ্চলিক খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের দপ্তর
১১৯, সদরঘাট রোড, চট্টগ্রাম
E-mail: rcf.ctg@dgfood.gov.bd
Web: www.food.chittagongdiv.gov.bd
তারিখ: ৩০/০৬/২০২২খ্রিঃ
তালিকাকৃত্তিক বিজ্ঞপ্তি
চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগীয় সড়ক পরিবহন ঠিকাদার (ডিআরটিসি)
আঞ্চলিক খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, চট্টগ্রাম এর অধীন ২০২২-২৩ ও ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থ বছরে এক এলএসডি/সিএসডি/স্থাপনা/গুদাম হতে অন্য এলএসডি/সিএসডি/স্থাপনা/গুদামে পাশ্চাত্যপদ্ধতিতে সড়কপথে খাদ্যশস্য/খাদ্যদ্রব্য/অন্যান্য প্রব্যাদি/মালামাল পরিবহনের নিমিত্ত চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগীয় সড়ক পরিবহন ঠিকাদার (ডিআরটিসি) নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিমিত্ত তালিকাকৃত্তিক (enlistment) আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH
ACROSS
1 Flower part
6 Fake
10 Likely
11 Comet's place
12 Pillages
13 Afghan capital
14 Land in the sea
15 Limited
16 Peculiarity
17 British rule in India
18 Casual top
19 Like a hot rod
22 Brooklyn team
23 Castle
24 Surround
26 Absorbed
29 Bowler, for one
32 Battleship letters
33 Soccer's Hamm
34 Home-coming group
36 Drill parts
37 Well-founded
38 "Understand?"
39 Leaves out
40 Famed fur tycoon
41 Make do
42 Unemotional
DOWN
1 Breaks apart
2 Beach problem
3 Stick at a table
4 Poker payment
5 "Miserables"
6 Bridge
7 Custom
8 Less than right
9 Scuffle
11 Winter
12 Olympics feats
15 Craze
17 Echoes
20 Score amts.
21 "Tamerlane" author
24 Acknowledge
25 College cost
27 Letter before omega
28 Danish, e.g.
29 Great confusion
30 Crockett's last stand
31 Colorful flower
35 Spider's kin
36 Optimum
38 Neon, e.g.

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS
B A B A S R A D I O
A L A M O A G O N Y
R I S I N G C O S T S
E V E A L E S E T
S E D A T E D I R E
R A N H E I R
L A S T S H A R M S
I T T Y P E R
S P A S E X T A N T
T E N P E A M O E
F A L L I N G O U T S
O C E A N O N S E T
R E E D S N E E D Y

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LAW OPINION

Confiscation of illegal assets abroad

M S SIDDIQUI

Bangladesh is party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). On ratification, the UNCAC created legal obligations which have to be enforced by the executive branch and/or the judiciary of the state parties. Under the UNCAC Article 31, state parties have a duty under international law to confiscate the proceeds of crime. Article 51 of the UNCAC makes the return of assets which are proceeds of crime a fundamental principle of the UNCAC. As such, all proceeds of crime acquired by any citizen through the use of a corrupt scheme are to be returned to the state of such citizen.

Article 53 mandates provisions for the direct recovery of corruption-acquired assets, including laws permitting private civil causes of action to recover damages owed to victim states and the recognition of a victim state's claim as a legitimate owner of stolen assets. Article 54 requires state parties to give effect to any confiscation order for corruption proceeds issued in another state party, and to "consider taking such measures as may be necessary to allow confiscation...without a criminal conviction."



agreed with the following: "in perusal of UN Convention Against Corruption indicates that the state had responsibility to develop and implement or maintain effective, coordinated anticorruption policies; to take measures to prevent money laundering; to take measures for freezing, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime, derived from offences established in accordance with the Convention, or the property the value of which corresponds to that of such proceeds, property, equipment or other

of proceeds of crime as the following: "If a subject acquires property by means which are not legally approved, sovereign would be perfectly justified to deprive such persons of the enjoyment of such ill-gotten wealth. There is a public interest in ensuring that persons who cannot establish that they have legitimate sources to acquire the assets held by them do not enjoy such wealth. Such a deprivation, in our opinion, would certainly be consistent with the requirement of Article 300A and 14 of the Constitution which prevent the State from arbitrarily depriving a subject of his property."

The Court also observed that politically influential persons and government officials who illegally enrich themselves through the abuse of power, and unscrupulous investors who facilitate such corruption, deprive the respective State of its property and hinder the economic development of the country.

instrumentalities used in or destined for use in offences established in accordance with the Convention; State parties shall consider assisting each other in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption; as well as affording to one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions, and judicial proceedings in relation to the offences covered by the Convention; prevention and detection of transfers of proceeds of crime." In *Biswanath Bhattacharya v. Union of India* (UOI) AIR (2014) SC 1003, the Supreme Court of India discussed the confiscation

The Bangladesh High Court Division's bench of Ms. Justice Naima Haider and Mr. Justice Abu Taher Md. Saifur Rahman in the Writ Petition No. 5673 of 2016 have expressed the same view that Bangladesh has a duty under international law, as laid out in Article 31 of the UNCAC, to confiscate the proceeds of crime. Article 51 of the UNCAC makes the return of assets, which are proceeds of crime, a fundamental principle of the UNCAC. The Court also observed that politically influential persons and government officials who illegally enrich themselves through the abuse of power, and unscrupulous investors who facilitate such corruption, deprive the respective State of its property and hinder the economic development of the country. The laws of Bangladesh envisage the creation of a fair and just society in which crime does not pay.

It is now up to policy makers whether Bangladesh will perform its legal duty as signatory of UNCAC and as per the observation of High Court of Bangladesh to use UNCAC to recover the assets shifted to other countries by many citizens.

The writer is a Non-Government Adviser for Bangladesh Competition Commission.

LAW NEWS

Fighting disinformation

While addressing the Human Rights Council in Geneva on June 28, 2022, Michelle Bachelet, the UN human rights chief, raised an important point on the rise in disinformation across societies, remarking that systemic inequality has helped fuel a rise in the deliberate spreading of falsehoods. Michelle Bachelet observed that disinformation should be underscored as a symptom of diseases such as of systemic inequality, along with fragile institutions, a loss of trust in effective governance, and constrained rule of law.

She perceptively commented that disinformation spreads when people feel that their voices are not being heard. "It arises in contexts where political disenchantment, economic disparity or social unrest flourish", she noted.

In her view, the evil of disinformation flourishes when civic space is limited or closed and when the human rights to freedom of expression and access to information are threatened. She therefore warned governments against trying to officially dictate what is false and what is true, and then attach legal consequences to those determinations. Because, the human right to access and impart information, is not limited to only what is deemed by the State as true or false and official dictations might engender further vulnerabilities.



According to her, the international response has to be consistent with universal rights obligations. She urged the States to uphold their international obligation to promote and protect these rights, whatever the social ill they seek to confront and mitigate. Maintaining a vibrant and pluralistic civic space will be crucial in this endeavor, she noted.

She called for policies that can support independent journalism, pluralism, and digital literacy, which can help citizens "navigate" the complexities of the online world and harness critical thinking in analysing the contents they come across. States must, she observed, ensure wide and free access to information so that it reaches all communities across intersections because trust can never be achieved without genuine government transparency.

Ms. Bachelet told the Human Rights Council that there are two "critical needs" in the battle against rising disinformation. Firstly, in order to deepen our understanding and knowledge, more research is required on how the digital sphere has transformed media and information flows; on how best to build public trust within this environment; and on how different actors can contribute to countering disinformation operations. Secondly, human rights norms needed to be mainstreamed into all discussions. Shortcuts do not work here, she cautioned. Censorship and broad content take-downs are an ineffective and dangerous response.

Compiled by Law Desk (SOURCE: UN.ORG).



As a legally binding international anti-corruption agreement, UNCAC provides a comprehensive set of measures to be implemented by state parties to prevent, combat, and prosecute corruption. UNCAC requires their state parties to enable confiscation of instrumentalities, proceeds, and property of corresponding value to proceeds of convention offences. UNCAC calls for national efforts to criminalise conduct and to prevent criminals from gaining profit, the most frequent motivation for the crime. An effective deterrent against corruption is the seizure, confiscation and return of the proceeds of corruption. UNCAC contains elaborate mechanism and procedure for seizure, confiscation and return of assets.

There are several court decisions in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India in support of confiscating the assets of the accused as per the principles laid down in UNCAC.

In the case of *Dr. Mobashir Hassan and Others v Federation of Pakistan* (PLD 2010 Supreme

Court 265), the Supreme Court of Pakistan, while discussing the corruption and confiscation,

LAW LETTER

On the Constitutional rights of flood victims

Heavy rains along with the continued onslaught of water from upstream locations in India marooned Sylhet and the neighboring districts jeopardising the residents' fundamental rights. It is incumbent upon the government to respect, protect and fulfill the obligations enumerated in the Constitution, sustenance of which have not been possible on these rainy days.

Fundamental rights, as specified in the Constitution, are non-derogable obligations that the government must uphold, and therefore, safeguarding them is the government's constitutional responsibility. Occasioning of a catastrophe does not extinguish the rights of the people. It is time to adopt a right based approach to disaster management with the likelihood of disasters growing more intense due to climate change.

Article 31 declares the right to protection from action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property. The right to life is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 32 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. At the 57th Session of the Commission on Human Rights in 2001, Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the UNEP, expressed that environmental degradation make it impossible to protect human rights and environmental conditions



clearly help to determine people's basic rights to life, health, food and housing etc. Environmental protection is thus within the purview of the right to life, as per a harmonious interpretation of the two clauses. It is the responsibility of the state to safeguard the environment in order to ensure the right to life.

The recent flood in the Sylhet division worsened the living conditions of the local inhabitants in almost every aspect.

According to the data given by Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, Dr. Muhammad Mosharrar Hossain to The Business Standard published on June 19, 2022, 90% of the Sylhet division was submerged in water. Multiple incidents of robbery have been reported. Skyrocketing prices devastated the buying capabilities of the affected people. The Agriculture Minister reported the destruction of 22,000 hectares of cropland in the flood. More than 1.5 lakh

power subscribers in Sylhet and Sunamganj were completely cut off and left without access to the internet. The flood victims faced severe dearth of food and shelter. This cataclysm has made it more difficult for people to exercise their rights to freedom of movement, property, and the protection of their homes and correspondence, which is a clear infringement of the constitutional protections.

The Apex Court of Bangladesh has already

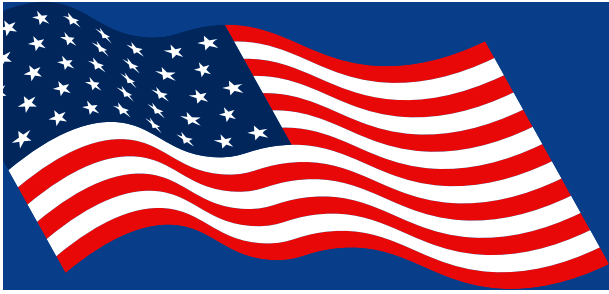
expanded its hitherto established limit of right to life and included environmental protection in it, in the case of *Dr. Mahiuddin Farooque v Bangladesh*, in which Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury opined to include the protection and preservation of the environment under the protective umbrella of right to life.

The goal of protecting this right is to bring order to the chaos caused. International cooperation and collaboration should be the breakthrough in effectuating cross-border issues like flood. Moreover, inter-departmental coherence and communication should be strongly bridged. Adequate assessment and monitoring of disaster hazards and vulnerabilities should be introduced. Again, communication problems deterring outside assistance from getting to remote locations can be resolved by empowering local government under Articles 59 and 60 of the Constitution through allocating sufficient budget for prompt rescue and relief. UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2021 suggests increasing climate adaptation finance to deal with environmental catastrophe. As the last remedy, Professor Mathew Hall prescribes to hold the government accountable for the failure to prevent or reduce the disaster risk and damage caused.

Now, the flood victims are underprivileged communities regarding whom positive discrimination would be allowed. So the most significant contribution has to be made by the government with the help of NGOs and other organisations along with local community to remedy the miseries caused to the people. Otherwise, overcoming this and such crisis would be a long dream to cherish.

Ishraque Labib
Student of law at the University of Dhaka

The goal of protecting this right is to bring order to the chaos caused. International cooperation and collaboration should be the breakthrough in effectuating cross-border issues like flood.



4TH OF JULY CELEBRATING THE 246TH AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 4, 2022
ASHAR 20, 1429 BS



At 50, Bangladesh lifts millions from poverty

BY SHAREAMERICA

Bangladesh is enjoying rapid economic development and improved living standards for its people.

Bangladesh has lifted more than 25 million people out of poverty in the last 15 years and cut poverty in half since 2000. "Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty, supported by sustained economic growth," the World Bank noted in November 2018.

The United States has long supported Bangladesh's development, aiding its rise

Kanto Shikari double his production of rice, a staple of the Bangadeshi diet. With the increased revenue, he sent his daughter to college. "When I was young I didn't have the opportunity to study. But now my children have the choice," Taroni said. "They can go into any profession they desire."

USAID's Food for Peace program seeks to address the root causes of poverty through work in multiple sectors, including agriculture and health care. The program has reached 3.5 million Bangladeshis since 2010, improving incomes by 90% in targeted areas.

Monjuara Begum, of Sirajganj, says she increased her vegetable harvests with techniques learned in the program. She's invested her increased revenues in livestock.

"My ducks and chickens lay eggs, some of which I sell," Monjuara said. "I also feed the eggs to my children, and I eat some myself."

USAID has also partnered with the government of Bangladesh and WorldFish to significantly increase harvests of hilsa, the country's national fish, through sustainable practices.

The United States continues to support Bangladesh, aiding the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and bolstering its economic recovery. The US donated 72 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Bangladesh.

In June 2020, the United States announced \$173 million to complement Bangladesh's fight against COVID-19 and support post-pandemic economic recovery and development, adding to the nearly \$37 million the United States already contributed to the country's COVID-19 response.

In 2019, USAID provided more than \$200 million in aid to improve health and education and to bolster economic opportunity and food security in Bangladesh.

"I'm proud that USAID has been a long-standing partner of Bangladesh and is committed to helping achieve Bangladesh's goal of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2031," USAID Mission Director Derrick Brown said in June 2020.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Monjuara Begum, of Sirajganj, improved her vegetable harvests through USAID's Food for Peace initiative. (Josh Estey/USAID)

from one of the world's least developed countries to one now eyeing upper-middle-income-country status by 2031.

Since 1971, the United States has provided Bangladesh more than \$8 billion in foreign assistance. The support has trained farmers and fisherman, brought electricity to rural communities and improved access to health care, education and other services.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Feed the Future program has helped reduce poverty an estimated 37% in the areas where it has operated since 2011. In 2015, the program trained 2 million Bangladeshi farmers in agricultural techniques, leading to a 20% increase in revenues.

USAID training helped farmer Taroni

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Feed the Future program has helped reduce poverty an estimated 37% in the areas where it has operated since 2011. In 2015, the program trained 2 million Bangladeshi farmers in agricultural techniques, leading to a 20% increase in revenues.



AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

Good afternoon, everyone!

And thank you for joining us for this celebration of the 246th anniversary of U.S. independence. Independence Day in America is a day of red, white, and blue;

- a day of pride;
- a day of patriotism;
- a day when we remember that our nation emerged after a bloody war of independence;
- a day when we honor the sacrifices made by veterans to keep our democracy safe.

This year, as we celebrate 50 years of bilateral relations with Bangladesh, we pay tribute to another nation that emerged after a bloody war of independence.

We pay tribute to a nation that has overcome great adversity.

And we look forward to what the future will bring to Bangladesh – and what Bangladesh will bring to the future.

Neither of our nations is perfect. America's founding fathers expressed their desire to build "a more perfect union".

That is a challenge that Americans face every day - with humility and



Peter Haas

confidence - as we address weaknesses to our democracy.

Independence Day in America is also a day of fun. A day for getting together with friends and family.

A day for barbecues, parades, and fireworks.

That is why this year, we decided to celebrate our Independence Day a bit more like we would back home - with jeans, with sliders and hotdogs, with deep-fried pickles and Oreos, with games, and with music.

And of course with all of you.

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

U.S. Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

Independence Day

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(L) Curzon Hall, University of Dhaka. Photo: Mostak Ahmed. (R) Bags queued up in front of the central library on Dhaka University campus. Almost every morning, students place their bags on the ground as placeholders in queue to get spots inside the library which has a dearth of seats. Photo: Amran Hossain

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

The Trillion Dollar Opportunity Cost

The permission to pass the night in these common rooms is almost like a ticket to heaven for a poor student from a remote village, who, to get this ticket, has to join the student group that supports the party in power, take part in manifestations organized by student leaders, and shout slogans be it at cold midnight in December or at burning noon in July. However, once settled, these students consider themselves brahmins and students of the affiliated colleges, outcasts.

SHISHIR BHATTACHARJA

People usually tend to believe that there were universities in ancient India or Arabia. Some claim that the crusaders brought the idea of the university from the Middle East to Europe. In my view, these are total misconceptions. Plato and Aristotle had each found their academies in Athens. There were famous educational institutions in Taxila and Nalanda in India and huge madrasas in Arabia. These institutions may have been similar to or even bigger than the universities of today, but none was in fact a university.

University is a particular type of institution that was created in the latter half of the Middle Ages (1000-1500) in Europe due to specific socio-political-economic conditions that existed nowhere in the world at that time or earlier. A new class of bourgeois started to form during that period of time and they tried to cocoon themselves by forming *guilds* which were called *universities* in the then Latin. There were *universities* of barbers, potters, smiths, students, and teachers.

Later, the meaning of the word *university* got narrowed to denote 'organization of students' in Italy and 'organization of teachers' in Paris. During the 11-12th century, there were two different models of university, the *Bologna model* and the *Paris model*, of which only the latter survived. In the Paris model, students were admitted to the affiliated colleges. The college administration constituted of the Provost, the Dean, the Proctor, the House tutors, and of course, the teachers. Colleges were responsible for education whereas the university's responsibility was to organize the examinations and confer degrees on the successful students.

(Henceforth DU).

To date, DU students are admitted into a hall that is relics of the colleges of Paris or Oxford. They pass the exam and get a degree as a student of a particular hall. Each hall is run by a group of house tutors headed by a Provost. DU is called *Oxford of the East* because of this similarity in structure between the two institutions.

Although *de jure*, DU is an autonomous institution, *de facto* it is controlled by the political leaders in power. The vice-chancellors and deans of DU are elected, but, surprisingly, as soon as the government changes, the DU vice-chancellor is replaced followed by other important officials.



Members of the Nathan Commission. The Commission was formed on May 27, 1912 by the Government of Bengal to prepare a complete scheme for the establishment of a University at Dhaka.

Bangladeshi people who usually love to feel proud are disheartened every year to see not a single university in their country ranked among the first five hundred or thousand universities. But the universities alone should not be blamed for it. If we compare the education system with a pyramid, primary and secondary education would form its base, and universities its tip. If the base is weak, the tip can seldom be strong.

The main difference between a college teacher and the one teaching at some university is that the former *may* do research whereas the latter *must*. Universities are supposed to contribute to the sustainable development of the country. 'The research

the Padma bridge, then why the quality of education at DU would not be as good as at Oxford? If the government does not mind tripling the budget of a bridge that links two different parts of the country, then why is it reluctant to increase the budget for education and research that may link the country with its bright future?

Bangladesh, a former British colony, exploited to the extreme during the 18-20th century, is still being exploited by the West, the pied-piper of Hamelin, who attracts her youngsters to get the so-called higher education by paying exorbitant tuition fees. When countries like Sri Lanka are suffering from a lack of tourists due to pandemics or economic crises, educational tourism is going in full swing in the West.

Authorities in Bangladesh put emphasis on infrastructure and they do it rightly. But investing in education has a much deeper and more permanent impact on the future of the nation. They do not realize that universities could be a lucrative source of income for centuries to come.

If Bangladesh does not take the development of the universities seriously, there will be two types of opportunity costs. The country is losing money in tuition fees every year, but that's easily calculable. Let's say, 100,000 Bangladeshi students are currently studying abroad and they spend, on average, 50 thousand US dollars per year on tuition and living expenses. The total expense would amount to 5 billion US dollars, which is more than the budget of the Padma bridge!

But there is another compound opportunity cost that is not easily calculable. By not modernising DU or other universities we are depriving the nation of proper incentives and a nurturing as well as a stimulating environment for creative people, free thinkers, pioneer researchers, and ground breaking mavericks. The affluent rich who are leaving Bangladesh could have invested their financial and intellectual capital in the country. Those who are sadly obliged to stay back, we are also depriving them of the proper education or the proper opportunity.

In the long run, we end up wasting the time, talent, and interest of all those who could have given the nation a better industry, better educational institutions, better administration, and finally, a better society. In a period of ten years, the nation is in fact losing a couple of trillions, in cash and also in kind, amounting to the cost of a couple of Padma bridges, Ruppur power plants, or Bangabandhu satellites.

DU could have contributed to the reduction of the drainage of intellect and capital by transforming and optimising itself for the better and setting the standard for other universities or institutions in the country. DU should reflect on a detailed 50-year plan stating how it would like to transform itself into an intellectual fertile ground where new ideas would flourish.

Bangladesh is a rising economy but one must also rise socially, industrially, and intellectually. The grim alternative of not taking such necessary steps is to condemn this young nation to a plateau of mediocrity. A stitch in time saves nine, and we, whether a university or a nation, are responsible for our choices because they determine our destiny. In a volatile global economy where tensions are high among powerful nations, we cannot afford to remain shortsighted and indulgent. If the university had shaped the fate of the West for a thousand years, they would definitely do the same for us.

The problem of DU as well as other public and private universities in Bangladesh is part of the overall problems of education in Bangladesh and only a holistic approach can do the miracle. Unless the authorities become as serious with modernizing the education as it was with constructing the Padma bridge, the sustainable development of this country may remain a mirage forever.

Shishir Bhattacharja is a Professor at the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka.

However, no matter who is in power, DU halls remain overpopulated, toilets dirty, and food in the canteens unappetizing as always. Beds and floors are shared and some students even sleep in the corridor contiguous to the toilets. The so-called common rooms accommodate as many students as possible.

The permission to pass the night in these common rooms is almost like a ticket to heaven for a poor sophomore from a remote village, who, to get this ticket, has to join the student group that supports the party in power, take part in manifestations organized by student leaders, and shout slogans be it at cold midnight in December or at burning noon in July. However, once settled, these students consider themselves *brahmins* and students of the affiliated colleges, outcasts. They do not even let the latter step into the university buses, as if those untouchables will impure their sacred chariots!

As in Paris or Oxford in the Middle Ages, clashes among the different factions of students are not unheard of in DU or other public universities. DU and other public

can show us the way!' The prime minister has recently emphasized research in different domains. Unfortunately, not much research is done presently at DU and only a tiny fraction of the national/university's budget is allotted to research activities.

Unlike in Western universities, the teaching staff of DU is constituted of her own brilliant graduates, but the brilliance of result is seldom the guarantee of excellence in teaching and competence in research. A small fraction of the DU recruits become good teachers by chance, and a smaller fraction of them become competent researchers by choice.

Urban upper-middle-class is not interested anymore in getting admitted to DU, because they, unlike their parents, seldom consider DU a prestigious institution. This is reflected in the fact that protagonists of TV dramas or serials nowadays do not study at DU but in some private university that has a campus as modern and beautiful as those in the West.

Rural middle-class students, finding no other alternative, choose DU, because admission to DU allows them to stay in the capital for a couple of years, and earn a couple of thousand takas per month by giving tuition. They are not interested in learning but in having a degree in a subject they seem to dislike the most, be Pali, Sanskrit, or World religion... because this piece of paper will allow them to sit for civil service entrance examinations. DU library is full of readers who rather than reading books are busy memorizing the civil service examination guides like a flock of parrots.

As most of the administrators and intellectuals of Bangladesh are DU graduates, the authorities of DU love to believe that the country is run by DU. I have heard a DU vice-chancellor claim DU to be the only university in the history of mankind that has given birth to a nation. Another vice-chancellor said that he is not interested in the ranking because no ranking criteria can measure the kind of knowledge DU graduates may acquire only by gossiping with each other in the TSC area.

DU cannot be compared with Oxford or Harvard because Bangladesh is not comparable with England or USA. However, if international quality can be ensured in



On March 2, 1971, the Bangladesh flag was first hoisted on the rooftop of the Arts Faculty, Dhaka University.

universities become the arena where the government-supported student groups show off their muscle power, who at times do not hesitate to assault physically even the teachers. However, when the government changes, the same tigers leave the DU area secretly at night like miserable cats not to come back soon.



Students of a Dhaka University "gono room" sleep on the floor, squeezing in as many bodies as possible in a space designed for four to six people but often boarded by dozens.

DU cannot be compared with Oxford or Harvard because Bangladesh is not comparable with England or USA. However, if international quality can be ensured in the Padma bridge, then why the quality of education at DU would not be as good as at Oxford?

The democracy that flourished in Europe during the Greco-Roman period was forgotten since the fall of the western Roman empire. All through the Middle Ages and Renaissance, until the French Revolution and even after, the people of Europe were under despotic rule whereas all guilds including universities were run according to the democratic principles since their inception.

Universities are believed to have shaped the fate of the West by shaping its mind through the Middle Ages and Renaissance followed by the Industrial Revolution and the modern time. Whatever sign of modernity and progress we notice around us today, would be a direct or indirect consequence of the knowledge created by or through the universities.

The English, after conquering the subcontinent, established in the 19th century, universities to control and shape the mindset of the educated natives, the *white men's burden*, as they used to call us. For some reason, they decided to implement the Oxford model at the University of Dhaka

Rajshahi reminds value of green tops

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricketers outside the national set-up, who are being groomed to enrich the pipeline of the Bangladesh national team, had a fruitful outing in Rajshahi during a four-day match between the Bangla Tigers and High-Performance Unit (HP) at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium.

Bangla Tigers won the contest by nine wickets yesterday with national team selector Habibul Bashar keeping a close eye on the players throughout the four days ahead of the Bangladesh A team's upcoming West Indies tour later this month.

Apart from the performances of the players, it was the Rajshahi pitch that garnered attention the past four days as it generated good bounce and swing, encouraging the aspiring seamers in the pipeline. Young pacers including the likes of Mukidul Islam Mugdho, Mrittunjoy Chowdhury, Hasan Mahmud, and Ripon Mondol alongside the experienced Abu Jayed showed great promise and hints of improvement, giving a lot of hope for the coming days.

The selectors will name the squad for Bangladesh A team from the lot that played in Rajshahi after the Eid break before the training camp from July 16 in Khulna. They are scheduled to play three one-dayers and a four-day game in the Caribbean.

Before the tour, the A team will also play two one-dayers and a four-day game against the HP side.

"I think our HP seamers showed great promise. It was pretty hot in Rajshahi. But the pitch was very good for the pacers, providing extra bounce and swing. This type of game does not have such high intensity but the players really showed their urge. It was nice to see Hasan Mahmud getting his rhythm back and more importantly, his fitness is also improving," Bashar told The Daily Star.

Young seamer Hasan, who has impressed with his pace and made his white-ball debut in 2020, has been struggling with fitness. The pacer impressed in the four-day match, picking up three wickets for Bangla Tigers in the first innings. "It was a good sporting pitch. There was something for the seamers and I tried to utilise that. At the moment, my fitness is getting better and my pace is also improving. The four-day game was really helpful for all the seamers and such pitches surely encourage pacers," said Hasan.

With the likes of Ebadot Hossain, Khaled Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam making impacts at the international level, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) should consider providing more such pacer-friendly surfaces at home for the promising fast bowlers to flourish.



In-form England batter Jonny Bairstow jumps in the air after completing his third successive Test century during the third day of the fifth Test against India at Edgbaston yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bairstow continues rich vein of form

AFP, BIRMINGHAM

Jonny Bairstow completed his third hundred in successive Tests before falling for 106 at Edgbaston on Sunday to leave England's series decider against India intriguingly poised.

Bairstow, 91 not out when rain forced an early lunch on the third day of the Covid-delayed fifth Test, went to three figures when a push off seamer Shardul Thakur was misfielded on the cover rope to give the Yorkshireman his 14th four in 119 balls. He also hit two sixes.

His exit left England 227-6 and they were eventually dismissed for 284 in reply to India's first-innings 416, a deficit of 132 runs.

But that represented a major recovery after England had resumed on 84-5 in a match they have to win to end this five-match series level at 2-2.

The 32-year-old Bairstow's latest century followed scores of 136 at Trent Bridge and 162 at his Headingley home ground, where he also made an unbeaten 71 in the second innings, in England's recent 3-0 whitewash of Test world champions New Zealand.

In England's first series under their new leadership duo of Stokes and red-ball coach Brendon McCullum, the team had several times hit its way out of trouble.

But for all the talk of the new 'Bazball' approach, a reference to former New Zealand captain McCullum's nickname, Bairstow did still play himself in against India's impressive pace attack in a match England have to win to square this five-match series at 2-2.

India were 37 for 1 at Tea.

Federer hopes to play Wimbledon 'one more time'

AFP, LONDON

Roger Federer said Sunday he hopes to play Wimbledon "one more time" despite being sidelined for a year with a knee injury.

"I hope I can come back one more time. I've missed it here," said the eight-time champion as he attended a special ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of Centre Court.

"This court has given me my biggest wins and my biggest losses," said Federer.

Federer was joined at the ceremony by two men responsible for some of those highs and lows - six-time champion Novak Djokovic and two-time winner Rafael Nadal. The 40-year-old winner of 20 Grand Slam titles has been out of action since a quarter-final loss at the tournament in 2021 before undergoing another bout of knee surgery.

He plans to return to action at the Laver Cup in London in September and then take part in his home tournament at Basel.



"[Shakib Al Hasan] was positive. But Shakib got out at the wrong time. He knows that. We needed someone to get big scores. We need those in this format. We needed good partnerships, but as soon as partnerships were developing, we lost wickets."

Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo after first T20I against West Indies in Dominica, which was abandoned due to rain.



Unseeded Czech Marie Bouzkova snapped Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia's eight-match winning run on grass with a 7-5, 6-2 victory in the Wimbledon fourth round on Sunday to reach her first Grand Slam quarter-final. Since knocking out American seventh seed Danielle Collins in the opening round, the 23-year-old Bouzkova has grown from strength to strength at the grass court Grand Slam where she had never previously got past the second round.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Abahani's title hopes all but over

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's hopes of regaining the title of the Bangladesh Premier League all but evaporated following a dismal 4-2 defeat against hosts Saif Sporting Club at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Matiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj yesterday.

Although Abahani won the Independence Cup and the Federation Cup with impressive performances, they have been inconsistent in league so far, having dropped points against Bangladesh Police, Chittagong Abahani, Swadhinata KS and struggling Sheikh Russel KC to fall behind in the title race.

And their misery was compounded when they suffered their second defeat in 18 matches yesterday, falling seven points behind league leaders Bashundhara Kings, who need only six points

from their four remaining matches to ensure a third consecutive title. Abahani remained on 38 points while Kings have 45 points from 18 outings.

Abahani, however, made a good start with Daniel Colindres rattling the crossbar in the eighth minute before Mehdi Hasan Royal drove wide from a goalmouth scramble.

The Sky Blues, though, lost their rhythm as Saif exposed their sloppy high-line defence, with Sunday Udoh, Emeka Ogbough and Asror Gafurov creating a number of chances. A couple of fumbles from goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel added to Abahani's misery.

Sunday tapped in after collecting a cutback from Emeka to give Saif a 13th-minute lead with Sohel failing to gather the ball in his first attempt.

Abahani came back into the match through a superb overhead kick from Dorielton Gomes

off a Colindres corner in the 35th minute but Saif restored the lead five minutes later following another fumble from Sohel, who failed to clear a corner despite having the ball within his reach. Defender Monir Hossain put the ball into his own net while attempting to clear the ball.

Sohel made amends with some brilliant saves but failed to stop Rahim Uddin, who headed home a corner from Sunday in the 65th minute. Emery Bayisenge killed off the contest from the spot in the 73rd minute before Colindres scored a consolation goal for Abahani, converting a spot kick in stoppage time.

Meanwhile, a brace from Vali Jonov Otabek powered Sheikh Jamal to a 2-0 win over Chittagong Abahani in Cumilla while Sheikh Russel KC defeated Uttar Baridhara 5-3 at the Bashundhara Kings arena.

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Narail OC withdrawn over assault on teacher

STAR REPORT

Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Shawkat Kabir of Narail Sadar Police Station was withdrawn and attached to the Khulna Reserve Range on Saturday night.



Kabir

This move came around two weeks after students and locals forced Swapan Kumar Biswas, acting principal of Mirzapur United College, to wear a garland of shoes around his neck in presence of police.

Asked about the reason, Prabir Kumar Ray, superintendent of Narail police, said Shawkat was closed following directives from the office of deputy inspector general of Khulna Range police due to "administrative reason".

Inspector (investigation) of the police station will be acting OC until a new OC

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7



A man helps his child cross a gaping hole near Shyamoli Shishu Mela in the capital. The hole was dug up to widen a sewerage line, but the authorities concerned are yet to fill it up, exposing pedestrians to the risk of injury. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FLOOD VICTIMS IN NORTH A roof over their heads is all they need now

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, back from Sunamganj

Sitting in a roadside garage near what used to be her home, Nasima Begum, 70, was seen trying to salvage whatever was edible from paddy she had stored earlier.

Her home in Chhatak upazila's Bashkala village washed away in the flood shortly after she had moved to a shelter centre. Meanwhile, her paddy rotted in the floodwaters.

"Even though I had sufficient paddy in my in-house storage, I had to spend two hungry days at the centre. Upon returning, I see I have become homeless too."

At least 25 homes in the village were completely destroyed in the flood, which was triggered by torrential rain in the northeast and India's Meghalaya.

Jomirun Begum, a mother of six, said, "We barely saved our children when the house began collapsing. We are now living in a makeshift hut on the culvert."

Speaking to this correspondent on Saturday, most of the villagers said they were well-fed as the relief provided by government and non-government organisations was sufficient. However, they are now in dire need of financial aid and rehabilitation.

For Faruk Ahmed, of Sufinagar-Jaoakara village in the upazila, the struggle is steeper due to his disability.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

CHANGES IN TEXTBOOKS JP MP admits giving wrong info in House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid widespread criticism for providing wrong information in parliament on changes made in textbooks, Jatiya Party MP Fakhrul Imam has admitted that the statement "was not correct in the current context".

The JP lawmaker from Mymensingh 8 sent a letter to Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury on July 2 requesting her to expunge his statement in parliament.

Participating in a discussion on the proposed budget for 2022-23 in the House on June 30, the opposition lawmaker said several topics were removed from textbooks for grades three to eight.

He mentioned that chapters on Islamic topics were removed from the textbooks, while those on other religions were included, and asked, "What does this signify?"

In the letter, Fakhrul said, "I quoted a news carried by Daily Inqilab's digital version and thus presented some information. The date showed on the digital platform when I read the news was of the current date. But it was actually a report of April 19, 2016, which I missed."

He added, "I later came to know that the information I had placed was not correct in the current context."



Fakhrul Imam

Govt to amend children act, may lower age limit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of multiple sensational crimes involving juveniles, the government decided to amend the children act and is considering whether to lower the age threshold that qualifies an individual as a juvenile.

The law ministry was asked to look into the legal matters as laws in Bangladesh and many other countries recognise individuals aged below 18 as children.

The decision was made yesterday in a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at home ministry, attended by at least a dozen ministers and top officials of law enforcement agencies.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said, "Decisions have been made to amend the law. But no decision was made on the age limit."

Mozammel, who is the chief of the committee, said, "My personal opinion is that the age limit can be set at 14."

Teen gangs have mushroomed in the country, he said, adding

that more young people were addicted to drugs than adults.

"A child cannot be sent to jail ... By being children, many are getting away even after committing heinous crimes. But it has a negative impact on the country," he said.

Referring to the recent killing of a teacher in Ashulia, he said proper action could not be taken against the suspect, because he is a child as per the international and local law.

Initiatives have been taken to create a database of criminals, he said. "Instructions were given to update and complete it fast."

Asked why the juvenile corrections facilities were not being developed, he said, "The reality is, a child gets inclined to more criminal activities during their stay at a corrections centre. The same is true for criminals in jails."

The committee yesterday also discussed the public sufferings near toll plazas on Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga expressway.

The benefit of the Padma Bridge is being reduced, he said, adding that there would be long tailbacks on the expressway during Eid rush.

"We may not be able to do anything this Eid, but in the future, measures will be taken for automation of toll collection across the country. Payment will be made electronically, there will be no need to pay the toll manually."

He added that measures will be taken to set up the devices necessary in the quickest possible time. The other bridges will also have the facility.

"We've given emphasis on it. Besides, there were discussions at the meeting about the on-road cattle markets. Instructions were given to the law enforcement agencies not to allow any such market."

Law enforcers were asked to monitor and take steps against extortion on cattle-laden trucks and unlawful imposition of excessive tax on the buyers, said the minister.

Participants also said that Rohingyas were getting involved in criminal activities, but the government was not being able to take legal steps in the absence of an appropriate legal framework. There was discussion of how they could be brought to justice while in Bangladesh.

US man, his dog spent 7yrs walking around the world

CNN ONLINE

Very few people attempt to walk around the entire world, and even fewer manage to complete the journey.



On May 21, 2022, Tom Turcich, from New Jersey, became the 10th person on record to achieve this remarkable feat, while his four-legged companion Savannah was the first dog to do so.

The pair were greeted with a huge homecoming celebration attended by many of Turcich's friends and family, along with well-wishers. The triumphant moment brought about the end of a seven-year, 48,000-kilometer (29,826-mile) journey.

The inspiration for the trip stemmed from a sad loss in 2006, when his long-time friend Ann Marie died in a jet-ski accident at the age of 17.

"[her death] was very formative for me," he explains. "She was a much better person than me. And it sunk in that I was going to die [one day] and it could happen at any moment. And I started re-evaluating everything."

Turchich, who has been compared to Forrest Gump, the character Tom Hanks played in the 1994 movie, decided he needed travel and adventure in his life and began looking into all the different ways he could.

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Lugansk 'liberated'

Claims Moscow, accuses Ukraine of firing missiles into Russia

AGENCIES

Russia yesterday claimed to have captured the strategic Ukrainian city of Lysychansk and the entire frontline Lugansk region which would mark a decisive breakthrough for Moscow's forces seeking control of the country's east.

The development came as Belarus said it had intercepted missiles fired by Kyiv and Russia reported that Ukraine launched three cluster missiles at Belgorod, killing four people. Ukrainian forces also struck a Russian military base in occupied southern Ukraine.

Lysychansk had been the last major city in the Lugansk area of the eastern Donbas still in Ukrainian hands and its capture would signal a deeper push into the Donbas, Moscow's focus since retreating from Kyiv.

On Saturday, there were conflicting reports about Lysychansk's status with Ukraine denying Moscow's claim to have encircled the entire city, located

across the river from neighbouring Severodonetsk which Russian forces seized last week.

Ukraine has yet to comment on the claim that Lysychansk has fallen following days of intense clashes.

"Sergei Shoigu has informed the commander in chief of the Russian armed forces, Vladimir Putin, of the liberation of the People's Republic of Lugansk," the defence ministry yesterday said in a statement quoted by Russian news agencies.

A few minutes prior to the announcement, which AFP has not verified, a spokesman for the Russian defence ministry had said fighting was ongoing in Lysychansk and that Ukrainian forces were "completely" surrounded.

Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov reported several explosions in the city of nearly 400,000, some 40 km (25 miles) north of the border with Ukraine.

At least 11 apartment buildings and

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Rescuers work at the site of a destroyed residential building after missiles hit Belgorod, Russia, yesterday. At least four people were killed in the Russian city of Belgorod near the Ukraine border, the regional governor said, in what Moscow said was a Ukrainian missile attack.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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