



P7 Blair sees 'possible' multi-polar world



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DEFENCE CARGO

Plane flying to Dhaka crashes in Greece

All 8 crew members killed

STAR REPORT

An aircraft carrying training mortar shells procured from Serbia for the Bangladesh Army and Border Guard Bangladesh crashed in northern Greece on Saturday killing all eight crew members on board.

A press release issued by the Inter Service Public Relation Directorate (ISPR) yesterday said there was no weapon in the consignment, which was insured.

It also said the shells were being brought in through a contractor who had won the Directorate General of Defense Purchase procurement contract.

A Reuters report, quoting Serbian authorities and Meridian airline, yesterday said a Ukrainian cargo plane carrying munitions from Serbia to Bangladesh crashed near the city of Kavala in northern Greece late on Saturday.

Drone images from the scene showed smouldering debris from the Antonov An-12 aircraft strewn in fields. Greek



authorities said there were eight crew members on board and a Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman said they were all Ukrainian citizens.

Ukrainian-based airline Meridian, which operated the aircraft, said all crew members were killed in the crash, said the Reuters report.

Serbia's defence minister said the plane was carrying 11.5 tonnes of products, including mortar and training shells, made by its defence industry. The buyer of the cargo was the defence ministry of Bangladesh, he said.

Denys Bogdanovych, Meridian's general director, confirmed Serbia's account of events. "This is not related to Ukraine or Russia," Bogdanovych told Reuters by telephone.

Witnesses said the aircraft came down in a ball of flames before exploding on impact in corn fields around midnight local time. Earlier the pilot had reported engine trouble and had requested an emergency landing.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Construction work of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge is in progress over the Jamuna river. The photo was taken recently at the eastern side of the river. The bridge will be a major leap for railroad communication in the country.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Metro now set to cost 50pc more

Deadline too may be stretched by a year and half

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

With the partial launch of the country's first ever metro rail line five months away, the project cost is set to rise by more than half, and the deadline is also going to be extended by a year and half.

The project -- formally known as Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 or MRT Line-6 -- is to go through a major revision mainly due to changes in the design of metro stations and expansion of the elevated rail line up to Kamalapur from Motijheel.

According to the revision proposal that the Road Transport and Highways Division sent to the Planning Commission, the project cost will rise by 52.25 percent or Tk 11,487 crore to Tk 33,472 crore. The original cost was Tk 21,985 crore.

The deadline for completion of the MRT Line-6 -- one of the eight fast-track government projects -- will be December 2025 instead of June 2024.

The proposal is likely to be placed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) tomorrow, said MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd. If the proposal is approved, the MRT Line-6

will be the seventh fast-track project to have gone through revision at least once. Only the Rooppur nuclear power plant project has not gone through any revision.

Uncertainty over funding; complexity over design, planning and land acquisition; lack of capability and accountability of implementing agencies; and the Covid pandemic are to blame for the time and cost overruns.

REVISION PROPOSAL

Revised cost **Tk 33,472cr**

Original cost **Tk 21,985cr**

NEW DEADLINE DECEMBER 2025

The development comes at a time when deadline extension and cost escalation of development projects have become a major concern with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressing discontent over it on several occasions.

Approved in December 2012, the project, funded with soft loans from Japan, didn't take off until 2016.

Overall progress of the project was 81.19

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Soybean oil price drops by Tk 14 a litre

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The bottled soybean oil price has been reduced by Tk 14 a litre at retail.

The new price, Tk 185, is supposed to come in effect today, according to Senior Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh.

However, compared to the price drop in the international market, the 7 percent reduction seems inadequate. Unrefined soybean oil prices fell by 26 percent in the international market since June.

Each tonne of crude soybean oil prices dropped from \$1,800 in April June to \$1,330 yesterday.

The millers also agreed to reduce the prices of palm oil by Tk 6 a litre to Tk 152, Ghosh said.

As per the new price, a five litre bottle of soybean oil will sell for Tk 910 from the current Tk 980.

Edible oil prices are likely to fall significantly next month when the shipments of low-priced unrefined oil

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Fuel stocks dwindling

BPC struggles to buy fuel for dollar crunch; PMO holds emergency meeting today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty looms over the country's fuel stock as the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation is finding it difficult to import fuel amid a dollar shortage at local banks.

The corporation currently has less than 40 days' worth of fuel reserves, which is well below the standard practice of keeping 40-45 days' worth of stock, BPC officials told this correspondent yesterday.

An emergency meeting will be held today at the PMO to review "the whole scenario of energy supply, power generation and distribution".

Banks are not being able to open letters of credit to import petroleum because of an acute shortage of dollars in the country's forex market, said a "very urgent" letter sent on July 5 by the energy and mineral resources division to the finance ministry, PMO and economic relations division.

According to the letter, the BPC wrote several times to Bangladesh Bank and the financial institutions division of the finance ministry in May and June, requesting adequate foreign exchange.

The fuel required to meet local demand is almost entirely imported, according to the July 5 letter.

At today's meeting, BPC officials may propose reducing the number of vehicles on the roads by having vehicles with odd and even registration numbers plying roads on alternate days, and also seek to curtail office and school hours, officials said.

The aim is to reduce the demand for fuel by at least 50 percent, BPC sources said.

Today's emergency meeting which will be attended by Principal Secretary to the PM Ahmad Kaikaus, PM's Energy Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e Elahi Chowdhury and the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, the Bangladesh Bank governor, senior secretaries of PMO and energy division, secretary of power division, high-ups of BPC, Petrobangla, Bangladesh Power Development Board, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, etc.

At another high-level meeting on July 7, the participants recommended setting thermostats at 25 degrees Celsius at every government office, reducing use of air conditioners at religious establishments, and wrapping up social events like weddings by 7:00pm to reduce the power consumption.

About 44 percent of fuel is consumed by the power sector and 40 percent is used by the transport sector, according to the BPC. Another nine percent is used in the agriculture sector and four percent in the industries.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, the country consumed a total of 44.8 lakh tonnes of diesel, 43.5 lakh tonnes of furnace oil, 3.7 lakh tonnes of petrol, 2.9 lakh tonnes of octane, and 2.3 lakh tonnes of jet fuel, etc., according to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

In the letter sent on July 5, it was mentioned that BPC usually needs to open 16-17 LCs every month in Sonali

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NARAIL MAYHEM

Sahapara still stalked by fear

DIPANKAR ROY

Shibnath Saha's life utterly changed on Friday evening. The 70-year-old man, his wife, two sons and their wives, and three grandchildren lived in the house.

But only he and his ailing wife Arpana Rani Saha are now in the house, which bears witness to Friday's communal attack on properties owned by Hindu people in Sahapara area of Lohagara, Narail. The rest of Shibnath's family members have fled the area out of fear for their lives.

Three homes and dozens of shops were vandalised or burnt down in Sahapara on Friday. The attacks were carried out by mobs who said their religious feelings were hurt by a Facebook post made by someone from the neighbourhood.

"I don't know how my sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren are passing their days away from home," said Shibnath.

Almost all the women and children of the 108 Hindu families have left their homes amid the mayhem.

Their fear intensified after miscreants stole two cows from the house of Sochidanada Roy on Saturday night.

There are around 300 stores owned by Hindu individuals in Dighalia Bazar which is close to Sahapara. Almost all the shops remained closed yesterday.

"My shop was looted that day. Everything has been damaged. I wouldn't dare reopening my shop anytime soon," said Nitya Gopal Saha, a grocery shop owner.

He also alleged that some of the attackers demanded Tk 5 lakh moments before his shops and house were vandalised.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



The usual tailback during the morning rush hour at Banani yesterday. Streets in the capital saw light traffic for days as many left for their home districts for Eid.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MIRACULOUS BIRTH

Uncle assumes responsibility for newborn, siblings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The baby born miraculously at the site of accident and her two minor siblings from Mymensingh's Trishal upazila will be taken care of by a relative.

The three were left orphaned on Saturday after an onion-laden truck ran over their parents and their three-year-old sister in the Court Bhaban area.

Their father Jahangir Alam and sister Sanjida died on the spot, while the impact of the collision pushed the baby out of their eight-month pregnant mother Ratna Begum's womb. She died soon after giving birth.

Locals rescued the newborn and rushed her to Trishal Upazila Health Complex, where the on-duty doctor referred her to Community Based Medical College Hospital,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Wasa pushes for area-wise water tariff

Posh neighbourhoods to pay more, people of low-income group less

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa yesterday proposed resetting its tariffs such that low-income people can get water at a much lower rate than the wealthy.

Currently, residential users pay Tk 15.18 for every 1,000 litres (one unit) of water and commercial users Tk 42 – against Wasa's production cost of Tk 25-26 per unit.

Following a technical study in collaboration with Water Aid, Wasa is now proposing splitting the capital into 10 zones, with each zone having a separate tariff.

Wasa proposed Tk 37.50 per unit of water for households in upscale residential areas, Tk 31.25 for those in upper-middle-class neighbourhoods and Tk 25 for those in middle-class residential areas.

For lower middle-class areas, the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

How will we live without the sole breadwinner?

Says wife of Salam who died 'after police assault'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

After her husband's sudden death, Jamuna Begum is left hopeless.

Abdus Salam Sheikh, a ticket-counter staffer for K-Line Paribahan in Jashore's Chowgachha, died after a police official kicked him repeatedly in the chest.

The incident occurred when a bus passenger filed a police complaint against Salam after engaging in an altercation with him at the counter.

Aliar Rahman, a witness, said Salam fell sick after sub-inspector Jamal Uddin, of Nakol Police Camp, came to the spot and assaulted him.

Salam died on the way to Magura Sadar Hospital.

"How will we survive without the sole bread earner of the family? I want justice for my husband's murder," said Jumuna.

Salam's son Rifat Hossain said the family will file a case after getting the autopsy report.

The victim's elder brother Berek Sheikh claimed his brother did not have any previous illness.

"Such a trivial matter could have been resolved without the loss of my brother's life. We demand exemplary punishment to those who killed him."

Salam was buried at their family graveyard yesterday evening.

Russia preparing for next stage of offensive

Says Ukraine; EU mulls fresh sanctions against Russia

AGENCIES

Russia is preparing for the next stage of its offensive in Ukraine, a Ukrainian military official said, after Moscow said its forces would step up military operations in "all operational areas".

As Western deliveries of long-range arms begin to help Ukraine on the battlefield, Russian rockets and missiles have pounded cities in strikes that Kyiv says have killed dozens in recent days.

"It is not only missile strikes from the air and sea," Vadym Skibitskyi, a spokesman for Ukrainian military intelligence, said. "We can see shelling along the entire line of contact, along the entire front line. There is an active use of tactical aviation and attack helicopters."

"Clearly preparations are now underway for the next stage of the offensive."

With the conflict grinding on and increasingly spilling out into global energy and food crises, the EU's foreign ministers are considering banning gold purchases from Russia, which would align with sanctions already imposed by G7 partners.

More Russian figures could also be placed on the EU's blacklist. "Moscow must continue to pay a high price for

its aggression," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said after forwarding the proposed measures.

Brussels was expected to hold initial sanctions discussions yesterday, but not make a same-day decision, according to a senior EU official.

The Ukrainian military said Russia appeared to be regrouping units for an offensive toward Sloviansk.

The Ukrainian military said Russia appeared to be regrouping units for an offensive toward Sloviansk, a symbolically important city held by Ukraine in the eastern region of Donetsk.

The British defence ministry said yesterday that Russia was also reinforcing defences across areas it occupies in southern Ukraine after pressure from Ukrainian forces and pledges from Ukrainian leaders to force Russia out.

Ukraine says at least 40 people have been killed in Russian shelling of urban areas since Thursday.

Dozens of relatives and local residents

attended the funeral of 4-year-old Liza Dmytrieva in the central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia yesterday. The girl was killed in a missile strike on central Vinnytsia on Thursday that killed 24 people, reports Reuters.

Rockets hit the northeastern town of Chuhuiv in Kharkiv region on Friday night, killing three people including a 70-year-old woman and wounding three others, said regional Governor Oleh Synehubov.

To the south, more than 50 Russian Grad rockets pounded the city of Nikopol on the Dnipro River, killing two people who were found in the rubble, said Governor Valentyn Reznichenko.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia was continuing to sow grief and death on Ukrainian soil eight years on from the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine by what international investigators have said was a Russian surface-to-air missile likely fired by Russian-backed militia in the region.

"But nothing will go unpunished!" he said. "Every criminal will be brought to justice!"



This handout picture released by Ukraine Emergency Service yesterday shows firefighters putting out the fire on a wheat field burned as a result of shelling in Mykolaiv region, amid Russian military invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

GATCO CASE

Hearing on charge framing against Khaleda done

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution's hearing on charges framed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 14 others in Gatco graft case was completed yesterday.

Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, public prosecutor of the Anti-Corruption Commission, said the charges brought against Khaleda and others of misappropriating around Tk 1,000 crore were primarily proved.

Judge Muhammad Ali Hussain of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka then fixed July 24 for holding hearing on behalf of Khaleda and others.

An application on behalf of Khaleda was submitted before the court yesterday, seeking an adjournment of the hearing, said one of her lawyers Zaynul Abedin Mesbah.

4 more Covid-19 deaths recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people died from Covid-19 in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the DGHS said in a press release.

The total number Coronavirus deaths in the country went up to 29,234, with the death rate at 1.46 percent.

The positivity rate yesterday was 11.12 percent, lower than that of Saturday – 13.70 percent. At least 900 new Covid-19 cases were recorded from 8,091 samples tested during this period. The total number of cases rose to 19,96,340.

Meanwhile, 1,983 patients have recovered from the infection, raising the number of recoveries to 19,24,960 and the recovery rate to 96.42 percent.

Of the deceased, two were male and two female – all aged between 61-90 years.

Rajbari court sends man to jail for embezzlement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A Rajbari Court yesterday sent the CEO of e-commerce site Jeka Bazar Ltd, to jail for allegedly embezzling around Tk 60 crore, CID sources said.

Jabiullah Khan Jaber, son of Shukur Ali and resident of Kalukhali upazila, was accused in a case, filed on November 14 last year, for embezzling the money from 20,000 customers.

The Directorate of National Consumers' Rights Protection conducted a drive on November 2 in this regard after receiving complaints from customers about fake and adulterated products.

The CID arrested him from Faridpur Sadar's Alipur area on Saturday afternoon.

Fuel stocks

FROM PAGE 1

Bank, Rupali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, One Bank and Islami Bank and Eastern Bank to import fuel. But in recent times, those banks have declined to open LCs citing shortage of dollars.

"If they do agree to open LCs, they are making payments in multiple instalments, or delaying payments," the letter said. "As a result, the relations between local fuel distributors and international suppliers are being strained."

The letter stated that if the BPC failed to open adequate number of LCs, the energy security of the country will be in jeopardy.

The Daily Star tried several times to contact BPC Chairman ABM Azad, but could not reach him.

An official of a state-owned bank told The Daily Star that Bangladesh Bank was not being able to provide the banks with enough dollars.

The country's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$39.70 billion on July 14 in contrast to \$46.15 billion in December last year.

Against this backdrop, the inter-bank exchange rate of the taka yesterday stood at Tk 93.95 for a dollar yesterday, down 10.79 percent year-on-year.

Fuel prices in the international market has dropped in recent days. The latest average crude oil price in the international market is below \$100 for each barrel (about 159 litres). This was over \$115 last month. Similarly, the diesel price was \$171 on average last month, which is now below \$140.

Shooting kills four in Johannesburg suburb

AFP, Johannesburg

Gunmen opened fire on a group of men playing dice on a street corner in a Johannesburg suburb, killing four of them and injuring two others, police said yesterday.

Metro now set to cost 50pc more

FROM PAGE 1

percent till June this year, while that of the Uttara-Agargaon section, scheduled to be opened to the public on December 16 this year, is 93.76 percent.

Once completed, the metro rail will be able to carry 60,000 people per hour, bringing down the commute time between Uttara and Motijheel to around 40 minutes from the existing two hours.

It will save around Tk 3,500 crore annually in terms of travel time and vehicle operation costs, according to the metro rail authorities.

The government is implementing a time-bound action plan to build a 130km metro rail network with six lines in the capital and adjacent areas by 2030 to reduce traffic congestion and environmental pollution.

Sahapara still stalked by fear

FROM PAGE 1

Many said they knew the attackers, who were residents of nearby villages. But they would not file cases against them for fear of reprisals.

"They are still facing implicit threats from the attackers," said a man, seeking anonymity.

Some of the attackers are roaming around the area with police, several others said, adding that police were present at the scene, but did nothing when the attacks happened on Friday.

They also alleged that some of the attackers were involved in the ruling

REASONS FOR REVISION

MAN Siddique said a large portion of the additional Tk 11,487 crore has been sought for acquiring land around the metro stations.

According to DMTCL officials, if the existing design is followed, commuters may face difficulties in getting in and out of the stations due to space constraints.

Taking this into account, the authorities have decided to build spacious exits and entry points as well as footpaths outside the stations, they said.

The DMTCL will have to buy land for footpaths, and most of the land around the stations is private property, they added.

As per the PM's directive, the authorities are going to extend the metro rail line up to Kamalapur from

Motijheel, and preparatory works for the extension are going on.

The length of the line will be 21.26 kilometres instead of the original 20.10 km.

As per the original plan, a walkway was supposed to connect Kamalapur – the country's biggest railway station – to Motijheel, Dhaka's commercial hub.

According to the proposal, a full-fledged station will be built at Kamalapur for the commuters' convenience, taking the total number of stops to 17.

MAN Siddique pointed out that the extension of the line is another major reason behind the revision.

Besides, the higher exchange rate of the dollar and the increase in the value-added tax and customs duty are among other reasons for the cost escalation, he added.

A court placed him on a three day remand in a case filed Friday night by a resident of Dighalia area named Kochi Sardar, said SK Abu Hena Milon, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station.

He was accused of hurting religious feelings, he added.

Akash's father Ashoke Saha was detained by police on Friday night.

NHRC STATEMENT

The National Human Rights Commission in a statement yesterday urged the authorities to investigate the attacks on Hindu properties and the role of police during the mayhem.

even after weaning.

Parker and her colleagues investigated how orphaned elephants felt by measuring the quantity of hormones they release when faced with stress.

Scientists also found lower stress levels among young elephants growing up in groups with more animals of a similar age, suggesting that "playmates" are essential for them.

Social life helps orphaned

FROM PAGE 12

support from the other elephants, said Jenna Parker, the main author of the study published this week in the journal Communications Biology.

The importance of family links was obvious when observing elephant herds, Parker told AFP.

The young rarely stray more than 10 metres (33 feet) away from their mother and "incredible" reunions

involving the entire group were seen after a few hours of separation, said the researcher at Colorado State University in the United States.

When poachers or hunters kill an elephant, that social cohesion disintegrates and threatens the group's wellbeing, particularly the young ones left orphaned, she said.

The bond between a baby elephant and its mother is believed to be strong

'Embarrassing' Says Dipu Moni over allegations against AL lawmaker of assaulting teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said she and her deputy are embarrassed over the assault on a college principal allegedly by an Awami League lawmaker.

"It is very embarrassing. If the allegations are true, it will be even more embarrassing for us," she said at a press briefing yesterday at the secretariat.

She made the remarks when asked about the assault on Rajabari Degree College Principal Salim Reza, allegedly by lawmaker Omar Faruk Chowdhury from the Rajshahi-1 constituency. She was accompanied by Deputy Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury at the briefing.

"We don't have the authority to take action against a parliament member. But we may go to the parliament speaker if needed after getting the probe report of the incident," she said.

Salim was allegedly assaulted by Omar Faruk Chowdhury at the latter's chamber on July 7.

On July 13, a three-member probe body -- headed by National University (NU) Registrar Molla Mahfuz Al-Hossain -- was formed to investigate the matter.

Salim termed the assault a "planned" one before the probe committee, said sources.

On July 14, Omar Faruk Chowdhury termed the allegations false.

Yesterday, at the press briefing, the education minister's attention was also drawn to the recent attacks on teachers by students.

"Teachers are paid the highest respect everywhere in the world. We too want to give them due respect," she said.

"However, taking measures on criminal offences are beyond our jurisdiction," she added.



A little girl, almost scared to death, signals a bus to slow down while clenching onto her brother's hand as she crosses the road in Shahbagh area. Despite the presence a foot bridge nearby, her parents (not in picture) took a risky decision of crossing the road this way, endangering all of their lives. This photo was taken recently. This photo was taken in Shahbagh recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Two die of dengue, 53 hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two dengue patients died while 53 were admitted to different hospitals across the country yesterday.

With two deaths at Cox's Bazar, the total number of dengue death this year rose to three, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the 53 new cases, 18 from outside Dhaka, the total number of dengue patients rose to 1,723.

Among the patients, 222 are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 1,498 patients have been released from hospitals.

Meanwhile, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday opened a control room to supervise combing operations and mobile court drives against Aedes mosquitoes.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh inaugurated the centre at Nagar Bhaban.

"We will monitor all the mosquito control activities from here," he said.

EASING TAILBACK PMO forms 4-member committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday formed a four-member committee for finding ways to ease tailback at the toll plazas of Padma Bridge, Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway and Hanif flyover.

The committee -- led by Farid Ahmad, chief executive officer of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) -- was asked to provide recommendations to solve the issue.

Additional chief engineer (Dhaka zone) of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), chief engineers of Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) and DSCC would be members of the committee.

The development came at a meeting the PMO convened yesterday at its office with officials from Road Transport and Highways Division, Bridges Division, RHD, BBA, DSCC and flyover operator Orion Group, said participants.

The entrance to Jatrabari has been witnessing regular traffic

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Stop illegal entry of Rohingyas in Bangladesh

Dhaka urges Delhi at BGB-BSF meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has requested Delhi to stop the illegal entry of Myanmar nationals into Bangladesh from India.

This issue was raised at the director general-level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India, which began in Dhaka yesterday.

The development comes following intelligence reports that Rohingyas living in India are sneaking into the country with the help of brokers.

Some of them were detained by law enforcers and sent to the transitional camps in Cox's Bazar.

Though there is no official record of the numbers of Rohingyas entering so far, this

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

The slow death of DHALESHWARI

1.60 lakh cubic metres of waste dumped in the river in 3yrs, says JS body citing DoE data

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday placed grave statistics before a parliamentary body on the state of Dhaleshwari river, saying aquatic life and biodiversity of the river are being destroyed due to unbridled pollution caused by the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

DoE at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on environment, forest and climate change ministry, said the minimum level of oxygen of Dhaleshwari River should remain 200mg per litre. But the oxygen level in this river's water is two to three times less than the permissible limit.

The meeting was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with ruling Awami League MP Saber Hossain Chowdhury in the chair.

Saber said not only the oxygen level but also the amount of



Liquid waste from Savar Tannery Industrial Estate being discharged in the Dhaleshwari river.

FILE PHOTO

metal chromium in Dhaleshwari river is much higher than the permissible level.

Citing DoE's July statistics, Saber, a lawmaker from Dhaka-9 (Khilgaon-Shajahanpur), said the permissible level of metal in the water is 2mg per litre. But the amount of chromium in Dhaleshwari is 5 to 7 mg per litre.

"Due to this unbridled pollution by Savar Tannery Industrial Estate, fisheries and biodiversity of Dhaleshwari are being destroyed. If river pollution continues at the current level, Dhaleshwari's fate will be the same as the Buriganga," warned Saber.

The parliamentary watchdog, in its meeting, allowed three to six months' time for the industries ministry for taking measures to bring all the industrial units in the tannery industry under a

central effluent treatment plant. "We have asked the environment ministry to take measures to sever electricity connection to the respective industry units upon their failure to act on the directives."

Saber also mentioned that to recover Dhaleshwari from its current plight, they issued five recommendations to the industries ministry, none of which has been implemented.

"They make the same excuses every time, massive employment and earning of foreign currencies are involved with the tannery industry and a shutdown will have a negative impact. No attention has been paid to the negative impact the industry has had on the environment and public health," said Saber.

Earlier on November 29, 2021, the parliamentary body

said the tannery estate has been running without any environmental clearance for 10 years and has been causing severe environmental pollution.

The JS watchdog earlier in its several meetings recommended the shutdown of the tannery estate immediately.

According to DoE statistics, the estate has the capacity to treat around 25,000 cubic metres of liquid waste every day. However, the tanners generate around 40,000 cubic metres of liquid waste per day, implying 15,000 cubic metres of liquid waste are dumped into the Dhaleshwari without any treatment.

The estate does not have any facility to treat solid waste, including heavy metals and chromium.

In the last three years, the estate has dumped around 1.60 lakh cubic metres of waste into the river, suggest DoE statistics.

In 2003, the government took the initiative to build the BSCIC Tannery Industrial Estate on 200 acres in Hemayetpur. All the tanneries were moved from the capital's Hazaribagh to prevent environmental pollution and protect the Buriganga.

There are around 160 tanneries in the leather industrial park in Hemayetpur.

The JS body yesterday also expressed concern over the government's handing over a part of Jungle Khuniya Palong Reserved Forest in Cox's Bazar to the Bangladesh Football Federation for building a residential training facility after de-reserving the 20-acre land.

Participate in polls: CEC Talks with political parties start

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday urged political parties not to leave the election race, and if needed fight fire with fire to stay in the competition.

He also said all political parties have a responsibility to stop violence during polls.

The CEC made the remarks during the opening day of talks with registered political parties as part of a series of dialogues with a cross section of people, seeking recommendations on how to hold free and fair elections.

The EC invited four political parties on the first day of the talks. However, Bangladesh Muslim League (BML) did not join the talks yesterday.

Awal, while holding talks with Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM) in the morning, said, "If all political parties don't cooperate with us, we will fail. This needs to be a concerted effort."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Awami League wants competitive elections: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said AL does not want uncontested elections, it wants competitive ones instead with participation of all political parties.

"The Awami League never wants to score goals on an empty field. We want all political parties to join elections," he told reporters after joining a views-exchange meeting with the staff of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) at its head office.

Quader said the Election Commission started holding dialogues with the registered political parties from yesterday, which will continue till July 31.

A 10-member delegation of the ruling Awami League will join the dialogue on July 31, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

No EC can hold credible polls with AL in power Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said joining talks with the current Election Commission is pointless as no commission can hold a credible election if Awami League stays in power.

Talking to reporters at BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office, Fakhrul said after boycotting the 2014 polls, they took part in the 2018 election based on the prime minister's promises to hold an acceptable election.

"But it was seen that the ballots were stuffed the night before the voting day. Considering these things, how do you (journalists) expect BNP to participate in a dialogue with the Election Commission? What will the EC do? They have no power to do anything," he said.

Fakhrul said people do not want to see any election under the EC or the current government.

"If there is no change in the government and if an impartial government does not come, there

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

With Eid holidays still hovering over the city, business has been going slow for boatmen. Taking advantage of the situation, they dock their boats in a lotus shaped arrangement and spend a lazy afternoon. This photo was taken in Kamrangirchara area's Madrasa ghat.

**PRAYER
TIMING**
JULY 18

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

Stop illegal entry

FROM PAGE 3
newspaper quoting officials reported in May that some 500 of them may have entered Bangladesh from India over the last month.

The new inflow creates an additional burden for the country already hosting nearly one million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.

Fruitful discussions were held on preventing the illegal entry of Myanmar nationals into Bangladesh from India at the conference held at BGB headquarters in Palkhana, said a press release issued by the border guards yesterday.

Besides, the killing of

Bangladeshi nationals on the border topped the list of issues discussed at the meeting.

According to human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), five people were shot dead on the border by BSF from January to June of this year. Besides, four people were wounded while six were abducted during the period.

Last year, 16 people were shot dead, one was tortured to death and another died of a heart attack after being chased by the Indian border guards.

Meanwhile, nine were injured and three were abducted by BSF during this time, ASK statistics show.

Illegal trespass; smuggling of drugs, arms and ammunition and gold; prevention of various border crimes including trafficking

of women and children were also discussed at the conference.

Also on the agenda were the protection of border riverbanks, exchange of immediate information regarding activities of various armed extremist-terrorist groups; taking joint initiatives to implement the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP), the release added.

BGB Director General (DG) Major General Shakil Ahmed led a 20-member Bangladesh delegation at the conference which included top BGB officials and representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, and foreign and home ministries.

BSF DG Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh led the nine-member Indian delegation at the 52nd border conference scheduled to end on July 21.

Participate in polls

FROM PAGE 3
If someone stands with a sword, you will have to stand with a rifle or sword. We will have command over the police and the government."

The CEC said they cannot stop the violence alone. "You [political parties] will have to take responsibility. Because you are the players... we are the referees."

NDM chairman Bobby Hajaj said existing laws do not allow anyone to stand "with a shotgun". The CEC, however, remained silent in reply.

Awal, however, while holding talks with Bangladesh Congress in the afternoon, toned down his stance.

He said, "You don't have to fight with weapons. You have to fight with public support".

Meanwhile, Ittekkharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), in a statement issued in the evening said such comments by the CEC "is suicidal, unacceptable" and "would provoke violence". Ittekkharuzzaman hoped

that Awal will withdraw his comments.

Meanwhile, NDM put forward several proposals during the talks, including that the CEC play the role of "Super Prime Minister" during the elections so that public administration can work neutrally and professionally.

It called for abolishing the system of having agents at polling stations, the addition of paper trails in EVMs, the installation of CCTV at polling stations, stopping arrests in political cases after the election schedule, and allowing domestic and foreign observers to monitor elections.

Bangladesh Congress proposed the appointment of EC officials as returning officers and keeping all elections free from the influence of the executive branch. It discouraged using EVMs in the elections.

Bangladesh Nationalist Front said they would participate in the upcoming elections and is ready to extend all possible support to EC.

Patients lie on floor

FROM PAGE 5
wards for contagious diseases just started on the sixth floor.

Visiting the hospital yesterday, this correspondent found that all beds in the old building are occupied by patients while many were taking treatment lying on the floor and corridor of the wards.

The 42-bed female ward was seen overcrowded as 111 patients were admitted. Similarly, in the 25-bed male ward, there were 108 patients, while the children's ward of just 10 beds are tending to 42 infants.

In every ward, additional patients found their shelter on the floors and corridors.

Sadar upazila, a patient in the female ward, said, "I was admitted to the hospital three days ago with a high fever. I've been staying on the concrete floor as no bed was vacant."

Another patient Korban Ali (55) was found lying in the male ward corridor for receiving treatment for his breathing complexities. Since visitors and staff move around the corridors, his disease worsened while inhaling all the dust, he said.

Asked, residential medical officer Meshkatul Abed, said, "Around 300 patients take treatment in the indoors every day while 1,200 to get treatment outdoors."

Hospital sources informed that there's also

a manpower shortage. Out of 58 doctors, only 44 are on-duty.

Meanwhile, posts of senior consultants in important departments like cardiology, pathology, orthopaedics, child, eye, anaesthesia and others are still vacant.

The hospital's superintendent, Dr Md Abu Al Hazzaz, said, "We've increased the number of beds from 150 to 170 in the old building. We'll hopefully shift to the next building within a month."

Contacted, civil surgeon Zahangir Kabir said, "I've written to the health ministry requesting them for posting of senior consultants in important departments."

TO-LET
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Office of the Executive Engineer
Chattogram PWD Division-1
Chattogram
Phone: 02333356028
E-mail: ee_cfp1@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.1500.111.1458(19)2 Date: 17-07-2022

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Package information is available in tender notice under e-GP System Portal. This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Detailed description of the tender are as follows:

Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time
718169	Recruitment of 06 (Six) Service workers of different categories through outsourcing process for Balzed Park situated at Balzid, Chattogram on fully temporary basis. (FY: 2022-2023)	31-July-2022 17:00	01-Aug-2022 12:00

Further information and guidelines is available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Rahul Guha
Executive Engineer
Chattogram PWD Division-1

GD-1386

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

e-Zone
Servicing Change Managers

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

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

Title: Emergency Nutrition Officer (Consultant) at NOB level

Duty Station: FDMN campsin Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazila.
Contract Duration: 11.5 Months. Number of Vacancies: 1 (One).
Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.
Last Date of Application: **25 July, 2022**

<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un116.html>

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Title: Social Work Consultants (8 positions)-NOA

Duty Station: Dhaka, Bangladesh (Home Based/Office) and monthly 2 weeks' fieldwork to the assigned Divisions and Upazillas all over the country assigned by the Supervisor.
Contract Duration: 12 Months. Number of Vacancies: 8 (Eight).
Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone.
Last Date of Application: **24 July, 2022**

<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un118.html>

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
Admin-3 Section
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.erd.gov.bd

Reference No: 09.00.0000.074.07.003.22/2 Date: 18/07/2022.

Tender Notice (e-GP)

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

Sl. No	Tender ID No.	Description of Goods/ work	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1.	718001	Procurement of Official Seal & Nameplate of ERD Officials (Framework Agreement)	01.08.2022 at 12.00	02.08.2022 at 12.00	02.08.2022 at 12.00

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

(Md. Saidduzzaman Khan)
Senior Assistant Secretary
Phone: 48114354

GD-1385

No EC can hold

FROM PAGE 3
will be no election in this country," he said. The electoral system has been completely destroyed by AL, he added.

He said four credible

national elections were held in the country under the caretaker governments, but AL annulled the system only to hang onto power forever by holding polls under them.

Awami League

FROM PAGE 3
Those who want to change the government through elections should join the polls, he added.

"We want to see this election as a competitive one. That's why a free, impartial and credible election will be held with the participation of all

registered parties." The existing electoral system will also be conducive to holding a fair, free and impartial election, he added.

There will be no involvement of the government in elections while it will cooperate with the EC only, he said.

PMO forms

FROM PAGE 3
congestion since late last month after the opening of Padma Bridge.

Manual toll collection at the newly opened bridge and the expressway added to the snarl-ups when the pressure of vehicles increased, leading to the suffering of tens of thousands of passengers.

Amid such a situation, the PMO called the meeting yesterday with Azizur Rahman, director general 2 of PMO, coordinating it, said sources.

The meeting directed BBA to consider doubling the human resources

and installing more toll booths for Padma Bridge, a participant told this correspondent, requesting anonymity.

It also directed the authorities of all three structures to round up toll figures -- for example charging Tk 20 if the toll of a vehicle is Tk 18 -- and keeping changes available to save time.

He said the committee will make recommendations to reduce traffic congestion within 15 days. The PMO will scrutinise and take final decisions in this regard.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল
রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা

সংশোধনী দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকায় ২০২২-২০২৩ অব্দে সেন্টার পথে, অডিটোরিয়াম পথভিত্তিক বিভিন্ন ভাড়া, নার্স, মেডিকেল টেকনোলজি পদে পদে করা এবং মজুরি আদায় বোর্ডের জন্য স্মারক নং-০০৩ পূর্ব মাস/দরপত্র- ২০২২/২১৯৪, স্বা-০৪/০৬/২০২২/২১৯৪ মোতাবেক সৈনিক সমাজ, টাইমস মিডিয়া অফিস (এম অফিস), ৩৬/৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা ও সি ডেইলি স্টার, ৬৪-৬৪-৬৪, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২১০ পরিষ্কার এবং সিটিসিটিই অফিসের উইট প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সত্তা দিয়া নতুন বেশে (ক) সেন্টার পথে, (খ) অডিটোরিয়াম পথভিত্তিক ভাড়া, নার্স, মেডিকেল টেকনোলজি পদে পদে করা করে দরপত্র জামানত নিয়ন্ত্রণপত্রের সংশোধন করা হল।

ক্রমিক নং	বাজারের বিবরণ	পুরের জামানত	সংশোধিত জামানত
১/৭	(ক) সেন্টার পথে	১৫,০০,০০০.০০	২,৫০,০০০.০০
	(খ) অডিটোরিয়াম পথভিত্তিক ভাড়া, নার্স, মেডিকেল টেকনোলজি পদে পদে করা	২,৫০,০০০.০০	১৫,০০,০০০.০০

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কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা
ফোন: ৮-০২২০৭৩ ফ্যাক্স: ৯০৪২২৩৭

তারিখ: ১০/৭/২০২২

CMSF
Capital Market Stabilization Fund

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Be a proud member of CMSF and contribute to the Capital Market

Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) is established by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) under the BSEC (Capital Market Stabilization Fund) Rules, 2021. As per the Rule, CMSF acts as a custodian of cash and stocks in favor of the investors as received by transferring unclaimed and undistributed cash/stock dividend, non-refunded public subscription money and un-allotted rights shares from the issuer of listed securities. Cash/stock deposited in the fund will be paid or settled on due claim by the shareholders or investors at any time.

The CMSF is looking for well-disciplined, smart, energetic, self-motivated, dynamic, experienced applicants in the Manager/Assistant General Manager (AGM) positions as mentioned from 1 to 2 below:

- Head of Accounts & Finance (Re-advertisement)
- Head of Internal Audit (Re-advertisement)

- Personal Officer (PO) to the Chairman, Junior Executive Level (Re-advertisement)
- Junior Executive

Instruction: For details including qualification & experience and other conditions of recruitments etc. in the above-mentioned positions, please visit Website of DSE: <https://www.dsebd.org>; CSE: <https://www.cse.com.bd>; CDBL: <https://www.cdbl.com.bd>

The successful candidates will be offered a competitive package. Competent candidates are requested to apply via www.bdjobs.com or send the application with CV and other relevant documents via email to: hr@cmsfd.org by July 31, 2022. The CMSF reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N: B: Candidates who applied previously need not apply again.

Khulna Development Authority
Invitation for Enlistment (Works)
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1.	Ministry/Division	Housing & Public Works.
2.	Agency	Khulna Development Authority.
3.	Procuring entity	Executive Engineer (M), KDA, Khulna.
4.	Procuring entity district	Khulna.
5.	Invitation for	Enlistment of Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Contractors in case of limited tenders for values up to 2 crore in KDA.
6.	Invitation Ref No.	01/2022-2023
7.	Date	14/07/2022

KEY INFORMATION

8.	Procurement method	Limited Tendering Method.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9.	Application closing date and time	Date 14/08/2022 Time 5.00pm
10.	Name & address of the office(s)	Khulna Development Authority, Khulna.
	- Application form availability	KDA Reception Room, website: www.kda.gov.bd
	- Receiving application form	Executive Engineer (Maintenance), KDA, Khulna.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

11.	Eligibility of applicant	a. Must have valid trade licence. b. Must have TIN and VAT registration certificate. c. Must have up-to-date bank solvency certificate.
12.	Price application form (Tk)	500.00
13.	Enlistment fee (Tk)	5000.00

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

14.	Name of official inviting application	Montasir Mamun.
15.	Designation of official inviting application	Executive Engineer (M).
16.	Address of official inviting application	KDA, Khulna.
17.	Contact details of official inviting application	+02477725151-3 +882477725154 kda.khulna@gmail.com
18.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all applications.	

Note: VAT is to be submitted with from & fees.

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)
Khulna Development Authority
Khulna

GD-1379

Two children among four killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Four including two children were killed in road accidents in Jashore and Sirajganj yesterday.

In Jashore, two children were crushed under the wheels of a tractor trolley in Sadar upazila.

The deceased are Jahia Khatun (4) and her cousin Abu Huraira (2).

Jahia's father Kamal Hossain was going out with the tractor in the morning.

When the vehicle started moving, he did not notice that the children were behind the vehicle, said sub-inspector Nazmul of Sadar Police Station.

The bodies were sent to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy, he added.

He also said no complaints were lodged in this connection yet.

Meanwhile in Sirajganj, two people were killed and five injured in separate accidents.

The deceased were identified as Omar Faruk (32), and Abdul Mazid (52).

Faruk died as a speeding bus collided head-on with a truck in Bogura-Nagarbari highway, said OC Md Lutfor Rahman of Hatikumrul highway police station.

The injured were taken to a local hospital, the police official added.

Meanwhile, day labourer Mazid was hit by a bus while crossing a road in the Char Mirzapur area in Sirajganj, said police.

No case was filed over the incident.

Mazid's family members took the body from the spot, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station.



Even though Nilphamari General Hospital was converted to a 250-bed facility in 2019, regular activities still take place in their old building, since the hospital authorities have delayed the shift to the new one. As a result, patients are having to suffer a great deal as they are being compelled to take treatment lying on the floors of wards and corridors. The hospital authorities claim their shifting is being delayed due to technical difficulties.

PHOTO: STAR

NILPHAMARI HOSPITAL Patients lie on floor, while rooms stay vacant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The 250-bed Nilphamari General Hospital's new six-storey building remains vacant even three years after construction, for which, patients are compelled to take treatment lying on the floors and corridors of the old building.

Ten years ago, the hospital was upgraded to a 250-bed facility from the previous 100-bed status, and to accommodate the addition, a new six-storey building was constructed at a cost of Tk 30.50 lakh. The work was completed in April 2019.

But its regular activity is still being conducted in the old building since the shift to the new building has been delayed several times.

The hospital authorities claimed that their first attempt to shift was hindered by the pandemic, since the new building was used as an isolation ward for two consecutive years. It's being delayed again as construction of the ICU and dialysis units, and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Daraz launches 'Media Innovation Awards 2022'

CITY DESK

Daraz Bangladesh yesterday announced Bangladesh Media Innovation Awards 2022 to recognise the innovative initiatives in the media industry.

The announcement came at a press conference held in the capital.

Naheed Ezaheer Khan, MP; Sonia Bashir Kabir, vice chairperson, SBK Foundation; Md Tajdin Hassan, Daraz chief marketing officer, and AHM Hasinul Quddus (Rusho), Daraz chief corporate affairs officer, were present at the event.

The award will recognise the best performers in the local digital media under four segments - Youth Engagement, Broadcast Innovation, Digital Innovation and Print Innovation.

The awards will be given in 24 categories. The last date of submitting the entry forms and supporting materials online is August 20.

Dimadim, a creative consultancy organisation, is the ideation partner of the event, while Brand Practitioners Bangladesh is the outreach partner. SBK Foundation is a strategic partner of this initiative. Reboot Limited is the event partner of the award programme.

RECALLING LEGACY OF 1971 25-member team starts 4-day visit to Assam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A 25-member Bangladesh delegation yesterday began a four-day visit to the Indian state of Assam to celebrate and recall legacy of Liberation War.

This visit has been arranged by the Indian government as part of the golden jubilee of the Liberation War. 50 years of India-Bangladesh ties, and "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" in India, said a statement of Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

The delegation comprises 15 freedom fighters, who fought the war in areas adjoining Assam, six journalists and four youth representatives.

During the visit, the Bangladesh delegation will interact with senior constitutional functionaries of the Assam government.

Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Dhaka-1207. Ref. No. (W)/e-GP/BSHI/2022-2023/01 Date: 17/07/2022. e-Tender Notice. e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following work: S.L. Description of works Tender ID Publication date & time Last selling date & time Closing date & time. 01 Construction of Boundary wall & main gate, compound inside beautification works at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute. 717880 18/07/2022 10:00 10/08/2022 16:00 11/08/2022 12:00. Includes details on registration and contact information for Prof. (Dr.) Md. Jahangir Alam, Director.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ. সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট. ফোন নং-০৮-২১-৭১৬০৩৬. esyl@rhd.gov.bd. তারিখ: ১৭/০৭/২০২২. সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা সর্বপ্রতি সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালনা (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতাতে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতাতে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করে ৫০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ) লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত প্রাকল্পিত মূল্যের অভ্যন্তরীণ কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, এর কার্যালয়. সড়ক বিভাগ, মাগুরা. ফোন নং ০৮৮৮-৬২৫১৮. erhdmaqura@gmail.com. তারিখ: ১৭/০৭/২০২২. সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা সর্বপ্রতি সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, মাগুরা কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালনা (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতাতে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করে ৫০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ) লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত প্রাকল্পিত মূল্যের অভ্যন্তরীণ কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন করা হবে।

Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU. Invitation for Tender (OTM) For Microbus Renting. Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed firms/organizations as per the Public Procurement Rules (PPR), 2008 for procurement of Physical Services by Renting a 08-09 Seated Microbus for use of Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project works as per terms and conditions stated below: 1. Ministry/Division: Ministry of Commerce. 2. Procuring Agency: Export Promotion Bureau. 3. Procuring Entry Name: Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center Project. 4. Procuring Entry code: 176101-224004100. 5. Procuring Entry District: Dhaka. 6. Invitation for (Name of Works/Services and Tender package): For renting a 08-09 seated Microbus for use of Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center Project Works. 7. Invitation Reference No: 26.02.0000.066.14.150.22/1461. 8. Date: 17-07-2022. 9. Procurement Method: Open Tendering Method (OTM). 10. Budget and Source of Funds: Export Promotion Bureau's Own Fund. 11. Development Partner: China Government. 12. Project/Programme Code: 176101-224004100. 13. Project/Programme Name: Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center Project. 14. Tender Publication Date: From 18-07-2022 to 19-07-2022. 15. Tender Schedule Selling/Buying Date/Time: From 20/07/2022 to 03/08/2022 (during office hours). 16. Tender Submission Date and Time (Last Closing Date and Time): From 21/07/2022 to 04/08/2022, Closing time at 3:00 PM on 04/08/2022. 17. Tender Opening Date and Time: 04/08/2022 at 3:30 PM. 18. Name & Address of the Office/ Places for: (a) Selling/Buying Tender Documents: Project Office, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center, TCB Bhaban (14th Floor), 01, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215; (b) Receiving/Submission Tender Documents: Project Office, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center, TCB Bhaban (14th Floor), 01, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215; (c) Place of Opening Tender Documents: Conference Room, Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban (4th Floor), 1, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215; 19. Place and Date of Pre-Tender Meeting: Not Applicable. 20. Eligibility of Tenderer and Documents to be submitted: (a) The tenderer must have at least 5(Five) years of experience as service provider in renting of Cars/Vehicles in several departments. More conditions have been described in the tender schedule/tender documents. (b) Tenderers shall submit copied copy of (1) Updated Trade License (2) VAT registration certificate, (3) Up to date Income Tax Certificate (4) Experience certificate for same nature of business during last 05(Five) years (5) Bank solvency certificate (6) Bank account statement of last 2(Two) years in favour of average transactions/turn-over of at least Tk. 20(Twenty) Lacs yearly from the same nature of business. In this regard, cash deposits/deposits in the bank accounts is/are not acceptable. (7) Original copies of all documents shall be submitted before Tender Evaluation. 21. Brief Description of Works/Services/Goods: Selected Service Provider shall provide Microbus in office days mainly for movement of Project Personnel from Dhaka to Project Site at Purbashal on the basis of daily rent. More details are available in the Terms of Reference (TOR) portion. 22. Brief Submission of other documents/details: Tenderers will provide information and submit documents indicating their competence to perform the expected services. These documents/particulars may be brochures, printed descriptions regarding conducting similar types of business/assignments by the tenderer in last 05 years etc. 23. Price of Tender Document: Tk. 500/- (Five Hundred) only. 24. Contract Period: From 01 September, 2022 to 31st December, 2023. 25. Tender security money/Refundable: Tk. 40,000/- (Taka Forty Thousand), in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of Project Director, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center. 26. Name of Official Inviting Tender: Mohammad Rezaul Karim. 27. Designation of Official Inviting Tender: Project Director, Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). 28. Address of Official Inviting Tender: TCB Bhaban (14th Floor), 01, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. 29. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender: Tel. No- 02-55013884, 91718332976. E-mail Address : rezaul65@yahoo.com. 30. Other Terms and Conditions: (1) The registration fee of Microbus must be mentioned with supporting papers and documents including Registration Certificate, Tax Clearance Certificate, Fitness Certificate, Purchase documents, Photo copy of Driving License of the Driver who will drive the Vehicle. The Microbus, which have been made before the year of 2012, shall not be acceptable to best use. (2) Relevant and necessary papers/documents shall be enclosed with the tender documents. (3) If the Tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged documents, the tender security will be forfeited as well as appropriate legal measures shall be taken against them. (4) Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives may be present during opening of submitted tenders. (5) If the Tenderer fails to deliver the assigned services, in that case, the project authority reserves the right to cancel the work order/contract and to forfeit the tender security. The project authority reserves the right to take appropriate legal actions against them. (6) All the rules, regulations, terms & conditions and General conditions of Contract, which have been described in PPA-2006 and in PPR-2008, are applicable for this Tender and all of those, shall be complied/observed by all concerned parties/Organizations. (8) The procuring entity also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders as well as reserves rights to change, amend or impose any conditions.

Kaiser: Afran Nisho's most stellar performance to date?

Another character that viewers will definitely love is Barrister, played by Imtiaz Barshon. When discussing this show with another colleague, we both noted that the character is almost a Bangladeshi version of Moriarty—Sherlock Holmes' greatest nemesis.

AAQIB HASIB

Afran Nisho starrer "Kaiser" has been the talk of the town since its release on July 8. Released on Hoichoi, the series follows the tale of Kaiser Chowdhury, homicide detective who works in the Detective Branch.

Featuring a star-studded cast of Reekita Nondine Shimu, Mostafizur Noor Imran, Imtiaz Barshon, Shatabdi Wadud, among others.

The show starts off with a mysterious double murder that Kaiser has been assigned to investigate. This is the first case Kaiser has been handed since his suspension, and he seems to be in a sink or swim situation depending on the eventual outcome of the case.

While you'd think that this another crime-thriller/detective story that has been made for OTT—and at times it does stray down that narrative—"Kaiser" is so much more than that. At its heart, the show covers themes of people's insecurities, mental health issues, addiction and the darkness of humanity. The director's ability to portray Dhaka as the dark and mysterious city that we sometimes forget it is, was truly remarkable.

The highlight of the show is definitely Afran Nisho's performance as the titular character. His ability to be the likeable lead character, while also showcasing his own flaws and shortcomings as a father, friend, (ex) husband and detective all come together to make a brilliant performance. At the heart of the character of Kaiser, is his video game addiction which almost cripples his social relationships. However, the show did a great job of portraying video game addiction without it becoming another PSA warning about how video games are bad.

One scene in particular, which features Kaiser, his ex-wife, and two best friends—one of whom is married to Kaiser's ex-wife—where all of them are arguing over petty topics and questioning Kaiser's ability to be a good father, friend and husband is a fantastic scene that showcases the different character dynamics in the show. This scene was apparently captured in just one shot, and



improvised by the actors.

Another character that viewers will definitely love is Barrister, played by Imtiaz Barshon. When discussing this show with another colleague, we both noted that the character is almost a Bangladeshi version of Moriarty—Sherlock Holmes' greatest nemesis. Barrister's cool and collected persona, in combination with his ability to eloquently express himself, definitely added an immense value to the show.

"Kaiser" also makes great use of its soundtrack, including songs from Karnival,

Arekta Rock Band, EIDA and Petty Never Grew. In particular, the use of "Control Room" by Karnival was a great addition to the episode where the song is featured. Petty Never Grew's "Pink Song" was also a nice and sweet way of ending the final episode of the show.

Spanning a total of nine episodes, "Kaiser" brings to the table incredible cinematography paired with a performance of a lifetime from Afran Nisho. If you're tired of watching the typical Goyenda series available on OTTs, then "Kaiser" can be that fresh breath of air that you have been looking for.

'Severance' star Adam Scott joins cast of 'Madame Web'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Adam Scott of "Severance" and "Parks and Recreation" fame has now joined the cast of the upcoming "Spider-Man" spin-off "Madame Web". The movie is being directed by S J Clarkson.

In the movie, Dakota Johnson will be starring as Madame Web, a clairvoyant who has the power of telepathy and the ability to see events in the future. The film will act as the origin story for the character, who is most famous for appearing in Marvel comics as an ally of Spider-Man.

The movie will also star Sydney Sweeney, Emma Roberts, Celeste O'Connor and Isabela Merced among many others.



'Lal Moroger Jhuti' visits Toronto Multicultural Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Liberation War-based film "Lal Moroger Jhuti", by renowned filmmaker Nurul Alam Atique will be participating in the Toronto Multicultural Film Festival, from July 18 to 23 in Canada.

The movie will be screened at the Cineplex Odeon in Toronto on July 18, under the 'Full Length Fiction Film category' at the festival.

"Lal Moroger Jhuti" was released domestically on December 10 of last year. The film was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh.

The movie stars Laila Hasan, Ahmed Rubel, Ashna Habib Bhabna, Shahjahan Shamrat, Ashish Khandaker and Ashok Byapari, among others.



NEWS

Lawmakers turn lawbreakers

FROM PAGE 12

the MP, said, "All of a sudden, he [Fakhrul] swooped on Abul Kalam and started kicking and punching him on his leg, neck, nose and head repeatedly."

Senior AL leaders also condemn such incidents and admit that the activities of a few errant lawmakers are damaging the party's image.

Abdur Razzaque, AL presidium member and agriculture minister, told this newspaper that the AL is a large political party and many of its MPs are engaged in "different types of activities".

"But we will take stern action if any leader of the party — be it an MP or anyone, are found engaging in unlawful activities and damaging the party's image," he said.

The senior cabinet member also said, "We will not consider whether the person is an MP or holding a post in the party while taking actions against him/her."

When his attention was drawn to the recent assault of Rajshahi college principal Salim Reza by AL MP Omar Faruk Chowdhury on July 7, Razzaque said, "This is not acceptable at all if anyone — be it an MP — violates the law."

After denying the incident at a press conference held by the lawmaker, Salim Reza admitted to a probe committee that the incident did take place at the MP's office.

It generated huge criticism, including from opposition MPs.

Mujibul Haque Chunnun, secretary general of the main opposition in parliament Jatiya Party, said such activities of ruling party MPs are totally objectionable.

"This was nothing but a heinous act. I have no words to criticise..." said Chunnun.

"MPs are responsible persons. They are the makers of law. How can an MP beat and assault a teacher?" he questioned.

AL leaders and their MPs have been blinded after remaining in power for long stretch, added the JP leader. "They don't care about people..."

Another incident that got media attention was the one involving Awami League MP Nadira Yasmin Jolly, elected to a reserved seat for women in parliament.

On March 8, the MP in Pabna allegedly threatened to slap the district's women affairs officer because the invitation for an International

Women's Day programme reached her late.

When it comes to beating up people, Awami League MP from Barguna 2 Shawkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon made no discrimination.

Rimon has beaten up a former Chhatra League leader, a government employee, a local youth, and assaulted and hurled abuse at a female lawyer and an activist of Mohila Awami League on different occasions.

Faridpur-4 lawmaker Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, known as Nixon Chowdhury, hurled abuse in a phone conversation with Jasmin Sultana, Faridpur's Charbhadrason Upazila Nirbahi Officer, and threatened to give "fitting reply" to Atul Sarkar, deputy commissioner of Faridpur.

The MP did this after the assistant commissioner (land) of Bhanga arrested one of his activists for violating the election code of conduct on the day of by-election to chairman post of Charbhadrason Upazila Parishad on October 10, 2020.

Asked about such unruly behaviour of AL MPs, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekaruzzaman said such infighting driven unruly behaviour of a section of political leaders including public representatives is nothing new, though the recent incidents indicate an increasing trend of unabashed ruthlessness.

"It must be deeply embarrassing for our political leaders who are struggling to uphold decent, democratic and pro-people values and practices of politics, though [they are becoming] increasingly isolated."

He also said the key issue is the growing reality that political affiliations and positions are treated as a licence for reaping the benefits of a zero-sum game through abuse of power.

"With the increasing monopolisation of the political space, it is about an internal turf-war in which the winner takes all. It goes on unabated because there is hardly any scope of accountability which is ominous for the future of our political parties."

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Tofail Ahmed, a local government expert, said MPs are being informally involved in different matters, which they should never do so as lawmakers.

For example, he said, MPs are intervening in college affairs. People, who are becoming victims of their

unnecessary interventions, raise their voices against them and subsequently face their wrath.

"It's a manifestation of uncultured and intolerant leadership," he said, adding that this kind of leadership cannot tolerate dissenting opinions.

Contacted, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbulul Alam Hanif said some incidents are being reported by the media in a wrong way, as opponents give incorrect information to journalists.

He, however, said the whole society has become intolerant and people sharply react even to silly matters. And his party will take organisational actions if any leader, including MPs, gets engaged in unlawful and unjust activities.

SSC exams

FROM PAGE 12

of floods that month, we have decided to hold them in September instead."

About the flood situation in Sylhet, she said, "Some educational institutions there are still facing some problems. We will be able to provide textbooks to the students of the flood-hit districts by July 24."

At least 683 sets of textbooks will be distributed in Sylhet district, and 10,586 books in Sunamganj.

Saying the ministry has been trying to gradually bring the exam schedules to back the first quarter of the year, like during pre-pandemic times, she said, "We will be able to hold SSC exams in February in 2023."

About whether the recent spike in Covid cases may lead to another shutdown of schools, Dipu Moni said the government has no such plans right now.

EU delegation here to talk

FROM PAGE 12

and visit a textile and a pharmaceutical factory to assess compliance levels before departing on July 20.

They will also discuss Bangladesh's status as a beneficiary of the EU's Everything But Arms (EBA) trade preference scheme through which all Bangladeshi exports can enter the EU duty- and quota-free.

The six will also look into how the country has prepared for its upgrade to GSP plus, a programme that requires that 27 international labour, social and environmental

Wasa pushes for area-wise water tariff

FROM PAGE 2

tariff would be Tk 18.75 per unit. The low-income people would pay Tk 12.5 each unit.

Commercial users will pay Tk 50 per unit but the government organisations would pay at the production cost of Tk 25.

According to Wasa's statistics, 0.8 percent of its customers are from upscale residential areas, 1.3 percent from upper-middle-class areas, 4 percent from middle-class areas and 79.4 percent from lower-middle-class

areas.

With the new proposal, Wasa will be able to level the production cost and selling cost of water and there would not be any need for subsidy, said Md Tahmidul Islam, the technical adviser of Wasa, at an event styled "Fixing of area-based water price of Dhaka Wasa".

Wasa must increase water tariff rationally, said Md Tazul Islam, the local government, rural development and co-operatives minister, at the event. "People should not

suffer — Wasa must take that into consideration."

No organisation can sustain on subsidy and the production cost cannot be higher than the selling price.

"It also needs to be checked whether the water price is going to be increased due to mismanagement or corruption. Corruption will not be tolerated."

However, it is necessary to supply water at a lower rate to the low-income people than the wealthy, Islam added.

More control feared if data stored locally

FROM PAGE 12

certain types of data locally.

This means no data transfer can happen without the consent of the director general of the digital security agency.

"We want to secure our citizens' data," said Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for the ICT Division, who presided over the event.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said, "Data protection is of serious strategic intent. Data sovereignty is at the very centre of the debate. And the localisation of data is important. Moderating content democratically is important."

Huma Khan, senior human rights adviser to the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, raised concerns about a provision in the draft.

The provision would allow the government to direct the DG in charge of this law to take action "in the interest of sovereignty and the integrity of Bangladesh, the security

of the State, friendly relations with foreign states or public order".

She said, "We have seen how such provisions were abused in the case of the Digital Security Act."

Representatives from the business sector voiced concerns about how the provision would affect international business and trade.

Speakers from Mastercard and American Chamber of Commerce commented that the cross-border transfer of financial data is necessary for business.

Nihad Kabir, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "We would get lost in the woods about the transfer of data, storage of data, and more."

State Minister Palak said stakeholders have been negotiating and debating with the government, but not with the large tech companies.

Iftekaruzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said the government is a user of data,

and hence, it cannot be the one to implement this law.

"Implementation has to be done by an independent authority or a commission created by the government."

The aim of the law should be protection and not control, he added. Law Minister Anisul Huq said, "All the future global developments will require a data protection legislation to ensure the privacy, security and protection of individuals and organisations in the new digital world."

The ICT Division incorporated the feedback of 17 organisations for this draft, and has revised 40 sections of the law, including deleting a provision that previously granted the DG impunity from legal prosecution.

NM Zeaul Alam, senior secretary of ICT Division, M Shahidul Haque, its senior legislative expert, and Tarique M Barkatullah, director of the National Data Centre, were present at the event.

committed to a partnership with Bangladesh to support the country's socio-economic development. The EU is the most important export market for Bangladesh and ready-made garments represent 83 percent of those exports," Hautala was quoted as saying in the statement.

"Strengthening respect for human rights, freedom of expression and labour rights underpins this cooperation. I look forward to discussions in Dhaka on how Bangladesh can fully comply with the requirements of EBA and best

prepare to meet the criteria for possible future GSP+ status."

She said they would also highlight the importance of the forthcoming EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive to the country.

"It will make sure that European companies will not be complicit in violations of labour rights in their supply chains. The government of Bangladesh has all the reasons to speed up the reforms to which it is committed," said Hautala before the visit.

This is absolutely a leadership issue. Anyone aspiring to lead our country needs to demonstrate that they take this issue incredibly seriously.

UK climate chief **Alok Sharma** says he may resign if the new Tory leader fails to commit to a strong green agenda



Firefighters try to control a forest fire near Louchats in Gironde, southwestern France, yesterday. Authorities across southern Europe yesterday battled to control huge wildfires in countries including Spain, Greece and France, where thousands of people have been evacuated in soaring temperatures.

PHOTO: AFP

Biden disputes Saudi account of Khashoggi murder discussion

REUTERS

US President Joe Biden on Saturday differed with Saudi Arabia in their account of discussions at a bilateral summit about the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. US intelligence agencies believe Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing in 2018 of Khashoggi, a Saudi-US citizen, which the de facto Saudi ruler denies. Answering reporters as he arrived at the White House from his first Middle East trip as president, Biden disputed the Saudi foreign minister's account that he did not hear Biden blame Mohammed bin Salman for the killing of the Washington Post columnist, a harsh critic of his native Saudi Arabia. Asked whether the minister was telling the truth in recounting the exchange between Biden and the crown prince, the president said "No". The Saudi minister said the crown prince, known as MbS, had told Biden the kingdom had acted to prevent a repeat of mistakes like Khashoggi's killing and that the United States had also made mistakes.

US spreading 'Iran-phobia'

Tehran accuses Washington of provoking 'crises' in Middle East

AFP, TEHRAN

Tehran yesterday accused Washington of provoking tensions in the Middle East, a day after US President Joe Biden ended a tour to Iran's rival Saudi Arabia and arch-foe Israel.

Washington "has once again resorted to the failed policy of Iran-phobia, trying to create tensions and crises in the region," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said in a statement.

The comments come after Biden on Saturday vowed that the United States would not "tolerate efforts by any country to dominate another in the region through military buildups, incursions, and/or threats", in a transparent reference to Iran.

Biden's first Middle East visit came just a few days before Russian President Vladimir Putin is due to visit Tehran on July 19.

Biden, in a speech in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah at a summit that brought together the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, assured Arab leaders that Washington would remain fully engaged in the Middle East.

"We will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia or Iran," Biden said.

Following the meeting, a joint statement committed the leaders to "preserve regional security and stability".

It also underscored diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and notably called for enhanced joint deterrence capabilities "against the increasing threat" posed by unmanned aerial vehicles -- a likely reference to Tehran, which on Friday unveiled ships and submarines capable of carrying armed drones.

Tehran, which denies seeking to build a nuclear bomb, yesterday dismissed the comments made in Jeddah.

"These false allegations are in line with Washington's seditious policy... in the region," Kanani said.

Biden began his tour on Wednesday in Israel, before visiting the Palestinian Territories and then flying to Saudi Arabia.

In Israel, Biden signed a security pact reinforcing a common front against Iran, where the president vowed to use "all" US power to stop Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Kanani said the pact was a "great sign of the deception and hypocrisy" of the United States, because "they turn a blind eye to the Zionist (Israel) regime as... the greatest holder of the arsenal of nuclear weapons in the region".

Israel is widely believed to hold the Middle East's sole but undeclared nuclear arsenal.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Sarishabari Pourashava
Sarishabari, Jamalpur

Memo No. sa/poura/prokou/2022/346(7) Date: 17/07/2022

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 02/2021-2022

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprou.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Tender security time	Tender closing and opening date and time	Procurement method
01	709178	JETIPSRB/2021/29 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road start from Baushi North Para near H/O Mr. Jubbar Moulvi to near H/O Mr. Selim, (Ch: 0.00m-210.00m), (Part-2) Rehabilitation of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from near Ezarapara Primary School to near Boushi Rail Crossing (Ch: 0.00m-315.00m), (Salvage cost Tk=35574.00), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Road start from Boushi Rail Crossing to Panchoip road near H/O Mr. Abdul Hai (Ch: 0.00m-360.00m), (Salvage cost Tk=40533.00), (Part-4) Construction of RCC Road start from Baushi-Ponchoip Road to near H/O Mr. Md. Monir Uddin (Ch: 0.00m-127.00m) under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur. (Total salvage cost Tk=75207.00)	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:30:00	LTM
02	709179	JETIPSRB/2021/30 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road start from Boushi Bazar R & H near shop of Bonowari to near Boushi Bridge (Ch: 0.00m-284.00m) (Part-2) Construction of RCC Road start from Boushi Bazar near H/O Mr. Abu Sulfan to near H/O Mr. Gods Miah (Ch: 0.00m-152.00m), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Drain start from Boushi Bazar Old Drain to Boushi Bazar Water Pump with Connected Internal Drain (Ch: 0.00-392.00) & 1.00 No. X-drain, (Ch: 0.00-392.00) (Total salvage cost Tk=203873.00) under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur.	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:30:00	LTM
03	709180	JETIPSRB/2021/31 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road start from Gojaria near H/O Mr. Shahajahan Mollah to Gojaria Govt. Primary School, (Ch: 0.00m-462.00), (Part-2) Rehabilitation of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from Boushi Ponchoip Malek MP Fish Khamar to Chandanpur Manik Moor (Ch: 0.00m-892.00m), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Road start from Gojaria near H/O Mr. Joyen Bhuiya to near H/O Mr. Shahe Ali Bhuiya, (Ch: 0.00m-105.00m), (Part-4) Construction of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from Baushi Ponchoip Road near H/O Mr. Jalal to near H/O Mr. Hossain Mondol (Ch: 0.00m-256.00m) under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur. (Salvage cost Tk=109662.00)	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:30:00	LTM
04	709181	JETIPSRB/2021/32 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road start from Baushi Ponchoip-Perata Road to near H/O Mr. Hossen, (Ch: 0.00m-237.00m), (Part-2) Construction of RCC Road start from Gojaria near shop of Moju to near H/O Mr. Kader Driver, (Ch: 0.00m-41.00m), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Road start from Boushi Ponchoip Roads to near Bangalapara Kamarbari, (Ch: 0.00m-182.00m), (Part-4) Construction of RCC Road start from Ponchoip-Gojaria road to near H/O Mr. Hanif Uddin Sander, (Ch: 0.00m-115.00m) under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur.	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:30:00	LTM
05	709182	JETIPSRB/2021/33 (Part-1) Construction of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from Baushi Chandanpur near Manik Moor to near H/O Mr. Mukta, (Ch: 00-357m) (Part-2) Construction of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from Gozaria near H/O Mr. Halim Bsc to Chandanpur near H/O Mr. Jhoad Ali Khan, (Ch: 00-215m), (Part-3) Construction of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from Baushi Chandanpur near H/O Mr. Mukta to near H/O Mr. Kudu Sheikh, (Ch: 00-255m), (Part-4) Construction of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from Ponchoip Chaik Bangali Masjid to Pours end Point, (Ch: 00-375m) under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur.	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:30:00	LTM
06	714264	JETIPSRB/2021/34 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road start from Boushi-Gojaria road near Mollabari Mor to near H/O Mr. Mofazzal Hossen (Ch: 0.00m-268.00m), (Part-2) Construction of RCC Road start from Naogula near H/O Mr. Monsur Pathan to near H/O Mr. Nasir Sander, (Ch: 0.00m-212.00m), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Road start from Boushi Moddho Para Gojaria pecca road to near H/O Mr. Salam Bsc, (Ch: 0.00m-122.00m), (Part-4) Construction of RCC Drain start from Boushi Bazar near Rail Crossing to Panchoip Road near H/O Mr. Omor Ali via Post Office Moor (Ch: 0.00-460.00m) & G3 Nos. X-Drain under Sarishabari Pourashava, District Jamalpur.	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 13:00:00	LTM
07	714265	JETIPSRB/2021/35 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road start from Shimla Bazar near Roads & Highway to near H/O Mr. Sanowar Hossen Bidsha, (Ch: 0.00-33.00m), (Part-2) Construction of RCC Road start from Shimla Bazar R&H near Fire Service to Ispahani near Lalar Moor, (Ch: 0.00m-235.00m), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Road start from Ispahani near Lalar Moor to near H/O Mr. Faruq, (Ch: 0.00m-268.00m), (Part-4) Construction of R.C.D Road at Shimla Bazar Ghoshpatri near H/O Mr. Akter to near H/O Mr. Rasid Military (Ch: 00-48.00m) under Sarishabari Pourashava District Jamalpur. (Salvage cost Tk=3,52,988.00)	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 13:00:00	LTM
08	714266	JETIPSRB/2021/36 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road start from near Champokoly pecca road to Sports Association Office, (Ch: 0.00m-84.00m), (Part-2) Construction of RCC Road start from Shimla West Para near H/O Mr. Mokbul Hazi to near H/O Mr. Nimol Thakur, (Ch: 0.00m-405.00m), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Road start from Shimla Bazar near Hotel of Mamuni to Water pump with 6.00 Nos. Link road (Ch: 66m+30.00m+485.00m+42.00m+21.00m+430.00m+11.00m) = 255.00m, (Part-4) Construction of RCC Road start from Shimla Bazar Ispahani near H/O Mr. Harun to Luce near H/O Mr. Sultan, (Ch: 0.00m-173.00m), under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur. (Salvage cost Tk= 7,83,968.00)	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 13:00:00	LTM
09	714267	JETIPSRB/2021/37 Construction of Bituminous Carpeting Road start from Semorhbari Chowmsta Mor to Helipad Main Road, (Ch: 0.00m-620.00m), under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur.	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 13:00:00	LTM
10	718012	JETIPSRB/2021/38 (Part-1) Construction of RCC Road (with Surface Drain 185.00m) start from Shimla Bazar near H/O Mr. Rahman Danuga to near Central Shahid Minar, (Ch: 0.00m-173.00m), (Part-2) Construction of RCC Surface Drain start from Shimla Baza Matroddon to near H/O Mr. Nimol Thakur via near H/O Mr. Mokbul Hazi & 1.00 No. X-drain, (Ch: 0.00-545.00), (Part-3) Construction of RCC Surface Drain start from Diakotahna near H/O Mr. Harun (Prof.) to near T&T Office, (Ch: 0.00-205.00m) under Sarishabari Pourashava, Jamalpur. (Salvage amount= 1,26,004.00)	03-Aug-2022, 17:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 12:00:00	04-Aug-2022, 13:00:00	LTM

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

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A 100-day protest that shook Lanka

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's protest movement reached its 100th day yesterday, having forced one president from office and now turning its sights on his successor as the country's economic crisis continues.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled his palace shortly before demonstrators invaded it last weekend and on Thursday resigned from the presidency.

His mismanagement is blamed for Sri Lanka's financial turmoil, which has forced its 22 million people to endure shortages of food, fuel and medicines since late last year.

The campaign to oust Rajapaksa, organised mainly through posts on Facebook, Twitter and TikTok, drew people from across Sri Lanka's often unbridgeable ethnic divides.

United by economic hardships, minority Tamils and Muslims joined the majority Sinhalese to demand the ouster of the once-powerful Rajapaksa clan.

It began as a two-day protest on April 9, when tens of thousands of people set up camp in front of Rajapaksa's office.

Under Sri Lanka's constitution, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was automatically installed as acting president following Rajapaksa's resignation. He is now the leading candidate to succeed him permanently. But the veteran politician is despised by the protesters as an ally of the Rajapaksa clan.

The Rajapaksa's SLPP party -- which has more than 100 MPs in the 225-member parliament -- is backing Wickremesinghe in the vote due Wednesday.

West's dominance ending

Tony Blair sees end of the unipolar world

REUTERS, London

The Ukraine war shows that the West's dominance is coming to an end as China rises to superpower status in partnership with Russia at one of the most significant inflection points in centuries, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

The world, Blair said, was at a turning point in history comparable with the end of World War Two or the collapse of the Soviet Union; but this time the West is clearly not in the ascendant.

"We are coming to the end of Western political and economic dominance," Blair said in a lecture entitled "After Ukraine, What Lessons Now for Western Leadership?" according to a text of the speech to a forum supporting the alliance

between the United States and Europe at Ditchley Park west of London.

"The world is going to be at least bipolar and possibly multi-polar," Blair said. "The biggest geo-political change of this century will come from China not Russia."

"China's place as a superpower is natural and justified. It is not the Soviet Union," said Blair, who was prime minister from 1997 to 2007. Its allies are likely to be Russia and Iran.

The West should not let China overtake militarily, he said. "We should increase defence spending and maintain military superiority," Blair said. The United States and its allies "should be superior enough to cater for any eventuality or type of conflict and in all areas."



The world is going to be at least bi-polar and possibly multi-polar. The biggest geo-political change of this century will come from China not Russia.

Former British prime minister **Tony Blair**

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প্রগতি লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড

প্রধান কার্যালয়: প্রগতি ইন্স্যুরেন্স ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ২০-২১ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২২৫
পিএবিএস: ৮১৮৯১৮৮-৮, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮৮০ ২২২২২৪১৫৭৪
আব্দুল বিন বিশ্বাস
ই-মেইল: info@pragatilife.com, ওয়েবসাইট: www.pragatilife.com

কেন্দ্রীয় সার্ভিসিং অফিস স্থানান্তর বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আধুনিক ও উন্নত সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে কোম্পানীর কেন্দ্রীয় পলিসি সার্ভিসিং বিভাগের আওতাধীন প্রত্যাশিত সুবিধা, নবায়ন, পলিসি স্বাধ ও সমর্পন এবং পলিসি পরিবর্তন সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কার্যক্রম ০৩ জুলাই ২০২২ইং তারিখ হতে বৃহত্তর পরিসরে নিম্নের ঠিকানা থেকে পরিচালিত হচ্ছে।

এ্যাংকর টাওয়ার (৪র্থ তলা),
১০৮, বীর উত্তম সি.আর. দত্ত রোড, ঢাকা-১২০৫।

তবে মেয়াদান্তর দাবী সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কার্যক্রম নিম্নের ঠিকানা থেকে পরিচালিত হচ্ছে।
৩২০, আল-আমিন সুপার মার্কেট (৩য় তলা),
পূর্ব রামপুরা, ঢাকা-১২১৯।

সন্মানিত গ্রাহক এবং শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের উল্লেখিত ঠিকানা সমূহে যোগাযোগ ও পলিসি সংক্রান্ত কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

A brazen display of religious intolerance

Govt must ensure legal action is taken against Narail attackers

HERE we are again, at the bottom of the heap, watching helplessly as members of a religious minority again come under attack. News headlines will tell you: "Hindu homes, shops, temples vandalised over Facebook post in Narail." The familiarity of the scene – where, about a month ago, a Hindu teacher was forced to wear a garland of shoes – is hardly surprising, as is the familiarity of the excuse – "hurting religious sentiments" – used to brutalise victims. Narail may be a flashpoint for communal violence now. But in a culture of intolerance of diversity, anyone, anywhere, can be a victim of such attacks.

The problem seems to begin, as it did last Friday, with "asking" for punishment for derogatory comments made about Islam. Such righteous indignation, justified or not, is almost always exploited by the orchestrators of communal violence. At the Sahapara village in Lohagara, Narail, crowds gathered to protest in front of the house of a student who made the alleged Facebook post. As he was missing at the time, the anger was redirected, with added fuel, to neighbouring Hindu establishments. Who will answer for this madness?

Deepali Rani Saha, who saw her valuables looted and house set ablaze, echoed what all Sahapara victims must be feeling: "I don't know how long this threat of violence will haunt us. Who will give us justice? Who will give us security? If I were in the house while they set it on fire, I would have died. God saved me. But is this any way to survive?" What makes this experience more traumatic is that police allegedly watched "from a distance" as violence unfolded. Police have since failed to arrest any of the attackers, but they were quick to detain the student in question. No wonder victims are still feeling unsafe.

The reasons for communal attacks in Bangladesh are not unknown: a vicious culture of intolerance, often encouraged by those in power, politicisation of religion, and the failure to take legal action against those involved in attacks. The last factor was repeatedly highlighted by experts, with some 253 cases of communal violence filed over the last 19 years remaining unresolved. After every incident, authorities promise justice, as they did in Narail too. But rarely, if ever, are criminals held accountable, emboldening the communal forces.

This must stop. We urge the authorities to quickly resolve all court cases of violence and bring the attackers to justice. Paying lip service to communal harmony will not improve it unless these barriers are removed. The authorities must take strict measures against any hint of communalism, create a safe environment for all minority communities, and help create a more tolerant society. Otherwise, our dream for a fair, just society will never come true.

How can a lawmaker assault a college principal?

Rising violence against teachers concerning

WE'RE alarmed to notice a sharp rise in the cases of violence and intolerance against teachers over the last few months. The latest incident took place on July 7 in Rajshahi, where a lawmaker reportedly called a local college principal to his chamber and beat him in front of other principals. After the incident was reported in the media, the MP organised a press conference where the teacher was forced to read a statement denying being assaulted. However, it was later confirmed by a probe committee, as well as a leaked phone conversation, that he was indeed assaulted.

We shudder to think how an elected public representative can beat up a respectable person such as a teacher in such a brutal way. Regardless of what happened beforehand, can he behave in such a manner? Reportedly, while assaulting the teacher, the lawmaker asked for hockey sticks to beat him. We also came to know from media reports that he has a history of condoning violence on various occasions. We cannot help but wonder: what makes him feel so emboldened to behave like this? Such conduct is unbecoming a public representative.

Recently, the principal of another college, in Narail, was forced to wear a garland of shoes around his neck in the presence of police. Before that, another teacher was sent to jail after his students demonstrated against him for "hurting religious sentiments". Last Friday, the headmaster of a school was beaten up by local Awami League men in Barishal over the possession of a beef. Assaults against teachers continue in various forms, while their abusers and tormentors continue to enjoy impunity.

It saddens us to think how we, as a nation, have failed to uphold the dignity of our teachers. Teachers, especially those worthy of the name, have been victimised over and over again for boldly sharing their thoughts or for trying to inculcate values into their students. Needless to say, these incidents will have far-reaching consequences. While teachers as a community will be afraid to perform their duty with freedom, students' respect towards them will also diminish. And this will eventually harm the overall educational environment in schools, colleges and universities.

We urge the government to investigate all such incidents of teacher assaults and take legal action against those responsible. In the Rajshahi case, we think a judicial inquiry should be held, following which proper action needs to be taken. Such brazen display of intolerance must be stopped.

New BB governor's message to our banking industry



Dr Birupaksha Paul is a professor of economics at the State University of New York at Cortland in the US and former chief economist of Bangladesh Bank.

BIRUPAKSHA PAUL

THE new governor of Bangladesh Bank (BB) has heralded robust messages to the country's banking and financial industry. Abdur Rouf Talukder, a former finance secretary, is a seasoned man who shepherded the ministry's budgets for FY2021 and FY2022 in the right direction during a most critical time when the Covid pandemic swept the planet. Bangladesh, the most densely populated country with a poor budget for healthcare, was supposed to embrace uncountable deaths and a grave economic disaster. But that didn't happen. Bangladesh was among the few which managed to prevent the recession while major economies plunged into negative growth. Talukder's experience at that time as the finance secretary is expected to be a big plus in leading the central bank.

However, the banking industry is different and complex. It is plagued by the ever-increasing amount of non-performing loans (NPLs), the roots of which are mainly psycho-political in nature – not necessarily economic. Default loans are more than Tk 113,000 crore, which is 166 times bigger than the amount of the unrecovered fund stolen in the heist of 2016 that led the then governor, Dr Atiur Rahman, to resign. The default amount that the press knows now is much lower than the actual, because the definition of default has been changed and sugar-coated on multiple occasions to please the super-rich.

Redefinition or restructuring has always posed hazardous messages, which further encouraged the habitual looters to continue their plundering of people's money from the banks. The new governor must not resort to accepting any sweeter definitions or restructuring proposals from the tycoons and family-based oligarchs. He promised to scale up inspections and implement international standards in capital adequacy. His promise to bring default loans to a reasonable ratio is commendable. That should be his number one commitment, and he must remain credible through action.

The current inflation is mainly supply-shock driven. And Governor Talukder has no weapon in his monetary arsenal to convince President Vladimir Putin to stop the Russia-Ukraine war. Putin seems to continue his aggression in Ukraine so long as he earns extra profits by selling gas and oil. Bangladesh can't escape the global heat wave of price hikes in energy and commodities. Another reason why inflation will remain stubbornly high is the strengthening of the dollar – not only against the taka, but also against all strong currencies around the globe.

Then, will the Bangladesh Bank sit idle and watch inflation flare up? Not really. It must pay little attention to the ambitious growth rate of 7.5 percent assigned by the finance ministry, and control credit growth particularly for big borrowers. Herein lies the question of independence of a regulator. Governor Talukder, on his

very first day, vowed to make the central bank an intellectually and professionally stimulated regulator agency. His mission statement complies with the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972 and its vital amendment in 2003. He made it clear that he left his job at the secretariat and now led the central bank, where the board solely would frame major decisions. This is the

Bangladesh only once. That may be okay if revision or evaluation meetings are done at least quarterly.

The result of avoiding the researchers or experts, and being cloistered within the circle of conservative deputies didn't prove to be good in the past – nor was the tactic of hiding from financial reporters. Nor was it authentic to let someone else speak on

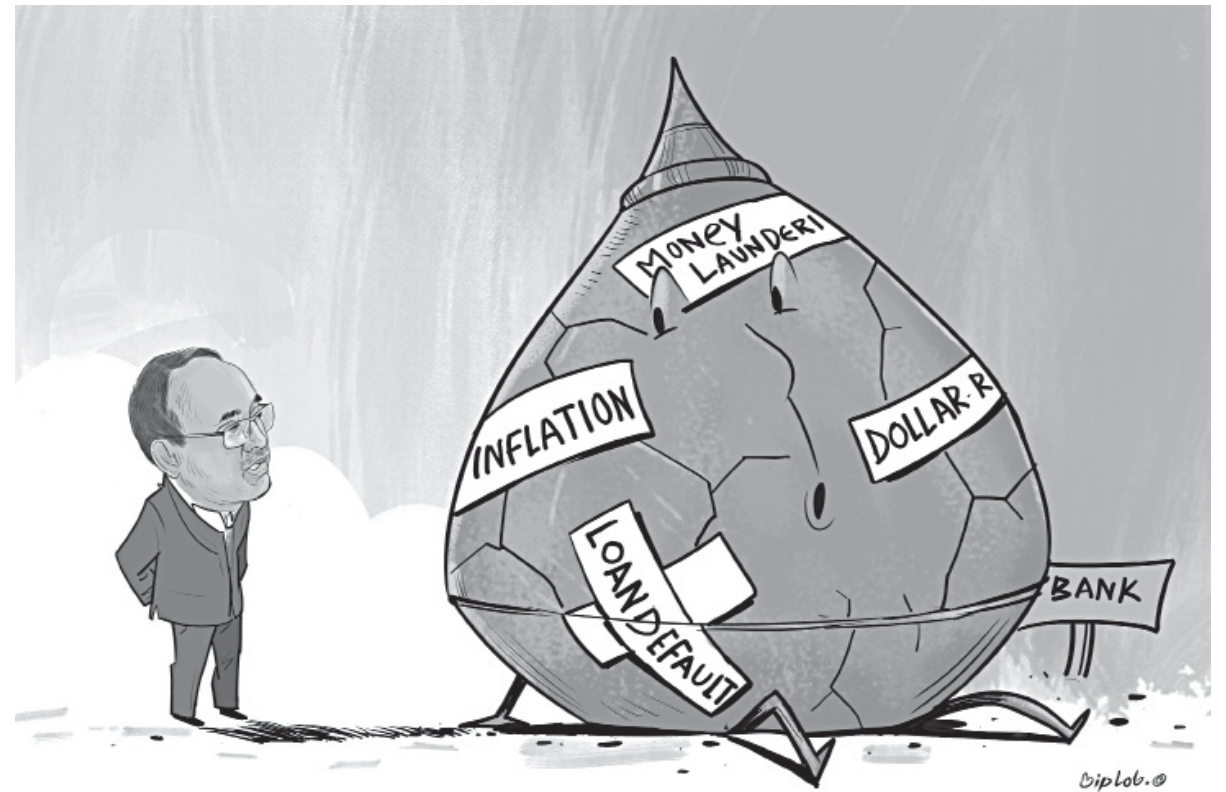


ILLUSTRATION: BILOTT CHAKROBORTY

The governor is expected to work tirelessly to first handle the mess that surfaced in the past one year or so, and then to streamline the rules of monetary economics. He will win the battle so long as he is able to convince the prime minister that his actions are theoretically correct – may be temporarily bitter, but sweet for the long-term interest of the economy.

right mindset, which must remain as the lighthouse during his entire navigation of the ship.

Very few governors in recent decades have inherited such a terrible mess that Governor Talukder has just taken up. On top of the ballooned-up default loans, high inflation and depleting forex reserves are the two ominous signs the whole industry is apprehensive to witness. The taka keeps falling every day because of defective non-market exchange rate policy in the past. Import growth has exceeded export, making the trade deficit the highest ever. Remittance growth has fallen, paving the way for higher current account deficits. Consequently, the foreign exchange reserves are sliding to a precarious stage. Money traffickers and hundi lords have geared up to siphon off funds overseas, despite good investment prospects in the local markets. The governor is expected to work tirelessly to first handle the mess that surfaced in the past one year or so, and then to streamline the rules of monetary economics. He will win the battle so long as he is able to convince the prime minister that his actions are theoretically correct – may be temporarily bitter, but sweet for the long-term interest of the economy.

The new governor must strengthen the research department and engage them on different studies required for policymaking. Their findings would be vital for decisions to move forward. Sitting with the monetary policy committee at least once a month or more is imperative. India makes monetary policy at least four times a year, the US eight times, while

the governor's behalf. The US Fed chair Jerome Powell always faces the journalists after each of his policy steps. The signal is a hundred times more effective when the industry hears anything from the governor, rather than from a spokesperson. That is how a governor is different from a finance secretary, and many in the past forgot that.

Raising the repo rate from 5 to 5.5 percent is fine as a gesture, but worthless as a policy stance to combat inflation until the nine percent ceiling on the lending rate isn't removed entirely. Healthy deposit mobilisation isn't possible until the exorbitantly high non-market interest rates prevail on National Saving Certificates (NSCs) or *Sanchayapatra*. In a concluding note, the former governor regarded *Sanchayapatra* as the most expensive borrowing tool of the government, and viewed it as an impediment to the financial market.

The central bank governor must convince the government to reduce NSC rates. NSC ownership should be delivered to the banking sector after dismantling the National Savings Directorate. The Bangladesh Bank is a regulator to help maximise employment, and hence it must require all banks to submit the reports of their annual employment generation – not just simply the reports of bumper profits. If Poet Milton is true in saying "Morning shows the day," Governor Talukder will regain the paradise by strengthening Bangladesh Bank's backbone and transforming the institution into a knowledge-based regulator of the nation's banking industry.

Storytelling can help RMG makers stand out



RMG NOTES

Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

HOW many times have you sat down with a group of friends and shared stories? You might have told them the story of how you met your better half, how you overcame a recent personal challenge or how you ended up in your current job or career. People always tell stories; they are a vital part of our daily communication.

Increasingly, people are recognising the value of storytelling in business. When implemented effectively, storytelling can drive customer loyalty by improving the authenticity of a business. People do business with people, and businesses that can communicate via engaging storytelling will be able to increase trust among their present and potential customers.

I believe RMG makers in Bangladesh have a compelling story to tell. And there is no better time to start doing it than now.

But how do you do that? Is storytelling in business simply an act of marketing and public relations? I would say storytelling falls broadly under marketing, because it is about engaging with an audience and ensuring that your business stands out. Effective storytelling strategies subtly win over customers, creating empathy and establishing shared values and mutual understanding. In this way, they can be effective at breaking down barriers with

potential clients.

I have used storytelling in my own business, and I want to share some of the tactics I have used and also seen other businesses use successfully.

One strategy is to tell the story of the idea behind your business. Your clients will be interested in this. There is a saying in marketing: "Sell the sizzle, not the sausage." By this, we mean don't tell people what something is – show them what it does. Bring your business to life by telling the story behind it. Yours might be an apparel business that aims to tackle recycling issues. Or it might be a business that's keen to give something back to the local community. Tell this story and provide the context so your customers and stakeholders understand why your product is worth buying.

By using storytelling this way, you can develop a rapport with your audience, helping clients to connect with you so they trust you, the human, and consequently, they trust the brand. It goes back to that phrase: People work with people, so you need to bring your business to life and give it a personality. This is especially the case when the story is relatable. So, for instance, if the story you tell is about your passion for supporting local communities, a client might see that and be touched on a personal level. They might then wonder: How can I get on board and work with this business?

Another benefit of storytelling is that stories can be very engaging. For instance, if you are using a story in a pitch, or on a social media post, you are less likely to lose your audience's attention. People have very short attention spans these days. Being able to grab attention via storytelling is becoming more important than ever. Of course, storytelling can become a powerful branch of a company's

marketing strategy. The reason for this is that stories evoke emotions. They foster warmth and relatability with a business, almost encouraging audiences to see a business like a long, lost friend. Corporate giants like Apple have been storytelling for years. By doing so, they have fostered remarkable levels of brand loyalty. People see such businesses as an everyday part of their lives – they are proud to own the latest iPhone.

It is important to remember that all parties within a business can be involved in storytelling. In this way, storytelling encourages team building and can boost company morale. Storytelling can be an internal tool to drive staff loyalty and create a stronger sense of purpose. For instance, as a business owner, you may wish to share stories with your employees about your company's history, its struggles, values and goals. Share what's important with your employees and explain how this might impact them. This way, you give your employees a greater sense of meaning. Further develop this by allowing your employees to share their own stories.

Ultimately, any business needs to consider storytelling from the angle of "why should people care?" Why should they wish to purchase your products? In this sense, storytelling is about humanising a business, making it less corporate and more personable.

This is especially important for Bangladeshi RMG makers. So many are competing for orders, and it can be hard to make your business be seen in a crowded field.

There is a good story behind every successful business, but this story won't tell itself. It is your job as a business owner to make sure that the outside world knows exactly what your business stands for. After all, we all love a great story, right?

Metrophilia: How to Love Dhaka



KAZI KHALEED ASHRAF

Kazi Khaleed Ashraf is an architect and urbanist, and author of *Designing Dhaka: A Manifesto for a Better City*. He directs the Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements.

If you want to fall in love with the city, walk. This simple aphorism opens up a full discourse on how we can make our cities liveable and civic, and how we might live together as a collective. One needs to love a city to plan it – this perhaps could be a second aphorism. A better philosophy for urban development – what *The Daily Star* asked me to write on – should be based on an ambulatory life, in living and experiencing the city by walking. In walking, we are with others and we participate in what can be described as the public realm.

The city has become unbelievably complex and impenetrable, but it is also a beautiful thing, as the former mayor of the model Brazilian city Curitiba always reminds me. As the “most beautiful collective dream,” Lerner implores, the city is not a problem, but the solution to collective existence.

French writer Charles Baudelaire celebrated the ritual of walking in the city in the form of the *flaneur*. A difficult word to translate from French, as it



produced for planning cities.

A walking environment should be the number one priority in any transport or urban planning. In our cultural schema, we prioritise the movement of motorised vehicles, and place the pedestrian at the lowest level of all policymaking and infrastructure planning. We overlook the fact that, of the people on the move in the city, 40 percent walk. Where once the pedestrian ruled, and the city was a place for walking and meandering, and enjoying its footpaths, riverbanks and public spaces, now the automobile dictates the term of organising the city. We make roads for cars, and direct all major investments – elevated roads, flyovers, ever wider roads, and U-loops – to the promise of an uninterrupted vehicular movement, while we corner the pedestrian to the ever-shrinking edge of the road.

And that is why the footpaths of Dhaka remain the saddest configuration ever suggested for human adaptation. Primarily constructed as cover for drains, most footpaths are ironically unwalkable: they are broken into segments, they are obscenely high (sometimes requiring steps to climb up!), and when they do exist, they are often taken over by electric transformers, bus ticket vendors and police boxes. There, the walkers topple over one another, and hopscotch and jump on a ragtag space not more than four feet wide. No wonder people walk on vehicular roads even at the risk of being run over. With the book *Designing Dhaka*, published in 2012, we may have been the first to raise concern about the poor and shabby footpaths in the city. We even joked: a footpath is exactly that – a foot-wide path!

▲ **The street is a public landscape.**

PHOTO: KAZI FARZANA ZEBA/ BENGAL INSTITUTE

▲ **Despite heavy investments on the road, we have not been able to give a civic form and norm to it. Dhaka still has a rudimentary road and transportation system. Clogged, cluttered and chaotic, the roads of Dhaka are like scenes from a disaster movie.**

I have emphasised elsewhere that the road in the city is really a public landscape, a space shared by both motor vehicles and humans – one is a mechanised contraption moving with a speed, and the other a vulnerable living, breathing being. The road is not merely a conduit for movement of motorised vehicles; it includes passage, movement and crossing for pedestrians. In Dhaka, we forget that the pedestrian is a vulnerable human being, whose five-foot-three-inch stature provides the fundamental scale and reference for all spaces.

The real problem is that Dhaka city – as is – resists walking, and hence our ambivalence about the city itself. The middle, upper-middle and upper classes (MUMU) in Dhaka do not walk! Finding walking and thus becoming the public a discomfort, they are happily ensconced in their houses/flats. Removed from the public domain, they move in their car capsules to go from one space capsule (home) to another (home or work). With the MUMU class calling the shots on the lay of the city (they influence most policy decisions one way or another), and holding a disdain for the “public,” we will not expect any improvement of the public realm and public spaces any time soon.

One major public-oriented enterprise that is late in coming, but certainly crucial in improving the liveability of the city, is the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT). We all look forward to that. With all the construction going on around the MRT, we have not yet seen much thought on walkability as it is critically linked to the success of any rapid transit. All major cities with successful MRTs – Tokyo, Moscow, NYC, Hong Kong

advancing the idea of the hyper-local, and allowing citizens to use the streets in their own way, Stockholm is testing the idea of a “one-minute city.”

Dhaka is yet to present convincing initiatives for such public spaces. Urban or settlement design and landscape design – two critical areas for making our environments better – are sadly missing in the training of our environmental professionals, and starkly absent in the official discourse on urban planning. In the meantime, designers of apartment buildings and commercial structures, with quasi-artistic effects and gestures, are conducting urban planning with no grounding in the theory of cities or the methods of urban design.

I have also argued that, in improving the public and civic life of a city, it is more important to think in terms of “urbanism,” that is, the dynamic and positive turns of a city with its multi-scalar realities, and not urbanisation, which has come to mean only the dire and uncontrollable side. Urbanism can be approached only by urban design. In his new book, *The Largest Art: A Measured Manifesto for a Plural Urbanism*, Brent Ryan, a professor at MIT, describes urban design as the “largest art” in human culture that addresses the plurality and multiple scalarity of our cities. Such approaches require a distinctive understanding and knowledge of cities, something that cannot be equated by the limiting methods of architectural design or the dry policy orientation of planning.

Despite being a city of disparities and chaos, and choked by urbanisation, Dhaka also functions. The city works because the formal and informal, and the structured and spontaneous coexist in a kind of quiet truce. That truce is maintained literally at the walls of plots and properties of Dhaka!

The public realm of Dhaka is a paradox, in which the wall as a structural, spatial and signifying element remains decisive and divisive in basic social transactions. Once Dhaka was a city of “mosques and bazaars,” now it is a city of walls and boundaries. In 2016, Bengal Institute associates investigated a 410-acre planned residential area in Dhaka, and calculated that if all walls around the plots are lined up, it would be more than 300 miles long. From Dhaka, it would reach Chattogram. Bengal Institute also studied what would materialise if walls along institutional and commercial plots were dematerialised or reduced – it would bring about an amazing new quality to the public realm, and allow for a more inclusive experience of the collective.

The walls of Dhaka city constitute a “meta-site” against which the “unregistered” collectivity is practised. A short walk through any of the streets of the city reveals the resiliency of its citizens – in how one meets ends and perhaps brings about meaningful and joyous elements. The walls provide a spatial reference and opportunity against which actual situationist and tactical operations are conducted. Such operations may be subversive to city ordinances, but for many tea stands, shoe repair spots and nursery-wallas – I once saw a young woman with a sewing machine carrying on the trade of a tailor at a footpath intersection – are ways of inhabiting and negotiating life in the city at the smallest and invisible scale. These operations may be described as micro-urbanism.

While such tactics may mark a contestation between legal and illegal operations in the conventional terms, one also discovers conditions of ingenuity, craft (craftiness!), and skill that are conducted spatially as acts of design. Somewhere in the middle, between the invisible micro-urbanists and the loud planners and designers, there may be a fruitful transaction in making the spaces of the city more civic and accessible.



A good city is, above all, a walkable city.

PHOTO: ARIF HOSSAIN

might mean a loafer as we say in Dhaka, but in Baudelaire's sense, a *flaneur* is “a connoisseur of the street,” an alert investigator who in wandering the streets takes in the sights, sounds and spirit of the place. Inspired by city life, Baudelaire's *flaneur* can become a productive person. Architect Louis Kahn imagined the street as a place of infinite wonderment, where a child while walking one day decides what she wants to do with her life.

In the 1960s, the Situationists, the avant-garde group based in Paris, proposed the practice of *dérive* that involved journeying the terrain of a city to randomly discover situations in which to enact unprecedented work of political art. Psychogeography, the practice of walking and mapping the city, developed from there. In a moving essay called the “Dictionary of Streets,” published in his book *Beginning with My Streets*, Polish writer and Nobel laureate Czeslaw Milosz intersects a psychological geography with the lay of the city streets in his hometown Wilno (Vilnius), so that the “aura of the place” may be recorded.

Writing in his book *The New York Nobody Knows*, sociology professor William Helmreich mentions walking almost every street in New York City, which would be about 6,000 miles. “I love to read about the city, to live in the city, to walk the city,” Helmreich confesses in a *New Yorker* article. “I did it in the morning. I did it in the evening. I did it on the weekends. I did it in the rain, in the snow, in the summer. It came to about thirty-five, forty miles a week, a hundred twenty a month, fifteen hundred a year.” I know architect Salauddin Ahmed, who takes off very early in the morning to walk the streets of Dhaka and document its life-world.

A good city is, above all, a walkable city – this is an axiomatic truth propagated by ardent lovers of the city, from Baudelaire to biologist-planner Patrick Geddes, and urban activist Jane Jacobs to sociologist Henre Lefebvre. Our most intimate engagement with the city is in walking. I describe this phenomenon as “metrophilia.” As a notion, this is not found in the training of planners and architects in the country, and certainly not enshrined in the thick policy books



▲ **Dhaka has become unbelievably complex and impenetrable, but it is also a beautiful thing.**

PHOTO: NILOY BISWAS

Despite heavy investments on the road, we have not been able to give a civic form and norm to it. Dhaka still has a rudimentary road and transportation system. Clogged, cluttered and chaotic, the roads of Dhaka are like scenes from a disaster movie. If after thousands of years of human civilisation, we crawl on our roads in our vehicles at seven kilometres per hour – the average speed of a motorised vehicle on Dhaka roads – and some of us who are walking meet untimely deaths by being run over, there is something wrong with the image of development.

If we wish for this megacity of 20 million residents to be a shining capital of a developed nation, marching forward with its flag of ever higher GDP, we should start from city roads. Economic advancement should match the quality of urban and physical spaces in our cities.

– are supremely walkable. What is needed along with the transit infrastructure plan is a “walkability plan” for Dhaka; the transit-oriented metropolitan scale must match up with the walkable local scale.

In times of Covid, the importance of open, public spaces and recognition of the local have become a dire public health necessity. Nearly all conscientious cities of the world focused their attention on the significance of public spaces, and the importance of walkable city hubs. Many cities in the US have adopted what is known as “open, slow or shared” streets in which the presence of the automobile has been curtailed or controlled to provide open-air mini public spaces. A new call for action for European cities is the “Fifteen Minutes City,” being popularised by the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, in which most needs of the people will be catered to in a fifteen-minute walkable neighbourhood. In

137TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Dr Muhammad Shahidullah: a tribute



Shahidullah in his early days.

A reputed Bengali scholar, Haraprashad Shastri (1853-1931) was then the Head of the Bengali-Sanskrit Department at the University of Dacca, and his association stimulated Shahidullah in widening his focus. Archaeology and folklore were brought into his ever-widening orbit. On the one hand, he wrote articles like 'The Gita and the Truth About Shrikrishna', 'Bharata, Kanva and Vishwamitra', 'A Different Version of the Shrimadbhagavadgita etc., while on the other, he went all out to collect folklore of East Bengal, where one of its richest repositories in the world could be found, by founding a 'Lokasahitya Samgraha Samiti' at the Department.

PABITRA SARKAR

Dr Shahidullah is one of the greatest linguists that the South Asian region has produced. This is a universally acknowledged fact and one can easily use it as the beginning statement of an article on him. This venerable scholar, whose bust photograph most often displayed a white beard and a fez on his head, was once branded as 'the Grand Old Man of Pakistani linguistics' (in the *Shahidullah Presentation Volume*, ed. by Anwar Shah Dil). But he never lent himself to become a bone of contention in South Asia, where countries changed their names and identities in the last century, some more than once. Three major ones, namely India, Pakistan and Bangladesh can claim him equally, as he was born (10 July 1885) in the undivided India, adopted the then East Pakistan as his domicile, and unfortunately did not live just another two years to find the birth of Bangladesh, which, I am sure, was a part of his dream for long.

His original home was the village of Peyara, in the then district of 24 Parganas, now North 24 Parganas, in the southernmost part of West Bengal. He comes from a traditionally religious family, following Sufi faith practices. He was the son of 'Munshi' Mafizuddin Ahmed and Marguba Khatun. His father was a warden, attached to the shrine of Pir Gorachand. His father's felicitous decision was for his son to have modern education has been a blessing for Bengali society and culture.

It seems that life had pre-ordained for Shahidullah that he would become a polyglot and a linguist. In his early years, he was exposed to Arabic, Persian and Urdu at home, and then in school, where Sanskrit was the only classical language available for study, he had to take it. And he began to love the language. So much so that he continued the study of Sanskrit in his Intermediate Arts (then called First Arts), and made it his major (Honours) course of study in his graduate years. Early in his school years, he says, "learning languages became an obsession with me. When other boys ordinarily passed their time flying kites, spinning tops and what not, I spent it learning languages." (*Amar Sahitya Jiban*). One may want to hazard a guess that the similarities (Persian and Sanskrit, for example) and contrasts (Arabic and Sanskrit) in the components and structures of languages he was learning may have intrigued him, and probably enhanced his thirst for delving deeper into this absolute human faculty. The theoretical framework at his time was historical and comparative



Dr Shahidullah and Mufazzal Haider Chaudhury at an event (late '60s).

PHOTO COURTESY: TANVIR HAIDER CHAUDHURY

were stunned, but the University authorities, headed by the powerful Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, were helpless against such blackmailing. The newspaper, *Bengalee*, edited by Surendranath Banerjee (1848-1925) wrote that "the Pundits should be thrown into the Ganges". But the Brahmin was not to budge from his grim resolve. He would not teach the Vedas to a Muslim boy. One can add here that much later, a Bengali girl, this time a Christian, was not allowed to enter the classrooms of the same Department but had to sit in a chair outside its doors to listen to the lectures. Her name was Sukumari Bhattacharya, who later turned out to be a great Sanskrit scholar. One should also add that things have changed now. Now quite a few Muslim girls and boys study Sanskrit in the postgraduate classes in West Bengal universities, and one is not surprised if one of them tops in the examinations.

Sir Asutosh, who would offer help to Shahidullah on later occasions also, finally found a way out. He proposed to Shahidullah that he take admission at the new Department of Comparative Philology (est. 1904), which the latter did. And, considering

already had to break his graduate studies and take a teaching position in Jessore District School. Even after doing his M. A., his situation did not improve. A short stint as a manager in a Muslim orphanage, practice of law at Basirhat Court in his district—were listless attempts of finding a secure career. Meanwhile, he had to refuse a scholarship for higher studies in Germany as, some say, he could not get a medical clearance.

Sir Asutosh came to his rescue once again. He called back Shahidullah from law saying that, "Shahidullah, the bar is not your place, you must come back to the University.", and made him a research scholar at the Department of Bengali, at the University, to help the work of Dinesh Chandra Sen, then head of the Department. But it is said that an offer of an additional 50 rupees made him leave his *alma mater* to join the Bengali and Sanskrit Department of Dhaka (then Dacca) University, just established, in 1921. That determined the location where his ultimate refuge and place of work was going to be. Calcutta's loss was, undoubtedly, a huge gain for Dhaka.

In Dhaka, Shahidullah seems to have found the security and opportunities to expand his activities and interests in many directions. But let us cover his linguistic work first. It has already been noted that Shahidullah, like Suniti Kumar Chatterjee (1890-1977), his junior in the Department, had to work within the framework of Comparative and Historical Linguistics—'Philology' in short. Here his major work was 'Outlines of an Historical Grammar of the Bengali Language', which was published a year before S. K. Chatterjee's more voluminous work, *The Origin and the Development of the Bengali Languages* (1926). In it, Shahidullah's original contribution was the emphasis he laid on the non-Aryan connections of Bangla language. He has also done pioneering research in Phonetics of Bangla, at the University of Paris in 1928, for which he received the 'Diplome de Phonetique experimentale'. His Paris stays also fetched him a doctorate of Sorbonne University, for his study of the dialect of the Charya songs. His articles on Ramasharman's *Apabhramsa* verse, linguistic features of the Asokan edicts, Mundari and Bangla, Aryanization of Ceylone, origins of Bangla and Ceylones, the language

of Pashto, Sumerian language and Urdu and a hundred others, including the dialect of the district he was born, south 24 Parganas. One is amazed at the range of his interests and investigation, but also at his quite original statements about the topics chosen.

A reputed Bengali scholar, Haraprashad Shastri (1853-1931) was then the Head of the Bengali Sanskrit Department at the University of Dacca, and his association stimulated Shahidullah in widening his focus. Archaeology and folklore were brought into his ever-widening orbit. On the one hand, he wrote articles like 'The Gita and the Truth About Shrikrishna', 'Bharata, Kanva and Vishwamitra', 'A Different Version of the Shrimadbhagavadgita etc., while on the other, he went all out to collect folklore of East Bengal, where one of its richest repositories in the world could be found, by founding a 'Lokasahitya Samgraha Samiti' at the Department. The Samiti began collecting items of folklore from different parts of East Bengal, supported by a 'scanty' allowance from the University. I am sure that the rich collection of tales, proverbs, ballads, oral history etc. that have been published in East Bengal during the early Pakistan period, came doubtlessly from the impetus provided by Shahidullah. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee evaluates the contribution of his senior thus: "I have always appreciated his 'scientific' [temperament], that is well-reasoned judgement in his discussion of literature and linguistics. He has brought new insights in our common areas of interest, phonetics and philology, some of which I have gladly accepted, some I could not." Shahidullah's most valuable contribution was, according to Chatterjee, "Significant deliberations on Bengal's language and culture, and, in addition, ascertaining the contribution of Muslim Bengalis."

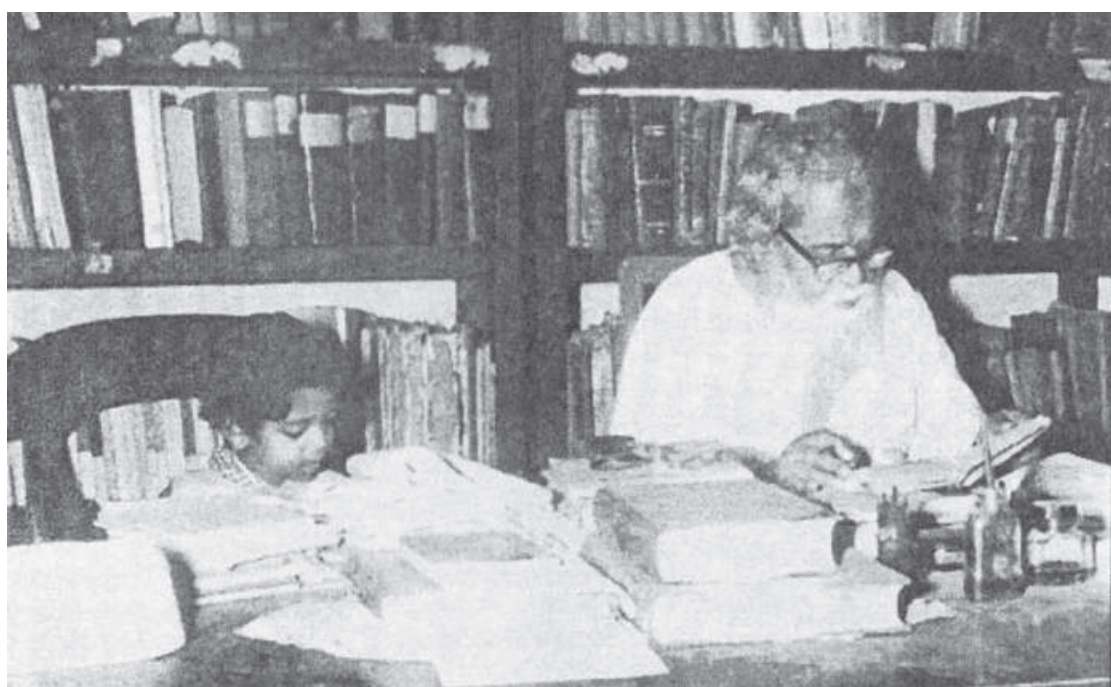
Many big academic projects were undertaken under his guidance. In 1949, the new Government of East Pakistan instituted an East Pakistan Language Committee, professedly to 'modernise' Bangla, with Maulana Akram Khan as the chairman. Dr Shahidullah, as its most important member, created a *Shoja Bangla* orthography, which, however scientific in its approach (the writing system was made linear), was not accepted in popular practice.

Was it considered as an imposition by the West Pakistani authorities—we do not exactly know, but the recommendations passed into oblivion almost silently. He was called to Karachi to edit a comprehensive Urdu dictionary, and an Islamic Encyclopedia was also initiated under his editorship. His lasting contribution in this area is *Purba Pakistaner* (now *Bangladesher*) *Anchalik Bhashar Abhidhan*, a two-volume dictionary of East Bengal dialects (1965), the like of which has yet to be attempted and witnessed in West Bengal. In the history of Bangla literature, he provided definite evidence that the Chandidas of *Shrikrishnakirtan* was a pre-Chaitanya poet.

And that was not all. This encyclopedic talent, who was fondly called *Jnanatapas*—a savant, eventually became the teacher of a whole nation. Teacher, guardian, and finally, the conscience of it, as it, uncertainly at first, moved towards independence. A devout Muslim himself, he was a non-communal and liberal soul, which is reflected in his sons' leaning towards communist ideology. He was for a Bengali identity beyond religious affiliations, as his article on the meeting points of Hinduism and Islam (*Udbodhan*, 1956) would show. And his address as the President of the Purba Pakistan Sahitya Sammelan in March, 1956 is memorable, "...It is a fact that we are Hindus and Muslims, but that we are Bengalis is a greater truth. I'm not saying this as an ideal, it is a reality. Mother nature has put such an imprint on our physique and our language that we can hardly conceal it with a garland, a *tilak*, and a *tiki*, or a cap, 'lungi' or beard." He did not ever forget his birthplace, his village in West Bengal and said, "Your mother remains the same even when you live in an alien land, so your birthplace ever remains your birthplace."

But he loved East Bengal, and took a leading part in directing its struggle against the cultural hegemony of West Pakistan. Although fond of the language of his religion, Arabic, he was a leading voice in the language movement, and vehemently opposed Urdu, not just as the state language of Pakistan, but also against the shaping of Bengali on religious lines. His sarcastic statement about some attempts of shaping the Bangla literary language along communal lines, (which was otherwise dubbed 'Pak-Bangla'), makes that amply clear, "Musalmanni Bangla can surely be a spoken dialect like such others in East Bengal (he writes, 'Bangladesh'), but that will not be our language of literature. You cannot direct a path for (flowing) water, it finds its own path. Mussalmans in Bengal have automatically decided on a language in which they will create literature. There may be some who want to change the mother tongue of the Bengali Mussalman into Urdu, by the mere force of the pen. I think their pen is made out of the bones of an ape." This he says in spite of his rumination that had the English lost in Plassey, the Bangla literary language would have been different.

We forget or remove our attention from such men and destabilise our own identity as Bengalis.



Shahidullah in his study room.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD TAQIULLAH

Although fond of the language of his religion, Arabic, he was a leading voice in the language movement, and vehemently opposed Urdu, not just as the state language of Pakistan, but was also against the shaping of Bengali on religious lines.

linguistics, in which domain he would do important work later.

Poverty caused interruptions in his study after his First Arts (1906), and he finally graduated from City College, Calcutta, with reasonable grades in 1910. He was probably the first Indian Muslim student to carry the study of Sanskrit so far. And he was all set, and he had a right, to carry it further, that is, to take up Sanskrit in his M. A. course at the University of Calcutta, then the only University in the Bengali-speaking regions.

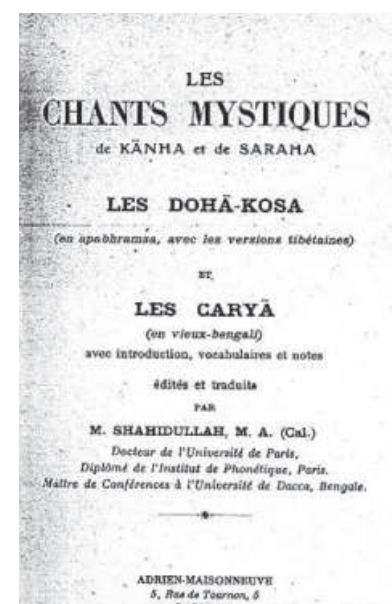
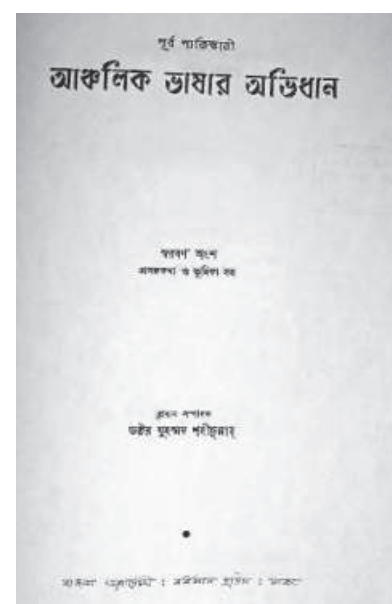
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He faced an uncouth impediment to his plans, a Brahmin teacher (most Sanskritists then usually were) of the Vedas in the Department of Sanskrit named Pt. Satyabrata Samashramee, refused to approve the admission of a Muslim boy in that department of the University and threatened suicide by fasting if he were allowed to. People

everything, we think this is one of the best choices he made in his learning life. Comparative Philology, then a completely new discipline in India (the Department of the University was the first of its kind in Asia too), would open a much wider horizon to Shahidullah, and being tied down to Sanskrit alone would not suit his polyglot temperament. I am sure he had thoroughly revelled in the linguistic feast he was offered in his Department, and that created a new Shahidullah, much more welcome and beneficial to the academia than a mere Sanskrit scholar.

3

As it happened in a colonised country, excellent results in a somewhat esoteric discipline were no promise for a good and guaranteed career. He obtained a law degree along with his M. A. (1912), but that was not of much help either. He



(L) Book cover of Purba Pakistaner Anchalik Bhashar Abhidhan. (R) Book cover of Les chants mystiques de Kanha et de Saraha

Pabitra Sarkar is an Author and former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

Law, Jaffer to focus on red-ball cricket initially

SPORTS REPORTER

Stuart Law, who had served as head coach of the Bangladesh national team in 2011-2012, was appointed as under-19 team's head coach, and yesterday he spoke to the media during a press conference.

The Australian said he wanted to make contributions to grassroots cricket to help cricketers' overall growth.

"I have done some jobs as head coach around the world and as head coach of an international team; you don't do a lot of coaching. It's mainly a lot of talking and administration work. This gives me the opportunity to get back and work on the grassroots, an area I believe I can help make a difference. Not just cricketing abilities but help them grow as a young person and as a person. When the opportunity came, it was pretty easy to say yes," Law said on his return, having also served as consultant for the under-19 side in 2016.

The ICC U-19 World Cup will be Law's major priority with the team.

"We have a lot of games before the World Cup, which is 18 months away. We will understand how to play once we understand our squad better. It's about managing expectations of the players too," Law said.

While the focus was on white-ball cricket for the U-19 World Cup, Law believes that improvement in the longer format should be the top priority.

"I think it's critical for the young players' development to play the long format. I believe the best players come



PSG's Kylian Mbappe greets a jubilant young fan during a press conference in Tokyo on Sunday. The Ligue 1 champions are slated for three games with local Japanese clubs as part of their pre-season tour.

PHOTO: AFP

Dates for next three BPL fixed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday informed that the dates of the next three editions of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) were fixed.

The BCB are expected to host the tournament with seven team. According to BCB's scheduling, the 2023 BPL is slated for January 5 till February 16 next year while the 2024 edition of the tournament is slated to be played between January 6 till February 2024.

The 2025 edition of the tournament will be played from January 1 till February 11, 2025.

"As the date is finalised the other procedures like terms and condition with the franchise will be decided within next one week. There might be some changes in terms and conditions in BPL and after clearing everything we will give advertisements.

"It will be a seven-team tournament and previous teams are expected to take part in it as I am seeing no reason why that won't be the case."



from learning how to play that game and from there it's about developing their skill level and mindset to kick on and play the fifty-over format and twenty-over format. I am a traditionalist and love red-ball cricket. Test cricket is the toughest to play and if you don't understand early, it's very difficult to pick up as you go. We're trying to give these players as much opportunity to show what they can in every facet of cricket. If we can play one or two four-day game in every series, that would be awesome for the young fellows," he said.

BCB's game development manager for the U-19 team, Abu Emam Mohammad Kawsar, informed that in every series till June, one four-day game has been included.

Wajid Jaffer, appointed as batting consultant having previously worked here as game development consultant in 2020, said his focus, too, would be on red-ball cricket.

"India have a lot of cricketers playing first-class cricket. Slowly things are happening in Bangladesh cricket as well and the more they play red-ball cricket in different conditions, the more they will improve. For the U-19s, the focus will be on red-ball cricket as well. We will be playing few red-ball matches against other countries but the closer we get to the World Cup, the focus will shift more towards white-ball. However, in the meantime, the focus will be on red-ball cricket," Jaffer said.

Law has worked with the likes of Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Nazmul Hossain Shanto during his stint with the U-19s previously. He wanted to work on building not just good players but personalities.

The U-19 camp under the new coaching staff began in Mirpur yesterday. The team will return to competitive cricket with the tour of Pakistan in November where they will play five one-dayers and one four-day game.

BCB 'expected' Tamim's retirement, unsure of Mahmudullah's tenure

SPORTS REPORTER

Although the Tamim Iqbal-led Bangladesh side managed to whitewash the West Indies in the three-match ODI series with a four-wicket win in the final ODI in Guyana, his announcement to retire from T20I format for the Tigers grabbed all the spotlight in the cricket fraternity.

"Please consider me retired from T20Is from today. Thank you, everyone," Tamim wrote on his official Facebook page on Saturday.

However, Tamim's decision was nothing unexpected, considering the fact that the cricketer had previously requested a six-month break from the T20 format in January this year. Since then, the topic of Tamim's availability for the format, especially with the next T20 World Cup scheduled to be played in October-November this year in Australia, has been brought up multiple times, often in a negative way.

"That I know [Tamim Iqbal's retirement from T20I format], this is nothing new. You heard it after he announced it yesterday? Who doesn't know the news? We knew it quite a while ago," Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan told the media during a press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

But still the question remains whether Tamim's resignation is official or not. In the recent past, it was Mahmudullah Riyad who retired from the Test format in dramatic fashion – receiving a guard of honour from teammates – in the tour of Zimbabwe last year. However, it took a long time for the board to officially make a statement regarding Riyad's retirement.

Meanwhile, there were also talks over the probable change in the T20I captaincy and rumour surfaced that Mahmudullah might be replaced by Shakib Al Hasan before the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Mahmudullah's performance, both as a batter and also as the captain of the Bangladesh T20I side, has been under the radar for some time but there was confusion whether Mahmudullah could go on to face similar fate as Mominul Haque in the Test format.

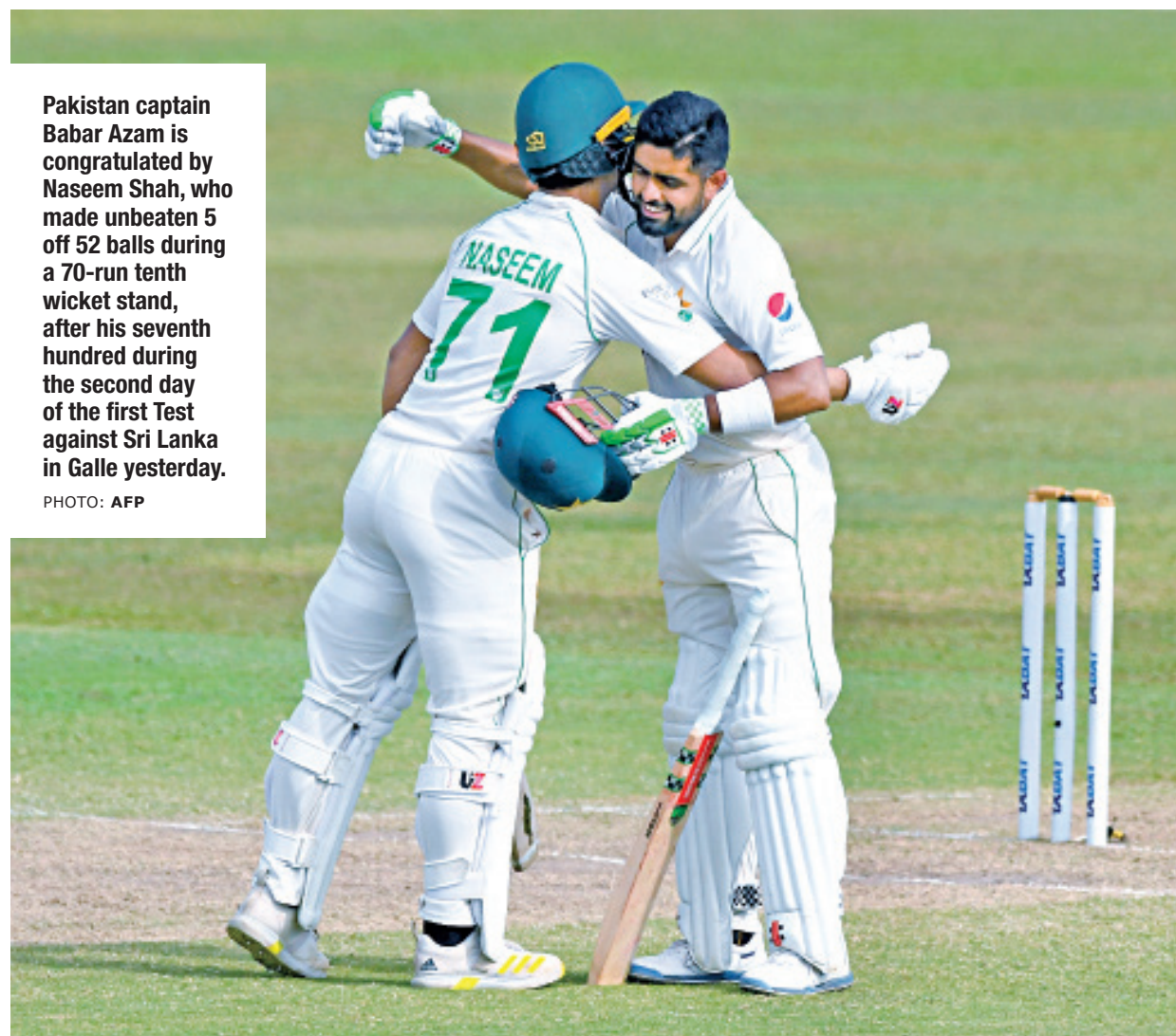
Under Mahmudullah, Bangladesh had a terrible outing in the latest ICC T20 World Cup last year, where the Tigers lost to Scotland in the qualifying stage and went on to lose all the games in the group stage matches.

The 36-year-old looked below par with the bat, scoring eight, 11 and 22 in the three-match T20I series as Bangladesh were whitewashed by the West Indies convincingly under new captain Nicholas Pooran.

"We don't have much time and it's difficult to make the decision [changing T20 captain]. We never had any dissatisfaction over Mominul's captaincy and Mahmudullah's name is coming often because he is unable to score runs. Let him return but I don't think there won't be too much of a difference," Hasan said.

Going back to Tamim's retirement from the shortest format, once again it highlights Bangladesh's need to find a settled opening pair – the search which has lingered in Bangladesh cricket for a long time now.

It will be interesting to see whether the team management could solve the issue with the T20 World Cup knocking at the door or will the Tigers go with the motions and continue their dismal run in the T20 format.



Pakistan captain Babar Azam is congratulated by Naseem Shah, who made unbeaten 5 off 52 balls during a 70-run tenth wicket stand, after his seventh hundred during the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Yousuf 'speechless' seeing Babar's knock

AFP, GALLE

Azam made a defiant 119 to thwart a Sri Lankan spin attack led by Prabath Jayasuriya on day two of an evenly poised first Test on Sunday.

Azam single-handedly took the tourists to just four runs short of Sri Lanka's 222 as he put on a 70-run tenth-wicket stand with Naseem Shah, who made five not out from 52 balls, in Galle.

Sri Lanka were 36 for one at stumps after skipper Dimuth Karunaratne fell lbw to left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz, for 16.

"I have not seen an innings like that for a long time," batting coach Mohammed Yousuf said of Azam's knock.

"To be under so much pressure and the ball turning a lot, he played with a lot of patience and took the tailenders along.

"A knock with so much patience, on a difficult track and especially the way he handled Jayasuriya. I am speechless."

Azam got help from the lower-order batters including Yasir Shah (18), Hasan Ali (17) and Naseem, as Pakistan managed 133 runs from the final three wickets.

Bangladesh contingents for CWG, ISG fixed

SPORTS REPORTER

A 50-member Bangladesh contingent is set to take part in the 22nd edition multi-disciplinary extravaganza, scheduled to be held from July 28 to August 8 in England, informed speakers at a press conference at BOA auditorium on Sunday.

Bangladesh contingent will gradually depart for Birmingham from July 20 to take part in seven disciplines – athletics, boxing, gymnastics, swimming, weightlifting, wrestling and table tennis.

After the Commonwealth Games, a mega 84-member Bangladesh contingent will take part in the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games, to be held in Turkey from August 9 to 18.

Bangladesh will participate in 11 disciplines – athletics, archery, fencing, gymnastics, handball, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling – with the expectation of good results from archery, athletics and gymnastics.

Silverwood lauds 'fantastic' Jayasuriya

AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood on Sunday said there were lessons to be learnt from the team's new spin hero Prabath Jayasuriya after his third successive five-wicket Test haul.

Jayasuriya remained Sri Lanka's go-to bowler as he returned figures of 5-82 with his left-arm spin to help bowl out Pakistan for 218 after skipper Babar Azam's defiant century.

The 30-year-old took 12 wickets on debut in a series-levelling Test win over Australia last week at the same venue, six in each innings.

Sunday's performance made him the first Sri Lankan bowler and only eighth overall to claim three five-wicket hauls in his first two Tests.

"I think he has been absolutely fantastic so far," Silverwood told reporters. "I think the one thing that he does really well is his line and length and I think that's the one thing that we need to improve."

"He asks lots of good questions to the batsman, he gets lot of balls in the good areas and when there is turn he finds it, hence why so successful."

Jayasuriya rattled the Pakistan batting – which slipped to 85-7 – with his turners and sliders and was on a hat-trick before Azam, who made 118, hit back with help from the lower-order.

"It's a lesson for the rest of our bowlers of how to do that (bowl consistently in right areas)," said Silverwood.

Iran reinstate Skocic as head coach

REUTERS, Dubai


Dragan Skocic has been reinstated as head coach of Iran after a meeting between the board of directors of the Iranian Football Federation and its technical committee, semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

Skocic's dismissal had been reported on Monday, prompting widespread criticism among the public just four months ahead of the World Cup finals in Qatar. Read full story

The 53-year-old Croatian will now continue to train Iran for their sixth appearance and third consecutive participation at the World Cup.

Iran have been drawn in Group B and will kick off their campaign against England on Nov. 21 before taking on Wales and the United States.

IN THE MAIN STRUCTURE OF PADMA BRIDGE
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Two killed as pick-up overturns on Padma Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least two persons were killed and three others injured as a Dhaka-bound pick-up overturned on the Padma Bridge last night, bringing vehicular movement on the bridge to a halt for about 15 minutes.

The dead are Raju Khandaker, 45, a passenger of the pick-up, and Md Kawsar, 23, helper of the vehicle's driver.

The pick-up carrying gas cylinders from Shariatpur flipped over near pillar no-17 on the bridge around 9:45pm, said Md Nazrul Islam, assistant sub-inspector of Padma Bridge North Police Station.

Fatally wounded Raju and Kawsar, along with three other injured, were taken to Sreenagar Upazila Health Complex.

The police officer said they seized the pick-up. Vehicular movement on the bridge resumed around 10:00pm.

DRAFT DATA PROTECTION ACT More control feared if data stored locally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, in its new draft of the data protection act, focuses on preventing citizen's data from going abroad, as certain types of data "must physically stay within the borders".

Stakeholders, however, worry it will serve to tighten control on domestic and foreign organisations, and international companies.

The observations came at a meeting held yesterday in the capital's Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, where the government's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division unveiled the latest draft.

With this draft law, Bangladesh joins the ranks of the countries, including India, Russia, China and, to certain extents, Spain, Indonesia and Australia, which are already implementing or mulling the implementation of localisation of personal data.

According to the latest draft, the government will set up a data protection office, which will be in charge of implementing this law.

This office will have the right to access all forms of data, order any "data controller" in any organisation to "provide any data it requires to perform its tasks", and physically enter any space or access any equipment where data is stored.

The draft also includes a provision saying that domestic and foreign organisations have to store

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A farmer, with a boatful of freshly harvested guavas, enters the floating market at the Atgar-Kuriyana Bazar in Pirojpur's Nesarabad upazila. Harvesting of the fruit began two weeks ago and is expected to continue for two more months. The photo was taken yesterday.

SSC exams to begin on September 15 To be held on full syllabus with fewer breaks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday advised the candidates of SSC and its equivalent examinations to be prepared for a tight exam schedule this year.

Announcing the schedule at a press briefing at the Secretariat, she said the breaks between exams will be shorter than before.

The SSC and equivalent exams will begin on September 15, while HSC and equivalent exams will take place in November, the minister said, adding all exams will be held on full syllabuses.

"We wanted to begin the examinations in mid-August. As there is a possibility of another spell

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Lawmakers turn lawbreakers

Blinded by power, some ruling AL MPs get spotlight for all the wrong reasons



RASHIDUL HASAN and ASHIK ABDULLAH AQU

The Daily Star has information on six such instances where MPs crossed all limits. The case in point can be the latest occurrence involving AL MP Razee Mohammad Fakhru.

On Saturday, the Cumilla-4 (Debidwar) lawmaker allegedly punched and kicked Debidwar Upazila Chairman Abul Kalam Azad during a meeting at the LD Hall of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, stirring up resentment among the party grassroots.

Three AL leaders of Cumilla present in the meeting – Raushan Ali Master, AKM Shafiqul Alam and Mehdi Hasan – confirmed this while talking to The Daily Star.

They alleged that Fakhru publicly beat up Abul Kalam over the formation of the party committee for Elahabad union under Debidwar upazila.

Raushan Ali, general secretary of Cumilla north AL, said when the names of president and secretary of Elahabad union AL were announced, the lawmaker became furious as Abul Kalam supported the committee.

Mehedi, a member of Cumilla north AL who was sitting close to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

EU delegation here to talk about trade standards

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A six-member delegation of the European Parliament arrived in Dhaka yesterday to learn about the country's trade with Europe and its progress in adapting to more demanding trade standards.

The trade committee led by Heidi Hautala also includes José Manuel García-Margallo, Sven Simon, Agnes Jongerius, Jordi Cañas and Maximilian Krah, according to a statement of the European Parliament.

They will meet ministers of commerce, labour, justice and foreign affairs, and will hold discussions with relevant parliamentary committees. They will talk to employee associations, trade unions and civil society organisations

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Social life helps orphaned elephants overcome loss

AFP, Paris

Orphaned elephants manage to overcome the loss of their mother by living in a herd, highlighting the importance of a social life for the species, according to a study.

Scientists investigated the consequences of a mother elephant's death on her child by examining the level of stress hormones in the excrement of 37 young elephants in Kenya between 2015 and 2016.

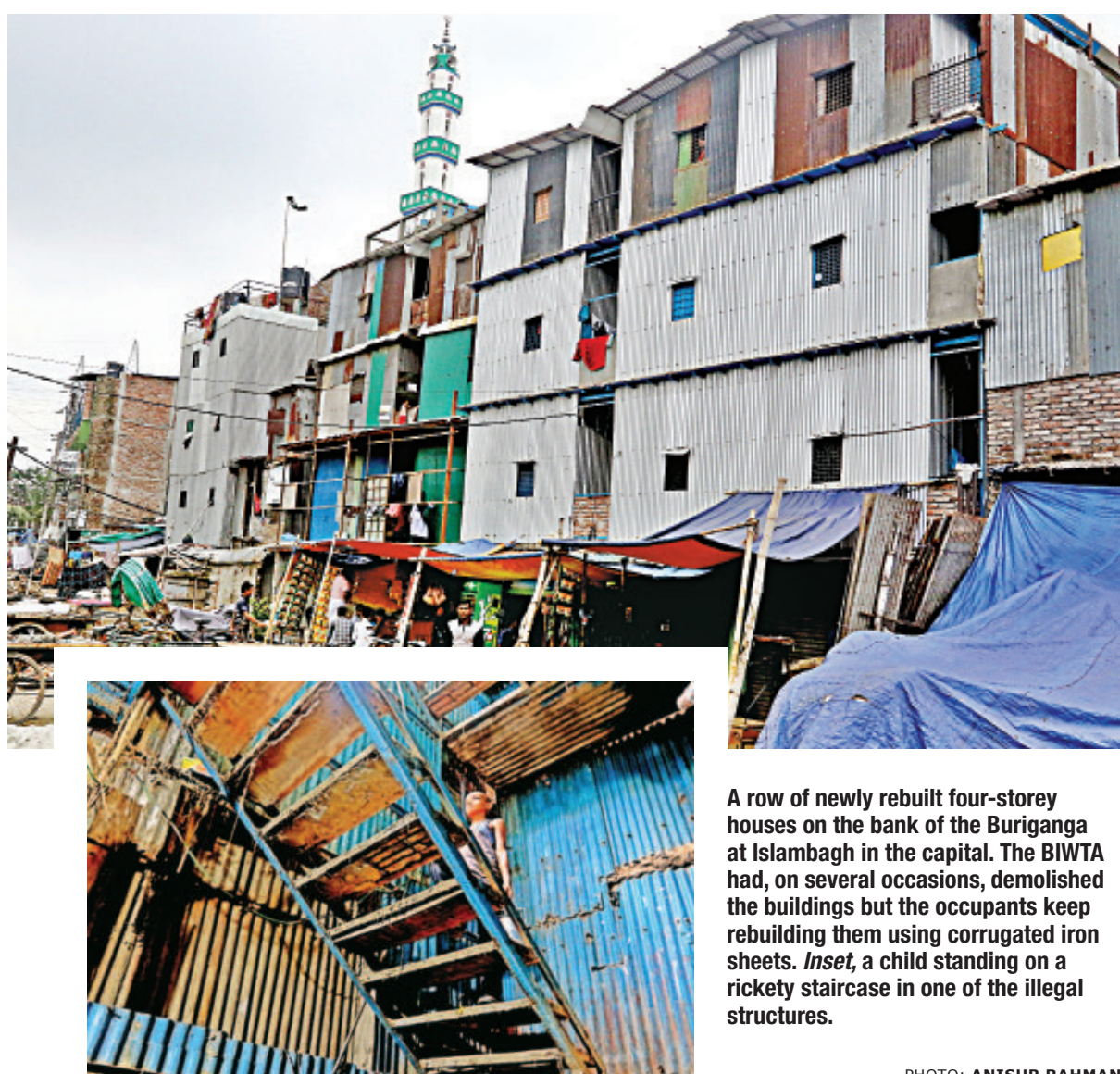
Among the young elephants, 25 had lost their mother between one and 19 years before from poaching or drought.

Of the 25 orphans, 20 stayed within the same family unit after the mother's death, while five joined an unrelated group.

The researchers found that stress hormones were at similar levels in the long term among orphans and the other elephants, even though the former were expected to show more stress symptoms in the absence of maternal care.

Any stress among the orphans did not last long, showing their "resilience" and the effect of social

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A row of newly rebuilt four-storey houses on the bank of the Buriganga at Islambagh in the capital. The BIWTA had, on several occasions, demolished the buildings but the occupants keep rebuilding them using corrugated iron sheets. Inset, a child standing on a rickety staircase in one of the illegal structures.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

YUASA **JAPAN SOLAR**

We are deeply saddened and shocked at the untimely and tragic death of a true friend of Bangladesh, the honorable former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with our Japanese friends and colleagues who are in mourning following the tragedy.

