

GAS CRUNCH, POWER CUTS No sign of relief now

PM says it's hard to keep power plants running

- Yesterday's power generation was 13,228 MW against the demand of 14,000 MW
- Power plants need 1,600-1,700 mmcf gas daily but getting only 900 mmcf
- LNG supply to national grid dropped to 500 mmcf yesterday from around 854 mmcf on June 29



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that running power plants with imported gas, oil, and coal has become a financial burden for the state.

Her statement comes a day after she said she was thinking about asking authorities concerned to temporarily reduce electricity generation to save fuel.

Around 52 percent of the country's power production capacity is gas-based, 27 percent is produced with furnace oil, 5.86 percent with diesel, 8.03 percent with coal, 1 percent with hydro, 0.5 percent with other renewable energy and 5.27 is imported, according to Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) data.

Speaking at a programme, Hasina yesterday spoke about the government's problems in power generation for the second consecutive day while people are enduring severe power cuts for days mainly due to reduced natural gas supply to power plants.

Currently, Bangladesh has the capacity to generate 22,348 MW of electricity every day. The maximum demand was forecasted to be 14,000 MW yesterday, but the highest peak-time generation was 13,228 MW, according to BPDB.

Of the total power produced, 56 percent was used by households, 28 percent by industries, 11 percent was used commercially and 3 percent in agriculture.

The country started power rationing on June 30 to make up the shortfall.

RELATED STORY ON B1

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A woman helping a child into the train from ground level. With a platform of the Kamalapur Railway Station overcrowded with holidaymakers heading home for Eid, some passengers got down from the opposite platform and crossed the rail lines to board the Jamalpur-bound train. The photo was taken around 2:20pm yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

No plan to halt classes

Says education minister amid rise in Covid infections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no plan to close classrooms for Covid-19, Education Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

"We are observing the situation. We will make decisions keeping in mind the safety of students and others," she told reporters at her office.

The flood-affected students who lost their textbooks will be given new books, she informed. The government will then hold the SSC exams postponed amid the devastating floods in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced the inclusion of 2,716 non-government schools, madrasas and technical institutions in the monthly payment order (MPO) scheme, under which non-government teachers get their basic pays and certain monthly allowances from the government.

Of the 2,716 institutions, 2,051 are schools and colleges and 665 are madrasas and technical training institutions, Dipu Moni said.

Educational institutions that qualify for the MPO facilities, but have not been included in the scheme, are encouraged to apply to the authorities concerned in 15 days, she added.

Staring at a grim Eid

Rising cost of living chokes middle class

SUKANTA HALDER, MAHMUDUL HASAN and ABU TALHA

It is not any other Eid for many middle and lower-middle income families. They are cutting down expenses for the festival in the face of spiralling living costs.

But the prices of almost all essentials have gone up and to cope, the families are spending less on sacrificial animals, moving to cheaper homes, cutting down protein intake, and even selling off belongings.

The salary of Mamun Rashid, who works for a private company, increased by Tk 3,000 over the last one year but his monthly expenses went up about Tk 7,000 beyond his pay cheque.

He borrows Tk 7,000 every month.

Rashid, the lone breadwinner for his family of four, said he dropped plans for sacrificing animals this Eid. He used to sacrifice one head of cattle every year sharing the costs with a few others.

"I am keeping no stone unturned to

reduce the cost of living. For example, I used to go to work on ride-sharing motorbikes, but now I take a bus."

Despite all his efforts, paying for his children's education is still difficult. "I can't reduce my children's school costs even if I want to."

"I won't buy anything new for me or my wife this Eid. I am planning to buy some clothes only for my boy and girl."

"I now realise that we will have to go through even more difficult days ahead as prices of essential

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Next polls will be crucial

US report says further shrinking of democratic space may hurt Bangladesh's progress

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh's national election next year will be critical in determining whether the country moves towards greater democracy or greater autocracy, said a recently released policy document of the US.

"If democratic space continues to shrink in Bangladesh due to the increasing authoritarian nature of the central government, lack

of progress on achieving this objective could lead to increased political instability and human rights violations," said the US Integrated Country Strategy (ICS) on Bangladesh.

It could also undermine Bangladesh's economic progress, and impact Bangladesh's ability to serve as a net security provider, while negatively impact ties with the US and likeminded partners,

potentially deepening Bangladesh's engagement with malign actors, read the document.

The ICS, which details how the US maintains its relationship with the UN, international organisations and 180 countries, was approved on April 8 and made public in late June on the State Department website.

"Since the flawed elections of 2018, civic space has shrunk

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

CHECKING COVID Ministries not doing their bit

Govt officials say at health ministry meet

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

More than a week has passed since the Cabinet Division issued directives to check the spread of Covid, but those still remain unimplemented due to slack response from the ministries concerned.

No monitoring team has been formed yet and the Health Services Division has yet to conduct any media campaign to encourage people to wear masks, said participants in a meeting at the Health Services Division on Tuesday.

"There is no team to monitor if the health safety rules are being

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Unicef voices concern over attacks on teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concerns over the recent attacks on teachers in Bangladesh, Unicef has called for ensuring their safety and security.

"Unicef is deeply concerned about the recent series of attacks on teachers in Bangladesh. Unicef stands with the country in condemning these attacks, and we call for the safety and security of teachers to be upheld," Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh, said in a statement yesterday.

The UN agency came up with the statement

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

AB Bank approved 2% Cash Dividend and 3% Stock Dividend



The 40th AGM of AB Bank Limited was held on July 06, 2022. The Meeting unanimously approved 2% Cash Dividend and 3% Stock Dividend for the year ended 2021. The Bank completed 40th year of successful operation on April 12, 2022.

In 2021, Profit after Tax of the Bank stood at BDT 72 crore which is 82% higher than the previous year. At the end of 2021, total assets of the Bank was BDT 41,336 crore where Net Asset Value (NAV) was BDT 2,556 crore.

Mr. Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali and Mr. Shajir Ahmed have completed their tenor as Directors. Mr. Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali expressed his desire not to seek re-election and Mr. Shajir Ahmed has been re-elected as Director. AGM also adopted Directors' Report, Audited Financial Statements. Shareholders also re-appointed ACNABIN, Chartered Accountants, as Statutory Auditor and M/s. S. F. Ahmed & Co, Chartered Accountants, as Corporate Governance Compliance Auditor of the Bank for the year 2022. Chairman of the Board Mr. Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali, presided over the Meeting. Mr. Tarique Afzal, President & Managing Director, Honorable Directors of the Board and a good number of Shareholders attended the Annual General Meeting on digital platform.

Advertisement

WALTON Smart Fridge

Buying Walton Fridge
GOT 20 LAC TAKA

From A.B.S. Electro World, Boyra, Khulna
Md. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Father: Md. Ismail Hossain Mahidia, Jashore

From Walton Plaza, Panishail, Kashimpur, Gazipur
Parvin Aktar, Father: Rahel Fokir Latifpur, Kashimpur, Gazipur

GOT 5 LAC TAKA

From M/S. Faruk Agency, Trunk Road, Feni
Mr. Sabuj Miah, Father: Ruhul Amin Dhumsadda, Feni Sadar, Feni

From Labib Marketing Company, Kalurghat, Chattogram
Mr. Mohammad Esha, Father: Md. Selim Mohora, Chandgaon, Chattogram

Eid Festival
GRAB THE CHANCE TO GET
up to 20 LAC TAKA
SURE CASHBACK
OR PRODUCTS WORTH OF CRORES TAKA FREE

Conditions:
• Have to complete digital registration after buying Walton Fridge.
• This campaign is conducted by fully computerized system fairly.
• Digital campaign facilities will be void in case of more than 3 registrations of fridge from the same mobile number in a year.
• The authority reserves the right to change the campaign anytime.

This initiative is taken to ensure maximum customer facilities through research & development of products and digitalization.
Return SMS may be delayed for the technical/network problems.

waltonbd.com | For Details: 16267

BARAPUKURIA PLANT Shortage of coal may halt power generation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Barapukuria 525MW coal-fired power plant may be mothballed once its current stock of coal is depleted later this month due to uncertainty over the resumption of coal supply from the nearby mine for underground development works.

Coal production at the mine has been suspended since April. The power plant, which is located at Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila, is fired entirely by the coal supplied by the mine.

At present, the power plant's third unit, which is of 275 MW, is operational, while the other two units -- of 125MW each -- are in recess for insufficient coal supply.

There are about 60,000 tonnes of coal in stock, which is enough to run the third unit for the next 20 days at the current rate.

About 3,200 to 3,500 tonnes of coal are needed in a day to keep the unit fully operational.

In the last couple of days, 300MW of power has been generated, which is beyond the unit's capacity to ease the rising load shedding around the country.

If coal supply is not resumed by early next month, power generation will either be halted or the plant will be operated at minimum production capacity, said officials of the Bangladesh Power Development Board.

"It is unlikely that coal supply will resume in early August as the development works are still going on," said a top official of BPDB.

Those development works require at least four months, so as per schedule, it should wrap up at the end of August.

Everyone is working ardently to complete the work as early as possible, according to Md Kamruzzaman Khan, managing director of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited.

Production is supposed to start in the middle of August, he told The Daily Star.

Bankrupt Sri Lanka asks Putin for fuel, tourists

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka has asked Russia to provide fuel and resume tourist flights to help the country weather its unprecedented economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said yesterday.

The island nation has suffered months of blackouts, rampant inflation and critical shortages of food and petrol after running out of foreign currency to finance imports.



PHOTO: AFP

A rescuer works among ruins of an administrative building destroyed by Russian missiles in Kharkiv, Ukraine yesterday.

TRUCKS CARRYING SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS Police chief irked over failure to curb extortion

Warns officials of stern action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the failure of officers to save cattle-carrying trucks from being extorted.

Stern actions will be taken against such policemen, he said.

Extortion on highways will not be tolerated, he told the concluding session of crime conference at Bangladesh Police Auditorium at Rajarbagh.

The IGP said the district superintendents of police were not performing their duties properly as they are often seen at different departments in Dhaka, leaving their stations. "It must stop."

Other high officials of police said the superintendents of police (SP) in districts should "leave their posts" if they fail to stop extortion.

Benazir then asked SPs to visit cattle markets regularly. "I do not want police to be in headlines."

No cattle-carrying truck should be stopped or checked without a specific reason, said the police chief.

Several high officials, who attended the closed-door conference, disclosed the statements to The Daily Star.

On the first day of the two-day

The IGP said the district superintendents of police were not performing their duties properly as they are often seen at different departments in Dhaka, leaving their stations. "It must stop."

conference, the officers discussed the last three months' data on crime. It was found out that robberies had increased during the period.

YM Belalur Rahman, deputy inspector general (crime management) of Police Headquarters, presented the data on crime.

Benazir asked police officers to improve probe efficiency. "Investigation into cases should be complete within the shortest time."

The police chief instructed officers to ensure security at shopping malls, banks, financial institutions, and bus, train and launch terminals ahead of Eid.

Ensure smooth traffic during Eid rush, he said, adding that check posts should be set up to keep motorcycles and three-wheelers off the highways.

An additional IG said that the number of Durga Puja mandaps has been increasing every year.

"We have a workforce of 2.12 lakh members and we are able to deploy 75 percent of our strength during the puja. But the increase in puja mandap may create a security concern. So, the number of puja mandap should be limited in the coming years," a source quoted the high official as saying.

The SPs of 64 districts, range deputy inspectors general, metropolitan commissioners, and chiefs of different units attended the conference.

No sign of relief now

FROM PAGE 1

While inaugurating the country's first campus-based business incubator "Sheikh Kamal IT Business Incubator", Sheikh Jamal Dormitory and Rosy Jamal Dormitory at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) virtually from the Gonobhaban, Hasina said the government has had to resort to load-shedding and cut down power generation to ease the burden of subsidies.

She said the government has allocated Tk 84,000 crore for subsidies across all sectors in this fiscal year.

"How long will we be able to provide such a huge amount of subsidies? We have to provide food, medical care and homes for the homeless people," she said, reports UNB.

"If we do not reduce subsidies, from where will the government get money?" she questioned.

"We have only one option, I have already directed to impose area-based load shedding and prepare a routine for that to inform people earlier so that they can take preparation and suffer less," she continued.

Hasina also said another hurdle is that there are sanctions on SWIFT transactions with Russia, which is why Bangladesh cannot purchase anything from the country with US dollars.

She said the countries that hold Russian currency can purchase goods from Russia, but as Bangladesh does not have a reserve of the Russian currency

it has very limited scope to do that. "But we are continuing our efforts."

During her address, the PM compared the prices of fuel and other materials used for power generation before and after the Russia-Ukraine war.

She said the price of furnace oil was only \$708 per tonne, which became \$1,080 per tonne after the war began -- a 52 percent hike; LNG was \$10 MMBtu, which is now \$38 -- a 280 percent hike; coal rose 61 percent from \$187 per tonne to \$278; and diesel price rose around 63 percent from \$80 per barrel to \$130.

"We are hearing that the price of diesel would become \$300 [per barrel]; the edible oil price is also increasing. The prices of products that we have to import have increased excessively," she said.

The PM also detailed the difference between the cost of producing power using different fuels and the subsidised price at which it is sold to consumers.

She said renewable energy power production costs Tk 12.84 per KW, but the government is charging Tk 5.08 per KW. The cost of power production with furnace oil is Tk 17.41 per KW, diesel Tk 36.85, coal Tk 12.37, whereas the subsidised price for consumers is Tk 5.08 for all.

The PM also urged all to practise austerity in consumption, especially in power.

According to BSS, the PM in another programme at the Gono Bhaban called upon people to stop using decorative

lightings in different social programmes, community centres, shopping malls, shops, offices, and houses across the country to save power.

Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources in a statement on Tuesday night gave some reassurances, but it is unlikely that those will come to fruition in the near future.

The state minister had said electricity from the coal-based Rampal power plant, second unit of Payra power plant and 1,600MW imported from India will be added to the national grid by this year.

"Hopefully, the current situation will not last long," he said.

He said that at present, daily gas production in the country is 2,300 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) and around 1,600-1,700 mmcf is required for electricity generation. Only 900 mmcf gas is being supplied to power plants as agriculture and industrial sectors are prioritised.

Since the country's gas demand was greater than its gas production, the problem was being solved by importing LNG. However, if LNG is imported at the current prices from the international spot market, the nation's economy might be under stress.

He also said the government is importing as much LNG as it can under the long-term agreements with Qatar and Oman.

Government statistics showed how LNG supply to the national gas grid decreased significantly,

which was the major reason behind the less power generation.

According to Petrobangla data, at least 854mmcf (million cubic feet per day) of LNG was supplied to the national gas grid on June 29 and it had dropped to 500 mmcf by yesterday.

About 250-300 mmcf of LNG demand was fulfilled from the international spot market, but after the recent price hike, the government decided not to buy LNG from the spot market until prices come down.

According to energy ministry data, on average 3,100-3,200 mmcf of natural gas was distributed across the country since the beginning of the year, but since June 30, the average supply stood at 2,800-2,900 mmcf.

Power production accounts for around 70 percent of the country's total gas consumption, according to energy division data.

Unicef voices

FROM PAGE 1

after a few incidents of attacking teachers took place in the country.

Yett said, "Teachers play a critical role in ensuring children's right to education. But to do their job -- to teach students to think critically, grow to their fullest potential and be good human beings -- they need to be able to teach without fear."

"Attacks on teachers are attacks on education. If we fail to protect teachers from violence, it will be children who ultimately suffer."

Ministries not Staring at a grim Eid doing their bit

FROM PAGE 1

Rashid added. For years, Ziaur Rahman Bulbul, a phone repair shop owner of Shyamoli, had been sharing sacrificial bulls with a friend.

But this year, the two friends could not afford the animal and had to invite five other people to share the cost.

Bulbul does not earn what he used to in 2019. "The high cost of living is hurting me badly," he said.

Just two months ago, the father of two moved to a smaller home so that he could make rent. Three months ago, he sold his motorbike.

"I used to buy large, medium, and small fish and meat at least four days a week. Now I can buy once a week," he added.

Day by day the situation is worsening, he added.

The Daily Star spoke to a number of people with limited income across the country and they said the Covid-19 situation has improved but not their earnings and that inflation was hurting a lot.

They are cutting expenses and even meals and expenditure for the Eid festival is not a priority at all.

In Bangladesh, inflation has been rising since October owing to the high cost of commodities globally amid lingering supply chain disruptions and the Russia-Ukraine war breaking out in late February.

Inflation surged to an eight-year high of 7.42 percent in May, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

State-owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) data shows that

between February 2020 and February 2022, the price of coarse rice increased by 32 percent, fine rice by 28 percent, and coarse lentils by 63 percent. Sugar was up by 32 percent, bottled soybean oil by 55 percent, and loose soybean oil by 83 percent.

Even the prices of detergents, toothpaste, bakery products and noodles/pasta went up.

The surging inflation in Bangladesh is sent living costs to such an extent that many families are grappling to maintain a decent life with limited budgets, said the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) last month in a media briefing.

"Apart from the higher price of basic food items, the high price of non-food items is putting a huge burden on households," said CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun.

Mohammad Tapan, of Paikar Para in Bogura, runs a grocery store with his brother. They run their joint family of nine with their incomes.

"Every year we are affected by floods," he said, adding, "People of all classes and professions come to our shop. Now middle class and lower-income shoppers are cutting down on things."

Mostly, customers paid in cash before but more and more people are buying things on credit, he said, adding that many these days cannot pay the amount back in full at the start of the month.

Tapan said those who used to spend Tk 8,000 a month on essentials at his store now spend Tk 4,000 to Tk 5,000.

"I used to buy new clothes for everyone in the family ahead of Eid. Now I am

20 injured as AL groups clash in remote island

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Clashes between the two groups of local Awami League left at least 20 people injured and properties damaged in Rangabali upazila.

The groups in Charmontaj island began attacking each other around 11:00pm on Tuesday and the intermittent clashes went on until around 2:00am yesterday, police and locals said.

They vandalised one shop and damaged over 10 motorcycles parked in front of the union Awami League unit office.

The groups, one led by Charmontaj Union AL President Monir Hossain Pada and the other by ward AL President Bashir Khan, engaged in the clash over establishing supremacy in the villages, locals said.

None of them could be reached for comments. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert further violence, said Mizanur Rahman, in-charge of Charmontaj Police Outpost.

3 policemen 'injured during gunfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three police officers were hit by pellets during a gunfire with a gang of robbers in a hilly area in Padua union of Rangunia, Chattogram early yesterday, police said.

Officer-in-charge Obaidul Islam, Sub-Inspector Abul Fayeze and Constable Mohammad Zia of South Rangunia Police Station received treatment at Rangunia Upazila Health Complex, Obaidul said.

The incident happened when police raided the area after being tipped off about the presence of robbers.

Police arrested a suspect named Sardar Kamal with two locally made firearms and five bullets while the other gang members managed to flee, he added.

The suspect is an accused in multiple cases including for murder, abduction and extortion, he said.

Electrocution kills farmer in paddy field

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A farmer died after coming in contact with a live wire while turning on an electric motor to irrigate a seedbed in Shimulbari area of Phulbari, Kurigram.

Isahaq Ali, 57, son of late Moniruzzaman Mia, died on the spot, said police and family members.

22 Malian migrants died in boat disaster off Libya: UN

AFP, Geneva

Twenty-two Malian migrants died in a boat disaster off the Libyan coast, the UN said Tuesday, citing survivors who reported victims drowning and dehydrating with three children reportedly among the dead.

After nine days at sea, 61 survivors, mostly from Mali, were rescued by the Libyan coastguard and brought back to shore, the UN's International Organization for Migration said, with the toll confirmed by Mali's expatriates ministry.

considering new clothes only for the children. The wife will get a sari only ... no new shoes, cosmetics and other items.

"The joy of Eid is no more because of the rising cost of living," Tapan said.

Calls grow

FROM PAGE 12

priorities. That is what we need to do."

Earlier, Javid urged other ministers to resign saying "the problem starts at the top, and I believe that is not going to change."

"And that means that it is for those of us in that position -- who have responsibility -- to make that change."

Cries of "bye, Boris" echoed around the chamber at the end of his speech. Most Tories were conspicuously silent when Johnson attacked the Labour opposition at prime minister's questions. Some shook their heads.

Sunak and Javid quit just minutes after Johnson apologised for appointing a senior Conservative, who quit his post last week after he was accused of drunkenly groping two men.

Former education secretary Nadhim Zahawi was immediately handed the finance brief and acknowledged the uphill task ahead.

UK media said Nadhim Zahawi was one of the ministers who went to 10 Downing Street to ask the PM to resign.

Days of shifting explanations had followed the resignation of deputy chief whip Chris Pincher.

'Lowering age limit not a solution' Say child rights advocates on juvenile crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lowering the legal age of what defines a minor will not solve a problem as complex as juvenile delinquency, said a coalition of NGOs that work with child rights.

The statement was sent by Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, Girls Not Brides and Joining Forces Bangladesh.

"We too are concerned about youth crime but we do not think that giving out stricter punishments will solve this. Instead, this will increase underage marriage and child labour," said the statement.

Instead, it must be examined why juveniles are becoming involved in different types of crime, who are exploiting them to hold on to power and how effective the youth development centres are at tackling juvenile delinquency, the statement read.

It also must be seen whether children have the scope for extra-curricular activities and whether our education system can instill moral values.



Little Rubab was spotted heading home with his family members for Eid vacation at Sadarghat yesterday. This eight-year-old refused to leave behind his pet birds. After all, they are family as well, and who leaves the family behind on occasions that are supposed to reunite families?

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Baitul Mukarram to host five Eid jamaats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main Eid-ul-Azha congregation will be held at Eidgah Maidan at 8:00am if weather remains favourable.

In case of bad weather, the main jamaat will be held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 8:30am, said Abu Naser, spokesperson of Dhaka South City Corporation.

Besides, there will be five jamaats at the national mosque on the day, according to a statement of Islamic Foundation.

The first jamaat will be held at 7:00am while the next four will be held at 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am, and 10:45am respectively.

The largest Eid congregations will be held at Sholokia Eidgah ground in Kishoreganj.

Eid-ul-Azha, the second biggest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country on July 10 with due solemnity and religious fervour.

'US lies on Xinjiang may hurt Bangladeshi RMG industry' Says Chinese ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming has claimed that Washington is spreading "lies" about "forced labour" in China's Xinjiang, and warned that if Bangladesh is not cautious enough, the "lies" may hurt the Bangladeshi RMG industry. He said this in a video post titled "#AMinuteWith Ambassador" in the Chinese Embassy Facebook yesterday.

Li Jiming said it has come to his attention that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

An alarming spike on the way?

Experts fear dengue may spread faster during Eid

HELEMUL ALAM

Dengue may spread further and faster during Eid vacation with thousands of people expecting to head home, said doctors and experts.

If a non-infected Aedes mosquito in a remote village bites an infected person, that mosquito in turn will infect other people, they warned.

According to the data of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 1,316 dengue patients were hospitalised till Tuesday, of whom, 151 are outside Dhaka.

Jahangirnagar University's entomologist Kabirul Bashar said as huge numbers of people will temporarily migrate from Dhaka to other districts, the chance to spread dengue increases.

The situation was similar in 2019 when over one

lakh people were infected and around half of them were infected outside Dhaka.

It is very important not to leave Dhaka with a fever and stay inside mosquito nets to stop the transmission, Bashar said.



"People will have to remain careful about their plant tubs, or the containers where they preserve water as Aedes will find suitable places to breed during the vacation. Everyone needs to cover the toilets before leaving home as well," he added.

Entomologist Dr Manzur A Chowdhury said as both dengue and Covid-19 cases are increasing simultaneously, the risks are double fold.

Manzur said if a dengue patient is found in rural areas or small cities, the authorities concerned will have to identify the case-positive houses and have

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Although traders are poised to sell the animals they brought to the cattle markets this year, customers are still sparse. Traders are hoping that sales will pick up right before Eid. This photo was taken recently from Gabtoli cattle market.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CATTLE MARKETS

Sales yet to pick up

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Although a good number of sacrificial animals have arrived at Dhaka's cattle markets, customers were sparse yesterday, the first day of official operation of 20 markets.

Traders are still waiting for the rush of customers ahead of Eid, for which they have decided to stay put with their animals at the markets.

Md Mased, a trader at Dholaikhal, who brought 18 bulls to the market on Sunday, said he has failed to sell a single one, as the number of customers was poor, and those who went there bargained for amounts that would put him at a loss.

"We didn't sell them at our village, as we don't get enough money there. We bring the bulls here, hoping for a profit," he said.

Shukkur Ali Bepari - who brought his bull "Kala Babu" from Dohar, after raising it for five years - is asking for Tk 20 lakh. So far, he has gotten offers for Tk 12 lakh, but he is expecting at least 15. Kala Babu weighs around 35 maunds.

"If I fail to get a good price, I won't sell it, as I've raised it at my home, giving it good food. That's why it's so healthy," he said.

Awlad Hossain, a resident of Mirpur, said prices of bulls are higher when compared to last year's. He finally got a bull after several hours of frantic effort at the Gabtoli market.

Awlad Hossain, a resident of Mirpur, said prices of bulls are higher when compared to last year's. He finally got a bull after several hours of frantic effort at the Gabtoli market.

"The bull I bought for Tk 90,000 was Tk 85,000 last year. But the price is not that much higher," he said.

MIDDLEMEN ACTIVE
As customers are struggling to get bulls at reasonable prices, in Gabtoli cattle market, a section of middlemen are buying bulls from farmers, who came to the market, and reselling them for profit.

Lutfur Rahman, who usually

buys bulls for meat traders, said he bought four bulls from a trader and sold three for Tk 2,000 to 3,000 profit each.

"Like me, around 30 percent of traders are seasonal, who buy bulls from permanent traders or farmers at the market and resell them for profit. But, we also have to face losses if the market is not booming," he said.

BIG BOSS
After witnessing his exceptional size, Md Islam Uddin named his bull "Big Boss" during the course of raising him for four years at Kishoreganj's Bajitpur. Islam is asking Tk 32 lakh for Big Boss, which weighs 43 maunds, and has already gotten an offer of Tk 19 lakh, he said.

GOAT PRICES REASONABLE
Unlike prices of bulls and cows, goats are still affordable for customers.

Delwar Hossain - a trader of Gabtoli, who intends to sell 500 goats and has already brought 200 - said he bought the goats, weighing 18 to 20 kilos, for around Tk 15,000 each. "I'll sell them for a profit of around Tk 1,000 for each of them," he said.

GRAMEEN TELECOM WORKERS UNION

President, gen secy held over fraud, graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective branch (DB) of police have arrested the president and general secretary of Grameen Telecom Workers Union over allegations of fraud and embezzlement.

The arrest was made after a case was filed by the union's finance secretary.

The arrestees are Kamruzzaman (37), the president, and Firoz Mahmud Hasan (42), the general secretary.

The duo was held from Segunbagicha area on Tuesday, a day after Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman filed the case with Mirpur Police Station - Mohammad Harun Aur Rashid, joint commissioner (cyber and special crimes and DB-north) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters at his office yesterday.

On May 25, Tk 26.22 crore was transferred to a bank account of Grameen Telecom Workers Union, and for this, the union's president, general secretary and the plaintiff of the case were signatories, he said.

Kamruzzaman, Firoz and the union's vice-president Mainul Hasan embezzled Tk 9 crore from this amount. The lawyers employed by the union unreasonably and exaggeratedly claimed around Tk 16 crore as fees, claimed Harun.

The official said the arrestees have been taken into a seven-day remand.

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 7
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

KONKA ফ্রিজ

ডালো থাকুন আপনিও

বাংলাদেশেই তৈরি হচ্ছে বিশ্বমানের পণ্য

বিশ্বের ১৬০টি দেশে সমাদৃত

বিশ্বমানের কনকা ফ্রিজ তৈরি হয় অ্যান্টিজেনেটিক কাবন টেকনোলজিতে, যা এক খাবারের গন্ধ আরেক খাবারে যেতে দেয় না। এর ডিজিটাল ফ্রেশ টেকনোলজি নির্দিষ্ট খাবার রাখে সতেজ। আর ১০ বছরের ওয়ারেন্টি ও সামগ্রী নামে বিশ্বমানের কনকা ফ্রিজ গুণে ও মানে সেবা ফ্রিজ। বিশ্বে সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তিতে যা তৈরি হচ্ছে আমাদের দেশেই। তাই গর্বের সাথে জরসা রাখুন কনকা ফ্রিজে।

ফ্রিজ কিনলে কনকা কিনুন সাথে বুঝে নিন আরেকটি ফ্রি*

Electro Mart Limited **16649**

Noab, hawkers association congratulate Prothom Alo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) and Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers' Multipurpose Cooperative congratulated Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matur Rahman, after the daily received "Global Media Awards 2022", arranged by International News Media Association.
At Noab's Teigaon office yesterday, its president AK Azad and hawkers' cooperative president Abdul Mannan felicitated Matur. Naya Diganta editor Alamgir Mohiuddin, Jugantor editor Saiful Alam and Samakal editor (acting) Muzammil Husain were also present.
Prothom Alo won first and second prizes under "Best Use of Print" and "Best Idea to Grow Advertising Sales" categories, respectively.

SMS alert proving

FROM PAGE 5
Among the recipients of the early warning, 71 percent were prepared to reduce the negative effects caused by disasters.
There was no early warning system for waterlogging and salinity.
The report said SMS alerts were sent to 100 percent of households for drought, tornadoes, river erosion, and hail storms.
"As part of the emergency requirement of the government, we provide early warning SMSs for disasters free of cost,"

Taimur Rahman, chief corporate and regulatory affairs officer at Banglalink, told The Daily Star.
About 13.91 percent and 13.90 percent of households took emergency measures in response to flood and cyclone, respectively.
On the other hand, among the total households, less than 2 percent of people had emergency preparedness in response to tornadoes, storm/tidal surges, thunderstorms, and river/coastal storms.

Henolux MD, wife

FROM PAGE 5
At the press briefing, Moin said from the case statement, they came to know that Anisur invested Tk 1 crore initially and another Tk 26 lakh, after being allured by the potential for huge profits. But he had no written contract.
He had borrowed this amount from relatives

and friends and assured some of them of paying dividends, he said.
"But he was not getting money from the investment, and there was pressure from the borrowers. Anisur was emotionally distraught," he mentioned.
"Out of frustration, he died by suicide," said Moin.

An alarming

FROM PAGE 3
to do Larviciding and adulticiding there.
"Building awareness among people and reduction of sources is also very important," he said.
In small cities, the health department will have to take measures to announce through loudspeakers or other ways to inform people to get tested for dengue in case of fever. Dengue-positive patients should also be aware to avoid movement, he added.
Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Md Atiqul Islam on Monday urged city dwellers at a programme to ensure before leaving their houses that there is no stagnant water anywhere in their residence.
Dr Md Ekramul Haque, deputy programme manager of malaria and AITD control programme at DGHS, said after conducting their pre-monsoon survey, they warned all the hospitals and upazila health complexes to take necessary measures against dengue.

"We also asked to open dengue corners and separate dengue wards in the district and divisional level hospitals as there was a chance of a high number of dengue cases this year," he said.
"We will conduct a monsoon survey after Eid-ul-Azha," he said.

US lies on Xinjiang may hurt

FROM PAGE 3
a certain RMG industry association in Bangladesh recently alerted its members to the risks associated with cotton from China, due to the US allegation of "forced labor in Xinjiang". He said he also noticed that the alert was issued following a meeting between the association and two representatives from "Indo-Pacific Opportunity Project" affiliated to some US Agency.
"The so-called "forced labor in Xinjiang" is entirely a lie. But why do they lie? It is now circulated on the internet that two US diplomats previously posted in Guangzhou reportedly confessed in

2021."
Li Jiming then quoted the US diplomats, which is "Nothing is wrong about Xinjiang, but to attack their human right policies is an effective means to make Xinjiang break away from international industrial chain, and to make Uyghurs unhappy, turbulent and then fight against the Chinese government."
He said this disclosure echoes a statement made by a former high-rank US official in 2018 and showed the video.
"Obviously, Washington uses this lie about Xinjiang to smear and defame China, with the ultimate goal of containing China. The reason why I brought it up here today is that, if

Bangladeshi people are not cautious enough, this lie may hurt Bangladesh RMG industry as well."
In the end, the Chinese Ambassador questioned: "Don't you think so?"
According to media reports, Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association has alerted its members on importing fabrics from China for making readymade garments as the US has enacted a law imposing restriction on import of goods made with alleged

forced labour from Uyghur in China.
On June 24, following a meeting with two representatives from Indo-Pacific Opportunity Project -- Tim Armstrong and Reza Patwary -- BGBA president KI Hossain warned its members saying that if any buying house produces readymade garment through importing fabrics made with Uyghur cotton and ships it to the US, the whole shipment would be seized and forfeited under the law.

Pathshala South Asian Media Institute

FACULTY SEARCH

Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, a constituent institute of the University of Dhaka invites applications for the positions of Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and Lecturer. The candidates should meet the following requirements along with having excellent academic records.

Position	Subject	Post
Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor	Script and Direction	1
Assistant Professor/ Lecturer	Video Editing	1
Assistant Professor/ Lecturer	Cinematography	1
Lecturer	Photography	3

Education and other requirement:
Associate Professor: Master's/Post-Graduate degree with a minimum five years of teaching experience in reputed Media Institute or University on Film, Media or Communication. At least three publications in peer-reviewed journals or three individual productions.
Assistant Professor: Master's/Post-Graduate degree with a minimum three years of teaching experience in reputed Media Institute or University on Film, Media or Communication. At least one publication in peer-reviewed journals or two individual productions.
Lecturer: Master's/Post-Graduate degree in Photography, Film, Media, Communication or on any related disciplines. Publications in peer-reviewed journals/portfolio and teaching experience would be considered as an advantage.
Note: Teaching experience requirements may be relaxed for candidates with international degree and significant research or production.
Job Location: Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, DrikPath Bhaban, 16 Sukrabat, Panthapath, Dhaka-1207.
Interested candidates are required to submit a cover letter along with a resume, photo copy of academic certificates and apply by post to the Human Resource Manager, Pathshala South Asian Media Institute by 31 July 2022. Applications may also be sent to pathshala.office@gmail.com. Please mention the position applied for in the email subject line.

World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

- RFP/BAN/2022/019:** Development of eLearning digital platform for Community Clinics with eLearning material in consultation with WHO & CBHC.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00 hrs, 24 July 2022**

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Country Office for Bangladesh, House-SW(1)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Eid journey

FROM PAGE 5
In another accident, a man was killed after a speeding bus hit his motorcycle in Doshmile area of Kaharol upazila, Dinajpur yesterday morning.
The deceased -- identified as Sahidur Rahman (53) -- was a land surveyor in Mostafapur union under Parbatipur upazila. He was heading to Parbatipur from Birganj upazila in the district.
Our Bogura correspondent adds, a man was killed and 12 were injured as a bus hit a rick-laden truck parked beside Bogura-Natore regional highway in Shakpala area of Shahjahanpur upazila yesterday morning.
Police could not ascertain the identities of the victims who were on the bus.
Among them, eight were admitted to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, said police.

Chattogram City Corporation

Tigerpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.org.bd

Memo No. 46.11.1600.002.36.05.594.22 Date: 06-07-22

Re-Tender Notice-CCC/XEN-5/2021-22/03

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 of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 1.30pm, 20 July 2022.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & times of submission documents
1	ccc/do5/ward16/revenue-2	Construction of retaining wall and some demolition work for widening the road in front of Wali Begh Kha Mosque at 16 No. Chawbazar Ward	716216	20-07-2022 12:30	20-07-2022 14:30

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

CCC/PRD-04/22-23
Size: 4"x4 col
GD-1356

Mohammed Abu Siddique
Executive Engineer
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigerpass, Chattogram

Janata Bank Limited

Head Office
Information & Communications Technology Department-System
110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Tel: +02223356514, Fax: 88-02-9584644, Telex: 675840 JBD BJ
Website: www.jb.com.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

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

Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender description	Quantity	Tender publish date & time	Tender closing date & time
716305	JBLICTD-S/Proc-247/OTM-02/Computer-Laptop/2022	Procurement of 90 (Ninety) Pieces Desktop Computer and 25 (Twenty Five) Pieces Laptop (Supply, Installation & Commissioning) for Janata Bank Limited on Turn-Key Basis following Open Tendering Method.	As mentioned in Tender Schedule	06/07/2022 06:30pm	27/07/2022 03:00pm

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

GD-1357 Md. Abu Hena Mostofa Zamil
Deputy General Manager

To Let

Fully furnished 8th floor of a 9-storied building, 3800sq. ft. 4 bed with attached bath and 2 garage. House No. 32, Road No. 1, Block I, Banani.
Contact: Saugat +880 16 1710 2040

ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ

বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী
সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
www.dewbn.gov.bd
ফোন: ০১৭৬৯-৭১৯৮০৬, ফ্যাক্স: +৮৮০২২২৩৩০৩৫০১
০৬ জুলাই, ২০২২

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর নিম্নলিখিত বিভাগের ডিজাইন সেকশন ও কেয়ারলিটি কন্ট্রোল সেকশনের জন্য নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদে চুক্তিবদ্ধিত চুক্তি জনক নিয়োগ প্রদান করা যাবে।

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স (২১/০৭/২০২২ পর্যন্ত)	নিয়োগের স্থান	বেতন
১।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০১ (একটি)	১। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার। ২। সিভিল এনুসন্ধান ৫.০০। ৩। যে কোন স্বীকৃত শিপইয়ার্ড/ডকইয়ার্ডে ডিজাইন সেকশন কাজে ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন) বছরের কাজ অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ৪। শিপবিডিং সেকশন সফটওয়্যার Auto CAD, Maxsurf, Rhino, Ship Constructor এ পারদর্শী।	অনুর্ধ্ব ০৫ বছর।	চুক্তিবদ্ধিত	
২।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০১ (একটি)	১। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/সেভেনিক্যাল। ২। সিভিল এনুসন্ধান ৫.০০। ৩। যে কোন স্বীকৃত শিপইয়ার্ড/ডকইয়ার্ডে ডিজাইন নির্মাণ/সেবামত কাজে ন্যূনতম ০৬ (ছয়) বছরের কেয়ারলিটি কন্ট্রোল সেকশন কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ৪। NDT Certificate: Level 2, Fabrication Certificate (এছাড়াও Welding/Fabrication/QC সফটওয়্যার/সিটিং প্রোগ্রাম পক্ষে)।	অনুর্ধ্ব ০৫ বছর। (কয়েক অভিজ্ঞতা সাপেক্ষে বয়স বিমোক্ষযোগ্য)	চুক্তিবদ্ধিত	অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
৩।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০১ (একটি)	১। ডিপ্লোমা ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/শিপবিডিং/সেভেনিক্যাল। ২। যে কোন স্বীকৃত শিপইয়ার্ড/ডকইয়ার্ডে ডিজাইন সেকশন কাজে ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন) বছরের কাজ অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ৩। শিপবিডিং সেকশন সফটওয়্যার Auto CAD, Ship Constructor, Rhino এ পারদর্শী।	অনুর্ধ্ব ০২ বছর।	চুক্তিবদ্ধিত	

২। মূল বেতনের সাথে অন্যান্য আর্থনিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের বেতন কাঠামো, নিম্নোক্ত নির্দেশনা ও প্রাপ্ত দিবাভাগ্য প্রদান করা হবে।
৩। অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের মেডিক্যাল সেকশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মেডিক্যাল ডিটেনস সার্টিফিকেট সন্তোষজনক প্রাপ্তি হলে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে।
৪। প্রার্থীরা প্রার্থীসমূহকে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, সন্ধ্যা ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভা/পিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/কমিউনিটি কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ন্যাচারাল/অফিসিয়াল সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, জন্মনিবন্ধন (যদি থাকে), শিক্ষা/কাজে যোগ্যতার সনদ/প্রমাণপত্র ও সার্টিফিকেট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের সনদ সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত কপি এং ব্যবসায়ী/পরিচালক বাবার আবেদনপত্র "ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ" এর ডিক্রিটার অফিসে ০৬ জুলাই ২০২২ তারিখ অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময়ে মতে প্রেরণ করতে হবে। প্রেরিত থাকবে উপর আবেদন পত্রের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
৫। প্রার্থীদেরকে বাইরে কনিষ্ঠ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।
৬। লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ সেবতা হবে না।
৭। পদের সংখ্যা প্রাপ্ত/বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে।
৮। উল্লিখিত পদসমূহে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
৯। কার্যক্রমে লেগে কর্তব্যে পরিচিতির বিধিতে বিবেচনায় নিয়োগের শর্তে নিয়োগ সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই কোভিড-১৯ টিকা সনদ প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
১০। নিয়োগ সনদের বিষয়ে ব্যবসায়ী/কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

০৬ জুলাই, ২০২২

পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

FACULTY SEARCH: FALL 2022

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence in Higher Education
The First Private University in Bangladesh
ASIA 2022

Faculty Positions

Applications are invited for faculty member positions in the following areas:

- English (Linguistics, Ph.D. only)
- Law (Ph.D. only)
- History (Bangladesh History and World Civilization)
- Psychology (Ph.D. only)
- Philosophy (Ph.D. only)
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Statistics
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Media and Journalism
- Marketing and Analytics (Ph.D. only)
- Accounting (Ph.D. only)
- Finance (Ph.D. only)
- Pharmacy (Ph.D. only)
- Microbiology (Ph.D. only)
- Public Health
- Management Information Systems (Ph.D. only)
- Supply Chain Management (Ph.D. only)
- Business Statistics (Ph.D. only)
- Operations Management (Ph.D. only)
- Architecture (Ph.D. Only)
- Civil Engineering (Structural)

Attractive salary and benefits (50% house rent of basic salary, medical allowance, two festive bonuses, transport allowance, gratuity, provident fund, group insurance). Salary is negotiable in case of outstanding candidates.

Required Qualifications:

- Lecturer and Senior Lecturer: Master's from a globally reputable university.
- Assistant Professor and above: Ph.D from a globally reputable university.

Application Guidelines:

Please apply by 17th July, 2022 with a cover letter, CV, two copies of recent photos and copies of SSC, HSC or equivalent, graduate (Master's or Ph.D.) certificates, transcripts/mark-sheets. Please indicate the discipline on the top of the envelope or in the subject line of the e-mail and send to:

Vice-Chancellor
North South University
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
E-mail: vicechancellor@northsouth.edu
www.northsouth.edu

Eid journey turns tragic

3 of a family die as motorbike hits truck in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three of a family were killed and another was injured as the motorbike they were on hit a truck in Dinajpur early yesterday.

The accident happened as the biker lost control over the vehicle on Dinajpur-Gobindaganj regional highway, in front of M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital, around 5:00am, said police.

Beauty Begum (35) and her daughter Fahima Akter (15) died on the spot, and Beauty's three-year-old son Nasirullah passed away at the hospital, said Md Asaduzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station.

Beauty's husband Md Hossain (45) was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

During their journey, Fahima was sitting in the middle while Beauty at the back with her son in her lap.

Hossain started travelling from Birol upazila to go home to Pachtikuri village in Bholarhat upazila of Chapainawabganj to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with his family members. He lives in Forkabat village in Birol area and is the headteacher of Tegra Darul Hadis Salafia Madrasa in Dinajpur.

The police officer said the truck fled the spot soon after the accident.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



At least one person was killed and 12 were injured in a collision between a bus and truck on Bogura-Natore regional highway in Shakpala area of Shahjahanpur upazila yesterday morning.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Country may face deep economic crisis: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday warned that Bangladesh is likely to face a deep economic crisis like Sri Lanka though the government is now trying to hush up the reality.

Speaking at a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), he also blamed the government's alleged mismanagement and wrong policy for the current power crisis in the country.

Mosharraf, a BNP standing committee member, said the country has been witnessing frequent power outages for a few days as the government did not take any step to ensure the necessary gas supply for the generation of required electricity.

DEATH OF BUSINESSMAN Henolux MD, wife admit Gazi invested in company

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Henolux Group Managing Director Nurul Amin and Director Fatema Amin, who were arrested on charge of instigating a Kushtia businessman to die by suicide, have admitted that he had invested in their company, Rab said yesterday.

The accused, however, claimed that the amount deceased Gazi Anisur Rahman had invested is not as much as his family is claiming, Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, told a press conference at Rab media centre in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

The elite force arrested Nurul and his wife Fatema from the capital's Uttara area on Tuesday, hours after Anisur's brother filed a case with Shahbagh police station. The couple was produced before a Dhaka court yesterday with a seven-day remand prayer. The court granted two-day remand for each of them.

In the remand prayer, Sub-inspector Golam Hossain Khan, investigation officer of the case, said the couple took a large amount of money from Anisur, with promises of making him a business partner. But the duo did not return the money, causing him to be extremely distressed.

The 50-year-old businessman, who was a former district Chhatra league president, set himself on fire in front of Jatiya Press Club on Monday. He died hours later, while undergoing treatment for 90 percent burns.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

SMS alert proving beneficial

Says BBS report on disaster management

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MAHMUDUL HASAN

A large number of households now receive warnings via SMS before a disaster, found a survey.

About 83 percent of people received an early warning from 2015 to 2020 via mobile SMS for all types of disasters except thunderstorms and lightning, according to a report by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The report, titled "Disaster-related Statistics (BDRS) 2021: Climate Change and Natural Disaster Perspectives", said the media can play a critical role in reducing the negative impacts of any type of disaster by providing communities with timely and accurate information beforehand.

According to the report, television was the second most significant medium (59 percent) for disseminating prior information on disasters.

Radio, miking, community and local administration also play an important role in disseminating disaster warnings among people.

An early warning system (EWS) is a method

of providing people with relevant and timely information in a systematic manner before a disaster, assisting them to make informed decisions and take appropriate action.

The household-based survey covered a total of 4,240 disaster-affected sample mauzas (PSUs) and as many as 1,27,200 disaster-affected sample households across the entire geographical area of the country.

However, according to the survey, a big percentage of people haven't received any form of early warning.

About 66 percent of disaster-affected households didn't receive an early warning from 2015 to 2020.

Among the households that received an early warning, 81.20 percent of cyclone-affected people received early warnings to act in time appropriately.

Early warning recipients for storms, tidal surges and thunderstorms, and lightning came in second and third, with 76.50 percent and 50.22 percent of early warning shares, respectively.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

EC dialogue starts July 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is going to start sitting with political parties on July 17 as part of a series of dialogues with a cross-section of people, seeking recommendations on how to hold free and fair elections.

The commission will complete the dialogue with all political parties by July 31, EC Additional Secretary Ashok Kumar Debnath said yesterday at a press conference.

The EC started the talks on March 13 and has so far held six rounds of dialogues with academics, eminent citizens, journalists, election observers and former chief election commissioners and election commissioners.

EC will sit with the ruling Awami League and opposition in the parliament Jatiya Party on July 31, and with BNP on July 20.

EC officials said they will sit with the ruling Awami League and opposition in the parliament Jatiya Party on July 31, and with BNP on July 20.

According to the EC's letter to the discussants of the ongoing talks, many of them recommended setting up CCTV cameras and free movement of journalists at polling centres, appointing commission officials -- instead of deputy commissioners -- as returning officers, and using ballot papers unless it was ensured that there will be no misuse of EVMs.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (EED)
SIRAJGANJ.
web site: www.eed.sirajganj.gov.bd



e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 17/e-GP/EED/Sir6821/2021-22.

Date: 29.06.2022.

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

Tender ID	Lot/Package Location (Name of Institution)	Procurement Method	Document Last Selling Date & Time	Document Closing/Opening Date & Time
713861	Manufacture and supplying of Meddho Vadroghat Islamia Dakhil Madrasah, Kamarkhand, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713862	Manufacture and supplying of Shakh Abdul Hamid Technical and Business Management College, Sadar, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713863	Manufacture and supplying of Deulmura N.R. Technical and Institute, Raygonj, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713864	Manufacture and supplying of Rammagor Isatul Ulum Dakhil Madrasah, Ulapara, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713865	Manufacture and supplying of Chengta Technical and Business Management College, Ulapara, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713866	Manufacture and supplying of Soguna Dakhil Madrasah, Belkuchi, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713867	Manufacture and supplying of Telkupi Darus Sunnah Dakhil Madrasah, Sadar, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713868	Manufacture and supplying of Mennot Ali Wasimunnesa Dakhil Madrasah, Kamarkhand, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713869	Manufacture and supplying of Johir Uddin Science Technical School and College, Tarash, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713870	Manufacture and supplying of Kewal Ishaque Tofer Ali Technical College, Tarash, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713871	Manufacture and supplying of Tetulia Dakhil Madrasah, Ulapara, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713872	Manufacture and supplying of Narina Union Dakhil Madrasah, Shahjadpur, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713873	Manufacture and supplying of Nondolapur Waresia Alim Madrasah, Shahjadpur, Sirajgonj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
713874	Manufacturing & Supply of Furniture at Sirajganj Govt. College, Sadar, Sirajganj. (FY-2020-21)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00
484663	Manufacturing & Supplying New Furniture at Assistant Engineer Office Sadar, Sirajgonj. (FY-2018-19)	OTM (NCT)	24-Jul-2022 16:00	25-Jul-2022 11:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Package from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to the Following Date & Time. The Provisions laid down in the "PPA & PPR -2008 including latest all amendment" and STD will be Followed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Habibur Rahman)
Executive Engineer
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department, Sirajganj.
e-mail: ee_sir@eedmoe.gov.bd

GID-1352



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB)
153, Pioneer Road, Segunbagicha
Dhaka-1000.

Invitation for Enlistment (Part A, of Schedule X of the PPR 2008)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH		
1.	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources
2.	Agency	Geological Survey of Bangladesh
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Director General
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5.	Invitation for	Enlistment
6.	Invitation Ref No	28.05.0000.231.07.251.22.2293
7.	Date	06.07.2022
KEY INFORMATION		
8.	Procurement Method	Limited Tendering Method
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
		Date
9.	Application Closing Date and Time	10.08.2022
		Time
10.	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address
	- Application Form Money Deposit Availability	Room # 203, GSB, Dhaka
	- Application Form Availability	Room # 242, GSB, Dhaka
	- Receiving Application Form	Room # 228-229, GSB, Dhaka
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
11.	Eligibility of Applicant	a. Must have valid updated Trade License b. Must have TIN c. Must have Bank Solvency Certificate d. Vat Recitation Certificate e. Work Experience, if any
12.	Price of Application Form (Tk)	100
13.	Enlistment / Renewal Fee (Tk)	5000.00/2000.00
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
14.	Name of Official Inviting Application	Md. Rakibul Islam Khan
15.	Designation of Official Inviting Application	Procurement officer (For Director General)
16.	Address of Official Inviting Application	Room # 242, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, Dhaka
17.	Contact details of Official Inviting Application	02-48314810 procurementofficer_gsb@gmail.com
18.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Applications	

GID-1354

(Md. Rakibul Islam Khan)
Procurement Officer
For Director General
Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB).



The Daily Star

Digital transformation in justice system in Bangladesh

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in association with The Daily Star, organised a roundtable titled 'Digital transformation in justice system in Bangladesh' on June 14, 2022. Here we publish a summary of the discussion.



Shahreen Tilotoma, Programme Officer, Justice and Rule of Law, UNDP

UNDP works with different actors in the justice sector with a specific focus on ensuring easily accessible, transparent, and equitable justice service delivery for everyone, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

The pandemic has been an unprecedented context for the access to justice in Bangladesh. However the lockdown due to COVID 19 has worked as a blessing for the digitisation of the justice system in Bangladesh. When the government imposed a nationwide lockdown on March 26, 2020, UNDP initiated a discussion with relevant stakeholders in the justice sector on how to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus in the overly populated setting of prisons in Bangladesh. UNDP advocated for the inmates who had received bail before the lockdown. On May 9, 2020, the gazette notification of the ordinance titled "Usage of Information and Communication Technology in Court 2020" was published by the Ministry of Law. It was a revolutionary initiative that allowed the justice system in Bangladesh to use virtual means in the justice system for the first time.

Since then, UNDP has been working closely with the Ministry of Law, the Supreme Court and the ICT Division to facilitate the use of virtual means – e.g., the MyCourt app that helped to bring digital transformation to the justice system in Bangladesh. UNDP has been engaged and have been supporting to develop digital court and case management systems to capacitate courts and court officials technologically for the digital justice system in Bangladesh.



Jenefa Jabbar, Director, Social Compliance & Safeguarding, BRAC

We need to consider how marginalised people can benefit from the digital transformation of the justice system. We have to undertake a massive campaign to make them aware of the benefits of e-judiciary. Lawyers working in rural areas must also be trained on various aspects of digital justice.

If we can expedite the evidence collection process in VAW cases through digitalisation, it would be of great help.



Jannatul Hasan (AIG of Police - ICT) Bangladesh police maintain a Crime Data Management System (CDMS) through which the entire process, from

filing a first information report (FIR) to submitting charge sheets, has been digitalised. If we can create an interface between CDMS and the MyCourt app, it would help in the digital integration of the policing system with the judiciary.



Wahid Sharif, President, Bangladesh Association of Call Center and Outsourcing (BACCO)

We have to develop local expertise to support the digital transformation of the justice system. The digitalisation process shouldn't be limited to Dhaka. We also must consider how to ensure marginalised people's access to e-judiciary.

In Bangladesh, most of the litigations are related to land. If we can digitalise the land record system and connect it to the e-judiciary, many of our problems will be solved.



Dr Dewan Muhammad Humayun Kabir, Project Director, UNDP Bangladesh supported *Aspire to Innovate* (a2i) Programme

The digitalisation of the justice system in Bangladesh started with the implementation of the service process simplification (SPS) initiative. In 2010, we launched the National Web Portal, which is the single window of all information and services for citizens. Now, there are 33,000 websites with 1.5 crore pieces of content. On average, 650,000 people click on these sites daily, and we provide 2.40 crore services per month. The judiciary has its own portal. We have also developed a web portal for 64 district courts, five metro courts, and the National Justice Training Centre. We are not only providing information but also services through these sites. In 2015, we provided tabs for strengthening the digital infrastructure of the judiciary.

We conducted hearings online for three months during the pandemic. There were 3,69,732 appeals in the virtual courts. The number of bails granted online was 1,78,520.

On June 11, 2022, we launched an online cause list. This pilot project is ongoing in eight districts.

We are working on this alongside preparing a draft for data protection. We will enable the online payment system soon. Different databases such as land records and CDMS of Bangladesh Police will be connected to the MyCourt app.

We have to capacitate the human resources of the judiciary to ensure a successful digital transformation. We also need to change our mindsets and

robustly adopt digital technologies.



Mohd. Mahfuzur Rahman Al-Mamun, REC PI, AIG, Bangladesh Police

We are already piloting an online GD filing system in six districts, which will soon be available all over Bangladesh. Bangladesh police have created a database where the criminal record of a particular person can be found easily. This database, along with the online GD and FIR filing system, should be connected to the My Court app.

Lastly, I would like to request that electronic devices be allowed as evidence.

Shahreen Tilotoma

The National Legal Aid Services Organization with the support from UNDP operates the national legal aid hotline number, 16430, which has been operational since 2014. All sorts of legal aid and legal information can be availed through this number. It remains open five days a week from 9 am to 6 pm with a focus to address the disputes and legal issues faced by poor and marginalized community in Bangladesh.



Taslima Yasmin, Associate Professor, Dept. of Law, Dhaka University

I want to focus on the digital transformation of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal. There are several issues here, such as what type of process will be followed while taking the testimony from victims of sensitive offences and whether or not the open court will be there. We have to ensure they benefit from the digitalisation of the justice system. There should be an online complaint mechanism through which a victim, particularly women and children, can lodge complaints if they face any hindrance in the judicial process.

The case proceedings should be digitised and made accessible online.



Shamim Haider Patwary, Member of Parliament

We need a strong political will to develop the judiciary. All relevant stakeholders, including the Prime Minister, Law Minister, Law Secretary, Registrar of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice, should be involved in this process. We must develop the skills of lawyers and judges to ensure the digital transformation of the justice system in Bangladesh.

The cases which don't require complex evaluation can be transferred to virtual court. There should be a robust filtering process. While filing the cases, the lawyers must check whether the case is meritless or merit-based. The judges can filter out some cases too. There should be the option for both online and offline hearings.

The judiciary must have a separate ICT department, engineering division and storage division. Instead of using Zoom for meetings, the judiciary must have its own online platform. We should also adopt new technologies such as post-mortem radiology and DNA technology to ensure successful digital transformation.

Finally, adequate resources should be allocated to support the digital transformation of the justice system in Bangladesh.



Barrister Rashna Imam, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Lawyers working outside Dhaka are not very aware of the benefits of e-judiciary. They also don't have adequate

knowledge and resources to reap the benefits of the digital justice system. Therefore, we have to provide them with training and resources. The bar association should lead this process. There should be some loan facilities to make digital devices affordable for lawyers.

There should be a robust campaign to make general people aware of the benefits of e-judiciary. The media and lawyers can play a key role in this regard.

The e-filing process has to be made smooth, and there should be a clear practice direction for e-filing. Legal research should also be made easy through digitalisation.



Barrister Fatema Anwar, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Data protection is essential; it is not about just having a data protection bill or law. The definition of data is very vague in the drafted bill.

We need home-grown developers who can develop a platform that will be encrypted, safe, end-to-end and one-stop service-oriented. There is already work being done on something called a National Single Window (NSW). It completely automates the port system, custom system, Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFRs), EBLs and the ELCs. We already have the precedence of blockchain Letter of Credit (LC) and transactions. The blockchain process has its own platform that people are joining after positive verification and encryption.

While we are talking about access to the digital justice system at the marginalised level on a nationwide scale, maybe it would be more beneficial to split the project into two parts, where on one side, we can expedite it for the commercial litigation and commercial legal service provision, and on the other, have another system for all other cases. The taxation, fiscal and monetary infrastructure should be integrated digitally for the inclusive digital justice approach.



Ashutosh Sarkar, Law Correspondent, The Daily Star & President, Law Reporters Forum

Former Chief Justice A.B.M. Khairul Haque introduced a system where we could access the appellate division's case results online. But this system hasn't been fully introduced in the High Court division. During the Covid-19 pandemic, subordinate courts granted 1,68,778 bails and held 3,15,586 hearings. But this digital system is no longer available in the subordinate courts. Only the International Crimes Tribunal is writing and uploading judgments online.

Until now, we have had to constantly communicate with the lawyers involved to find any information about respective lawsuits. It is challenging to find proper information from the Supreme Court. The digitalisation of the justice system will solve this problem.



Christabel L. Randolph, Director-Legal and Corporate Affairs, Marico Bangladesh Ltd

One of the critical parts of digitalisation should be taking the bar council exam online. We must ensure transparency in the process. The bar council can play a significant role in this regard.

Implementing an e-stamping process would solve many evidentiary issues, such as the admission of documentary evidence. Can we implement digital signatures for

the officers of the court? It requires a certificate and an authentication process.



Barrister Md. Ahsan Habib Bhuiyan, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

It doesn't matter how good a system you develop; if it does not reach the beneficiaries, then it won't matter. Social media can play a critical role here. One-third of the population in Bangladesh are Millennials and Gen-Zs; we cannot disregard their influence in creating awareness and educating the litigants. We should promote the MyCourt App through social media.



Dr Khaled Hamid Chowdhury, Advocate, Appellate Division

To create a successful e-judiciary system, all the stakeholders should work in coordination.

ODR (Online Dispute Resolution) must be included in the syllabus of law and business schools.



Farzana Khan, Additional District Judge and Domain Expert, a2i

The website www.judiciary.org.bd has all the judicial service-related information.

With the help of UNDP, we are trying to develop the platform further. Our next plan is to create portfolios for all practising lawyers from 64 districts that will be accessible through the MyCourt App.

We are providing virtual training to judges, lawyers and court staff on digital justice applications.

Zoom is relatively unsafe for conducting online hearings and courtroom proceedings. ICT division has started working on an online meeting system called Boithok. We aim to create a fully operational e-judiciary system by 2023.



Barrister Ashraf Hadi, Advocate, Alliance Laws

Bangladesh has all the technologies required for the digital transformation of the justice system. What we need is the awareness and attitude to adopt these technologies and foster change. If we can ensure efficient voice-to-text conversion of various elements of the trial process, such as testimonies, it will be of great help.



Md. Golam Sarwar, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Dhaka University

Data protection and the right to privacy and security deserve the utmost attention while promoting the digital justice system.

The proposed data protection bill and rules and regulations relating to online media must not contradict the constitutional stipulations of freedom of speech and expression.

The imposition of 15 percent VAT on laptop imports and 10 percent advance income tax on broadband internet services and mobile phones in the latest budget is contradictory to the spirit of digital transformation in the justice system.



Sarder M Asaduzzaman, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP

We should work towards creating a digital Bangladesh while keeping all the following principles in our planning: availability, accessibility, adoption, awareness and protection. Otherwise, digitalisation wouldn't be sustainable.

Digitalisation is not just a tool. Instead, it should be considered as an empowering force for the people and the planet.

In the beginning, people used to panic over digitalisation and resisted it. We have come a long way from that mindset. Today, there is a general acceptance of digitalisation. We should now move towards a demand mode. Digitalisation should not be considered an add-on; it should rather be embedded in every organisation. The demand for digitalisation should come from every organisation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Awareness campaigns should be launched on a mass scale to make general people aware of the benefits of e-judiciary.
- Ensure access of marginalised people to the digital justice system.
- Provide training to judges, lawyers and court staff and develop local expertise to support the digital transformation of the justice system.
- The judiciary must have a separate ICT department and storage division.
- Integrate different databases such as land records and CDMS with the MyCourt app.
- Support lawyers to help them adopt and afford digital technologies and knowhow to use and promote digital justice.
- Bar Association from High Court and Subordinate courts should be an integral part of the digital transformation process.
- Online bar exams can be introduced. Digitalization in Bar Council and Bar Associations is needed.
- Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) should be included in the syllabus of law and business schools.
- Data protection and the right to privacy and security deserve special attention.
- Legal research should be made easy through digitisation.



Dr Md. Rizwanul Islam, Professor & Chair, Department of Law, North South University

If we want to make the digitalisation of the justice system successful, it should not be limited to emergencies. The transformation has to be holistic. More and more lawyers have to be involved in this process.

Many lawyers are sceptical about digitalisation. They have to be made aware of the benefits of digitalisation.



Romel Chowdhury, Head of Legal and Compliance, Grameenphone Ltd

Our vision should be to ensure an end-to-end digitised ecosystem for the judiciary, so that everyone benefits from the system.

Although the digital filing system has been introduced, physical filing is still required. To ensure digitalisation in the truest sense, we have to be paperless, and the requirement for physical copies should be made redundant.

We must also integrate a digital payment system with e-judiciary to ensure transparency and prevent corruption.

CHANGES IN BUDGET

Nepal's finance minister quits Denies any wrongdoing; parliamentary Speaker orders probe

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's Finance Minister Janardan Sharma resigned yesterday after the parliamentary Speaker ordered an investigation into allegations of unauthorised changes in the budget.

Opposition parties and some lawmakers of the ruling centre-left alliance have accused Sharma of inviting "unauthorised persons" to make changes in the rate of some taxes in the federal budget just a day before he presented the spending plan for the fiscal year 2022-23. He has denied any wrongdoing.

The "unauthorised persons" refers to people outside the government with no legal power to make amendments to the budget.

"I am resigning to help the investigation," said Sharma while addressing lawmakers, adding that he was ready to face the investigation as he had not done anything wrong.

"I am ready to face not one but thousands of investigations."

Pressure on Sharma has also mounted after the finance ministry said CCTV footage from the day when the alleged changes in the budget were made was not available.

Parliamentary Speaker Agni Prasad Sapkota gave the multi-party 11-member investigating panel 10 days to examine the opposition's accusations.

Sharma, a former Maoist rebel leader, was involved in removing central bank governor Maha Prasad Adhikari in April, accusing him of leaking sensitive financial information to the media. Adhikari was later reinstated by the Supreme Court.

Nepal, a landlocked country between China and India, has been facing an inflationary surge following a rise in the prices of crude oil and other commodity imports while also dealing with a fall in its foreign exchange reserves.



Police use water canon to disperse farmers taking part in an anti-government protest demanding the resignation of Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the country's ongoing economic crisis in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka has asked Russia to provide fuel and resume tourist flights to help the country weather its economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said.

PHOTO: AFP

My job is to 'keep going'

UK PM pledges to fight on despite calls to quit amid string of ministerial resignations

REUTERS, London

Britain's Boris Johnson yesterday vowed to fight on against a chorus of calls for him to resign as prime minister, but his defiant pledge to keep going was met with derision and disregard from a growing number of his own lawmakers.

Badly wounded by the resignations of a stream of senior colleagues and junior ministers who said he was not fit to govern, Johnson sought to come out fighting at parliament's weekly prime minister's questions session.

With the tide of resignations rising to more than 20, some questioned whether Johnson could fill vacancies at a time when there are calls for the government to

tackle a cost-of-living crisis and support an economy heading for a sharp slowdown, possibly a recession.

His immediate fate could be decided at a meeting of the so-called 1922 Committee that sets the rules for leadership confidence votes. A spokesperson said Johnson was confident he would win a confidence motion.

"The job of a prime minister in difficult circumstances is to keep going," Johnson said. "And that's what I'm going to do."

Earlier, he tried to reassert his authority by quickly appointing



Nadhim Zahawi, a rising star in the Conservative Party widely credited for the successful rollout of Covid-19 vaccines, as finance minister.

But Johnson's performance in parliament encountered a brutal response.

Standing in the backbenches, his former health minister, Sajid Javid, detailed the scandals, missteps and gaffes that have marked Johnson's tenure so far. The prime minister was later due to appear before the chairs of select committees for a scheduled two-hour grilling.

WEST BANK ARREST RAID

Israeli forces kill Palestinian man

REUTERS, Ramallah

Israeli forces shot dead a wanted Palestinian suspect and arrested two dozen in the occupied West Bank yesterday, the military said, as tensions simmered ahead of US President Joe Biden's visit to the region next week. Palestinian officials identified the man killed as Rafiq Ghannam, 20, shot by soldiers in the town Jaba near Jenin, where Israeli forces have stepped up raids in recent months after men from the area carried out deadly street attacks in Israel. "I heard Israeli forces shouting at a man, asking him to stop before I heard eight shots fired," said a Palestinian Jaba resident, who asked not to be identified. The Israeli military said its forces were conducting counter-terrorism operations across the West Bank. The man killed had tried to escape the soldiers when they opened fire, the military said, adding that the soldiers provided first aid to him before he died. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said that Israel was "preceding President Biden's visit by more field executions and escalation of aggression against the Palestinian people".



BLOCKING CONTENT ON SITE

Twitter challenges Indian orders

AFP, New Delhi

Twitter is challenging the Indian government's orders to block content on its social media site in court, local media reported yesterday citing legal documents. The suit is the latest showdown between Twitter and Indian authorities, which have been accused of muzzling criticism both on and offline. In the case filed with a court in Bangalore, the social media giant alleged that the basis on which multiple accounts and content flagged by the government was either "overbroad and arbitrary" and "disproportionate", the Indian Express daily reported. The social media giant submitted to the Karnataka state High Court that the ministry had failed to prove how some of the content it wanted taken down violated IT rules, the newspaper quoted sources as saying. Last week Twitter confirmed that India had directed it to locally censor accounts and dozens of posts, including some talking about declining internet freedom in the world's biggest democracy.

Owners

FROM PAGE 12 said they have sent letters to six government departments concerned, including the Chittagong Port, Chittagong Customs, and the DoE, asking them to inform the probe body about their roles in maintaining compliance with related rules in last one year.

Mizanur said, "We have recommended updating some laws and rules of different departments, including Chattogram Port Authority."

He hoped that the risk of such a deadly blast would reduce if the committee's recommendations were implemented.

HUMAN REMAINS FOUND

More human remains, including a skull and bones, were found in the debris at BM Container Depot yesterday.

With this, the death toll from the incident increased by one and rose to 51, police said.

"A human skull and bones were found in the warehouse shed area around 10:15am when staffers of the depot were conducting cleaning," Ashraful Karim, additional superintendent (Sitakunda Circle) of Chattogram police, told The Daily Star.

Police later sent the remains to Chattogram Medical College morgue.

Eight officials of the container depot were sued by Sitakunda police for negligence, but no charges were brought against the owners.

EU backs green

FROM PAGE 12 transition and deepen our dependency on Russian fuels."

Critics of nuclear energy, meanwhile, point to the threat posed by accidents and nuclear waste and believe solar and wind energy is the best way forward.

But the EU executive, under pressure from nuclear-powered France and gas-reliant Germany, argues that both have a role to play as cleaner power sources during the transition to a net-zero carbon future.

Condemned killer held in India

FROM PAGE 12 official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Based on the information, Kolkata police arrested Faisal from Bommanahalli in Bengaluru on July 1. He was brought to Kolkata on July 3, said the ATU official, quoting Kolkata police.

Mohammad Aslam Khan, special superintendent (media and awareness) of ATU, said, "We have talked to Kolkata police about the arrest of Faisal, and steps will be taken to bring him back following the ministerial procedure."

Sources said Faisal was using a fake passport

under the name of one Shahid Majumdar with the address of Mizoram. He also obtained a driving licence from Bangalore, they said.

About bringing back Faisal, Mohiul Islam, assistant inspector general (NCB) of Police Headquarters, told this paper that they have already wrote to their India counterpart asking the latest status of Faisal.

"When we will get the response, we may be able to say further about the repatriation," said Mohiul.

On May 12, 2015, Ananta was hacked to death in Sylhet by a group of

assailants.

A murder case was filed with Jalalabad Police Station against four unidentified people.

After investigation, the involvement of militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team was found in the murder.

On October 18, 2016, Criminal Investigation Department Inspector Arman Ali, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet to a Sylhet court. But the court asked for re-investigation and then he again submitted a supplementary charge sheet on May 9, 2017.

Next polls will be crucial

FROM PAGE 1 considerably. Through the Digital Security Act and other forms of intimidation, the government has curtailed freedom of the press, the ability of labour to organise, the rule of law, and the right of people to engage in legitimate social discourse.

"We seek a greater commitment to democracy, human rights, and protection of Rohingya; flourishing people-to-people ties, improved business climate and labour conditions; increased ability to tackle the climate and pandemic crises; and a strengthened capacity to contribute to regional security."

Efforts to strengthen Bangladesh's "fragile democratic institutions" and bolster its secular, tolerant, and pluralistic traditions will be essential, it said, adding that reforms of the security services — particularly in the wake of US human rights sanctions on the Rab in December 2021 — are key to this objective, as are democratic reforms ahead of the 2023 national elections.

"We will continue to engage the government of Bangladesh to address the human rights issues, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and

restrictions on core civil liberties."

The US businesses increasingly see Bangladesh as a future market and investment opportunity, but the country must strengthen labour rights and workplace safety to reap the benefits.

It also suggested that Bangladesh addresses infrastructure deficiencies, pervasive corruption, regulatory issues and the lack of diversity in its economy.

As a traditionally moderate, secular, peaceful, and stable country, Bangladesh plays a key role in supporting international peace and security and is an important partner in the US' global effort to defeat terrorism.

The US also supports Bangladesh's battle against extremism, improving investigations, judicial system capacity to prosecute terrorism cases and preventing recruitment by violent extremist organisations.

It also will support Bangladesh's military through a growing range of training, exchanges, exercises, and military sales so that Bangladesh becomes more stable, has more capacity to provide for its own security, counter threats to US interests, and serve as a growing security

contributor in the Indo-Pacific and globally.

Deepening the US-Bangladesh defence relationship through bilateral defence agreements and increased sales of more advanced US military equipment to Bangladesh will expand US access and enhance interoperability with Bangladesh.

To support Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) goals, Bangladesh must protect its freedom-of-navigation, ensure equitable access to sea lanes, and promote maritime security to help advance regional stability, integration, and trade.

Failure to achieve this objective would compromise US relationships and influence in Bangladesh, hamper growth of bilateral trade, and, by extension, impede implementation of the IPS, the ICS said.

The US also wants Bangladesh to improve capacity and accountability of governing institutions, enhance public services and the human rights record to instill citizen confidence. Bangladesh faces increased politicisation of the justice system; and the concentration of authority and resources at the national level.

Failure to address these challenges could result in economic and political

instability due to the further decrease in citizen confidence in government institutions, as well as diminished respect for the rule of law stemming from adverse public reaction to government corruption, it said.

Charges brought against Shafiqur Rahman Farabi, Mannan Yeahia alias Mannan Rahi, Abul Khayer Rashid Ahmed, Abul Hossain, Harun Ur Rashid and Faisal for the killing.

Mannan, who gave confessional statement before the court, died in Dhaka Central Jail on November 2, 2017.

On March 30 this year, a Sylhet court sentenced four people to death for the murder.

Faisal is among the death convicts. Two other convicts — Harun and Abul — are still on the run while only Khayer is in jail. Farabi was acquitted.

15-20 criminals

FROM PAGE 12 Police Station. Police arrested six people, including two women, on Sunday night in connection with the murder. They were sent to jail by a court, he added.

Faysal was stabbed to death while he was returning home from an Awami League council.

Some AL leaders said criminals tried to attack Faysal at the council, but the attempt was foiled.

The leaders said they informed police about the possibility of an attack on Faysal.

A police team reached the council venue around 7:00pm and sent the BCL leader home by a CNG-run three wheeler.

The criminals ambushed Faysal, a resident of Kawarpara area in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, and stabbed him.

AL leaders and Faysal's family members alleged that law enforcers did not try to protect Faysal. They let the criminals commit the crime and flee.

Jitu admits to hitting teacher

FROM PAGE 12 he was standing at a corner of the playground during a cricket match.

Meanwhile, Jitu's father Mohammad Uzzal on Tuesday told another Dhaka magistrate that his son beat the teacher to death as he was aggrieved over "disciplinary actions against him".

Uzzal added that he

hid his son in one of his houses in Ashulia after police started searching for him. Later, he sent his son to Pabna and he went into hiding in Kushiá to avoid arrest.

Jitu, who beat up Utpal on June 25, was placed on a five-day remand on June 30 after his arrest from Gazipur's Sreepur.

On June 27, Utpal,

lecturer and also chairman of the disciplinary committee of Haji Yunus Ali School and College, died at Enam Medical College Hospital while undergoing treatment.

Later, Aseem Kumar Sarkar, the victim's brother, filed a murder case with Ashulia Police Station accusing Jitu and several unnamed people.

Pilgrims flock to Makkah

FROM PAGE 12 ignored so far this week. Many pilgrims held umbrellas to block the hot sun as the temperature climbed to 42 degrees Celsius (108 Fahrenheit).

The Saudi health ministry has prepared 23 hospitals and 147 health centres in Makkah and Madinah, the second-holiest city in Islam, to accommodate pilgrims, state media reported this week.

Chittagong Dry Dock Limited
Bangladesh Navy
East Patenga, Chattogram, Bangladesh
Phone: +880 2333301117, Mobile: +8801769744452
Fax: +88 02333301123, E-mail: commerce@odd.gov.bd, Website: www.odd.gov.bd
23.02.1565.341.53.006.22.219 Date: 05 July 2022

Invitation for Re Tender

1. Procuring entity name	Chittagong Dry Dock Limited (CDDL)
2. Invitation Reference No.	23.02.1565.341.53.006.21.219 Date: 05 July 2022
3. Invitation for	Purchase of Power Cable 110 Meter for 50 Ton Portal Jib Crane & 90 Meter for 40 Ton Portal Jib Crane. Note: Detail Technical Specifications Mentioned on Schedule.
4. Procuring method	Open Tender.
5. Submission of tender documents	02 (two) envelopes submission to be followed. Financial documents in 01 (one) envelope and technical documents in another envelope. Both the envelopes to be sealed in covering envelope.
6. Source of funds	Own finance of Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd.
7. Tender last selling date (office time only)	04 August 2022 at 12.00pm.
8. Tender closing date and time	04 August 2022 at 12.15pm.
9. Tender opening date & time	04 August 2022 at 12.30pm.
10. Name and address of the office(s) for selling, receiving and opening of tender documents	Cash Section, Accounts Department, Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram.
a. Selling tender document	
b. Receiving tender document	Purchase & Commerce Department, Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd.
c. Opening tender document	(1) Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram. (2) Tenderers and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend.
11. Price of each tender document	1,000 (one thousand) Tk (non-refundable)
12. Contact details	Phone: +880 2333301117, Fax: +88 02333301123 Mobile: +8801769744452, E-mail: commerce@odd.gov.bd
13. Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

Head of Commerce Department

For Managing Director

GD-1355

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

A pandemic of ill-conceived projects

Establish accountability to tackle habitual time-cost overruns

BA NGLADESH clearly has an execution problem when it comes to projects. Few public projects finish on time, and fewer still without their costs escalating to ridiculous heights. This is perhaps the biggest barrier to tax-paying citizens getting their money's worth from the avalanche of projects launched round the year. According to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), lack of good governance in implementation is undermining the efficiency of public infrastructure projects (PIPs) despite the huge investments being made.

Having commented on this issue just the other day, we're pained to know of another instance in which a PIP on the Dhaka Sylhet highway – which was supposed to finish by June 2015 at a cost of Tk 239.7 crore – was completed five years after the original deadline, and at a cost of Tk 353.36 crore. That's 250 percent extra time and 47.36 percent additional funding, according to an official estimate. It happened because the project was undertaken without any feasibility study – a fundamental requirement – thus necessitating a series of revisions in later stages. This is, unfortunately, the story of many other projects as well, and it's stupefying that those at the planning ministry would still greenlight them.

The absence of a feasibility study is just as bad as the presence of a weak feasibility study, both of which are fairly common. It's the first and perhaps most consequential factor in poorly planned undertakings. Other problems identified by the CPD include coordination failure, delays in land acquisition, frequent changes of project directors, etc. Mismanagement is the running theme behind all such obstacles. Delays can also trigger a chain of costly disruptions including – as it happened in a project by the Anti-Corruption Commission – expiry of licensed material. The material in question, as reported by a daily, is software needed for a planned digital forensic lab. And it is set to expire even before the project can take off!

This is a sad commentary on how even projects meant to tackle corruption are instead drowning in it. The same thing happened to another project that was meant to reduce corruption in government aid programmes. The upcoming National Household Database, we're told, will be "unusable", even after being eight years in the making and having spent Tk 727 crore to make it. Is there no institutional mechanism to check such systemic problems and consequent disappointments?

We urge the government to establish accountability to ensure that all of its projects are planned and executed properly. Ill-conceived projects not just drain us financially, but also potentially cancel out their benefits. This has been going on for so long, and it is the public who have had to pay for it. We must stop this culture.

Digitalisation of public services is paying off

But major bottlenecks remain, depriving people of full benefits

WE'RE glad to learn that the government's digitalisation drive is bringing desired benefits to the people, as has been revealed in a study by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED). It is indeed a leap forward that digitalisation of 66 percent of services offered by six ministries/divisions is saving both time and money of the service-seekers. Reportedly, as many as 161 services out of the 244 provided by 28 agencies under those six ministries and divisions have been digitalised. Among the relevant ministries are education, land, health and family welfare, and primary and mass education.

A further look at the IMED report, based on interviews with service recipients and providers, reveals that 92 percent of recipients saved extra cost and 96 percent saved extra time because of digitalisation. Some 70 percent said they had faced no "hassle" which one would while those offices were run manually. While this is not to say that problems no longer exist in accessing those services – and one may be inclined to take official figures with a pinch of salt – it nevertheless marks a significant improvement from when no file moved without money, and service-seekers had to go through barriers at every step of the way.

One may recall the massive sufferings caused when people visited the land offices for services concerning sale or purchase of land. People often had a nightmarish experience while seeking land mutation and other papers, spending large sums of money and waiting for weeks/months for desired documents. But now that process has become easier after the government digitalised 10 services under five departments of the land ministry. People can now apply for e-mutation of land and receive the document in seven days, whereas, in the past, it would take at least 28 days. So far, more than three crore people got land registration by paying the land development tax online, without spending additional money.

But significant challenges still exist, even in sectors that went fully online or are still pursuing an online-offline model, thanks to lack of digital literacy, slow and often complicated bureaucratic procedures, and the intervention of middlemen in cahoots with corrupt officials, who have found a way to exploit the online system. Also, some important sectors are still limping under the manual system. The reluctance of the past and present bosses of these agencies and departments to derive the benefits of digitalisation should be addressed. In a technology-driven world, digitalisation is a must, and the authorities must fully embrace it sooner than later.

Why aren't we looking at climate-based solutions to address flooding?



AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Dr. Abdullah Shibli is an economist and works for Change Healthcare, Inc., an information technology company. He also serves as senior research fellow at the US-based International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI).

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

THIS year's floods and the misery they continue to cause have made us realise that nature still exercises a very powerful influence on our economy and the lives of poor people. While the elite and the political leaders ensconced in Dhaka city celebrate our middle-income status and the opening of the landmark Padma Bridge, for millions affected by the floods in the Sylhet region, the current situation and the future are grim.

The London-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) conducted a survey in Bangladesh on the cost of flooding for the poor families affected. Of the 1,320 flooded households they interviewed, nearly a third had incurred debts trying to raise the floors of their homes, others had invested in better protection for their livestock, in addition to taking other measures to reduce the effects of the flood on their lives.

Floods are not new to Bangladesh. Statistics show that in only the last seven years, the country's northern and northeastern regions have witnessed five major floods. Prof Saiful Islam of the Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWF) at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has concluded from 35 years of flooding data that "rains are getting more unpredictable and many rivers are rising above dangerous levels more frequently than before."

A global dataset from the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction reveals that the country will experience severe floods periodically due to "nonlinear geomorphological and hydrometeorological trends, unplanned land use practices including urban sprawl, deforestation and significant population growth."

During my studies at Dhaka University, Prof Swapan Adnan's course on "The Economy of Bangladesh" presented an analytical perspective on the range of flood control measures on the table, and the dilemma that the Pakistani rulers faced as they tried to address the cost of various proposed structural interventions. One lesson we all took away from his class was a keen awareness of the problem we faced, interlaced with the hope that the new leaders of Bangladesh would now be able to tackle this recurrent natural disaster and develop a set of actions that will be consistent with people's wishes, as opposed to the top-down decision-making mechanism during the Pakistan era.

That was almost 50 years ago. It appears that not much has changed since then, and one could even characterise the current state of affairs as policy paralysis. "The siltation of riverbeds caused by

deforestation and solid waste dumping has already reduced the water-carrying capacity of the rivers in Bangladesh," Ashiq Iqbal, a researcher at the IWF, recently told Al Jazeera. While every year there are demands to improve the response to such disasters, limited resources make the process of improving civic infrastructure or dredging rivers a challenge for Bangladesh. While megaprojects such as

channel flow. It also allows us to further solve engineering problems related to sedimentation and erosion in rivers, estuaries, and coastal seas.

Nature-based solutions (Nbs) can address climate and natural hazards at the same time as contributing to other sustainable development goals. They can reduce vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards by reducing exposure



In what is called the worst flooding event in Bangladesh in over a century, people in the Sylhet region are barely surviving day to day.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

roads, bridges, power plants, and tunnels are swallowing down our development funds, many vocal activists are blaming everything on climate change and the inaction of rich countries.

In the meantime, there is an intense discussion taking place on social media, as well as among experts, about whether the recent obsession with road construction, particularly in the flood-prone haor areas, has led to an increase in the frequency and intensity of flash floods. A case in point is the 29.73km Itna-Mithamoin-Austagram road, popularly known as the "Haor Road," which has undoubtedly facilitated direct road connectivity between the haor region and other parts of the country, including Dhaka, Sylhet, and Chattogram. But the Haor Road might also have contributed to the floods in seven districts. Dr Md Shamsul Hoque, professor of civil engineering at Buet, said the highway had been a bad idea from the beginning. "By constructing the Itna-Mithamoin-Austagram road, we have caused huge damage to the fragile and special ecosystem of the haor region. We learnt by paying a heavy price," he said in an interview.

Now, what are some of the solutions going forward? Floods can be destructive to humans and the natural environment, but they also help drive biodiversity and are essential to the functioning of many ecosystems. In this context, dredging has been proven as an effective process to control the deposited sediment to prevent flooding and make a pathway for the main

to impacts (e.g. forests protecting against floods), reducing sensitivity to impacts (e.g. by diversifying livelihood options) and increasing the capacity to adapt to change (e.g. by empowering communities and individuals).

Climate change scenarios using hydrological and hydrodynamic models show that the incremental cost for Bangladesh to climate-proof roads and railways, river embankments protecting agricultural lands, and drainage systems and erosion control measures for major population centres are less than USD 3,000 million and USD 54 million in annual recurrent costs.

Sound public policies, prudent planning, and institutions with a majority of human resources are required to ensure that such capital-intensive measures are implemented within budget. In terms of mitigation, infrastructures and soft solutions are both essential. Physical measures need to be complemented by education, job training, and other "soft" investments designed to reduce reliance on resources and assets whose value may be eroded by climate change. Rather, measures should offer a sustainable path that accommodates their effect in the least disruptive way without placing a disproportionate burden on the poor and vulnerable.

And on a broader scale, Bangladesh should work with other countries in the region to prepare for a world with more intense and disruptive flooding events. The challenge will only get harder as the world gets hotter.

A case for making jobseekers' info open data



Md Rashedur Rahman Sardar is a member of Bangladesh Civil Service, currently pursuing a PhD in economics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the US.

MD RASHEDUR RAHMAN SARDAR

WHEN I informed my PhD supervisor that I wanted to work on a topic related to Bangladesh, he asked me a small but very important question: "Do you have data?" I believe Bangladeshi academicians, researchers, and public policymakers always come across this question.

There is a huge need for data in every aspect of human life today – from personal life to business, social, scientific, economic, and public policy and decision-making processes. Statistical organisations in different countries, especially the developed ones, collect data for the economy, health, education, labour force, and other social indicators by using different survey methods. This data helps formulate, evaluate, review, and research various public policies. One of the most innovative inventions in the 21st century is artificial intelligence, and data is one of the foundations of this ingenious invention.

Not only Bangladesh, but many developing countries have insufficient data availability because of the lack of infrastructure, investment, and human resources in this area. However, in today's age of digitalisation, data collection, storage, and use have become much easier. In Bangladesh, jobseekers now apply

for employment mostly online. This process has made the previous manual information management easier for the recruiting agencies and has helped a lot in speeding up the process for those organisations. However, so far, this data is only used for the needs of the respective organisations. At most, these organisations disclose such information as per the requirement of the higher authorities of the government. In some cases, the authority concerned provides information to an individual under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

But there are scopes for using this data more widely for the country's needs.

It may be noted here that the Bangladesh government adopted the Open Government Data Strategy in 2016 in its efforts to promote open data. It aims to make public service available efficiently and transparently, promote innovation and research, and improve Bangladesh's national economy. With a view of "Data for All," the government portal was launched in 2016 to provide a common platform for publicly available datasets. Still, it requires all-out support from the public sector organisations.

In the present context of Bangladesh, a few public-sector recruiting agencies can promote the government's open data agenda. In particular, the Bangladesh Public Service Commission, the Bankers' Selection Committee of Bangladesh Bank, and the Directorate of Primary Education can perform this task very well as these organisations collect and preserve massive amounts of information about jobseekers.

Every year, millions of jobseekers apply to these government institutions. For example, more than 350,000 people

applied for the 44th BCS examination, and more than 1.3 million candidates submitted online applications in the last circular for the post of assistant teacher of government primary schools. Job applications are usually accompanied by personal, educational, family, and other relevant information. This information can create datasets that can be used in many social and economic analyses and research, including education, unemployment, poverty, and inequality, and help policymakers formulate better policies that are more realistic and people friendly.

However, there are plausible concerns about open data. The risk of the violation of privacy and potential misinterpretation of data due to poor documentation are among the top concerns. In that case, appropriate legal measures and sound technical support can make the data anonymous and ensure meticulous, accurate documentation.

It is worth mentioning a recent bold step taken by the Public Service Commission of Tamil Nadu in India. The commission has adopted an open data and proactive disclosable information policy, designing it in such a manner that does not allow a data user to identify any job applicant. The data release only includes the details of everyone who applied, their test scores, and the selection outcomes.

Public sector recruiting agencies' willingness and efforts to publish jobseekers' anonymous data can create huge datasets, which can be used for analysis and research, and effectively determine the cause of the nation's many socioeconomic issues – and help find ways to solve them.

Many developing countries have insufficient data availability due to lack of infrastructure, investment, and human resources. However, in today's age of digitalisation, data collection, storage, and use have become much easier.

The root of our unhappiness

When the personal becomes political



NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

Nahaly Nafisa Khan is a journalist at The Daily Star.

I woke up from a Covid-induced fever dream to this news: Bangladesh has ranked seventh among the world's angriest, saddest, and most stressed nations, according to the 2022 Global Emotions Report.

Let me present to you some more jarring numbers. A total of 61.2 percent of youths (aged between 18 and 25 years) in Bangladesh are suffering from depression and 3.7 percent have attempted suicide during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a survey conducted by Aanchal Foundation.

Mental health is an issue that has much taboo associated with it. Even in 2022, seeing a therapist is considered abnormal in many Bangladeshi households. Not many discussions are held on the issue, and even when they are, mental illnesses are portrayed as a purely individualistic crisis, rather than a collective one.

Yes, each individual needs a different method of dealing with the problems they are facing; everyone has a different story and a different pattern. But the underlying correlating factors, if not the causes, remain rooted in some common parameters. So does the approach of battling them.

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

Voila. The personal just became political.

Amid the shiny, picturesque image of development, we often forget to address the basics. We forget that the country is faced with rampant income inequality, corruption, communal and other violence, lack of justice, freedom of speech and expression, and a vulgar disparity of life in all spheres. While mental health is shaped by personal sufferings and how we process the realities of our lives to a great extent, we tend to forget that our surroundings contribute to it too – the very surroundings that are afflicted with the aforementioned issues.

Mark Fisher, in a 2012 column written for *The Guardian*, argued against this notion of depoliticising mental health: "Mental illness has been depoliticised, so that we blithely accept a situation in which depression is now the malady most treated by the NHS. The neoliberal policies implemented first by the Thatcher government in the 1980s and continued

by New Labour and the current coalition have resulted in a privatisation of stress... It would be facile to argue that every single case of depression can be attributed to economic or political causes. But it is equally facile to maintain – as the dominant approaches to depression do – that the roots of all depression must always lie either in individual brain chemistry

DU, from where I graduated very recently, is one of the institutions that has seen an increase in reported suicide cases. As many as 26 students died by suicide between 2005 and 2018. Many factors that contribute to this phenomenon are purely political such as financial crises, academic pressure, threatening environment and bullying by members and activists of the

battle against the depression and perpetual unhappiness that this nation finds itself facing.

In the months after Hafiz's death, there were talks of bringing university students under mandatory dope tests; last month, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal announced that dope tests will be made compulsory for students during



ILLUSTRATION: TEENI AND TUNI

or in early childhood experiences. Most psychiatrists assume that mental illnesses such as depression are caused by chemical imbalances in the brain, which can be treated by drugs. But most psychotherapy doesn't address the social causation of mental illness either."

Last year, when Hafizur Rahman, a student of Dhaka University (DU), critically injured himself and eventually bled to death in the campus area, the entire university was left in utter shock. Investigations revealed that Hafiz had been on a psychedelic drug, and a misdirected war against drugs ensued. We blamed the victim, as we always do, and refused to take a long look at the underlying causes that are driving our students to the depths of despair.

Nineteen students from five public universities died by suicide last year. Of them, nine were from DU, seven from the Islamic University in Kushtia, and one each from Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet, and Khulna University, according to newspaper reports and data obtained from the institutions.

Not many discussions are held on the issue of mental health, and even when they are, mental illnesses are portrayed as a purely individualistic crisis, rather than a collective one.

ruling party's student wings through guest room culture and others. Yes, personal crises also exist, but they are only elevated by the political ones.

There are only three known mental health facilities in a university of more than 40,000 students that just turned 101 years old. They are severely understaffed and cannot provide quality services despite their best intentions, from what I can tell from my own experiences and that of my friends. It's difficult to get monthly appointments, let alone weekly ones. Moreover, there is no year-long advocacy that can encourage students to seek the help they need from these centres.

I naturally assumed private universities would have better counselling facilities with their better-managed resources. However, I was surprised to discover otherwise from my friends who graduated from some of the most reputed private universities in the country. Their mental health facilities are equally underfunded and understaffed, as reported by both the current students and the alumni. Thus, the well-being of the youth, the driving force of the country, remains ignored, while so many bright minds succumb to their

university admission by amending the law. Imagine the magnitude of resources needed to bring that huge a population under dope tests! Why are we focusing on that instead of allocating those resources to mental health facilities that are suffering from a scarcity of these resources? Why are we ignoring mental health, one of the core factors behind this rampant drug dependency, once again? Or the underlying oppressive factors, like the lack of equal opportunities for every student and the terror unleashed by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in public universities, that need a politicised call for action? Why is there no reflection of mental health in the budget allocation for the health sector, despite evidence highlighting the deterioration of people's mental health during the Covid pandemic?

The Global Emotions Report is a wake-up call for all of us. It is slightly comforting, though mostly alarming, to realise that this is not only an individual crisis, but rather a collective one. It only makes us more powerful in our fight to ensure social justice for all, to take a job at the root of our collective unhappiness.

You are not alone. We are not alone.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dhaka BRT Company Limited
House No. 04, Road No. 21, Sector-04
Uttara, Dhaka-1230

Memo No. 35.RHD.0000.BRT(MD).14.003.2013-580 Date: 03 July, 2022

Subject: Invitation for submission of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) for Procurement of Electrically Propelled-Standard (12 meter-long) Air-Conditioned Premium Buses for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (GDSUTP)

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

The word "Bus" wherever used in the specification means the "12000 mm" long electrically (Battery powered) propelled (Electrical Propulsion System or EPS), air-conditioned standard size premium segment bus with 900 mm ± 10 mm floor height, width 2600 mm, height of Bus 3800mm, battery capacity is more than 350 kwh energy for propulsion etc. Detailed specifications of bus can be received from Dhaka BRT Company Limited. The duration of the bus contractor assignment shall be about 12 months.

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

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

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

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

The copy of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) must be submitted no later than 16.00pm (Dhaka local time) **August 07, 2022** by email, by courier or by hand to the following address: **Managing Director, Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited, House-04, Road-21, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh, Email: md.dbrtc@gmail.com, Telephone: +88 02 48959101.**

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

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

SD/-
Safiqul Islam
Managing Director
Dhaka BRT Company Limited

GD-1346

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dhaka BRT Company Limited
House No. 04, Road No. 21, Sector-04
Uttara, Dhaka-1230

Memo No. 35.RHD.0000.BRT(MD).14.003.2013-581 Date: 03 July, 2022

Subject: Invitation for submission of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) for procurement of bus operator for operation and maintenance of buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) basis for Dhaka BRT Company Limited under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (GDSUTP).

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

The Operator shall operate and maintain the Contracted Buses on BRT Routes specified by the Authority during the Total Contract Period. The Total Contract Period means, in reference to each of Contracted Buses, a period of 10 (ten) years beginning from Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the particular Contracted Buses and further extendible for additional one (1) year at sole discretion of the Authority ("Total Contract Period"). The detailed terms and conditions relating to the Total Contract Period will be specified in the Bus Operator Agreement. The Authority is in the process of purchase of the Buses for the BRT. It shall hand over to the Operator the possession of such Contracted Buses after the purchase, upon delivery and acceptance thereof.

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

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

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

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

The copy of Preliminary Expression of Interest (PEOI) must be submitted no later than 16.00pm (Dhaka local time) **August 07, 2022** by email, by courier or by hand to the following address: **Managing Director, Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited, House-04, Road-21, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh, Email: md.dbrtc@gmail.com, Telephone No: +88 02 48959101.**

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

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

SD/-
Safiqul Islam
Managing Director
Dhaka BRT Company Limited

GD-1345

BOOK REVIEW: POETRY

Brecht's poetry presented in delicious Bangla

While choosing the poems to render in Bangla, Selim has put premium on the sociopolitical dimension of Brecht's poetic self. His love for the oppressed, the marginalised, the dispossessed and the disenfranchised are obvious.

LITON CHAKRABORTY MITHUN

"The process of translation is a rigorous delight. But the product? As a translator, you also always carry with you an anxious awareness of the ways in which you have fallen short. You have seen it, that, at least, you hope; but you have failed to carry it over." - Tom Kuhn.

Like all other translators, Abdus Selim, too, encounters in this book the enormity of transferring poems originally written in German to Bangla via the midwifery of English. The journey through three different languages makes poetry susceptible to spilling some of its original meaning, charm and musicality. Despite such possibilities, Selim seems poised to hold on to the contents of the original while retaining some of the stylistic sweetness. The Bangla in which he presents Brecht's 32 poems in *Kobita: Bertolt Brecht* (UPL, 2022) is lucid, dynamic and electric.

As Selim wrote in the preface to his own Bangla translation of Brecht's play, *Galileo Galilei*, "Brecht is a great artist and it's erroneous and unfair to consider him

as a proponent of a limited theory. He is unfamiliar to a large extent in this country. I believe a complete translation of his poetic works would dispel some of this confusion". (translation mine)

This particular volume is an attempt in this direction. While choosing the poems to render in Bangla, Selim has put premium on the sociopolitical dimension of Brecht's poetic self. His love for the oppressed, the marginalised, the dispossessed and the disenfranchised are obvious. In the poem "The Legend of the harlot Evelyn Roe," the existential dilemma of a prostitute comes to the fore in an appealing language. The poem "Germany, you bond pale creature" is replete with the poet's unconditional love for his motherland and the fulmination against those evil elements vitiating the core of the country. Another poem titled "The Spring" signals the regeneration and revival of both humanity and nature. It speaks to a promising prospect of a new future marked with optimism, dynamism and camaraderie.

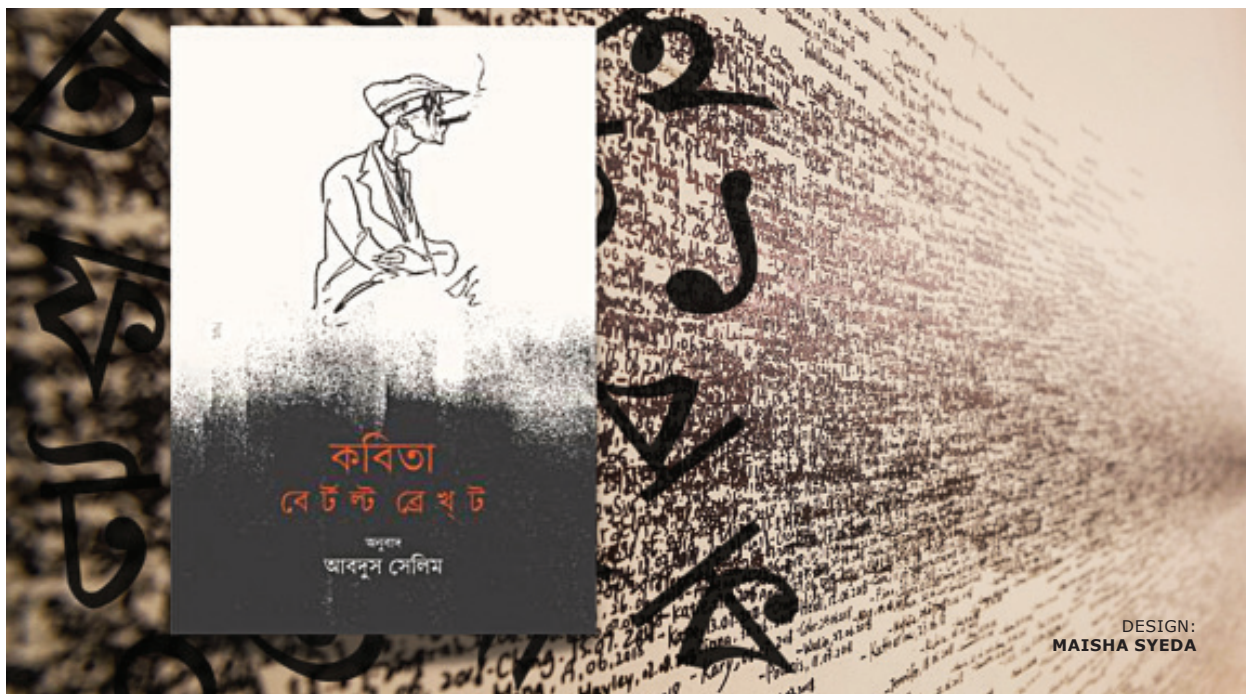
Some of the poems are political in nature and seek to pummel fascist, capitalist and

imperialist forces battering the world in which Brecht lived. "The last wish" is one such poem that valorises the boldness of a war prisoner, who punched and spat contemptuously in the face of a Nazi commander and embraced martyrdom. In "Letter to the playwright Odets", Brecht asks a playwright and other artists through him whether artistic protest against injustice is effective in the demolition of the diabolical section of society who exploit the overwhelming majority. The poem "Pride", however, is redolent of his immense pride in the moral high ground taken by commonplace Russian maids, who cannot be sold for anything despite their abject poverty. The poet implies that a socialist society underpinned by Marxist ideology has elevated the character of the Russian people.

Selim's Bangla translation of these poems use idiomatic and trendy Bangla with no stain of pedanticism. From the poem "I, the Survivor", he translates the saying "Survival of the fittest" as "Joggyotai toh tikiye rakhey" instead of the more prevalent, pedantic version, "Joggyotomer udborton." His choice of easy, everyday terms shows his smartness and sagacity. While reading the poems in Bangla, I felt that he keeps Yuval Sharon's evaluation of Brecht's poetry in mind: "His poetry is full of dialogues and debates, with a tone predominantly characterised by the spirit and crackle of everyday speech turned surprising and memorable."

Selim's is most probably the only Bangla version of Brecht's poetry collection done by a Bangladeshi author. The translator wears many hats: educationist, teacher, playwright, critic and media personality. This Bangla Academy Literary Award-winning writer has many popular and critically acclaimed translation works and prose pieces to his credit. He is still leading an academically and intellectually active life, teaching at Central Women's University, penning occasional essays, translating books, giving talks and leading addas. This particular translation work, *Kobita: Bertolt Brecht*, is a testament to his credentials and deserves a wide readership.

Liton Chakraborty Mithun teaches English at Central Women's University and can be reached at lmithun12@gmail.com.



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

A tale of love across two cultures

SHEJUTI PASHA

Love Marriage (Simon & Schuster, 2022), Monica Ali's latest novel, is set in contemporary London, and the city, along with its concurrent glory, glides in the background as a couple endeavours to bring their families together for their wedding.

Joe, a young British doctor, has fallen head over heels for Yasmin, a fellow doctor of Indian origin. As they attempt to unite their families, Yasmin begins to fret over the first meeting. Her mother has been preparing Indian food for the last two days for their visit to Primrose Hill and Yasmin cannot help but wonder how the rendezvous is going to turn out. Harriet Sangster, Joe's mother, is a woman of prominence, known for her undisguised approaches on feminism and women empowerment. She is an outspoken author known for her "self-indulgent" memoirs, a perceptible contrast to the Ghoramis, who have lived a typical life of order and silence ever since Shaokat Ghorami moved to London from Kolkata with his wife Anisah. Yet their greatest difference is, as Monica Ali writes, "Whatever Harriet really thought about Shaokat and Anisah would be cloaked by English manners and didn't even matter anyway. The English middle classes did not meddle in their children's matrimonial affairs."

As Ali strikingly presents the contrasts between how families function across cultures,

What begins as a social comedy goes on to reveal many secrets and undeniable truths; readers cannot help but relate to the Ghoramis and the Sangsters in the end, as they consequently present the skeletons in the cupboard.

the novel slithers over issues such as race, gender bias, identity, modern relationships, trust and infidelity. In contrast to Yasmin's distress, the meeting between the Sangsters and the Ghoramis turns out quite well. Problems materialise when wedding preparations begin and Harriet, Joe's overpowering mother, takes charge of everything. Despite this, an unusual bond is seen to form between the two women, the flamboyant Harriet Sangster and the modest Anisah Ghorami, which not only takes Yasmin by surprise but also threatens the normalcy of her life and filial relationships. Yasmin discovers an unexpected side of her homemaker mother, who not only shows a sudden interest in Greek plays, but actively promotes many of Harriet's pursuits. A mutual understanding evolves between the two and as the moth turns into a butterfly, Yasmin confronts a more independent Anisah Ghorami.

The plot traverses between several narratives where we see consequent changes in perspectives, with Ali bringing in each character with equal care and attention. Shaokat Ghorami is a proud and dignified doctor who has worked hard his entire life to leave the clasp of poverty and ensure that his children have well-to-do careers just like him. Anisah is a dutiful housewife who has dedicated her life to helping others and making infinite jars of chutneys. She carries the old-day charm of a Kolkata girl who drapes a saree whenever she can along with her brightly coloured cardigans. And then there's Arif, Yasmin's younger brother, a Sociology graduate who just about exists in the Ghorami household, remaining confined to his room for hours, idling his time away. His disorientation and lack of ambition are the cause of constant rifts with his father and his ultimate decision to leave is part of the many twists and turns in the story. As both Arif and Anisah abandon the house, Yasmin is torn between her lonely father, her suddenly rebellious mother, Harriet, and the love of her life, Joe. What begins as a social comedy goes on to reveal many secrets and undeniable truths; readers cannot help but relate to the Ghoramis and the Sangsters in the end, as they consequently present the skeletons in the cupboard.

Monica Ali, acclaimed author of *Brick Lane* (2003), with her talent for spinning tales, introduces some more elements of surprise and leaves readers wondering about the fate of each of the characters who are constantly fighting their own battles both internally and externally. There is desire, infidelity and betrayal and as Yasmin stands on tenterhooks, contemplating the fate of her loved ones along with her own, readers get a picture of what modern day relationships look like across cultures and countries.

Shejuti Pasha has recently graduated from ULAB with a Master's in English Literature and Creative Writing. You can reach her at shejutip127@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

A history of this subcontinent, woven in jute

FAKRUL ALAM

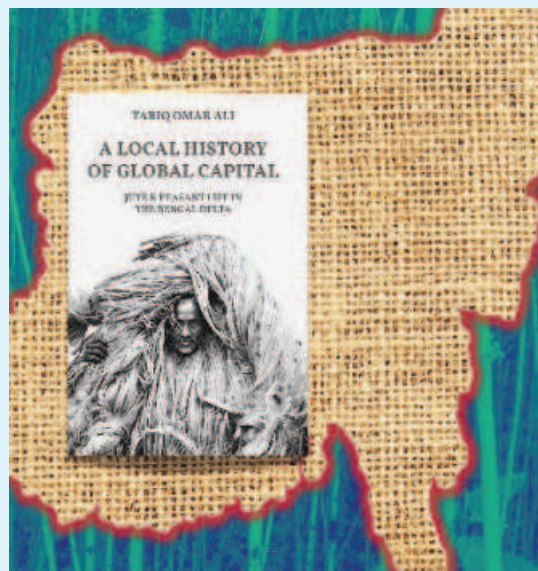
Anyone interested in our part of the world will find Tariq Omar Ali's *A Local History of Global Capital: Jute & Peasant Life in the Bengal Delta* (Princeton University Press, 2018) a remarkably thought-provoking work. Based on the socio-economic, intellectual and cultural history of events leading up to the birth of Bangladesh, Tariq Omar Ali's work weaves adeptly in it a narrative of the manner in which fluctuations in the demand for jute internationally shaped the lives of the peasants of the Bengal delta, contributing in the process to the identity formation of a people who would eventually end up with a nation of their own.

Associate Professor at Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University, Ali draws on archival and library resources, on extensive research he carried out in our country and India, document depositories such as the National Archives of Bangladesh, the Dundee University Archives of Scotland, and the India Office Records at London's British Library. He also depends on memoirs and accounts written by men such as Abul Mansur Ahmad and Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan and mofussil press productions. Ali is thus able to compose through such diligent scholarship a fascinating historical narrative about late 19th and early to mid-20th century Bangladesh. Its history, we can conclude from the book, is intricately tied to the production and marketing of jute, which we all once knew as our "golden fibre".

In the 100 years that is his focus, Ali depicts a subcontinent where initially British capital took advantage of the empire's powerful presence to make East Bengal a source of a fibre that it found indispensable then. One positive consequence of British control over jute production and marketing, however, was to create infrastructure in the Bengal countryside such as railroads, telegraphs and river ports, as well as mills. This would empower some locals and lead to the rise/spread of mofussil towns, ultimately making their inhabitants so politically conscious that they would eventually demand the right to determine their own destiny as well as indulge themselves as consumers. But Ali notes as well how "market entanglements created new forms of vulnerability" since "peasant households" well being depended on the fluctuations of prices in distant markets. "If farmers, traders and dealers of jute in Bengal benefitted from the relative prosperity that good prices of jute brought them,

to use a word Ali uses repeatedly, poor production or prices or problems in distribution led to periods of "immiseration" for Bengal's people too.

Empirically based, Ali's book benefits from his ability to apply insights derived from his knowledge of recent historiography and theories of history. Concepts such as the emergence of a "global countryside" as a consequence of empire building and "new technologies of commodification", but also of the possibilities of "self-fashioning" brought about "through global market entanglements", enable Ali to offer fresh insights into the making of people who would be soon wanting a country



DESIGN: ORCHID CHAKMA

of their own. He convinces us thereby that jute, in essence, played a "transformative" role for the delta's people in manifold ways.

Two aspects of *A Local History of Global Capital* deserve special mention. One is the dexterous sequencing of Ali's chapters. The first chapter deals with the period between the Crimean War and World War I when jute cultivation throughout the Bengal delta "expanded exponentially", making it soon the region's "leading cash crop". An unfortunate consequence, however, was the plight of peasants whenever jute prices dipped because of falling demand internationally, as in the first world war. But when sales boomed, as Ali observes in his third chapter, jute cultivators and those

who marketed it locally would flourish, becoming consumers wanting to indulge themselves variously. This is why most of them would be opposing the "swadeshi" movement of 1905-6 and why the mofussil would henceforth be full of hats and bazars where "foreign" goods would be bought and sold. The third chapter illustrates the intricate ways in which the whole Bengal countryside was transformed by jute and how Calcutta became the apex of a network stretching from the jute fields to the metropolis through mofussil sites connected by steamers, train services and roads. Inevitably, he points out, local politics was stimulated in the process as well as was state policing. Nationalistic feelings developed too, though the second partition of Bengal became a topic of discussion and a source of increasing tension.

In Chapter 5, titled "Agrarian Forms of Islam", we read about the popularity of the Khilafat movement at one point and the Pakistani one at another. As print culture flourished, the topic of Muslim decline kept appearing in books, magazines and pamphlets. A consequence, as the next chapter demonstrates, is the rise of "peasant populism" and the bid for empowerment through electoral politics. The Krishak Praja Party's success in the 1937 elections becomes for Ali illustrative of the sense of empowerment of a "rural Muslim" - someone he equates with a "peasant jute cultivator" - and the rise of the "rural Muhammadan". However, the way it was booted out of power soon afterwards, Ali stresses, accentuated the cultivator's sense of being manipulated and disempowered by metropolitan conspiratorial forces. The consequence, Ali argues in his seventh chapter, would be the partition through which East Bengal would become Pakistan. The dissatisfied Bengali Muslim peasants would, consequently, join in the stream that would be flowing towards the land that would become Bangladesh.

By the time they conclude Tariq Omar Ali's *A Local History of Global Capital: Jute & Peasant Life in the Bengal Delta*, Bangladeshi readers will surely be admiring the seamless sequencing of the chapters as well as Ali's prose style and the immense readability of his work. This is, indeed, a very lucidly written and easily understandable book despite the subtlety of its arguments and the historical depths its author has traversed.

Fakrul Alam is Supernumerary Professor of English, Dhaka University.

CORRIGENDUM

The book review titled "Dispatches of Independence" published on Daily Star Books on June 23, 2022 incorrectly stated that, "Author Manash Ghosh was one of the few Indian journalists who covered the entire event from the very beginning till the historical surrender of Pakistan on December 17, 1971." The correct date is December 16, 1971. The error has been corrected on *The Daily Star's* website. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Star

DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 7, 2022, ASHAR 23, 1429 BS

SPORT

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
BPL (Football)
Chittagong Abahani
vs Bashundhara Kings
Live from 04:00 pm
West Indies vs Ban-

gladesh
3rd T20I
Live from 11:30 pm
SONY SIX
England vs India
1st T20I

Live from 01:00 am
TEN 2
Women's Euro 2022
Norway vs Northern
Ireland
Live from 01:00 am

(Friday)
STAR SPORTS HD
1 & 2
Wimbledon
Women's Semifinals
Live from 06:30 pm

Mahmudullah banking on bowlers

SPORTS REPORTER

Following batting failures in the first two games of the three-match T20I series, Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah Riyad said that if his batters can take responsibility, the bowlers have the ability to defend a fighting total against West Indies in the third and final T20I in Guyana today.

Bangladesh's batting remained the biggest area of concern as the top-order was unable to make an impact in the Powerplay in the first two games while the lower middle order also failed to live up to the expectations.

"I think T20 cricket is such a game where, at times, the openers will give a good start while middle-order might not be able to continue, but someone has to take the responsibility like Shakib Al Hasan did in the previous game. His innings helped us reach



Lionel Messi was back in Paris Saint-Germain training on Tuesday, cutting short his vacation, like most of his teammates as the Parisian club started a new journey under new coach Christophe Galtier. The former Nice coach took over from Mauricio Pochettino as the Qatar-owned club appointed a seventh manager since 2011.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Tigers need a show of faith

MAZHAR UDDIN

Following defeat one after another across the formats, the confidence levels of the Bangladesh cricket team approach a nadir ahead of the third and final game of the T20I series against the West Indies in Guyana tonight.

Questions regarding the approach from the cricketers have been persistent regardless of whether it is in Tests or in the shortest format of the game. It seems that the Tigers are onboard a ship without a radar, unaware of their destination much less how to get there.

Bangladesh's batting was the biggest concern in the first two T20Is as the Tigers lost early wickets and were unable to utilise the Powerplay.

Prominent coach Mohammad Salahuddin believes it will be important for the Tigers to come up with a better approach in the opening position. He also believed they needed to utilise the last five overs to put up a fight.

"We all know what we are lacking. We have a big gap in the opening slot and we have very few players who can finish the game with the bat in the latter stages of an innings. These two areas are very important in the T20 format and I think the players need to improve their skills and undergo proper training. But other than that I don't see any solution at the moment," Salahuddin told The Daily Star

yesterday.

"I think very few in the team have the ability to use the first Powerplay to dominate opposing bowlers. So I think it will be better if they can improve their skills. I think, since we have experienced players in the middle, they can lay the platform for the last five overs."

Bangladesh fielded three seamers in the



second T20I, dropping left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed. But Salahuddin felt it would be better if the Tigers used two spinners and two left-arm spinners in the third game.

"I think there is very little chances of us winning against the West Indies through

our pace attack. Given our strengths, I think it would be better if we played with an extra left-arm spinner. You can't undo them by bowling 140kmph unless the bowlers have skills and variations. So it's better if we play with an extra spinner since we may be able to trouble them more," he said.

All eyes will be on skipper Mahmudullah Riyad after the previous T20 World Cup campaign ended in disaster last year, prompting lingering questions about his leadership qualities and whether he can come up with the aggressive attitude required from a captain, especially in the shortest format.

"If we follow the pattern of captaincy, we have to understand that what we do at home won't work abroad. At times you need to think outside the box. I think it is because of the mentality we have in our domestic cricket and I think we need come out of it," Salahuddin added.

According to Shakib Al Hasan's mentor, only time can change the Tigers' T20 fortunes and he advised against frequently chopping and changing the team.

"You have to work with the resources you have because there aren't other options. How long will you keep changing the team? If you make so many changes, the players get confused and the team also loses confidence. You can fail initially, but you have to place trust in them," he said.

Long way to go for local gymnasts

ANISUR RAHMAN

After working with the country's budding gymnasts for over two months, Korean coach Cho Sung Dong realised that Bangladeshi gymnasts and the coaches not only lack basic techniques but also trail in their thought processes toward the game.

Following some successes in Singapore Open in recent past, Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation (BGF) roped in high-profile Korean coach Cho Sung Dong in April in a quest to improve its level, with sights set on winning medals in the 2026 Asian Games.

"After coming here, I saw that the players lack basic techniques because the coaches are unable to guide gymnasts properly. They [coaches] don't even know how to teach players step by step," Dong told The Daily Star in an interview following a training session at the National Sports Council auditorium.

"The gymnasts and coaches are the same because they are not passionate enough about their intention and target. And I think it is a coach's duty to set targets

for players instead of only spending time on the court," Dong added.

"Like the gymnasts from Japan, China and Korea, the players need to set their own targets and the Bangladeshi gymnasts are trailing in this aspect. They also lag behind in their thought process compared to the gymnasts of Japan, China and Korea."

Dong, who guided the Korean gymnasts to gold in Olympic Games, is now training some 14 budding players to help them improve mentally and physically in order to be able to compete at the international level.

"I have been working to change mentality of players and instill the can-do attitude in them. If that can be achieved, their confidence level will go up besides refinement in their basics that I am striving for in training sessions," the Bangladesh Gymnastic coach said. "The gymnasts also need a perfect body to be able to exercise properly and I am also trying to help the players get into the perfect body shape."

Dong believes that there has been an apparent change since his arrival with gymnasts showing interests to learn new techniques.

Asked how he plans on winning a medal in the 2026 Asian Games with a small number of gymnasts, Dong said, "It is a common problem in the world that every country has a limited number of gymnasts. But winning medals depend on efforts put in, facilities and method of training the countries adopt. We need a long time to achieve the target but we want to finish among the top three in the 2026 Asian Games team event as well as win a gold medal in the individual event."



close to 160-mark. So if someone at number seven can play a cameo of 20 or 30, we can consistently score 160-170 runs.

"I have the belief that if the batters can consistently score 170 runs, our bowlers can defend that total as we have a good bowling attack. Our bowlers might not have bowled well in the previous game, but in the past our bowlers were able to defend small totals. Still I have huge faith on my bowlers and hopefully they will replicate that," Mahmudullah told the media yesterday.

According to the 36-year-old, the visitors are expected to change the team combination for the third and decisive game. Despite the overcast conditions, Mahmudullah hinted that they may include left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed and will go with two seamers and two spinners in the line-up. There is forecast for rain today.

RYBAKINA, HALEP meet in semis

REUTERS, London

Elena Rybakina recovered from a shaky start to overwhelm Australian Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 on Wednesday and set up a Wimbledon semifinal with Simona Halep, becoming the first Kazakhstan player to reach the last four of a Grand Slam.

Rybakina, the 17th seed, struggled in the first set but then started finding her serving range, at one point taking seven games in a row to secure the second set and put her in control of the third.

The 23-year-old, who would not have been allowed to play at this year's Wimbledon had she not switched allegiance from Russia four years ago, finished the match with an ace - her 15th of the match.

"It's amazing and I'm really happy that I got through after a really tough match," she said.

Explaining a final set wobble after serving for it at 5-1, she added: "Maybe I was nervous. She played really well, was defending really well. I just tried to focus on myself to find my way and then I found it."

Rybakina struggled to reproduce the serving power and accuracy that had been a hallmark of her march into the last eight, failing to land almost half her first deliveries in the opening set.

She broke early in the second and though Tomljanovic's athletic court coverage enabled her to hit straight back, the tall Kazak then took total command,

breaking to love before winning the set on the back of 11 straight points.

She cranked up the pressure in the decider, taking a 3-0 lead after winning seven games in a row, and breaking again for 5-1.

Tomljanovic was left throwing her arms up in despair as nothing she tried seem to come off and she sensed her hopes of a first Grand Slam semi-final were slipping away for the second year in

a row.

Serving for the match and the biggest win of her career, Rybakina slumped to 0-40, and though she fought back to deuce, Tomljanovic completed to break to cling on to her outside hope.

The Kazak then wasted two match points on Tomljanovic's serve but it was the briefest of respites as Rybakina hammered down three service winners to close out her victory in style.



Romania's Simona Halep celebrates winning a point against Amanda Anisimova of USA during their quarterfinal match of the Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in on Wednesday. The former champion won the match 6-2, 6-4.

PHOTO: AFP

The Hoque Foundation: A 17-year-old's dream to alleviate extreme poverty in Bangladesh

The Hoque Foundation is a Dhaka-based charity organisation that merged the power of research with the disparities and inequalities of Bangladesh and the developed world to solve extreme hunger and lack of affordable healthcare.



The Hoque Foundation's founder, Shayanel Hoque, in Gulshan giving out large packages with 2 week's worth of food supply in the month of Ramadan 2022. Photo: Courtesy Seventeen-year-old Shayanel Hoque is a visionary and philanthropist who dreams of alleviating extreme poverty in Bangladesh.

Growing up at an early age, he realised the state of Bangladesh's healthcare is not as developed as other nations around the world. With each passing day, more and more of his family members and people around him would suffer from the lack of health infrastructure in Bangladesh.

First, it was his paternal grandmother who passed away at the age of 63. She won her battle against multiple myeloma cancer in 2008, however lost against breast cancer in 2011. Second, his maternal grandfather passed away at the age of 53 due to cardiac arrest in 2017 during the month of Ramadan. Third, his paternal grandfather passed away in 2021 caused by a brain stroke and later brain death. Indeed, Shayanel has suffered enough, let alone what 170 million other Bangladeshis go through.

To this end, and on his sole mission, he began his work by working amongst Ph.D. researchers from Harvard, Oxford, Brown, and Yale University to deliberately identify the lacking issue. By great surprise, he found medical technology and government spending to cause a plethora of spiralling issues.

The founder of The Hoque Foundation, Shayanel Hoque, decided to follow his passion knowing what may lie at the end of the road.

Eventually, in 2021, both his research papers were published at international peer-reviewed journals which sparked his interest in his charitable organisation. Joining forces with large corporations in Bangladesh for donations, The Hoque Foundation began sending 3 food trucks to the most rural regions in the country.

So far, The Hoque Foundation has successfully helped over 500,000 individuals suffering from extreme poverty in several donation drives.

At present, they are researching the implementation of quality healthcare physicians at extremely low costs, nutritional foods, as well as filtration technology for access to clean water.

His motivation from the great catastrophes faced in his life and the scale of this unsolved issue in his country drives him to constantly create a difference and be a changemaker.

IN THE MAIN STRUCTURE OF PADMA BRIDGE
MORE THAN 95% OF RODS ARE BSRM

PADMA BRIDGE

Proud Construction Partner

Calls grow for UK PM to go

Senior ministers tell Johnson to quit; PM remains defiant amid spate of resignations

AGENCIES

Cabinet ministers gathered in Boris Johnson's official residence yesterday to tell him to quit as British leader after he insisted he would not stand down in the face of a mounting rebellion within his party.

With more than 30 government resignations and many lawmakers in his Conservative Party in open revolt, some senior ministers were in Downing Street to tell the prime minister he needed to go, BBC, Sky News and other outlets said. At least one was there to back him if he decided to fight on.

The 58-year-old leader's grip on power has been slipping since Tuesday night, when Rishi Sunak resigned as finance minister and Sajid Javid quit as health secretary.

Both said they could no longer tolerate the culture of scandal that has dogged Johnson for months, including lockdown lawbreaking in Downing Street.

But at the parliamentary committee, and an earlier question and answer session with MPs in parliament, he defiantly vowed to get on with the job.

"I'm not going to give a running commentary on political events," he told the committee when asked about the cabinet delegation.

"We're going to get on with the government of the country."

He added: "What we need is a stable government, loving each other as Conservatives, getting on with our

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



The weekly Mohasthan Haat cattle market in Bogura's Shibganj upazila is bustling with people as the sale of sacrificial animals has picked up ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Medium-sized bulls, which were sold for Tk 60,000 to Tk 80,000 each, were in high demand. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

15-20 criminals involved in BCL leader's murder

Says Rab after arresting two in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A group of 15 to 20 people murdered Faysal Uddin, former joint general secretary of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila Chhatra League, on Sunday.

Rab-II Deputy Commander Major Manjur Mehedi made the remarks yesterday after arresting two suspects.

The group stabbed and killed Faysal in five to 10 minutes, he said at a press briefing.

Rab arrested Azizul Haque Sikdar, 34, the main accused, and his cohort Firoz Alam, 33, on Tuesday, the official said.

"After their arrest, Azizul said he was involved in the crime and disclosed the names of his other cohorts who took part in the killing mission," the Rab official claimed.

The duo was handed over to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station after the press briefing.

Rab is conducting operations to arrest the rest of the suspects, the Rab official said.

Nasir Uddin, elder brother of the slain BCL leader, filed a case accusing 17 named, including Azizul and Firoz, and 12 unnamed persons on Tuesday night, said Selim Uddin, inspector (investigation) of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station.

Police arrested six people, including two women, on

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



BLOGGER KILLING Condemned killer held in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special team of Kolkata police has arrested Faisal Ahmed who was sentenced to death for the killing of blogger and writer Ananta Bijoy Das in Sylhet.

Confirming the development, a top official of Anti-Terrorism Unit of Bangladesh Police said they have already taken steps to bring back Faisal.

"We have been looking for Faisal for the last five months. Recently, we came to know about his whereabouts and got his phone number used in India and we then shared the information with Kolkata police," the official told The Daily Star

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2



Black fumes billowing out the chimney of an auto rice mill pollute the air in Jabusa Chourasta area of Khulna's Rupsha upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

CTG CONTAINER DEPOT FIRE

Owners' negligence, lax monitoring to blame

Finds govt probe body

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Sheer negligence of the owners of BM Container Depot Ltd and lax monitoring and enforcement of laws by the government authorities concerned led to the fatal blast at the Sitakunda depot on June 4, a probe has found.

The blast, which triggered a massive fire, happened in one of the hydrogen peroxide-laden containers stored in the open along with others, violating related rules and regulations, it revealed.

The investigation committee, formed by the Chattogram divisional commissioner's office, submitted its 19-page report to Chattogram Divisional Commissioner Md Ashraf Uddin yesterday.

The committee, led by Chattogram Additional Commissioner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, attached 300 pages and official documents to the report. The pages contained eyewitness' statements.

The probe body has also made

20 recommendations, including amending several rules and regulations on depot operations, monitoring and management, to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

At least 51 people, including 10 firefighters, were killed and more than 250 injured in the blast.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mizanur yesterday said they submitted the report with 20 recommendations so that such an incident did not recur.

"The owners of the depot and the monitoring departments concerned are responsible for the incident. They cannot abdicate their responsibilities," he said.

Wishing anonymity, a probe committee member said, "We had to study a lot during the investigation as the related laws did not clearly mention which authorities would deal with the safety management and monitoring of the container depot."

"Also, the laws do not specify who will monitor the compliance of IMDG [International Maritime

Dangerous Goods] code. We faced some problems when we launched the investigation as no authorities would take the responsibilities for enforcing the related rules."

He said the investigation identified some vital issues, including the no mention in the rules about who would monitor the safety issues.

Another committee member, who preferred to be unnamed, said the probe found poor monitoring of the container depot by the Chittagong Port Authority.

"The name of hydrogen peroxide is not on the explosives department's list of explosives, but it is listed as a hazardous explosive in the rules of Department of Environment," he told The Daily Star.

The depot had stored at least 27 containers of hydrogen peroxide.

The committee member said they have sent letters to six government departments concerned, including the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Jitu admits to hitting teacher with stump

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Ashraful Islam Jitu, the key accused in the college teacher Utpal Kumar Sarker murder case, yesterday confessed to a magistrate that he beat his teacher with a cricket stump.

"I was aggrieved as the teacher warned me for relationship with a girl on the college campus. Moreover, the teacher often rebuked me for various reasons," Jitu, a 10 grader of Haji Yunus Ali School and College in Savar's Ashulia, said in his confessional statement.

Dhaka's Senior Judicial Magistrate Rajib Hasan recorded his statement after investigation officer Emdadul Haque, a sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station, produced Jitu at his chamber, said court sources.

After the statement was recorded, Jitu was sent back to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

According to his birth registration, Jitu is 19. In his statement, Jitu said a few days before the incident, the teacher warned him for his relationship with the girl.

Quoting Jitu, the court sources said to impress his female friend, he planned to assault the teacher and brought a cricket stump to the school. He hit the teacher with the stump when

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



Pilgrims flock to Makkah as hajj begins

AFP, Makkah

The biggest hajj pilgrimage since the Covid pandemic began yesterday, with hundreds of thousands of worshippers at Islam's holiest site in Saudi Arabia's Makkah.

One million fully vaccinated Muslims, including 850,000 from abroad, are allowed at this year's hajj, a major break from two years of drastically curtailed numbers due to the pandemic.

At Makkah's Grand Mosque, pilgrims performed the "tawaf", the circumambulation of the Kaaba, the large cubic structure draped in golden-embroidered black

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

€2b underground 'water battery' turns on in Switzerland

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A giant "water battery" capable of storing as much energy as 400,000 electric car batteries has been switched on in Switzerland.

The €2 billion project, located nearly 600 metres beneath the Swiss Alps, was under construction for 14 years.

Its 20 million kWh capacity will allow excess energy produced from renewable sources to be stored for future use, thus helping to stabilise the electricity grid and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

The hydro battery works by using the excess energy to pump water between two separate reservoirs at different altitudes in the Swiss

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

