



P3 6 yrs, 16 deaths under garbage trucks



P6 Biden brings no new peace plan



P7 The 'Poran' of Dhallywood



P10 Tigers eye series sweep

Forestland taken for training centre

Govt de-reserves part of it for BFF ignoring environmental concern, dealing another blow to Cox's Bazar forests

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, back from Cox's Bazar

The government has handed over a part of Jungle Khuniya Palong reserved forest in Cox's Bazar to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for building a residential training facility after de-reserving the 20-acre land.

This deals a fresh blow to the fast depleting forests in the region, home to critically endangered Asian elephants along with other flora and fauna.

BFF will build a technical centre to be funded by Fifa, the governing body of the world's football, on the forestland in Khuniya Palong union of the district's Ramu upazila.

The plan includes two football fields, a medical centre and a four-storey dormitory, among others, according to a top official of the federation.

Forest officials estimated that about 30,000 trees will have to be felled for the construction work.

Sarwar Alam, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar Forest Division (south), told The Daily Star that following a gazette notification on the de-reservation, they handed over the forestland to BFF through a ceremony in Khuniya Palong on July 4.

The land was de-reserved in the beginning of June, said sources.

The government has the right to de-reserve any forestland or declare a forest no longer reserved through a gazette, according to Section-27 (f) of Forest Act-1927.

But environmentalists insist this must be done only for national indispensable interest. And state-managed reserved forests should not be used for non-forest purposes.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw a red flag demarcating the land given to BFF. The Cox's Bazar Forest Division (south) has a 20-year-old plantation within that de-reserved area.

Ayasur Rahman, president of the Co-Management Committee which oversees Himchhari National Park in Cox's Bazar, said the forest is relatively in good condition.

"Elephants roam around in many parts of the forest. If such structures are built, the movement of wildlife will be disturbed. There will be no forest at all in future," he said.

The handover of the forestland comes at a time when the reserved forests in Cox's Bazar have been facing an onslaught with more than 7,000 acres of forest already razed by Rohingya refugees in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

Encroachers across the coastal town sliced away more than 50,000 acres of the total 1,86,457 acres of reserved forests.

Cox's Bazar forests are the abode of Asian elephants – categorised critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Encroachment, de-reservation, deforestation and leasing out are the key drivers behind the depletion of Cox's Bazar forest areas.

The 4,610-acre Khuniya Palong forest, declared reserved in 1907, is also part of an ecologically critical area (ECA) demarcated by the Department of Environment in 1999 because of its rich biodiversity.

The forest hosts reptiles and mammals including wild boars,

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20 ACRES OF FORESTLAND HAS BEEN DE-RESERVED

BFF to build a residential training facility there

Govt handed over the forestland to BFF this month

Around 30,000 trees to be felled for the centre

The site is part of elephant habitat

Size of the forest is around 4,610 acres



People in their droves return to the capital by launches, not in picture, after celebrating Eid with their near and dear ones in their home districts. The photo was taken near Jagannath University in Bahadur Shah Park area around 5:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Circuit houses get tight spending caps

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The government has cut the expenditures of circuit houses in 63 districts as a part of exercising austerity to cope with the mounting pressure on the country's economy due to the fallout of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Ministry of Public Administration on Tuesday issued an order to the district deputy commissioners (DCs) fixing component-wise allocations for the circuit houses.

The government has cut the expenditures in different sectors, said KM Ali Azam, senior secretary of the ministry.

"The measures have been taken to practise austerity," he told The Daily Star.

Earlier, the ministry issued a set of directives to

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Lanka looks past Rajapaksa era

Anger as Wickremesinghe made ruling party candidate for president; vote on July 20; Rajapaksa brothers barred from leaving country

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka's parliament accepted the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday after he fled the country, paving the way for lawmakers to start repairing the island's shattered politics and resume efforts to ease its economic crisis.

After suffering from crippling shortages of petrol and diesel and runaway prices of basic items like vegetables and bread for months under the rule of Rajapaksa and his brothers, Sri Lankans are now waiting for lawmakers to elect a new president on July 20.

Until then, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will be the interim president although protesters want him

gone too. His private residence was set ablaze by demonstrators last weekend and his office stormed this week.

Nevertheless, the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party yesterday nominated Wickremesinghe to take up the top job full-time.

"Ranil Wickremesinghe is not the change we have fought so hard for," said Wimal Jayasuriya, 43, a martial arts specialist who is on a hunger strike opposite the prime minister's official residence that was also sacked by protesters.

"We will not allow him to be president. The SLPP parliamentarians should stand with the people and not allow Ranil Wickremesinghe to become president."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Ctg Wasa officials keep going on foreign trips

Ignore directive of austerity

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Six officials of Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority have made trips to the US and Turkey since May 12, when the government issued a restriction on foreign trips of government officials as part of an austerity measure.

On Thursday, Chattogram Wasa Managing Director AKM Fazlullah, Deputy Managing Director (finance) Samsul Alam, Chief Engineer Maksud Alam, Superintendent Engineer Mohammad Mahabubul Alam and Additional Secretary of Local Government Department (water supply division) Khairul Islam left for the US "for training" under the Bhandal Jhuri Water Supply Project.

In June, Deputy Managing Director (admin) Tahera Ferdous and Superintendent Engineer Arifur Rahman visited Turkey under another project.

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Restaurant staffers holding umbrellas try to persuade potential customers to have food near Mawa ferry terminal in Munshiganj's Shimulia yesterday. The eateries there are struggling to keep their businesses afloat as they are getting very few customers since the opening of the Padma Bridge late last month.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Children to get 2yrs of pre-primary edn

Initiative to start with 3,000 schools

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is going to introduce two-year pre-primary education at primary schools next year despite the fact that the pre-primary training programme could not prepare teachers for effectively teaching students in classrooms, especially considering the play-based approach towards education.

The one-off 15-day training for teachers of pre-primary education (PPE) also could not help the educators effectively identify, report and track children development outcomes, found a latest World Bank report.

Against this backdrop, the government is planning to extend the duration of PPE, an important component of early childhood learning, to two years from existing one year from January 1 next.

Under the extended PPE, pre-primary learning will start with children above four rather than above five.

Prof Farhadul Islam, chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), said the two-year PPE curriculum was approved on June 25.

"We are going to introduce the two-year pre-primary education at 3,000 government primary schools from January

1 on a pilot basis," he said.

After reviewing the results, the NCTB would expand the education to all primary schools, he added.

Primary and mass education ministry officials said that the government took the decision as the target 4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) calls for ensuring that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education by 2030.

The one-year PPE was introduced in government primary schools for 5-year-old students in 2014. There are now 39 lakh above-five students in pre-primary schools in the country.

STUDY FINDINGS

The World Bank study titled "Playful Pre-Primary Education in Bangladesh: Study on Professional Development Needs of Pre-Primary Teachers and Headteachers" surveyed 200 PPE teachers and 200 headteachers of government primary schools.

It said a 2020 World Bank assessment found that the current provision of professional development opportunities for PPE teachers in government schools

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LAUNDERING MONEY PK Halder produced in Kolkata court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hearing of a money laundering case against Prashanta Kumar Halder, former managing director of erstwhile NRB Global Bank, will be held on August 10 in Kolkata, India.



Halder and his associates were yesterday produced before a special court, which fixed the date for the hearing.

Having embezzled at least Tk 3,000 crore from financial institutions in Bangladesh, PK Halder had been on the run since October 2019, when the Anti-Corruption Commission filed money-laundering cases against him. He was arrested along with an associate in West Bengal on May 14 this year.

On July 11, India's enforcement directorate (ED) pressed charges against Halder and five others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

Halder, who is being interrogated by India's ED, revealed names of some persons in West Bengal who have links to ruling politicians in the state, sources in ED said.

The ED is investigating how many properties were bought by Halder in India.

Hindu temple, properties vandalised

STAR REPORT

A mob yesterday vandalised a temple, a grocery store and several houses of the Hindu community in Sahapara area of Lohagara, Narail.

Angry villagers went on a rampage in the afternoon, alleging that a Hindu man said to be 18 years old made a post on Facebook that hurt their religious feelings, officials said.

After Juma prayers, the villagers went to a grocery store owned by the individual's father and vandalised it.

The mob then attacked and vandalised several houses, including the family's.

After they broke into the Sahapara temple and broke the furniture, the police used tear gas and fired empty shells, officials said.

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Passengers bound for India queue to enter the Benapole land port terminal in Jashore to complete immigration. They had to wait under the scorching sun for about a couple of hours due to post-Eid rush. The photo was taken around 10:30am yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Russia behind global economic 'shockwave'

Say Western nations as they condemn Moscow over Ukraine war at G20 talks

AFP, Bali

Western finance chiefs condemned Moscow's invasion of Ukraine at G20 talks in Indonesia Friday, accusing Russia of sending a "shockwave" through the world economy and its technocrats of complicity in the war's alleged atrocities.

The two-day meeting on the island of Bali began under the shadow of a Russian military assault that has roiled markets, spiked food prices and stoked breakneck inflation, a week after Moscow's top diplomat walked out of talks with the forum's foreign ministers.

"Russia is solely responsible for negative spillovers to the global economy," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told the Russian delegation in the opening session, according to a US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Russia's officials should recognise that they are adding to the horrific consequences of this war through their continued support of the Putin regime. You share responsibility for the innocent lives lost," Yellen added, according to the

official.

The official did not comment on whether the Russian delegation responded. Russian officials did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

Russia calls its invasion of Ukraine a "special military operation" and blames subsequent Western sanctions for blocked food shipments and rising energy prices.

"Russia tried to say that the world economic situation had nothing to do with the war," a French delegation source told AFP.

Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers condemned Russia's "immoral transgression" against Ukraine, saying that Moscow must take the blame for the impacts on the global economy caused by the war.

"Russia's unjust actions have had terrible human cost but they've also increased global uncertainty," Chalmers said, according to a transcript. "Russia must take full responsibility."

Canadian Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland told Russia's delegation they were

responsible for "war crimes" in Ukraine because of their support for the invasion, a Canadian official said.

"It is not only generals who commit war crimes, it is the economic technocrats who allow the war to happen and to continue," said Freeland, according to the official.

Both Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov and Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko participated virtually in the meeting.

Moscow sent Russian Deputy Finance Minister Timur Maksimov to attend the talks in person. He was in the room as Western officials expressed their condemnation, according to a source present at the talks.

Ukraine's Marchenko said Russia's invasion of Ukraine "clearly marks the end of the existing world order", and blamed Moscow for the world facing hunger, inflation and energy insecurity.

"We need to stop the cause of these problems. The true practical solution... is imposing more severe targeted sanctions," he told ministers, according to the Ukrainian finance ministry.

Circuit houses

FROM PAGE 1

field-level administration on practising austerity regarding spending from their allocated budget.

In 2022-23, the MoPA has cut the expenditures for refreshment allowance, stationery and usable goods in circuit houses to Tk 3.61 crore, down from Tk 5.96 crore in the last fiscal year, documents show.

The expenditures under other components remain unchanged, show the documents.

The order signed by Masudul Hasan, joint secretary of the ministry's budget management branch, said approvals will not be given for exceeding the allocation limits.

The DCs were asked to keep expenditures within the allocation limits and refrain from accumulating arrears bills.

They were also directed to closely monitor the payment of monthly utility bills of circuit houses. "Budget implementation plans should be adopted at the beginning of the fiscal year and the tendency of spending money hastily at the end of the fiscal year needs to be avoided," the order reads.

The public administration ministry has also asked the DCs to follow the Finance Division's July 3 directives on austerity measures. According to the directives, maximum 50 percent of the allocation for refreshment and stationery can be spent in case of any emergency.

On the first working day of the current fiscal year on July 3, the finance ministry in three notices rolled out a "cocktail of austerity measures" for all ministries and divisions, saying following those directives can save about Tk 60,000 crore.

The instructions came after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 29 urged everyone to practise austerity.

The government proceeded with the move in the face of strained foreign currency reserves, rising global and domestic inflation and continued jitters surrounding the Russia-Ukraine war.

Forestland taken for training centre

FROM PAGE 1

with court orders. Where does it get such confidence from?" She also questioned the BFF's intention to use the forestland when they could have easily got plain land for the training facility.

The noted environmentalist said the provision for de-reserving a forest in the century-old Forest Act should not be applicable now given the scarcity of forest at present.

Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad, former Chief Conservator of Forest and president of the Institute of Foresters Bangladesh, told The Daily Star that already pressure was mounted on Cox's Bazar forests to accommodate the Rohingyas fleeing persecution in Myanmar.

"If everyone is hell bent on building structures in Cox's Bazar forests, there will be no forest in near future there. The tendency to take Cox's Bazar forestland must be stopped," he said.

Contacted, Abu Nayem Shohag,

general secretary of BFF, said they wanted the land from the government.

"The land was given to BFF as per the government decision. There are no big trees in the part of the forest where the field and building will be built, and the rest of the land will be kept as it is," he said.

He said BFF has sent the land documents to Fifa, which "intends to furnish the centre by the end of 2023".

Asked how the decision to hand over the forestland to BFF is justified, Shahab Uddin, the minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, told this newspaper that they handed over the forestland to the federation on condition that it has to be maintained as it is.

There was no alternative to it and had there been any, they would not have done it, he added. "We will make sure the harm to forestland will be kept at a minimum level."

Lanka looks past Rajapaksa era

FROM PAGE 1

seeking "action against persons responsible for the current economic crisis".

"We are so happy today that he resigned and we feel that when we, the people, come together, we can do everything," said Arunanandan, 34, a school teacher who had been camping at the main protest site opposite the presidential secretariat for the past three months.

"We are the real power in this country."

Sri Lanka is a major tourist destination in the Indian Ocean and well known for its tea industry and garment exports.

Speaker Abeywardena said he hoped to complete the process of selecting a new president within a week. Parliament would reconvene today and be notified formally of the vacancy at the top, with a vote for a new president set for July 20.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, an influential lawyers' collective, called on parliament to ensure that the election of Rajapaksa's successor

is held without delay.

The opposition's presidential nominee is Sajith Premadasa, while the potential dark horse is senior lawmaker Dullas Alahapperuma.

After he was sworn in by the chief justice as interim president, Wickremesinghe said he would follow the constitutional process and establish law and order in the South Asian country.

He also vowed to start moves to increase parliament's powers and reduce those of the president, as demanded by protesters.

"This change can be completed by the new president once he is elected by parliament next week," Wickremesinghe said.

Street protests over Sri Lanka's economic meltdown simmered for months before boiling over last weekend when hundreds of thousands of people took over government buildings in Colombo, blaming the Rajapaksa family and allies for runaway inflation, shortages of basic goods, and corruption.

Two children drown after falling into pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Two children aged three and four drowned yesterday after falling into a pond in Bagerhat's Mongla upazila.

The deceased were Jim Sheikh, 3, son of Delwar Sheikh in Gabbunia village, and Brishti Akter, 4, daughter of Lavlu Sheikh of the same area.

Locals and family members said the two were playing in Delwar's yard around noon and fell into the pond when no one was looking.

Family members found the children floating in the pond, and quickly took them to Mongla Upazila Health Complex, where the duty doctor declared them dead.

Md Monirul Islam, OC of Mongla Police Station, said two unnatural death cases were filed, adding that the bodies were handed over to the respective families.

Buet student's body recovered from Padma

UNB, Keraniganj

The body of a final-year student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) was recovered from the Padma river yesterday, nearly 24 hours after he went missing.

The deceased was identified as Tariquzzaman Sunny.

Mostafa Kamal, officer-in-charge of Dohar Police Station, said Sunny went missing while bathing in the river with three of his friends at Moinot Ghat of Dhaka's Dohar upazila around noon on Thursday.

Members of the fire service fished out his body around 11:00am, he said.

An unnatural death case was filed in this regard and the body would be handed over to the deceased's family after an autopsy, said the OC.

Padma Bridge rail installation may start next week

Says railways minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Installation of rail track on the lower deck of Padma Bridge is likely to start from next week, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon said yesterday.

He said the date to start the work will be set at a meeting to be held tomorrow between Bangladesh Railway and Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

"There is a possibility that the installation of track will start from next week," Sujon told reporters while visiting the under-construction Mawa Station. He also said operation of trains on Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga section will start by June next year.

Replying to a question, the minister said a technical team will assess whether vibrations of the road bridge could cause problems in track installation and they will solve any problems that may arise.

Sujon also said the Khulna-Mongla port rail route will be opened by December next.

Children to get 2yrs

FROM PAGE 1

all teachers have more idea of child psychology and pedagogy.

He said that there will be no crisis of teachers as the recruitment of 45,000 assistant teachers to government primary schools is at the final stage.

The WB study said despite increases in pre-primary enrolment overall, there are notable disparities in access to pre-primary education across socioeconomic groups.

In 2017, around 30 percent of 5-year-old children from the poorest families were enrolled in PPE compared to 40 percent from the richest families.

In 2019, 84 percent of 5-year-olds from the richest quintile were attending an early childhood education programme or primary school, while the number was only 69 percent in the poorest quintile, said the study.

Children with disabilities, either physical or cognitive, also have inequitable access to PPE. An analysis of 2016-17 Household Income and Expenditure Survey data shows that a child with a disability is 54 percent more likely not to be enrolled in PPE compared to a child with no disability.

With the upcoming expansion of PPE, the expected rise of 29 lakh 4-year-old students will further increase the need for additional trained teachers, said the study.

Headteachers, who oversee PPE as part of their role, are not required to take PPE training, and have limited guidance on supervision and mentoring of PPE teachers, it added.

According to the study, the growth of PPE teacher recruitment and deployment is inadequate to meet the increasing demand for PPE.

Contacted, Muhibur Rahman, director general (additional charge) of the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), said they were working on revising the PPE teachers' training curriculum and duration.

Alamgir Mohammed Mansurul Alam, immediate past DPE DG, said the government has a plan to cover the PPE issue in the Diploma in Primary Education (DPEd) curriculum so that

Conflict and climate change in West Africa's Sahel region have prompted nearly five million to flee their homes, the UN's refugee agency says.

At the end of June, 4.8 million people had fled in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, the UNHCR said in a press release to trail a visit by the agency's chief to the

troubled region.

Of these, nearly three million of those people were displaced within their own countries, it said.

"The worst-affected country is Burkina Faso, where there are nearly two million internally displaced," the High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in a two-day visit to camps in Chad, which hosts more than a million people.

UN alarmed as fighting, climate displace five million in Sahel

AFP

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Global solidarity key to beat challenges

State minister for foreign affairs makes call

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called for strengthening global solidarity and adopting a well-coordinated response to address and overcome the ongoing challenges emanating from climate change, pandemic and the Ukraine war.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam made the call at the ministerial roundtable titled "Accelerating achievement of the SDGs by 2030: addressing on-going crises and overcoming challenges" at the High-Level Political Forum 2022 at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday.

He urged the UN, other development partners, and the private sector to come forward to support national efforts – especially of the most vulnerable countries – to put the countries back on a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive recovery track, by providing additional financial and technological support.

"As a member of the Champions of the Global Crisis Response Group, my Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working with other global leaders to chart a global response commensurate with the scale and gravity of the crises," he added.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Rabab Fatima and high-level officials were present at the event.

Highlighting the impacts of multiple and overlapping crises, such as the pandemic, climate change, and war in Ukraine, along with other protracted conflicts, Shahriar Alam said Bangladesh has been able to show strong resilience to tackle the impacts of these crises.

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When Jewel had set off for his village home in Magura, his pet cat Laltu of course was his trusted companion for the journey. Now that vacation's almost over, Jewel started his journey back to the capital's Jatrabari around 6:00am yesterday on his motorbike -- carrying Laltu in a ventilated bag made for pets. This photo was taken in front of Bangla Academy around 11:00am.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ensure justice for minorities

Demands Sammilito Samajik Andolon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Samajik Andolon, a citizens' platform, demanded the arrest of those involved in the attack on Rongdajan Tripura, a Bandarban-based activist involved in the land protection movement for ethnic minority groups.

In a statement, Saleh Ahmed, the platform's general secretary, condemned the incident and demanded justice.

The statement read Rongdajan was attacked on Wednesday due to his involvement with the land protection movement.

"A rubber industry in Bandarban's Lama upazila has been trying to occupy around 400 acres of indigenous land illegally. Minority groups have been protesting against the industry for a long time. Rongdajan Tripura, was one of the activists working for the land protection movement there."

"Due to Rongdajan's SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Kazi Ebadul Hoque passes away

UNB, Dhaka

Former Supreme Court judge and Language Movement activist Kazi Ebadul Hoque passed away due to age-related ailments at a hospital in the capital on Thursday night.

He was 82. Ebadul is survived by his wife and four daughters. Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddiqui and Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday expressed their condolences for the former judge of the Appellate Division.

Ebadul Hoque was born on January 1, 1936, in Feni. He played an active role in organising the Language Movement.

He entered the legal profession in Feni after obtaining a law degree from Dhaka University. He enrolled as an advocate at the High Court in 1966.

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PRAYER TIMING
JULY 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

The ungovernable garbage trucks

16 deaths in 6 years by the city corporation vehicles; recommendations remain unimplemented

DIPAN NANDY

On November 24, 2021, Naeem Hasnat, a student of Notre Dame College, was run over by a Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) garbage truck in Gulistan. It was later known that the truck was being driven by a cleaner in the driver's absence.

Students of the capital took to the streets protesting the killing and negligence on the authority's part.

Just the next day, when the streets were still fuelled by the protesting students, Ahsan Kabir Khan, another pedestrian, was hit by a Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) garbage truck in Panthapath.

However, the death count by city corporation trucks has not stopped even after these two incidents. On Wednesday, another student named Sabbir Ahmed Rocky died after being hit by a DNCC garbage truck in Kafrul area.

Understaffed drivers' pool, allowing people to drive without training and licence, unfit vehicles and reckless driving make city corporations' garbage trucks into unstoppable death trucks, unleashing a perpetual terror on the streets of Dhaka. Since 2016, at least 16 people lost their lives to accidents caused by these trucks.

After the accidents, the city corporation took some initiatives in the face of protests. However, not much benefit has been reaped from those initiatives.

16 DEATHS IN 6 YEARS
When asked, neither city

corporation authorities nor road safety organisations could provide any specific number of deaths caused by the trucks.

However, according to various media reports, from 2016 to July 14, 2022, at least 16 people have been killed by these garbage trucks. Of the victims, six people died in 2021 alone, making it the highest number of deaths by the trucks in a year.

this year.

On November 24, 2021, Notre Dame College's student Naeem Hasan was killed in a collision with a DSCC garbage truck in Gulistan area. The next day, Ahsan Kabir Khan was killed after being hit by a DNCC truck in Panthapath area.

On April 16 of the same year, rickshaw-puller Mostafa was killed after being hit by a DNCC

killed in a collision with a garbage truck in Mirpur. On the November 24, Nurjahan Begum was killed in a collision in Bangshal.

On September 6, 2017, two cousins -- Rimon (25) and Sharin (22) -- were killed in an accident in front of Sabujbagh Buddhist Temple.

On March 4, 2016, businessman Abul Kalam Azad died after being hit by a truck in House Building area of Uttara. On September 30 of the same year, BGB soldier Abu Taher was killed after being hit by a DSCC truck.

WHAT MAKES THE DEATH TRUCKS UNSTOPPABLE?

Both city corporations have a human resource crisis when it comes to the drivers' pool.

DSCC has 337 heavy vehicles. However, there are only 135 drivers to drive them. The rest are being driven by staffers, helpers, assistants or MLSS, who have a light car licence and are not qualified to drive heavy trucks.

There are 145 heavy vehicles carrying waste under the mechanical department of DNCC. However, there are only 113 drivers for these heavy vehicles in the department.

Apart from this, there are hundreds of other cars under the waste management department. The ratio of cars and drivers in the department is more or less the same as in the mechanical department.

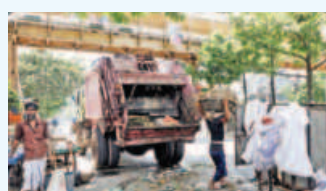
Moreover, on multiple occasions, it was found that drivers who have specific cars allocated for them choose to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

DEATH BY CITY CORPORATION'S GARBAGE TRUCKS

YEAR	NUMBER OF DEATHS
2022	4
2021	6
2019	2
2017	2
2016	2

SOURCE: MEDIA REPORTS



NUMBER OF VEHICLES AND DRIVERS

CITY CORP	VEHICLES	REGISTERED DRIVERS
DSCC	337	135
DNCC	145	113

Pedestrian Nazma Begum was killed by a DSCC garbage truck in Mugda's Titipara area on May 31 this year. This death was followed by Sabbir Ahmed Rocky's, who was killed last Wednesday in Kafrul.

Earlier, home-maker Nasreen Khanam died after being hit by a DSCC garbage truck in Khilgaon's Tilpapara area on April 1. Shikha Rani Gharami, a cleaner of DNCC, died after being hit by a DNCC truck under Mohakhali flyover in the early hours of January 23

garbage truck in Jatrabari.

On May 2, Swapan Ahmed, a bank employee, was killed in a garbage truck accident at Titipara. On May 13, Mira Arifin was killed in Savar after her motorbike was hit by a DNCC truck.

On January 17, Khalid (50), a journalist at Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), was killed after being hit by a garbage truck at Dayaganj intersection.

On December 6, 2019, Abdul Khaleq, a mobile drink seller, was



Traditionally, when it rains in the city, a rickshaw passenger remains protected from the rain -- with a plastic sheet on the lap and hood on top -- while the rickshaw puller gets drenched. But this puller spotted on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday, seemed rather prepared for the weather, as he was seen riding his rickshaw holding an umbrella.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Country sees two more Covid deaths

UNB, Dhaka

Two more people have died from Covid, while 1,051 patients tested positive for the virus in 24 hours till yesterday.

While the country's total fatalities reached 29,225, the new number took its caseload to 1,994,433, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

However, the daily case positivity rate fell to 11.55 percent from Thursday's 11.89, with 9,130 samples tested.

The mortality rate remained unchanged at 1.47 percent. The recovery rate rose to 96.32 percent from Thursday's 96.28.

In June, the country reported 18 Covid-related deaths and 20,201 new cases, according to DGHS data.

Bangladesh for the first time reported zero Covid death on November 20 last year since the pandemic broke out in March 2020.

The country registered its highest daily caseload of 16,230 on July 28 last year and daily fatalities of 264 on August 10 in the same year.

Momen in Cambodia on two-day visit

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen is now in Cambodia on a two-day official visit.

He was received at Phnom Penh International Airport by Koy Kuong, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, on Thursday.

During his visit, Momen will meet Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn.

He will discuss issues of mutual interest and exchange views on strengthening bilateral relations with Cambodia and regional cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Cambodia is the current Asean chair.

Momen is also scheduled to deliver a lecture at National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations on Padma Bridge and regional connectivity.

31 new dengue patients hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Thirty-one more dengue patients were hospitalised in 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among them, 30 are from Dhaka. As many as 186 dengue patients, including 145 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

This year, DGHS has recorded 1,610 dengue cases and 1,423 recoveries so far.

On June 21, DGHS reported the first death of the season from the mosquito-borne viral disease.

A total of 105 dengue patients, including 95 in Dhaka division, died in 2021.

Every year, up to 400 million people get infected with dengue, while 40,000 die from severe dengue, according to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"There is no specific treatment for dengue. Early detection of disease progression associated with severe dengue, and access to proper medical care lowers fatality rates of severe dengue to below 1 percent," according to World Health Organization.

Red alert for child health

Largest sustained decline in childhood vaccination in 30yrs, reveals WHO, Unicef

UNB, Dhaka

The largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years has been recorded in the official data published by World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef yesterday.

The percentage of children who received three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) – a marker for immunisation coverage within and across countries – fell 5 percentage points between 2019 and 2021, to 81 per cent.

Twenty-five million children missed out on one or more doses of DTP through routine immunisation services in 2021 alone.

The decline occurred due to many factors, including an increased number of children living in conflict and fragile settings where immunisation access is often challenging, increased misinformation and Covid-19 related issues such as service and supply chain disruptions, resource diversion to response efforts, and containment measures that limited immunisation service access and availability.

"This is a red alert for child health. We are witnessing the largest sustained drop in childhood immunisation in a generation. The consequences will be measured in lives," said Catherine Russell, Unicef Executive Director.

Up to 18 million children of the 25 million did not receive a single dose of DTP during the year, the vast majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries, with India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ethiopia and the Philippines recording the highest numbers.

WHO and Unicef are working with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and other partners to deliver the global Immunisation Agenda, a strategy for all countries and relevant global partners to achieve set goals on preventing diseases through immunisation and delivering vaccines.

"It's heartbreaking to see more children losing out on protection from preventable diseases for the second year in a row. The priority of the alliance must be to help countries to maintain, restore and strengthen routine immunisation alongside executing ambitious Covid-19 vaccination plans," said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi.



A toddler pulls one end of a coconut tree leaf, while his sister sits on the other end -- treating the large leaf like a sleigh. Even in the modern day, this age-old traditional game remains ever popular in the rural regions of the country. This photo was taken from Muslim Para in Pirojpur yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

2 Bangladeshis shot near Sylhet border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two Bangladeshi nationals were injured, after allegedly being shot by the Indian Khasi people inside Indian territory, near Majhergaon area in Companiganj upazila of Sylhet on Thursday.

The injured were identified as Sudhangsu Das (45) and Mukhlesur Rahman of Majhergaon village.

They were treated at a local hospital with bullet wound in legs, said Lieutenant Colonel Saiful Islam Chowdhury, commanding officer of the 48 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

"They claimed to have entered Indian territory for grass cutting, which is when the Khasi people opened fire, injuring the two. Officially we'll write to India's Border Security Force [BSF] regarding the matter," he said.

Illegal entry of Bangladeshis into Indian territory has turned into a serious issue in Sylhet region over the years. Many people were shot by the Khasi people, and some have died.

Regarding this matter, Colonel Saiful said, "We have continuous patrol duty in the border, but still, some manage to cross it, and such incidents take place."

Spreading light in remote area

MIRZA SHAKIL

A library was set up at Kachua village in Tangail recently in the name of the late Selim Al Deen, a playwright and theatre artist as well as founding chairperson of Jahangirnagar University's Department of Drama and Dramatics.

Dr Harun Rashid, a journalist and columnist, set up the library at his village on his family's land in Sakhipur upazila, with a slogan of "Boi Pori, Nijeke Gori (let us read books and build ourselves)".

The tin-roofed library is open from dawn to dusk for locals, especially students of local educational institutions. There is also a playground and coffee shop adjacent to the library.

Saiful Islam, a school student, said they can use library resources for free and check out books to read at home.

Besides, different activities, including publishing a literary paper named "Roddur", also take place at the library.

Kazi Ebadul

FROM PAGE 3

Ebadul became a High Court judge in 1990 and set himself apart by writing judgments in Bangla.

After 10 years at the High Court, he was appointed to the Appellate Division.

Ebadul was awarded Ekushey Padak in 2016 for his contribution to the Language Movement.

His daughter, Kazi Zinat Hoque, is a High Court judge.

Sylhet's shital pati makers in dire straits after floods

MINTU DESHWARA

Standing under the rain with an umbrella, 60-year-old Nirendra Kumar Das, a resident of Gagra village in Hakaluki Haor area, waited for customers. Hours went by, and yet, not a single buyer came in sight, possibly because the market was submerged.

Woefully, he looked toward Farindra Das, a fellow shital pati maker. His eyes, without any words, let her know – times are getting tougher from now on.

Nirendra has been making shital pati – a plant fibre mat that feels cool on the surface – for a living. It's a skill that has been handed down to him by his father, using which he earned bread for his family. But ever since the floods drowned vast areas of the Hakaluki Haor region, business has seen a downfall and so have the lives of shital pati makers like him.

Because of the floods, at present, more than 300 shital pati makers like Nirendra in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila and Sylhet's Beanibazar and Balaganj upazilas can neither weave new shital pati nor sell them. And ever since the Bangla Bazar market in Hakaluki Haor was inundated, their fates have been further marred, as there are no buyers there.

Thus, these makers and their families are spending their days living from hand to mouth.

Nirendra said, "Once there was great demand for shital pati. But it's diminishing as days go by. Even then, somehow my family and I managed to eat."

"The financial hit of Covid and zero sales due to the floods have left



us struggling for our lives every day. That's why I'm standing here. If I can just get one buyer, I can at least buy some rice and pulses for home," he added.

Besides, if the water rises, Nirendra and his family would have to find shelter somewhere else, he further said.

Rishi Kanta Das (55) was also waiting for buyers in the market with a shital pati wrapped in polythene. His face too read of worry, with no buyers in sight.

Bidyut Kanti Das, former Talimpur union chairperson, most of the people of the union are suffering, and many of them are shital pati makers. The waters in Hakaluki couldn't recede properly due to the rain, and thus the people live in constant fear.

Another shital pati maker Shanku Das said every week, a family makes one or two shital pati. Even though the makers don't

make much, their families would get by.

"Besides, new shital pati could only be made if the existing ones are sold, since our earnings don't let us save much," Sanku said.

Meanwhile, most "Murta" trees (a kind of cane tree), which is the main raw material for shital pati, have been submerged in water due to the floods, which is also another reason why production has halted almost entirely, he added.

Barlekha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khandaker Mudassar Bin Ali said, "At first, we're trying to provide food assistance to the flood affected, including shital pati makers. After the water recedes, we'll take extra measures for the makers."

He said if the upazila administration steps in, there's an opportunity to create a market – by providing capacity building training to shital pati makers and preserve local heritage.

Global solidarity key

FROM PAGE 3

"We rolled out \$22 billion of stimulus to keep our economy afloat. The social safety net was extensively expanded. Besides, we also spent billions of dollars on vaccines," he said.

The state minister said Bangladesh's "whole-of-society" approach,

national data repository system, SDG tracker, and localisation efforts have paved the way to accelerate the SDGs' implementation.

Putting the spotlight on Bangladesh's innovative, inclusive, and people-centric adaptation strategies, Shahriar Alam stressed on the high

importance of global solidarity and partnership to tackle the adverse impacts of climate change.

In this connection, he mentioned that Bangladesh has emerged as a role model for disaster risk response and crisis management.

The ungovernable

FROM PAGE 3

bring in someone from the outside to fill in for them. Both DNCC and DSCC have fired these drivers on grounds of negligence in duty several times.

But these measures fell short when it comes to ensuring the safe plying of city corporation trucks on the streets. Many cases of road accidents caused by these garbage trucks remain uninvestigated, and the accused get bail immediately, setting a precedence of unaccountability.

Another underlying reason is the failure to implement recommendations to lower the number of such cases. In November 2021, an expert committee formed after two consecutive deaths by garbage trucks, made several recommendations to prevent such accidents.

The recommendations included three major points: making professional drivers drive all the vehicles, barring cleaners and other staffers from driving them, and hiring adequate number of skilled drivers fit for the job. In the last six months, DSCC has been able to recruit 19 and 28 drivers in two phases. DNCC also appointed only

46 heavy motorists during this period. There was not much done after that.

None of the two city corporations could fully implement the recommendations as of yet.

WHAT DO THE CITY CORPORATIONS HAVE TO SAY?

Farid Ahmed, DSCC chief executive officer, said, "We have hired new drivers in two phases. We renewed our vehicle's fitness certificate by spending Tk 4 crore."

"We are trying our very best to solve the problems. If we can hire all the drivers required, I think the number of accidents could be lower," he added.

Contacted, Selim Reza, DNCC chief executive officer, said, "We have taken various initiatives to reduce these accidents. We have taken action against the drivers involved. The appointment of licensed drivers for heavy vehicles is also under process."

Dr Md Hadiuzzaman, director of Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI), said, "It is albeit saddening when government vehicles cause such accidents. Because the management of these vehicles should be a role model for others

in the transport sector. But when unlicensed drivers drive unfit city corporation vehicles, it sets a bad example for drivers working in the private sector."

"Drivers of the city corporations should be held accountable. There should also be transparency in the recruitment process," he added.

Fugitive

FROM PAGE 5

Alauddin, said Bogura District ASP Ali Haider Chowdhury.

On December 9, 2012, tailoring shop employee Biswajit was murdered by some BCL activists near Old Dhaka's Bahadur Shah Park during the BNP-led alliance's countrywide road blockade programme.

On December 18, 2013, a tribunal sentenced eight BCL activists to death and 13 others, including Alauddin, to life imprisonment in the case.

On August 6, 2017, the High Court upheld the death sentences of convicts Rafiqul Islam Shakil and Rajon Talukder. The punishment of four other death row convicts was reduced to life imprisonment.

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
"খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের
সম্প্রসারণ ও একাডেমিক কার্যক্রম
সম্প্রসারণ" প্রকল্প।
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০৩, বাংলাদেশ।

Office of The Project Director
"Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic
Activities of Khulna University
of Engineering & Technology"
Khulna University of Engineering &
Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh.

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Fax: +88041-774403; Email: pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd

Memo No.: KUET/EIAA/2022/06/916 Date: 15/07/2022

2nd Corrigendum Notice of International Tender

Invitation for International tender Notice Published in different national dailies in 23 June 2022 as per Invitation Ref. No.: KUET/EIAA/2021-22/DG-21-79/80/81/82, Date: 12/05/2022 for Procurement of following description is hereby amended as follows:

Package No.: DG-2181/2022

Sl No	Description of Goods	Published	Revised
13	Tender Last Selling Date	17-07-2022, 1:00PM	21-07-2022, 1:00PM
14	Tender Last Submission Date & Time	18-07-2022, 1:00PM	24-07-2022, 10:00AM
15	Tender Opening Date & Time	18-07-2022, 3:00PM for DG-2181/2022	24-07-2022, 11:00AM for DG-2181/2022

Dr. Md. Julfikar Hossain
Project Director (EIAA)
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203.

GD-1377

Tidal water submerges 30 Bagerhat villages

FROM PAGE 5

Bagerhat WDB, said water level of all rivers has increased more than normal due to the full moon. As a result, several areas of Morrelganj and Rampal upazilas, including the municipal area of Morrelganj, have been inundated with tidal water. "Due to the lack of embankments in these areas, tidal water is easily entering the locality. Project proposals will be made to identify the affected areas and prevent tidal water from submerging them. If the project is approved, work will be started as soon as possible," he added.

Wednesday afternoon, a culvert in Keshabpur area of Bagerhat Sadar upazila, along with about 20 feet of road on both sides of the culvert, disappeared under the water of Bhairab river.

However, road traffic was immediately brought back to normal with sandbags and soil, bought through the funds of the upazila administration.

Md Masum Billah, executive engineer of

Shelter, on Thursday night led hundreds marooned, inundated croplands and washed away shrimp enclosures, because of the heavy water pressure from the river during high tide, said Nazrul Islam, chairperson of the upazila's Burigoalini union parishad.

The marooned people are preparing to take shelter on nearby highlands. If repair work is not done immediately, the floodwater will inundate the entire upazila, he said.

East Durgabati, West Durgabati, East Purakathla and West Purakathla villages have been flooded. Water started entering Datinakhali village as well. Madiya and Arpangasiya villages are also feared to be submerged due to the inflow of tidal water, according to locals.

Neelkanto Raptan, former member of Burigoalini union parishad, said the embankment was

in good condition even in the morning. He claimed there was allocation for maintenance works for the embankment at that point, but they didn't proceed. Around 10:00pm, the embankment collapsed. He said Cyclone Yaas hit the area in May last year. Locals have not yet recovered from the loss caused by the calamity. Their main occupation is shrimp and crab farming.

Only three months ago, these people prepared a new enclosure and started shrimp and crab farming after receiving loans. Some enclosure owners have just started selling prawns. And now, the dam broke, he added.

Former district council member Dalim Ghorami said thousands of shrimp and crab farms, covering 2,500 bighas, have been submerged in water.

Masud Rana, branch officer of WDB's Shyamnagar upazila, said

they have started collecting equipment to repair the embankment. They hope to be able to start work from today. He claimed that there was no allocation for work at that place.

Ensure justice

FROM PAGE 3

involvement with the movement, a group of settlers attacked him, while he was at work in Dolanchhari union on Wednesday evening. Attackers beat him up with a stick," the statement further read.

They mentioned that, on April 26, around 300 acres of ethnic farmland were torched. They brought out allegations against the same industry.

"The authority should take punitive steps against those involved in attacking or harassing any ethnic minority group, as well as Rongdajan," said the statement.



The collapse of the 150-foot embankment at Durgabati point in Kholpetua River left hundreds of people marooned, inundated croplands and washed away shrimp enclosures. Four villages of Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila have been submerged due to the embankment's collapse.

PHOTO: STAR

Tidal water submerges 30 Bagerhat villages

Embankment collapse floods 4 Satkhira villages

STAR REPORT

At least 30 villages in Morrelganj and Rampal upazilas of Bagerhat have been inundated by abnormal amounts of tidal water. Residents of the flooded villages have also been suffering from waterlogging, with several fish enclosures also getting submerged.

The water level of Panguchi river in Morrelganj saw an increase by three to four feet yesterday morning. Locals have demanded construction of a ring dam in the flooded area to solve the problem.

Water Development Board (WDB) says it will identify the affected areas and make proposals for constructing embankments.

Kapurpatti Road, Kancha Bazar, Ferry Ghat, Kalachand Mazar area and Sankibhanga of Morrelganj municipality have been flooded.

At least 20 villages of 16 unions of the upazila, including Ghashiakhali, Palerkhand, Kakratali, Shanirjor, Sonatala, Chandantala, Juidhara, Hoglabunia and Barikhali, have been flooded.

“ Due to the lack of embankments in these areas, tidal water is easily entering the locality. Project proposals will be made to identify the affected areas and prevent tidal water from submerging them. If the project is approved, work will be started as soon as possible.

Md Masum Billah
Executive engineer of Bagerhat WDB

Meanwhile, water level of Mongla-Ghoshiakhali Bangabandhu Naval Channel, Daudkhali, Bogura, and Tetulia rivers has also increased. Many areas of Pedikhali union, including Gilatala Bazar, Banshtali, Bhojpatia, Hurka, and Rajnagar of Rampal upazila have been submerged.

Mongla upazila has also been reported

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

BISWAJIT MURDER CASE Fugitive convict held in Bogura

UNB, Bogura

Police yesterday arrested a fugitive convict who had been on the run since his conviction in the 2012 Biswajit Das murder case.

Alauddin (35), who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the case in 2013, was nabbed from his in-law's home in Mokamtola of Bogura's Shiganj upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, a team conducted a raid in the area and arrested

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

11-yr-old girl drowns in Khulna river

UNB, Khulna

An 11-year-old girl has drowned while bathing in Ataro Beki river in Khulna, police said yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Bushra, daughter of Shahabur Rahman of Rupsha upazila's Chandpur village.

Locals said Bushra was bathing in the river with her family members around 1:00pm on Thursday.

At one stage, the girl slipped into deep water and went missing. Locals fished out her body around 8:00pm that day, police said.

The girl was immediately rushed to Rupsha upazila health complex, where doctors declared her dead.

Fish, vegetable prices go up in Khulna after Eid

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The wholesale and retail prices of vegetables and fish have shot up in Khulna right after Eid celebrations, due to inadequate supply — creating a burden for those belonging to the lower-income group.

While customers say there is adequate supply, traders claim there is a shortage of vegetables and fish in local and wholesale markets.

This correspondent visited at least seven Khulna kitchen markets — including Boyra Kitchen Bazar, Sandhya Kitchen Bazar, New Market Kitchen Bazar, Rupsa Bazar and Daulatpur Bazaar.

He found that brinjal, which was being sold at Tk 40 to 45 before Eid, is going for Tk 55 to 60 per kilo. Green chillies, which could be bought for Tk 85 to 90 per kilo, is being sold at Tk 140 to 150.

Medium-sized prawns at New Market and Gallamary kitchen market, which went for Tk 600 to 700 per kilo, now go for Tk 650 to 800, while large lobsters are being sold for Tk 800 to 1,200 per

kilo in Notun Bazar and Rupsha Ghat market.

Wholesalers say it costs Tk 5 to 30 more to buy vegetables from various farms in Jashore and Khulna. The cost of transport and labour has raised prices.

Mahafuzul Mukul, a resident of Boyra Doctorpara, said despite adequate supply, vegetable and fish prices have gone up in almost all Khulna kitchen markets after Eid.

“Ilish that weighs 700 grammes is being sold at Tk 1,200 to 1,250 per kilo, which could be purchased at Tk 1,000 to 1,050 before Eid. A 500-gramme ilish costs about Tk 850 now, which could be bought for around Tk 650,” said Mukul, adding that the rate does not decline when supply rises.

“Per kilo of rui is being sold at around Tk 400, and medium-sized tengra is going for around Tk 550 at different markets in Khulna,” said Tapon Kumar Das, a customer from Pabla in Daulatpur.

“Besides, katla, pangas, tilapia, bhetki, puti are being sold for Tk 200 to 600 per kilo,” he added.

Ruhul Kazi, a resident of

Mujunni area, came to buy vegetables at Boyra Bazar yesterday morning. He said the items are not affordable anymore.

“There's a kind of invisible hand working behind the rising prices,” he added.

“

Ilish that weighs 700 grammes is being sold at Tk 1,200 to 1,250 per kilo, which could be purchased at Tk 1,000 to 1,050 before Eid. A 500-gramme ilish costs about Tk 850 now, which could be bought for around Tk 650.

Mahafuzul Mukul
Resident of Boyra Doctorpara

Among the vegetables being sold in the retail market, a kilo of pointed gourd (potol) now costs Tk 35, brinjal costs Tk 50 to 65, taro Tk 50 to 60, long beans Tk 60 to 65, tomato Tk 170, jali (a

kind of long pumpkin) Tk 40 per piece, pumpkin Tk 35 and spiny gourd (kakrol) Tk 50.

“These vegetables were going for at least Tk 5 to 15 less per kilo before Eid,” said Gouranga Proshad Baniik, a trader of New Market.

“Actually, it depends on supply and demand. Every year after Eid, the market becomes unstable. The demand for fish and vegetables rise since most people crave lighter food after days of consuming rich food like polao and korma,” he said.

Joyal Farazi, an ilish seller of Daulatpur, said, “There were fewer fish imports in the market before Eid, so the price is a bit high. Many fishers have not yet gone to the sea because of Eid.”

Sheikh Palash Hossain, president of Daulatpur Bazar Retail Commodity Traders Association, said prices of vegetables is usually higher in the post-Eid market.

“This is normal because after Eid, consumers are more inclined towards vegetables. Moreover, due to Eid, the supply of vegetables is generally low in wholesale markets,” he added.

BOAT CAPSIZE IN GAZIPUR Elderly woman dies, granddaughter still missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An elderly woman died and her granddaughter went missing after a boat capsized in Gazipur Sadar upazila's Belai beel yesterday morning.

The grandmother is Safia Begum (62) and the girl Saima Akter (5). Inspector Ashrafur Islam of Baria police outpost confirmed the matter.

Quoting villagers, he said the two were travelling to Soraiya area. At one point, the boat, carrying six passengers, toppled over.

Locals rescued four of them, while Safia was found dead. Abdoul Hamid, deputy assistant director of Gazipur fire service, said they are trying to find the girl's body.

2,000kg of gel-injected shrimps seized in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has detained 18 people with 2,000 kg of gel-injected shrimps from Koiya Bazar area of Khulna's Horintana upazila.

Acting on a tip-off that the accused were going to Khulna from Satkhira with a large consignment of shrimps injected with gel to increase their weight, a Rab team laid a trap and intercepted two to three vehicles to make the seizure on Thursday night. The detainees will be handed over to police, Rab sources said.



Medium-sized prawns at New Market and Gallamary kitchen market, which went for Tk 600 to 700 per kilo, now go for Tk 650 to 800, while large lobsters are being sold for Tk 800 to 1,200 per kilo in Notun Bazar and Rupsha Ghat market.

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Biden brings Palestinians aid but no new peace plan

REUTERS, Bethlehem

US President Joe Biden yesterday promised not to give up efforts to end the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict, though he offered no new proposals to restart the stalled political dialogue between the two sides.

As he wrapped up the first leg of a Middle Eastern trip before departing for Saudi Arabia, Biden visited a hospital in East Jerusalem and pledged a multi-year \$100 million package of financial and technical help.

But after a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, he acknowledged that the creation of an independent Palestinian state remained a distant prospect with no immediate prospect of new talks with Israel.

"Even if the ground is not ripe at this moment to restart negotiations, the United States and my administration will not give up on trying to bring...both sides closer together," he said.

Abbas said prospects for a two-state solution to the conflict, the model favoured by the United States and world

bodies including the United Nations, were receding and the opportunity "may not remain for a long time".

"Is it not time for this occupation to end?" Abbas said.

He reiterated demands that the United States open a consulate in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians want as the capital of a future independent state, remove the Palestine Liberation Organization from a list of terrorist groups and allow it to re-open an office in Washington.

He also asked for US support to bring to justice the killers of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American citizen who was killed during an Israeli raid on the West Bank city of Jenin.

Biden said the United States would continue to seek accountability for her death.

Biden acknowledged that after years of failed attempts to resolve the conflict, Palestinians living under onerous restrictions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza were suffering. "You can feel... the grief and frustration," he said.



Demonstrators distribute auspicious milk rice as a part of the celebration after the resignation of ousted Sri Lanka's president Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: AFP

Heatwave scorches Europe

Health warnings issued

REUTERS

Hundreds more people were evacuated from their homes as wildfires blistered land in France, Spain and Portugal yesterday, while officials in Europe issued health warnings for the heatwave in the coming days.

More than 1,000 firefighters, supported by water-bomber aircraft, have battled since Tuesday to control two blazes in southwestern France that have been fanned by scorching heat, tinder-box conditions and strong winds.

While temperatures dipped a little in Portugal, they were still expected to top 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in some places, with five districts on red alert and more than 1,000 firefighters tackling 17 wildfires, authorities said.

In Spain, the Environment Ministry said it was helping tackle 17 wildfires across the country.

Meanwhile, the worst drought in over 70 years reduced Italy's longest river, the Po, to little more than a trickle in places.

Italy has declared a state of emergency along the Po, which supports about a third of the country's agricultural production, after facing its hottest July since 1800, with temperatures expected to rise next week.

Britain's weather forecaster issued its first red "extreme heat" warning for parts of England on Monday and Tuesday.

How much closer can Biden bring Saudi Arabia to Israel?

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

United States President Joe Biden has somewhat danced around questions about how he will interact with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) when he arrives in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah.

The debate over how and when Biden should directly engage with MBS is sensitive. This appears to be the reason the White House is domestically selling his trip as beneficial to Israeli security, which can make the trip less controversial in the eyes of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Washington.

The Biden administration wants its own addition to the normalisation deals known as the "Abraham Accords", a process under former President Donald Trump that saw Israel normalise ties with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan.

For Biden, and Israel, a deal with Saudi Arabia would be the ultimate breakthrough.

Before the official confirmation of the trip to Saudi Arabia, Biden was asked whether he was waiting for "commitments" from Riyadh.

"The commitments from the Saudis don't relate to anything having to do with energy," Biden replied. "It happens to be a larger meeting taking place in Saudi Arabia. That's the reason I'm going. And it has to do with national security for them - for Israelis."

Many analysts believe that Bahrain's deal with Israel

could have only come about with a green light from Saudi Arabia, considering the close relationship between Manama and Riyadh.

"Bahrain's measures toward Israel are understood as Saudi signals given Saudi influence over Bahrain's foreign policy," Ali Bakeer, an assistant professor at Qatar University's Ibn Khaldun Center for

on effect for Arab states which have already normalised ties.

For example, the announcement on Thursday that Saudi Arabia was lifting restrictions on all airlines using its airspace, representing Riyadh's latest mini step towards normalisation with Israel, will allow Israel's partnership with the UAE and Bahrain to grow faster.



Humanities and Social Sciences, told Al Jazeera. "I think that in this sense more steps can be taken following Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia, whether it comes to business, tourism, or indirect communication between the two sides."

Looking ahead, if Saudi Arabia gives the go-ahead to other Arab or Muslim allies and partners of Riyadh to normalise with Israel, the Abraham Accords have greater potential to expand.

Normalisation with Saudi Arabia, or even increased ties short of full diplomatic relations, would have a knock-

Put simply, Saudi Arabia does not have to fully enter the Abraham Accords to be a part of the Arab world's trend towards normalisation.

Another major development that indicates a closer Saudi-Israeli relationship is Tel Aviv's approval for the transfer of the Red Sea islands of Tiran and Sanafir from Egypt to Saudi Arabia.

This has major implications for Riyadh and Tel Aviv's relationship for several reasons, including the fact that the deal would require the Saudis to pledge to Washington that they will adhere to the terms of the

1979 Egypt-Israel peace deal, including maintaining freedom of navigation for Israeli ships in the Straits of Tiran.

Although the development does not bring Saudi Arabia into the Abraham Accords, it further highlights how Riyadh and Tel Aviv are moving in phases towards de facto normalisation.

Despite Saudi Arabia and Israel moving closer, the Biden administration understands that it is highly unlikely that any normalisation deal between the two countries will be announced while Biden is in Jeddah.

This is especially so considering that King Salman, who has been considered a supporter of the Palestinian cause for many decades, is still on the throne.

Saudi Arabia's current position is that the kingdom will not formally normalise with Israel unless and until the Palestinians have a sovereign and independent state based on the 1949-1967 borders.

It has been suggested that MBS might like to see Riyadh establish full fledged diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv.

But even after MBS ascends to the throne, Riyadh will likely move carefully on the normalisation issue, mindful of the kingdom's role in the wider Islamic world, as well as the risks of a backlash from within Saudi Arabia, where strong support still exists for the Palestinians.

US to resume Int'l Space Station flights with Russia

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday said it would resume flights to the International Space Station with Russia, despite its attempts to isolate Moscow over the invasion of Ukraine. "To ensure continued safe operations of the International Space Station, protect the lives of astronauts and ensure continuous US presence in space, NASA will resume integrated crews on US crew spacecraft and the Russian Soyuz," US space agency NASA said in a statement. NASA said that astronaut Frank Rubio would fly with two Russian cosmonauts on a Soyuz rocket scheduled to launch on September 21 from Kazakhstan, with another astronaut, Loral O'Hara, taking another mission in early 2023.

DEATH OF BRITON IN DONETSK UK summons Russian envoy

REUTERS, London

Britain's foreign office yesterday summoned Russian Ambassador Andrei Kelin to express "deep concern" over reports of the death of a British aid worker. "I am shocked to hear reports of the death of British aid worker Paul Urey while in the custody of a Russian proxy in Ukraine. Russia must bear the full responsibility for this," Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said. "Those responsible will be held to account."

An official in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic announced Paul Urey's death earlier in the day. His death was also confirmed by British charity Presidium Network, which described him as a humanitarian worker and denied he had any military background. Urey, 45, was detained and charged with "mercenary activities" by separatists in the DPR, a breakaway entity that is recognised only by Russia, Syria and North Korea.



Heatwave may

FROM PAGE 12

39 degrees Celsius in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00pm yesterday, said Md Monwar Hossain, a meteorologist with the department.

There could be rain after 72 hours, with moderately heavy showers at isolated places across the country.

19 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 12

Saudi Arabia to perform hajj, which was held on July 8.

In 2019, around 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis were allowed to perform hajj. But due to the Covid pandemic, the largest annual Muslim congregation was held on a limited scale in the last two years.

Webb Telescope

FROM PAGE 12

science at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center said in a statement. "It's really exciting to think of the capability and opportunity that we have for observing these kinds of objects in our solar system."

Data from Webb's commissioning phase, as well as the data underlying the stunning first images shared with the public on Tuesday, are now being published in the Space Telescope Science Institute's Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes for further study.

Ctg Wasa officials

FROM PAGE 1

The finance ministry on May 12 issued a circular, saying all types of foreign trips, including study tours, at the expense of operating and development budgets for all government officials would remain suspended until further notice.

Another circular issued by the ministry said foreign trips of officials of all government, statutory, state-owned, autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations and state-run companies and financial institutions will remain suspended.

About the trip to the US, a spokesperson for Chattogram Wasa said the 14-day trip was for training and inspection of factories before making purchases.

Superintendent Engineer Arifur Rahman who recently returned from a trip to Turkey, said, "We did not go abroad on government funds. The cost was borne by the project contractor. That's why we got permission from the government to travel."

Chief Engineer Maksud Alam and Superintendent Engineer Mohammad Mahabubul Alam could not be reached for comments.

South Korean firm Taeyoung E&C is the contractor for the Bhandal Jhuri Water Supply Project.

Twenty-seven CWASA officials made headlines in 2019 by travelling to Uganda for training.

88pc female

FROM PAGE 12

workers to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries" says the agency has to provide workers with a copy of the "recruitment contract", including Bangla translation, before migration.

An employment contract between the recruited worker and the employer will stipulate the worker's wage, accommodation facilities, duration of employment, compensation amount in the event of death or injury, cost of emigration to and return from the foreign country, and so on, says the Overseas Employment and Migrant Act-2013.

The recruitment agent shall be deemed to be a representative of the overseas employer, it says. The agencies do follow the government's 2007 policy, said Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, former secretary general of International Recruiting Agencies.

"There is no reason that the migrant workers are not getting the hard copy of their contracts since it is part of the recruitment system. A worker cannot migrate without a job contract."

However, if a recruitment agency does not provide a written job contract, the migrant worker has to demand one, he added.

PM hopefuls

FROM PAGE 12

as they are, it's actually about the country at large," Tugendhat told broadcasters.

"What we need to show, what everybody needs to show, is that they're able to communicate Conservative messages strongly and debate hard. Because this isn't actually a knife fight in a phone box. This is about governing the United Kingdom."

Whoever gets the job will take on rocketing inflation and low economic growth, as well as the public's lack of confidence in politics after Johnson's scandal-ridden time in power.

2 univ students die as car

FROM PAGE 12

a mechanic died on the spot after being run over by an unidentified vehicle, police said.

The deceased were identified as Md Kiron Mridha, 28, driver and owner of the truck and Jahangir Alam, 47, the mechanic.

Facing engine trouble, the driver had parked the vehicle on the side of the highway. He called the mechanic and both were working on the vehicle lying on the ground, with half their bodies underneath the vehicle, when the unidentified vehicle ran them over.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. However, none saw the vehicle that ran over the two, said Md Lutfor Rahman, OC of Hatikumrul Highway Police Station.

In Gazipur, three people were killed when a motorbike, plying against traffic, collided head-on with a car on a flyover in Konabari area around noon.

The deceased - Raju Islam, 26, Md Shamim, 26, and Shahin Islam, 31 - all garment workers, were riding on the motorbike.

A three-year-old girl, who was on the lap of one of the riders, was injured in the accident, said police.

The quartet was going to Baimail from Konabari College Gate area. The child was undergoing

2 univ students die as car

FROM PAGE 12

treatment at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), said police.

In Bogura, three people died and at least six others were injured as two buses collided head-on in Sherpur area.

Witnesses said a Naogaon-bound bus collided with a Dhaka-bound bus on the Ghoga Bridge around 3:00pm, leaving two dead on the spot.

Another person died on the way to a hospital. Identities of the victims could not be known till yesterday evening, said Baniul Anam, in-charge (inspector) of Sherpur highway police outpost.

[Our correspondents in Narayanganj, Bogura, Pabna and Gazipur contributed to this report]

Hindu temple

FROM PAGE 2

In the evening, the police took the man's father into custody from his house.

Police could not bring the situation under control before night, said locals.

The individual who allegedly made the post managed to flee the area. Azgar Ali, upazila nirbahi officer, and Haran Chandra Paul, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station, visited the village.

They said police forces were deployed in the area to prevent further violence.

The 'Poran' of Dhallywood

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The queen of "Poran", Bidya Sinha Mim came into limelight after winning "Lux Channel i Superstar" in 2007. The femme fatale knew in her heart that she would one day reign over the silver screen. Her debut movie "Amar Ache Jol" became an instant hit, and ever since she has been one of the most sought-after actresses in the Bangladeshi entertainment industry.

After taking a small break, Mim returned to the silver screen this Eid in Raihan Rafi's tragic love triangle "Poran". The elegant beauty spilled the beans on what's going on in her life, as well as her feelings about the film to The Daily Star.

What is currently going on in your life?

I really can't express my happiness right now. After a long time, my film "Poran" has been released and that too on the occasion of Eid. What more could I have asked for?

How has the response been for "Poran" so far?

"Poran" has been generating a superb response from the audience. We are very fortunate that people are appreciating our hard work and dedication. I have heard that people had a hard time getting their hands on ticket for "Poran", as most of the tickets were sold out. This was indeed a heart-warming news for our entire team.



What type of audience will relate the most to the film?

"Poran" is a movie for everyone. Starting from college goers to university graduates, everyone can relate to the movie, as it's a beautiful love story.

How did you prepare for the role of Ananya in Poran?

The story of "Poran" is prevalent in our society. It is something that we may all experience in our everyday lives. I had to do a lot of homework to get into character. Becoming my character, Ananya, required many sessions of tireless rehearsal from my end. The movie itself had one of the best scripts I've ever read, and brought out a different level of passion in me after a long time. I had a great time working with Raihan Rafi and my co-stars Yash and Razz.

What's the secret recipe behind your fitness?

Regularly going to the gym, maintaining a proper diet and constantly being conscious about my health has been the key to my fitness.

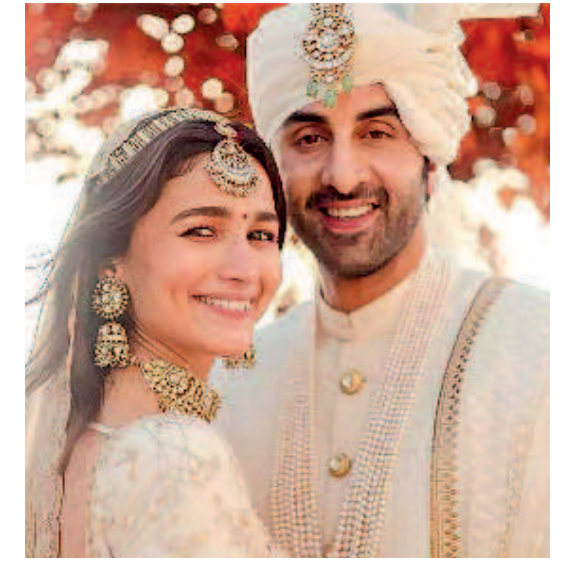
What does the future hold for Mim?

I want to work in films that are entertaining for the audience, while also being an intriguing project for me as an artiste. In the future, I hope to take on roles that will be forever memorable for audience.

PHOTOS: ORCHID CHAKMA



Alia-Ranbir want to have "many children"



SHOWBIZ DESK

Bollywood stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt got married in April, after a long courtship of five years. There is no end to the discussion about their marriage and family life. In the meantime, the couple gave good news - the couple will have a son to light up their lives.

In the meantime, some skeptics even questioned the truthfulness of Alia's pregnancy, claiming that it is a marketing campaign for their upcoming film, "Brahmashtra".

In response to these absurd rumours, Ranbir said, "Alia and I have been talking about this for a long time. We are grateful to God, and we want many children together".

Meanwhile, Ranbir Kapoor's new film "Shamsher" is all set to release this month. It features Vaani Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt. The film will release on July 22.

TRENDY STREAMS

NETFLIX
The Sea Beast

AMAZON PRIME
The Terminal list

HOICHOI
Tushagni

CHORKI
Syndicate

HBO MAX
Last Night in Soho

HE SAID, SHE SAID

Ananta Jalil vs Anonno Mamun

"I will make you do sit-ups while holding your ears," - Ananta Jalil during a recent talk show in response to Anonno Mamun's skepticism on the budget of "Din - The Day".



"I am not your employee," - Anonno Mamun in response to Ananta Jalil's statement about him, adding, "You might have 100 crores, but I have honesty."



"You have shaken my Poran." - Pori Moni shares her pride for husband, Sariful Razz's performance in the film.

PORI MONI

Nirbaak - Naive

Naive is a rock band from Dhaka, reminiscent of Bangladeshi rock's heyday in the 2000's. They are soon to launch their solo album, which consists of 6 songs. For those "Naive" enough to not know who they are, enjoy "Nirbaak", one of their most well received songs as of yet.

WHAT'S PLAYING



KAISER

Video games and failed relationships

Afran Nisho starrer "Kaiser" has been the talk of the town since its release on July 8. The series covers the story of homicide detective, Kaiser Chowdhury. The show starts off with a mysterious double murder that Kaiser has been assigned to investigate,

sending viewers on a journey of twists and turns that even the biggest murder mystery fans will not be able to solve till the last episode. Spanning a total of nine episodes, "Kaiser" brings to the table incredible cinematography paired with a fantastic

performance from Afran Nisho. The show also features songs from some amazing Bangladeshi bands such as Karnival, Arekta Rock Band and Petty Never Grew. If you've ever been a fan of detective novels or movies, you should give "Kaiser" a shot.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Austerity in budget spending a welcome move

Efficient implementation of govt directives needed to reduce pressure on our economy

WE appreciate the government directives, given to the field-level administration, to practise austerity in spending from the budgetary allocations. Reportedly, the public administration ministry issued the directives to all upazila and district administrations as the country's economy is under growing pressure from rising inflation, strained foreign currency reserves, and global price hike of different commodities.

The directives include stopping the spending spree by field-level administration at the end of the fiscal year, consulting with the public administration ministry if there is any confusion regarding budget allocation, cancelling honorarium for attending meetings of different project related committees, paying electricity bills timely and explaining to the ministry in case of outstanding bills, stopping spending additional money which surpasses the amount allocated in the national budget for 2022-23, etc. The instructions, if properly implemented, will definitely reduce the pressure on our economy, as at least 1,700 crores can be saved from these austerity measures.

Most importantly, these directives send a very important and urgent message that local governments and public officials need to play their part in bringing stability back to the economy instead of partaking in their usual ill-conceived and often unnecessary spending sprees. Usually, a large sum of the budgetary allocations remains unutilised by different ministries at the end of a fiscal year. In a desperate attempt to meet their targets, many local administrations try to spend as much of their funds as they can in the last quarter of a fiscal year, often leading to wastage and inefficient use of public money. Meanwhile, suspending implementation of low-priority projects is the need of the hour since a lot of our foreign currency is spent on importing different raw materials, particularly for development projects.

The directive that did not make it to the official notification – but one that needs to be highlighted equally urgently – is for officials and local administration to put a check on corruption. We know all too well how much of public money is hemorrhaged through corruption, particularly during any big government project. According to the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), at least at least 5 percent of the GDP is lost due to corruption each year, if we consider large public procurement along with corruption in health, education, police and judiciary. At a time when the whole world has been practising austerity to check the impacts of rising inflation, can we expect our government officials to not take their usual unfair cut from public money and add to people's suffering?

We hope our public officials respond to the call for austerity with sincerity and that the government monitors that the directives do not fall by the wayside. We all must go above and beyond to address the critical situation we find ourselves in.

Have some 'doya' for Doyagonj!

Fix the crucial connecting road, ease people's suffering

A crucial road which connects four areas – Dholaikhal, Tikatuli, Dholaipar and Jatrabari – is in a debilitating state, causing immense suffering to commuters and communities living near the juncture. As per our report, Bangladesh Railway is erecting an overhead rail bridge under the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project, completely blocking a lane of the road, while another lane has turned into a small ditch, due to waterlogging. The existing road is filled with so many potholes that commuters report feeling sick from the trip, and it is particularly difficult for patients travelling to and from two diagnostic centres adjacent to the road. All other alternatives to this route are blocked as well, which means commuters have no choice but to make this treacherous journey day in and out.

The significance of the Doyagonj road has increased substantially since the inauguration of Mawa-Bhanga expressway. It is all the more astonishing, then, that the authorities are so impervious to the road's condition. As is the case with most city-related problems, the authorities concerned seem more interested in playing their favourite "blame game" than taking responsibility to fix the issues. According to Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) officials, the project authorities responsible for building the overhead rail bridge have blocked all drains and have not left any channels open for water to pass. Meanwhile, officials linked with the project blame locals and the DSCC.

The project director, who has apparently been requested by the DSCC to take measures to solve the problem, did not reply to the paper's repeated queries, so we take this column to ask if the allegations of the DSCC are, indeed, true. Why would a multi-billion dollar ambitious government project, which was designed (one would assume) by the most competent and best minds of the country, lead to such problems in the first place? When was the problem first identified, and what steps, if any, were taken by the project authorities to address the glitch since then?

We also want to draw the attention of the DSCC, whose go-to response to any crisis is to shift the blame to someone else. We are honestly tired of this charade. What have they been doing, since the project first began, to reduce commuters' suffering? Beyond sending a letter to the project authorities – that too, as late as June 26 – have they taken any urgent steps to open up the lanes, fix the potholes, remove waste, reduce waterlogging, and so on? What about the alternative routes that are blocked as well? Have any steps been taken to make them functional so that the pressure on Doyagonj road can be reduced?

The sad story of Doyagonj road is unfortunately an all-too-familiar one for city dwellers of the country. We urge the authorities concerned to work together to urgently fix the road and ease the sufferings of the public who already pay too high a price on a daily basis to simply survive in this city.

The fault in our stargazing



BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

Dr Shamsad Mortuza is the pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

THERE are two versions of this story. One describes the merciless beating of a college principal by a member of parliament allegedly because the teacher failed to prevent his colleagues from slandering a senior politician's wife. The second version shows the same principal sitting next to his alleged beater to claim "all's well." Apparently, the MP tried to stop a brawl in which the principal likely hurt himself. The "misunderstanding" is water under the Padma Bridge now.

Then comes a random warning: The government is closely monitoring social media for teachers fishing in the murky water. Why specify teachers with the not-so-subtle hint of a threat? Aren't we all being watched? Are teachers banned from expressing their opinions? How will they teach, then? Simply by repeating the text?

Recent incidents of humiliation and persecution of teachers confirm such suspicions. One teacher was beaten to death for "insulting" a student before his girlfriend. Some were forced to wear garlands of shoes or made to squat while holding their ears to remind them of their "true" positions in the institutions, run by not "tender" students but by tender politics. With so much going on, Mr MP perhaps chose the wrong time to teach the principal of his constituency "a lesson." The administrative warning shows how seriously the government is gauging the situation.

If a country fails to protect its scholars and teachers, they will be forced to either leave their jobs, change professions, or move abroad. Nobody wants to relive Satyajit Ray's political satire "Hirak Rajar Deshe," where the idealist school teacher Udayan Pandit had to flee to the mountains to secure his values. A teacher today can get into trouble even for restating a scientific theory such as Darwinian evolution. Teachers are humiliated and punished and stripped of their power to wield the minds of the young generation. They are reminded of their rank in the cadre services or food chain through a taste of their own medicine – "lessons."

While teachers, scholars, and researchers in the developed world expand their horizons to brace the first light of the cosmos, we embrace ours with shoe garlands and treat them with hockey sticks and cricket stumps. While the whole world is progressing to see images of galaxies that formed 13.7 billion years ago, we are regressing to celebrate our animal instincts. Notwithstanding the Nasa images that humbled us with a reminder of our minuscule existence in the grand scheme of things, we prefer to display a primitive form of power. The infrared images of multiple galaxies in just a corner of space prove that our earth is

nothing more than a speck of dust. Our atom-like status in the infinite world was argued by Greek philosopher Epicurus in the 4th century BC through his theory of atomism. The Nasa images prove how "finite" we are in size, but how "infinite" we are in our faculty. The stargazing made me navel-gaze on the state of our faculty members.

A teacher is not encouraged to give the

My reality as a university teacher, however, is different from that of my colleagues in government colleges or schools, who have to engage with local MPs, bureaucrats, or political goons. I do not share their concerns of postings, transfers, or ACRs that lead many of them to make professional compromises or lose their dignity. True, there are university teachers who act like political agents, but



▲ **While teachers, scholars, and researchers in the developed world expand their horizons to brace the first light of the cosmos, those in Bangladesh are embraced with shoe garlands and treated with hockey sticks and cricket stumps.**

VISUAL: STAR

spark of imagination to their students. Our teachers are relegated from their niche in the superstructure to the base, if I am allowed to use Marx. While the developed world races forward to reach "space: the final frontier," we race backward to "withdraw pace out of s' pace."

Yet there is no shortage of talents in our country. The presence of a Bangladeshi-born astrophysicist from the University of Toronto in the Nasa team is an example. In an interview for a Bangla science magazine, Lamiya Mowla discussed the James Webb telescope that captured images from the ancient galaxy. After finishing high school in Dhaka, Lamiya went to Wellesley College in the US to study neuroscience. But while doing a course on astrophysics, her previous passion for physics was rekindled. Did a teacher give her the spark? She pursued her PhD in structural evolution of galaxies at Yale University. At that time, she was running an after-school programme for Bangladeshi students. Through this Science Outreach Program, she aimed to encourage students to ask questions that they could not do in their schools. "In Bangladesh, asking questions is a taboo. You can be bullied into silence for doing so," she observed.

Lamiya's comment struck a raw nerve in me. If teachers cannot entertain the questions of their students, what good are they? If teachers cannot work or think freely, what good are they? I do not believe that teachers deserve automatic respect for their sacred profession. Teachers earn love and admiration through years of dedication to their profession and students.

they are likely feared, never revered or loved.

The beating of the principal is symptomatic of a time when teachers have lost their "value" in the system. Students pick up on this social signal and act accordingly. Many argue that the family as an institution is failing to teach students to respect their teachers. But they forget that most of our students today are first-generation learners who do not have the cultural orientation of respect in their homes. A teacher is seen as a service provider; teaching is a commodity that parents purchase for their wards. A teacher is a strategic political partner as their institution is a potential polling centre where the teacher is likely to be a polling agent. A daily dose of "lessons" is therefore devised for the teachers so that they know the alpha male in their tribe.

Such political concerns have stopped educational institutions from being seats of learning where curious minds would explore answers to questions. Education has become all about certificates, with teachers as delivery personnel. The politicians and bureaucrats want a culture of obedience and compliance where questions are redundant. Without questions, we become unthinking parrots. We memorise whatever answer is given to us. We do not venture out to find truth; we wait for truth to come to us, by chance.

It is about time we ask: How can Lamiyas abroad do star-gazing with immense possibilities but Lamiyas in Bangladesh cannot go beyond navel-gazing? Whose fault is it?

Why Bangladesh needs retirement homes



M Makbul Hossain is a retired rear admiral of the Bangladesh Navy.

M MAKBUL HOSSAIN

IN Bangladesh, the current average life expectancy is 73 years, and the number of people who are aged 60 and above is expected to double by 2050, according to research by ARC Centre of Excellence. With the rise in the elderly population, the demand for holistic care for senior citizens tends to grow. At present, the population of Bangladesh is 171.68 million, which will rise to 216.46 million by 2051. In 2020, the elderly population of Bangladesh was 14 million as per projected survey, and it is expected that the elderly population aged 65-plus will rise to 30.04 million by 2051.

In the current year, the dependency ratio of the age groups 0-14 and 65-plus is 0.469 percent, which will rise to 0.524 percent by 2051, whereas the labour force ratio of the age group 15-59 is now 0.651 percent, which will drop to 0.604 percent by 2051 (BBS population projection 2011-2061 and BBS elderly population in Bangladesh Vol-4). Bangladesh is going to enter the intermediate stage of ageing. In addition, the number of nuclear families is rising. In that regard, there are many older people with savings and good experience in different sectors who have the potential to be an asset to society. But there still remains a huge gap when it comes to providing them with the necessary support facilities that might enable them to lead the rest of their lives peacefully and productively.

Not every senior citizen has the same care needs. Therefore, a balanced and holistic care system should be designed to help seniors focus on healthy lifestyle

habits such as eating nutritious foods, exercising regularly, and maintaining strong social ties.

Bangladesh is a land of culture and tradition, and the elderly are an integral part of our society. As the country shifts its focus from agriculture to industries, traditional culture and family structure are also changing – thus, the joint family system is gradually losing its importance. Industrialisation has created more job opportunities than before, and it is anticipated that in the days to come, there will be hardly any house helps available. On the other hand, the number of children per household has also come down to one or two and many children are going out of the country for education or employment; some may also choose to work in a different region within the county. Thus, it is becoming almost impossible for the children to look after their parents physically or to keep their parents with them without any domestic help. As such, the next logical step is to shift the elderly parent to a care centre where they can have good company, and stay engaged and active. But the crux of the matter is, there are hardly any good care centres available in Bangladesh.

Senior citizens are considered as the pillars of society for their contributions and their experience. To provide the elderly with the required support/facilities, different organisations or industrialists may come forward to establish care centres for them.

Senior citizens are considered as the pillars of society for their contributions and their experience. To provide the elderly with the required support/facilities, different organisations or industrialists may come forward to establish care centres for them. There could be three different types of care centres, namely, Premier Living, which can target higher income elderly people; Seniors Living for the middle-income elderly people, and Retired Living for the lower-income elderly people. This could be a cost-effective, self-sustainable model, where the Retired Living group may pay a nominal charge and the Seniors Living group may pay for the actual cost, while the Premier Living group will pay a premium charge for all

premium services that they will enjoy, and their surplus amount may be utilised as subsidy for the Retired Living group.

Due to the social stigma surrounding old homes, in the beginning, the challenging task may be to find people to accommodate in the care centre – as the concept is not yet adapted in our society. This challenge can be mitigated by active online and offline campaigning, by emphasising on the importance of elderly care and how care facilities can provide a safe space for them.

The socioeconomic consequences of having an ageing population are emerging issues in Bangladesh. So, coming up with new policies and increasing awareness in this regard is now a necessity. Integrated, assisted living facilities need to cover the needs of the increasing number of elderly people. About 77 percent of elderly people do not have enough income to meet their basic needs and 71.4 percent are dependent on siblings for financial assistance. Most of the poor families cannot ensure separate living spaces for their senior members, as they live in one or two room houses consisting of more than five family members.

Under the social welfare ministry, there are currently six old homes. Several shelters and traditional old homes are also run by private institutions. If organisations and wealthy individuals step up and establish standard care centres, they will not only provide the elderly population with necessary healthcare and space, but also inadvertently preserve a wealth of unmatched experience that the elderly people will offer to society. Thus, if need and good intention are at the core, there will come a day when such elderly services will be normalised, and not frowned upon.

Our senior citizens have given a lot to society through their lives and their careers. Now, it is upto society to pay it forward and provide them with the space to flourish.

What makes Webb's first images such a big deal?



QUAMRUL HAIDER

Quamrul Haider is a professor of Physics at Fordham University in New York.

RENOWNED American astronomer Carl Sagan (1934-1996) famously said, "Somewhere [in the Universe], something incredible is waiting to be known." The first observations of the James Webb Telescope, released by Nasa earlier this week, put an end to the wait by presenting "humanity with a groundbreaking new view of the cosmos." Webb, as it is familiarly known, is telling the much anticipated story of the hidden Universe through every phase of cosmic history – from revealing the atmosphere of a distant exoplanet, to providing stunning images of a "stellar nursery," to an explosive star in our galaxy – the Milky Way, to the deepest and sharpest view of the distant observable galaxies in the early Universe, and to everything in between.

The tantalising images have been widely published and discussed in newspapers, magazines, and electronic media across the entire globe. I will, instead, focus attention on five of the sensational discoveries by Webb: SMACS 0723, Southern Ring Nebula, Stephan's Quintet, WASP-96b, and the Carina Nebula.



An area of Carina Nebula known as the Cosmic Cliffs. PHOTO: NASA

SMACS 0723

The primary mission of Webb that was launched on Christmas day of 2021 is to look back in time over 13.5 billion years, which is closer to the beginning of time, and see some of the earliest galaxies to have formed in the Universe in the aftermath of the Big Bang about 13.7 billion years ago. To that end, Webb captured with amazing clarity the image of a distant cluster of galaxies called SMACS 0723 that originated more than 13 billion years ago. The image of the cluster revealed the presence of still more-distant galaxies spilled across the sky.

What made it possible for Webb to see the galaxies that were formed just after the Big Bang? The Universe, and thus every galaxy in it, is expanding. However, according to Einstein's General Relativity Theory, it is the space between the objects that actually stretches, causing the galaxies to move away from each other. Furthermore, any light in that space will also stretch, shifting that light's wavelength, initially shortwave and highly energetic, to low-energy, very dim and longer wavelengths. The phenomenon is similar to the siren from an ambulance that becomes less audible as it speeds by. Accordingly, light from distant objects reaches us as long wavelength infrared light that is invisible to the naked eye.

The James Webb Telescope, Nasa's successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, is specifically designed for observing

infrared light from the primordial Universe. It can, therefore, access the previously invisible nascent cosmos when galaxies were formed.

Southern Ring Nebula

Although stars in the sky seem eternal and unchanging to us, their permanence is an illusion. Like us, stars are born, grow old and, at regular intervals, they die. Stars live for millions and billions of years because of thermonuclear reactions – fusion of hydrogen (fuel) into helium – in their cores. But a star has a limited supply of hydrogen. Consequently, massive stars, like gas-guzzling SUVs, use up their fuel rapidly and live shorter lives, while low-mass stars



Stephan's Quintet showing never-before-seen details. PHOTO: NASA

conserve their fuel, and shine for billions of years.

A dying star that has been cast in an entirely new light by Webb is the Southern Ring Nebula, approximately 2,000 lightyears away and visible in the southern hemisphere in the constellation Vela. It is a giant expanding sphere of gas and dust that has been lit up by a dying star in its centre. Webb's powerful infrared eyes bring a second dying star into full view for the first time. Ensnared in a tight orbit, the swirling duo has created a fantastic landscape of asymmetrical shells.

Although the Hubble Space Telescope's

Webb captured with amazing clarity the image of a distant cluster of galaxies called SMACS 0723 that originated more than 13 billion years ago. The image of the cluster revealed the presence of still more-distant galaxies spilled across the sky.

PHOTO: NASA

Webb is telling the story of the hidden Universe through every phase of cosmic history – from revealing the atmosphere of a distant exoplanet to the sharpest view of distant galaxies in the early Universe, to everything in between.

earlier view of the Southern Ring Nebula was spectacular in its own right, showing a huge smoke-ring-like cloud surrounding a brilliant inner star, Webb's view goes much further, showing not one but two stars at the heart of the nebula in much more detail.

Stephan's Quintet

About 290 million lightyears away, Stephan's Quintet (also known as Hickson Compact Group 92) is located in the northern constellation, Pegasus. Discovered in 1877, it is notable for being the first compact group of five galaxies ever discovered. Four of the five galaxies within the quintet are firmly bound and locked in a "cosmic dance" of repeated close encounters.

Webb pierced through the shroud of dust surrounding the centre of one galaxy, to reveal the velocity and composition of the gas near its supermassive black hole. Moreover, the telescope resolved in unprecedented detail a tapestry of fainter galaxies in the more distant Universe, together with sparkling clusters of millions of previously unseen stars in the galaxies. It even gathered the light generated by debris racing around a supermassive black hole.

Thanks to Webb, scientists can now get a rare look at how interacting galaxies are triggering star formation in each other and how the gas in these galaxies is being disturbed. They will also be able to determine why star birth in the quintet occurred at different epochs, stretching over hundreds of millions of years.

WASP-96b

The images made public by Nasa included the Webb telescope's first spectrum of an exoplanet called WASP-96b, one of more than 5,000 confirmed exoplanets in the Milky Way. Located more than 1,000 lightyears away from Earth, it has roughly half the mass of Jupiter and orbits extremely close to its Sun-like star within just 3.4 days.

Webb's detailed observation of this hot, gaseous planet outside our solar system reveals the clear signature of water in the form of water vapour in its atmosphere. Additionally, there is evidence of haze

and clouds that previous studies of this exoplanet did not detect. With the first detection of water in the atmosphere of an exoplanet, Webb will now look for hundreds of similar systems in order to enable us to understand the composition of the atmospheres of exoplanets.

Carina Nebula

Webb's most striking image is of the Carina nebula, one of the largest and brightest nebulae in the sky some 7,600 lightyears from Earth. It is both a stellar nursery and home to some of the most luminous and explosive stars in the Milky Way. Seen in infrared, the nebula resembled a looming, eroded coastal cliff dotted with hundreds of stars that astronomers had never seen before.

Visible to the unaided eye, the Carina Nebula is the home of the Eta Carinae binary system, within which is a massive star – 250 times the solar mass – with a lifespan of less than 100,000 years, which is very short on a cosmic scale.

From 1838 to 1858, the star brightened to rival the light of Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, and then faded to a dim star. Since 1940 it has been brightening again, and scientists believe that the monstrous Eta Carinae will detonate in 10,000 to 20,000 years. It already underwent an outburst about 150 years ago, ejecting five solar masses of materials.

Webb's images of Carina Nebula showing cosmic precipices unveils the earliest rapid phases of star formation that were previously hidden. The images are teeming with brightly shining young stars, along with the remnants of supernova explosions marking the cataclysmic deaths of stars much more massive than the Sun.

Finally, looking further back in space and time than ever before, to within a few hundred million years from the moment the Universe exploded into being, Webb gifted us with a "ringside seat" to witness some mind-boggling events that are part of the history of the Universe. In the future, it will be able to reveal more unseen parts of our cosmos, and thereby, in the words of Joe Biden, will give us "a new window into the history of our universe."

Opinion

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CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Remove
5 Window-washing goof
11 Fairy-tale monster
12 Get incisors
13 Bullfight cries
14 Like llamas
15 Voicemail contents
17 Wheel part
18 Lab work
22 Easy wins
24 Glossy fabric
25 Luau instrument
26 Commotion
27 Wipe away
30 Star
32 Out of style
33 Firefighting tool

34 Embassy worker
38 In recent days
41 Folded food
42 Serve
43 Article
44 Comes in
45 Surrender

DOWN

1 Ruin
2 Lusty look
3 New target for a swindler
4 Come clean
5 Antlered animal
6 Principles
7 Sight from Yemen
8 Summer, in Paris
9 Cry of insight
10 Boxer Norton
16 Crunch targets
19 Standoff
20 Shore eroder
21 Elitist
22 Regretted
23 Gumbo base
28 Placid
29 Copy fixer
30 Baseball's Ripken
31 Strangely enticing
35 Corrals
36 Passed with ease
37 Big book
38 Have bills
39 Summer cooler
40 Set fire to

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

E	D	G	Y	U	N	L	I	K	E	
T	I	R	E	B	E	A	V	I	S	
A	V	O	W	O	E	A	L	E	T	S
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BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

BEE! START DIGGING!

HE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO LIFT THE LID

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

YOU FAILED A MATH QUIZ??

MOM, IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

THERE WERE TEN CORRECT ANSWERS, AND BILLIONS OF WRONG ONES.

WHAT DOES THAT H--

I WAS CLEARLY OUTNUMBERED

Shohidul saga a lesson for future athletes

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Shohidul Islam's 10-month suspension from all forms of cricket after the 27-year-old breached Section 2.1 of the ICC Anti-Doping Code should serve as a lesson to all young cricketers in the country when it comes to taking medicines, even for personal treatment.

On Thursday, the ICC briefed in a press release that Shohidul's urine sample was collected on March 4 and was found to contain the banned substance, Clomiphene. Shohidul did not intentionally consume the prohibited substance. It was prescribed by his doctor without the consent of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's medical team.

The question is why, despite yearly anti-doping programmes by the BCB, someone made the mistake and paid a heavy price? According to the BCB's chief physician Dr Debashish Chowdhury, it is a player's responsibility to stay vigilant about such serious issues to avoid any disaster.

"According to ICC guidelines, the BCB arranges anti-doping awareness crash courses once or twice a year. We conducted the course this year in February and we arrange it with the support of the Bangladesh Olympic Association every year. It is one of the ICC's conditions that all the member boards must meet. The question is how attentive are the ones that attend the programme. We do our work. But do the players listen? If they don't understand, they can ask us. Among a hundred players, I think a majority follow instructions. One or two players may have failed to comprehend the instructions properly."



Debashish told The Daily Star.

According to the veteran physician, it is important that doctors who hand out prescriptions for players be aware of banned substances.

"In Shohidul's case, he took the medicine as per the doctor's prescription. He thought that it was legal, legitimate because his doctor prescribed it. If the doctor knew that the drug was prohibited, I am sure the doctor would have not prescribed it. Who do you teach and make aware, the doctors or players? The second thing is since you are over 18, an adult. Anything found in your body is your responsibility," he added.

According to Debashish, the only thing to do was raise awareness. He added that there were no restrictions from the ICC in taking such medicines for therapeutic uses, but that the governing body would need to be informed and hand out an exemption.

"Awareness is important. Since Shohidul tested positive, the media is writing about this issue now. So the players will also be aware that if they take such medicines, they need to inform the board. There is no restriction in taking such drugs, but only if he informs first. This is called Therapeutic Use Exemption or TUE, which is given when a medicine is for therapeutic use and not for performance enhancement. At times there can be alternative medicines and if they inform us we can prescribe alternative drugs," Debashish added.

Man United continue red-hot form



Manchester United's Scott McTominay and Anthony Martial shake hands following their 4-1 win over Melbourne Victory at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday in their second pre-season match under new coach Erik ten Hag.

PHOTO: TWITTER

AFP, MELBOURNE

Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford got on the scoresheet as Manchester United rallied from a goal down to beat Melbourne Victory 4-1 Friday and hand manager Erik ten Hag his second win since taking over.

It followed their 4-0 thumping of Liverpool in Bangkok on Tuesday when Jadon Sancho, Fred, Martial and Facundo Pellistri were on target.

A well-organised Victory were no walkover and shocked the English giants in front of 74,000 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with a goal on the break in the fifth minute.

United clawed back with goals on the cusp of half-time from Scott McTominay and Martial before Rashford made it 3-1 with 12 minutes left and a Victory own goal capped the deserved win.

"It was good that we were able to recover," said Ten Hag. "It's pre-season and we wanted to see how the team reacts. We went 1-0 behind but we stayed composed and finally just before half-time we scored twice."

Testing bench strength likely in final ODI

SPORTS REPORTER

With the series already in the bag and no stakes in the ICC ODI Super League standings for this series, Bangladesh have the perfect opportunity to test their bench strength going into the third and final ODI against West Indies at the Providence Stadium in Guyana tonight.

Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal stressed the importance of assessing the depth of the squad after their convincing win in the second ODI last Wednesday, so much so that the left-hander said, if needed, he would rest himself to try out different combinations and test the squad depth.

With Tamim's eyes set on forming the best possible squad for the 50-over World Cup next year in India, today's game could be deemed as the perfect opportunity for trials. That being said, on a tour in which the Tigers have been battered in the preceding Test and T20I series, Bangladesh will also be desperate to wrap up the series with a win in the final game of the tour.

However, given how Bangladesh would want to extend their winning streak to 11 ODIs in a row against the Windies and also ensure a whitewash of the Caribbean side in the process, a wholesale change in the playing eleven is unlikely.

Anamul Haque, who was called into the national side after over six years on the back of excellent performance in the 50-over format in the latest domestic season, has been unlucky to have not gotten a nod in the first two ODIs. Captain

Tamim had preferred for Najmul Hossain Shanto instead in the first two matches, mentioning it would have been 'unfair' towards Shanto had he not been given a chance in the format.

But with a prospect of shuffling the playing eleven, Anamul could fancy his chances of starting the game. But that would require the team management to make a tough call, especially after Shanto had

management if they would want to make a few more tweaks in the lineup.

Apart from the prospect of making changes, one other thing the Tigers' think-tank might be considering before the third ODI is how their batting lineup is yet to face a challenge in this series. Bangladesh have had batting meltdowns in the Test and T20I series. And the fact the batting unit



gotten starts in the first two ODIs.

Meanwhile, the team management could also rest ace left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman - who only got a solitary wicket in the first two matches - to make room for Taskin Ahmed, who was dropped after the first ODI, back in the eleven.

Spinner Taijul Islam and Ebadot Hossain are the two other available options for the Tigers' team

have not yet been truly tested in the ODI series, given that Bangladesh were set feeble targets in both ODIs so far, will definitely play a role in the team management's mind while setting the playing eleven.

While Bangladesh will be pondering over potential changes and combinations for the game, West Indies will be desperate to bounce back and avoid a whitewash in their own backyard.



MSC up to fifth

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan SC shrugged off some scares to notch up a rather simple 3-0 win over Uttar Baridhara Club in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Shaheed Dhirendhranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday.

The Black and Whites, who played out a creditable 1-1 draw against league leaders Bashundhara Kings in their previous game, jumped to fifth position in the 12-team table after 19 outings with 29 points, the same amount as Bangladesh Police, who drew against Rahmatganj MFS in Rajshahi. Rahmatganj are ninth in the league with 15 points from 19 matches.

Following their 12 defeats from 19 matches, Uttar Baridhara remain in 10th place with 13 points from 19 matches, just one point ahead of Muktijoddha Sangsad, who stayed in the relegation zone after playing out a goalless draw against Sheikh Russel KC.

In Cumilla, Uttar Baridhara Club dominated in the first half, with Egyptian midfielder Mostafa Mahmoud Kahraba rattling the far post. Mohammedan got their opening goal as Youssouf Bamba conceded an own goal while trying to thwart an attempt from Obi Moneke in the dying stages of the first half.

Mohammedan grabbed the lead in the 70th minute when their Malian captain Souleymane Diabate headed a Shabriar Emon cross home. Obi Moneke ensured the result with a low left-footed shot from outside the box in stoppage time.



Pakistan's pace sensation Shaheen Shah Afridi (R) trains with a football as his teammates look on during a practice session ahead of their first Test against Sri Lanka, which begins at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

First Lanka-Pak Test starts today

AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka's Dhananjaya de Silva will return to the team after recovering from Covid-19, skipper Dimuth Karunaratne said Friday ahead of the first Test against Pakistan.

The two-match series starts Saturday in Galle. The hosts will be bolstered by the return of de Silva, a batting all-rounder who was one of four players to get the virus before and during the second Test against Australia.

Pakistan, led by Babar Azam, boast a dangerous bowling attack led by ace quick Shaheen Shah Afridi and have brought back veteran spinner Yasir Shah on tracks that are expected to spin.

Crucial World Test Championship points will be on offer in the series, with Sri Lanka moving to third place after the Australia win and Pakistan at four in the current table.



Tunisian Order of Merit for Jabeur

AFP, Tunis

Tennis trailblazer Ons Jabeur, who became the first African woman to reach a Grand Slam singles final, was honoured by Tunisian President Kais Saied on Thursday for "her remarkable sporting successes".

The 27-year-old Jabeur, defeated in the Wimbledon final by Russian-born Elena Rybakina last weekend, was awarded the country's Great Medal of the National Order of Merit.

Saied hailed Jabeur for raising "high the country's flag in international sporting events" and described her as "the ambassador of Tunisia".

"Congratulations for this success and future successes."

Jabeur, nicknamed "Minister of Happiness" by fans in Tunisia, said she hoped to inspire other Arab and African players to succeed at tennis.

"We want to give more hope to the young people who watch us. We hope to continue this momentum. We are proud to be Tunisians and we will continue with this success story," she said.



The history of the bow and arrow is the history of mankind.
FRED BEAR, American bowhunter.



Aiming for the bullseye

“James Easton was the one who encouraged me to start the federation and he was the one who advised me to bring educated boys and girls to this sport,” Bangladesh Archery Federation’s general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapol recalled with admiration towards the American sports organiser.

ATIQUE ANAM

There are around 50-odd sporting federations in Bangladesh, some of which have already existed for over five decades. Apart from cricket, football, hockey, shooting and chess, most of the federations suffer from a lack of spotlight due to a lack of activities and interest from sponsors.

Archery, in this regard, can be an example for smaller federations to follow. It is a relatively young federation and the sport is not a widely popular one in the country, yet the federation has managed to hog the spotlight in recent times due to its aggressive publicity matched by the performance of its athletes in the international arena. Not many sports federations in Bangladesh can boast the number of world-class achievements that archery has managed after coming into existence around two decades ago.

The sport has given us only the second athlete to earn a qualification into the Summer Olympics and has fetched us gold and silver in events such as the World Cup, the Asia Cup and the Grand Prix. Bangladesh Archery Federation’s general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapol, the man credited with taking this sport from obscurity to the position of a frontrunner in sporting achievements, proudly says that their success is an example to follow for others.

“On different platforms, the World Archery Federation says, ‘if you want rapid improvement in this sport, follow Bangladesh’. Bangladesh is regarded as a role model in archery,” Chapol claimed while talking to The Daily Star.

The sport took nascent steps, according

to Chapol, when former president of World Archery, James Easton, visited Bangladesh in 2002 following a meeting with him two years earlier during the Sydney Olympic Games.

While the initial idea was to focus on the young population of indigenous communities who have better physical ability and have some historical association with bows and arrows, the federation realised, upon insistence of Easton, that young people from all over the country, especially the ones going to schools and colleges, needed to be involved to get positive results.

“James Easton was the one who encouraged me to start the federation and he was the one who advised me to bring educated boys and girls into this sport,” Chapol recalled with admiration towards the American sports organiser.

The talent hunt programmes were widened across the country, finding and grooming raw talents who later earned accolades in regional and global events.

Emdadul Haque Milon, Ruman Sana, Iti Akter, Diya Siddique, Shyamoly Roy, and Ram Krishna Saha are a few names who have made Bangladesh proud on the global archery scene. There are more than 200 registered archers in the country and more than 40 teams take part in national competitions.

Chapol, though, feels that they are focusing more on quality than quantity.

“We stress on quality, not quantity,” the veteran sports organiser said. “Going for medals [in Olympics] is one thing, building a base is another. We are working to build a strong base for archery.”

While the base was built with the support

and encouragement of World Archery and Archery Asia, the continuation of the process of training players round the year and taking them to international events regularly needed financial support. And that support came in the form of City Group.

The conglomerate has been with the archery federation for five years now, taking care of the federation’s expenditures in organising training, national events and international assignments. A rarity in Bangladesh’s sports sponsorship culture, Chapol hopes City Group’s association with the federation will continue for long.

“That archery has gone to a world level has been possible due to the support of City Group,” Chapol said. “Teer (bow) is the symbol of our sport and Teer is also a brand of City Group. So these two symbols aligned and created good things and will continue to create good things in future.”

What the long-term sponsorship has done, among other things, is help the federation stick to a world-class coach in Martin Fredrick, who by now, has made Bangladesh his home and regards the archers as his children.

The German has led the team to a number of successes in international arena and given proper planning and support, more success should be on the way. There have been downs alongside the ups in the sport, but the trajectory taken by Bangladesh archery over the past decade has been one on the up.

With the base firmly in place and financial support ensured, the day shouldn’t be too far off when archery’s ultimate dream, that of winning a medal on the biggest platform of all – the Olympics – comes true.

‘Bangladesh counts only medals but little steps are important’

Since his arrival in 2018 as the national coach of the Bangladesh archery team, Martin Fredrick has led the country to great heights at the continental level. The German coach, whose five-year contract is on the verge of ending, shared his experience of working in Bangladesh and mentioned some critical issues which need to be addressed while talking with The Daily Star’s Ashfaq Ul Mushfiq. The excerpts of the interview are below:

The Daily Star (DS): What was your initial impression of archery here and how is it today?
Martin Fredrick (MF): I felt the impressive potential of archery here in Bangladesh and a strong will to do well from the national team and federation in general. While looking back today, we can see us going forward, improving and producing proud positions on the podium here in the region, in Asia and making some visible connection to the world results.

DS: What were the key things that helped to bring such changes?

MF: For me, in working as a national coach I try



to approach the task much wider to improve the network; to make better structures, for example. One key thing is planning well, not just somehow managing the moment.

DS: Archer Ruman Sana mentioned how things improved drastically after you arrived in Bangladesh. He credits you for most of the country’s success in archery.
MF: Yeah, it’s a nice compliment and valuable feedback for the joint work that we have done.

DS: Despite great success at the Asian level, why do our archers fail to progress past the elimination stages in the world championships?

MF: You are right and I don’t close my eyes to it. Archery is developing rapidly in the world and we have to keep up but that takes time. We need to continue to gain experience and compete in high-level international competitions. However, we cannot overlook the little steps, what we did. Yes, Bangladesh counts only medals. That is important, of course, that’s what we are aiming for. But for me, again, the little steps are important.

DS: Ruman Sana and Dia Siddique are the faces of Bangladesh’s archery. But who is next in the pipeline and who could carry their legacy?

MF: At the moment I see we have, more or less, a good pipeline, especially from BKSP. I think there is a healthy mix of established archers and young aspiring players. And if you talk about legacy, Dia [Siddique] is just 18 and she is at the beginning of her career. I expect Dia to complete at least 10 more years.

DS: Despite the significant improvement, what areas which ‘if fixed’ can take Bangladesh to a higher level?

MF: The improvements are the result of good teamwork. Teamwork means working together with institutions such as the federation, the executive board, our president and secretary general, government, BOA [Bangladesh Olympic Association], the organisations, clubs, regions and last but not the least, with the absolute, valuable support from our sponsor City Group.

Let me give you some bullet points [regarding archery’s growth]. We need more players, more organisations, clubs and more movement in archery, maybe in schools or whatever.

Another point is the coach’s situation in the country. We do not have the national structure still or coaching certification structure we need at the moment. We have an international coaching course and while it’s good we have some initiative but still, at the moment, I’m not so happy with the situation. We need a national license certification system for coaches.

Again, we need efficient scouting, promotion and development of talents. Then some athletes are husbands or wives so how we can help them manage the family and job is important. As I mentioned in the beginning, good planning and deep thinking is the key.

Unbowed Ruman keeps eyes locked on the prize

Ruman Sana, Bangladesh’s second athlete to directly qualify for the Olympic Games, has been involved with archery for the past 14 years and brought a lot of laurels to the nation. The 27-year-old archer talked to The Daily Star’s Anisur Rahman about his career and as well as the future of Bangladesh archery. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): Following Archery World Cup, how was the preparation for next month’s Islamic Solidarity Games?
Ruman Sana (RS): Bangladesh archers recently featured in five international tournaments. However, we participated in those tournaments to prepare for the Asian Games and Islamic Solidarity Games though Asian Games were postponed. We are also confident to play the finals in a few events.

DS: What are the reasons behind your inconsistency since your best-ever performance in the Tokyo Olympics qualifiers in 2019?

RS: Ever since I suffered shoulder injuries before the Tokyo Olympics, I can only take 70 percent of load. Currently, the bow I use is three pounds less than the previous one.

Secondly, I was accustomed to the extra practice after the regular session and threw nearly 350 arrows. I benefited from that extra practice in international meets but now if I take that load, I feel pain in my shoulder and thus perform only regular sessions to keep my career alive.

DS: Are your current scores good enough to bag gold in big stages?

RS: Of course, it’s possible to win medals in big stages since it’s hard to predict who is going to win a medal. The man, who won silver in the Tokyo Olympics, scored one point more than me in the

qualification round. In the Archery World Cup (stage 3) in Paris – I scored 670, which is a world-class score – and finished 21 in the qualification. I think if I can maintain such a score, then it is possible to win a medal. However, luck is an important factor.

DS: As you enter the 15th year of your career, how do you contemplate your decision to venture into archery?

RS: I think it was the right decision though it was initially not my decision; almighty Allah took me to archery. When my school teacher asked to join an archery camp in 2008, I skipped joining the camp on the first day because I didn’t know the meaning of archery. On the second day, I joined the camp and saw it is bow and arrow which I used to play before.

DS: How long do you wish to prolong your career?

RS: I desire to play in the 2028 Olympic Games though everything depends on

the situation. One day I will have to leave the national team but I want to represent Bangladesh Ansar in the domestic circuit for as long as possible.

DS: In Bangladesh archery, your name comes first. How do you react to it?

RS: Sometimes I can’t believe it and often think, is it really me? I was really overwhelmed time and again to receive honour in different programmes.

DS: You have once been worried over your post-archery career. What is your current state?


RS: Now, I have no tension with post-archery career but other archers still have apprehension though. I’m now doing a job as a soldier of Bangladesh Ansar but everyone is not like me.

DS: Why other promising archers have not been able to perform as expected at international level?

RS: I think they will perform and we have to be patient. Also, the authorities concerned have to take care of the promising archers a bit more.



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Heatwave may continue for few more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing heatwave in the country is expected to continue for a few more days.

Sylhet experienced its hottest day in the last 66 years. Sylhet's temperature was recorded at 38.9 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

"Such a high temperature was last recorded in the district in July, 1956," said Sayeed Ahmad Chowdhury, a senior meteorologist with the Sylhet met office.

"The temperature was 36.3 degrees on Tuesday while it was 37.3 degrees the following day."

The capital experienced a slight drizzle yesterday while the residents of Chattogram, Mymensingh, and Barisal were relieved by rainfall, said the met department in its bulletin yesterday.

Meanwhile, mild to moderate heatwaves prevailing in Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Sylhet divisions and the districts Dhaka, Tangail, Rangamati, Cumilla, Chandpur, Feni, and Chuadanga may continue.

The highest temperature in the country was recorded in Rajshahi at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



As many Eid holidaymakers are yet to return to the capital, public places are less crowded. With customers sparse, three children are seen trying to sell burflower to one couple at TSC of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

19 Bangladeshis pass away in hajj pilgrimage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 19 Bangladeshi pilgrims have so far died in Saudi Arabia this hajj season, according to the website of Religious Affairs Ministry.

It said between July 4 and July 14, seven Bangladeshis died.

The names of the seven are: Mustafiqur Rahman, 61, from Tangail, Azizul Haque, 65, from Kushtia, Shahjahan Siraj, 58, from Chapainawabganj, Foyzur Rahman, 50, from Sylhet, Sirina Akhter, 60, from Brahmanbaria, Abdul Mottalib, 58, from Naogaon, Rafiqul Islam, 52, from Naogaon.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims have started returning to the country with the maiden post-hajj flight of Biman arriving in Dhaka Thursday night with 416 pilgrims.

Ten more flights of Biman, Saudia and Flynas were scheduled to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) last night.

Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh accompanied by top officials of HSIA, Biman and representatives of religious affairs ministry welcomed the pilgrims at the airport.

The post-hajj flights will continue until August 6, said Tahera Khondoker, general manager (public relations) at Biman.

A total of 60,146 Bangladeshi pilgrims went to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

2 univ students die as car, bus collide

Eight more killed on roads across country

STAR REPORT

Two students of East West University were killed in a road accident in Narayanganj yesterday when the driver of their car lost control, causing the vehicle to veer into the wrong lane and collide head on with a bus.

They were among 10 killed in four road crashes in four districts on the day. Ten others, including a three-year-old girl who was riding pillion with two others on a motorcycle, were injured in the incidents.

The students killed in the Narayanganj road crash were identified as Mahima Rahman and Rahat Mahmud, both 22 years old.

Police said five students were heading towards Narayanganj's Panam Nagar area on a car. Its driver lost control when they reached Sonargaon upazila around 11:00am.

All five students were injured when their vehicle collided with the bus, said Nobir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kanchpur Highway Police Station.

Locals rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Mahima died of her injuries in the afternoon, said the hospital's doctors.

Contacted, the university's Registrar Mushfiqur Rahman said Rahat also died of his wounds around 3:00pm at the Trauma Centre in the capital, and his namaz-e-janaza was held after Esha prayers yesterday.

Early in the morning on the Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila, a pickup driver and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

88pc female migrants get no job contracts

Finds study by Okup

JAMIL MAHMUD

Parul Begum (name changed), a single mother of two, thought she caught a break when she got the offer to work as domestic help in Qatar for a monthly salary of Tk 40,000.

In May 2017, she set off for Qatar – without a job contract and just a verbal promise from her recruiter and employer.

But a rude awakening awaited the 42-year-old female migrant from Munshiganj in Qatar: her employer barely gave her any food and ordered her to work in another house as well.

This compelled her to quit in a month and return home at her own expense – and without her wage for the month.

Parul is not alone; many impressionable migrant workers like her in Bangladesh went through a similar nightmare, finds a report titled "Access to Justice for Bangladeshi Migrant Workers: Opportunities and Challenges" by Oviyashi Karmi Unnayan Program (Okup).

Between 1991 and May this year, about 10.5 lakh female

workers migrated to different countries, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

The community-based migrant workers' organisation conducted a field-level survey last year on 262 female migrants for the report.

The majority of the survey respondents migrated between 2015 and 2019 and returned home between 2018 and 2019.

About 88 percent of the female migrant workers were not provided with a written job contract. They were briefed on the employer, job responsibilities, wages and benefits through informal discussions.

Nearly 45 percent of the returnee women said they had not received the same amount of wage and benefits that they were promised by the agents or sub-agents, the report said.

Just a handful of the women interviewed knew what a job contract was.

Among those who had a written job contract before migration, about 47 percent received the document a few hours before their flights.

Without a written job contract,

migrant workers lose their bargaining capacity and self-protection, said Rahnuma Salam Khan, a government official who worked as the national programme officer at ILO Bangladesh's migration office.

"It's like a lifeline," she said, adding that if the contract is in the possession of someone else the migrant worker may face "forced labour".

Also, if a legal issue emerges, it will be difficult for the migrant to make a move without the document, she said, while urging migrant workers to gather ample knowledge about issues regarding their migration.

Recruitment agencies and their representatives such as sub-agents or intermediaries are supposed to ensure that migrant workers have a written job contract, said Shakirul Islam, chairperson of Okup and also the lead researcher of the study.

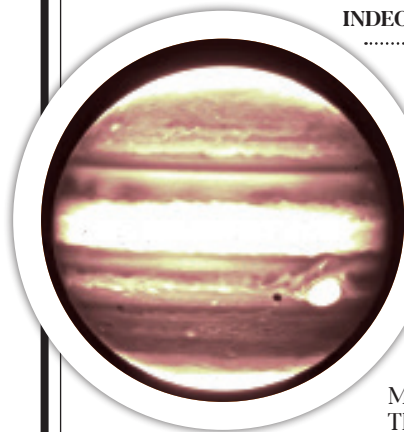
"But they do not. Migrants mostly remain in the dark about the job contract," he added.

The government's 2007 policy for "sending female domestic

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Webb Telescope captures Jupiter, Europa

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Nasa has released the first James Webb Space Telescope images from our own Solar System, capturing the gas giant Jupiter glowing in infrared light.

Also visible are Jupiter's moons Europa, Thebe and Metis.

The images, posted Thursday evening on a Nasa

blog, are not as highly processed as the five images of distant galaxies and nebulae the space agency shared with the public on Tuesday.

Instead, the Jovian images come from data collected during Webb's commissioning phase during the spring, when operators pointed the telescope at different objects to make sure everything was working properly.

Nevertheless, the images give an indication of the wide range of science Webb can pursue, studying not only distant galaxies, but planets in our own cosmic backyard. And despite coming before official science observations of Jupiter, scientists said the image is striking in its clarity and resolution.

"I couldn't believe that we saw everything so clearly, and how bright they were," Stefanie Milam, Webb's deputy project scientist for planetary

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

UK TORY LEADERSHIP RACE

PM hopefuls to face off in TV debate

REUTERS, London

The five remaining contenders to be Britain's next prime minister were set to go head to head in the first of three televised debates yesterday, hoping a good performance will boost their chances in a battle that so far has no clear frontrunner.

An initial field of 11 challengers has been whittled down following two days of votes by lawmakers from the ruling Conservative Party, but no individual has yet emerged as the obvious successor to Boris Johnson who announced he was stepping down following a series of scandals.

While ex-finance minister Rishi Sunak has topped those two votes, he faces stiff competition from foreign minister Liz Truss, who has the backing of a number of senior figures, and junior trade minister Penny Mordaunt, who polls suggest is the most popular with party members who will decide the winner.

Former equalities minister Kemi Badenoch and Tom Tugendhat, chair of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, also remain in the running and will hope that a strong showing in the televised debates will inject momentum into their campaigns.

"Tonight is the big event because what this is actually about is not just Conservative members, as important

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Vehicular movement on Bangabandhu Bridge's east approach road in Tangail has been almost standstill yesterday due to heavy traffic and a truck flipping over. People returning to Dhaka after Eid holidays waited hours in the heat. The photograph was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

13km tailback on approach road for Bangabandhu Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Thousands of people suffered for hours under the scorching sun in tailbacks on Bangabandhu Bridge approach road at Elenga of Tangail yesterday.

A minor crash in the morning and a bus breaking down in the afternoon made the situation much worse, especially since there was a rush of vehicles heading towards Dhaka from the northern districts.

Many people were returning to the capital yesterday after Eid holidays.

Around 10:00am a tire blowout caused a truck to turn upside down almost blocking the road in Analiabari area, police said.

It took the authorities one and a half hours to restore traffic movement by removing the vehicle from the road, said Ataur Rahman, in-charge of Elenga Highway Police Outpost.

A bus went out of order on the road later in the day, causing the tailback to reach miles.

At the beginning of the Eid vacation, people going to their hometowns suffered for hours in tailbacks on the same road.



PHOTOS: SHEKH NASIR

Nature's revenge

Flood got furious this time as waterbodies filled up for years

“While analysing satellite images, we found that in 1988, there were waterbodies across around 3,100 sq km in the dry season but the area was only 399 sq km in 2020,” said Refat.

PINAKI ROY, DWOHA CHOWDHURY AND MINTU DESHWARA

For around a month now, all four districts in the Sylhet division have been enduring floods with the water receding slowly from many areas and thousands left to suffer.

About 45 thousand people in the division are still in 662 shelter centres as of Wednesday, and the Eid, needless to say, brought no joy for them.

“My home is still submerged and I am living in the shelter centre with my family. For weeks, I have got no work and don't know how to repair my damaged home. Our Eid joy has been washed away by the floodwater,” said Abdur Noor of Jabda village in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

Strong currents of floodwater have damaged around 1 lakh houses while more than 63 lakh people are affected and still in distress.

Rozina Begum, of Bashkala village in

recording heavy rainfalls, the highest in over 100 years,” said Prof AKM Saiful Islam of Institute of Water and Flood Management at Buet.

Major rivers and their tributaries in Bangladesh have no capacity to contain such a huge volume of rainwater, which caused massive flooding in north-eastern and northern regions of the country, he added.

Experts observed that the only exit point for the floodwater, the Meghna river at Bhairab, also lacks the capacity to allow such a huge volume of floodwater to pass.

Dr Ainun Nishat, professor emeritus at Brac University, said, “The water flow of the Surma is obstructed near Bhairab, where the river is called the Kalni. For the last few years, even vessels cannot operate in the river during the lean period.”

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said the construction of three bridges have created a

Dr Adil Mohammed Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Planners said, “The flood took a serious turn during this monsoon as the water retaining capacity of the haor region has been reduced significantly.”

Recently Dr Adil presented a study report at a seminar that reveals most of the water bodies in 373 haors -- which used to have water in dry season -- got filled up due to natural causes or human activities.

Based on satellite images, the study found that the haor area lost almost 40 percent of dry season wetlands from 1988 to 2006. The rate of changing wetland into built up areas was even faster and filling up of some waterbodies reached up to 87 percent by 2020.

Two Buet graduates, Injamumul Haque Refat and Maria Mehrin, conducted the study on land cover changes in haors of Bangladesh analysing satellite images taken in 1988, 1994, 2000, 2006, 2013 and 2020 of 373 haors.

“While analysing satellite images, we found that in 1988, there were waterbodies across around 3,100 sq km in the dry season but the area was only 399 sq km in 2020,” said Refat.

“We have found different concrete structures including roads, houses and other establishments in those areas,” he added.

What locals say also supports their findings.

Kawsar Ahmed, a boatman of Bashtala village in Chhatak, said, “They constructed a road to connect Chhatak and Dowarabazar upazilas right through the haor. It was awaiting inauguration but the floodwater washed away it in several places.”

Meanwhile, the landslides on open-cast mines and the razing of hillocks in India's Meghalaya led to filling up of rivers, creeks and haors.

For example, Pochashol Beel of Tangaur Haor in Sunamganj has been filled up in recent years due to the landslides in the Meghalaya hills, locals claimed.

In the last year alone, at least 400 acres of land, mostly farmland, has been covered with sand, said bordering locals of Tahirpur upazila in Sunamganj.

Indigenous rights leader Andrew Sholomar, a resident of Rajai village in the upazila, said: “Visiting the hills in Meghalaya, I saw mining of stone, limestone and coal going on, causing landslides there.”

Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said, “As a result of the mining in Meghalaya, the ecosystem of haor is being severely impacted. Even the uranium mining there is also affecting the haors. This must be stopped through bilateral talks.”

“Moreover,” he added, “a modern framework is necessary to manage all the transboundary rivers of Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins when the Joint Rivers Commission is failing.”

Sunamganj's Chhatak, said, “The flood washed away my home, and now I am living on a culvert with my family. We cannot afford to rebuild it and don't know how to return to the life we had before.”

But why did such a devastating flood strike the region?

“We have seen both Bangladesh and upstream states of Meghalaya and Assam and western Himalayan regions of India

bottleneck at Bhairab. “So, the water coming down from upstream is receding slowly.”

The entire haor region is comprised of 373 haors spreading across 8,58,460 hectares of area, or 8,584.6 sq km, in seven districts -- Sunamganj, Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Netrokona, Kishoreganj and Brahmanbaria.

Vast stretches of haor area remain submerged for roughly 6-7 months of the year during the monsoon.



PHOTO: AFP

‘Haors are no longer haors’

Says environmentalist Sharif Jamil in an interview with The Daily Star

Q. What is happening to our haors (the vast wetlands in the country's north-eastern region) and how has that impacted the flood situation?

A. Haors are no longer haors. While visiting the areas, you will see many embankments, crop protection dykes and roads that have been constructed. But nowhere, the water-based networks of the haors have been considered.

As a result, many small rivers have died, and there are no links between small rivers and big rivers in many places. Thirteen thousand kilometres of roads have been constructed in Sylhet and Sunamganj where the LGED [Local Government Engineering Department] did not



maintain hydrology. Now most of them [the roads] are damaged, and some are obstructing the floodwater [from receding].

Q. What else causes the slow receding of floodwater?

A. Another important factor is that all the water goes to the Meghna, but the construction of three bridges at Bhairab created a bottleneck. So, the water coming down from upstream is receding slowly.

Q. Many condemn the filling up of rivers as a key reason behind the flood situation and demand their dredging. What is happening with the rivers of the upper Meghna basin?

A. If the natural flow of water continues in the river, it will eventually dredge itself. But that's

If the natural flow of water continues in the river, it will eventually dredge itself. But that's the problem with 46 transboundary rivers and creeks from India. All these rivers and creeks have narrowed down after entering Bangladesh while it was supposed to be otherwise. This is because India built barrages or implemented hydraulic projects on almost all rivers upstream.

the problem with 46 transboundary rivers and creeks from India. All these rivers and creeks have narrowed down after entering Bangladesh while it was supposed to be otherwise. This is because India built barrages or implemented hydraulic projects on almost all rivers upstream.

As a result, these waterbodies no longer have regular flows, resulting in siltation, and in the absence of water, parts of rivers are being encroached amid poor monitoring.

Q. We have a Joint Rivers Commission with India. How are they failing?

A. The Joint Rivers Commission barely sits in meetings while they are obliged to hold a meeting twice a year. Moreover, these meetings bring no fruitful results anyway due to the lack of proper study and willingness.

The Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna -- all these rivers flow to the Bay of Bengal. Like the Nile or the Rhine rivers, these rivers must be managed together by all five countries concerned. A modern and new framework is needed now.

Q. How important is it to have a proper management approach for haors?

A. Haors are formed as a result of tectonic depression, so the water flows down from the upstream fast and then finds no way to be carried away down to the Meghna basin.

The problem will never go away until we change our attitude towards haor management. We just consider paddy as the only cash crop, while aquatic resources are not being considered.

As many people's livelihood depends on the development initiatives and many villages developed in the process, an overnight change is not possible.

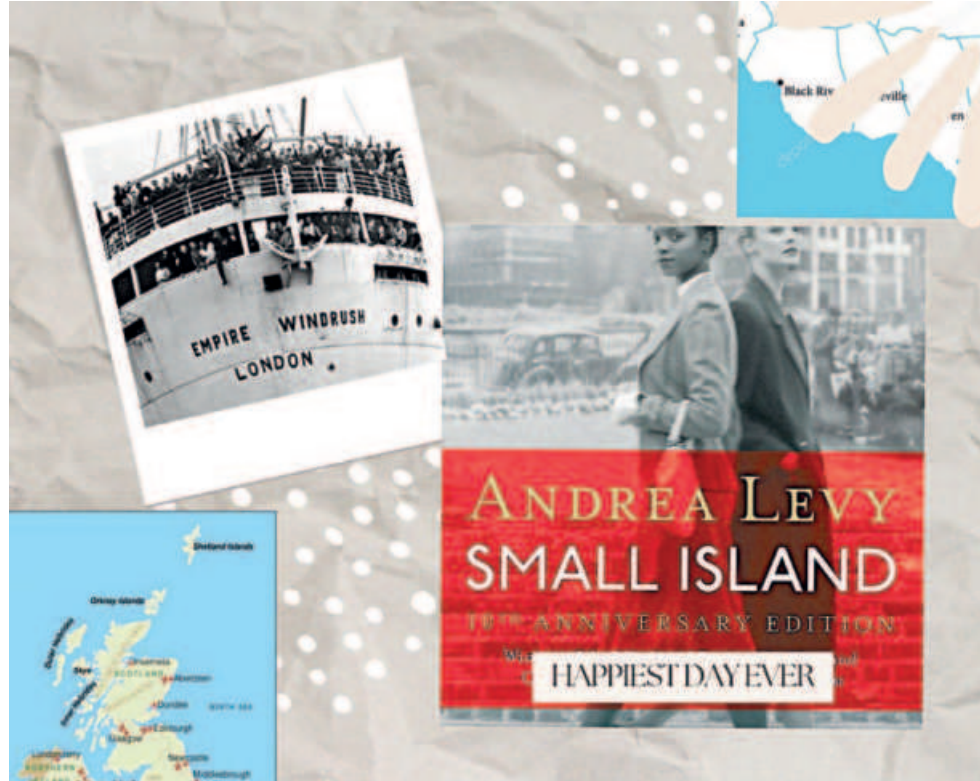
A combined plan is necessary that will implement changes gradually through proper planning.

Ultimately, we must come out of the commercial approach and adopt a free-flowing ecological approach.

[Interviewed by Dwoha Chowdhury]

Andrea Levy's *Small Island*: Racial Conflict in Postwar Britain and a Commentary on Our World

The speech is quite impressive, but falls flat as Bernard fails to understand one word of it due of Guilbert's accent. The incident also suggests that there is still no common platform from which both the black and white people can address each other. Even the language, even when it is English, is different. At the end of *A Passage to India*, the peace offering had come from a white man, "Why can't we be friends now? It's what I want. It's what you want." But friendship can only happen between people with equal standing, not between races that have been in the relationship of master and slave for centuries.



SOHANA MANZOOR

A daughter of immigrant parents, Andrea Levy wrote mostly on the struggles of Jamaican immigrants in England. Critically acclaimed *Small Island* (2004) is one of her best-known books and it attempts to visualize the days before, during, and after the Second World War. The problems explored here are in many ways also relatable to the conflicts taking over the world today. Levy weaves her story through two couples, one black and the other white, and delivers a complex tale of racial conflicts and the emergence of a new world.

The events of *Small Island* are propelled by the Nationality Act of 1948. After the Great War, facing a tremendous crisis in the work force, the British Government passed the Act which welcomed people from the colonies as British citizens. The Caribbean Islands saw many of its children migrating to the British Isles. Aldwyn "Lord Kitchener" Roberts, a Trinidadian and former nightclub vocalist was a leading immigrant who had joined the Windrush, even composed a song capturing the spirit of migration:

London is the place for me
London, this lovely city
You can go to France or America
India, Asia or Australia
But you must come back to London city.

Levy and Hortense are a couple who left Jamaica to start a new life in England. With her lighter coloured skin and the certificate of a school teacher, Hortense had hoped to fare better than the average immigrant. But she is totally crushed when the interviewers simply reject her credentials by saying, "You're not qualified to teach here in England." She realizes that like all other immigrants, to make a living she has to rely on her skills of sewing and baking.

When Gilbert had joined the army, he was promised that he would achieve greatness beyond expectation by being able to become a wireless operator, or an air-gunner, or flight engineer. But in reality, he was forced to become a mere driver. Almost all the black people during the War were employed as common labor. The popular war-time movies display this discrimination by putting the white hero in the foreground, the black figure visible only when it is necessary to glorify the British, or American whiteness against the Nazis or communism.

Little wonder that color becomes the biggest problem for them. On the streets, they are greeted with comments like, "Oi,

darkie, show us yer tail!" Moreover, Guilbert and many others like him hear in silence the ignorant comments of the British who use sugar, drink tea, but have not the slightest idea where Jamaica or Ceylon might be. The inhabitants of the British colonies are taught everything about England, but when they expect the tiniest gesture of interest or acknowledgement from the so-called mother-country, they are snubbed.

That brings us to the historically famous British Empire Exhibition that Queenie, as a little girl, visits in the first chapter of *Small Island*. The great Exhibition was an endeavor on part of the British Government right after the First World War to showcase the British Empire. Queenie's father introduced her to it as: "See here, Queenie. Look around. You've got the whole world at your feet, lass." Then Queenie reports her encounter with the African man who surprised her and her companions by speaking clear English. Most of the British people of the time expected the people from Africa to understand only the language of drums, squat in the woods instead of using proper latrines, and devoid of all civilized behavior. Little Queenie, therefore, is disturbed with her meeting of this African man who acted more civilly than his British counterparts.

Queenie's attitude toward the colonized goes under considerable change during the War when she faces it alone in the absence of her husband Bernard. She also develops a brief romantic relationship with the airman Michael Roberts, a young airman from Jamaica. When Guilbert and Hortense come to live in her house as boarders, she is already close to giving birth to Michael's child. Her relationship with him is also historically significant. While stationed in Britain, many black soldiers developed relations with white women, most of which didn't survive the war.

Queenie's husband Bernard Bligh is a very traditional middle-class Englishman who joined the Second World War being pressurized by his peers. Even though in many respects he is a man of principle, he is also too uptight. Brought up to believe that the British are the most civilized and best among nations, his comments over the natives of India are quite racist. He is fastidious about his routine life and hence unwilling to adjust.

However, the birth of Queenie's son dramatically transforms the world for all of them. Queenie confesses to her husband about her affair, and strangely enough, a

change comes over Bernard. He actually grows attached to the baby, and sings to it while his wife sleeps. He even offers to keep the child with them and rear him as their own. This gesture on Bernard's part redeems him, but Queenie is the one to reject his solution. The actual birth of the child makes her realize some basic truths about life. She asks Hortense and Guilbert to take her child and bring it up away from the scrutiny of the white gaze.

"Identity is an invention," says Hall in "Minimal Selves." Identity for him "is formed at the unstable point where the 'unspeakable' stories of subjectivity meet the narrative of history of a culture." By the end of *Small Island* not only little Michael gets an identity, but all the four characters virtually shift their identities in different ways. For Hortense and Guilbert, the change is most drastic as from being simply Jamaicans they become "black British," a term with a number of connotations of which they had no conception at all.

Even though *Small Island* ends on a kind of reconciliatory note as Hortense and Gilbert leave with Queenie's colored child, it is still far from a compromise. In their last verbal battle, Guilbert yells at Bernard:

"You know what your trouble is man? Your white skin. You think it makes you better than me. You think it gives you right to lord it over a black man. But you know what it make you? It make you white. . . . No better, no worse than me—just white."

The speech is quite impressive, but falls flat as Bernard fails to understand one word of it due of Guilbert's accent. The incident also suggests that there is still no common platform from which both the black and

University of Dhaka: A tale of two eras

ANJUMAN ARA

1921
I was rooted in foot
amid visibly green grasslands of Bengal
Holding the souls in person
amateurs, experts,
admirers, critics,
curious, anxious,
Bengali, non Bengali,
in my Dhakai landscape.

2021
I walked online
soaring in the cosy clouds of Zoom
Boarding the spirits on screen
experienced, novice,
confused, confident,
dislocated, distressed,
visible, invisible,
on my virtual platforms.

We had to rise through chaos and conflicts
Beating off doubts and worries.
We ventured to wander
and cultivate our raw minds of wonder;
We had to embark on the new
with little logistics and materials,
to meet the unlimited wants,
demands, worries and queries of Bengal,
to build new dreams, desires and destinations for Bengal.



white people can address each other. Even the language, even when it is English, is different. At the end of *A Passage to India*, the peace offering had come from a white man, "Why can't we be friends now? It's what I want. It's what you want." But friendship can only happen between people with equal standing, not between races that have been in the relationship of master and slave for centuries. There might be many individual good people in both cultures and societies, but the racial tension that is disrupting the world today, has a tremendously complex history and there is no way it can simply dissolve.

Sohana Manzoor is Associate Professor, Department of English & Humanities, ULAB. She is also the Literary Editor of The Daily Star.

Mr. Smith, if only you saw,
how we were guided by an "invisible hand", as you said,
of an unexplored supply of limited resources
against an increasing demand of an unyielding time,
Only to invest our tiny assets for a bigger gain -
'Late', they say! 'But better late than never'!
We built on crises - physical, mental, psychological, educational,
national, local,
and, of course, financial.
1921
Donated lands by generous hands,
Aspiring intellects born in local lands,
Hired academics from foreign fields,
Wondering students, though very few,
Crossing boundaries, barriers, not anew,
Only to lead us through agonies
And bring in glories,
local, marginal,
national and international, joined to create histories

2021
Chased through panting lanes
by insolent COVID-19,
Dislocating our folks to remote realms,
Only to stumble at exclusive data pack,
And fall off to unaffordable devices,
The tech savvy novice wizards
with advanced skills,
The experienced minds
with refined thoughts, rejoined to create histories

Great minds walked through 1921 and 2021
For a century of great glories
Awaiting further wonders in further decades

Anjuman Ara is Assistant Professor at the Department of English, University of Dhaka. She is interested in exploring identity formation and identity crisis in fiction and non-fiction.

A Crypto Question

BY MOZAMMEL HAQUE RANJU

I want to know how you gulp down
An entire bottle of tranquil 'love'
In this sterile, abhorrent time!

You play shoddy game with words!
In an instant haste -
You produce opaque poetry
Using paltry nuances and metaphors.

Ah, love is not safe in your hand!
It's just a commotion -
An erotic surge
Of your surrogate twisted mind.
You brew mundane words
Into rhyme and rhythm -
You craft love as a mere carnal thing
In masterly charm.

An ill-fated maestro that you are,
Your mesogenic soul beseeches a reprieve
From medieval diaspora of

pathogenic love.
Your forlorn manic mind
And your irate brain
Fail to determine the very essence of love!

I want to ask you this brute question -
When your mingled mind
Minced and scrabble a rogue copulation
On a helpless paper -
And your obscene obsessions
Jeer and moan sadistic verses
Within the inner realm of your malicious soul -
Don't these clever acts and episodes
Spare you?
For the heinous crime you are committing
Nonchalantly -
Every time?

All these I want to know.

Ranju, a fading poet, found an inner voice that tells him to delay his retreat.





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A view of Mt Mansalu from Shayla village. PHOTO: TANVIR ISLAM

Pungyen Gompa

where the mountains whisper



Salehin Arshady is an explorer, mountaineer, youth activist and writer. He has climbed and documented all the highest peaks of Bangladesh over 3000 feet and explored many trekking routes in the Indian and Nepal Himalayas. He lives by exploring unknown territories and with his writings unearths stories that inspire humans to consider their relationship with nature.

SALEHIN ARSHADI

A blunt, frosty night hugged me as I went out of the wooden cottage at Shayla, one of the beautiful tiny hamlets on the slopes of Mansiri Himal.

It was 3:30 am. The whole village, located on the Manaslu circuit trek, looked haunted. Even the stray dogs weren't barking.

We were one of the first teams to visit this part of the Himalayas in recent times. Covid-19 pandemic has hit the local tourism industry hard. Most of the teahouses were shut due to a lack of trekkers, except for a couple of small huts like the one we took refuge in.

We switched on our headlights and started trekking for Pungyen Gompa, a monastery built just beneath the shoulder of mount Manaslu, locally known as Mt. Pungyen.

Local Nubri people, a Tibetan nomadic tribe said to have settled here 400 years ago, believe high on the icy peaks dwells the deity called lord Pungyen, protector of the region. They built the monastery to please the deity.

I am on a mission. A couple of years ago I developed this crazy urge to explore the great arc



The team pose in front of the Pungyen Gompa.

PHOTO: BISSHO RAJ LAMA

On the horizon, just beneath the glacier, I could see a solitary Kani, a monument of stones engraved with Buddhist holy scripts standing proudly. After six long hours of trekking, we finally reached our destination – the famous monastery of Pungyen valley. Sitting at an altitude of 4,700 meters, Pungyen Gompa is a hermitage where devoted Buddhist monks isolate themselves from worldly chaos and meditate in the lap of the Himalayas peacefully.

Paradise is only for the deserving ones – for those who could sacrifice all the worldly desires, could breathe the thin air, withstand harsh weather, and be ready for all the arduous efforts to survive with the bare minimum. And there I was, full of worldly needs and desires. These mystical dimensions were much grander than my grasp.

I looked at the clock, it was already noon. Sun was radiating extreme heat. Thick clouds from below started to enter the valley and in a twinkling of an eye, the whole paradise was lost. The time was up and we started to descend. As we returned to the wooden door, I looked back but could see nothing but mist.

However, I could sense a beckoning silence coming from the mystic land, and I knew I had to come back, again and again, to explore what lies behind those snow-covered giants.



Tsum Valley, a relatively unexplored destination, for 7 days. On May 12, we took the side trek to Pungyen Gompa from Shayla. The trekking ended on May 20 when we reached Dharapani, 397 km away from Kathmandu.

We walked through the silent village following a tiny path and soon entered the towering realm of age-old pines.

The dark, mysterious forest witnessed seven sparkling head torches moving slowly. After walking a while, the forest patch ended. We came in front of a long suspension bridge over a stream coming from the Pungyen glacier, one of the prominent glaciers of Manaslu, the eighth highest mountain in the world.

I decided to rest for a couple of minutes. My teammates moved on. Their headlights on the bridge looked like some wandering fireflies. I switched off my torch to enjoy this spectacular sight. One by one the fireflies vanished in the next turn. Suddenly, I was swallowed by pitch-black darkness.

After a couple of minutes, as my eyes got adjusted, I looked up at the moonless sky. It was stunning! The Milky Way was hanging over the silhouette of the Himalayan giants like a carpet of numerous luminescent dots on the largest canvas.

It was a moment of revelation! On that mountain trail in the darkness, I thought I had a glimpse into the purpose of life.

I always wondered why the sages, the yogis, and the prophets choose to meditate in the mountains. What could be the connection between spirituality and mountains? The answer might be rooted in the uninterrupted, deafening silence, in the absolute detachment from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Overwhelmed with lots of half-grasped thoughts, I started walking quietly. After a while, I

regrouped with the team.

The path was getting steeper. For half an hour we climbed an uphill track and soon reached beyond the tree line, and the whole landscape started to change dramatically leading us to a ravishing stream, coming directly from the melting Pungyen glacier.

The trail along the stream now became narrower, harder because of boulders and pebbles. As the dawn broke, we started to scramble up this path carefully. Soon the mighty Manaslu and its neighbours chose to reveal themselves. As the first rays of the sun hit the peaks, a riot of colours engulfed the Himalayan giants unveiling a mesmerizing show.

As we climbed further up, we, coincidentally, encountered an ancient wooden door hidden in the mist. It seemed like we were standing at the doorway of heaven guarded by white-cloaked giants. I had the intuition that, beyond that half-closed door, I was about to discover something incredible.

The gut feeling proved to be right. As the mist lifted the curtain, we saw a lush green meadow adorned by beautiful wildflowers. Apart from white and pink rhododendrons, large patches of yellow cowslips and blue drumstick primroses painted the valley in varied hues.

The pristine alpine meadow was surrounded by the snow-covered giants with glaciers hanging from their flanks gleaming in the sun. A stream was flowing gently cutting through the grassland like a silver serpent, making a bubbling sound. There was also a small lake. I sat on its bank quietly and spent time watching the sublime reflection of the towering peaks – HIMAL CHULI, NGADI CHULI, and all its neighbors being kissed by floating clouds. But Manaslu was shy. A veil of clouds obscured the two-horned deity, the mountain of the soul.

The lake was like a giant screen and the whole landscape was an amphitheater. I was hypnotised. I wished to stop the clock at that very moment.



HOW TO GO

Manaslu circuit trek falls under Manaslu conservation area. As the trail is in close vicinity to the Tibet border, one needs to obtain a special permit. There are villages and teahouses along the way where you can eat and stay.

of the Himalayas. From Nanga Parbat in the western Himalayas in Pakistan to Namcha Barwa in the eastern Himalayas in Tibet, I set my goal to trek this whole staggering 2,800-mile terrain spanning Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet.

To complete this mammoth task, going for the Nepal chapter first was a convenient choice for me.

After traversing the Annapurna, Langtang, Dhaulagiri, and Rolwaling regions in recent times, it's time to explore the Manaslu and Ganesh Himal regions.

This phase of the exploration began on April 30 from Maccha Khola after an 8-hour drive from Kathmandu (distance 80 km). We entered Manaslu Circuit Trek on May 08, after exploring



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Mercury rises across an elite social journey

“Humans weren’t supposed to live like this. I am in Sylhet and it is hot and humid. I told my uncle so many times to invest in one air conditioner. Could one air conditioner not be managed? And did you know, ceiling fans actually blow hot air down upon you?”

LURKIE LURKERSON

The following is a collection of social media statuses, collected from a group that Satireday has observed for some time and determined to be more or less like-minded. The statuses were posted over a three-week period from late June to the end of Eid vacations. The names of the users are being withheld because we could not think of clever enough puns.

June 21, 10:17am: I usually do not post statuses, but this is not usual. Thousands upon thousands have been stranded by the floods due to seasonal rains and water from upstream. All year, as I gaze out my window on Friday afternoons, I just wish for some rain, so that I can leaf through my well-worn copy of Vishabriksha or Durgeshnandini as I sip on my cup of chai.

But I don’t wish for that any more. I don’t want rain. Join me in sending relief to those who have suddenly lost their homes and belongings, and are now plagued by waterborne diseases. Also, join me in praying that it does not rain for a long time. I want to

go back to my village for Eid and I know many of you will too, so I hope like me all of you can do whatever is possible to help those in need.

-Concerned Citizen

June 25, 12:40pm: To all those who are making fun of me for marking myself safe, I come from Sunamganj. I am planning to go there this Eid, and my family lives there. So yes, I may be in Dhaka, but that is no reason for all of you to think that I don’t deserve to be safe, or mark myself as such. Only if you came from where I come would you know that safety is a privilege. I am just not denying mine.

-Slightly Miffed Citizen

July 7, 2:38pm: Those two words are back again. If you think that what happens far away doesn’t affect you, think again. The energy crisis is real and those words, load-shedding, are back. The war happening thousands of miles away has come home, and as conscious citizens we have a role to play. A lot of us have air conditioners at home, in our offices. Let’s mobilise and turn off that AC. Do we need to keep it on all the time. Ask yourselves this. Remember, it takes a conscious and concerted effort to change reality. Maybe all

of us going home for Eid will improve matters.

#heatup2cooldown

-Mobilising Citizen

July 12, 3:07am: This is just too much. Humans weren’t supposed to live like this. I am in Sylhet and it is hot and humid. I told my uncle so many times to invest in one air conditioner. Could one air conditioner not be managed? And did you know, ceiling fans actually blow hot air down upon you?

I can’t sleep, and my family says they want to stay another day. The nerve!

And where is all this rain I have been hearing about. The water has mostly receded, why can’t we have some rain to cool things down a little? Anything would do. What I wouldn’t give for a storm now. A deluge... yes, a deluge would surely cool things down.

I had gone on many field trips before to Dublar Char, where conditions were sultry, but this global warming thing, man. We really do need ACS

Don’t care what my family says, I am going to Dhaka tomorrow.

-Status compiled from all the above citizens

You’re wasting your life: Study

MOSS CORRESPONDENT

A revolutionary new study has found that you are wasting your life.

“Revolutionary”, a collective of social scientists, has surveyed 4 billion people over the last eight years and found that a huge majority of them are wasting their lives.

Conducting the study has cost around \$9 billion, said scientists associated with it, but they begged not to be named.

“We have talked to a cross-section of people from around the globe, and we found that they were going nowhere,” said Icanana Lyse, the lead author, while revealing the findings in a sparsely attended press conference.

More than the study subjects not physically going anywhere, it was found that they were going nowhere in their lives, Lyse said.

Mental stagnation is everywhere. Every day people clamour to come up with something new and revolutionary to keep themselves interested. But it seems overall society is heading towards rapid decay.

“We interviewed officegoers, and around 37 percent of them said they were moving up in their careers. But when we interviewed their bosses, around 98 percent of them said those very employees had probably risen as far as they could.

“About the bosses, a 100 percent felt they were taking their corporations to newer heights, but our representatives sat in on meetings and found that 88 percent of those were mostly about them coming up with new names for old things.”

Talking to general citizens of poorer countries, it was found that 85 percent thought that the government in power would improve their lives.

“Talking to economists and experts, however, we found that the trends so far indicate that the situation could get worse, with a five percent



This is a photo of a man wasting his existence, and the empty desks around him imply that his colleagues are wasting their work time. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STS

chance of it getting better, and a 50 percent chance of rain,” Lyse said.

“In developed countries, we found that elected officials were only interested in keeping the rich happy, and around 99 percent of the population suffered from what has been known as ‘first-world problems’, and said they were wasting their lives because they could not find happiness in privilege.”

A reporter asked Icanana Lyse whether there was any new information in the study.

“In conclusion, we have found that this study was a waste of time,” she replied.

NASA to hire Bangladeshi ‘scientists’ to get authentic images

MAHBUB ALAMMUNNA

The fact that NASA is famous for producing fake images of space and celestial objects, has again been proven.

NASA released their first official images of the deep fields of the universe, captured by the James Webb Space Telescope, a white elephant that cost more than \$10 billion, which is higher than many countries’ GDP, foreign reserves and so on.

Despite being unable to produce authentic images of the universe, many people, mostly comment warriors of Bangladesh, have questioned the need for this costly project, especially if the photos produced are actually created by a semi-talented, slightly eccentric, artist.

“I saw these photos and I can assure you that I can take better photos with my Nokia-1100. What’s the point of spending \$10 billion on a telescope and editing photos, taken from Google, with just a \$100 phone?” Hilar Yas Harun, a gadget blogger, asked.

“How come they captured those images 4.6 billion years ago when cameras were not even invented?” Tiktoker Opu, a local electrician who

“How come they captured those images 4.6 billion years ago when cameras were not even invented?” Tiktoker Opu, a local electrician who failed in Science in his SSC exams, asked another pertinent question.

failed in Science in his SSC exams, asked another pertinent question.

Another group of people viewed the images with suspicion, believing that there should have been a face clearly visible on those objects, such as the moon, stars, galaxies, etc., no matter how far or how tiny or big those objects were.

However, the absence of faces made some people utterly disappointed.

“These photos are absolutely fake. NASA has been bamboozling us since its inception as a rock-searching organisation. A constellation of

stars without the face of our star is implausible,” Protibadimanob Pintwo explained.

This disgruntlement did not stay confined within Bangladesh’s boundaries, but soon draw NASA’s attention. NASA scientists have been questioning what they have toiled decades for since learning that Bangladeshi scientists, also known as comment-warriors, claimed that these space images were fake and an art of mere fabrication.

So, they decided to hire some Bangladeshi scientists so that their assiduousness would never again go in vain. “We should have sent those images to Bangladeshi scientists for validation before releasing them officially. We left no stone unturned to get the most authentic images, but all that went up in smoke as better scientists from Bangladesh questioned the credibility of those images.

“I apologise to all of you and assure you at the same time that, it will not happen again as next time we will have Bangladeshi scientists, hired based on social media comments,” the cheap chief of NASA said in a press conference.



PHOTO: NASA