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In search of cheaper homes

Tenants troubled with the rising cost of living

SUKANTA HALDER and MD ABU TALHA SARKER

When SM Laizur Rahman got a notice from his landlord saying that his flat's monthly rent would go up by Tk 3,000 starting next January, he could not believe it.

"I was already struggling to meet my family's needs amid the rising prices of commodities. An additional expense of Tk 3,000 a month will be too much to bear."

Laizur, now in his early 30s, had rented the flat in Eastern Housing of Mirpur in the capital for his seven-member family when the rent was Tk 26,000. Since then, it went up every year before hitting Tk 30,000 this year.

The new hike eventually forced him to move to a cheaper flat in the vicinity.

"After a lot of searching, we took a three-room flat at a monthly rent of Tk 25,000, including all charges ... It's a smaller place, but we have no other option as the monthly income has not increased in line with the rising living cost."

Many such tenants in Dhaka, especially those from limited-income groups, are opting for cheaper housing in the face of spiraling inflation and economic fallouts, stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war.

The further rise in house rents and service charges has only added to their financial woes.

Some landlords have raised the rent and service charges citing the hikes in prices of electricity, gas, fuel, daily essentials, interest on home loans, and increase in maintenance costs.

According to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh

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Policemen frisking passengers in a bus in the capital's Gabtoli yesterday. Checkpoints were set up and a red alert was issued across the country following the escape of two militant convicts from the premises of a court in Old Dhaka.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Another SP-rank official sent into retirement

Public interest cited as reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has sent another official of the rank of superintendent of police into retirement citing public interest.

Zillur Rahman was an additional commandant at the Traffic and Driving School, a specialised training institute of police.

The Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a circular to that end on Sunday.

So far, seven police officials have been sent into retirement over the last one month.

On Wednesday, Ali Hossain Fakir, a superintendent of police and former commanding officer of the Armed Police Battalion, was sent into retirement.

Public interest was cited then too.

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Children's author Ali Imam no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned children's writer and cultural personality Ali Imam passed away at a city hospital yesterday.

He was 71.

"My father suffered a mild stroke. Besides, he had respiratory issues, pneumonia, low blood pressure and other health complications," Tanvir Imam, the author's son, told The Daily Star.

He was admitted to Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital 10 days ago, he added.

Imam breathed his last there at 5:50pm.

Hearing the death news, fans and literary figures took to social media to express their grief.

Imam, who is an author of over 600 books, was born in Brahmanbaria on December 31, 1950.

He worked as the general manager of Bangladesh Television from 2004 to 2006 and the now-defunct

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Stop sale, transfer of arms to Myanmar

US envoy urges all countries, says coup, genocide against Rohingyas in Myanmar pose risk to region's stability

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The brutal military coup in Myanmar and the genocide against the Rohingyas are major security challenges to the region's stability, said US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas yesterday.

He urged all countries to immediately stop the sale or transfer of arms to Myanmar.

"The atrocities and violence Burma's [Myanmar's] military regime continues to inflict upon its own people show no sign of ending. And yet, some countries continue to supply lethal assistance to Burma's military regime, enabling its violence and repression," he said.

Haas was speaking at the plenary session of a three-day event titled "Bay of Bengal Conversation" organised by the Centre for Governance Studies at the capital's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Japanese Ambassador Ito Naoki, British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson, and Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Bruer shared the stage with Haas to speak on Indo-Pacific region.

International relations experts

from home and abroad are taking part in the event.

Haas said the US on November 8 imposed sanctions on a key military aircraft parts supplier to Myanmar and would continue to work with allies and partners to hold Myanmar accountable through sanctions and international pressure.

Bangladesh is a direct victim of the Rohingya crisis as some 7.5 lakh Rohingyas fled military

"We should not allow the Rohingya population to destabilise the region."

Ito Naoki
Japanese Ambassador

atrocities and took shelter here in 2017, joining some 3 lakh who had fled the earlier waves of violence.

This has created security, economic, environmental, and social problems for Bangladesh.

On US Indo-Pacific strategy, Haas said their vision for an open, interconnected, prosperous, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific faces two broad challenges, one from authoritarian powers trying to alter the fundamental rules of the road in international affairs

and the other is transnational threats like climate change.

and the other is transnational threats like climate change.

"For example, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council invaded its neighbour, attempting to erase a sovereign state from the map. Russia's brutal war against Ukraine has had far-reaching consequences," he said.

He said the US would continue to work with allies and partners to combat the strain this has placed on the global economy, on food security, and on energy markets.

On China, he said the US is not looking for a conflict but to manage competition responsibly. China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it.

"Put simply, the United States and China must deal with each other for the foreseeable future."

"We do not seek conflict. We do not seek a Cold War. We do not ask any nation to choose between the United States or any other partner," Haas said.

He said the US will bolster Indo-Pacific security and will seek closer security cooperation with partners

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Dhaka seeks Moscow's help with Rohingya repatriation

Momen, Lavrov talk over phone

STAR REPORT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov yesterday shed light on the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Russia and expressed their desire to take these relations to greater heights.

On a phone call conversation, the Russian foreign minister expressed his regret for not being able to come to Dhaka due to schedule complications and expressed his intention to make the visit soon.

Momen thanked Russia for its cooperation in the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and invited President Putin to visit Bangladesh on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Meanwhile, Momen sought the Russian foreign minister's cooperation in sending the Rohingya refugees, who have taken shelter in Bangladesh, back to Myanmar.

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Bright meteor lights up night sky over Norway



AFP, Oslo

A meteor that lit up the night sky over southwest Norway was from the Taurid meteor shower, experts said.

The unusually bright meteor -- called a bolide -- was visible from large parts of southern Norway when it lit up the sky just after 7:00 pm (1800 GMT) on Saturday evening.

"It was very powerful, and burned up completely in the atmosphere," Morten Bilet, founder of Norsk meteornettverk (Norwegian Meteor Network), told AFP on Sunday.

As the meteor burnt up, a flash shimmered in multiple colours across the sky, sparking a string of puzzled calls to police.

"It suddenly became bright, so I thought at first it was a car driving on high beam. But then I looked up at the sky and there was a massive light that shot across the sky with a long, blue tail behind it," 27-year-old eyewitness Per Skram told broadcaster NRK.

"The police has been in contact with the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, which assumes it may have been a meteorite," the southern regional police force said on Twitter.

Norsk meteornettverk said that many people had associated the meteor with the Leonid meteor

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"And yet, some countries continue to supply lethal assistance to Burma's military regime, enabling its violence and repression."

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd.
(A JOINT VENTURE OF BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BPDB), BANGLADESH AND NTPC LIMITED, INDIA)

INVITATION FOR BID FOR MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR BTG (BOILER TURBINE GENERATOR) INCLUDING WATER SYSTEM & OFFSITE AREA OF 2X660MW MAITREE SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT AT RAMPAL, DISTRICT- BAGERHAT, BANGLADESH (International Competitive Bidding)

IFB No.: BIFPCL/OTM/Site C&M/2022/222 Date: 22.11.2022

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (BIFPCL) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders in Single Stage Two Envelopes (Envelope-1: Technical Proposal and Envelope-2: Financial Proposal) for subject package.

Bidding Document shall be available for sale and download from 22.11.2022 (Tuesday), 10:00 Hrs. (BST) to 22.12.2022 (Thursday) 17:00 Hrs. (BST).

Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held on 26.12.2022 (Monday) commencing at 11:00 Hrs. (BST).

Last date for submission of Bids shall be 16.01.2023 (Monday) upto 11:00 Hrs. (BST) and Technical Proposal shall be opened at 11:30 Hrs. (BST) on 16.01.2023 (Monday). If the Bid opening day is declared as holiday by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bid will be opened in the next working day.

Cost of bidding document is BDT 10,000 or USD 100 and shall be payable in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order or through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT).

For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, availability of Bidding Document, and other details, please refer to detailed Invitation for Bid available at www.bifpcl.com; www.bpdb.gov.bd; www.ntpc.co.in and www.cptu.gov.bd or may contact the office of the undersigned. For all other details, may please visit the website www.bifpcl.com.

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CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

Mrs. Shaista Ahmad

We are deeply saddened to inform that one of our Founder General Members of the North South University (NSU), Board of Trustees, Mrs. Shaista Ahmad passed away on 20 November, 2022. Mrs. Ahmad had a distinguished professional career as a Professor of Zoology teaching in some of the prestigious colleges of Bangladesh including Dhaka College, Eden Girls College, Holy Cross College, and retiring from Titumir College. She is the wife of Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad, former diplomat and founder Vice-Chancellor of North South University.

During Bangladesh's War of Liberation, Mrs. Ahmad played an instrumental role in supporting her husband Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad in opening and managing Bangladesh's first embassy in France in their apartment for nine months. Mrs. Ahmad played an equally important role in supporting Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad in the establishment of North South University.

A dedicated mother who received the prestigious Rotno Gorbha award, she left behind three children, Dr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Member, Board of Trustees, NSU and Vice President, World Bank; Mr. Javed Muneer Ahmad, Member, Board of Trustees, NSU and CEO of Aprosoft, Inc. and Ms. Seema Ahmad, Member, Board of Trustees, NSU and author and political organizer based in the US.

Mrs. Ahmad is remembered with love by her seven grandchildren. She was born in Midnapore, West Bengal, and was part of the historic migration during the partition.

We pray to Almighty Allah (SWT) for the salvation of the departed soul and to give courage and fortitude to the members of the bereaved family to bear the loss.

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